

Groton Daily Independent

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Community Calendar

Monday, Sept. 7

LABOR DAY
No School

Tuesday, Sept. 8

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

School Breakfast: Breakfast bento bag.

School Lunch: Scalloped potatoes with ham, bun.

Golf at Milbank, 10 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

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

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 9

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

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

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

Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

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

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Thursday, Sept. 10

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

School Breakfast: Scones.

School Lunch: Chicken nachos.

Groton Invitational Golf Meet, 10 a.m.

JH Golf at Sisseton, 1 p.m.

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

Friday, Sept. 11

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

School Breakfast: Omelet.

School Lunch: Mac and cheese, green beans.

Football at Clark, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 12

JH Volleyball at Matchbox Tournament, 9 a.m.

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

Fall Citywide Rummage Sale

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Newsweek

The
Bulletin

YOUR DAILY BRIEFING OF
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

Today is Labor Day, the unofficial last hurrah of summer—and if yours involves a barbecue, a beach day or a last-minute shopping run, [here's what's open](#).

But while Americans enjoy the long weekend, a major political shift is taking shape across the Atlantic. The far-right Alternative for Germany, backed by President Donald Trump's MAGA movement and strongly endorsed by billionaire Elon Musk, won 43.8 percent of the vote in Saxony-Anhalt's state election.

The party more than doubled its 2021 share, taking 39 of 83 seats—just three short of the 42 needed to govern alone. The result is a major setback for Chancellor Friedrich Merz's CDU, which won just 17.2 percent.

Shane Croucher breaks down [five hard truths](#) behind the result—and what it could mean for Merz, Ukraine and even U.S.-German relations.

Twenty-five years after 9/11, conspiracy theories have changed—but perhaps not in the way you'd expect. After the attacks, the "Truther" movement took years to build an alternative narrative, as people gathered unanswered questions, disputed evidence and supposed inconsistencies into a broader theory about what really happened.

Today, social media can compress that entire process into hours.

Anna Rahmanan looks at how the "Truther" movement helped shape a new way of [processing major events](#), one that was on full display within hours of October 7.

In Nepal, the toll from last month's devastating flash floods keeps climbing. At least 1,355 bodies have now been recovered, with nearly 5,000 people still unaccounted for, as rescue teams continue searching the affected areas.

But the disaster isn't just a story about Nepal. It is also putting China under a new spotlight.

The floods devastated a key border crossing in Tibet, while Beijing's tight control over information has raised fresh questions about disaster warnings and its growing hydropower ambitions in the Himalayas.

John Feng looks at how [China is now fighting](#) an information battle of its own—and why its secrecy could ultimately hurt its interests in the region.

Meanwhile, [Hurricane Lowell](#) is closing in on Hawaii, with the Category 3 storm forecast to pass close to the islands later today.

And meteorologists are warning that a ["supersized" El Niño](#) could bring heavier rain, flooding and severe weather to parts of the U.S. this winter, putting millions of homeowners at greater risk.

Lastly, [read this essay](#) about a teenager who thought her weight gain and other symptoms were caused by stress, only to discover she had a rare, aggressive cancer—and how she's learning to live with it.

World in Brief

Slavery: King Charles III will not personally receive a petition from the Jamaican government seeking a legal opinion on the prospect of Britain paying reparations for slavery, contrary to initial reports, Buckingham Palace said.

Trump touts renaming New Mexico: President Trump spent much of Sunday evening sharing apparently AI-generated images and memes on Truth Social, including one suggesting New Mexico should be renamed "New America" and another declaring, "The Moon Is Ours."

Amazon plane crash update: Five people are dead and five more were injured after an Amazon Prime cargo plane overran a runway at the Miami International Airport on Sunday and hit vehicles, Miami-Dade Sheriff Rosie Cordero-Stutz said during a press conference.

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NATO gains new F-35 hub: Finland has built its first F-35 fighter jet engine as the NATO member strengthens its defenses along its border with Russia.

Immigration: Lukman Owolabi Ganiyu, a former U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officer has been arrested and charged in an alleged scheme to sell immigration benefits, including green cards.

Who is Patrick Havas? The suspected armed assailant who authorities say charged at Amy Acton, the Democratic candidate for Ohio governor, during a campaign stop at the Canfield Fair on Sunday is a registered Republican, according to reports and records reviewed by Newsweek.

Germany

Five Hard Truths After AfD Wins German State Election

The rundown: The Alternative for Germany's (AfD) sweeping win in Saxony-Anhalt exposes five challenges: pressure on Chancellor Friedrich Merz, growing opposition to Ukraine aid, the limits of Germany's political firewall, tensions between MAGA and AfD interests, and the AfD's new burden to prove it can govern.

Why it matters: The AfD—a favorite of President Donald Trump's MAGA movement and strongly endorsed by billionaire Elon Musk—has won 43.8 percent in Saxony-Anhalt's state election in the preliminary count, more than doubling its 2021 share and taking 39 of 83 seats, three short of the 42 needed to govern alone. The result highlights five key issues: Merz's difficulty in winning back voters despite tougher migration policies; growing opposition to further weapons deliveries to Ukraine, even among voters who view Russia as a security threat; the limits of Germany's political "firewall" against the AfD; tensions between the AfD's nationalist agenda and the interests of its MAGA allies in the U.S.; and the party's transition from protest movement to potential governing force.

Germany's Far-Right AfD Dominates State Election, Governing Path Unclear

What happens next? With the AfD three seats short of a majority, its victory also puts greater pressure on the party to demonstrate how it would handle the economic, foreign-policy and governing trade-offs it has long criticized.

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).
=====

Monastery makeover: Nuns leave lasting legacy of service in Watertown

Bart Pfankuch

South Dakota News Watch

WATERTOWN, S.D. – Throughout their entire adult lives, the women of the Benedictine Sisters of Mother of God Monastery have served others as educators, health care providers and spiritual leaders.

The Catholic nuns, many highly educated, have taught and ministered across the U.S. and in foreign countries. They also have played a role in establishing medical and long-term care facilities in several South Dakota cities.

For more than 60 years, many of the sisters have lived, prayed and cared for one another at their monastery on 500 acres of hilly prairie land located on the east side of Watertown.

And now, as they age into their 70s, 80s and higher, the roughly 30 remaining sisters are continuing their lives of service with a final bold and grand act of ingenuity, grit and compassion.

In what will become one of the largest and most diverse developments of its kind in state history, the Benedictine sisters are transforming their land into a multi-faceted housing, education, health care and commercial project that will benefit Watertown and the entire state of South Dakota long after the last nun has passed.

The sisters are the lead designers, funders and coordinators of a multi-year effort to remake the monastery site into The Village at Harmony Hill, planned as a multigenerational community where children as young as infants and elders in their final years can live, prosper and celebrate the word of God.

Completed, ongoing or future projects at the site, which are aimed at aiding the sisters but which will also be open to the public, include:

- Up to 700 residences, ranging from affordable apartments and single-family homes to rental units for veterans to assisted-living and memory care spaces for the sisters and the local community
- A child care center that could eventually house up to 200 children ranging in age from 4 weeks to 4 years old
- An 80-acre commercial development with room for dining and hospitality businesses as well as light industrial and manufacturing
- The Challenger Learning Center of South Dakota, a separate nonprofit built in affiliation with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, that will promote science and careers in STEM fields and be open to children across the state
- A town square concept known as The Commons of Harmony Hill, which will transform the original



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monastery building into a welcome center with meeting rooms, bistro and pub, art gallery and maker's space, and spa and fitness studio

- Up to 80 acres of green space and a system of trails to encourage community recreation

"For the sisters, this has been about leaving a legacy," said Michael Klatt, strategic adviser to the Village of Harmony Hill project. "The average age of this group of sisters who made this decision to be a developer was 86 years old, and they did it."

Klatt said it has been impressive and inspirational to watch and be part of the planning and execution of the project by the Benedictine sisters.

"From a business standpoint, it's been a good investment, but that's not how the sisters look at it. They look at it as, 'How can I give back to the community?'" he said.

"At the grand opening for the senior housing, I made a very, very brief speech," Klatt recalled. "I just simply said, 'If you want to get something done, hire a nun.'"

As of this summer, the project that began in 2021 has led to renovation of the monastery, conversion of 14,000 square-feet of existing space into a child care center and new construction of affordable apartments.

Remodeling of space is underway into housing for veterans and construction of a 62-unit independent senior-living villas, and the project recently broke ground on development of up to 40 of 200 planned affordable single-family homes with room for dozens of affordable duplexes.

The Harmony Hill project will help solve the big three challenges vexing all South Dakota communities: a lack of child care, affordable housing and workforce, said Watertown city manager Alan Stager.

By adding new day care slots and generating the first new affordable housing in the city in decades, the project will enable Watertown to bring in much-needed workers to fill the many open jobs, he said.

"They could have just let the land sit there, but instead they were looking out decades into the future and asking what's possible," Stager said. "And as a result they're building an intergenerational community."

South Dakota News Watch is an independent nonprofit. Read, subscribe for free and donate at sdnewswatch.org. Contact content director Bart Pfankuch: 605-937-9398/ bart.pfankuch@sdnewswatch.org.



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There is a reason the NFL is sometimes referred to as the Not For Long league, and nothing exemplifies this more than the days following the 53-man cutdown deadline. Some players are elated to find out they made the final roster, only to get a call 24 hours later informing them they've been released. On the flip side, some players get cut and are preparing for a life outside of football when the phone rings, and it's another team who wants to sign them.

Last week we broke down the Vikings' initial 53-man roster. Now we break down the changes that have been made since, as well as the current practice squad, before getting into a preview of the Vikings' week 1 matchup

against the Green Bay Packers.

First, however, there is some breaking news out of Minnesota: Harrison Smith is back! The 37-year-old safety is back for season 15, and his presence on this team will be invaluable. I was nervous about the Vikings' safety group, but with Hitman back, the group went from a liability to a strength. On a personal note, Harrison Smith is one of my favorite players, and I really hope he has a great season to help him lock up a spot in the Hall of Fame.

Now, on to the rest of the news.

The Vikings put in waiver claims on two offensive linemen, center Nick Samac and guard Trevor Keegan. To make room for the two new players, the Vikings waived QB Max Brosmer and WR Dillon Bell. Both of those players cleared waivers and were signed to the Vikings' practice squad.

Speaking of the practice squad, new Vikings General Manager Nolan Teasley had an interesting comment that sheds some light on how he builds a team. During a press conference, Teasley said, "We really view this as seventy over fifty-three," which tells me he doesn't view the practice squad as a separate unit, but rather an extension of the 53-man gameday roster.

Here are the current players on the PS: QB Max Brosmer, RB DeeJay Dallas, WR Dillon Bell, WR Michael Briscoe, WR Trayvon Rudolph, TE Cam Grandy, OL Henry Byrd, OL Jack Nelson, DL Naquan Jones, DL Jahvaree Ritzie, OLB Kyle Van Noy, ILB Bangally Kamara, CB Da'Veawn Armstead, CB Bryce Phillips, S Kahlef Hailassie, S Tavierre Thomas

If you've been reading my column, you know how much I wanted the Vikings to sign a veteran pass rusher to provide depth behind Dallas Turner and Andrew Van Ginkel. Well, my wish was granted when they signed Kyle Van Noy. The 35-year-old is entering his 13th season and has played with Vikings' defensive coordinator Brian Flores in prior seasons. Despite his age, Van Noy is still productive and was a Pro Bowler in 2024.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will host division rival Green Bay on opening week. The Vikings and Packers have had some great matchups throughout the years, and this one should be no different. The Packers will be without a few key pieces, including Micah Parsons (injury) and Josh Jacobs (placed on the commissioner's exempt list following criminal charges related to an arrest). This is a great chance for the Vikings to secure a win against a divisional foe and set the tone for the rest of the season. This will also be our first chance to see newly acquired QB Kyler Murray in action. I'm pumped up for the game and can't wait to recap it with you next week!

Skol!

"Don't Just Take It From Me"

When your doctor prescribes a new medication, it's easy to just nod and head to the pharmacy. However, before you fill any new prescription, a few questions deserve answers and the best time to ask them is during your visit. Doctors and pharmacists would rather explain things in person than try to cover things later over the phone or through a patient portal.

Start with the obvious question: do you actually need a prescription, or could lifestyle changes, diet, or an over-the-counter option work? Sometimes they can, but other times, medication really is the best choice. Either way, you should know why. It is important to clearly know what is this medication supposed to do, and what result is your doctor hoping to see.

Next, ask how long you'll need to take it and how many refills you have. Some medications, like antibiotics or blood-thinners after a blood clot, are short-term. Others, like blood pressure or diabetes medications, are often long-term. Find out how long it takes for the new medication to start working and how you'll know if it is helping. With blood pressure medication, for example, you may not feel different, but your blood pressure numbers should improve. Also ask what happens when refills run out — do you stop taking it completely, call the pharmacy for a refill renewal, or is a new clinic appointment needed to check for improvement from the medication? Do you need to have any labs monitored while taking this medication?

Special instructions matter too. Should it be taken with food, on an empty stomach. Can this medication be taken with other medications, or does it need to be taken alone? Is timing important — morning or night? Statins, for instance, often work best at bedtime, since the liver produces cholesterol overnight. Ask what to do if you miss a dose. This is especially important for some medications like blood thinners or birth control, where a missed dose can matter a great deal.

Side effects are another key conversation. Package inserts list pages of possible reactions, but before ruling out a medication over one, ask how common it actually is. A side effect affecting just 1% of patients in a clinical trial still has to be listed even though it's rare.

Ask whether it's safe to drive on this medication, and whether you should avoid certain foods, drinks, or alcohol while taking it. Your doctor and pharmacist should already be checking for interactions with your other medications, along with any allergies, but it never hurts to ask directly. If you're not comfortable taking something, please say so. Sharing your concerns gives your doctor a chance to address them or find an alternative that works better for you.

There are many things you need to know before starting a new medication, so don't just take it from me. Ask your doctor or pharmacist, so together you can make the best decision for your health. Prescription medications are just one of the tools we use to help you stay healthy out there.

Dr. Jill Kruse is a hospitalist at the Brookings Health System and owner of Flight Time Medical in Brookings, SD. She serves as a volunteer host for the Prairie Doc® team, which is currently celebrating its 25th season of providing health education based on science and built on trust. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok to stay connected. Our programming includes the medical Q&A show On Call with the Prairie Doc® (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB, YouTube, and Facebook), along with two podcasts and a weekly radio program (Sundays at 6am and 1pm on SDPB).



Jill Kruse, DO

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EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Can plants actually “hear” pollinators nearby and open up accordingly and can we harness this knowledge to help pollinators and plants thrive?

-- Peter B., Bloomfield, CT

As pollinator populations face steep global declines due to habitat loss, pesticides and climate change, scientists are exploring surprising ways plants may be helping themselves, as well as their insect partners, thrive. Recent research suggests that some plants may actually be able to detect the sounds of nearby pollinators and respond by boosting nectar production. This discovery opens up new possibilities for agriculture, conservation, and our understanding of how plants interact with the world.



Recent research suggests that some plants, such as this evening primrose, may actually be able to detect the sounds of nearby pollinators and respond by boosting nectar production.

Although plants don't have ears, they can sense vibrations in their environment, including sound waves in the air. In a 2024 study, researchers found that the evening primrose (*Oenothera drummondii*) increased the sugar concentration of its nectar within just three minutes of being exposed to sound frequencies mimicking bee wingbeats. Interestingly, when the flower petals were removed, the response disappeared, suggesting that petals themselves act as acoustic sensors. This form of “hearing” allows plants to dynamically adjust their offerings based on the likelihood of being visited, effectively making their nectar more appealing to pollinators. As National Geographic reported, it's a fast and targeted response to a specific ecological cue, and it's now considered one of the most direct examples of plant bioacoustics.

More recent studies suggest that plants can detect and respond to pollinator sounds in surprisingly specific ways. Francesca Barbero, a professor of zoology at the University of Turin, explains that “plants could improve their reproductive success if their responses drive modifications in pollinator behavior.”

Additional studies have shown that even some non-flowering plants may respond to mechanical vibrations in their surroundings. A 2025 report highlighted new evidence that even some non-flowering species respond to mechanical vibrations in their environment. One 2024 working paper proposed using pollinator sound simulations in greenhouses to trigger nectar production in crops like berries and tomatoes. This offers a potential tool for improving yields without chemicals.

If developed further, such applications could help support pollinators, reduce pesticide use, and optimize crop health naturally. Researchers are thinking about “sound gardens” where speakers mimic pollinator wingbeats to stimulate plants into a more receptive state. Scientists caution that we don't yet fully understand the mechanisms behind these responses or how consistent they are in real-world environments. Others warn against overstating things, as these are unconscious biochemical responses.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Labor unions are growing, but where depends on state politics

BY KEVIN HARDY

Labor union membership continues to climb in the United States, though the increase remains sharply divided by the politics of individual states.

Last year, the nation added more than 411,000 union members — the largest annual growth since 2008, according to a study published just ahead of the Labor Day holiday by the Illinois Economic Policy Institute and the Project for Middle Class Renewal at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

At the end of last year, more than 14.6 million American workers belonged to a union — about 10% of the workforce, the study said.

While union membership grew across the country, the State of the Unions report found that states that have sought to protect or strengthen collective bargaining rights added three times as many union members as so-called right-to-work states, which prohibit mandatory union membership or dues as conditions of employment.

“What seems to be the number one driver is the state of the state,” said one of the study authors, Robert Bruno, who leads the labor education program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. “If the policy is anti-union, it suppresses worker will. Where the law allows worker will to flourish, as I would argue it should, then you see higher numbers. So you can’t ignore politics. You can’t ignore policy.”

State governments are nearly evenly divided on labor policy, with 26 states having right-to-work laws. Union membership rates sit at about 14% in collective bargaining states and 5% in right-to-work states, the study found.

The study shows that workers in collective bargaining states earn significantly more than those in other states. After adjusting for cost of living variances, the report calculated average hourly earnings of \$34.16 in right-to-work states and \$37.24 in collective bargaining states.

Union density is nowhere close to its record high. In 1954, more than a third of American workers belonged to unions. Today, that rate is about 10%. And unions face major policy headwinds at the state and federal levels. In recent years, Southern states have passed new laws aimed at curbing union expansion. And President Donald Trump has sought to strip collective bargaining rights from more than 1 million federal workers.

Researchers said it’s unclear how federal actions will affect union membership figures. Many of the president’s moves are being litigated in courts and more federal workers have sought to unionize under this administration.

But public support for labor unions is growing among Republicans and Democrats, Gallup polling shows.

“More Americans are turning to unions as a bulwark against the rising cost of living, and more public sector workers turned towards unions last year in the wake of some federal actions and federal headwinds,” said State of the Unions coauthor Frank Manzo IV, an economist at the left-leaning Illinois Economic Policy Institute.

Conservatives have long argued that unions’ benefit on wage growth has been overstated by pro-labor interests.

In a 2025 review of 147 studies, researchers at the free-market think tank Mercatus Center concluded that powerful labor unions can lead to slower job growth and fewer jobs for unionized workers, reduce company investments in research and development, and increase the likelihood of company closures.

Researchers at the George Mason University think tank said the difference between the wages of unionized workers and nonunionized workers has declined in recent years and may even be negligible.

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"When powerful and adversarial unions operate with government-granted monopoly privileges and press for unsustainable terms, it can backfire and result in lost jobs and fewer opportunities for workers," that report said.

This year, state lawmakers passed dozens of bills seeking to boost worker protections across 19 states, according to tracking by State Futures, a nonprofit coordinating hundreds of Democratic lawmakers across the states.

Those measures included three bills aimed at expanding collective bargaining.

Illinois lawmakers granted rideshare and gig drivers the right to organize and to bargain collectively. Washington state extended collective bargaining rights to certain university student employees.

And Virginia lawmakers approved a measure to repeal the state's longstanding ban on public-sector collective bargaining. That would have expanded the possibility of union membership to half a million public employees in the commonwealth. But Democratic Gov. Abigail Spanberger vetoed that measure in May.

The governor said she agreed with the goal of expanding collective bargaining rights. But she urged the legislature to adopt specific amendments, including delaying provisions of the bill until 2030 and shifting authority over how the system operates to a state board.

"While preserving the enrolled bill's focus on allowing public employees to achieve collective bargaining, my amendments would have also provided additional flexibility for public employers to take into account existing local budget timelines and processes," Spanberger wrote in her veto message. "However, the General Assembly rejected these amendments."

Stateline reporter Kevin Hardy can be reached at khardy@stateline.org.

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.

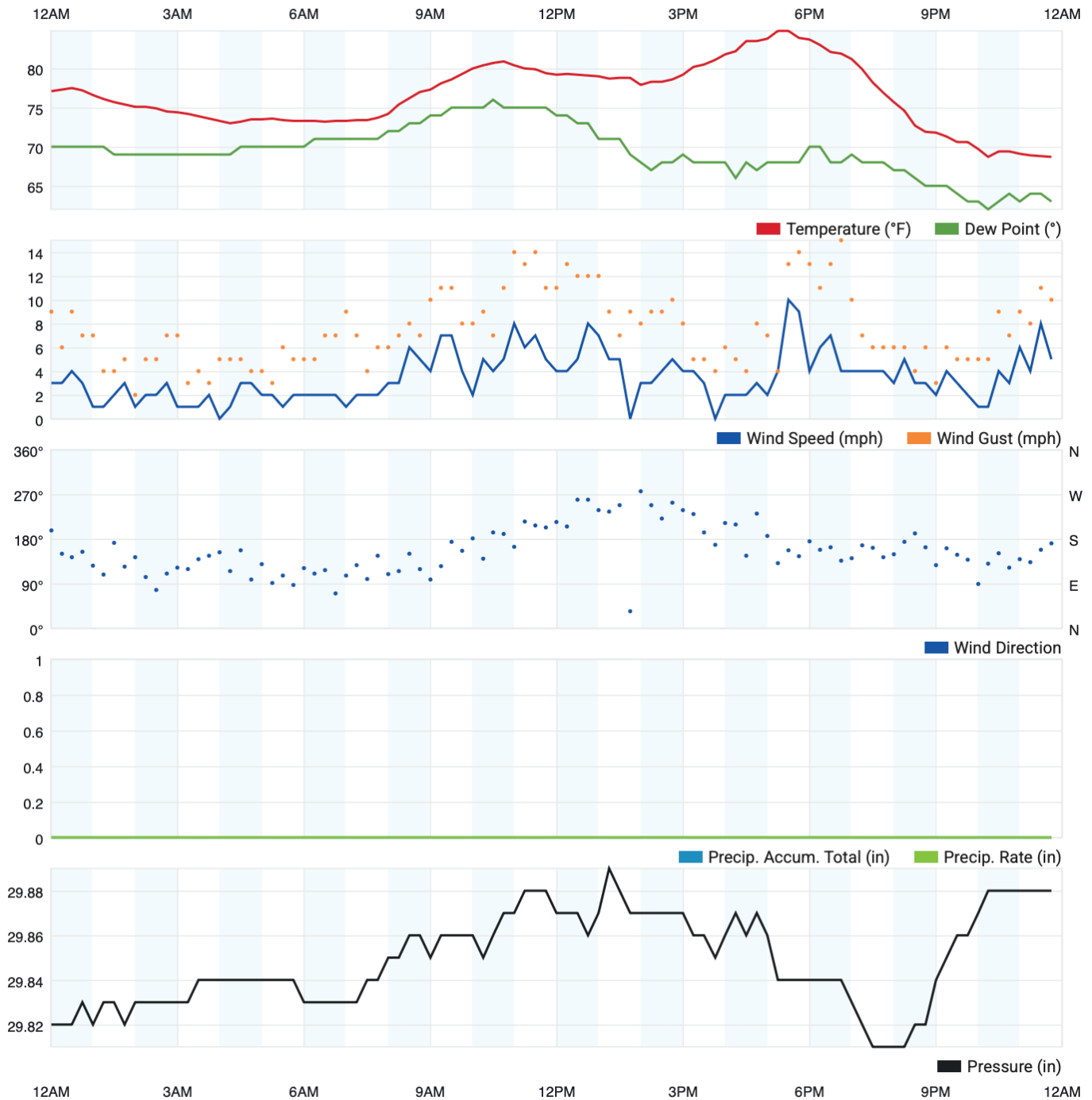
Kevin Hardy covers business, labor and rural issues for Stateline from the Midwest.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

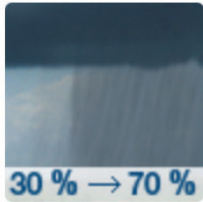
September 6, 2026



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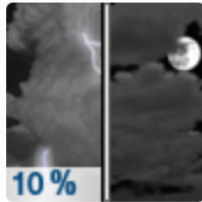
Labor Day



High: 84 °F

Breezy.
Chance
Showers then
Showers
Likely

Tonight



Low: 66 °F

Slight Chance
T-storms then
Mostly Cloudy

Tuesday



High: 81 °F

Becoming
Sunny

Tuesday Night



Low: 55 °F

Mostly Clear

Wednesday



High: 76 °F

Sunny



Severe Weather Risk Overview

September 7, 2026
2:56 AM

For Labor Day (September 7, 2026)

Timing/Location

Multiple opportunities for thunderstorms through this evening, first over central and northeast SD, then in west central MN and southeast SD late this afternoon and into the evening hours.

Primary Threats for the Green areas

Tornado Potential

Very Low Low Medium High

Max Hail Size

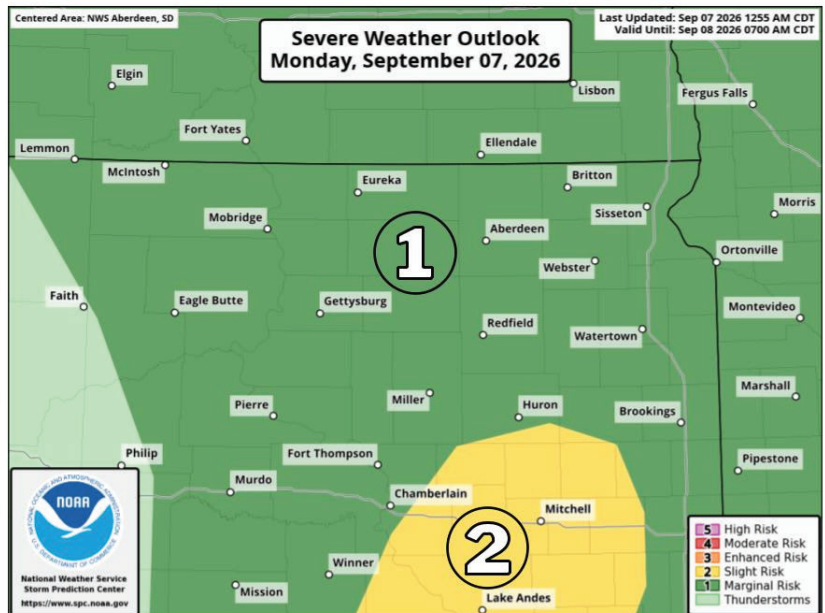
Dimes **Quarters** Golfball Baseball

Max Wind Speed

< 60 mph **60-70 mph** 70-80 mph > 80mph

Heavy Rain/Flooding Potential

Very Low Low Medium High



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

There are multiple opportunities for thunderstorms over the area today into this evening. The initial potential will be over central SD, with the thunderstorms moving to the east-northeast across northeastern SD and into west central MN by this evening. The strongest storms have the potential to produce hail to the size of quarters and winds to 60 mph. Heavy rain is also expected in any of these thunderstorms.

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Timing for Labor Day Thunderstorms

September 7, 2026

3:00 AM CDT

A **Marginal Risk** (Level 1 of 5) for Severe Thunderstorms Exists Across the Area

Timing



Thunderstorms will move east across the area during the day (morning in Central SD and afternoon in eastern SD).

Actions



Be weather aware & ready to act.
Have multiple ways to receive warning information!

Severe Threats



Large Hail

To the size of Quarters



Damaging Wind

To 60 mph



Heavy Rain

Localized flooding possible

Probability of Precipitation (%) Forecast

	9/7 Mon																				9/8 Tue			
	4am	5am	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm	11pm	12am	1am	2am	3am
McIntosh	5	10	10	25	35	40	55	55	45	30	5	10	5	10	5	5	10	15	10	10	5	10	10	5
Eagle Butte	15	25	20	30	35	30	45	50	50	15	5	10	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	5	0	0	0	0
Murdo	15	25	25	30	25	30	30	25	25	15	5	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	0	5
Mobridge	10	10	10	25	35	40	50	60	50	45	30	20	10	5	0	5	5	5	10	5	5	5	5	10
Pierre	10	15	25	35	25	40	45	30	35	25	20	10	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gettysburg	10	15	15	25	35	40	40	50	40	45	20	25	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	0	0	0
Eureka	5	10	10	15	30	40	50	50	60	60	45	30	15	10	5	5	5	5	10	5	5	10	5	0
Chamberlain	5	5	15	35	30	40	30	30	30	35	30	25	20	20	25	30	25	15	5	5	5	5	5	5
Miller	5	10	15	20	35	40	30	40	40	65	30	30	45	35	30	15	20	10	5	5	0	0	5	5
Redfield	10	10	10	10	20	30	25	30	35	70	55	55	55	40	30	15	20	20	5	5	5	5	5	5
Aberdeen	5	10	10	10	10	25	25	30	30	65	65	70	70	30	25	10	5	5	5	0	0	0	5	5
Britton	10	10	10	10	10	15	20	25	25	45	50	70	80	60	30	25	20	20	15	5	5	10	15	25
Clark	10	10	10	10	10	20	20	25	25	45	70	60	50	50	45	30	35	40	20	15	10	5	0	0
Webster	15	15	10	10	10	20	20	20	20	30	40	55	65	75	55	30	25	25	25	20	10	5	5	5
Watertown	15	10	15	10	10	10	10	10	20	30	40	55	50	50	45	45	40	50	45	30	20	5	5	0
Sisseton	15	15	15	10	10	10	20	30	35	30	35	50	75	80	65	45	40	40	45	40	25	5	5	5
Milbank	15	15	15	10	10	10	10	15	15	25	45	50	55	70	60	55	50	40	55	55	35	10	5	5
Wheaton	10	15	15	10	10	20	20	35	35	30	40	40	60	75	80	65	50	45	45	55	45	15	10	10

Probability of Precipitation Forecast (%)



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

This chart provides a more detailed look at the thunderstorms that will move across the area today. Make sure to be weather aware and when thunder roars, go indoors.



Elevated Grassland Fire Danger on Tuesday

September 7, 2026

3:34 AM CDT

Due to low relative humidities, westerly winds gusting to 30-35 mph, and dry grasses



Hazards & Impacts

- High to Very High Grassland Fire Danger



Timing

- Noon to 8 PM CDT Tuesday



Location

- North Central SD



Impacts and Actions



OUTDOOR FIRES COULD
QUICKLY SPREAD



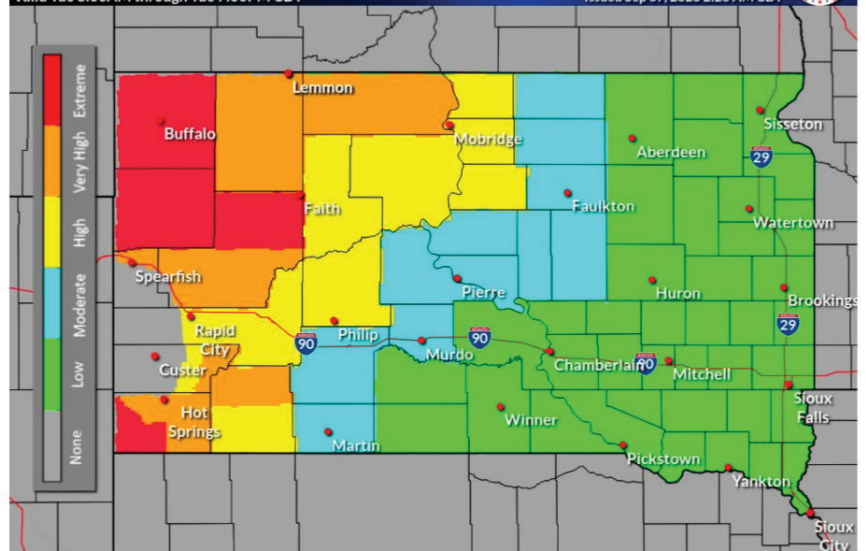
AVOID OUTDOOR
BURNING

SD Grassland Fire Danger Tuesday Afternoon

Valid Tue 8:00AM through Tue 7:00PM CDT

Aberdeen/Rapid City/Sioux Falls, SD

Weather Forecast Office
Issued Sep 07, 2026 2:26 AM CDT



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 85 °F at 5:26 PM

Low Temp: 68 °F at 10:19 PM

Wind: 16 mph at 11:19 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 101 in 1897

Record Low: 29 in 1895

Average High: 78

Average Low: 50

Average Precip in Sept.: 0.47

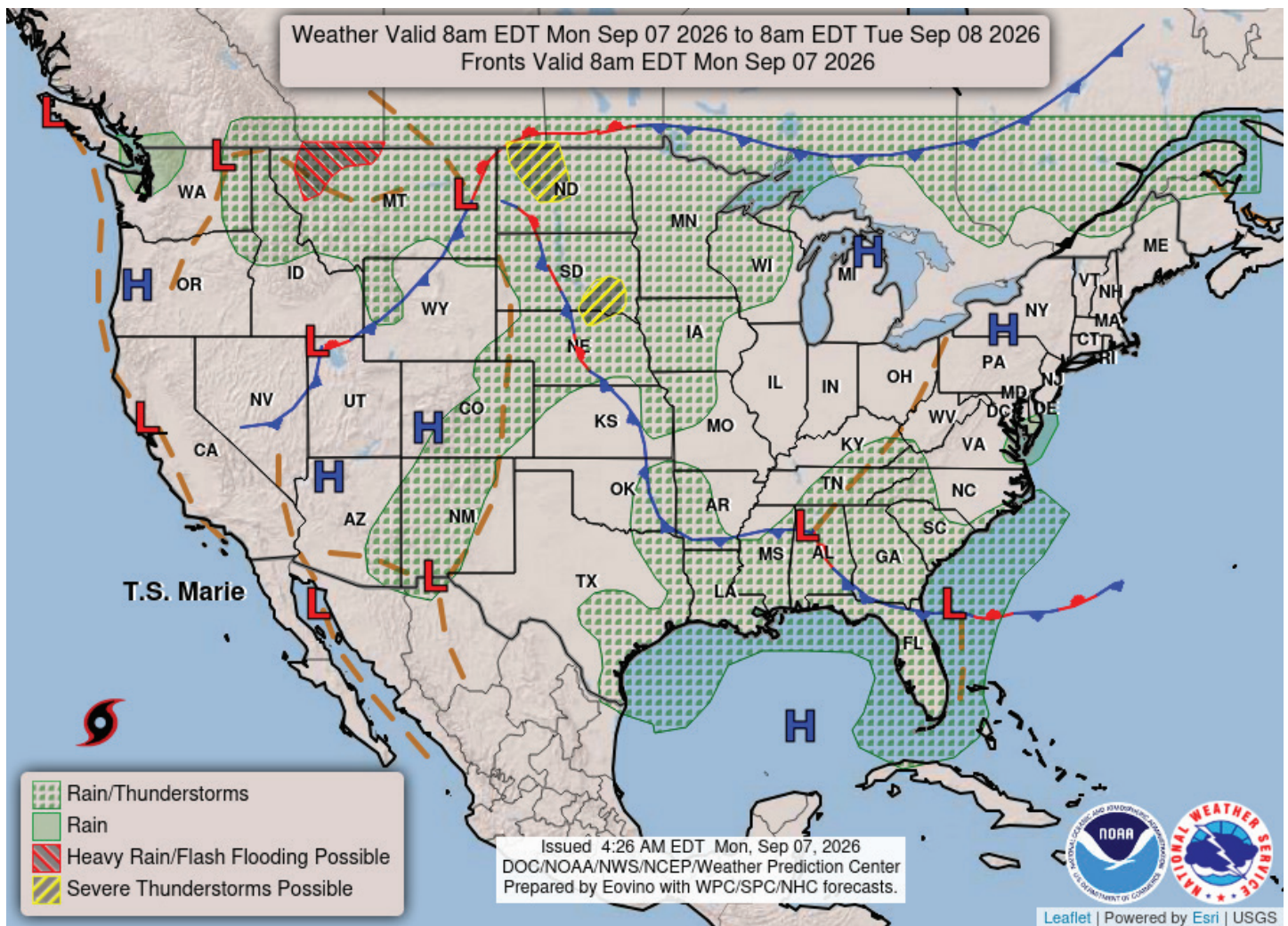
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 16.81

Precip Year to Date: 20.06

Sunset Tonight: 7:59 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:02 am



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Today in Weather History

September 7, 1961: A tornado struck a farm near the McPherson-Brown county line, or about 10 miles east and 2 miles north of Leola, at around 825 pm CDT. All farm buildings were destroyed, including two chicken coops, granary, machine shop, and two trailer homes. The house was pushed about a foot off its foundation and had windows broken, plaster cracked, and part of the roof ripped. A farm truck and tractor were both blown about 500 feet and demolished. Rain up to 2.5 inches and hail accompanied the storm and caused minor damage.

1769: Considered one of the worst storms of the Eighteenth century, this hurricane passed over Williamsburg, Virginia.

1881 — The temperature soared to 101 degrees at New York City, 102 degrees at Boston MA, and 104 degrees at Washington D.C. (David Ludlum)

1888 — Much of the Middle and Northern Atlantic Coast Region experienced freezing temperatures. Killer frosts resulted in a million dollars damage to crops in Maine. (David Ludlum)

1909 — Topeka, KS, was drenched with 8.08 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a record for that location. (6th- 7th) (The Weather Channel)

1970 — A lightning bolt struck a group of football players at Gibbs High School in Saint Petersburg FL, killing two persons and injuring 22 others. All the thirty-eight players and four coaches were knocked off their feet. (The Weather Channel)

1987 — Showers and thunderstorms produced 4 to 8 inch rains in three to six hours in Virginia, with totals across the state for the Labor Day weekend ranging up to fourteen inches. The Staunton River crested at 34.44 feet at Altavista on the 8th, its highest level since 1940. Damage due to flooding was estimated at seven million dollars around Bedford, Henry, and Franklin. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 — Fifty cities across the eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. The low of 56 degrees at Mobile AL was their coolest reading of record for so early in the season. The mercury dipped to 31 degrees at Athens OH, and to 30 degrees at Thomas WV. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 — Thunderstorms in the central U.S. produced four inches of rain at Texamah overnight, and up to six inches of rain in southwestern Iowa. Evening thunderstorms in eastern Colorado produced golf ball size hail at Clear Creek and at Nederland. Late evening thunderstorms in Iowa drenched Harlan with more than four inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1998: Two Derechos occurred on this day with one affecting most of Pennsylvania and New York City, the other impacting central New York.

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Daily Devotion

Growing in Trust

Following God often takes us through unfamiliar territory, but He is faithful to lead us into His good plans.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20: 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Most of us can look back and see moments when God asked us to step beyond what felt comfortable. Maybe it was a call to forgive, to act generously, or to walk into something unfamiliar. These invitations can feel overwhelming—but they're actually signs that God is drawing us deeper into relationship with Him.

Our natural tendency is to set boundaries around the areas where we feel safe following God. We might not say it out loud, but our hearts sometimes whisper, "I'll trust You here, Lord, but not there." It's an honest impulse, and God isn't surprised by it. But He loves us too much to let us settle for a small story when He has a larger, grander one in mind (Ephesians 3:20).

When God challenges us beyond our self-determined limits, He isn't testing us—He's inviting us into a higher level of trust. No matter how far we've come, there's always more of His goodness to discover. Each new step of surrender is an opportunity to experience His faithfulness in ways we haven't yet imagined.

The Christian life isn't about arriving. It's about following. And the One who leads us knows the way, loves the journey, and has already prepared what's ahead. All we have to do is take the next step.

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:
09.06.26

17 30 39 40 55 4

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

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 23 Mins 39 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.04.26

6 26 34 59 61 24

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$193,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 8 Mins 39 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.05.26

20 21 27 32 44 3

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$3,790,000

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 23 Mins 39 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.05.26

6 9 26 27 31

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$49,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 15 Hrs 38 Mins 38 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.05.26

21 24 30 47 60 5

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 7 Mins 38 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.05.26

15 40 47 53 59 9

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$190,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 7 Mins 38 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Rescuers look for survivors after New Delhi hostel collapse kills 7

By RISHI LEKHI Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Search and rescue teams combed through the debris of a collapsed building in New Delhi on Monday as the death toll climbed to seven, officials said.

The five-story building, which housed a boys' hostel, collapsed on Sunday in Satya Niketan, a densely populated neighborhood known for its private student accommodations near a Delhi University campus.

Police, firefighters and crews from India's disaster response agency continued their search for a second day as earthmovers cleared debris and sniffer dogs worked the site to help rescuers reach those still trapped inside.

Rescue crews pulled at least 12 people from under the rubble, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta told reporters at the site on Monday. About 80% of the debris had been cleared and only rubble from the basement remained, she said, adding that six people died and six others were injured in the incident.

Later Monday, rescuers recovered a body, raising the death toll to seven, officials said.

According to residents, the building was at least 55 years old and had been under renovation for months before reopening to tenants, mostly students, in August despite work remaining unfinished.

Prakash Chand, a resident, said laborers were in the basement carrying out digging work when the building collapsed.

Preliminary findings suggest water accumulation in the basement and ongoing repair work on the aging building may have caused the collapse, Gupta said.

She said the government will draft a policy requiring periodic structural audits and safety certificates for buildings used by the public, including student accommodations, nursing homes and schools. "No public activity will be permitted" in buildings that fail to comply, Gupta said.

After Gupta's visit, police arrested the building owner and filed a case against him. Authorities also suspended at least five municipal employees responsible for building safety oversight in the area, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

Building collapses are a recurring hazard in parts of India during the June-to-September monsoon season, when heavy or prolonged rain can weaken older structures.

German chancellor faces pressure after far-right AfD party wins a landslide in a state election

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — German Chancellor Friedrich Merz was facing pressure Monday after his party was crushed by the Alternative for Germany party in a regional election that could result in it leading the first far-right state government since the Nazi era.

The AfD, classified by Germany's domestic intelligence agency as an extremist group in some regions of the country, fell just short of a majority in Sunday's election in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt.

Unlike other countries in Europe, modern Germany hasn't yet had a far-right or right-wing populist party leading a national, state or major-city government — and due to the country's Nazi past, far-right movements have always received strong scrutiny.

While Sunday's election was only regional, it has major national implications. Merz had vowed to weaken the AfD when he came to office, and the election result shows that he has been unable to deliver on that promise.

AFD's strong victory is also a major distraction for Germany and Merz at a time when Europe faces several challenges, including Russia's continued aggression against Ukraine and a suspected sabotage campaign targeting NATO countries, and difficult dealings with U.S. President Donald Trump.

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Tricky coalition talks lie ahead, and the AfD candidate for governor, Ulrich Siegmund, still aims to become the first head of government from the far-right party on the state level.

"I am telling you today that we must reclaim our old, safe, beautiful Germany — we proved that yesterday, and therefore this is the path we will now take together," Siegmund told reporters in Berlin on Monday.

The vote weakens the chancellor significantly and he will be partly held responsible for his party's historic loss after it led the state for the past 24 years. Merz's center-right Christian Democrats party, or CDU, saw its election results cut in half, while AfD more than doubled its share of the vote. The result could also energize the AfD in other state elections later this month.

Merz is expected to comment on the election result later Monday after meetings of his party and government leaders.

Tricky coalition talks lie ahead

AfD, known for its pro-Russian and radical anti-immigration stance, is the biggest opposition party in Germany's national parliament and is strongest in the formerly communist and less prosperous east, where Saxony-Anhalt is located.

Tricky coalition talks in the state are expected in the days and possibly weeks ahead.

Leading a state government would be the biggest prize for AfD in its 13-year history, coming at a time of widespread discontent with a national government that has yet to persuade voters that it can get the country's sluggish economy moving.

While Siegmund has rejected an AfD minority government, his party could possibly govern with the hard-left BSW party. The two parties share a Russia-friendly course and oppose immigration but do not agree on some other subjects.

On Monday, BSW's lead candidate in the election, Thomas Schulze, expressed his party's willingness again to help an AfD minister-president take office in the state parliament.

Forming a government that excludes the AfD would only be possible if all the other parties that were elected worked together — CDU, Social Democrats, the Greens, the Left Party, and the BSW. However, a coalition involving five partners would be extremely unusual, very complicated and hardly conceivable.

It's also possible that newly elected lawmakers from other parties could defect to AfD — it would only need three people to get a majority to govern.

"The task before us is a very clear mandate to form the government," Siegmund said, adding that his party would reach out to all other new factions in parliament and even to single lawmakers. "Our goal now is to build precisely this stable majority in the coming days and weeks."

AfD once previously won a state election but didn't end up governing. That was two years ago in neighboring Thuringia, where a CDU governor took power with a minority government, but AfD was much further short of a majority there. So far, the country's mainstream parties have adhered to the so-called firewall, meaning they refused to work with AfD.

The state election got outsized attention

Billionaire Elon Musk congratulated the party on its election victory with a "Well done!" on his online platform X.

Siegmund immediately thanked him for his support, replying in English: "If we take on responsibility here, I would very much welcome the opportunity for strong and constructive cooperation. Germany would then once again be a place worth investing in. Best regards from Saxony-Anhalt!"

Trump posted a screenshot of the election projection on his "Truth Social" platform without any comment.

Russian presidential envoy Kirill Dmitriev on X described the outcome of the election as a "historic win for the pragmatic AfD that will put migration under control." In a separate post, Dmitriev said that "AfD will restore Germany and Europe by leading the commons-sense approach that migrant-friendly, warmongering Biden-think EU politicians tried to eradicate."

The leaders of right-wing populist parties in Spain and Portugal also congratulated AfD, German news agency dpa reported.

The Polish prime minister was critical. "In Poland, only idiots or traitors could rejoice the AfD triumph in Germany," Donald Tusk wrote on X.

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The numbers

AfD won 43.8% of the vote, more than double its showing five years ago in the region west of Berlin.

That was far ahead of Merz's party, which polled 17.2% — losing about half its support — and won 15 seats. The center-left Social Democrats polled 9.3%, the Greens 8.9% and the Left Party 8.6%, winning eight seats apiece.

The BSW party took 5.3% and five seats.

Turnout was very high at 77.8%. AfD appeared to have won over many people who didn't vote at all five years ago.

Alice Weidel, one of the two leaders of AfD on the national level, praised the turnout and said the strong result was a clear signal that the people of Saxony-Anhalt want change.

"No chancellor before has been as unpopular as Friedrich Merz, who has become a major obstacle to Germany's prosperous development," she said.

"The people in this country no longer want business as usual when it comes to illegal immigration, open borders, skyrocketing crime rates among foreign nationals, refused deportations, and a disastrous energy policy."

Israeli airstrikes on a village in southern Lebanon kill 9 people, wound 13

By AHMAD MANTASH Associated Press

KFAR RUMMAN, Lebanon (AP) — Israel's air force carried out two airstrikes early Monday on a southern Lebanese village, killing at least nine people and wounding others, including women and children, Lebanon's Health Ministry said.

Monday's strikes came amid a new round of escalation between Israel and the militant Hezbollah group despite a truce reached more than two months ago. The strikes also came days after Israel's military said it is in "operational control" of the strategic Ali Taher hill that overlooks several villages as well as main roads leading to the city of Nabatiyeh.

The Health Ministry said one of the strikes hit a building, killing eight people including a child and two women. It added that 11 people were also wounded, including four children and two women.

The ministry said that another strike on a car in the village killed a paramedic with the Lebanese Islamic Risala Scout Association and wounded two others.

"We have been living in constant anxiety amid shelling on the outskirts," said Kfar Rumman resident Fouad Chakaron as he stood in front of the destroyed building. "Now they struck the heart of the town."

Another resident, Saleh Medlej, pointed to the destroyed building and said this was home to families with children. "Are there missiles here?" he asked in reference to the building where the families lived.

"I will not leave this place," Medlej said, vowing to stay in his hometown despite the airstrikes and shelling.

Earlier Monday, Israel's military issued an evacuation warning for a home in the village of Deir al-Zahrani and shortly afterward a building was struck. The Israeli military said the strike was in retaliation for a drone attack by Hezbollah militants. There was no word on casualties.

On Sunday, Israeli strikes killed at least seven people in southern Lebanon and leveled an empty hospital.

A U.S.-brokered truce between Israel and Hezbollah has been repeatedly violated with Israel carrying out airstrikes in Lebanon and Hezbollah firing drones at Israeli troops.

Lebanon and Israel in June signed a U.S.-mediated framework deal under which Israeli forces were to withdraw from southern Lebanon in exchange for the disarmament of Hezbollah, but little progress has been made in its implementation.

Hezbollah is not a party to the Lebanon-Israel talks and has said it will not give up its weapons in any area north of southern Lebanon's Litani River. Israeli officials, meanwhile, have said they will not withdraw unless Hezbollah is disarmed throughout the country.

Kfar Rumman's mayor, Abdullah Farhat, described what happened in the village as "a massacre in every sense of the word." He blasted the framework agreement between Lebanon and Israel saying that Leba-

nese leaders "signed deals and we are paying the price here."

"There is an enemy that is not concerned about anything," Farhat said, referring to strikes that have been ongoing since the deal was signed.

Germany fights Gaza genocide claims at the top UN court

By MOLLY QUELL Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Germany told the United Nations' top court on Monday that a genocide case over weapons sales to Israel was improperly filed by Nicaragua and should be thrown out.

The Central American country accuses Berlin of violating the Genocide Convention and international humanitarian law by "facilitating" acts of genocide in Gaza by providing arms and other military support to Israel.

While the case centers on Germany, it indirectly takes aim at Israel's campaign in Gaza in response to the deadly Oct. 7, 2023, attacks by Hamas. Israel, which isn't a party in the proceedings, strongly denies that its actions amount to acts of genocide.

"Nicaragua's conduct indicates that it was not interested in hearing Germany's view on its allegations, but simply in bringing Germany before this court," Julia Monar, Germany's top lawyer, told the judges.

According to Monar, Nicaragua failed to properly notify the German government and gave her country less than a month to reply before launching proceedings. Countries are typically expected to attempt to resolve disputes before bringing them to the court.

Another lawyer for Germany, Antonios Tzanakopoulos, said that Nicaragua's formal notification about the case came from a Yahoo email address sent to an general inbox, rather than through the appropriate diplomatic channels.

Germany is Israel's second-largest arms supplier

Germany has been a staunch supporter of Israel for decades and is the second-largest supplier of arms to Israel after the United States.

Monar stressed that her country carefully reviews all exports of military equipment in accordance with international law. "Germany has not, since 2024, authorized an export of weapons of war, with final destination in Israel that can be used in the Gaza conflict," she said.

In 2024, the court rejected an emergency request from Nicaragua to order Germany to halt military and other aid to Israel in Gaza, but the 16-judge panel declined to throw out the case altogether.

Proceedings at the ICJ can take a long time to conclude

The proceedings are the latest legal attempt to rein in Israel's military campaign by a country with historic ties to the Palestinian people, after South Africa accused Israel of genocide at the same court in 2023.

In January 2024, judges at the ICJ ordered Israel to do all it can to prevent death, destruction and any acts of genocide in Gaza. Two months later, the court told Israel to take measures to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza, including opening more land crossings to allow food, water, fuel and other supplies.

South Africa says that Israel largely ignored those orders.

Both South Africa's case against Israel and Nicaragua's case against Germany allege violations of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The convention was drawn up in the wake of the Holocaust to codify a new crime: genocide.

A team of independent experts commissioned by the United Nations' Human Rights Council and the largest professional organization of scholars studying genocide have both concluded that Israel is violating the treaty but only an international court can make a legal determination.

Proceedings at the ICJ can drag on for years. In 2007, the court ruled that Serbia "violated the obligation to prevent genocide" in the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, when Bosnian Serb forces rounded up and murdered some 8,000 mostly Muslim men and boys in eastern Bosnia.

In May, the court set a November 2027 deadline for South Africa to file its written pleadings and gave Israel until May 2029 to reply. Hearings on the core question of the case — whether Israel committed genocide in Gaza — likely won't be heard until late 2029 at the earliest.

An investigation at the International Criminal Court is also ongoing

In separate proceedings at the International Criminal Court, also in The Hague, which tries cases against individuals rather than between nations, judges have issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant in connection with the conflict.

The pair are charged with crimes against humanity, not genocide. The court said it found that there was reason to believe they used "starvation as a method of warfare" by restricting humanitarian aid and intentionally targeted civilians in Israel's campaign against Hamas in Gaza — charges Israeli officials deny.

In response, the United States has issued sanctions against many senior court staff, including nine of the ICC's 18 judges.

The conflict in Gaza has left tens of thousands of Palestinians dead and devastated the enclave. Despite a fragile ceasefire brokered by the United States last year, violence has continued. Since the ceasefire was announced, Israeli fire has killed more than 1,300 Palestinians in Gaza, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Five Israeli soldiers have also been killed.

Nepal holds a day of mourning after floods kill at least 1,300 people

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Nepal held a day of mourning Monday to remember those killed in the Aug. 26 floods, with flags lowered at government offices and families concluding mourning rituals.

Monday was the 13th day since the flooding which killed more than 1,300 people in Nepal and Tibet and left some 5,000 missing, including foreigners, according to Nepal's disaster management agency.

In predominantly Hindu Nepal, mourning periods last 13 days, during which close family members stay home and relatives visit to pay their respects. Rituals are held on the final day to pray for the souls of the departed.

Several people whose relatives remain missing performed symbolic funerals. Cremation is an important final rite in Hindu tradition, and performing the ceremony even without the bodies of their loved ones provided some families a sense of spiritual release.

The government had declared Monday an official day of mourning and ordered flags at government offices lowered to half-staff.

Meanwhile, search efforts continued for the missing, but some protested that not enough was being done.

In Kathmandu, relatives gathered near the offices of the prime minister and key ministries to demand the government speed up search and rescue efforts for hundreds of people who had been working at hydropower plants and were either swept away by the rushing Bhotekhoshi River or buried under debris.

Sumana Shrestha stood with family members holding a poster with the photo of her 55-year-old husband, who has not been heard from since the day of the flood.

Her husband, a consulting geologist, had promised to return home after his shift at the project office for the Trishuli hydropower plant on the day of the flood. The 2 1/2-story office was completely buried by debris.

"We are here because we have not heard of any rescue attempt on this project, but it has been 13 days already," she said. "The only thing we have been able to do is pray to God and hope for a miracle."

Another protester, Mahesh Prasad Shrestha, held a photograph of his brother Niraj Shrestha, a 52-year-old engineer who worked at the same site. He said authorities only sent a small excavator by helicopter on the sixth or seventh day after the disaster, adding: "They should have ordered big helicopters from places like China or India to fly in equipment."

Rescue efforts have focused on 12 hydropower projects, where about 900 workers are missing and roughly 500 are believed to be trapped in various tunnels, authorities said. Specialized rescue teams from India, China, South Korea and the United States have been searching through debris, damaged structures and tunnels at the projects.

Two Nepalese workers were rescued from the plant Friday, and rescuers pulled out a Chinese man from the facility on Saturday.

Israeli airstrikes hit southern Lebanon village, killing 9, and other Mideast news

By The Associated Press undefined

Lebanon's Health Ministry says Israeli airstrikes on a southern Lebanese village has killed nine people. Meanwhile, the Iran-backed Houthi rebels claim to have shot down a Saudi reconnaissance plane.

Here's a look at the latest news in the Middle East. Full coverage can be found [here](#).

Israeli airstrikes on southern Lebanon kill 9

Israel's air forces carried out two airstrikes early Monday on a southern Lebanese village killing at least nine people, including women and children, the Health Ministry said.

The strikes came amid a new round of escalation between Israel and Hezbollah.

The ministry said one of the strikes hit a building killing eight people including a child and two women. It added that 11 people were also wounded, including four children and two women.

The ministry added that another strike on a car in the village killed a paramedic with the Lebanese Islamic Risala Scout Association and wounded two others.

Houthis claim downing Saudi reconnaissance plane

Iran-backed Houthi rebels claimed early Monday to have downed a Saudi armed reconnaissance aircraft in the northern part of the country as the escalation with the Yemeni government forces continues.

Houthi military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree said in a statement that their forces shot down the aircraft detected in Jawf province's airspace. He said the aircraft belonged to Saudi Arabia and was seeking to carry out "hostile actions." The Associated Press couldn't independently verify that claim.

Saree added that over the past 24 hours, a total of three reconnaissance drones belonging to Saudi Arabia were downed, including one that was spotted Monday morning in Bayda province.

Body of war criminal Mladic lies in state in Serbian capital ahead of funeral

By DUSAN STOJANOVIC and JOVANA GEC Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — The body of Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb commander who died while serving a life sentence for war crimes, lay in state on Monday as Serbia defied European Union warnings against allowing public homage to the man found guilty of the continent's first case of genocide since World War II.

Thousands of mourners arrived early at the small Serbian Orthodox Church of St. Luke in Belgrade to honor Mladic, who is still viewed as a hero by many Serbs. His military officer's cap and saber rested on the coffin, which was flanked by men in fatigues.

Pro-government media in Serbia reported that Mladic will receive full military honors while the head of the Serbian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Porfirije, will lead the funeral service.

Mladic "was a man who gave everything in his life for the Serbian people," said Milan Dobric, a mourner who traveled from Kosovo for the funeral. "I am glad that this morning people are coming to pay special respect."

Mladic died at 84 on Aug. 27 in The Hague, Netherlands, while serving a life sentence for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity his troops committed during the Bosnian war in 1992-95.

While the funeral arrangements were formally made by Mladic's family, the Serbian government sent a plane last week to bring his remains to Belgrade, and soldiers carried his coffin wrapped in the national flag. A military commemoration was held Saturday at an official Serbian army venue.

Populist President Aleksandar Vucic, a former extreme nationalist who supported Serbia's expansionist policies during the war, described the funeral as an "emotional outpouring" that "has nothing to do with whether Vucic allowed something or not."

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Serbia is a candidate nation for European Union membership and has faced strong criticism for honoring Mladic after his death.

Marta Kos, the enlargement commissioner for the bloc, canceled an upcoming visit to Serbia in protest, arguing that "the glorification surrounding his death is incompatible with the values on which the EU path is built."

Serbia, which backed Bosnian Serb forces during the war, remains defiant over its wartime role and accuses the West of anti-Serb bias.

Vucic said that "we (Serbs) have been persecuted and harassed for 30, 40 years ... always guilty whatever happens," He added that "people just won't take it any more."

Vucic, who is not attending the funeral, previously has accused Kos of "lying." The Serbian president has stepped up his anti-Western rhetoric ahead of an early parliamentary election expected next month.

A number of other European officials joined the criticism of Serbia, along with regional leaders and relatives of Mladic's victims from the war in Bosnia. The conflict left more than 100,000 people dead and over 1 million homeless before it ended in 1995 in a U.S.-brokered peace agreement.

Mladic was sentenced in 2017 for orchestrating the massacre of more than 8,000 Muslims in Srebrenica in 1995; the yearslong siege of the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo and other war crimes, including setting up concentration camps for detained non-Serb civilians and enemy soldiers.

Since Mladic died, his nationalist admirers have held vigils, painted a series of murals with his image in Belgrade and lit flares in his honor. On Sunday evening, soccer fans displayed a huge image of Mladic and chanted his name at a match in Belgrade.

Serbia has refused to recognize that genocide was committed in Srebrenica, calling the massacre a "horrific crime" instead. Last year, Serbia buried another convicted war criminal, the former army chief of staff Nebojsa Pavkovic, with full military honors at a cemetery for distinguished individuals.

The Balkan nation's EU bid has stalled due to democratic backsliding and Vucic's refusal to join international sanctions against Russia over the invasion of Ukraine.

A U.N. "safe haven" for Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims), Srebrenica ended up being overrun by Serbs who forced men and boys to strip, killed them and bulldozed their bodies into mass graves. The war started after the breakup of the former Yugoslavia when ethnic Serbs in Bosnia took control over swaths of Bosnian territory to form a country of their own and unite it with Serbia.

Indonesia keeps several airports closed though volcanic eruption is easing

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesia kept several airports closed and shifted schools to remote learning Monday though the volcanic eruption that has halted 2,300 flights and coated areas with ash was subsiding.

The continuous, 25-hour eruption of Anak Krakatau that produced a fountain of lava and a boom heard 700 kilometers (435 miles) away ended Sunday, the country's Geological Agency said. But it remained active Monday with moderate, intermittent eruptions, dark ash emissions and small, localized earthquakes, the agency said in a statement. Weather was obscuring visual observations of the eruption.

AirNav Indonesia said tests showed volcanic ash present in the airspace around Jakarta and several other cities, prompting authorities to close seven airports until 6 p.m. Monday, while Atung Bungsu Airport in Pagar Alam, a city in South Sumatra province, resumed normal operations Monday morning.

The closure of four commercial airports managed by state-owned operator InJourney Airports: Jakarta's international airports of Soekarno-Hatta and Halim Perdanakusuma, Husein Sastranegara in West Java's Bandung city and Radin Inten in Lampung on the southern tip of Sumatra, has disrupted about 2,300 flights and affected 270,337 passengers, according to Indonesia's Transportation Ministry.

The eruption's impact extended beyond air travel. The government authorized schools in areas affected by volcanic ash, including in Jakarta, West Java, Banten and Lampung provinces, to temporarily move to online learning at home to reduce students' exposure to ash.

"The probability of additional eruptions in the coming days remains high," said Lana Saria, head of the

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Geology Agency. "The main hazards include volcanic bombs, heavy ashfall and possible lava flows if sustained eruptive activity resumes," she said.

Anak Krakatau is a volcanic island in the Sunda Strait between Indonesia's main Java and Sumatra islands. Its name means "child of Krakatau," and the volcano is the offspring of the infamous Krakatau, whose monumental 1883 eruption triggered a period of global cooling.

An eruption of Anak Krakatau in 2018 caused a tsunami that killed at least 430 people in Sumatra and Java. Researchers believe volcanic activity triggered an underwater landslide and caused a large chunk of Anak Krakatau's southwest slope to collapse and displace a large volume of water.

Indonesia has more than 120 active volcanoes and frequently experiences eruptions due to its location along the Pacific "Ring of Fire," the ring of seismic faults around the Pacific Ocean where most global seismic activity occurs.

Congo's Ebola burial teams battle community anger, fatigue and fear of infection

By CONSTANT SAME BAGALWA and OPE ADETAYO Associated Press

BUNIA, Congo (AP) — Yuma Adolphe and his team are responsible for the safe and dignified burial of some of the people who die from Ebola in Congo's Ituri province, the epicenter of history's deadliest Ebola outbreak. Nearly every day, they dig the graves, prepare the bodies and handle the coffins.

But as the authorities grapple with the outbreak, which has killed nearly 3,200 people among more than 6,600 confirmed cases, the burial team says they are at their limits, struggling with an increasing workload and hostile communities.

"It is difficult, but we try to push ourselves beyond our limits," Adolphe told The Associated Press.

Since the outbreak began in mid-May, authorities have deployed small burial teams like Adolphe's across the hot spots to handle the burials. Paid \$20 a day, they are a part of a group of front-line workers who are working to contain the rapidly moving disease.

Despite the toll, the burial team members say the priority is to keep their community safe.

"We have to look at our own mental well-being, and physically the fatigue mounts, but we keep going to ensure the community is protected."

'In the past, we did not die like this'

But their work is in the crosshairs of the locals' frustration with the outbreak, which not only has taken their loved ones but prohibits them from traditional burial rites.

Health workers exclusively handle the bodies as Ebola spreads as a result of direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of infected people.

Experts say bodies of victims still contain considerable amounts of active virus and can spread infections further.

Burial teams have faced attacks

Since May, health workers and burial teams such as Adolphe's have been attacked by bereaved families across the front line of the outbreak.

"Usually, the body is handed over to the family, who can handle it however they wish, in accordance with our African customs," Adolphe said. "But in this situation, it's difficult to let the family handle the body as they please. They are deprived of certain rituals, and that's what leads to misunderstandings."

Jeanne Alasha, adviser to the military governor of Ituri on health and humanitarian affairs, said that "as for those who continue to assault the teams, they are committing offenses punishable by law."

Ituri province, where the outbreak is concentrated, is also at the center of the rebel conflict in eastern Congo. The province is under a military government appointed by federal civilian authorities in Kinshasa.

Shortly before noon last Friday, Justine Abineno, a chorister, was buried in Ituri. Abineno had died of Ebola. She had only complained of slight headaches before heading to a hospital and was diagnosed with Ebola, her mother said.

A catechist presided over the ceremony attended by dozens of people, as a team of specialist burial

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team members in scrubs and boots stood by.

Abineno's mother, Sofia Wanito, said that the doctors only allowed her to see the body through the window of the hospital ward, and she wasn't allowed to touch the coffin.

"In the past, we didn't die like this. I could not even cover her with the sheets myself and pay a final tribute," Wanito said.

Efforts to contain the virus are faltering

The Ebola outbreak is spreading across six provinces in eastern Congo in some of the most difficult conditions imaginable, fueled by rebel violence, displacement and intense population movements. A weak healthcare and surveillance system also challenges responders, and insufficient contact tracing and laboratory testing.

Efforts to contain the outbreak have also been complicated by the lack of an approved vaccine or treatment for the rare Bundibugyo virus causing it. Authorities have started vaccinating front-line health workers with the Evrebo vaccine, which the World Health Organization says could offer some protection against Ebola but there's no conclusive evidence that it would work against the current virus.

Health authorities say the true scale of the crisis is likely three times more than official statistics as the disease continues to outpace efforts to contain it. WHO has said that it's projected to surpass the deadliest in history, West Africa's 2014-2016 outbreak, which killed more than 11,000 people.

Front-line health workers in eastern Congo have gone on multiple strikes to demand pay for their work, complicating efforts to stop the outbreak.

'We are putting everything on the line'

Benjamin Muhindo, another burial team member, said that his family worries that he might bring the virus home. For him, though, a bigger priority is ensuring the proper burial of victims, he said.

"Burials during this Ebola epidemic are very complicated, as we are working under pressure and constantly racing against the clock," Muhindo said.

Trauma experts say the high number of cases and the deaths are only one side of its impact at personal and communal levels.

"The trauma of this outbreak doesn't stop with the case count," said Rose Tchwenko, Mercy Corps country director in Congo. The chain of transmission will only be broken by "an integrated holistic response," which includes a social response to bereaved families and front-line workers, she added.

After the burial on Friday, Adolphe said that he's very tired but more worried about the community than anything else.

"We have no choice," he said. "We are here to safeguard our community."

Investigators hunt for what went wrong after cargo plane crash in Miami kills at least 5

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE, DAVID FISCHER and JOSH FUNK Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Federal investigators on Monday are detailing their plans for determining what caused an Amazon cargo jet to barrel off a runway at Miami International Airport, killing at least five people and injuring five others as it struck vehicles and was engulfed in flames.

The aircraft overran the runway around 2 p.m. Sunday after arriving from San Juan, Puerto Rico, and plowed across a road used by warehouse workers and other businesses that surround the airport. Five people were killed, three critically injured and two others hospitalized with less severe injuries, officials said.

It wasn't immediately clear if the pilots survived or those killed were all in vehicles when the plane struck.

The crash, which sent thick black smoke billowing into the sky, trapped the pilot and copilot in the cockpit and some occupants in cars, said Miami-Dade Rescue Fire Chief Ray Jadallah. The agency said crews also had to extricate a person who was trapped under a vehicle.

The National Transportation Safety Board said Chairwoman Jennifer Homendy would hold a news conference Monday.

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Among the factors investigators are likely to consider is whether the plane flew too far before touching down, experts said. Typically, the landing zone is within the first 3,000 feet (914 meters) of a runway.

Aviation safety expert Steve Arroyo said if it was beyond that area, the plane should have aborted the landing and gone around for another attempt.

Mary Schiavo, who is a pilot and former Inspector General of the Transportation Department, said video posted online shows the Amazon plane floating above the runway for an extended period without flaring the nose upward to force the main landing gear onto the ground.

It wasn't raining at the time, but dark storm clouds loomed and strong winds were reported. Schiavo said that if the plane had a tail wind, that could have contributed to it floating further down the runway.

"A tail wind would certainly add to your troubles if you've already given up a good chunk of the runway by not touching down and landing right away," Schiavo said.

The Miami airport is not equipped with arresting systems that the FAA says have been installed at more than 120 airports nationwide to safely stop planes that do go past the end of a runway. Those beds of lightweight, crushable material at the end of a runway have been credited by the FAA with helping save at least 497 lives aboard planes that overran runways.

The crash halted flights at the busy travel hub for much of the afternoon. Some 200 emergency personnel responded, finding the plane with heavy flames and smoke from a complex engine compartment fire, the department said. Firefighters used foam from specialized airport firefighting units to extinguish the fire, and crews were still dealing with a fuel leak on the plane hours later.

The Prime Air plane came to rest beside a roadway near two semitrucks, images showed. The aircraft appeared to be resting on its belly and was largely intact despite the fire.

The flight had been operated by 21 Air, a cargo carrier based in North Carolina. The 32-year-old Boeing 767 was originally built to carry passengers and flew for several airlines for more than two decades before being converted to a cargo plane in 2015, according to flight-tracking site Flightradar24.

Schiavo said the NTSB will also closely examine the maintenance history of this plane — particularly since it has a history of foreign ownership in the past, including by a Russian company.

More than 160 flights were canceled and nearly 325 delayed by late Sunday, according to FlightAware, a website that tracks flight disruptions. Officials from Orlando International Airport, more than 200 miles (320 km) north of Miami, said some flights were diverted there.

Amazon said in a statement that it would cooperate with any investigation.

"We're heartbroken to learn that five people lost their lives in today's incident at Miami International Airport," the company said. "Our deepest sympathies go out to the families, loved ones, and all those affected by this devastating loss."

Last year, a UPS plane crashed after losing its engine while accelerating down the runway at Louisville's Muhammad Ali International Airport. The crash killed all three pilots and 12 people on the ground. Twenty-three more were injured.

For New York's Haitian community, annual West Indian Day Parade means more in trying times

By NANCY JIANG Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Steel drums, flag-draped floats, and the smell of jerk chicken will fill Brooklyn's Eastern Parkway on Monday, as hundreds of thousands turn out for the West Indian Day Parade, one of the largest celebrations of Caribbean culture in the country.

This year, Haitians are marching under more solemn circumstances than in prior years. Federal immigration enforcement has intensified against Caribbean and other Black immigrant communities over the past year, and Haitians have lost a key protection — temporary protected status. Known as TPS, it let hundreds of thousands remain in the U.S. legally.

Organizers say the parade has become both a defiant assertion of pride and a rare bright spot in a traumatic year.

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"There's a somber cloud over it with everything that has happened from last year to this year with TPS ... what's happening in detention centers, and those who are being sent back with no valid way of living or supporting themselves," said Natalie Lafontant, a Brooklyn native who organizes Lespri Ayiti, or "Spirit of Haiti," the largest Haitian "mas" — short for masquerade — or marching community in Monday's parade.

Still, she said, the response to hardship is not surrender.

"But if you know anything about the Caribbean, especially about Haiti, we use music, dance, art, to continue to strive and push through," Lafontant said while taking stock of parade costumes at a community center.

Keeping parade plans alive amid anti-immigrant policies

In June, the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 in *Mullin v. Doe* that federal courts cannot review the Trump administration's decision to end temporary protected status for Haitian and Syrian immigrants, clearing the way for roughly 350,000 Haitians to lose the protection. A federal judge finalized the order in early August, and work permits tied to Haitian TPS expired July 27.

Lafontant's group, comprising about 180 artists, designers, musicians and residents, is marching in the parade for the second year. The group struggled to find float sponsors this year.

"All the insurances that we've got to cover, the people who walk, you've got to take care of them, the costumes, the designers. You add that all up, it's a very hefty bill. But we continue to do it because we love our country," said Lafontant.

Haitians' history with New York goes back decades

Lafontant is part of a Haitian community that numbers roughly 163,000 in the New York metropolitan area, according to the Migration Policy Institute — the second-largest Haitian population in the U.S. after the Miami metropolitan area.

Most Haitian migrants settled in Brooklyn neighborhoods including Flatbush, East Flatbush and Crown Heights.

Haitians arrived in New York in waves beginning under the dictatorship of Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, whose regime's repression and economic collapse drove many to leave the island in the 1970s and 1980s. The migration continued after his 1986 ouster.

Haiti's history of resistance runs deeper still, back to the Haitian Revolution, when enslaved and free Black people overthrew French colonial rule in what is widely regarded as the only successful slave revolt in modern history, culminating in the 1803 Battle of Vertières. The victory paved the way for Haiti's independence the following year.

That history of resistance remains a source of pride for Haitians far beyond the country's shores, even among generations who have built new lives abroad.

Edwina Paul, founder of SPM, or "Fanm Se Poto Mitan" — "Women Are the Pillar of Society" — left Haiti in 1993 to start a new life with her husband in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Canarsie. Paul, whose coalition of Haitian women leaders and organizers is marching Monday, said conditions in Haiti are what pushed people to leave.

"It's not safe there. Coming here is like an umbrella for us to be safe from that," she said of those fleeing the country's gang violence and instability. "We don't come here to sin, we don't come here to kill. We come here to work, to have a better education."

Anticipation for electrifying lineup of Haitian pop, fashion

SPM's resilience is stitched into its costumes this year. Clara Poteau, a fashion designer and an alumna of the Fashion Institute of Technology, designed royal blue emperor robes in the image of Jean-Jacques Dessalines, a lieutenant and leader of the Haitian Revolution and the first leader of an independent Haiti.

A total of six designers and one painter spent a month hand-painting costumes that commemorate Haitian achievements, working through the weekend before the parade: dresses covered in miniature Haitian flags, skirts bearing the faces of Duckens Nazon and Emmanuel Sanon, the national football players who hold Haiti's international scoring records, at 44 and 47 goals, respectively.

One orange T-shirt, dubbed the "Freedom" tee, carries the flags of nations Haitian revolutionary leaders

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helped liberate with shelter, money, weapons, and troops, including Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Panama, Mexico and Greece.

The sound of the mas, the first taste of Haitian energy parade attendees will experience before seeing the group, is carried forward by Jesus Luc, a Harlem native and Lespri Ayiti's band manager. Luc coordinated a lineup built around "Raboday," a popular genre of contemporary Haitian and Caribbean sounds, and Kompa, Haiti's signature native dance music.

Headlining is DJ Comix of the band Team Madada, dubbed by Luc as "probably the most popular group in Haiti," part of a new generation of sound defining the country's youth.

"It's electrifying. It's music that will touch your soul. Between the music and the costumes... it's the heart of the people that's going to be there."

Fuel prices at record Labor Day high in US thanks to Iran War and refinery issues

By JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press

It's never been more expensive in the U.S. to fill up the tank and take one last summer trip over the Labor Day weekend.

The average price of regular gas was \$4.14 a gallon heading into the holiday, nearly a dollar higher than last year and well above the Labor Day weekend record of \$3.82 from 2012, according to AAA motor club.

Nicole Collins planned to head from Philadelphia to South Carolina to visit friends, but she said her family has spent most of the summer close to home and not taking their typical weekend trips because driving has gotten so expensive.

"Gas is pretty high right now. It doesn't help that we also have a baby, so we also have to pay for that," Collins said outside a gas station in Claymont, Delaware, where regular gas was \$4.199 a gallon.

Prices shot up after the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran in February and have not settled down since. Crude oil traffic through the key Strait of Hormuz has plunged, and Iran has refused to reopen the waterway.

"Everything points to the Iran War and the Strait of Hormuz," said Tom Seng, a professor of energy finance at Texas Christian University.

Energy Secretary Chris Wright offered few specifics on when the nation's drivers might see relief at the gas pump, acknowledging that prices are higher now than Labor Day 2025.

"Yes, they're higher today, but we're doing everything we can to push them down," Wright said Sunday on ABC's "This Week."

The national average for regular gas prices is still well below the record of \$5.02 a gallon set in June 2022.

But diesel is a different story: It hit a national average of \$5.85 a gallon Friday, a record.

Trucks and other freight delivery systems use a lot of diesel, and that increased transportation cost is being passed on to consumers, whether at the grocery store or through package delivery services.

"It doesn't really seem like there's an end to it," Collins said.

Gas prices typically drop as the summer driving season ends and refineries turn to making a cheaper winter blend.

But Seng said there are other factors this year even beyond the volatile situation in the Middle East that make future prices unpredictable. U.S. refineries are working at 98% capacity, many in the unusually harsh Texas heat. If there are problems there or a hurricane knocks some systems offline, prices will struggle to drop.

And it's not just a Middle East problem. Ukrainian drone attacks on Russian refineries are squeezing diesel supplies. Chinese refiners are seeing declining outputs as well, said Matthew Metzgar, a clinical professor of economics at UNC Charlotte.

"There's just less gasoline coming out of those refineries," Metzgar said.

Wright, the energy secretary, said the Trump administration was taking steps to increase production and that the markets forecast lower prices in the coming months.

"If you look at the futures prices, if you wanted to buy today in bulk gasoline for two months out in

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November, it's about \$0.35 cheaper than it is today. So the marketplace thinks gasoline prices are going to move meaningfully lower," he said.

Geopolitically, though, there is little a driver can do to knock down gas prices.

But using price apps can help save a little money, especially on long trips where gas by the interstate could be 10 to 15 cents per gallon more expensive than at stations a short drive down the road, Metzgar said.

'Widow's Bay' dominates with 8 Emmys at early ceremony and 'The Pitt' takes 4

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Widow's Bay" ran away with eight early Emmys for its debut season Sunday at a ceremony eight days before the main awards show and telecast, while "The Pitt" had a strong second-year showing with four of its own and Rob Reiner posthumously won an acting Emmy nearly nine months after his killing.

"DTF St. Louis" won big with six awards in the limited series categories, with co-stars and veteran actors David Harbour and Linda Cardellini both becoming first-time Emmy winners.

"Widow's Bay," the Apple TV horror comedy with Matthew Rhys as the mayor of a small New England town dealing with a centuries-old curse, won categories including cinematography, sound, music and production design.

Betty Gilpin won best guest actress in a comedy for her role on the show, and read a rapid-fire comic poem as her acceptance speech. It included the lines "our business is stupid, but actors are the bomb" and "let's all lean more toward Sam Shepard and less toward Sam Altman."

'The Pitt' has strong second-year showing

HBO Max's day-in-the-life medical series "The Pitt" — the year's top nominee with 25 and the reigning best drama winner for its first season — had wins Sunday in categories including prosthetic makeup and best guest actor in a drama for 73-year-old first-time nominee Ernest Harden Jr.

Harden, who won for portraying the last days of Louie Cloverfield, the emergency room's constant presence and constantly struggling alcoholic on "The Pitt," wept when his name was called.

"I am just on cloud 25," he said backstage at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. "I'm not saying it's a complete surprise because 'The Pitt' is such a powerful show to come from, but just to get it in your hands is unreal."

Harden's first speaking role was in the 1975 Robert Redford-Faye Dunaway thriller "Three Days of the Condor" and he had a three-season role on the sitcom "The Jeffersons" in the 1970s, but has acted for decades without awards recognition.

Singer-songwriter Andrew Bird and Gavin Brivik won for original music and lyrics for a song they wrote about the character.

"It's not a music-heavy show," Bird said backstage. "But they gave us a beautiful moment with a character that we love."

Rebranding the Creative Arts Emmys and adding some star power

The Television Academy hands out well over 100 primetime Emmys, and most of them are being presented this weekend in a pair of ceremonies. They were previously known as the Creative Arts Emmys but have now been rebranded as simply the first two nights of the 78th Emmy Awards.

The weekend's awards primarily go to behind-the-scenes crew members, but they include the guest-acting awards that tend to go to bigger names. And the shows' star power got a boost when five categories normally on the main telecast were bumped to the earlier weekend, among them best supporting actor in a limited series, won by Harbour in his third nomination, and best supporting actress in a limited series, won by Linda Cardellini in her fourth nomination in an elite TV career that included roles on "Freaks and Geeks" and "Mad Men."

"Thank you to everybody who along the way through the years helped me get to this moment of a real

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dream come true," Cardellini said from the stage, through tears.

Rob Reiner gets a somber ovation

At a ceremony that otherwise moved at a blazing-fast clip with a breezy mood, a long, thoughtful ovation came when Reiner was announced as best guest actor in a comedy for his work on "The Bear." Reiner's friend and fellow "Bear" guest star Jamie Lee Curtis was among those in the crowd paying him tribute.

Reiner was killed along with his wife Michele Singer Reiner in December, and their son, who has pleaded not guilty, has been charged with stabbing them to death. His win came about 50 years after winning two Emmy Awards for his acting on "All in the Family."

Saturday and Sunday's ceremonies will be edited together to air Sept. 12 on FXX and stream on Hulu the following day. The primetime Sept. 14 ceremony, also at the Peacock Theater and hosted by Mariska Hargitay, will air live on NBC and stream live on Peacock.

Both "Widow's Bay" and "The Pitt" can add up to six more Emmys to their totals on that final night.

"Pluribus," another Apple TV Emmy rookie from "Breaking Bad" creator Vince Gilligan that could challenge "The Pitt" in the top drama categories, won four trophies Sunday night including editing, production design and sound mixing.

Shailene Woodley and a canceled 'Spider-Noir' are also winners

Shailene Woodley won best guest actress in a drama for her role on "Paradise." It was her first Emmy.

"Spider-Noir," the Nicolas Cage series which was canceled after one season last week by Amazon Prime Video, won five Emmys including visual effects and stunts.

Hargitay was among this weekend's winners, getting two Emmys for the documentary she directed about her mother, Jayne Mansfield, "My Mom Jayne," to go with the best actress in a drama Emmy she won in 2006 for "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit."

And Bad Bunny won his first career Emmy Award for his Super Bowl halftime show, which took seven trophies at the first of the weekend's ceremonies on Saturday.

Far-right Alternative for Germany party wins big in regional election but falls short of majority

By GEIR MOULSON and KERSTIN SOPKE Associated Press

MAGDEBURG, Germany (AP) — The far-right Alternative for Germany party surged to a resounding victory in a regional election Sunday, but fell a little short of winning a majority in its quest to form the country's first far-right state government since World War II.

The party of Germany's unpopular leader, Chancellor Friedrich Merz, slumped to a disastrous result in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt. The anti-migration and Russia-friendly Alternative for Germany's candidate for governor said that "we have written history" and the party had a clear mandate to govern.

Ulrich Siegmund, 35, told public broadcaster ARD that voters had sent a signal that "things cannot carry on like this." He said that "a very good campaigner for us in this election campaign was Friedrich Merz."

AfD wanted to govern on its own

Alternative for Germany, or AfD, was seeking an absolute majority in the state legislature to govern alone and overcome the so-called firewall of mainstream parties' refusal to work with AfD.

Final results showed AfD falling three seats short, with 39 lawmakers in an 83-member parliament. Siegmund said it wouldn't engage in "games" such as a minority government. But it wasn't evident how its divided opponents could assemble any stable government without it.

A first state government would be the biggest prize in the anti-migration party's 13-year history, at a time of widespread discontent with a national government that has yet to persuade voters that it can get the country's sluggish economy moving.

Whether or not AfD ends up governing, the result is a blow to Merz, whose center-right party has led Saxony-Anhalt for 24 years.

Unlike other countries in Europe, modern Germany hasn't yet had a far-right or right-wing populist party

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leading a national, state or major-city government.

AfD is the biggest opposition party in Germany's national parliament and is strongest in the formerly communist and less prosperous east, where Saxony-Anhalt is located.

Its regional branch in Saxony-Anhalt is one of several classified as a proven right-wing extremist group by the domestic intelligence agency, which points to members' denigration of migrants from Muslim countries among other things.

The party talks of "remigration," a politically charged term for the deportation of immigrants. Its leader in a neighboring state appealed two convictions for knowingly using a Nazi slogan.

AfD vehemently rejects accusations of extremism and says they're politically motivated.

Big decline for German leader's party

AfD won 43.8% of the vote, more than double its showing five years ago in the region of 2.1 million people west of Berlin.

That was far ahead of Merz's Christian Democratic Union, which polled 17.2% — losing about half its support — and won 15 seats. The center-left Social Democrats polled 9.3%, the Greens 8.9% and the Left Party 8.6%, winning eight seats apiece.

The BSW party, which has said it wouldn't elect either Siegmund or incumbent Sven Schulze as governor but criticizes the "firewall" against AfD, took 5.3% and five seats.

Turnout was very high at 77.8%. AfD appeared to have won over many people who didn't vote at all five years ago.

AfD's national co-leader, Alice Weidel, described the result as "sensational." She said the party's "hand is outstretched to all who want to make Saxony-Anhalt better and move Germany forward." It may hope to attract defectors from other parties.

Schulze congratulated AfD on becoming the state's strongest political force and said that "we as the CDU will also have to deal with this result," without specifying how.

Franziska Hoppermann, the national general secretary of Merz's party, rejected backing off its refusal to deal with AfD.

"AfD is a right-wing extremist party. It wants to leave the euro; that would be economic downfall ... it works closely together with Russia, it wants a completely different social model," she said. "We will not work with them."

Once previously AfD won a state election but didn't end up governing. That was two years ago in neighboring Thuringia, where a CDU governor took power with a minority government, but AfD was much further short of a majority there.

Any attempt by Schulze to put together an alliance against AfD would be delicate because it would require at least some tacit support from the Left Party, a hard-left party with which the CDU refuses to form coalitions.

Germany's states have extensive powers

Germany's 16 states have extensive powers, for example in overseeing security matters and running the education system.

Siegmund has listed among his top priorities "a deportation offensive" and dropping incentives for people to come to Germany and "exploit our social system." He wants to initiate a long process to withdraw Saxony-Anhalt from the regional public broadcaster, citing concerns about "disinformation."

AfD in Saxony-Anhalt wants to allow home schooling, which so far isn't permitted in Germany. It pledges to ban schools from officially raising the rainbow flag, which it says "stands for the devaluation of the family," and ensure they fly the national flag.

It opposes taxpayers' money being "given away" to Ukraine and says it would push to lift sanctions against Russia, but that isn't a matter state governments can decide.

The 16 states' governments also sit in Germany's upper house of parliament, which has to approve some government legislation. The influence there of Saxony-Anhalt, one of the smaller states in a nation of 83.5 people, is limited — it controls four of the 69 votes.

Hawaii residents told to expect tropical storm conditions as Hurricane Lowell passes to the west

LIHUE, Hawaii (AP) — Officials in Hawaii urged residents and visitors to prepare for heavy rains, flooding and possibly mudslides as Hurricane Lowell, a major Category 3 storm, prompted the National Hurricane Center to issue a tropical storm warning for two islands on Sunday.

The Miami-based center issued the warning and a hurricane watch for Kauai and Niihau as Lowell was forecast to pass the islands to the west late Monday while traveling north. Forecasters said rainfall totals of 6-10 inches (15-25 centimeters), with maximum totals of 14 inches (36 centimeters), were possible.

Hawaii's Big Island is expected to see 4-8 inches (10-20 centimeters) of rain, with some areas getting as much as 12 inches (30 centimeters).

Lowell had maximum sustained winds of 120 mph (195 kph) and was located about 535 miles (860 kilometers) south-southwest of Lihue, or about 555 miles (895 kilometers) southwest of Honolulu. It was moving north at 6 mph (9 kph), the hurricane center said.

Hurricane-force winds extended outward up to 50 miles (85 kilometers) from the center, and tropical storm-force winds extended outward up to 175 miles (280 kilometers), the center said.

The rainfall could produce significant flash flooding and mudslides, the center said. A combination of storm surge and tides will likely cause normally dry areas near the coast to be flooded by waters of up to 3 feet (1 meter) on Kauai.

The Kauai Emergency Management Agency urged residents to fill gas tanks, charge devices, refill prescriptions and have enough water and food ahead of the storm. It also said residents should be prepared to stay home for several days.

In Lihue, a town of 8,000 with Kauai's primary airport, residents were stocking up on food and water as supermarket shelves emptied.

Real estate agent Lori Benkert bought an extra 10-pound (4.5-kilogram) container of propane so that she can cook on the barbecue if power shuts off. Benkert manages dozens of properties on Kauai and has boarded up two houses on the western side of the island.

"We'll lose some power, probably have some trees, a bunch of tree limbs coming down," Benkert said. "Everybody is probably going just to hunker down."

Meanwhile, Hurricane Marie created dangerous surf conditions along the coast of Mexico's Baja California and Southern California. The Category 1 storm was located about 695 miles (1,120 kilometers) south-southwest of San Diego with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph (120 kph). Forecasters said Marie was moving northwest at 7 mph (11 kph).

Although no coastal watches or warnings were in effect, swells generated by Marie will continue to affect portions of southwest Mexico, the Baja California peninsula and Southern California for the next few days, the hurricane center said. These swells are likely to cause life-threatening surf and rip current conditions.

Defending champions Aryna Sabalenka and Carlos Alcaraz reach the US Open quarterfinals

By STEPHEN WHYNO AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Defending champions Aryna Sabalenka and Carlos Alcaraz are back to the quarterfinals at the U.S. Open, and they made it look easy.

The top-ranked Sabalenka solved some early struggles holding serve and overpowered Taylor Townsend 6-4, 6-3 on Sunday. Alcaraz also advanced in straight sets, beating Tommy Paul 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 in the second match at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"I'm happy with that performance," Alcaraz said. "I played my game. I tried to play my style. Tommy's such a talented player. His shots are pretty dangerous and it's sometimes pretty difficult to control the ball when it comes to you, so I just tried to be ready."

Townsend broke Sabalenka three times in her first four service games as she looked to spring the upset.

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Sabalenka found a groove, regained her confidence and did not lose another point after falling behind 3-1 in the second set.

"I love matches like that because it was really challenging," Sabalenka said. "Going through tough challenges and overcoming those challenges, it definitely gives you strength and really strong belief that you can do it."

This was the first meeting between Sabalenka and Townsend, who gave her opponent fits in the first set but struggled to find her own rhythm.

"This was the most comfortable and confident I've ever been playing against a No. 1 player in the world," Townsend said. "From the beginning, I felt like I belonged. From the beginning, I felt like I was right where I needed to be. I still feel that way."

Next up for Sabalenka is Wimbledon winner Linda Noskova, who needed six match points to get past Marta Kostyuk 7-5, 5-7, 6-4.

"I played a couple of matches against her in the past, which also wasn't the easiest matches," Sabalenka said of Noskova. "Really aggressive style of the game. Serving really well, playing super fast. You've got to stay really low to be able to handle that power and energy."

Alcaraz cruises into the quarterfinals

Playing his first tournament following a four-month absence because of a right wrist injury, Alcaraz said last week he would not be coming back if he could not play like his usual self. The 23-year-old Spaniard has made good on that so far, dropping just one set through four rounds.

Alcaraz dictated play on the way to extending his Grand Slam winning streak to 18. When Paul was making things interesting in the third set, Alcaraz set up match point by hitting a shot so perfectly in bounds that it left actor Matthew McConaughey in disbelief, along with many others in the crowd.

Asked if he thinks he is back to form, Alcaraz responded, "I think so." The U.S. Open is bringing that out in him.

"I'm just trying to enjoy my time on the court," Alcaraz said. "It doesn't matter that I was out four months and a half. Every time that I come here, I play my best."

Alcaraz will play Tuesday against American Ben Shelton, the No. 8 seed who swept Stefanos Tsitsipas on Sunday night in his strongest performance of the tournament.

"We're happy to have him back on tour. He lights up the stadium every time he plays," Shelton said of Alcaraz. "I think it's going to be fireworks on Tuesday night."

Americans are making runs at the US Open

Townsend and Paul were among the 10 Americans to reach the men's and women's round of 16. That is the most in the fourth round at any Grand Slam in nearly a quarter-century, going back to the 2002 U.S. Open, when there were 11.

The five U.S. men — Paul, Shelton, Learner Tien, Frances Tiafoe and Alex Michelsen — are the most at a major since eight in 1995 at Flushing Meadows.

"American tennis has been on the up and up for many years now," Townsend said. "There have been a really consistent chunk of players — Jess, Coco — (who) have been at the top and inside the top five for the last, I don't know how many years. Ben, Frances, Tommy, Taylor: It's just such a great group of men, as well."

At 20, Tien is the youngest American man in the U.S. Open fourth round since Andy Roddick in 2002.

Tiafoe knocked off seventh-seeded Daniil Medvedev 7-6 (1), 6-4, 7-6 (6) to improve to 10-0 in his career at Louis Armstrong Stadium, which he called "the people's court." Michelsen beat Tomas Martin Etcheverry 7-6 (6), 6-4, 6-4.

Michelsen and Tiafoe will meet in the quarterfinals Tuesday, guaranteeing an American man in the semi-finals. No U.S. men's player has won a Grand Slam since Roddick in New York in '03.

There will also be an all-American matchup in the women's quarterfinals. No. 3 Jessica Pegula got there by beating No. 16 Sorana Cirstea and will face 26th-seeded Emma Navarro, who ousted No. 21 Anna Kalinskaya in straight sets.

Volcanic island in Indonesia erupts, canceling hundreds of flights and stranding thousands

By TATAN SYUFLANA and NINIEK KARMINI Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — A volcano erupted in Indonesia on Sunday, prompting the cancellation of all flights at Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta International Airport and disrupting other domestic airports as about 170,000 passengers were stranded by ash drifting across western parts of the country.

The volcanic island of Anak Krakatau, located in Indonesia's Sunda Strait between the main Java and Sumatra islands, had shown signs of activity since Friday before erupting for 30 seconds at 3:53 a.m. Sunday and for 16 seconds about three hours later, Indonesia's Geological Agency said. Closed-circuit camera footage showed lava flares from the volcano.

No casualties were reported and no evacuation order was issued. The nearest settlement is more than 16 kilometers (10 miles) away, but authorities warned residents and visitors to stay at least 3 kilometers (2 miles) from the active crater.

Volcanic ash spread across parts of Jakarta and Lampung province on Sumatra's southern tip, Indonesia's Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation said.

AirNav Indonesia closed airspace around Soekarno-Hatta and Halim Perdanakusuma airports in Jakarta, as well as six other airports, including Radin Inten II Airport in Lampung, because of volcanic ash.

Flights canceled as 170,000 passengers affected

By Sunday evening, the closure of eight airports had affected 170,000 passengers from 1,558 canceled flights, including 963 flights in Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta airport alone. All eight airports were ordered closed until 8:59 a.m. Monday.

"It's of course an inconvenience," said Diego Urdiales, a Spanish tourist who was supposed to fly home to Madrid. "I was supposed to get input from the airline ... but so far no news."

"It's a natural disaster, it's a force majeure, so, what can we do?" said Michele Gouw, an Indonesian passenger. "We just have to accept it and wait for the airline and airport directions."

Indonesia's Directorate General of Civil Aviation said that it was closely monitoring the eruption's impact on air travel and coordinating with airlines, airport operators, air navigation services and the meteorology agency.

"Safety remains our top priority in every operational decision," Lukman F. Laisa, Ministry of Transportation director general of civil aviation, said in a statement.

He warned flight schedules could face cascading disruptions affecting aircraft rotations, fleet availability and terminal capacity as airlines work to restore operations.

The eruption also disrupted services at Bali's I Gusti Ngurah Rai International Airport and at Medan.

Volcano remains active

Indonesia's volcanology agency and the Darwin Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre identified two ash clouds using satellite imagery. One plume rose to 20,000 feet (6,100 meters) and drifted northeast over Jakarta, Banten, West Java and nearby waters. A second cloud reached 50,000 feet (15,200 meters) and spread over parts of Banten, Lampung and Bengkulu provinces, the southern Sunda Strait and sections of the Indian Ocean west of Sumatra.

Lana Saria, head of Indonesia's Geological Agency, said activity at Anak Krakatau has intensified since July, with Sunday's eruption the strongest during that period.

The repeated eruptions indicate a continued supply of magma and volcanic gases beneath the volcano, she said, though officials can't predict whether a larger eruption will occur.

"We continue to evaluate the volcano's development based on all monitoring data, not solely on the number of eruptions or the height of the ash column," Saria said in a video briefing.

She said the main hazards include volcanic ash, high concentrations of gas and the ejection of hot rocks and other material around the crater area.

Schools move to online learning

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The eruption's impact extended beyond air travel. The government on Sunday authorized schools in areas affected by volcanic ash to temporarily move to online learning at home. The measure is intended to reduce students' exposure to ashfall and allow local authorities to adjust classroom activities based on conditions on the ground.

Anak Krakatau, which means "child of Krakatau," is the offspring of the famous Krakatau, whose monumental 1883 eruption triggered a period of global cooling.

An eruption of Anak Krakatau in 2018 caused a tsunami that killed at least 430 people in Sumatra and Java. Researchers believe volcanic activity triggered an underwater landslide and caused a large chunk of Anak Krakatau's southwest slope to collapse and displace a large volume of water. Scientists said that Anak Krakatau island was only about a quarter of its original size after that eruption.

Armed man charged toward Democratic candidate for Ohio governor at fair, law enforcement says

By GARY FIELDS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An armed assailant charged toward the Democratic candidate for Ohio governor, Amy Acton, on Sunday during a campaign stop at the Canfield Fair, injuring several people before he was stopped by troopers, the Ohio State Highway Patrol said.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol said in a statement that a man it identified as Patrick Havas, 38, forced his way through a crowd, knocking over multiple members of the audience as he moved toward Acton, the state's former public health director. He had a taser and two pistols, the statement said.

The Mahoning County Sheriff's Office said two handguns and a set of brass knuckles were recovered after his arrest, and "no weapons were ever brandished or even removed from their holsters."

Havas was taken to the county jail and booked on charges of disorderly conduct and two counts of assault, the highway patrol statement said, adding that no other details were available pending an investigation. Online court records didn't yet list the case, and it wasn't clear as of Sunday night whether Havas has an attorney.

Republican Gov. Mike DeWine said in a statement that the man "tried to forcefully push himself" toward Acton as she was speaking at the fair in Canfield, in northeastern Ohio. "Violence or the threat of violence at political or public events is always unacceptable," he added.

The attempted attack is the latest political violence to roil the United States. And the Ohio gubernatorial race is one of the most high-profile races this year as the campaigns enter the final six weeks of campaigning before the election in November.

Acton is facing Republican Vivek Ramaswamy, who has parlayed his national name recognition, tech industry connections and alliance with President Donald Trump into a record fundraising haul that he is tapping for advertising spots aimed at the November election. He is using campaign rallies and advertising to criticize Acton.

Ramaswamy's campaign called the incident Sunday unacceptable.

"Candidates should be able to meet with voters without having to worry about threats or violence. What happened today is completely unacceptable and has no place in politics, and we hope that no one was hurt," Ramaswamy's communications director, Connie Luck, said in a statement.

Addie Bullock, communications director for Acton's campaign, said in a statement that the suspect "lunged" at Acton. She said the Democratic candidate "will always stand up to the chaos, hate and vitriol that pits us against one another."

The incident brought condemnation from Ohio Republican Sen. Jon Husted, who said on X that he and his wife were "disturbed by the attempted attack on Amy Acton today at the Canfield Fair. We are grateful for law enforcement's quick response. There is no place for this kind of behavior, and it must never be tolerated."

The country has seen a rise in political violence over the past decade. That includes the 2017 shooting at a Republican congressional baseball team practice in Alexandria, Virginia; the 2022 hammer assault

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on the husband of Democratic then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in California; the 2024 assassination attempt on Donald Trump at a Pennsylvania rally during his presidential campaign as well as another on the president at this year's White House Correspondents' Association Dinner in April; and the assassinations last year of a Democratic Minnesota state lawmaker and her husband and of conservative commentator Charlie Kirk in Utah.

Federal political committees spent more than \$40 million on expenses labeled as security during the 2023-24 campaign cycle, the most recent one for which data is publicly available, according a report released in April from the Public Service Alliance, a nonpartisan group that focuses on security for public officials.

Before running for governor, Acton was recruited by DeWine in 2019 to lead the Ohio Department of Health while serving as an associate professor of public health at Ohio State University. As the COVID-19 pandemic ramped up in early 2020, she was thrown into the state and national spotlight — becoming a source of comfort to many viewers of the governor's daily news conferences.

For her service as health director, Acton earned the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation's Profile in COVID Courage Award, the Columbus Foundation's Spirit of Columbus Award and Ohio State's highest alumni honor, the Alumni Medalist Award.

Her position as the face of the DeWine administration's aggressive stance against the virus also earned Acton many enemies, among them Statehouse Republicans and average Ohioans who opposed pandemic restrictions.

At least 5 dead after Amazon cargo plane barreled off runway at Miami airport

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE, DAVID FISCHER and JOSH FUNK Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — An Amazon cargo plane barreled off a runway at Miami International Airport on Sunday, killing at least five people and injuring five others as it struck vehicles and was engulfed in flames, authorities said.

The aircraft overran the runway around 2 p.m. after arriving from San Juan, Puerto Rico, and plowed across a road used by warehouse workers and other businesses that surround the airport. Five people were killed, three critically injured and two others hospitalized with less severe injuries, Miami-Dade County officials told a news conference.

It wasn't immediately clear if the pilots survived or those killed were all in vehicles when the plane struck.

The crash, which sent thick black smoke billowing into the sky, trapped the pilot and copilot in the cockpit and some occupants in cars, said Miami-Dade Rescue Fire Chief Ray Jadallah. The agency said crews also had to extricate a person who was trapped under a vehicle.

The crash halted flights at the busy travel hub for much of the afternoon. Some 200 emergency personnel responded, finding the plane with heavy flames and smoke from a complex engine compartment fire, the department said. Firefighters used foam from specialized airport firefighting units to extinguish the fire, and crews were still dealing with a fuel leak on the plane hours later.

The Prime Air plane came to rest beside a roadway near two semitrucks, images showed. The aircraft appeared to be resting on its belly and was largely intact despite the fire.

The cause had yet to be determined, and it was not clear if weather had played a role. Thunderstorms and wind gusts up to 30 mph (48 kph) were recorded in the area at the time, according to the National Weather Service.

The flight had been operated by 21 Air, a cargo carrier based in North Carolina. The 32-year-old Boeing 767 was originally built to carry passengers and flew for several airlines for more than two decades before being converted to a cargo plane in 2015, according to flight-tracking site Flightradar24.

More than 160 flights were canceled and nearly 325 delayed by late Sunday, according to FlightAware, a website that tracks flight disruptions. Officials from Orlando International Airport, more than 200 miles (320 km) north of Miami, said some flights were diverted there.

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The National Transportation Safety Board said it was sending a team to Miami led by Chairwoman Jennifer Homendy to investigate.

Amazon said in a statement that it would cooperate with any investigation.

"We're heartbroken to learn that five people lost their lives in today's incident at Miami International Airport," the company said. "Our deepest sympathies go out to the families, loved ones, and all those affected by this devastating loss."

Last year, a UPS plane crashed after losing its engine while accelerating down the runway at Louisville's Muhammad Ali International Airport. The crash killed all three pilots and 12 people on the ground. Twenty-three more were injured.

Aviation safety expert Steve Arroyo said that a 767 cargo aircraft would typically be staffed only by a pilot and copilot on domestic flights. A third pilot would be added for an international flight, and a long-haul international flight would require a fourth pilot.

Arroyo, a retired longtime United Airlines pilot, said he wants to know whether the Amazon plane landed in the touchdown zone of the runway, and if it was beyond that area why it didn't simply abort that landing and go around to line up for another attempt. Typically, the landing zone is within the first 3,000 feet (914 meters) of a runway.

"Did the aircraft land within the required touchdown zone?" he asked. "If it did, what happened?"

Mary Schiavo, who is a pilot and former inspector general of the Transportation Department, said that video posted online of the landing shows the Amazon plane floating above the runway for an extended period without flaring the nose upward to force the main landing gear onto the ground.

"It didn't touch down right away, and so it lost a lot of critical real estate by just continuing to float over the runway. It was literally still flying," Schiavo said.

She noted the Miami airport is not equipped with arresting systems that the FAA says have been installed at more than 120 airports nationwide to safely stop planes that do go past the end of a runway. Those beds of lightweight, crushable material at the end of a runway have been credited by the FAA with helping save at least 497 lives aboard planes that overran runways.

Iran says it plans to announce a new 'exclusion zone' near the Strait of Hormuz

By SAMY MAGDY, JULIA FRANKEL and CARA ANNA Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The new head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council on Sunday said Tehran plans to announce an "exclusion zone" outside the Strait of Hormuz aimed at vessels it believes are attempting to transit the waterway.

Mohsen Rezaei's comments to Iran's state broadcaster came with few details, a day after the U.S. struck three Iranian oil tankers in response to Tehran launching ballistic missiles at U.S. warships. Experts called the launches a dangerous escalation after Iran's previous attacks at sea targeted commercial shipping.

The new zone should be announced in the coming days and weeks and "will begin from the line of the U.S. naval blockade, extend toward the Strait of Hormuz, and from this side continue into the Persian Gulf," Rezaei said. "Any ship that enters this area with the intention of passing through the Strait of Hormuz and is identified will be placed on our sanctions list."

It is not clear where Iran defines the location of the weekslong U.S. blockade, which is aimed at Iranian ports and keeping Tehran from shipping out its oil. The U.S. military has said over 20 warships are supporting the blockade, which as of Sunday had redirected 92 commercial ships and disabled three.

The U.S. has been introducing new measures to increase the economic pain on Iran after negotiations collapsed and no end to the intermittent fighting appears in sight. Meanwhile, Iran continues to attack some ships trying to transit the strait, which has become an important source of leverage for Tehran in the war that began Feb. 28 with U.S. and Israeli strikes.

Iran earlier Sunday said it struck an unmanned U.S. vessel trying to enter the Strait of Hormuz, a claim that the U.S. military dismissed as a "total lie."

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Fighting resumed a week ago

The United States and Iran resumed attacks last week, following a month of relative calm, with the Strait of Hormuz and areas along Iran's southern coast again being targeted. At least five people were killed earlier in the week during a U.S. bombardment that returned attention to the area where a school was hit in the war's opening strikes.

The Trump administration appears to have adopted a dual-prong approach to the conflict, responding militarily to attacks on the strait while going after foreign financial institutions that handle Iran's money.

But Tehran's hard-line new senior leaders including Rezaei have signaled a willingness to dig in after weathering decades of sanctions. Iran has found ways over the years to circumvent sanctions, and now the U.S. blockade of its ports, and get its oil to buyers to help ease growing economic pressures.

On the matter of the collapsed negotiations with the U.S., Rezaei on Sunday expressed wariness not only of the U.S. but also of the mediators. The memorandum of understanding that the U.S. and Iran signed in mid-June began to fall apart within days as each side accused the other of violations.

"We had trusted our friends in Pakistan, Qatar or Oman, thinking that since they had stepped in as mediators, one of a mediator's responsibilities is that if one side violates the agreement, they should stop them," Rezaei said. "We are now pursuing diplomacy with guarantees."

US says 9 million barrels of oil a day pass through the strait

The Strait of Hormuz is crucial to global oil and natural gas shipments and was seen as an international waterway before the war began.

On Sunday, U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright said that on average, 9 million barrels of oil a day are getting through the strait, which should help to relieve pressure on energy prices. His estimate appeared to exceed average flows over the past 28 days through the strait, according to TankerTrackers.com and other sources.

Wright told CNN that with oil also flowing through pipelines in the region, "we're probably two-thirds or more of preconflict flows."

But those flows depend on the presence of the U.S. Navy to help escort tankers and provide some protection against possible Iranian attack. Wright said he expected that other countries would eventually support the Navy's efforts.

Meanwhile, Iran's Rezaei in his interview with state TV claimed that "every day we are selling one million, one and a half million (barrels), as if Iran's oil production and trade are continuing as usual."

Trump administration makes another appeal to the Supreme Court to allow mail ballot restrictions

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST and GARY FIELDS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration on Sunday renewed its appeal to the Supreme Court to allow new restrictions on mail ballots in time for the midterms.

The filing came after U.S. District Court Judge Indira Talwani extended an order against the Postal Service enforcing President Donald Trump's executive order for the November elections.

The legal wrangling is happening even as states start sending out mail ballots, leaving the administration little time to make big changes in mail ballot rules.

"Ballots have already begun to be mailed in North Carolina, and more States will begin the mailing process as the injunction remains in place — including Alabama on September 9 and at least five States the week of September 13," Solicitor General John Sauer said in the filing.

"Once those ballot envelopes enter the mailstream, there is no retrieving them. And while the injunction allows the Postal Service and the States to continue taking steps to ensure that their envelopes satisfy the Rule's requirements ... each day the injunction is in place risks sowing confusion and chaos because the injunction makes those preparatory steps voluntary, rather than mandatory."

This is the third time the administration has asked the high court to intervene. The high court has allowed the plan to move forward but not ruled on whether it is legal.

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The battle could have major ramifications for this year's elections, when control of Congress is at stake. Nearly one-third of voters in the U.S. cast mail ballots.

Democratic states and voting rights groups say the changes are unconstitutional. Election officials contend there isn't enough time to revise their systems to comply with the new Postal Service directives.

The Trump administration has framed the restrictions as commonsense changes that are within its power to regulate the mail.

"Simply put, the best way to address respondents' fears about inability to comply with the Rule is to grant an immediate administrative stay of the order, followed by a full stay pending further review," Sauer said. "That will remove the improper cloud of uncertainty that the district court has cast over the Rule, making clear to all involved that compliance with the Rule is not optional and must start without further delay."

The filing added that eligibility for mail-in and absentee voting will continue to be governed by state law and state and local officials will determine who is eligible to use the method and which ballots are eligible to be counted. "The Postal Service will not play any role in determining voter eligibility, maintaining voter rolls, or counting ballots."

The ACLU said the Postal Service rule is unconstitutional and unlawful.

"With fewer than 60 days to go before the November election, there is not a shred of evidence that states could comply with it without disenfranchising voters who rely on mail ballots," said Sophia Lin Lakin, director of the ACLU's Voting Rights Project, in a statement. "Put plainly, this administration is racing to the Supreme Court to demand the right to enforce a rule that has no purpose other than to create chaos, undermine election integrity, and rob eligible voters of their essential right to make their voices heard in our democracy."

Trump has long sought to limit mail voting, even though he himself often uses that method to cast his own ballot. He has falsely blamed mail balloting for his 2020 election loss to Democrat Joe Biden, spreading baseless claims of fraud. But so far, he has been unable to change the longstanding voting procedure.

US envoys Witkoff and Kushner hold talks in Ukraine after meeting with Putin

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — U.S. envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner held "encouraging" talks in Kyiv on Sunday in their first official visit to Ukraine, but made no breakthrough toward ending Russia's full-scale invasion.

The Trump administration's push to end the fighting has lost momentum, with the focus on the Iran war for the past six months.

The trip by the Americans, part of a renewed effort to end the war, followed a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Saturday, as both sides have escalated their aerial attacks in the more than 4½-year all-out war.

Despite the latest diplomatic push, the core demands of Moscow and Kyiv remain mutually exclusive, especially over territorial concessions, underscoring the difficulty of reaching an agreement. Kushner acknowledged the challenge, saying the U.S. was working "behind the scenes" to create the conditions for a possible deal.

"It's a very, very hard problem, but we're going to try," Kushner said.

Russia has recently been using fast-flying jet-powered drones, and the recurring wail of air-raid sirens has become part of daily life in Kyiv. Troops have struggled to make progress along the 1,250-kilometer (775-mile) front line.

Zelenskyy held three rounds of talks with the Americans on Sunday, the last of which brought in national security advisers from the United Kingdom, France and Germany.

Security guarantees and a winter plan

Zelenskyy said at a news conference that the discussions covered air defense needs — including Patriot systems — and a "winter package" of support covering both air defense and energy infrastructure before

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the colder months. He said that Kyiv was seeking "serious volumes" of American support on that front, with backing from European partners as well.

The Ukrainian president said the U.S. planned to increase production of Patriot interceptor missiles next year, with Germany also expanding its own production under existing licensing agreements.

Zelenskyy said that Russia had intensified strikes on Ukrainian cities before Russia's State Duma election later this month, calling the attacks deliberate "terror" against civilians. He said Ukraine was working with 67 domestic companies developing systems to shoot down Russia's jet-powered drones at scale.

The Ukrainian leader said the territorial question "remains relevant," but reiterated his view that such difficult issues "can only be resolved at the level of leaders." Zelenskyy said the talks also touched on long-term security guarantees and economic support for Ukraine's postwar reconstruction. He said that a strong Ukrainian army remained "one of the main guarantees of security."

Zelenskyy said the sides agreed to hold a follow-up meeting involving Ukraine, the U.S. and Europe, though a location has not been set.

Witkoff said the U.S. was pursuing "a diplomatic resolution to this conflict, not a kinetic resolution." Referring to the previous day's talks, he said the meeting in Moscow had produced "new ideas" that were later brought to Kyiv. He pointed to the presence of national security advisers from the so-called E3 nations — France, Germany and the U.K. — as evidence that "collaboration is critical" to reaching a deal.

Asked whether Washington was prepared to increase pressure on Russia if the talks produced no breakthrough, Kushner said the U.S. approach was to look for a "win-win" outcome.

He said his father-in-law, U.S. President Donald Trump, was focused not just on ending the fighting but on building "a framework that could actually lead to a durable peace," and that he and Witkoff had held a "constructive and substantive" meeting with Putin, discussing what Russia, Ukraine and the wider world could each gain from a settlement.

Kushner said the two envoys hoped to revive trilateral talks involving Russia and Ukraine directly, a format last used roughly six months earlier, and said that Washington remained in near-daily contact with Ukrainian officials even between visits.

No breakthroughs in Moscow talks

Saturday's meeting in Moscow lasted more than three hours behind closed doors and ended without any major developments being announced. Putin's foreign policy adviser, Yuri Ushakov, described the talks as constructive, frank and useful, but he didn't discuss specific outcomes.

While Moscow offered its "comprehensive assessment" of the battlefield situation in Ukraine, Ushakov said, the talks weren't purely focused on the war.

"Economic issues and potentially large, mutually beneficial joint projects for Russia and America were discussed in considerable detail," he said.

The last known visit to Moscow by Witkoff and Kushner was in January when they also held talks with Putin at the Kremlin.

Russia and Ukraine continue to exchange fire

Putin and Zelenskyy had agreed to pause strikes on each other's capitals while the talks took place. Still, the two traded fire overnight into Sunday, officials said.

Air raids on the capital noticeably eased during the U.S. envoys' visit, prompting Zelenskyy to joke that their presence in Kyiv appeared more potent than the Patriot missile systems Ukraine has been urgently seeking.

Russian attacks across multiple Ukrainian regions killed one person and wounded at least 10 others overnight into Sunday, Ukraine's State Emergency Service said.

In Zaporizhzhia, drone strikes killed a 74-year-old man and wounded three people, while a drone damaged an apartment building, wounding seven people, in the Khmelnytskyi region.

Ukraine's air force said Sunday it intercepted 82 drones out of 108 launched by Russia overnight, along with six missiles. In Russia, a man was killed and a woman was seriously wounded when a Ukrainian drone struck a vehicle, local authorities in the Belgorod border region said.

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The Russian Defense Ministry said Sunday its air defenses overnight shot down 258 Ukrainian drones over 14 Russian regions, the Russian-occupied Crimean Peninsula and the waters of the Black and Azov Seas.

Mixed hopes on the ground

In Kyiv on Sunday, dozens gathered for a nationwide 9 a.m. moment of silence honoring Ukraine's fallen soldiers, a daily ritual held in cities across the country.

Nataliia Lipei, 67, whose son Viktor was killed in December 2022, was among those who attended. Despite a health condition, she has traveled from city to city to take part.

"I hope these steps and these meetings will definitely produce results, because there has been so much bloodshed and so many deaths here that we have to stop all of this," Lipei told The Associated Press.

Not everyone shared her hope for the talks. Oleksandr Pastukhov, a 27-year-old video editor who joined the commemoration, was skeptical the envoys' visit would change anything.

In his Sunday prayer, Pope Leo XIV renewed his appeal for peace in Ukraine and said he hopes the negotiations will bring results.

"I hope that the efforts undertaken in recent days to resume negotiations will bear concrete fruit and make way for diplomacy," he told the gathered faithful in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.

Former Cuban President Raúl Castro reappears at a military event

By ANDREA RODRIGUEZ Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Former Cuban President Raúl Castro reappeared in public at a military event that celebrated the anniversary of an army branch responsible for protecting its top leaders.

Cuban state television aired more than 10 minutes of footage Saturday night that showed Castro, 95, in his traditional olive-green military uniform, alongside his bodyguard and grandson, Raúl Guillermo Rodríguez Castro. The former leader's previous public appearance was on Aug. 13.

The broadcast also reported that Castro's grandson had participated earlier this year in talks with the United States, which has imposed an oil and financial blockade on the island since January. The talks have since halted, while sanctions have increased in recent months.

Authorities from both nations have acknowledged that talks took place following the energy blockade, but there is neither an agenda nor any leaked details regarding these conversations.

The former president, who no longer holds any formal position in government or in the island's Communist Party, rarely appears in public. Rumors regarding his health have recently circulated, even more so since his first absence in decades from a July rally marking the anniversary of the Cuban revolution's biggest celebration.

In June, the U.S. Department of Justice filed murder charges against the veteran leader in connection with the 1996 downing of light aircraft that belonged to an anti-Castro organization. The planes had entered Cuban airspace as part of a campaign to tighten various sanctions and apply pressure for change in the island's political system.

Cuban TV on Saturday showed Castro walking alongside high-ranking military officials and taking a seat in the front row of an indoor venue. He stood up on several occasions to receive a commemorative certificate and greet attendees.

"It is an honor to participate alongside Army General (Raúl Castro) in the ceremony marking the 65th anniversary of the Personal Security Directorate. An agency with origins dating back well before September 6, 1961, to the days of the revolutionary struggle led by the Commander-in-Chief (Fidel Castro)," President Miguel Díaz-Canel wrote on X on Sunday morning.

His post included several photos from the event showing him together with Raúl Castro.

The U.S. energy blockade has exacerbated a five-year crisis and had a significant impact on the Caribbean nation's population and economy, including blackouts lasting over 30 hours.

F1 leader Kimi Antonelli wins Italian GP after epic charge from the back

By DANIELLA MATAR AP Sports Writer

MONZA, Italy (AP) — Kimi Antonelli took a big step to becoming the youngest champion in Formula 1 history with a fightback for the ages at his home grand prix on Sunday.

Antonelli stormed to victory at the Italian Grand Prix, despite having started 19th on the grid. It took the Mercedes driver fewer than 17 laps to fight his way to the front.

The rest of the race was spent tussling with teammate and title rival George Russell for the lead. Antonelli passed him for the final time with three laps remaining, going on to become the first Italian to win at Monza in 60 years.

"Oh my God ... It feels like a dream," Antonelli said on team radio after crossing the line.

'Unbelievable, unbelievable'

"I did not expect it," Antonelli said later. "Unbelievable, unbelievable. I am so happy, I could not have imagined to be here today but we managed to pull it off and I am really, really happy."

It was the second furthest back anyone has come from to win a grand prix. John Watson won at Long Beach in 1983 despite starting 22nd.

"The best (race) is yet to come. But I feel like it was one of the best races I've done so far and one that I will remember forever," said the 20-year-old Antonelli, who is in his second season in F1.

Antonelli's triumph at least gave the crowd something to cheer about after Ferrari's Charles Leclerc crashed out of the scuderia's home race early on. In the other Ferrari, Lewis Hamilton finished sixth.

Max Verstappen was a distant third behind the two Mercedes, just ahead of the McLaren duo of defending champion Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri.

It was Antonelli's seventh win of the season — and his fledgling F1 career — and extended his lead in the overall standings to 66 points ahead of Russell.

Russell had been hoping to make up some ground on Antonelli in the title race as his teammate took on a hefty grid penalty at Monza after Mercedes opted to swap his car's power unit.

"Kimi is in control of it and he's deserving to be in control of it," Russell said about the title race. "For me personally, I'm not even thinking about a fight or a comeback or anything."

"He's performing incredibly well. It's going to be exceptionally challenging to overcome that gap so I'm just sort of accepting that it is what it is."

Fans in tears

Russell started Sunday's grand prix second and got ahead of surprise polesitter Pierre Gasly at the start of the second lap.

Moments later the race was red-flagged after Leclerc lost control coming out of Parabolica at the end of Lap 2 and swerved off into the barriers at high speed. He got out of his car and sat down near the track, looking heartbroken.

The hordes of passionate, red-clad tifosi around the track looked similarly despondent, with many in tears.

By that point Antonelli was already up to 12th and — as he later admitted — starting to believe in victory. When the race resumed, he continued to slice swiftly through the field, picking off the cars one by one until he only had Russell ahead.

No yo-yo

The Mercedes duo were told off by their team as they yo-yoed for the lead and instructed to build a gap over Verstappen before fighting it out for the victory.

Antonelli was brought into the pits under the virtual safety car on lap 29, while Russell stayed out. Antonelli came out in sixth but, with fresh tires, started reeling Russell in for the second time in the race.

"To be honest, I thought we were both going to stay out," Russell said. "I was surprised to see him pitting."

"In the end it was a roll of the dice both ways. In the moment, the team wouldn't have known which strategy was better, made sense to split the car. In the end Kimi had great pace."

Antonelli looked as though he may have blown his chances of a stunning comeback win when he ran

through the gravel as he attempted to get past Russell on Lap 49. But such was his pace that he soon closed the gap that had opened up and breezed past the following lap.

The Iranian school struck in the war's earliest attacks is now a memorial for children

By AMIR VAHDAT Associated Press

MINAB, Iran (AP) — This will never be a school again.

Its bright blue gate is still painted with the symbols that once welcomed children: Iran's map, oversized pencils and portraits of legends in science and literature.

But now, the walkway beyond it guides visitors past rows of photographs. They show children busy living, at birthday parties and more. Then come the same small faces on black banners of mourning.

This is the emerging memorial to the schoolchildren killed in the attack in the earliest moments of the war that the United States and Israel began across Iran on Feb. 28. Strikes hit the Shajareh Tayyebah school in Minab.

Iranian officials said more than 100 students were killed. Months later, the Trump administration still has not directly accepted responsibility for the strike or released the Pentagon's findings, even as an Associated Press investigation found evidence that at least one U.S. missile hit the school.

Attention turned to Minab again in the past week when a new round of U.S. strikes along Iran's southern coast struck a wedding and other areas, sending some of the injured to a hospital in the community.

The AP visited the badly damaged two-story building whose classrooms remain frozen mid-lesson, with desks half buried and ceilings collapsed.

There have been calls to preserve the ruins as a historical record. Hormozgan Gov. Mohammad Ashouri Taziani has said the building would be turned into a war museum and memorial.

Nearby, a section of Minab's cemetery has been dedicated to those killed. Families and others move quietly across the grave-marked artificial grass.

Residents said three bodies still have not been found.

A whiplash election year enters its final stretch as Trump holds wild cards

By STEVEN SLOAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the earliest days of this election cycle, the U.S. wasn't at war with Iran.

The East Wing of the White House was still standing and the Kennedy Center wasn't threatened with demolition. Artificial intelligence data centers weren't bipartisan shorthand for the tech sector's excess. Democratic socialists were largely confined to the outer edges of political discourse. Lake Ontario's name wasn't in question.

Since President Donald Trump entered politics more than a decade ago, he's had a knack for dominating the national conversation so thoroughly that it can be hard to keep up. But as the final midterm of his presidency rapidly approaches, the landscape is proving especially volatile, with Trump often stirring the tumult.

"Some of these things are out of our control," House Speaker Mike Johnson, a Louisiana Republican, told reporters last week when pressed on whether the frenzy will hurt his party's election prospects.

Even the map itself has been in flux, with Texas, California and Florida among the states that have redrawn congressional districts. Missouri's Republican attorney general is appealing a court ruling last week that blocked a Trump-backed map there.

The twists could keep coming. The economic fallout from Trump's tariffs on Canada may intensify as the election nears. His effort to limit mail ballots could add uncertainty to the voting process just as such ballots are being distributed in states like North Carolina, home to a critical U.S. Senate race.

The president is sitting on more than \$400 million that could shape the election's trajectory. And Trump's

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gilded remake of Washington stands in contrast to the economic anxiety many Americans are expressing. The wealth he has amassed in office has no modern presidential precedent, with Trump taking in \$1.2 billion from his crypto businesses last year, according to a federal filing released this summer.

That's threatening a bipartisan effort in the Senate to advance legislation to strengthen cryptocurrency regulation as soon as next week. Democrats are insisting the measure include a more robust ethics provision.

"We've watched this president enrich himself," said Sen. Angela Alsobrooks of Maryland, a key Democratic vote on the bill who said she wouldn't support it without tougher language.

Democrats and Republicans agree midterms are about Trump

With so many shifts underway, it is perhaps fitting that one thing Democrats and Republicans agree on is that Trump will again be a central player in the election's final stretch.

"No. 1, President Trump," Ari Fleischer, the White House press secretary under Republican President George W. Bush, said when asked to rank the top issues this year.

Rep. Suzan DelBene of Washington, the chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, said: "People are feeling the pain from Trump."

She expects voters will elevate candidates who "want to stand up for the American people, the pain that's been inflicted by this administration and Republicans in Congress."

Midterm elections are historically challenging for a president's party as restive voters seek change. Democrats flipped 40 House seats during Trump's last midterm in 2018 and 31 seats during the final race of Bush's term in 2006. Republicans, meanwhile, gained 63 seats in 2010 under Democratic President Barack Obama but flipped fewer than 10 seats in 2022 under President Joe Biden.

Shifting dozens of seats this year could be challenging because partisan redistricting has reduced the number of genuinely competitive races. Still, just a third of U.S. adults approve of how Trump is handling the presidency, according to a July poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. That's down slightly from 37% in June and well below the 42% who approved of his work when he took office.

Majorities also disapprove of his handling of the economy and immigration, issues that were central to Trump's election in 2024.

Democrats focus on winning in Washington and beyond

Democrats are confident they can win the handful of seats they need to regain control of the House. There may be a path to flipping the Senate if they can hold on in states like Georgia, Michigan and New Hampshire while winning Republican-held seats in places like Maine, Texas, Iowa or Ohio.

But the party is also aiming to regain ground outside of Washington. Democrats are devoting resources, in particular, to the governors' races in Georgia, Ohio, Iowa, and Nevada, all currently held by Republicans.

"I'm excited about the map and I am bullish that we are going to pick up several seats," said Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, a potential 2028 presidential contender who has led the effort to win governors' races this year as chair of the Democratic Governors Association.

Democrats are especially enthusiastic about Iowa, which hasn't elected a Democratic governor in 20 years. Their governors association has spent \$5 million to back Rob Sand, who has gained national attention for his campaign to connect with rural voters who have abandoned Democrats in recent elections.

But even in a seemingly favorable year, Democrats face challenges. Beshear acknowledged that Arizona, where incumbent Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs is facing Republican challenger Andy Biggs, will be a "tough race."

The Republican candidate for governor in Minnesota, Lisa Demuth, suggested she would tap into the anti-incumbent mood that has coursed through both parties to target her Democratic rival, Amy Klobuchar, who has spent nearly 20 years in the Senate after working in local politics.

"She is a 30-year politician," Demuth said of Klobuchar.

After democratic socialists won a string of primaries this summer, Republicans are eager to tie anyone in the party to the far left flank. Most of the candidates aligned with democratic socialists are in reliably Democratic seats.

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Still, Fleischer said Democrats snatched "defeat out of the jaws of victory" by elevating such contenders in a handful of congressional primaries.

Democrats have dispatched democratic socialist candidates in governors' races. But Beshear, who has carved out a centrist lane before his potential presidential bid, rejected Republican efforts to label the broader party.

"The only person that I see engaged in socialism is Donald J. Trump, who is taking equity in private companies for the United States government," he said. "That's the definition of socialism."

Voting issues hang over the race

Hanging over many of these states is concern that the federal government under Trump will seek to influence elections, perhaps one of the biggest variables ahead and a prospect that some Republicans are warning against.

Gov. Mark Gordon of Wyoming, a Republican, said recently that the behavior of Justice Department officials who monitored poll workers and observed voters was "a bit aggressive" and "irregular."

"I feel very strongly about the federal government coming in and taking our guns," he said at a meeting to confirm election results in August. "I don't like that. I don't like the federal government coming in and taking our votes, either."

Oklahoma Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt, who supports a strict proof-of-citizenship voting bill that is stalled in the Senate, told The Associated Press in July that "I don't think that we should federalize the elections at all."

"I believe that is a state issue," he said. "The states should control their own elections."

Given the concerns, some Democrats, particularly in states that could be crucial to the next White House campaign, are framing their races in larger terms.

"2028 starts right now," said Aaron Ford, the attorney general in Nevada running for governor. "People across the nation need to understand that Nevada is a swing state, it needs a governor who is going to stand up for the electoral process."

Building collapse in New Delhi kills 1 and traps dozens of others

By PIYUSH NAGPAL Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — A building collapsed in New Delhi on Sunday, killing at least one person and trapping dozens of others, officials said.

The five-story building, which housed a boys' hostel, collapsed in Satya Niketan, a densely populated neighborhood known for its private student accommodations near a Delhi University campus.

Fire officer Abhilash Malik said about 30 to 40 people remained trapped in the rubble.

Lawmaker Anil Sharma said some people had been rescued and several others trapped inside were making phone calls for help while rescuers remained in contact with them.

Police, firefighters and crews from India's disaster response agency searched the rubble as earthmovers cleared debris to help rescuers reach those trapped inside.

At least two people were hospitalized in critical condition, officials said.

The cause of the collapse was not immediately known.

Building collapses are a recurring hazard in parts of India during the June-to-September monsoon, when heavy or prolonged rain can weaken ageing structures.

US tourism groups want to win Canadian visitors back. A testy trade war isn't helping

By RIO YAMAT AP Airlines and Travel Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Appeals from American tourism organizations seemed to be everywhere Josh Loewen looked over the last year. Billboards and banners proclaimed a state or city's love for Canada. Online and social media ads offered special deals for travelers from north of the border.

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As a Vancouver resident and marketing executive himself, Loewen said he understands the conciliatory overtures. The number of Canadians traveling to the United States plunged after President Donald Trump returned to office with remarks about making Canada the 51st state. An acrimonious trade war between the two countries now is threatening to reinforce the informal boycott just as it appeared to be easing slightly.

"It's such a big ask right now," Loewen, 45, said of the U.S. tourism industry's attempts to woo Canadians like him back before a new president occupies the White House. "It's just a wasted effort."

Relations between the U.S. and Canadian governments have deteriorated sharply since their trade negotiations collapsed last month. Trump imposed import taxes of up to 50% on a range of Canadian products. Canada's government responded in kind. Trump ordered the U.S. government to change the name of border-spanning Lake Ontario to "Lake America." Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney dismissed insults from members of Trump's Cabinet as childish and undignified.

The bilateral rift has not stopped state and local tourism officials and popular destinations like Graceland from trying to persuade Canadian visitors to return.

New York state launched a "NY Loves Canada" promotion this summer, offering discounts at hotels, restaurants and attractions. Some downtown Las Vegas hotels are treating the Canadian dollar as equivalent to the U.S. dollar to give Canadian visitors more value for their money. Las Vegas tourism officials went to Canada last month to meet with travel advisers, tour operators and airline representatives.

"We're here to make sure you know that we care about Canada," Steve Hill, president of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, said while in Vancouver.

The outreach is happening at the national level, too. Brand USA, the U.S. tourism industry's marketing organization, is bringing its Travel Week trade-event series to Canada for the first time in October, expanding and rebranding an earlier program known as Canada Connect.

Travel to the U.S. from Canada remains well below 2024 levels

Canada traditionally sent more overnight international visitors to the United States than any other country. Amid last year's consumer-led backlash, both same-day trips and longer stays nosedived. Canadian residents made 25% fewer return border crossings and spent about \$2.4 billion (CA\$3.3 billion) less on travel to the U.S. in 2025 than they had the year before, according to Canada's national statistical agency, Statistics Canada.

The retreat coincided with other headwinds, including a weaker Canadian dollar that made traveling to the U.S. more expensive and rising prices for airfares and hotels. Canadian air travel to the U.S. started declining in September 2023, Statistics Canada data shows.

But the abrupt pullback in stateside travel that accompanied Trump's second presidency and extended into this year signaled "a persistent shift away from the United States by Canadian residents in their travel preferences," agency analysts said in a July report.

Tentative signs of improvement emerged in May, June and July, when border crossings picked up slightly, the agency reported. The latter two months coincided with the 2026 World Cup, which the U.S., Canada and Mexico cohosted. Canada's national soccer team competed during the tournament's early weeks, giving some Canadians a reason to head south. Carney attended the final match in New Jersey alongside Trump.

Trips by car accounted for most of the uptick in cross-border traffic, while air travel to the U.S. fell from year-earlier levels in every month through June, Statistics Canada said. The U.S. National Travel and Tourism Office estimates that during the first six months of 2026, Canadians made even fewer overnight visits, which typically generate more tourism spending, than they did during the same period last year.

Snowbirds may provide a barometer of Canadian sentiment

A day after the World Cup ended, Trump announced that tariffs on \$20 billion worth of Canadian goods would take effect in 30 days. The White House said the tariffs were intended to address U.S. complaints over Canadian barriers to American-made automobiles, alcohol and dairy.

"You went from this really high, exciting moment for the U.S. in terms of international attention, to the next week, it's negative again," said Deborah Friedland, a hospitality consultant at financial services firm Eisner Advisory Group. "It's one step forward and two steps back."

With the summer now winding down, some of the U.S. destinations most dependent on Canadian visi-

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tors are heading into their most important season. Large numbers of Canadian snowbirds typically flock to warm-weather locations in Florida, Arizona and California when temperatures drop at home, making the coming months a test of whether the grassroots boycott will extend into another winter.

"I'd be surprised if we're talking a year from now and all of a sudden you see this huge uptick in Canadian travel over the winter months," Friedland said.

Not all tourism officials are worried. Jennifer Adams, tourism director for the Destin-Fort Walton Beach area in Florida's Panhandle, said she never panicked when headlines about Canadians shunning travel to the U.S. first appeared last year.

"I felt our message was strong," she said, adding that, "the thing for us is to let the Canadian family know that they are welcomed here and we are committed to giving them a great experience when they get here."

Florida saw a 7% decline in Canadian visitors in 2025 compared to the previous year, according to state marketing organization Visit Florida. Sister organization Visit California, citing data from global research and consulting company Tourism Economics, estimated that Canadian visitation to the Golden State fell 20%.

For some Canadians, a promise of a good vacation isn't enough

Loewen, the Vancouver marketing executive, said his family loved visiting the United States. He, his wife and their two children often traveled to San Diego, Portland and Seattle. This year, they chose Mexico instead.

The reluctance, Loewen said, has little to do with whether the U.S. can offer a good vacation. It's about whether Canadians want to spend their money there while tensions between their country and the U.S. remain so high. Loewen said his family hasn't stepped foot in the U.S. since Trump's inauguration and doesn't plan to until there's a new president.

Eileen March, a life coach from Calgary, said she made a similar decision. Trump's threats to make Canada the 51st state and his trade policies were part of it, as was a broader sense of no longer feeling safe or welcome in the United States, March said.

"As time has worn on, I was beginning to waver," she said. The latest round of tariffs "reinforced my initial decision to not travel in the U.S. at all while he is in office." She refuses even to book flights with layovers in the U.S.

March, 41, knows that staying away for four years is a long time. She is prepared to go even longer.

"I think that'll really depend on who is elected next, their values and the relationship they attempt to foster or repair with Canada," she said.

Months after Venezuela earthquakes, a family refuses to give up search for their missing relative

By ANNA-CATHERINE BRIGIDA and JUAN PABLO ARRAEZ Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Antonella Molina, her nephew Pedro Molina and a group of friends set out at 8 a.m. on a recent Saturday, hands full of flyers, walking carefully through the rubble that remains throughout La Guaira after two catastrophic back-to-back earthquakes 10 weeks ago.

Their mission is to find 18-year-old Andrés Molina — Antonella's nephew and Pedro's cousin — who they haven't heard from since the double earthquakes hit Venezuela on June 24. Andrés is among tens of thousands who remain missing, according to an independent account, far surpassing the government estimate of 1,500.

Weeks before, Antonella and other relatives pulled the bodies of Andrés' mother and brother from the collapsed remains of their 10-story apartment building that collapsed in La Guaira, the coastal area just north of the capital Caracas that was one of the hardest hit. The building once housed more than 30 people but there was no sign of Andrés, not even the backpack he always carried.

Neighbors told the family they have seen Andrés wandering the destruction collecting scrap metal; they hold out hope that he survived.

"There are a lot of things that give us hope," Antonella said. "And one of those is love."

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Searching without government help

Government figures of 6,500 dead and 1,500 have been widely questioned by people on the ground, although the Venezuelan government has said its response was quick and statistics are "rigorously verified."

With little trust in authorities, Andrés' family and friends are the ones taking charge to get the answers they need.

"We've never had support from the government to help us find the people disappeared. Never," Antonella said.

And they are determined to keep searching on their own until they find him.

In the days after the quakes, neighbors said they saw Andrés wandering around with an apparent head injury. The family called shelters, hospitals and morgues but there was no news of Andrés.

They turned to putting up flyers around the area with his photo and a number to call. The calls rolled in, reporting sightings at a nearby golf course, park or restaurant. But Andrés was never there when they showed up. When they would ask around, people told them stories of seeing the young man in the photo, often trying to give food to cats, his favorite animal.

Just the day before the search, police told Antonella they saw him collecting scrap material nearby, further fueling their optimism.

Setting out to find him again

On the Saturday of the renewed search, about 15 friends and relatives walked the streets, past the busted windows and collapsed walls as the noise of ongoing construction equipment rumbled in the background.

Antonella approached neighbors and construction crews with a warm, Venezuelan greeting of "how are you, mi amor?" She explained her hunt for information about her nephew.

A construction worker said he saw him near the golf course. Another woman sitting outside on a plastic chair said she saw the flyers but not Andrés. Another man thought he may have seen him at a nearby McDonald's. But when they said he had tattoos, Antonella knew it wasn't her nephew.

The search has been complicated by a family dispute between Andrés' mother and father — Antonella's brother and Pedro's uncle — that has kept them apart for years. The family tried to stay in touch, but the relationship deteriorated. Andrés' father has been among those searching for him.

Pedro began talking with his cousin over WhatsApp in the months before the earthquake, but they never met in person, since Pedro lives about six hours away in the state of Anzoátegui.

Still, Pedro wants his cousin to know he is not alone, even though his mother and brother are no longer with him.

"We don't know how he must feel if he is alive," Pedro said.

Ending with anger, pain, sadness

During the afternoon of the search, Antonella and Pedro approach a young woman and handed her a flyer.

"Were you his neighbor?" Antonella asked.

"Yes, from the house next door," she answered. "My mom was friends with his mom."

But she did not have any information on where Andrés is now.

"If anything, I'll write this number," she said. "Good luck."

Antonella has come to believe that perhaps Andrés doesn't want to be found. Maybe that is why she keeps finding the flyers damaged with a tear down through his face.

The search finished as always at a nearby McDonald's around 10 p.m., a few hours earlier than usual because Antonella hurt her arm.

"At the end of each search, I always feel anger, helplessness, pain, sadness. Even despair," Antonella said. "Because it's so many days, so much effort, so many hours walking, searching, asking questions."

"And we end up with the same answers. They saw him, they saw him, they saw him. But not having him present in our arms has been a very hard blow," she said.

But she will keep looking until she knows Andrés is safe.

"I have to continue until I find my nephew," Antonella said.

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Today in History: September 7, Germany launches Blitz on UK

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, Sept. 7, the 250th day of 2026. There are 115 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 7, 1940, Nazi Germany began an intense bombing campaign of Britain during World War II with an air attack on London; known as The Blitz, the eight-month campaign resulted in more than 40,000 civilian deaths.

Also on this date:

In 1813, during the War of 1812, the Troy (New York) Post newspaper first used the term "Uncle Sam" to refer to the United States; the nickname was linked to a local meatpacker, Samuel Wilson, who supplied the U.S. Army with beef.

In 1822, Prince Regent Pedro of Braganza declared Brazil's independence from Portugal (Portugal formally recognized Brazil's independence in 1825).

In 1901, the Boxer Rebellion, an attempt to expel foreigners from China involving clashes with a multinational force that included troops from Japan, Russia, Britain and the U.S., ended with a protocol calling for reparations to the foreign powers.

In 1921, the first Miss America Pageant was held in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

In 1943, a fire at the Gulf Hotel, a rooming house in Houston, claimed 55 lives.

In 1963, the Pro Football Hall of Fame opened in Canton, Ohio, and enshrined its first 17 members.

In 1977, the Panama Canal Treaty, which called for the U.S. to turn over control of the waterway to Panama at the end of 1999, was signed in Washington by U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos.

In 1986, Bishop Desmond Tutu was installed as the first Black clergyman to lead the Anglican Church in southern Africa.

In 1996, rapper Tupac Shakur was shot and mortally wounded on the Las Vegas Strip; he died six days later.

In 2005, police and soldiers went house to house in New Orleans to try to coax remaining residents into leaving the city shattered by Hurricane Katrina.

In 2021, El Salvador became the first country in the world to make Bitcoin legal tender.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Gloria Gaynor is 83. Actor Julie Kavner is 76. Rock singer Chrissie Hynde (The Pretenders) is 75. Actor Corbin Bernsen is 72. Actor Michael Emerson is 72. Pianist-singer Michael Feinstein is 70. Singer/songwriter Diane Warren is 70. Actor J. Smith-Cameron is 69. Actor Toby Jones is 60. Actor-comedian Leslie Jones (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 59. Actor Tom Everett Scott is 56. Actor Shannon Elizabeth is 53. Actor Oliver Hudson is 50. Actor Evan Rachel Wood is 39. Olympic gold medal swimmer Ariarne Titmus is 26. Actor Ian Chen (TV: "Fresh Off the Boat") is 20.