

Groton Daily Independent

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Community Calendar

Tuesday, Sept. 8

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

School Breakfast: Breakfast bento bag.

School Lunch: Scalloped potatoes with ham, bun.

Golf at Milbank, 10 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

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

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 9

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

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

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

Thursday, Sept. 10

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

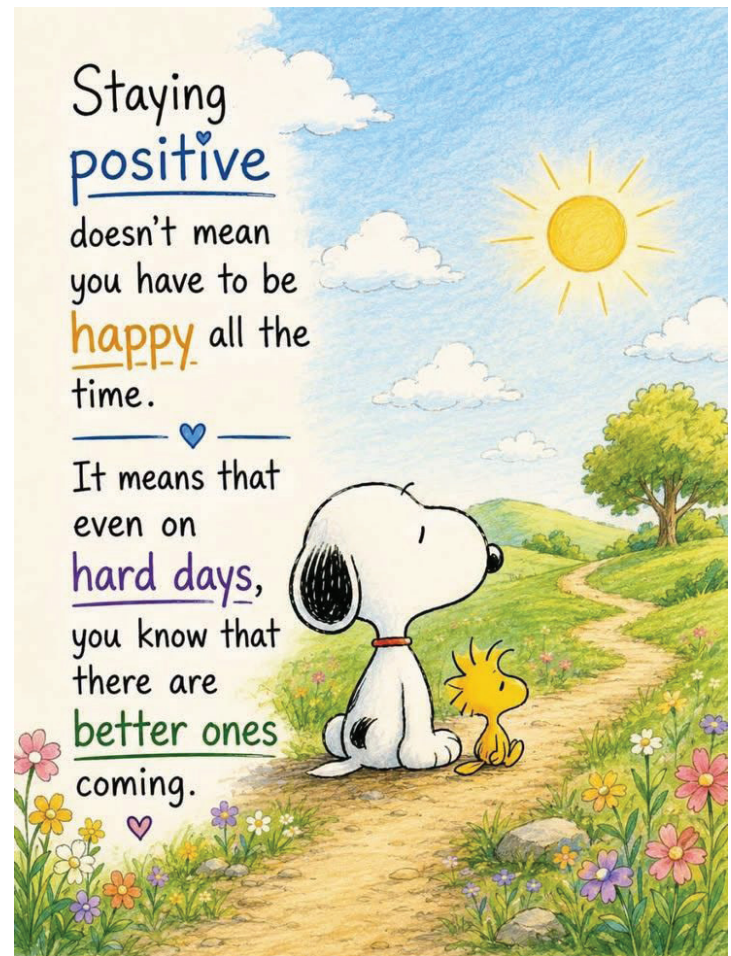
School Breakfast: Scones.

Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

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

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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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1440

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

Amazon Plane Crash

Federal investigators yesterday said they have begun collecting evidence from an Amazon cargo plane that overshot the runway at Miami International Airport by roughly 1,300 feet Sunday. The incident killed at least five people, injured at least five others, and shut down all runways for several hours.

A video appears to show the Boeing 767 barreling across a small public road at nearly 130 miles per hour, striking several vehicles. The Federal Aviation Administration says the runways at the Miami airport are not equipped with a crushable arresting system designed to stop planes that overshoot because the airport's runways have a 1,000-foot safety buffer. The system, installed at 70 airports, has helped stop 26 aircraft carrying 497 people.

The flight was operated by 21 Air, one of nine vendors Amazon uses to ship customer packages on more than 250 daily flights.

'Ferris Bueller Gone Bad'

The alleged ringleader of one of the largest cryptocurrency heists in the US is due in court today for his plea agreement hearing. Malone Lam, a 22-year-old Singaporean citizen in California, stands accused of siphoning more than \$240M worth of bitcoin with the help of 17 others.

Lam and his network met in online gaming forums and allegedly began scamming people out of cryptocurrency in 2023. In one instance, they targeted a cryptocurrency investor through two phone calls, each warning about security threats to his cryptocurrency wallet, in order to access his security codes. Defendants allegedly spent the ill-gotten gains on luxury cars and watches, private jet rides, rented mansions, and nightclub benders. Lam allegedly spent more than \$569K in one night at a Los Angeles nightclub. One judge likened the case to "Ferris Bueller gone bad."

Cryptocurrency fraud reports jumped up last year, with Americans reporting losses of more than \$11B.

👉 Humankind: More than 15,000 people participate in a global letter-writing initiative facilitated by a network of independent bookshops, stationery stores, and cafes.

Russia-North Korea Road Link

Russia and North Korea opened the first road bridge across their shared border yesterday. The new link over the Tumen River comes as the countries have expanded a strategic partnership amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The two-lane bridge is 0.6 miles long and will allow up to 300 vehicles to cross per day, beginning with cargo trucks. The countries agreed to the construction during Russian President Vladimir Putin's trip to North Korea in 2024. Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un also signed a defense pact that year requiring each country to provide military assistance if the other is attacked. North Korea has supplied Russia with ammunition, missiles, and thousands of troops for the war in Ukraine.

The bridge adds a third form of transport between the countries, joining existing air and rail routes. Direct flights offer rare travel opportunities to Russian tourists, including access to a North Korean beach resort.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Elizabeth Holmes documentary "You Can See Everything" sets October release date, three years after comedian Nathan Fielder and Lance Oppenheim began filming secret A24 project on convicted Theranos founder.

Zheng Qinwen knocks Iga Świątek out of US Open, overcoming 5-0 deficit in first set to advance to quarterfinal match against Elena Rybakina.

"Spider-Noir" wins five Creative Arts Emmy Awards two days after Prime Video canceled the detective series.

Science & Technology

AI-generated drug developed to treat a rare lung condition may also slow aging in humans.

Researchers devise way to test whether black holes have hidden matter around them, potentially revealing deviations from Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity.

Scientists discover stem cells that appear to produce tendons and ligaments and contribute to lumbar spinal stenosis; the finding suggests existing high blood pressure medications could treat the common lower back condition.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close lower Friday (S&P 500 -0.4%, Dow -0.5%, Nasdaq -0.3%) as stronger-than-expected August payroll data increased expectations the Federal Reserve could raise interest rates.

Gas prices hit a Labor Day record, averaging \$4.15 a gallon amid disruptions to global oil supplies.

Jaguar Land Rover will cut 4,000 jobs across its global workforce over the next two years in an attempt to lower costs and keep up with Chinese electric car manufacturers.

Politics & World Affairs

Germany's leading nationalist-populist party, Alternative for Germany (AfD), wins regional election in country's east, earning over twice the number of votes as Chancellor Friedrich Merz's incumbent party.

President Donald Trump suggests changing New Mexico's name to New America. Changing New Mexico's name would likely require approval from state lawmakers and voters.

Armed man arrested after allegedly charging at Amy Acton, the Democratic candidate for Ohio's gubernatorial race; Acton was not harmed, but several others were injured.

EMPLOYMENT

Wanted full or part time help for harvest. Someone who can drive combine, semi or tractor. Housing available. Near Aberdeen call 605-380-4898. (0819.0909pd).
=====

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Pictured left to right are Carol Kutter, Treasurer Katelyn Nehlich, Emma Woehl, Chad Masters, Marla Kiesz, Mayor Scott Hanlon, President Ashley Bentz, Secretary April Abeln, Barb Pohlkamp and Brian Dolan. (Photo courtesy April Abeln)

Groton Chamber welcomes Area IV Senior Nutrition

The Groton Chamber welcomed Area IV Senior Nutrition at its monthly September meeting. Area IV recently moved its senior meals from the Red Horse to the Groton Community Center. For reservations and more information call 605-397-2617.



Groton Chamber President Ashley Bentz (right) presents Marla Kiesz from Area IV a Groton Chamber welcome bag. (Photo courtesy April Abeln)

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Groton Area soccer teams battle West Central

The Groton Area soccer teams traveled to West Central on Saturday, with the Tiger boys battling to a 2-2 tie while the girls dropped a 2-0 decision.

In the boys match, Ryder Schwan accounted for both Groton Area goals, helping the Tigers come away with the draw.

Ethan Kroll and Connor Kroll each recorded an assist on Schwan's two goals as Groton Area matched West Central goal-for-goal in the 2-2 contest.

The Groton Area girls were unable to find the net in their match against West Central. West Central scored twice and held the Tigers scoreless to earn the 2-0 victory.



Groton
Area
Tigers
Groton, SD

GDILIVE



A production of the

Groton Daily Independent

For more info: GDILIVE.COM

Volleyball

Groton Area at Webster
Tuesday, Sept. 8, 5 p.m.
C at 5 p.m. followed by
JV and Varsity



Volleyball Match sponsors on GDILIVE.COM are: Agtegra, Avantara-Groton, Bierman Farm Service, BK Custom Ts, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Farmers Union Insurance, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, Harry Implement, Heartland Energy, Jacobson Electric, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Cafe, Rix Farms / R&M Farms, S & S Lumber, Spanier Custom Harvesting and The Meat House of Andover.

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This Week's Soccer Coaches Poll

September 7, 2026 - SDHSSCA Bi-Weekly Coaches Poll for Boys and Girls soccer. The Soccer Coaches Association will be releasing our rankings every two weeks during the season.

Boys AA

1. Sioux Falls Jefferson
2. Sioux Falls Lincoln
3. Sioux Falls Washington
4. Watertown
- T5. Aberdeen Central
- T5. Rapid City Stevens

Receiving Votes: Sioux Falls Roosevelt, Spearfish

Girls AA

1. Harrisburg
2. Pierre T.F. Riggs
3. Aberdeen Central
- T4. Rapid City Stevens
- T4. Yankton

Receiving Votes: Sioux Falls Lincoln, O'Gorman, Tea Area, Mitchell

Boys A

1. James Valley Christian
2. Freeman/Marion/Parker/Viborg-Hurley
3. Vermillion
4. Hot Springs
- T5. St. Thomas More/Rapid City Christian
- T5. Groton Area

Receiving Votes: Dakota Valley, Belle Fourche

Girls A

1. Sioux Falls Christian
2. Dakota Valley
3. West Central
4. St. Thomas More
5. Groton Area

Receiving Votes: Belle Fourche



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

FEMA is off the chopping block. But disaster aid is still a guessing game.

Emergency managers want the White House to provide more clarity

BY ALEX BROWN

State leaders are breathing a sigh of relief that the Trump administration's threats to eliminate the Federal Emergency Management Agency have subsided.

But experts say there's still confusion about President Donald Trump's decisions to approve or deny disaster declarations, leaving states with uncertainty about whether they can expect federal recovery funds.

"The foundation (at FEMA) seems stronger than it did six months ago, but this is an unreliable administration when it comes to the fair and equitable distribution of disaster funds," said Juliette Kayyem, faculty chair of the Homeland Security Project at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and a former Obama administration official.

Trump has long called on states to take on a larger role in responding to disasters, and suggested early in his second term that FEMA might "go away" entirely. Kristi Noem, who served as Trump's secretary of Homeland Security until she was fired in March, pledged at one point to "eliminate" FEMA, and slashed the agency's spending and staffing during her tenure.

Last month, the Senate confirmed Cameron Hamilton to serve as FEMA's administrator, making him the first permanent agency leader during Trump's second term. Hamilton, once a FEMA critic, had previously served as acting administrator, but was fired in May 2025 after saying he had become convinced the agency should not be eliminated.

Experts say Hamilton's return and Noem's departure are signs of stability for FEMA.

"It's basically a return to regular order," said Craig Fugate, who served as FEMA's administrator under President Barack Obama. "They're filling positions and reestablishing programs that got cut during the purge."

State emergency managers say the leadership changes are welcome developments.

"(Hamilton) he has the right attitude as far as supporting his employees and supporting the states," said Lynn Budd, director of the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security. "I have a positive feel for that."

Budd also serves as president of the National Emergency Management Association, a nonprofit comprising state and territorial emergency officials.

While FEMA appears to be safe from the most drastic threats, states still face uncertainty over some agency programs they have long relied on. The agency has said that states must comply with Trump's voting and immigration policies in order to qualify for Homeland Security Grant Program funding. A coalition of states and municipalities have sued, saying they stand to lose out on millions of dollars they need to prepare for terrorist and other security threats.

The White House press office did not respond to a Stateline interview request.

Trump decisions

Experts say the biggest challenge for emergency managers is the lack of clarity around Trump's disaster approvals. While FEMA has clear thresholds that determine which disasters qualify for federal aid, the president has full discretion to approve or deny those requests for help.

Trump has been far more willing to grant disaster declarations for Republican-led states, at 89%, while Democratic-led states have seen only 23% of their requests approved, a Politico analysis found in March.

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Trump overruled the recommendations of his own agencies when he rejected federal aid for four Democratic-led states in July, Politico reported.

"The bad news is you have a very unreliable administration and a very political president," said Kayyem, of Harvard. "When it comes to states' expectations, we can't know what this White House will do."

But some emergency management veterans said the denials aren't a clear-cut case of political retribution. Fugate, the former FEMA administrator under Obama, noted that many of the disaster requests Trump rejected were snow-related. Trump's administration has pushed to eliminate snow assistance from FEMA disaster aid, arguing that states should not receive federal reimbursement for plowing their own roads. Many of the northern states that have experienced snow disasters are represented by Democrats.

For other disasters, Fugate said, Trump has a higher bar for granting federal recovery funds.

"The administration's been very clear they're wanting to raise thresholds, even if they haven't formally changed the numbers," he said. "I've not seen them deny catastrophic disasters, major disasters. It's the smaller marginal disasters that are really judgment calls."

While saying he "ain't a big fan" of the Trump administration, Fugate said shifting the financial burden for disaster relief from the feds back to the states has been a longtime discussion among both parties.

Still, emergency managers said the White House should provide more clarity about what the new thresholds are and give states time to prepare for a bigger role.

"There's really never been feedback about why a disaster was denied," said Budd, the Wyoming official. "That's something I would hope to see in the future, creating more clarity in what exactly are we looking at when we go through the process of trying to request a major disaster declaration."

State money

Some states have begun preparing for a drawback of FEMA support. Tennessee lawmakers established a statewide recovery fund intended to help communities hit by disasters that don't qualify for federal aid. While Republican Gov. Bill Lee requested \$100 million to create the fund, lawmakers ultimately approved \$44.2 million earlier this year. Some legislators fear that won't go very far.

"Cutting it by more than half shows the State can't afford for FEMA to cut back its support, much less to stop supporting states altogether," state Sen. Jeff Yarbrow, a Democrat, told the Tennessee Lookout in a statement. "Funded at its current level, this fund can only really fill a few gaps where FEMA is too slow or too rigid."

Budd, the president of the emergency managers' group, said other states are considering similar funds.

"These are the types of programs that we as states need to look at, and something that I will have conversations about with our legislators in the future," she said.

But as states look at making those investments, Budd called on the White House to give them more time.

"The very hard part about saying states need to do more is that it cannot happen overnight," she said. "It will take time for states and lawmakers to build that."

Stateline reporter Alex Brown can be reached at abrown@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.

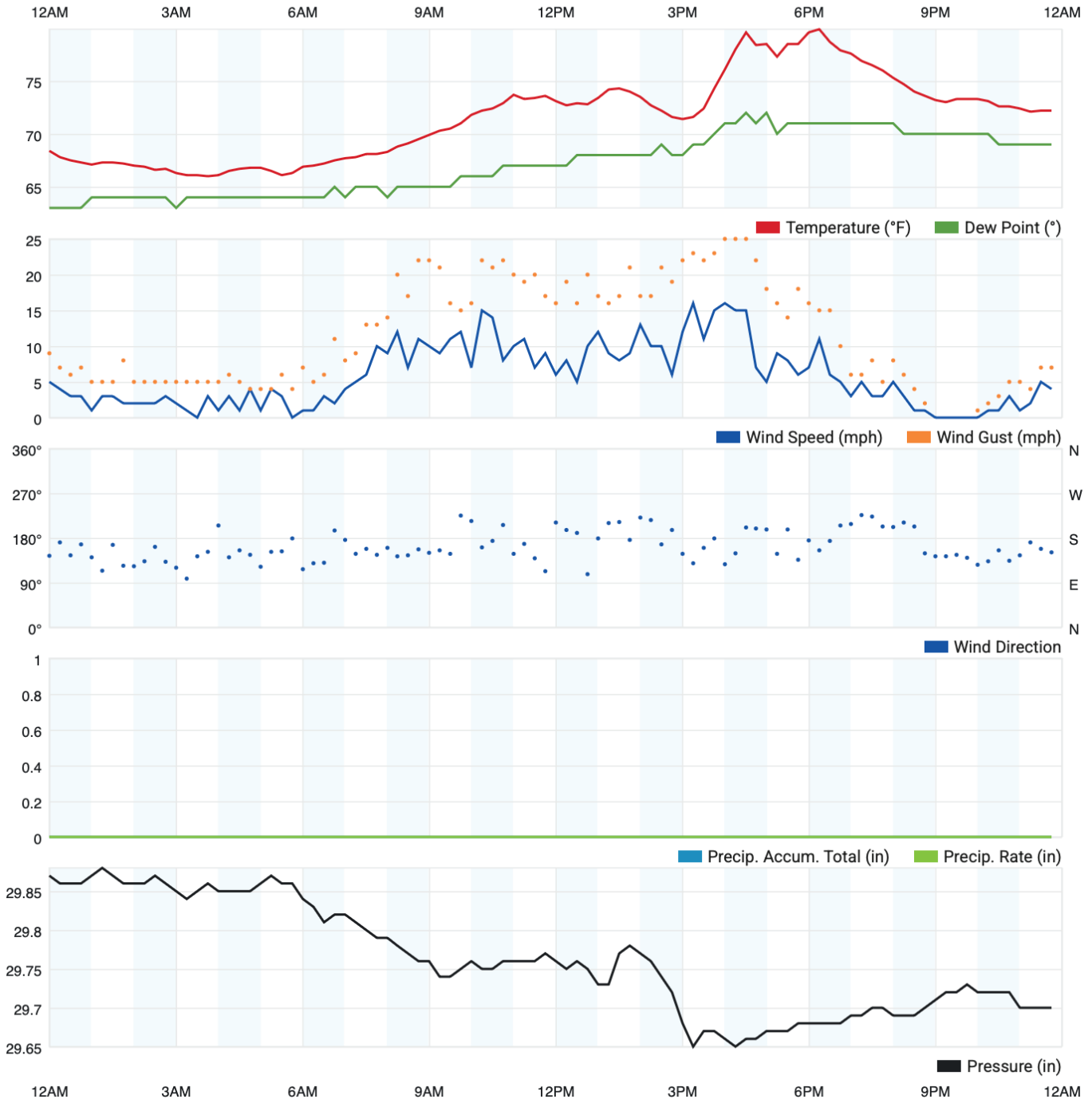
Based in Seattle, Alex Brown covers environmental issues for Stateline. Prior to joining Stateline, Brown wrote for The Chronicle in Lewis County, Washington state.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

September 7, 2026



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Today



High: 82 °F

Decreasing
Clouds

Tonight



Low: 55 °F

Mostly Clear

Wednesday



High: 76 °F

Sunny

Wednesday
Night



Low: 49 °F

Mostly Clear

Thursday



High: 84 °F

Sunny



Elevated Grassland Fire Danger Today

September 8, 2026

3:01 AM CDT

Due to low relative humidities, westerly winds gusting to 30-40 mph, and dry grasses



Hazards & Impacts

- High to Very High Grassland Fire Danger



Timing

- Noon to 8 PM CDT Today

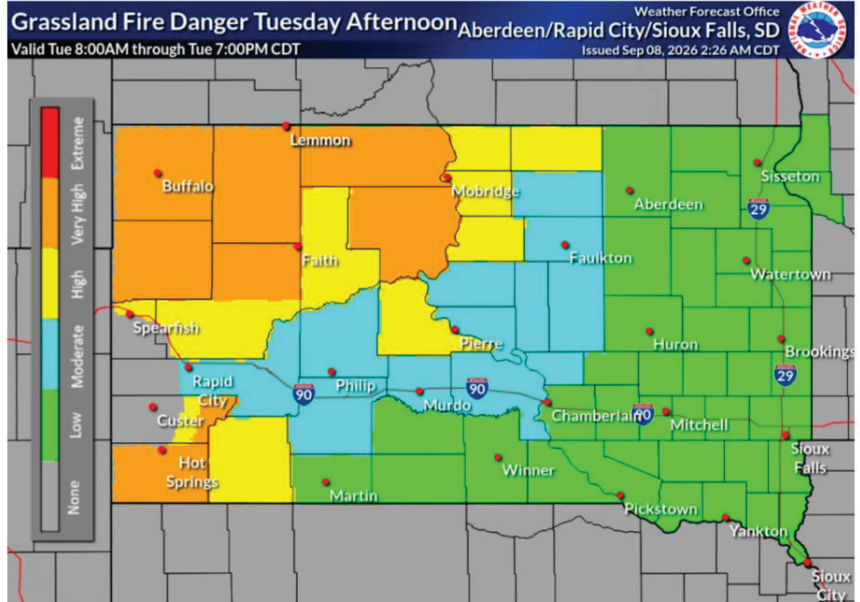


Location

- North Central SD



Impacts and Actions



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Grassland Fire Danger will be in the high to very high category this afternoon over north central South Dakota. This means that outdoor fires could spread quickly. Please avoid outdoor burning and be very careful with anything that may cause sparks.

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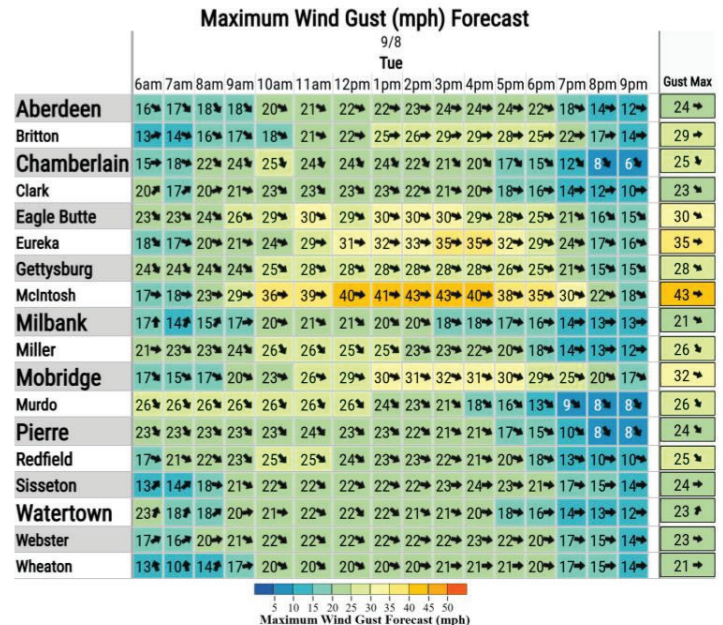
Timing of Winds Today

September 8, 2026

3:06 AM CDT

Key Messages

- A cold front will bring west-north westerly winds with gusts of 20 to 40 mph.
- The highest gusts will occur over north-central South Dakota.
- Less humid conditions will follow the frontal passage.



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

A cold front sliding across the region will bring less humid conditions along with west to northwesterly winds today. Wind gusts of 20 to 40 mph can be expected.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 80 °F at 6:14 PM

Low Temp: 66 °F at 3:44 AM

Wind: 28 mph at 10:51 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 101 in 1933

Record Low: 32 in 1992

Average High: 78

Average Low: 50

Average Precip in Sept.: 0.54

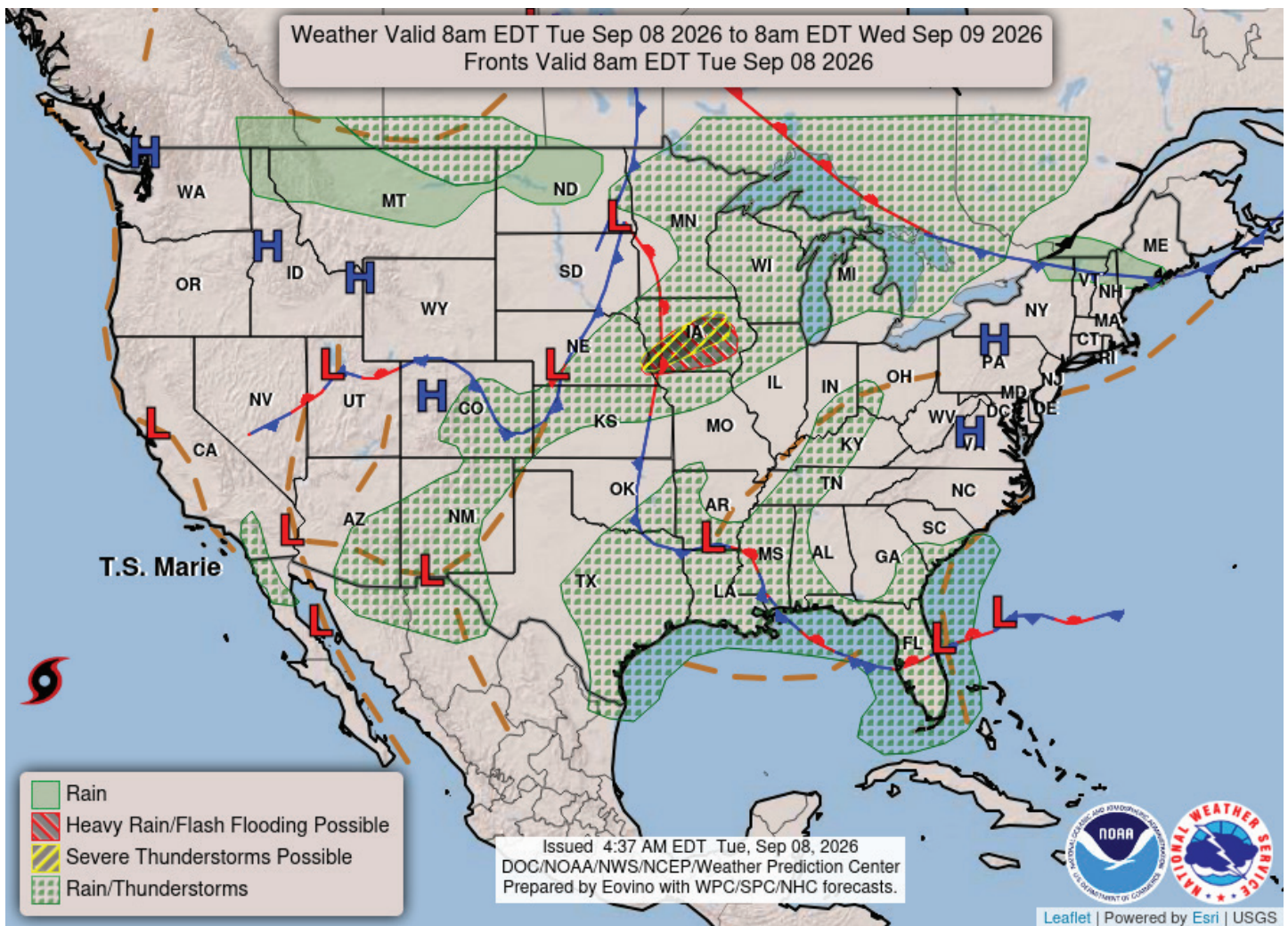
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 16.88

Precip Year to Date: 20.06

Sunset Tonight: 7:57 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:03 am



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Today in Weather History

September 8, 1959: High winds and areas of blowing dust occurred across parts of central South Dakota from Walworth to Mellette. During the evening, wind gusts of 40 to 50 mph affected the counties either side of the Missouri River. Low visibility in blowing dust was blamed for a four-car crash near Pierre, injuring five persons, another accident near Mobridge injured one person. Barn buildings were blown over or unroofed near Delmont in Douglas County. Lightning started grass fires and burned several thousand acres of rangeland in Mellette and Lyman counties. In the late afternoon, high winds associated with a cold front gusted to 70 mph and destroyed six buildings on a farm north and east of Reliance. At 500 pm, winds ripped a camper off a pickup truck 12 miles south of Pierre. Winds were measured at 68 mph at Pierre. At 6 pm CDT winds gusting to 70 mph damaged many trees in the Watertown area, power lines, and some buildings. A trailer and truck, twelve miles north of Watertown, were blown over while traveling on Interstate 29. A large oil tank was also destroyed.

1900: A Category 4 storm made landfall in Galveston, Texas on this day in 1900. This hurricane killed between 6,000 and 12,000 individuals, making it the deadliest US Atlantic hurricane on record. The highest point in the city of Galveston was less than nine feet above sea level. The hurricane brought a storm surge of over 15 feet, which overwhelmed the entire island.

1925: In September 1925, South Carolina was in the middle of one of the most widespread and disastrous droughts in the state's history. The NWS Co-op station in Calhoun Falls reported 11 days above 100°F with a maximum temperature of 111°F on this day.

1987 — A tropical depression off the coast of South Carolina brought another round of heavy rain to the Middle Atlantic Coast Region and the Upper Ohio Valley. Showers and thunderstorms produced extremely heavy rain in eastern Pennsylvania, where flooding caused more than 55 million dollars across a seven county area. The afternoon high of 97 degrees at Miami FL was a record for the month of September. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 — Eighteen cities in the south central and eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Roanoke VA with a reading of 42 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 — Thunderstorms developing along a stationary front produced very heavy rain in the central U.S. Thunderstorms during the late morning and afternoon produced five to nine inches of rain around Lincoln NE, with an unofficial total of eleven inches near Holmes Park. Up to six and a half inches of rain soaked northern and western Iowa. Eighty to ninety percent of the homes in Shenandoah IA, where 5.89 inches of rain was received, reported basement flooding. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1998: A severe thunderstorm developed over the southern end of the Las Vegas Valley in Nevada. The storm moved north bringing damaging winds and heavy rain mainly across the eastern half of the metro area. Henderson Executive Airport recorded wind gusts of 80 mph. Air traffic control personnel temporarily evacuated the airport tower. Approximately 15 homes and trailers in Moapa were severely damaged by thunderstorm winds estimated at 80 to 90 mph.

2012: Severe storms impacted the New York City area, forcing a delay of the United States Open. A tornado hit a beach club in Queens, and another brought damage to Canarsie, Brooklyn, New York.



God Honors Our Devotion to Him

Being faithful to the Lord may put us at odds with the world, but the reward of His delight is always worth it.

Daniel 1:3-21: 3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his officials, to bring in some of the sons of Israel, including some of the royal family and of the nobles,

4 youths in whom was no defect, who were good-looking, showing intelligence in every branch of wisdom, endowed with understanding and discerning knowledge, and who had ability for serving in the king's court; and he ordered him to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.

5 The king appointed for them a daily ration from the king's choice food and from the wine which he drank, and appointed that they should be educated three years, at the end of which they were to enter the king's personal service.

6 Now among them from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

7 Then the commander of the officials assigned new names to them; and to Daniel he assigned the name Belteshazzar, to Hananiah Shadrach, to Mishael Meshach and to Azariah Abed-nego.

8 But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself.

9 Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials,

10 and the commander of the officials said to Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has appointed your food and your drink; for why should he see your faces looking more haggard than the youths who are your own age? Then you would make me forfeit my head to the king."

11 But Daniel said to the overseer whom the commander of the officials had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah,

12 "Please test your servants for ten days, and let us be given some vegetables to eat and water to drink.

13 "Then let our appearance be observed in your presence and the appearance of the youths who are eating the king's choice food; and deal with your servants according to what you see."

14 So he listened to them in this matter and tested them for ten days.

15 At the end of ten days their appearance seemed better and they were fatter than all the youths who had been eating the king's choice food.

16 So the overseer continued to withhold their choice food and the wine they were to drink, and kept giving them vegetables.

17 As for these four youths, God gave them knowledge and intelligence in every branch of literature and wisdom; Daniel even understood all kinds of visions and dreams.

18 Then at the end of the days which the king had specified for presenting them, the commander of the officials presented them before Nebuchadnezzar.

19 The king talked with them, and out of them all not one was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's personal service.

20 As for every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and conjurers who were in all his realm.

21 And Daniel continued until the first year of Cyrus the king.

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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Daniel and his friends faced a dilemma that echoes in our own life: What do we do when faithfulness to God puts us at odds with the world around us? Our challenge is to live under God's authority while remaining in submission to the law of the land. But when the two collide, our first instinct should be to seek the Lord's guidance before moving forward.

Daniel's example shows us what that looks like in practice. Had he bluntly declared, "I won't eat this food!" he wouldn't have lasted long. But the Lord gave him the wisdom to humbly seek permission from the person in authority over him rather than stage a confrontation (Dan. 1:8-13). God honored Daniel's commitment and provided a way for him to live righteously—not through defiance, but through discernment.

We remember Daniel and his three friends for the remarkable lives they lived. But it's important to realize that the determining factor was never their own greatness. Rather, it was their devotion to a heavenly Father who does extraordinary things in lives that are fully surrendered to Him. Keep in mind their example of faithfulness, and watch what God does when you make yourself available to Him.

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The Groton Independent

Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.2% Sales Tax

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Password _____

Pay with Paypal. Type the following into your browser window:

paypal.me/paperpaul

Pay with Venmo: @paperpaul Phone Number to Confirm: 7460



WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.07.26

1 14 35 42 51 2

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

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 56 Mins 6 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.04.26

6 26 34 59 61 24

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$193,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 41 Mins 6 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.07.26

1 15 24 35 42 9

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$3,960,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 56 Mins 6 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.05.26

6 9 26 27 31

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$49,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 11 Mins 6 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.07.26

20 26 49 56 65 5

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 40 Mins 7 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.07.26

15 19 28 39 56 3

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$207,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 40 Mins 7 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the **AP** Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Baltic def. Dell Rapids, 25-10, 25-10, 25-12

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

Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia ignite fires at oil facilities and wound 73 people, officials say

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — A wave of Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia Tuesday wounded more than 70 people and ignited fires at several oil facilities and utilities in the kingdom's southern region, authorities said, a major escalation in the renewed conflict between an important U.S. ally and the Iranian-backed rebels in Yemen.

The attacks come after weeks of escalating clashes between the Houthis and Saudi-backed government forces in Yemen, which shattered a four-year truce in the country's civil war.

The flare-up delivered a new jolt to a region already destabilized by nearly three years of wars and brings more uncertainty for the global economy. The fighting between Saudi Arabia and the Houthis threatens to squeeze shipping through the Bab al-Mandeb strait, a critical route of the Arabian Peninsula for oil and global trade. It also comes at a time when the Iran war has nearly halted shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, a key waterway that moved about one-fifth of the world's oil before the war.

Fighting has raged on multiple fronts including Yemen's west coast, with government forces saying they have made territorial gains in the provinces of Hodeida, Taiz and Baydah. The Houthis have also launched attacks on Saudi oil facilities and tankers in the Red Sea.

Houthi attacks hit oil facilities in southern Saudi Arabia

The attacks early Tuesday hit "civilian and economic facilities" in the Saudi cities of Abha, Jazan, Najran and Khamis Mushait, said Maj. Gen. Turki al-Malki, a spokesperson for the Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen.

Al-Malki said the attacks wounded 73 people, including women and children. He didn't provide further details.

The attacks ignited fires at several oil facilities and utilities in Saudi Arabia's southern region, the kingdom's Energy Ministry said in a statement. Operations at the oil facilities and utilities were temporarily suspended, it said.

The southern region houses major oil facilities, including a 400,000-barrel-per-day oil refinery in Jazan, which is one of Saudi Arabia's largest. The Houthis had previously attacked the Abha airport.

The ministry said firefighters were battling the fires Tuesday morning.

Al-Malki called the attacks a "serious escalation" and a "flagrant violation of the kingdom's sovereignty, and a direct threat to the security and safety of its citizens and residents."

He vowed retaliation, saying that the Saudi-led coalition "will take all necessary operational measures to deter the terrorist Houthi militia with utmost resolve."

The Houthis claimed responsibility for the attacks, saying they were in response to recent Saudi attacks on the rebels across Yemen.

In a prerecorded video statement, Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, the rebels' military spokesman, said they fired dozens of ballistic missiles and drones at oil and economic facilities, as well as an air base in southern Saudi Arabia.

He said they attacked Jazan City for Primary and Downstream Industries, a major industrial and logistics hub on Saudi Arabia's southwestern Red Sea coast. The rebels also attacked Aramco facilities in Najran and Abha, as well as King Khalid Air Base in Khamis Mushait.

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Saree blamed Saudi Arabia for the escalation, warning that "every aggression against our country and people will be met with a firm response."

Nasruddin Amer, deputy head of the Houthi media office overseeing the Saba news agency run by the rebels, took to social media to laud the attacks.

"The Saudi enemy has to understand that the time for committing crimes and massacres against the Yemeni people without response, deterrence or paying a price has ended," he said.

The attacks came hours after the rebels blamed Saudi Arabia for an airstrike that hit a prison in Yemen's northern province of Jawf. At least seven people, including a child, were killed and seven others were wounded in the strike in the Yemeni city of Hazem, the Houthis said.

Fighting forces about 18,500 people to flee their homes in Yemen

The latest escalation stemmed from a Houthi attempt to fly a plane from Tehran to Yemen's capital, Sanaa, challenging a decade-long air and naval blockade by the Saudi-led coalition. A coalition airstrike struck the runway of the Sanaa airport, preventing the landing of the flight.

The Houthis responded with missile and drone attacks on Saudi Arabia, and a blockade of Saudi shipping in the Red Sea, ending a 2022 truce that had largely halted fighting between the Houthis and the Saudi-led coalition.

The rebels also launched attacks on Saudi-allied forces inside Yemen, prompting government forces to respond with attacks on the Houthis across Yemen's west coast and elsewhere in the country.

Government forces reclaimed territory from the Houthis in the provinces of Hodeida and Taiz, and attacked the rebels in the northern province of Jawf as well as the central provinces of Marib and Bayda.

The flare-up displaced about 18,500 people in Taiz and Hodeida in southwestern Yemen, further pressuring communities in southern Taiz and the West Coast, according to the International Organization for Migration.

"Families are arriving with nothing: no shelter, no food, no way to know if it's safe to go back," said Ab-dusattor Esoev, IOM Yemen's Chief of Mission. "Many of these are people who have already been displaced once, twice, even four times before."

Yemen's civil war began in 2014 when the Houthis seized the capital, Sanaa, and much of northern Yemen and forced the government into exile. A Saudi-led coalition intervened the following year to try to restore the government to power.

The civil war has killed at least 150,000 people, according to U.N. estimates, and at times pushed the country to the brink of famine.

German vote shows rise of far-right in Europe, but it hasn't been a steady march

By SAM McNEIL Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The first victory of the Alternative for Germany in a state election has renewed fears of an ascendant far-right in Europe, as voters repeatedly vent discontent and mainstream leaders grapple with myriad crises, from affordability to Russian aggression and scraps with China and the United States over trade.

But while anti-immigrant, pro-Russian parties have made inroads across the continent in recent years, there have also been notable reversals, and some have softened their views to build coalitions with moderates.

The AfD fell short of an absolute majority in Sunday's vote in Saxony-Anhalt that would have allowed it to form the first far-right state government since the Nazi era — though it may still manage to do so.

Far-right leaders from Portugal to Austria celebrated the win as they ready for elections across Europe in the coming months. These will show whether the vote was a watershed moment in the demise of an anti-fascist consensus dating back to the World War II, or the latest in a series of elections worldwide in which frustrated voters simply cast out incumbents.

Far-right parties have gained influence in several governments

The far-right's biggest success in recent years was the rise of Giorgia Meloni, who became prime minister

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of Italy, one of Europe's most influential countries, at the helm of a party with neo-fascist roots.

But Meloni, who campaigned as an EU-skeptic, took a moderate turn in office that has won praise from across the continent and led to her presiding over the most stable government in decades. She now faces a challenge from the right, in the form of an upstart party led by a retired general.

Far-right parties have meanwhile joined governments and gained key portfolios in Finland, Croatia and Slovakia.

Populist anti-immigrant parties also made major gains in the 2024 elections for the European Union parliament, reflecting their growing support across the 27-nation bloc.

Since then, the center-right European People's Party has increasingly coordinated with the far-right, as it did earlier this year in embarking on a historic migration overhaul that incensed traditional allies on the center-left and human rights groups.

"It's a bit of a paradox: you partner up with them to prevent them from getting more powerful," said Sophia Russack, a fellow at the Brussels-based Centre for European Policy Studies.

Populists have also suffered some notable setbacks

For 16 years, Hungary's Viktor Orbán was the standard-bearer of the far-right in Europe and an inspiration for populists worldwide. But he lost in a landslide in April to a former ally who had campaigned against corruption.

In the Netherlands, Geert Wilders, another far-right celebrity, broke up a coalition he had helped form when his allies refused to go along with his far-reaching crackdown on immigration.

The far-right, anti-immigration Reform UK party has grown in influence in the United Kingdom in recent years and was the big winner in local elections in May, a result that helped spur a panicky Labour Party to replace then-leader Keir Starmer with new Prime Minister Andy Burnham.

Though it holds just eight of the 650 seats in the House of Commons, Reform has often led opinion polls and dominated political debates on immigration. Led by the veteran nationalist politician Nigel Farage, the party has been particularly successful in areas that supported Brexit in 2016.

But Reform has recently suffered reverses, losing several special elections and facing questions about funding.

Electoral setbacks, however, send "a double-edged message," said Jeremy Cliffe, editorial director of the European Council on Foreign Relations.

"These parties are mortal, they can be defeated, but when they're in power, they're not all chaotic and hopeless."

All eyes will be on next year's elections in France and Spain

Next year's elections in France and Spain present major opportunities for the far-right to resume its march across the continent — or stumble, said Lisa Musiol, head of EU Affairs for the International Crisis Group.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, revered by the global left for his stance on migration and the wars in Gaza and Iran, has faced mass protests over the Ceuta border crisis.

The far-right, anti-immigrant Vox party, which holds just 32 seats in the country's 350-member parliament, is poised to gain. It has already entered into governing agreements with the center-right Popular Party, parliament's second biggest faction, in four regional elections.

Sánchez said Monday that the AfD win should be "a warning that the far-right threat is gaining ground in Europe and the world," and that "a progressive coalition government is more necessary than ever."

In France, the far-right leader Marine Le Pen is the front-runner to replace the increasingly unpopular President Emmanuel Macron, who is constitutionally barred from seeking a third term. She has long been hostile toward the EU and immigration.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot, whose center-right party is among a crowded field running against Le Pen's National Rally, decried the Germany vote as a victory for "the neo-Nazi, anti-European and pro-Putin far right."

"We urgently need to open our eyes to the despair that is propelling such ideas and such parties to power," he said in a post online. "It can be done, but this is our last chance."

King Charles III clarifies status of Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, after their return to the UK

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — King Charles III has reiterated that Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, remain non-working members of the royal family following their return to the United Kingdom.

A letter sent on behalf of the king to senior government officials said the couple will continue to refrain from using their royal titles as they have done since stepping back from official royal duties in 2020. Any charity work the couple undertakes will be carried out in a private capacity, and operational security decisions are matters for the relevant police agencies, the letter adds.

The letter was sent by the Lord Chamberlain, the most senior official in the royal household, to senior officials in the government and military, as well as lord lieutenants, the king's personal representatives around the country.

"To help avoid doubt or confusion, The King has directed that (this) information be shared," the letter says.

While the communication simply confirms that Harry and Meghan's status remains unchanged, the decision to send the letter and release it publicly demonstrates the concern among some palace observers that the couple's status could allow them to become a sort of parallel royal court, competing with working members of the royal family.

The security question is particularly sensitive because Harry has fought a long-running battle with the government for the restoration of publicly funded police protection, which was canceled when the couple gave up their royal roles.

The decision about whether to restore the couple's round-the-clock police protection is a matter for a government panel known as RAVEC, or the Royal and VIP Executive Committee.

"Any specific questions from official and State organizations about the courtesies which should be extended to the Duke and Duchess, and particularly where recourse to public funds may be required, should be directed to Buckingham Palace," the Lord Chamberlain said in his letter.

EU warns of a chilling new terror menace 25 years after 9/11 as online youths seek violent thrills

By LORNE COOK Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — A quarter of a century after the Al-Qaeda attacks on the United States, jihadist groups still pose a major threat to security in Europe, but a new menace has surfaced that is driven mostly by young people online and the authorities are worried.

The exact size of the network behind what is being called nihilistic violent extremism is unclear. But police investigators from nine European countries found about 4,340 URL web addresses linked to "The COM," as the online community has become known, during a campaign to disrupt it in June and July.

"It's violence for the sake of violence," European Union Counter-Terrorism Coordinator Bartjan Wegter told The Associated Press in an interview, ahead of the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington in 2001.

Overall last year, 45 terrorist attacks were reported across 10 of the 27 EU countries, although none of them were major, mass-casualty incidents. About half were foiled or failed, but six people were killed. A total of 486 people suspected of terror links were arrested in 21 member countries, according to the EU police agency Europol.

Jihadist groups — often guided or inspired by networks outside Europe — were behind 24 of the attacks and accounted for more than 70% of the arrests.

Of all those taken into custody, around one third were aged under 18, mostly boys.

Europol does not keep statistics on nihilistic violent extremism because definitions of it differ and acts can fall into the category of ordinary criminality as well as terrorism.

But in Finland in 2025, a 16-year-old boy stabbed three female student colleagues. He allegedly shared a

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"manifesto" in WhatsApp groups, recorded the attack on Snapchat, and asked on social media for someone to save and give him the video after his release.

In the "manifesto," he said that he wanted to do something "significant" and "exciting." No political motive was given for his rampage, according to an EU document on the emerging threat of nihilistic extremist violence.

Violence as a form of entertainment

"It's very much a fascination with violence. It's violence as a means of asserting oneself, as a means of gaining status in those online communities," Wegter told AP. "There's not a direct link with ideology."

In Italy last year, a 15-year-old boy planned a murder to gain notoriety online, authorities there said. He kept images and videos of assaults, murders, school shootings and child pornography on his smartphone.

Wegter said these kinds of incidents, which have been on the rise for two to three years, are not isolated but organized by online networks that are "often driven by young people, for young people often involving young boys."

He said that they "lead to offline violence. We've seen stabbings, a young individual stabbing an elderly person for no reason whatsoever."

Such attacks are tough to prevent or track. They often involve "young individuals who will not have a criminal record, usually, who don't leave any footprints other than online perhaps, but then it's often behind encrypted walls and communities," Wegter said.

Conspiring online to commit real-world crimes

High on the list of groups authorities' radar is 764, which was founded by an American high school dropout, Bradley Cadenhead. He's serving an 80-year prison sentence for child pornography and sex offenses, but the group still functions.

In Germany last year, a 20-year-old man believed to be a leading 764 member faced 123 charges over acts of "an unimaginable level of brutality and inhumanity," including murder, rape and the sexual abuse of children, the EU document said.

Unlike 25 years ago — when extremists, mostly from Saudi Arabia, entered the United States and trained to become deadly pilots — the terror threat facing Europe today is mostly organized online.

"The online environment, for all the good things it brings, it is still too permissive," Wegter said. He described it as "a petri dish for the connection between different threats."

Privacy versus security with AI on the rise

Privacy advocates insist that people have a fundamental right to communicate without unjustified intrusion. They accuse the authorities and some companies of undermining protections through spyware and other methods.

But Wegter said that "our law enforcement must be equipped with the instruments and tools to deal with the threat as it exists today." He noted that 85% of investigations take place in the digital environment. "It means that we have to adjust ourselves to that."

For the Dutch diplomat himself, it means talking more to authorities and organizations in other countries, notably those that such groups use as a rear base. "Because what happens outside our borders impacts on our security," including what's being amplified online, he said.

Europol said criminals are exploiting images and audio to create and edit propaganda, including through deepfakes, memes and GIFs. AI-powered bots were also used to boost recruitment and promote terrorist ideologies, while AI-driven app were used for research to prepare attacks.

"The kind of violent content, violence inciting content, propaganda, manuals, tactics, everything that is available, is very much amplified by AI," Wegter said.

China's Huawei Technologies faces racketeering trial in New York

By LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Huawei Technologies, a leading Chinese tech company, faces a criminal racketeering trial in New York over charges that it stole technology, plotted to steal U.S. trade secrets and committed

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wire and bank fraud, among other crimes.

Jury selection is scheduled to begin Tuesday.

The indictment alleges that, besides stealing trade secrets, Huawei and some of its subsidiaries did business in North Korea despite U.S. sanctions there and installed surveillance equipment that helped Iran spy on protesters during 2009 anti-government demonstrations in Iran.

Huawei's lawyers have tried to get the broad criminal case dismissed, arguing in court filings that the U.S. allegations were too vague, that some were "impermissibly extraterritorial," and did not involve domestic wire and bank fraud.

Huawei is the world's biggest supplier of gear for wireless telecom networks but the company is banned from selling equipment to U.S. carriers over fears it poses a security risk. It has also been blacklisted by other Western allies like Canada and Britain.

The company makes phones and other consumer electronics but has been cut off from other lines of business. More recently it has expanded into chipmaking as the boom in artificial intelligence fuels demand for microprocessors.

During President Donald Trump's first term in office, his administration raised national security concerns about Huawei and began lobbying Western allies against including the company's products in their next-generation high-speed wireless networks. The U.S. announced the criminal charges in early 2019 and has since expanded the allegations.

Chinese officials said the U.S. government has engaged in "economic bullying" and improperly used national security as a pretext for "oppressing Chinese companies."

U.S. prosecutors accused Huawei of using a Hong Kong shell company known as Skycom to sell equipment to Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions. They also charged its chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, with fraud, saying she misled HSBC bank about the company's business dealings in Iran.

Meng, the daughter of Huawei's founder, was arrested in Canada in late 2018 on a U.S. extradition request but released in September 2021 in a high-stakes prisoner swap that freed two Canadians held by China and allowed her to return home.

As part of the deal, the U.S. dropped its extradition request and said it would dismiss the fraud charges against Meng.

The biggest maker of network gear, Huawei struggled to hold onto its market share under sanctions that have blocked its access to most U.S. processor chips and other technology. The limits led it to ramp up its own development of computer chips and other advanced technologies.

An Iranian port city feels the pain of Washington's tightening economic measures

By AMIR VAHDAT Associated Press

BANDAR ABBAS, Iran (AP) — In the Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas on the Strait of Hormuz, a waterfront once busy with boats, trucks and workers has fallen quiet. It's a front line of the economic pain that the United States now hopes to intensify after six months of war.

The Associated Press visited the city shaken by new U.S. airstrikes targeting coastal areas in the past week, and found anger along with growing anxiety about simply getting by as a U.S. blockade of Iranian ports continues.

A taxi driver, Hamid Hajizadeh, said he does not understand Americans. "They are heroes in movies, but here they killed people in schools, wedding ceremonies and other places. They bombed roads and bridges," he said.

In this city of over 700,000 people, residents have a closer view than almost anyone of events on the strait that have seized global attention. They say their location has brought little but danger and discomfort over the past half year.

'Business right now is terrible'

Mohammad Torabian works at the dock providing services to passengers. Before the war, he said, as

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many as 50 trucks carrying food and meat would unload there every day. Now, with the U.S. blockade that's aimed at keeping Iran from exporting its oil, much of the dock is empty.

"The business right now is terrible," Torabian said. He estimated that about 500 people had been earning a living around the dock but "there is no job here."

The fortunes of Bandar Abbas have long been tied to the sea and nearby Shahid Rajaei, one of Iran's largest commercial ports. Shahid Rajaei has the capacity to handle 100 million metric tons of cargo a year, according to a report in July by Iran's state-run IRNA news agency.

Iranian officials have sharply criticized the blockade, which the U.S. imposed in April and then imposed again after negotiations with Tehran on a path to end the war fell apart. Washington has since vowed more economic pressure over the strait, which is crucial to global shipping of oil, natural gas and related products.

Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, the lead negotiator in talks with the U.S. that collapsed, warned earlier this month that an escalation of the blockade would be met with a military response.

In Bandar Abbas, the effects are spreading through nearly every layer of the economy, from ships and dock workers to customs-clearing companies and shopkeepers.

Mahsa Shojaei, an accountant with a customs-clearing company, said much of its business before the war involved importing rice, tea and coffee from India and Pakistan.

Now, Shojaei estimated that 80% to 90% of her company's workload has disappeared. A business that might have handled around 100 customs-clearance files during a certain period now processes only about 10, she said. At the same time, the cost of bringing cargo through customs has risen.

'There are simply no customers'

The economic damage has spread beyond the waterfront, especially as Iran's currency reaches record lows. In the retail markets, merchants said customers are disappearing as purchasing power deteriorates.

Mehrdad Jahangiri sells children's clothing at a shop that supports both his household and his father's. He said sales have fallen by about half compared to the same period last year.

"There are simply no customers," Jahangiri said. "The market has become very quiet."

The timing of the war was especially damaging for merchants. It began just before the Iranian New Year, Nowruz, traditionally one of the busiest shopping periods. Merchants rely on families to spend more than during ordinary months. The war wiped out much of that expected business.

Now another crucial shopping period is slipping away. In the weeks before schools reopen later in September, families traditionally buy new clothes for their children. This year, Jahangiri said, the usual crowds have barely materialized.

The downturn has become severe enough that the shop sometimes falls behind on rent and accumulates debts in the market, something he said had not happened before.

"People's pockets are empty and incomes have fallen," he said.

Asked whether his family had been forced to cut back on everyday expenses, Jahangiri's answer was immediate. "Absolutely," he said. "It has changed a lot."

Other merchants have tried to adapt by offering discounts or allowing regular customers they trust to pay for goods in installments.

'The sea is not safe'

For people earning their living directly from the sea, the problem goes beyond the disappearance of business. They also must consider how far they dare to venture offshore.

Abbas Golzanaei, a motorboat driver who transports passengers to ships and other nearby ports, said that before the war he traveled as far as 30 miles (48 kilometers) for work.

"Before the war, business was good," Golzanaei said. "Now I can't go beyond seven or eight miles. The sea is not safe."

That has left him with fewer passengers and less money. And "things are hard to find," he said. "We have difficulty getting gasoline."

Farther offshore, cargo vessels were silhouetted against the setting sun, suspended in uncertainty like Bandar Abbas itself, waiting to know when they can move again.

What to know about Canada's escalating trade war with the US as Carney retaliates with tariffs

By ROB GILLIES Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canada struck back at U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday with tariffs on about \$20 billion worth of U.S. goods, in response to the latest round of tariffs on Canada.

The outcome could resonate far beyond Canada, showing other governments whether a smaller U.S. ally can withstand Trump's economic pressure.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney says U.S. demands could hollow out key Canadian industries and limit the country's independence, while Trump's threats to Canadian sovereignty have rallied the public behind him.

"Carney and Canada have become symbolic of resistance to him," Canadian historian Robert Bothwell said. "And what he'll want to do is make an example of Carney and Canada and theoretically terrify everybody else while in fact showing them that they need to remove themselves even further from the United States."

The tariffs hit hundreds of American products, including steel, aluminum, cheese, appliances, clothing, cosmetics and farm equipment, at rates of 15%, 25% or 50%.

Here's what to know.

Canada retaliates with tariffs on hundreds of US products

Canada says its tariffs match Washington's dollar for dollar and rate for rate. They take effect at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday under an executive action known as an order in council and cover about \$20 billion in American goods, roughly 6% of the \$333.6 billion the United States exported to Canada last year.

RBC Economics, the research arm of the Royal Bank of Canada, said the measures were unlikely to dent U.S. growth overall but could hit some businesses hard.

Canada has already gone beyond tariffs in other ways. Eight of its 10 provinces continue to restrict or ban sales of U.S. alcohol. The Distilled Spirits Council says U.S. spirits exports to Canada fell more than 70% year over year after those restrictions took effect.

Trump threatens to punish Canada even further

Since Canada-U.S. trade talks collapsed Aug. 21, Trump and his administration have unleashed a barrage of tariffs, threats and personal attacks portraying Canada as weak and dependent.

On Monday, Trump threatened to ban the sale of aircraft from Canada's Bombardier, unless they manufacture planes in the United States.

"NO MORE SELLING BOMBARDIER IN THE UNITED STATES! Their products aren't good enough!" Trump posted on Truth Social. "If they want our Market, they must build here, and stop treating America like a 'piggybank.'"

Flavio Volpe, president of APMA Canada, a manufacturing trade group, responded on X that Bombardier uses U.S.-made GE and Honeywell jet engines and employs about 3,000 U.S. workers.

Trump previously warned that Canada's economy could collapse if Carney continued treating him as "the enemy" and threatened consequences "worse than anything that has ever happened to a Canadian Politician."

U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer has threatened that Washington could ban some Canadian goods outright in response.

Trump even renamed Lake Ontario "Lake America," a change ignored and ridiculed in Canada. Google and Apple bent to Trump's pressure and changed their maps for U.S. users. On Monday, he published a map of North America covered in the U.S. flag on social media.

"After renaming a gulf and a lake, maybe the next step for him is to rename a river?" said Daniel Béland, a political scientist at McGill University.

Trump's pressure is hardening resistance in Canada

Trump's trade war and repeated talk of making Canada the 51st state have fueled anger and rallied support for Carney. Canadians have sharply cut travel to the United States and boycotted U.S. goods.

The current trade war began after Trump returned to office and imposed a series of tariffs on Canadian

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goods despite having negotiated and repeatedly praised the North American trade agreement during his first term. Many of those tariffs violate the pact.

The rupture is especially striking because the countries have long shared one of the world's closest relationships, with deeply integrated economies, close defense and security cooperation, vast cultural ties and, before relations deteriorated, about 400,000 people crossing the border each day.

Carney has said talks can resume when the Americans "stop doing memes, stop throwing shade, stop trying to be tough" and become serious.

So far, Trump's pressure has backfired in Canada, strengthening support for Carney rather than forcing concessions.

Nelson Wiseman, professor emeritus of political science at the University of Toronto, said Trump's 2024 reelection deepened Canadians' distrust of the United States — not just its government, but the judgment of Americans.

"Canada-U.S. relations, even without confrontation, will never be what they were before Trump," he said.

Carney is becoming a global voice for standing up to Trump

At the World Economic Forum in Davos in January, Carney warned that great powers are using economic integration to coerce smaller countries. The speech helped establish him as the leading voice among countries looking for ways to resist Trump.

Trump responded a day later by saying Canada "lives because of the United States" and warning: "Mark, remember that next time you make your statements."

Carney will address the European Parliament next week, giving him another major stage.

"The Canadian public is behind the Carney government and the world is watching what will happen next," said Béland, the McGill political scientist. If Canada's defiant approach succeeds, he said, it "could be used as a template" for resisting the Trump administration's trade policies.

The fight is also about whether Canada keeps its factories

Trump has also threatened 50% tariffs on Canadian vehicles, auto parts and steel next year if Canada does not "fall in line," a potentially devastating escalation for industries built around deeply integrated North American supply chains.

"We want the cars to be made in Detroit and in South Carolina and in Tennessee and in all of our places where we make cars. We don't want them to be made in Canada," Trump said.

A 50% auto tariff could hammer Canadian plants and raise vehicle prices across North America because parts and finished vehicles cross the border repeatedly during production.

Carney says Washington's terms could leave Canadian industries "gradually wound down in Canada and wiped out."

Could Canada actually win?

Canada starts at a disadvantage: The U.S. economy is roughly 13 times larger, and Canada sends more than 70% of its exports south of the border.

But Béland said this is not a normal trade fight. He pointed to Trump's domestic unpopularity, the approaching midterms and court challenges that could undo more U.S. tariffs.

"Under normal conditions, this would be a very long shot for Canada," he said.

But Washington has vulnerabilities too. U.S. refineries rely on 4 million barrels of oil a day from Canada, and American farmers depend heavily on Canadian potash fertilizer. So far, however, Canadian leaders have ruled out using some of that leverage by taxing or restricting critical exports.

Canada entered this round with some economic momentum. Its economy grew at a 3.2% annualized rate in the second quarter, more than twice the 1.5% pace in the United States.

Industry Minister Mélanie Joly put the government's ambition plainly:

"I'm convinced that we will be able to show the world that Canada will win this trade war."

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What to watch as Republicans gather in Dallas for Trump's unusual midterm convention

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans will descend on Dallas this week for a two-day convention dreamed up by President Donald Trump to rally his supporters ahead of this year's midterm elections.

Trump has said he wanted to channel the kind of political extravaganza that each party holds every four years to formally nominate a presidential candidate and showcase their vision for the country. There's even going to be a huge drop of balloons at the end.

Republicans have never held a midterm convention before, although Democrats did in the 1970s and 1980s. Here are some things to watch Wednesday and Thursday:

Why is this happening?

Trump had long floated the idea of holding such a convention and Republicans worked to make his wish a reality.

Midterms are often difficult for the party in power in Washington, and Trump believes the event can juice enthusiasm for the party and boost turnout among his voters.

"Pretend, please, that I'm on the ballot," Trump said recently in South Carolina. "Just come and vote."

Republicans said the event will help catapult its candidates into November, but it will also showcase the first two years of Trump's term. Although the president's poll numbers are sagging, he insists that running on his record will give Republicans their best shot at winning.

Who is going to the convention?

The presidential nominating conventions that are held every four years by Republicans and Democrats typically draw thousands of rank-and-file party members chosen as delegates to represent their states and participate in the ceremonial nominating process.

No nominations are going to be awarded this time, since that's already been settled by primary contests. The event will also be open to the public, which could make it feel more like a Trump rally than a convention.

More than 100 Republican House members and candidates are expected to be in Dallas, according to a person familiar with the event who requested anonymity before it begins. They were required to pay \$25,000 for tickets and lodging, which the person described as typical for political conventions.

Some lawmakers in competitive races have indicated they won't go or hadn't determined their plans less than a week before the convention.

Who will speak at the convention?

Trump will speak each night. On Wednesday, he's delivering a keynote address. On Thursday, he's scheduled to appear after again after a speech from Vice President JD Vance.

A long list of speakers includes members of Trump's Cabinet like Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent.

Also set to address the crowd are Attorney General Todd Blanche, the president's son Donald Trump Jr. and former White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt, as well as Texas Senate candidate Ken Paxton and Mike Rogers, the party's Senate nominee in Michigan.

House Speaker Mike Johnson and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz are giving speeches, as are many incumbents and candidates in some key, competitive races for the House and Senate around the country.

Everyday Americans are expected to take turns onstage sharing how they have benefited from the president's policies.

Organizers have said there will be more than 50 speakers or presentations each night, with many of the remarks kept brief to keep the pace fast for viewers and easy to share online.

Trump has also promised there will be "lots of Great Entertainment" and referred to it as "a RALLY like none other."

What will they focus on?

The party's candidates will be showcased, including Paxton, the Texas Senate hopeful, whom Trump controversially threw his support behind instead of backing incumbent Sen. John Cornyn. Despite years

of scandals, Paxton won with Trump's backing, giving Democrats an opponent they see as more beatable in an otherwise conservative state. Trump has said one of the focuses for the Texas convention will be Paxton and trying to get him elected, saying "he's a good man."

But much of the program is focused on Trump's agenda, from his crackdown on immigration, efforts to lower prescription drug prices, the sweeping tax cuts and spending law he signed last year and his tariffs, along with a partisan case against Democrats. Expect many of the speakers to echo Trump's attack lines portraying Democrats as communists.

Cyclospora outbreak followed years of declining FDA foreign inspections

By MATTHEW PERRONE AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A nationwide outbreak of cyclospora tied to contaminated lettuce has heightened safety concerns about imported food, while underscoring a longer-term trend: U.S. regulators are conducting fewer international inspections to catch contaminated produce before it lands on American plates.

Food and Drug Administration inspections of foreign food sites — including the Mexican farm linked to the ongoing outbreak — are down nearly 35% since 2019, the year before the COVID-19 pandemic, according to agency records. The pandemic kicked off a wave of retirements and departures among FDA inspectors that continues to this day.

Even before COVID-19, the agency had long failed to hit its congressionally mandated targets for international inspections. And recent staffing cuts, reorganizations and other upheavals under President Donald Trump could mean even fewer inspections in the years ahead, according to former senior FDA officials.

"When you look at the numbers of inspections balanced against the responsibility of the FDA — in terms of all the firms domestically and internationally under its oversight — the agency just can't achieve what is required," said Michael Rogers, who spent nearly 35 years in various inspection roles within the agency. He added that FDA continues to do many things "very well with limited resources."

The Trump administration has proposed new approaches to stretch agency resources — including a pilot program of one-day inspections. Rogers and other officials say the abbreviated inspections are not equivalent to traditional ones, which can take a week or more to document serious problems.

FDA officials have long made the case that inspections are only one tool to oversee safety.

"Inspections will never be the only way to ensure the safety of imported products given the massive volume coming into the country," said Susan Mayne, FDA's former food director who is now at Yale University. "That's why FDA uses border inspections, importer inspections, sampling and other tools."

But the outbreak in iceberg lettuce has also laid bare the potential downsides of those approaches.

In July, regulators were forced to retract a faulty test result that they claimed found cyclospora on a sample of Taylor Farms' lettuce obtained at the border. Despite the error, FDA officials say they are confident the company's farm is the source of the diarrhea-causing parasite. Mexican food authorities, however, say they have not found any positive samples or other red flags there.

A spokesperson for the Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees FDA, said the agency's investigation is ongoing. Additionally, FDA officials are studying how many foreign inspections should be conducted annually "to ensure oversight comparable" to the U.S. food supply.

FDA inspectors took a month to arrive at Mexican farm

FDA inspectors arrived at the Taylor Farms site in Guanajuato, Mexico, in mid-August, about one month after the recall was announced July 17.

It was their first visit there since 2019. That year marked an all-time high for foreign food inspections before the FDA pulled most of its staff from the field during the pandemic.

Inspections for food — along with drugs, medical devices and other products — still haven't recovered. And foreign food inspections actually fell further behind last year, down 17% to 1,140 in fiscal year 2025 from the prior year.

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While inspectors were not among the 3,500 jobs targeted for termination by the Trump administration, the agency did eliminate more than half the staffers who handle travel bookings. That's left inspectors to handle most of their own flights, lodging and other logistics.

Food experts say it shouldn't have taken four weeks to get inspectors on-site in Mexico, considering the scale and number of people sickened.

"It took us too long to get boots on the ground," said Frank Yiannas, the former top food safety official at FDA. "When these outbreaks happen in fresh produce, you have to respond quickly because these are very complex and changing ecosystems."

The Taylor Farms recall involved thousands of packaged salad products combining iceberg lettuce with other vegetables. The products were shipped to major U.S. restaurant chains, including Yum Brands, which owns Taco Bell, Pizza Hut and KFC.

According to FDA figures, companies have announced more than 480 food recalls in the current fiscal year, already surpassing four out of the five previous years.

Food inspection targets have gone unmet for over a decade

Washington has tried before to overhaul the U.S. food safety system.

A string of deadly outbreaks involving spinach, cantaloupe and other produce led Congress to pass the Food Safety Modernization Act of 2011, which required additional testing, training and monitoring of hygiene conditions at farms. The legislation also set aggressive goals for FDA foreign inspections — targets the agency has never met.

Under the law, the FDA is supposed to inspect more than 19,000 international food sites annually. The agency hit an all-time high of 1,700 in 2019 — less than one-tenth of the target, according to the Government Accountability Office.

Former FDA regulators say the 19,000 target is unachievable and has never been properly funded by Congress — which has left FDA's food budget essentially flat for years. Still, the FDA "has not identified an appropriate annual target," GAO noted.

Perhaps the biggest challenge to boosting inspections is recruiting new inspectors, and retaining those FDA already has.

The FDA's food inspection workforce includes more than 420 staffers, although 10% to 15% of its positions have been chronically unfilled, according to the GAO and former staffers.

Inspectors who work internationally can spend 50% or more of their working time traveling, a grueling schedule that has long caused turnover among FDA staff.

"Until you can better incentivize people to stay in those positions, I think the agency is going to continue to see high attrition, younger and less experienced investigators," said Rogers. "That ultimately may impact FDA's ability to enhance and increase inspections."

Many experts say new approaches, including machine learning and remote monitoring of supplier practices, could help alleviate some of the need for inspections.

"We have to rethink how we oversee the safety of foreign producers," Yiannas said. "We can't use the same approaches and limited tools that we've used for the past 30 years."

The 2011 food safety law called on manufacturers to place bar codes on each batch of produce, so that it can be quickly traced in the event of contamination. The rule was supposed to take effect in January, following years of discussions and revisions with produce companies. But the FDA again delayed its implementation after pushback from industry.

"There's widespread acknowledgment that these are complex issues, but when you have 17 years to prepare for a final exam you should be able to pass it," said Brian Ronholm, a former Department of Agriculture official who is now with Consumer Reports.

Trump wants voters to pretend he's on the ballot. The Republican Party is going along for the ride

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is embracing his inner cowboy, seeking to gallop into this week's Republican convention in Dallas and save the midterm elections for his party just in the nick of time.

As first-of-their-kind festivities open Wednesday, Trump wants to stoke his core supporters' enthusiasm by making Election Day on Nov. 3 all about himself — a referendum on his record at an event he conceived to help his party, even if he's not actually on the ballot.

The question is whether he'll do more to fire up Republicans or Democrats at a moment when his popularity has reached historic lows.

The president is planning to take the stage both nights of the convention, giving a keynote address Wednesday and then closing remarks after Vice President JD Vance gives his own speech the following night.

That means effectively staging a two-day Trump show with a supporting cast that includes some of the party's most vulnerable lawmakers.

"If Trump is in the orbit then everything gets swallowed up into a black hole. It's just unavoidable," said Rick Tyler, a Republican strategist and a critic of the president.

The Republican Party is so enamored with the prospect that it is selling \$16 beer cozies online depicting the president as the Marlboro Man. They feature the 80-year-old on horseback, with a white Stetson and the word "Dallas" under the trademark red-and-white triangle peak logo where the cigarette maker's name would normally be.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, who will address the convention, noted that the gathering was Trump's idea and should be "very instructive, very exciting."

"We'll parade our stars across the stage," he said, making it sound like a political version of the beauty pageants Trump once helped organize.

Trump conceived and planned nearly the entire convention

Republicans familiar with the process said the president was involved in the event's every detail. His control over the program was such, in fact, that anyone pressing for information in recent weeks was told it wasn't yet known because Trump was still making choices.

Despite all the cowboy imagery, it's unclear if the cavalry is coming, however.

MAGA Inc., the president's political organization with a nearly \$400 million war chest, announced it is spending \$10 million on television and digital advertisements in the Texas Senate race. But that's the first time it has tapped its vast resources in a serious way, even as Republicans are hoping for big help to win many tight races around the country.

A separate group, Securing American Greatness, has begun running ads touting the president's record heading into the midterms. But its gauzy videos mostly promote Trump and barely mention Congress.

The major broadcast networks haven't committed to televising most of the convention on each night, and the proceedings will be competing with the kickoff of the NFL season — including games likely going on during both of Trump's speeches.

The president wants to pretend he's running

Rep. Suzan DelBene, head of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, was skeptical the GOP would get a convention boost.

"I'm not sure what they're doing," said the Washington Democrat. "They don't have a message, they have nothing to say. So, I think that will be even more clear."

Trump, meanwhile, has long believed that the best way to win elections is to have himself as a candidate. He made that explicit during a recent South Carolina rally, telling the crowd, "Pretend, please, that I'm on the ballot."

The president is trying to counter political headwinds that see the party in power usually suffer losses during midterm elections — including during Trump's first term when Democrats flipped the House.

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His midterm message has consisted mostly of promoting his record, including his administration cracking down on the U.S.-Mexico border, passing legislation that reduced taxes for workers earning tips and overtime and on seniors' Social Security benefits, and working to cut prescription drug prices.

Still, Trump hasn't made clear how keeping Republicans in control of Congress would address concerns about inflation and an economy many Americans see as weakening, not to mention a war in Iran with no end in sight and Trump's own low approval ratings.

Trump has sought to go on the political offensive

The president decries Democrats as communists, arguing that progressive candidates who notched some key primary wins are too far to the left for the general election.

"Communism is an INHUMAN ideology that has led to DEATH and DESTRUCTION around the World!" Trump posted on his social media site recently.

But Tyler said rallies — and generalized rallying cries slamming Democrats — aren't likely what Republicans need ahead of the midterms. Instead, he said, they need a clear message and major efforts to mobilize voters.

"Trump can turn out two bases, his base and the Democratic base," Tyler said. "The problem for him is, when he's not on the ballot, his base never shows up and they're unlikely to again."

Trump has endorsed some Republican candidates who won their primaries but may face tougher general election races than the more establishment choices he shunned.

Nowhere is that clearer than in Texas' Senate race, which now could be close despite Democrats not winning statewide office in Texas since 1994 — the nation's longest losing streak.

Democrat James Talarico is looking for an upset after Trump backed Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton despite years of scandals. He propelled Paxton to a primary win over incumbent Republican Sen. John Cornyn, who had stronger name recognition and years of experience in Washington.

Having the convention in Dallas "definitely sends a signal that they're scared about Texas," said Abel Prado, campaign manager for Democratic congressional candidate and Tejano singer Bobby Pulido, who is running against Republican Rep. Monica de la Cruz in the Rio Grande Valley on Texas' border with Mexico.

Trump garnered unusually strong support from some South Texas Hispanic voters in 2024. But Prado said that has largely fallen away, pointing chiefly to frequent immigration raids he said have hurt the district's economy — including slowing a once-booming homebuilding industry, given construction crews' fears about being targeted.

"We're seeing a very real sense of buyer's remorse," Prado said. "Trump always projected this, 'I am the image of the American Dream.' But people are starting to realize he only cares about himself."

Some top Republicans are skipping Dallas

There are Republican incumbents, as well as candidates in key House swing districts, who won't be at the convention, believing that campaigning back home is a better use of their time. That includes Michigan Rep. Tom Barrett, whose battleground district includes the state capital of Lansing.

Many others, though, plan to use Dallas to share Trump's spotlight.

"Obviously, you're out of the district, but it's a really good opportunity to get in front of people," said Matt Beynon, spokesperson for Pennsylvania Rep. Scott Perry, who is in a fast-growing district in the central part of the state that's being targeted by Democrats.

The list of scheduled speakers includes Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, former White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt and the president's son, Donald Trump Jr. Also set to address the crowd are Paxton and Mike Rogers, the Senate nominee in Michigan, where the race is also expected to be close.

Organizers have also built events around everyday Americans, including people who benefited from tax cuts.

"It's going to be very important," Trump told the Lt. Dan Podcast with Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick.

"And I did it," Trump added. "I just came up with the idea."

The GOP was confident about keeping its Senate majority. Now the fight for control is wide open

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI, THOMAS BEAUMONT and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans appeared to have a firm grip on the Senate heading into the final two years of President Donald Trump's term. But with less than two months until Election Day, control of the chamber is now up for grabs.

Democrats have found themselves competing in states that once seemed beyond their reach as President Donald Trump's slipping approval ratings and voters' dissatisfaction with the economy create a difficult political environment for Republicans. But races Democrats once counted on winning have also become more complicated.

It's a battle that's expected to exceed \$3.4 billion in spending across all races during the midterm campaign. The implications are huge for Trump's agenda and his ability to fill administration jobs and open court seats for the remainder of his term, as the Senate is empowered to confirm or block presidential nominees.

Republicans say it's unlikely for everything to break in Democrats' favor, but they acknowledge they're facing a difficult landscape. Senate Majority Leader John Thune told South Dakota's KELOLAND News last week that he does "worry" about losing the chamber.

"I'm a realist," Thune said. "I don't ever try and sugarcoat things. I think it's a competitive environment right now."

Democrats face a scrambled path to the majority

Democrats need to net four seats to win the majority. The original path had been to hold Michigan, Georgia and New Hampshire while winning back Republican-held seats in Alaska, Maine, North Carolina and Ohio. But things have changed.

"We now have multiple paths for the majority," Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said last month. "We found new states — Iowa, Texas — which people a year ago weren't even paying attention to."

Some of the states where Democrats were feeling most optimistic at the start of the election cycle, such as Michigan and Maine, have grown murkier.

In Michigan, where there's an open seat this fall, no GOP candidate has won a Senate race since 1994. But Democrats are struggling to unite behind nominee Abdul El-Sayed. The favorite of progressives narrowly defeated moderate U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens in the August primary, and feelings remain raw from a bruising contest that saw nearly \$70 million spent against El-Sayed.

Republicans believe Mike Rogers, who lost the 2024 Senate race by fewer than 20,000 votes, has an improved shot against El-Sayed. The Senate Leadership Fund — Senate Republicans' spending PAC — added \$6 million to its Michigan advertising investment after El-Sayed won, bringing their total spending to \$51 million, the third-highest total.

Democrats also saw a prime opportunity to finally defeat five-term Republican Sen. Susan Collins in Maine, where Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris won more votes than Trump in 2024.

Progressive Graham Platner easily won the nomination in June, but he left the race the next month over a sexual assault allegation that he denies. Democratic delegates in late July chose Troy Jackson, a lesser-known former state legislative leader, to replace him.

Jackson has been forced to play catch-up. Collins and aligned super PACs have spent almost \$80 million so far, according to the ad-tracking firm AdImpact, while Jackson and Democratic-aligned groups have spent and reserved close to \$45 million since he became the nominee.

As one path narrowed for Democrats, others widened

Democrats increasingly see a real possibility in Texas, a state that has been an elusive goal for decades, and other GOP-led states including Iowa, Alaska and Ohio.

In Texas, Democrat James Talarico faces state Attorney General Ken Paxton, who ousted four-term incumbent Republican Sen. John Cornyn to win the GOP nomination. Senate GOP leadership backed Cornyn, seeing him as the stronger general election candidate.

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Paxton has been shadowed for decades by legal and ethical questions, including indictments for securities fraud, though he was not convicted.

Talarico and allied groups have spent nearly \$30 million on advertising since the May runoff, compared to less than \$3 million by pro-Paxton groups. The political fund associated with Trump last week spent \$10 million on TV and digital ads to help Paxton — the first major general election investment by MAGA Inc. for the midterms. Senate GOP leaders had petitioned Trump's political team to spend some of the more than \$400 million it had last month to help Paxton.

Democrats have also upped their spending in Alaska, Iowa, Ohio and North Carolina, all states currently held by Republicans. The GOP, meanwhile, is feeling more optimistic about New Hampshire as well as Michigan, while spending more to defend seats in Iowa and Alaska.

The expanded map has upped the anticipated total spending this cycle. AdImpact in June projected \$3.4 billion in advertising spending on Senate races, a significant increase from the \$2.8 billion the ad spending firm projected in the fall of 2025.

Why more states are in play than expected

Democrats' path has widened in part because of Trump's slumping job approval, notably on handling the economy, which was at 32% according to an AP-NORC poll in July — down from 40% in March 2025, shortly after he took office.

Trump's trade policies and the war in Iran, with its corresponding inflated fuel costs, have added to the economic uncertainty for voters less than two months before Election Day.

"Things still cost too much. And so we've got to work on that issue," Republican Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio told The Associated Press. "We understand that and we know that's real."

Ohio Sen. Jon Husted heard the concern firsthand at a roundtable last month. Husted is looking to fend off a comeback from former Sen. Sherrod Brown in another key matchup for both parties.

During the discussion on housing, one attendee told Husted that costs were "skyrocketing" in part because of uncertainty around tariffs.

"Uncertainty is the killer to this economy," said Dean Windham, a real estate developer who previously ran for office as a Republican.

Some Republican Senate candidates have defended Trump's policies while confronting concerns about their economic impact.

In Michigan, where Trump's tariffs on Canada have become a central issue, Rogers has backed the president's approach while leaving room for disagreement.

"President Trump is right to put America First — and tariffs are necessary, but are not a one-size-fits-all solution," Rogers said in a recent statement.

Republicans believe the math still favors them

Even if Democrats hold every seat they currently control, they would need to flip at least two seats in states Trump carried by double digits in 2024 to win the majority.

Republicans are betting that those underlying advantages will matter more as Election Day approaches — particularly as Trump and the party turn their attention toward mobilizing voters who helped return him to the White House.

Trump told reporters last week that he will "be making a lot of stops" in the last 30 days before the election.

Next week, Republicans will hold a midterm convention in Texas, where Trump is set to speak and top Senate candidates including Rogers and Husted are expected to attend.

But Republicans acknowledge they have work to do.

"Politics is local," Republican Sen. Mike Rounds of South Dakota said. He pointed to Trump's decision to import beef, which he said made farmers and ranchers "feel just like the administration pulled the rug right off from underneath" them.

"They're hurt," Rounds said. "They feel like they've been let down."

Nepal endured months of political upheaval. Devastating floods are now testing its new government

By SHEIKH SAALIQ Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — The flash floods two weeks ago swallowed settlements and swept away roads and bridges in Nepal's mountains and river valleys. Roughly 7,500 homes were destroyed, another 20,000 need rebuilding and at least 12 hydropower projects were damaged. The damage estimate so far of \$2.56 billion is a staggering bill for a country with a total budget of \$14 billion for the current fiscal year.

The losses come at a challenging time for the Himalayan nation, which is emerging from a year of political upheaval after an uprising toppled the previous government. The new administration must now repair damaged infrastructure and restore political stability. At the same time, it faces a bigger challenge in developing a more resilient country as climate change increases Nepal's exposure to extreme weather events.

"It is a wasteland out there. The rebuilding is not going to be easy," said Sumnima Udas, a member of Parliament and chairperson of a committee on international relations and tourism.

The floods test a government still finding its footing

The disaster is an early test for 36-year-old Prime Minister Balen Shah, who took office in March after months of political turmoil.

The upheaval began last September, when youth-led protests over corruption and a social media ban spiraled into violence. Security forces opened fire on demonstrators, killing dozens, while government buildings and politicians' homes were set ablaze. Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli resigned, and the country entered a period of uncertainty under a caretaker government.

Shah, a former mayor of Kathmandu and political outsider, emerged from the unrest as the face of a new generation. His party won a sweeping victory in March, giving him a mandate to overhaul a political system widely blamed for failing to deliver.

Now his government faces a different kind of crisis. It must show that it can deliver competent government while taking on the enormous task of rebuilding after the floods.

So far, it has mobilized the army, police, helicopters and medical teams and coordinated with local authorities on evacuations and relief. Thousands have been rescued, but blocked roads, debris-filled hydropower tunnels and shortages of specialized equipment and trained personnel have hampered efforts to reach remote sites, exposing the limits of Nepal's emergency response capacity.

Those challenges have been compounded by an administration with little experience managing a crisis of this scale, with many of its leaders new to national government.

Guna Raj Luitel, editor of Kathmandu-based The Diplomat Nepal magazine, said the government's lack of experience had left it ill-equipped to respond to a catastrophe of this magnitude.

"Nepal is a disaster-prone country, but we have failed to learn from the past," he said.

Rebuilding will be a daunting challenge and strain Nepal's resources

By Tuesday, more than 1,300 people had been reported dead in Nepal and Tibet, with about 5,000 still missing. While search and rescue operations continue, Nepal will need more than emergency help.

Udas, the lawmaker, said Nepal requires stronger disaster warning systems and infrastructure built for increasingly volatile conditions. It may also have to reconsider where roads, settlements and hydropower projects are built to reduce the risk of repeating the same losses, she said.

Disaster authorities' preliminary damage estimate of \$2.56 billion is nearly a fifth of Nepal's annual government budget of about \$14 billion. The full cost of rebuilding has yet to be calculated, though some estimates put it at \$4 billion to \$5 billion.

The disruption is likely to weigh on tourism, one of Nepal's economic lifelines, with consequences that could extend well beyond the immediate crisis for communities that depend on the tourism season for much of their income.

The floods also hit a key hydropower corridor that accounts for about 10% of Nepal's electricity generation, said Uttam Bhlon, vice president of Nepal's Independent Power Producers' Association. Including projects under construction, the corridor represents about 20% of the country's generation capacity, he said.

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The reconstruction bill will add to the demands on a new government already under pressure to fund schools, hospitals, jobs and new investment.

Nepal has sought international assistance, including from the United Nations, while countries and aid groups have provided emergency supplies, rescue expertise and other support. But the government says it will need much more international backing for the larger task of rebuilding.

Luitel, the magazine editor, said developed countries should do more to support Nepal, arguing that it cannot shoulder the cost of the disaster alone. He said wealthier nations have a responsibility to help vulnerable countries cope with increasingly severe disasters linked to climate change.

"Nepal can't bear the cost alone," he said.

Nepal faces growing risks from a changing climate

The science behind the disaster is still unclear. Researchers believe a high-altitude slope collapse involving rock and glacial ice sent an enormous volume of debris downstream, but they have cautioned against drawing a direct line to climate change.

The changing landscape is harder to ignore.

The Himalayas are warming rapidly, glaciers are retreating and rainfall and snowfall patterns are shifting. Nepal is especially vulnerable because much of its population and infrastructure sits in steep valleys below unstable mountain slopes.

Yet Nepal has done little to drive the warming behind those changes. The World Bank estimates that the country produces about 0.1% of global greenhouse-gas emissions, even as it remains highly exposed to climate-related hazards.

Udas said that imbalance has become one of Nepal's central challenges.

She said the country has taken steps to reduce its environmental footprint, including nearly doubling its forest cover over the past three decades, generating most of its electricity from clean sources and doing well in electric-vehicle adoption. But those efforts cannot shield the country from changes unfolding across the Himalayas, she said.

That is why, Udas said, industrialized countries should take greater responsibility for helping Nepal prepare for and recover from climate-related disasters.

"This is not them versus us," she said. "This is about humanity and the planet."

US sinks an Ecuadorian boat in the Pacific it alleges is tied to drug trafficking

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — The U.S. Southern Command on Monday sank another Ecuadorian vessel that the U.S. alleged was linked to the criminal group Los Choneros.

It was the latest action by the U.S. against boats and vessels in Latin America that it said were involved in drug trafficking.

The joint task force intercepted a floating refueling station that supported illicit drug trafficking operations at sea in the Eastern Pacific, the Southern Command said in a statement.

It added that the people on board the vessel were removed and will be transferred to Ecuadorian authorities.

A video accompanying the announcement showed military personnel boarding a boat, followed by a helicopter flying overhead and finally a projectile striking and sinking it.

The statement also indicated that U.S. forces continue to conduct "precise and professional operations to dismantle the logistical networks that fuel drug trafficking in the Western Hemisphere."

Ecuadorian authorities did not immediately comment.

The sunken vessel, whose name has not been released, was the fifth targeted by U.S. forces in less than two weeks.

The fishing vessel María Candelaria was struck last week in the Pacific, according to information from U.S. Southern Command, in coordination with Ecuadorian authorities.

The Ecuadorian navy located 26 crew members from that vessel, who arrived Sunday in the port city

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of Manta. Eight fishermen from the Conquista II were also located, while their families on the mainland demanded information about their whereabouts.

The other two vessels were the OM2 and Los Tres Hermanos, whose crew members say they were sunk. Southern Command recently identified them as "floating refueling stations for multiple vessels engaged in illicit drug trafficking operations," in posts on the social media platform X.

The United States has said all of the boats were linked to Los Choneros, which the U.S. considers a foreign terrorist organization.

These cases add to those of three other vessels whose Ecuadorian crews say they were intercepted by U.S. forces this year. In the case of the Fiorella, eight fishermen remain missing since January. The crews of the other vessels returned to Ecuador after being sent to El Salvador.

At least 227 people have been killed in 68 U.S. government strikes that began against boats in the Caribbean and Pacific more than a year ago. Critics have questioned the overall legality of the boat strikes as well as their effectiveness.

In at least one case, Ecuadorian authorities said they had no evidence that a survivor of one of the strikes had participated in any criminal activity.

The Trump administration is pursuing deals with allied nations to extend its offensive to land across multiple Latin American countries. U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said during a visit to Panama this month that Colombia, Guatemala and Honduras had agreed to allow the U.S. to carry out joint military operations against criminal groups on their soil. Guatemala denied reaching such a deal. Ecuador launched similar missions with the U.S. in March.

Israeli airstrikes on Lebanese village kill 12, plus other key Mideast developments

By The Associated Press undefined

Lebanon 's Health Ministry says Israeli airstrikes on a southern village have killed 12 people, including two children.

Meanwhile, Iran-backed Houthi rebels claim to have shot down a Saudi reconnaissance plane. And seven crew members of a Saudi-owned tanker struck last week on the strait appear to remain unaccounted for.

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

Israeli airstrikes on southern Lebanon kill at least 12

Israel carried out airstrikes early Monday on the southern Lebanese village of Kfar Rumman, killing at least 12 people, including a paramedic, four women and two children, the Health Ministry said.

The strikes came during a new round of escalation between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah. Israel's military said it struck several Hezbollah militants it accused of transferring weapons to Kfar Rumman.

The military also said it was reviewing the claim that "several uninvolved civilians were harmed" in overnight strikes across southern Lebanon, which it said were in response to Hezbollah militants launching explosive drones against soldiers in the area of the Ali Taher ridge.

Iran hints at preemptive action as it touts ballistic missile

Iranian state media said a ballistic missile with improved capabilities demonstrates Tehran's shifting stance toward taking preemptive action against threats.

A senior Iranian official earlier said the new missile capability had been "tested" against a U.S. warship over the weekend. But it was not clear whether what was tested was the missile the new report described, the solid-fueled Qassem Basir.

On Saturday, the U.S. said it struck Iranian oil tankers in response to ballistic missiles launched at U.S. warships.

Iran's messaging in recent days has become more assertive, and Monday's report said the Qassem Basir marks "a turning point in Iran's defense strategy." It described the missile as having greater range and accuracy and a half-ton warhead.

The missile was unveiled last year, when it was described as having at least a 1,200-kilometer (745-mile)

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range.

Houthis claim downing Saudi reconnaissance plane

Iran-backed Houthi rebels downed a Saudi armed reconnaissance aircraft on Monday in the northern part of Yemen, Houthi military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree said in a statement.

The aircraft was detected in Jawf province's airspace, according to Saree, who said the aircraft belonged to neighboring Saudi Arabia and was seeking to carry out "hostile actions."

The Associated Press couldn't independently verify that claim. There was no immediate Saudi comment.

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.

The Yemeni government armed forces said in a post on X that they targeted Houthi gatherings in Dahle province and launched 13 airstrikes targeting Houthi positions and a missile launch base in Bayda province. Other airstrikes targeted Houthi fronts in Marib province. The Houthi military didn't address those claims.

The U.N. special envoy for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, called the Houthis' expansion of fighting across several front lines "extremely alarming" and warned of its broader impact on Yemenis.

UAE says 'no single state' should control Hormuz

A senior official with the United Arab Emirates says "no single state" should control the Strait of Hormuz, after Iran said it plans to announce a new "exclusion zone" near the waterway aimed at vessels intending to transit.

"Our energy exports will not be held hostage, nor will our trade and economic activity," Anwar Gargash, a diplomatic adviser to the UAE president, said at a forum of world leaders in Abu Dhabi.

Gargash said Iran should face consequences for threatening oil tankers and commercial vessels in the strait with mines, drones or missiles. "Using an international waterway as an instrument of coercion is unacceptable," he added.

The UAE, a close U.S. ally, has repeatedly come under Iranian missile and drone fire throughout the war. Rebuilding trust between Iran and the Gulf countries could take decades, Gargash warned, because by targeting its neighbors, Tehran has "demolished" any presumption of good faith.

Oman says some crew members recovered after Saudi ship hit

Oman said it had evacuated 16 crew members from a Saudi-owned tanker attacked last week in the Strait of Hormuz. The Sidr tanker was attacked by Iran off Oman, and Saudi Arabia earlier said two Filipino seafarers were killed.

Oman's Maritime Security Center said on X that 16 of the 25 crew members were rescued. It didn't give details on the remaining seven.

If the seven are confirmed dead, that would make the attack the deadliest on a commercial vessel since the war began on Feb. 28.

Palestinian man killed in the occupied West Bank

Palestinians in the occupied West Bank community of Hajja mourned the death of Omar al-Toubasi, who was killed in a confrontation with Israeli settlers.

Israel's military said in a statement that soldiers were sent to Hajja on Sunday to disperse a confrontation and fired toward Palestinians allegedly throwing stones at soldiers after warning shots. "Hits were identified," the military said.

"The army came and made matters worse," witness Mohammed al-Batta said, adding that settlers had started the confrontation by beating a local man. He said soldiers "started using tear gas and sound bombs at the residents. Gunfire broke out from the two sides." He said several others were injured.

Attacks on settlers in the West Bank have surged since the war in Gaza began with the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, according to the United Nations humanitarian office.

Two-state solution 'practically impossible' if Gaza plan fails, diplomat says

The top diplomat overseeing the U.S.-brokered ceasefire in Gaza, Nickolay Mladenov, called for the implementation of President Donald Trump's plan to end the war there, including the withdrawal of Israel's military and the disarming of Hamas.

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He also warned that rising violence in the occupied West Bank could obstruct a two-state solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

"Because with everything that is happening in the West Bank — and with more than 50% of Gaza now under the control of the Israeli army and less than 50% under the control of Hamas — there is no credible pathway forward to a political resolution of the conflict," Mladenov said at the Hili Forum, a gathering of world leaders in the United Arab Emirates.

Kosovo commits to stabilization force for Gaza

Kosovo has formalized its commitment to the International Stabilization Force for Gaza, according to the U.S.-created Board of Peace overseeing the fragile ceasefire.

The force would deploy to areas of the Palestinian territory administered by an incoming technocratic committee. While there was no information about the number of troops Kosovo would provide, a Board of Peace official said it is expected to contribute about 25 personnel. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the numbers have not yet been finalized.

The statement says Kosovo security personnel have deployed at ISF headquarters for months, working on logistics, operations to clear unexploded weapons and civil affairs.

Overall committed troops to the force remain far short of the expected 20,000. Uganda, Morocco, Kazakhstan and Albania also have made commitments.

— Matthew Lee in Washington

Iran raises gasoline price again for its heaviest users

Iran introduced a higher price for its heaviest gasoline users, state media reported, the second such increase since December.

Gas price hikes can be sensitive, as seen in 2019 when an increase led to nationwide protests and a deadly crackdown.

The government did not specifically mention the war with the United States as the reason for this latest increase but cited the "current situation."

Under the new system, people buying more than their quota of 110 liters (29 gallons) of gasoline a month now must pay 100,000 rials (about 7 cents) per liter, or twice as much as they have been paying since December.

Iran still has some of the world's lowest gasoline prices, but the price increase adds to daily pressures for many of the country's more than 90 million people.

Keramat Veis Karami, the CEO of the state oil distribution company, on Monday said the new gasoline rate would affect 15% of consumers, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Price of gas in the US hits record high for Labor Day weekend

Gas prices in the U.S. hit a record high for Labor Day weekend, averaging \$4.14 per gallon — nearly a dollar more than last year and surpassing the previous record of \$3.82 in 2012, according to the AAA motor club.

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.

In energy markets Monday, Brent crude, the international standard, added 4 cents to \$96.32 a barrel following further escalation of the six-month-long U.S. war with Iran.

Benchmark U.S. crude fell 29 cents to \$91.19 a barrel.

Germany's Merz shocked by far-right state election triumph but doubles down on unpopular reforms

By GEIR MOULSON and KIRSTEN GRIESHABER Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — German Chancellor Friedrich Merz doubled down Monday on pushing through unpopular reforms to Europe's largest economy after a far-right party surged to a landslide victory in a regional elec-

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tion, with a very good chance of forming the first far-right state government since the Nazi era.

Merz said his center-right Christian Democratic Union was "deeply shocked" by what he called "the most serious election defeat that the CDU has had for years, for decades." But he indicated that he's determined to stay at the helm and said that "giving up is not an option for me."

The anti-migration and Russia-friendly Alternative for Germany, or AfD, fell just short of a majority in Sunday's vote in Saxony-Anhalt, a small eastern state that gained outsized prominence as AfD eyed power there. Its regional branch is one of several considered a proven right-wing extremist group by Germany's domestic intelligence agency.

Merz says Germany will stick to its values and Russia stance

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

Merz said he wanted to assure Germany's allies that "our institutions are resilient and stable" and the country will stick to its values and constitution after the AfD win. "We know that Germany carries special responsibility because of its history," he said.

He vowed that he won't "budge one millimeter from my fundamental conviction that we must defend our freedom against Russia now." Germany is one of Ukraine's biggest supporters in its war against Russia.

Because of Germany's Nazi past, far-right movements have always come under strong scrutiny. Other major parties have refused to cooperate with AfD in a so-called "firewall." Unlike many 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.

Determination to continue reforms 'unbroken'

Merz vowed to weaken AfD before he came to power last year, but instead has seen the party's support increase.

The governing coalition of his Union bloc and the center-left Social Democrats has developed a reputation for squabbling and become deeply unpopular, as has Merz himself. The government has struggled to persuade voters that it can get the country's chronically sluggish economy moving, through potentially painful reforms, including to the pension system.

But Merz insisted Monday that "we need fundamental reforms in Germany." He said it's a question of "nothing less than the future of our country and the opportunities of our children and grandchildren, and we must not squander those. That is why my determination to continue the reform course is unbroken."

He acknowledged a need to "justify them, not just rationally but also emotionally."

Germany faces another two regional elections on Sept. 20 — in Berlin and in another eastern state, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, where AfD is also strong.

AfD looks for a path to power in Saxony-Anhalt

While Merz continues to push back against resistance to reforms, AfD — whose victory was cheered by far-right parties across Europe — faces potentially tricky maneuvering to put its candidate for governor in Saxony-Anhalt, Ulrich Siegmund, in power.

Siegmund had pushed for an absolute majority in the state legislature that would allow AfD to sidestep mainstream parties' shunning of it. After the vote, he signaled that AfD still isn't willing to make compromises, insisting that "we don't want to become like the parties that were punished" by breaking pre-election promises. He also rejected the idea of a minority government.

But he said that it has "a very clear mandate to form the government," and that his party would reach out to other groups in the legislature and even to individual lawmakers. "Our goal now is to build precisely this stable majority in the coming days and weeks," he said.

AfD is three seats short of a majority. It could reach out to the hard-left BSW party, which won five seats. The two parties share a Russia-friendly course and oppose immigration but disagree on some other issues.

BSW has criticized the "firewall" against AfD and signaled again Monday that it could allow Siegmund to become governor by abstaining in a potential third round of voting for a new governor in the state

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legislature, in which a simple majority would suffice.

It's also possible that newly elected lawmakers from other parties could defect to AfD, which would only need three to break ranks.

Forming a government excluding AfD would only be possible if all the other parties in the legislature worked together. However, an alliance of any kind between those parties is improbable and would be prone to instability.

Jubilation from Musk and right-wing populists

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.

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." Dmitriev also said that "AfD will restore Germany and Europe by leading the common-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.

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

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot, whose country faces a presidential election next year in which the far right is a leading contender, said that "AfD's platform is a betrayal of the European spirit" and that "our first responsibility is to resist the normalization of far-right ideas."

Among voters who didn't back AfD, the reaction was one of deep dismay. Horst Walter Boerner, an 86-year-old from Magdeburg born during World War II, expressed shock.

"It's terrible for us," he said, saying the election was "fear-driven." He said AfD's victory was foreseeable because of the crowds it drew during the campaign, but he said "this should have never happened."

Israeli airstrikes on a village in southern Lebanon kill 12 people, including 2 children

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 12 people and wounding others, including 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 11 people, including two children and four women. Eight were also wounded, including three children and a paramedic.

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.

The Israeli military said the strikes come in retaliation for two Hezbollah drone attacks that exploded while targeting Israeli troops in Lebanon from the area on Monday. It said the strikes targeted a Hezbollah militant trying to transport weapons to Kfar Rumman.

Hezbollah did not claim the attacks nor immediately issue a statement on the intensifying strikes around Nabatiyeh province.

"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.

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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 military said the strike was in retaliation for a drone attack by Hezbollah militants. There was no word on casualties.

In a separate statement also on Monday, the Israeli military said Israeli troops operating near the Crusader-built Beaufort castle came under fire by a Hezbollah member who was inside a house, lightly wounding two of them. The troops later killed the militant.

On Sunday, Israeli strikes killed at least seven people in southern Lebanon and leveled an empty hospital. The strikes came days after Israel released five Lebanese prisoners as part of a deal between the two countries. In return, Lebanon agreed to search for the bodies of Jewish Lebanese citizens who went missing during the country's civil war decades ago.

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 Lebanese 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.

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.

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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.

Midterm elections head into the home stretch as candidates hit Labor Day events

By PATRICK WHITTLE and BILL BARROW Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Troy Jackson was a longtime labor activist and logger before he unexpectedly became the Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate in Maine. On Monday, he returned to a union hall to tell workers they need to go to the polls this fall — to raise the minimum wage, expand family medical leave and show support for one another.

"Labor Day has never been just another holiday," Jackson told several hundred union members at a Southern Maine Labor Council event Monday in Portland. "Today, here with the people I've fought alongside for years, I want to make a pledge about exactly what I'm going to do in the United States Senate."

Jackson, who became the nominee in a special convention in July, is trying to whip up support in a short period of time as he attempts to unseat longtime Republican Sen. Susan Collins in a race Democrats view as critical to winning Senate control.

He was among the candidates in key November races who spent Labor Day weekend stumping at festivals, union halls and parades as the midterms enter the final weeks with control of the House and Senate on the line.

Labor Day marks the beginning of the busy stretch of campaign season

This year's campaigns already have been combative, busy and expensive, and they are expected to get even more so as a larger number of voters tune in ahead of the Nov. 3 general election. The first statewide mail ballots already went out, in North Carolina, on Friday.

Outside the Jackson event in Portland, Doug Born, a 64-year-old union stagehand from Westbrook, said Jackson's background as a logger and his longtime support of organized labor are reasons to support him.

"I think he'd be the most working-class guy in the Senate. That appeals to me," Born said. "We need more union members in seats of power."

Collins had no events scheduled for Labor Day, but she visited shipbuilder Bath Iron Works early in the morning on Sept. 1 to greet employees and promise to continue "leveraging her seniority to secure billions in destroyer contracts, infrastructure modernization, and wage enhancements," a spokesperson said in a statement.

Trump hopes to whip up support later this week with midterm convention

President Donald Trump is also stepping up his own efforts for Republicans in the coming days. His party is set to gather this week in Dallas for an atypical midterm convention, a two-day event that Trump and other Republicans hope will generate enthusiasm for the GOP, which currently controls the White House and Congress.

Typically, the party in power in Washington loses seats in Congress during the midterm elections.

Trump has vowed to campaign for Republicans in dozens of races, saying he plans to spend the 30 days before Nov. 3 stumping in House and Senate battlegrounds.

In a 'right to work' Southern state, Democrats still push for labor votes

Georgia Sen. Jon Ossoff and Democrats' nominee for governor, Keisha Lance Bottoms, both visited an AFL-CIO picnic in metro Atlanta.

Ossoff, the only Democratic senator seeking reelection in a state Trump won in 2024, praised current and former labor leaders and activists, while lamenting workers' economic circumstances under a billionaire president who has grown wealthier while in office.

"We are dealing with the most absurd and obscene corruption in the modern history of our republic," Ossoff said, hammering Trump for the war in Iran and inflation while "building monuments to himself."

"All of this, when for working families in Georgia, life just gets tougher and tougher," Ossoff said.

Ossoff is facing Republican Rep. Mike Collins, who owns a trucking company but has pitched himself

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as a working-class advocate. Collins' campaign did not respond to an inquiry about his Labor Day plans. Bottoms, who faces wealthy healthcare CEO Rick Jackson, urged union members to use their personal influence and networks to help her counter the Republican nominee's vast personal spending on Georgia airwaves. She noted that Georgia, like other Southern states, is historically anti-union and has so-called "right to work" laws that make it harder to organize unions and easier for companies to fire workers at will. Jackson had no public events Monday.

Candidates made stops across House, Senate battlegrounds

In Wisconsin, both major-party candidates in one of the country's most competitive House districts — Republican Rep. Derrick Van Orden and Democrat Rebecca Cooke — joined a parade in the western part of the state. Cooke walked the parade route before it started, talking with voters and handing out literature, and then did it again in the parade. Van Orden drove his 2001 Harley-Davidson motorcycle, with two of his grandchildren along for the ride, along the parade route.

Maureen Hilton, a 74-year-old retired insurance underwriter who lives just outside of the village of Readstown where the parade took place, said she's disgusted with both political parties.

"Just do what's right," she said. "Get food prices down. Get gas prices down."

But Jerry Ray, a 75-year-old semi-retired appliance repairman, said "it's time for a change." He's voting for the Democrat Cooke in November.

"Trump's had a chance and he's just screwed it up royally," Ray said as parade participants tossed candy to children along the route.

Van Orden said he gave Cooke credit for attending the parade in the Republican-leaning village with a population under 500.

At a fair Sunday in Ohio, an armed assailant charged toward Democratic candidate for Ohio governor Amy Acton and injured several people before he was stopped by troopers, authorities said. A spokesperson for Acton's opponent, Republican Vivek Ramaswamy, said candidates "should be able to meet with voters without having to worry about threats or violence."

Federal investigators probe Amazon cargo jet's fiery runway crash that killed 5 in Miami

By DAVID FISCHER, MARC LEVY and JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — The five people killed when an Amazon cargo jet ran off a runway at Miami International Airport were all inside a van carrying seven people from a cleaning company, and an SUV hit outside of airport property, National Transportation Safety Board Chairwoman Jennifer Homendy said Monday.

Homendy called the scene of Sunday's crash "utter devastation." She didn't detail how many people were in the SUV or where the dead were located.

Homendy walked the route the Boeing 767 followed, noting tire marks from the pavement into the grass, the destroyed van carrying the cleaning crew, torn fencing, navigational equipment, and the crushed SUV outside airport property.

The debris included vehicle air bags, equipment from the vehicles, the airplane and the airport, and "fencing everywhere," Homendy said.

"It's pretty extensive. Hard to see and I'm sure it must have been very difficult for the responders as well," Homendy said.

The airline, all told, traveled about 1,300 feet (396 meters) past the paved surface. Debris was everywhere, she said.

"I would describe it in one word as devastating, utter devastation," Homendy said.

The van with seven people inside was "torn apart. It certainly must have been devastating," she said. The van was owned by Professional Ocean Service Corp., an airline cleaning contractor.

Homendy said the NTSB would issue more information on Tuesday, including possibly information on speed that is confirmed by the flight data recorder.

Federal investigators examining cause of deadly overrun

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Federal investigators examining the crash spent Monday determining whether the plane touched down too late to stop safely.

Video of Sunday's landing appears to show the Boeing 767 remaining airborne well down the runway before touching down. Aviation experts said investigators will seek to determine exactly where the plane landed, whether it was beyond the normal touchdown zone, and why the pilots did not abandon the landing.

Investigators will also examine the plane's speed and braking, weather and wind conditions, the aircraft's mechanical condition and other factors that could have contributed to the deadly overrun.

The aircraft on Sunday flew from Cincinnati to Miami and then to San Juan, Puerto Rico. It was returning to Miami when it overran the runway around 2 p.m. and plowed across a road used by warehouse workers and other businesses that surround the airport.

Aside from the five who died, three people were critically injured and two others were hospitalized with less severe injuries, officials said.

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 Fire Rescue Chief Ray Jadallah. The agency said crews also had to extricate a person who was trapped under a vehicle.

The typical landing zone for a plane is within the first 3,000 feet (914 meters) of a runway, experts said. If the cargo jet was beyond that area, it should have aborted the landing and gone around for another try, aviation safety expert Steve Arroyo said.

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.

Miami airport appears compliant without updated system

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.

Miami's airport appears to be in compliance and wasn't required to have an arresting system because it has a 1,000-foot safety buffer at the end of its runways, said Mike O'Donnell, the FAA's former director of airport safety and accident investigations.

The requirement was prompted by American Airlines Flight 1420 overrunning a runway at Little Rock National Airport in Arkansas in 1999, killing nine.

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, including by a Russian company.

The crash halted flights at the busy travel hub for much of Sunday afternoon and continued to hamper air travel into Monday.

Miami International Airport said that two of its four runways remained closed Monday and that operations were to be affected throughout the day because of aircraft and flight crews not arriving there due to Sunday's cancellations after the crash.

An airport spokesperson said there were 160 cancellations and more than 300 delayed flights Sunday, plus another 69 canceled flights Monday through mid-afternoon. Flight tracking sites were reporting wide-

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spread delays at the airport.

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.

Iran says improved ballistic missile shows it will take preemptive action against threats

By AMIR-HUSSEIN RADJY and CARA ANNA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iran state media on Monday said a ballistic missile with improved capabilities was demonstrating a new doctrine: Tehran "will take action against any threat, even before it is carried out."

The report by Iran's state news agency repeatedly cited comments aired on state TV the day before by the head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Mohsen Rezaei, who boasted of new missile capability and claimed it had been "tested" against a U.S. warship. But it was not clear whether what was tested was the missile the new report described, the solid-fueled Qassem Basir.

The U.S. on Saturday said ballistic missiles were launched at U.S. warships and it struck three Iranian oil tankers in response. Experts called the launch a dangerous escalation, noting that until then Iran's attacks at sea had targeted commercial shipping during six months of war. The U.S. said the warships evaded the attacks.

Iran's messaging in recent days has become more assertive, and Monday's report said the Qassem Basir marks "a turning point in Iran's defense strategy." It described the missile as having greater range and accuracy and a half-ton warhead. The missile was unveiled last year, when it was described as having at least a 1,200-kilometer (745-mile) range.

Concerns about Iran's ballistic missile program were one of the stated reasons the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran early this year, sparking the war.

US dismisses talk of Iran-imposed 'exclusion zone'

The White House responded to plans announced by Rezaei to create an "exclusion zone" near the Strait of Hormuz that's aimed at vessels trying to transit, saying the waterway is open and controlled by the U.S.

It also said the U.S. Navy had cleared the strait of mines, and that tanker traffic to non-Iranian ports would increase. A U.S. blockade on Iranian ports continues in an effort to increase Tehran's economic pain by limiting its oil exports. The U.S. military said that as of Monday, 94 commercial vessels had been redirected and three had been disabled.

Tehran wants ships to follow a route it chooses through the strait, which was considered an international waterway before the war. Rezaei acknowledged that the U.S. has been helping a limited number of ships transit on a route off Oman, and said Tehran isn't sinking them because they carry oil, noting environmental concerns.

As both countries continue to assert claims about the strait and the flow of shipping, global commerce information firm Kpler noted on X that transits through the waterway dropped sharply last week.

A week ago, an attack on a Saudi-owned tanker killed two crew members and left seven unaccounted for. If they are confirmed dead, that would make the attack the deadliest on a commercial vessel since the war began on Feb. 28 with U.S. and Israeli strikes.

Regional countries express frustration

Frustration emerged again in the Gulf over the uncertainty around the waterway that's crucial for shipping global supplies of oil, natural gas and related products like fertilizer.

"No single state" should control the strait, Anwar Gargash, a diplomatic adviser to the UAE president, said at a forum of world leaders in Abu Dhabi, adding: "Our energy exports will not be held hostage, nor

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will our trade and economic activity.”

The UAE, a close U.S. ally, has repeatedly come under Iranian missile and drone fire in the war. Last month, the UAE suspended all trade with Iran after saying it had come under renewed fire.

Rebuilding trust between Iran and the Gulf countries could take decades, Gargash warned.

And Nabil Fahmy, secretary-general of the Arab League, told a ministerial-level meeting in Cairo that “we will not accept our maritime corridors to become a bargaining chip in the calculations of others” and condemned Iran’s attacks on Gulf nations.

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 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.

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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 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

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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.

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."

Candlelight vigils were held in several places in Kathmandu in memory of the people who lost their lives during the flooding.

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.

One attack, many Americas: Why 9/11 and its many griefs land differently 25 years later

By DEEPTI HAJELA Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When the planes crashed and the buildings fell on that sunny September morning 25 years ago, the shock waves of dismay and grief went far past downtown New York City, rural western Pennsylvania and just outside Washington, D.C.

They radiated through every part of the United States in communities large and small, tearing at Americans' sense of safety and their place in the world. Hearts were broken across the nation, not just of those who lost their loved ones but among strangers who mourned for them, the Sept. 11 attacks leaving no one unaffected in an unwanted moment of horrifying togetherness.

A quarter of a century later, the effects linger. We all live in a post-9/11 world, with its security strictures and surveillance. But here's the thing: Americans don't all live in the SAME one. What the attacks and their aftermath have come to mean isn't a single viewpoint shared by everyone, for reasons chronological, political and personal.

It's a tapestry of meaning and grief as varied as the nation in which 9/11 took place.

So many things affect our understanding

It's somewhat inevitable. After all, the mere passage of time means tens of millions of young Americans have been born since then. For them, 9/11 is something to learn about in history lessons.

But people's views of 9/11 and its aftermath have also been shaped by human factors like policies and actions taken by those in power. And the America that was attacked was already a nation with its own history and tensions, with stress points of dispute and disagreement put under additional strain by the catastrophic event.

"The same event, whether it's a disaster or a shock or even the recovery process is completely different depending on your network," says Daniel Aldrich, a professor at Northeastern University who studies communities and resilience.

Those networks can exist in a range of ways and layers. Among them: those who lost loved ones; those who spent months clearing the rubble and debris from ground zero; those who were motivated to join the military; those who lost jobs in hard-hit industries like tourism and air transportation; those who came from certain countries and communities viewed with heightened suspicion after the attacks.

Different networks overlap in Jenna McPartland's family. She was expecting her first child with her husband, Ariel Jacobs, who was killed at the World Trade Center. She gave birth days later to their son, Gabriel, whose life was irrevocably altered by an event he didn't experience.

In the years since, McPartland remarried twice, had two younger sons with no biological tie to their older brother's dad and has been a stepmom to two teenagers for the last decade. Even as she added new chapters to her life, she made sure Gabi was connected to his father's family, and that her younger sons also knew that Sept. 11 was part of their larger family story.

"My middle boy wrote his college entrance essay on being the child of a 9/11 family, but not being the

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9/11 kid. And how he wouldn't exist had his brother's dad not died," says McPartland, 52, a chef and restaurant owner in Fairfield, Connecticut. "They all acknowledge it in different ways, they feel it in different ways, they sense it in their lives in different ways."

Varied events play a role in the impact on people

Also playing a role in the impact, and even grief, caused by 9/11: choices that were made after the attacks by the U.S. government like the restructuring of government agencies and the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, along with foreign policy decisions like the invasion of Afghanistan.

Immigration had already been a contentious issue before the attack: Who should be allowed to come? Who could stay? What did it mean to be American, and who could claim it? After Sept. 11, it took on another dimension of added fear and suspicion. And much of it fell on people of Muslim faith or coming from Muslim-majority parts of the world.

For example, in 2002, the federal government implemented the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System, which required non-U.S. citizen males over 16 from 25 countries, almost all of them Muslim-majority, to register at certain ports of entry or at immigration offices if they were already in the country. Critics condemned it as racial and religious profiling, and it was dismantled in the following decade.

"The idea that there's this outside threat in the form of people who look like this or from particular countries really fueled the reorganization of the Department of Homeland Security and has continued to fuel the ways in which we've funded and contributed to the securitization of our immigration system and society more broadly," says Jayesh Rathod, a professor at Georgetown Law.

That lingers in the existence of the Transportation Security Administration and the general hardening of security measures in society overall.

"The idea that we need to do everything possible to protect ourselves from whatever this threat is, amorphous threat, has become totally normalized," Rathod says.

The post-9/11 environment also saw the creation of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which is now part of the public's awareness as the agency carrying out aggressive and highly controversial immigration crackdowns under the Trump administration.

And in a land where racism, xenophobia and stereotypes were part of the landscape, people in other communities felt it too, like Balbir Singh Sodhi, the Arizona gas station owner shot and killed four days after the 9/11 attacks. His assailant killed Sodhi, a bearded and turbaned member of the Sikh faith, assuming he was Arab.

The impact felt by Muslim Americans and others has been part of what Vida Lashgari has learned about the attacks that took place a few years before she was born. Raised in California, her mom Mexican and her dad Persian, the 21-year-old says she "grew up learning about how 9/11 particularly impacted Middle Easterners, Sikhs, brown people as a whole and how that kind of changed their everyday life."

Her father, she says, and "many Middle Easterners, became more hyper-aware of their appearance, their difference in the way they spoke and dressed in the U.S. after 9/11. And that kind of fear, I think, has carried throughout the Middle Eastern community since then."

Time passes, and new events take place

While she heard about her father's experiences and those in her communities, it's still been history for Lashgari and others like her, born in the years since 2001.

They're a generation that can't believe people used to be able to meet visitors inside at airport gates instead of being kept outside. They learned about it in school, the way they did about Pearl Harbor or the Civil War, but didn't quite know how something could divide life into before and after.

But another seismic event in American culture gave some of them a way to understand the starkness of before and after: the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The pandemic shook up so many lives, especially in my generation who had not experienced some sort of drastic change like that ... I think it definitely gave me perspective that there are some things that we can't be protected from," Lashgari says.

COVID "was, to this day, the closest I've ever felt to my world changing overnight and knowing I had

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no control over it," she says.

That an event, no matter how catastrophic and impactful, takes up less space in public memory and is supplanted by new ones is, after all, how history works. That reality is part of what drives efforts to create memorials and museums, says Amy Sodaro, a sociology professor at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, who studies them.

Having experienced 9/11, she herself initially thought it "would shape the rest of my life and the society that we live in," she says. But other events, political shifts, and major changes that have taken place in the years since made a difference as well.

It's "these other geopolitical events and changes to our world," she says, "that have changed the face of 9/11 in historical memory at the collective level — and I think also at the level of individuals."

Party's over for crypto scammers who went on a spending spree after a \$240 million bitcoin theft

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — They pulled off one of the largest cryptocurrency thefts in U.S. history, duping a stranger out of bitcoin worth over \$240 million. They tried to hide their digital fingerprints, carrying out a sophisticated scheme to launder the proceeds.

And then the party started.

The scammers — a network of young men in their late teens or early 20s — celebrated the August 2024 heist by embarking on a wild spending spree. They purchased fleets of sports cars, flew on private jets, hired security guards and rented mansions in Miami and the Hamptons. An alleged ringleader, 22-year-old Malone Lam, spent over \$569,000 in one evening at a Los Angeles night club.

Their bender lasted a month before FBI agents arrested Lam on charges that he organized a "social engineering" attack on the Washington, D.C., resident. Lam, an eighth-grade dropout from Singapore, has a plea agreement hearing set for Tuesday. His conviction would be a capstone for the government's investigation.

The charges against Lam and 17 others are an extreme example of an increasingly common form of cybercrime. Complaints of cryptocurrency investment fraud to the FBI rose by nearly 50% in 2025, while Republican President Donald Trump's administration largely abandoned a regulatory crackdown on the volatile industry.

Last year, the Justice Department disbanded a unit dedicated to prosecuting crypto-related crimes. Meanwhile, crypto companies that complained of unfair treatment during Democratic President Joe Biden's presidency are enjoying the government's hands-off approach under Trump, who took in roughly \$1.2 billion from his crypto businesses in 2025.

Cybersecurity researcher Allison Nixon, who has spent years tracking The Com, an underground subculture of young hackers united by the "insane amount of money" that crypto fraud can generate, advocates for more law enforcement resources to go after them.

"If we don't seriously ramp up the resources to take these people down and do it faster, then it's going to spread more and more," she said.

Scammers nabbed millions though 'social engineering' heist

A man identified as "Victim 7" in court filings was at home in Washington on Aug. 18, 2024, when his phone rang. The first caller identified himself as a Google representative inquiring about attempts to breach his account. A second, claiming to be from the Gemini crypto exchange, warned the man of a malware attack affecting his crypto wallet.

The callers manipulated the man into giving them access to his Google Drive and revealing security codes that allowed Lam to siphon off over 4,100 bitcoin, according to prosecutors. They said Lam and his friends on the calls — Veer Chetal and Jeandiel Serrano — targeted the man because he was a wealthy, longtime crypto investor.

A private recording captured the moment when the friends realized how much money they just stole,

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according to a video posted by a well-known private investigator of cryptocurrency crimes who goes by ZachXBT.

"Oh, my God! Bro, bro, I'm going to spaz out!" a voice on the video said.

Once they swiped the man's savings, they used money laundering specialists to wash it through multiple exchange platforms and convert virtual currency into government-issued cash.

It wasn't the first social engineering scam for the friends, who met in online gaming forums. They had teamed up on other multimillion-dollar thefts since late 2023 using a similar playbook, according to prosecutors.

This time, however, one of them made a costly mistake: Serrano failed to conceal his IP address when he created an account on a cryptocurrency exchange to hold nearly \$30 million in stolen crypto, according to prosecutors. Investigators linked the IP address to a home in Encino, California, that Serrano was renting for \$47,500 a month.

Lavish spending quickly drew attention

Serrano was vacationing in the Maldives when investigators identified him as a suspect. Lam was in Los Angeles, where he and friends spent \$4 million at nightclubs in one month, authorities say. Chetal gifted a Lamborghini to his parents and hid a duffel bag filled with \$500,000 in cash in their laundry machine.

Word of their windfall quickly spread in crypto scammers' circles. A week after the big score, Chetal's parents were driving in Danbury, Connecticut, when several masked men cut them off, forced them out of their new car, beat Chetal's father with a baseball bat, shoved the couple into a van and bound their hands.

The captors, from Miami, had intended to use Chetal's parents as leverage for extorting him into giving up his share of the stolen crypto. But the ransom plot fell apart when witnesses notified police, who apprehended the carjackers.

The FBI showed up to search Chetal's apartment in Brunswick, New Jersey, on Sept. 9, 2024, and found \$37 million in stolen crypto in his possession. He agreed to cooperate with their investigation.

Lam was attracting attention, too, for spending hundreds of thousands of dollars a night at clubs and tossing handbags worth tens of thousands of dollars to women in the crowds. He also used stolen cryptocurrency to buy a \$2 million watch and over 30 cars, including custom Porsches, Lamborghinis and Ferraris, according to the FBI.

"This luxury lifestyle, of which so many young men and women could only dream, was just built on a foundation of fraud," a prosecutor, William Hart, said during a recent sentencing hearing for a money laundering co-defendant.

'Ferris Bueller gone bad'

Serrano was wearing a \$500,000 watch when FBI agents arrested him at Los Angeles International Airport on Sept. 18, 2024. He initially professed his innocence but soon admitted to having roughly \$20 million of the D.C. man's stolen crypto, prosecutors said.

Lam was arrested at one of his Miami mansions on the same day as Serrano. An off-duty law enforcement officer had tipped off Lam that authorities were on their way to arrest him, the indictment says.

"We always talked about what it would be like if I were to go down, but never thought it would be this crazy," Lam told associates from jail on a recorded call, according to his indictment.

The judge for Lam's initial court appearance in Miami sounded astonished by a prosecutor's summary of his lavish spending.

"I could only think of Ferris Bueller gone bad," U.S. Magistrate Alicia Valle said, referring to the school-skipping protagonist of the 1986 movie "Ferris Bueller's Day Off."

Lam's capture didn't stop the splurging. Ferro, who pleaded guilty to a racketeering conspiracy charge last year, used stolen funds to cover Lam's legal expenses.

Judgment Days

Eighteen defendants have been charged. Lam would be the 11th to plead guilty. At Lam's first court appearance, a prosecutor estimated that his sentencing guidelines would recommend a prison term of at least 14 years upon conviction.

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U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly, who presides over Lam's case, already has sentenced three of his co-conspirators. She sentenced two money launderers to prison terms of approximately six years.

Chetal pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges in November 2024 and awaits sentencing. Serrano's charges remain pending.

Tucker Desmond, who pleaded guilty to destroying evidence of other plotters' crimes, was sentenced to probation. Desmond apologized at his sentencing hearing in March, saying he "got obsessed with the image of success rather than actually becoming a hard-working individual myself."

Ferro declined to address the court during his sentencing hearing in May. His attorney, Kevin Wilson, described the co-defendants as mischievous "young kids," but the judge didn't accept that as an excuse.

"Being young only goes so far," Kollar-Kotelly said.

The poorest in the US can't find housing even as low-income units sit empty

By CLAIRE RUSH Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Mathew Davis, who lives in a homeless shelter in Austin, Texas, would love an apartment of his own. But with the little money he makes donating blood plasma, even a \$450-a-month tiny home with no running water and a communal bathroom would be a stretch.

Meanwhile, over 4,500 units the city classifies as affordable — nearly 16% — sit empty.

"I don't make enough money really to afford anything," Davis, 49, said of the few hundred dollars he earns a month. "I just keep trying to swim uphill."

The poorest people in the U.S. face the most acute shortages of affordable homes. But the majority of low-income housing financed in recent years is for those earning 50% of an area's median income or above, according to a survey of state housing agencies.

Some cities are now seeing an uptick in vacancies as rents for these units approach market rates. The result: Apartments designated as affordable sit empty because the poorest of the poor cannot afford them.

Meanwhile, some people are forced into homelessness and others into desperate circumstances to pay for housing they can't afford.

The poorest have few housing options

There are only about 4 million affordable rental units available for the country's 11 million extremely low-income renter households, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition's most recent annual report.

These are people with annual incomes either below the federal poverty guidelines — just under \$16,000 for a single-person household — or 30% of the median income in their area, whichever is higher. They comprise about a quarter of U.S. renter households, and include many people working low-wage jobs, seniors and those with disabilities living on fixed incomes.

About three-quarters of extremely low-income renter households pay over half their income on rent and utilities, the report said, leaving little leftover for other necessities.

Yet homes set aside for these renters were only about 12% of the affordable housing units financed in 2024 by the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit — a federal program providing tax credits to developers in exchange for keeping rents low for at least 30 years, according to figures from the National Council of State Housing Agencies.

The majority are for those earning at least 50% of an area's median income, or AMI. In Austin, that's a single person earning roughly \$47,000 a year, as compared with an extremely low-income person earning under \$28,000.

The program has financed nearly 4 million affordable units nationwide since its creation 40 years ago. But some experts say it's inefficient — and more costly than housing vouchers.

"It's enormously complex and bureaucratic, and it raises the cost of construction enormously because the rules are so complicated," said Chris Edwards, an economist at the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank, who told Congress the program's complexity "spawned" an industry of law and accounting firms

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just to administer it.

"If you're going to subsidize affordable housing, you should give the money directly to tenants," he said, referring to housing vouchers.

Other experts say the two programs work together well because properties built with the tax credit are required to accept vouchers — while landlords of market-rate apartments in many states are not.

Still, there's a major federal funding shortfall: Experts estimate only one-in-four eligible families ever receive vouchers. Vouchers can help the poorest pay for housing that's targeted to higher income groups, but the waitlist can be yearslong.

Some affordable housing developers say that without vouchers, it's not economically feasible to provide units for extremely low-income people.

True Ground Housing Partners, an affordable housing developer in the Washington, D.C., area, gives an example: A unit for those earning 60% of the area's median income — nearly \$70,000 a year — brings in \$1,715 per month in rent. But after \$1,575 in mortgage and operating expenses, only \$140 is left.

"The math does not lie," said president and CEO Carmen Romero, noting that an extremely low-income person would pay only half that rent.

"Our expenses don't make it really possible to create a 30% AMI unit, unless there was this extraordinary amount of subsidy that just doesn't exist."

Affordable housing competes with market-rate rents

Meanwhile, affordable housing rents for 60% AMI units are approaching those of market-rate apartments in U.S. cities like Austin, Denver and Portland, Oregon.

As a result, some people are opting to pay a bit more for market-rate apartments with less income-verification and faster approval — leaving growing numbers of affordable units vacant.

In Austin, the vacancy rate for all affordable housing is nearly 16% with over 4,500 vacant units, according to real estate data and analytics firm CoStar. A healthy vacancy rate is around 5%.

LDG Development, an affordable housing developer, cited a 12% vacancy rate for its 60% AMI units in Austin. Chief portfolio officer Rebekah Fischer said LDG is "in direct competition" with the thousands of new market-rate apartments recently built in Austin.

"I have to have every bank statement, every pay check, every bill, every Venmo transaction that you had with your friends," Fischer said of affordable housing applicants.

"When we're almost going after the same renter, you can be approved within two minutes at a market-rate deal, where unfortunately in affordable housing ... it takes time."

In Denver, there's a 13% vacancy rate among 60% AMI units financed by the federal tax credit program — and a 21% vacancy rate for 80% AMI units, according to the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority. Meanwhile, there is far too little housing for the city's poorest.

In Portland, where there is also a housing shortage for the lowest income groups, there are over 1,700 vacant affordable units for an overall vacancy rate of 7.5%, according to the Portland Housing Bureau. Most are for those earning 60% AMI, or about \$54,000 for a single-person household, with rent capped at \$1,444 per month.

That's close to the average rent of \$1,581 for a one-bedroom market-rate apartment, according to CoStar figures shared by the bureau.

Portland resident Jaiden Barbee earns around 55% of the area median income and is on waitlists for affordable housing. But, he says, he'd pay more for a market-rate apartment to avoid the lengthy application process.

"I'd rather spend the \$200 extra just to get into a place easier that's wherever I want" and doesn't have "all these hoops," he said.

'I want to shut the door at night and sleep'

Austin officials set a goal of building 20,000 units between 2018 and 2027 for extremely low-income people — 17% of the city's households.

Just 543 were built as of 2024, city documents show.

Meanwhile, all 15,000 units planned for those earning between 60% and 80% of area median income

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were built.

In response to questions from The Associated Press, the Austin housing department said it recognized the need to do more to produce housing for the poorest people and was taking steps to do that, including giving preference to funding proposals that include 30% AMI units.

For Davis, who lived in his car for a year before getting a bed in the Austin shelter, the housing shortage for people like him is frustrating.

"I want to shut the door at night and be able to sleep," he said. "I really just want to find the right place."

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

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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.

Today in History: September 8, Ford pardons Nixon

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 8, the 251st day of 2026. There are 114 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 8, 1974, one month after taking office, President Gerald R. Ford granted a "full, free, and absolute pardon" to former President Richard Nixon for any crimes committed during Nixon's presidency.

Also on this date:

In 1504, Michelangelo's towering marble statue of David was unveiled to the public in Florence, Italy.

In 1565, a Spanish expedition established the first permanent European settlement in North America at present-day St. Augustine, Florida.

In 1664, the Dutch surrendered New Amsterdam to the British, who renamed it New York.

In 1860, the steamboat Lady Elgin was rammed by a schooner during a storm in Lake Michigan and sank; about 300 people perished, making it the deadliest loss of life on the Great Lakes.

In 1900, Galveston, Texas, was struck by a hurricane that killed an estimated 8,000 people; it remains the deadliest natural disaster in U.S. history.

In 1935, U.S. Sen. Huey P. Long, D-La., was fatally shot in the Louisiana State Capitol building.

In 1941, the 900-day Siege of Leningrad by German forces began during World War II.

In 1951, a peace treaty with Japan was signed by 49 nations in San Francisco.

In 1957, Althea Gibson became the first Black tennis player to win the U.S. National Championships, now known as the U.S. Open.

In 1964, public schools in Prince Edward County, Virginia, reopened after being closed for five years by officials attempting to prevent court-ordered racial desegregation.

In 1986, "The Oprah Winfrey Show" began the first of 25 seasons in national syndication.

In 2016, California and federal regulators fined Wells Fargo a combined \$185 million, alleging the bank's employees illegally opened millions of unauthorized accounts for their customers in order to meet aggressive sales goals.

In 2022, Queen Elizabeth II, who spent more than seven decades on the British throne, died at age 96; her then 73-year-old son became King Charles III.

In 2023, a magnitude 6.8 earthquake rocked Morocco late at night, killing more than 2,100 people. Many of the deaths were concentrated in mountain villages near the epicenter as homes and other buildings collapsed into rubble.

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Today's Birthdays: Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vermont, is 85. Civil rights activist Ruby Bridges is 72. Author Terry Tempest Williams is 71. Basketball Hall of Famer Maurice Cheeks is 70. Actor Heather Thomas is 69. Singer Aimee Mann is 66. Actor Thomas Kretschmann is 64. Alternative country singer Neko (NEE'-koh) Case is 56. TV personality Brooke Burke is 55. Actor Martin Freeman is 55. Actor David Arquette is 55. Actor Larenz Tate is 51. Singer-songwriter Pink is 47. Actor Jonathan Taylor Thomas is 45. Rapper Wiz Khalifa is 39. MLB pitcher Gerrit Cole is 36. Actor Sierra Capri is 28. Choreographer Grant Gilmore is 28. Actor Gaten Matarazzo (TV: "Stranger Things") is 24.