

FUNERALS ■ NATION

Shutdown ordered: Florida may lose \$218M on empty 'Alligator Alcatraz'

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Florida could be on the hook for \$218 million the state spent to convert a remote training airport in the Everglades into an immigration detention center dubbed “Alligator Alcatraz.”

The center may soon be completely empty as a judge upheld her decision late Wednesday ordering operations to wind down indefinitely.

Shutting down the facility for the time being would cost the state \$15 million to \$20 million immediately, and it would cost another \$15 million to \$20 million to reinstall structures if Florida is allowed to reopen it, according to court filings by the state.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management will lose most of the value of the \$218 million it has invested in making the airport suitable for a detention center, a state official said in court papers.

Built in just a few days, the facility consists of chain-link cages surrounding large white tents filled with rows of bunk beds.

An Associated Press analysis of publicly available state spending data showed that Florida has signed at least \$405 million in vendor contracts to build and operate the facility, which officials had initially estimated would cost \$450 million a year to run. A previous AP review found that as of late July, the state had already allocated at least \$245 million to run the site, which opened July 1.

President Donald Trump toured the facility last month and suggested it could be a model for future lockups nationwide as his administration raps to expand the infrastructure needed to increase deportations.

The center has been plagued by reports



Work progresses on a new migrant detention facility dubbed “Alligator Alcatraz,” at Dade-Collier Training and Transition facility in the Florida Everglades, on July 4 in Ochopee, Fla. (AP Photo)

of unsanitary conditions and detainees being cut off from the legal system.

It's also facing several legal challenges, including one that U.S. District Judge Kathleen Williams ruled on late Wednesday. She denied requests to pause her order to wind down operations, after agreeing last week with environmental groups and the Miccosukee Tribe that the state and federal defendants didn't follow federal law requiring an environmental review for the detention center in the middle of sensitive wetlands.

The Miami judge said the number of detainees was already dwindling and that the federal government's “immigration enforcement goals will not be thwarted by a pause in operations.” That's despite

Department of Homeland Security lawyers saying the judge's order would disrupt that enforcement.

When asked, the Department of Homeland Security wouldn't say how many detainees remained and how many had been moved out since the judge's temporary injunction last week.

“DHS is complying with this order and moving detainees to other facilities,” the department said Thursday in an emailed statement.

Environmental activist Jessica Namath, who has kept a nearly constant watch outside the facility's gates, said Thursday that fellow observers had seen metal framing for tents hauled out but no signs of the removal of FEMA trailers or portable bathrooms.

Judge rejects bid to dismiss claims that Saudi Arabia supported 9/11 hijackers

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge in New York on Thursday rejected Saudi Arabia's latest effort to dismiss civil claims that it supported the 9/11 hijackers.

Judge George B. Daniels said in a written opinion that his decision pertained to jurisdiction rather than the merits of the claims against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

However, he found the claims legally sufficient to proceed to trial, noting that an imam and an accountant's employment by Saudi Arabia likely had some connection with their support of two al-Qaida members who came to the United States in early 2000 to study English and take flight lessons.

Lawyers for Saudi Arabia argued that the nation and the U.S. were partners in the 1990s against terrorism, al-Qaida and its founder, Osama bin Laden.

Lawyers for relatives of 9/11 victims claim that a group of extremist religious leaders in Saudi Arabia aided the 9/11 hijackers who flew planes into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

In lawsuits, hundreds of victims' relatives and injured survivors, along with insurance companies and businesses, claim that employees of the Saudi government directly and knowingly assisted the airplane hijackers and plotters and fueled al-Qaida's development into a terrorist organization by funding charities

that supported them.

Some defendants, including Iran, the Taliban and al-Qaida, already have been found in default.

During oral arguments last year, attorney Michael Kellogg noted that Saudi Arabia in the 1990s stripped bin Laden of his citizenship and had taken more actions against him than any other country prior to the Sept. 11 attacks.

A message seeking comment from Kellogg was not immediately returned.

The law firm of Kreinder & Kreindler, which represents plaintiffs, said in a statement that the judge's decision “ensures that the plaintiffs may continue their long pursuit of truth and justice.”

Trump announces \$825 million arms sale to Ukraine

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration has approved a \$825 million arms sale to Ukraine that will include extended-range missiles and related equipment to boost its defensive capabilities as U.S. efforts to broker peace between Ukraine and Russia appear stalled.

The State Department announced Thursday that it had notified Congress of the sale of extended-range attack munition missiles and navigation systems for

Ukraine. The sale will cover 3,350 ERAM missiles, 3,350 GPS units, along with components, spare parts and other accessories, as well as training and technical support.

It said Ukraine would use funding from NATO allies Denmark, the Netherlands and Norway in addition to U.S. foreign military financing to pay for the equipment.

“This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objec-

tives of the United States by improving the security of a partner country that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe,” the department said in a statement.

The sale was announced as Russia continues to step up attacks on Ukraine even after President Donald Trump met with Russian leader Vladimir Putin in Alaska earlier this month to press for a negotiated settlement to the three-year-old conflict.

CDC gets new acting director as the leadership turmoil leaves agency reeling

NEW YORK (AP) — Jim O'Neill, a top deputy to Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., will serve as acting director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, according to an administration official.

The official requested anonymity to discuss a personnel change that has not been formally announced. The administration wants O'Neill to replace Susan Monarez, whom the White House is trying to remove only a month after starting the job.

Monarez is fighting to keep her job. Her removal has left the nation's top public health agency reeling and three senior officials were escorted from its headquarters Thursday.

The turmoil triggered rare bipartisan alarm as Kennedy tries to advance anti-vaccine policies that are contradicted by decades of scientific research.

The chaos comes weeks before a key advisory committee, which Kennedy has reshaped with vaccine skeptics, is expected to meet to issue new recommendations on immunizations.

Two Republican senators called for congressional oversight and some Democrats said Kennedy should be fired. He is scheduled to testify on Capitol Hill on Sept. 4.

Kennedy has not explained the decision to oust Susan Monarez as CDC director less than a month after she was sworn in, but warned that more turnover could be coming.

“There's a lot of trouble at the CDC and it's going to require getting rid of some people over the long term, in order for us to change the institutional culture,” Kennedy said at a news conference in Texas.

The White House has only said that Monarez was “not aligned with” President Donald Trump's agenda. There is no word on when a replacement could be named.

Monarez's lawyers said that she refused “to rubber-stamp unscientific, reckless directives and



Susan Monarez, President Donald Trump's nominee to be director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, arrives to testify before the Senate HELP Committee, at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., June 25. (AP Photo)

fire dedicated health experts.” She is fighting her dismissal, saying the decision must come directly from Trump, who nominated her in March.

The saga began Wednesday night with the administration's announcement that Monarez would no longer lead the CDC. In response, three officials — Dr. Debra Houry, Dr. Demetre Daskalakis and Dr. Daniel Jernigan — resigned from senior roles at the agency.

The officials returned to the office Thursday to collect their belongings, and staff members at the beleaguered agency had planned to gather in the afternoon to applaud them as they left the Atlanta campus. But their removal by security personnel earlier in the morning squelched those plans, according to current and former employees.

Houry and Daskalakis told The Associated Press that Monarez had tried to guard against political meddling in scientific research and health recommendations.

“We were going to see if she was able to weather the storm. And when she was not, we were done,” Houry said. She had been the agency's deputy director and chief medical officer.

Deaths

RICHARD DEAN LUNDY

The celebration of life for Richard Lundy, 94-year-old Enid resident, is 10:30 a.m. Monday, September 1, 2025, in the First United Methodist Church. Arrangements are under the direction of Henninger-Hinson Funeral Home.

MICHAEL JOE WILKEN

The celebration of life for Michael J. Wilken, 74, Enid resident, is 3:00 p.m. Friday, August 29, 2025, in the First Presbyterian Church, with Allison Burchette officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Henninger-Hinson Funeral Home.

Salmonella outbreak tied to recalled eggs has sickened 95 people since January

By The Associated Press

At least 95 people in more than a dozen states have been sickened since January in an outbreak of salmonella poisoning tied to recalled eggs, federal health officials said Thursday.

Country Eggs LLC, of Lucerne Valley, California, has recalled large, brown cage-free “sunshine yolks” or “omega-3 golden yolks” eggs and production has been suspended. The eggs were sold in cartons bearing the brand names Nagatoshi Produce, Mishuo and Nijiya Markets. The cartons contain the code CA 7695 and sell-by dates of July 1 through Sept. 16.

The outbreak has sickened people in at least 14 states, with illnesses beginning between Jan. 7 and July 25, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. Eighteen of those who fell ill were hospitalized. It's possible that many more people have been sickened and that eggs were distributed to additional states, the CDC said.

An investigation by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration based on where ill people reported buying or consuming eggs identified Country Eggs LLC, as a common supplier, officials said.

The eggs were sold to grocery stores and food service distributors. Consumers should check their refrigerators for recalled eggs and throw them away or return them to stores for a refund.

Symptoms of salmonella poisoning include diarrhea, fever, severe vomiting, dehydration and stomach cramps. Most people who get sick recover within a week. Infections can be severe in young children, older adults and people with weakened immune systems, who may require hospitalization.

Local news online, all the time, at **enidnews.com**

If you have questions about news, advertising, delivery, production or your bill, call us.

(580) 233-6600
Fax: (580) 233-7645
Online at **EnidNews.com**

Direct lines, e-mail:
News: (580) 548-8140 enidnews@enidnews.com
Circulation: 548-8114 circmgr@enidnews.com
Advertising: 548-8105 addirector@enidnews.com
Accounting: 548-8110 bizmgr@enidnews.com

227 W. Broadway, P.O. Box 1192, Enid OK 73702

• How can I start or stop my subscription? Call 548-8114 between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays. Payment can be made at the Enid News & Eagle office or by mail. Advance payments should be made to the Enid News & Eagle only.
• Paper missing? If you have not received your paper by its normal morning delivery time, call your carrier. If your carrier cannot be reached, call 548-8114 between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays or 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on weekday holidays.
• Placing an ad? For classified ads (want ads) call 548-8131. Classified hours: Mondays through Fridays, 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. For retail ads: Call 548-8105 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.
• Questions about news? News tips and photo ideas, call Associate Editor Kevin Hassler at 548-8143. Sports tips and comments, call Sports Writer Nick Friesen at 548-8148. Obituary information, call 548-8140.

• Management team
Publisher: Mike Kellogg (580) 548-8135
Executive Editor: Beau Simmons 548-8104
Advertising Director: Leslie Magalios 548-8105
Circulation Director: Brad Nulph 548-8112
Business Manager: Jamie Denny 548-8110
Press/Ad Graphics: Kary Randles 548-8191
Pressroom Manager: Tony Tolle 548-8195

(USPS 334-330)
The Enid News & Eagle is published Tuesday through Saturday by CNHI, LLC, at 227 W. Broadway, Enid, OK 73701.
Periodicals postage is paid at Enid, OK 73701. Member of The Oklahoma Press Association.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Enid News & Eagle, P.O. Box 1192, Enid, OK 73702.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

The Department of the Air Force invites you to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed T-7A Recapitalization at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the Department of the Air Force (Air Force), has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public comment that analyzes the potential environmental consequences associated with the proposal to recapitalize the T-38C Talon flight training program at Vance Air Force Base (AFB) with T-7A Red Hawk aircraft. Recapitalization would entail introduction of T-7A aircraft and flight operations at Vance AFB and associated special use airspace to replace all T-38C aircraft assigned to the installation; changes to the number of personnel and dependents in the Vance AFB region; and construction and upgrade of operations, support, and maintenance facilities. The Air Force's Proposed Action is to replace all currently operating T-38C aircraft at Vance AFB with up to 99 T-7A aircraft. Varying numbers of aircraft and levels of aircraft operations are reasonable alternatives. Along with the No Action Alternative, three action alternatives are evaluated in the Draft EIS.

OBTAIN AND REVIEW THE DRAFT EIS. The Draft EIS can be downloaded from <https://vance.t-7anepadocuments.com>. A paper copy is on reserve at the Enid Public Library at 120 W Maine Street, Enid, Oklahoma 73701.

PUBLIC COMMENT. The Air Force requests comments from interested local, state, and federal agencies; federally recognized tribes; and interested members of the public. Written comments can be submitted at <https://vance.t-7anepadocuments.com>, by email to chinling.chen@us.af.mil, or via postal mail at the address below. For further information, please contact:
Ms. Chinling Chen, AFCEC/CIE
Attn: Vance AFB T-7A Recapitalization EIS
Headquarters Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs
100 H Street East, Suite 4
Randolph AFB, TX 78150
(580) 213-7273.
To ensure the Air Force has sufficient time to consider public input in preparation of the Final EIS, please submit comments by October 14, 2025.