

VENEZUELA

MILLIONS OF GALLONS OF OIL TO BE SOLD TO US



EVAN VUCCI, ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump dances as he walks off stage Tuesday after speaking to House Republican lawmakers during their annual policy retreat in Washington.

Trump claims money will benefit both countries

AAMER MADHANI, MEGAN JANETSKY AND REGINA GARCIA CANO Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — President Donald Trump said Tuesday on social media that “Interim Authorities” in Venezuela would sell 30 million to 50 million barrels of “High Quality” oil to the U.S. at its market price.

“I have asked Energy Secretary Chris Wright to execute this plan, immediately,” Trump posted on Truth Social. “It will be taken by storage ships, and brought directly to unloading docks in the United States.”

Trump said he would control the money as president but claimed it would be used to benefit the people of Venezuela and the United States.

Separately, the White House said it will organize an Oval Office meeting Friday with oil company executives regarding Venezuela, with representatives of Exxon, Chevron and ConocoPhillips expected to attend, according to a person familiar with the matter who requested anonymity.

Meanwhile, officials said Tuesday at least 24 Venezuelan security officers were killed in the dead-of-night U.S. military operation to capture Nicolás Maduro and spirit him to the United States to face drug charges.

Venezuelan authorities announced the death count as the country’s acting president, Delcy Rodríguez, pushed back on Trump, who this week warned she’d face an outcome worse than Maduro’s if she does not “do what’s right” and overhaul Venezuela into a country that aligns with U.S. interests.

Trump says his administration will “run” Venezuela policy and pressed the country’s leaders to open its vast oil reserves to American energy companies.

“Personally, to those who threaten me,” Rodríguez said in an address before government agricultural and industrial sector officials. “My destiny is not determined by them, but by God.”

Venezuela’s Attorney General Tarek William Saab said overall “dozens” of

officials and civilians were killed in the strike and that prosecutors would investigate the deaths in what he described as a “war crime.” He didn’t specify whether the estimate specifically referred to Venezuelans.

In addition to the Venezuelan security officials, Cuba’s government on Sunday announced that 32 Cuban military and police officers working in Venezuela were killed in the raid.

White House deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller said Monday that U.S. officials believe that the Cuban government, which provided Maduro with security protection in Caracas, undercounted the death toll of its personnel.

The U.S. said some of the nearly 200 U.S. personnel who took part in the operation were injured but none were killed. The Pentagon has not provided details about the injuries despite multiple inquiries over several days.

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Idaho to receive \$930M to improve rural health care

LAURA GUIDO Idaho Capital Sun

Idaho will receive nearly \$930 million over the next five years to improve rural health care access and affordability.

The massive federal tax and spending package approved in July included \$50 billion for “Rural Healthcare Transformation” grants nationwide.

Idaho on Dec. 30 was awarded nearly \$186 million in annual grants to be distributed over five years to implement the plan outlined in its grant application, which focuses on five initiatives: “improve rural access to care through technology; ensure accessible quality care through innovative models; sustain rural workforce with training, recruitment, and retention; implement population-specific,

evidence-based projects to make rural America healthy again; and invest in rural health infrastructure and partnerships.”

“For many Idaho families — especially in rural areas — affordable, accessible health care is a real concern,” Gov. Brad Little said in a press release. “This investment, made possible by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, recognizes those challenges and puts resources where they’re needed most. It helps strengthen local health care and ensures Idahoans can get the affordable care they need, no matter where they live.”

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare submitted the state’s application with consultation from a task force convened by Little.

The state will use the funds to provide

subgrants to support the goals and projects outlined in its application.

“A budget request will now go before the Legislature for federal funds approval,” the press release said, “and additional details about implementation will be shared as they become available.”

Idaho plans to use technology to improve rural access to care

The state’s application includes plans to conduct assessments on rural health care facilities to identify gaps, develop shared infrastructure among clients and to invest in equipment, software and training to expand telehealth options.

The state plans to help procure mobile apps and online portals to help Idahoan

patients for “self-monitoring, appointment scheduling, medication adherence, and coaching.” Investments in cybersecurity improvements, AI clinical tools, emergency system upgrades, and health management and analytics systems are also included in the plan.

The goals to achieve by 2030 include increasing the number of facilities utilizing telehealth by 50%, increasing the percentage of physicians located in each of Idaho’s rural counties that are connected to the new Health Alert Network (HAN) to at least 80%, and increasing the number of appointments completed using telehealth or remote delivery modality by 50%.

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