WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. employers added an astonishing 528,000 jobs last month despite flashing warning signs of an economic downturn, easing fears of a recession.

Friday’s employment report came as President Joe Biden and the Federal Reserve face the thorny challenge of continuing to support a still-weak economy while curbing inflation.

Friday by the Labor Department are certain to intensify the debate over whether the U.S. is in a recession.

"Recession — what recession?" wrote Brian Coulton, chief economist at Fitch Ratings. "The U.S. economy is creating new jobs at an annual rate of 6 million — that’s three times faster than what we normally see historically in a good year."

Economists had expected only 250,000 new jobs last month, in a drop-off from June’s revised 390,000. Instead, July proved to be the best month since February.

"What recession?": U.S. employers add $282,000 jobs in July

By RACQUEL MUNCY

CONCRETE — Mayor Jason Miller intends on stepping down from the Concrete Town Council. Miller’s resignation letter, obtained by the Concrete Town Council, is set to be made public.

In his resignation letter, Miller cited that he is leaving his position for "health reasons." Miller wrote he is giving up the thing in his life that will cause the least financial burden and alleviate the most stress.

"My family, my wife, my kids deserve me to be there and to be present," Miller said.

His resignation will be effective at 4:30 p.m. Aug. 31.

At Monday’s council meeting, the council will discuss how to replace Miller.

"I really don’t know what direction the council will take," he said.

Miller said he believes the key to making Concrete thrive is to focus on economic development, and he fully intends on helping in this endeavor — but as a private citizen.

Miller moved to Concrete at the end of 2005 and was first elected mayor in the 2013 general election, after narrowly beating incumbent Judd Wilson. The town voted him in for a second term in 2017 and again this past November.

"I’m feeling honored and grateful that the voting members of Concrete chose me three times," Miller said.

Miller is also the owner and publisher of the Concrete Herald newspaper and president of the nonprofit Imagine Concrete.

China cuts off vital U.S. contacts over Pelosi Taiwan visit

WASHINGTON (AP) — China cut off contacts with the United States over Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s Taiwan visit last month, including military matters and crucial climate cooperation — as concerns rose that the Communist government’s hostile reaction to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s Taiwan visit would signal a lasting, more aggressive approach toward U.S. rival and the self-ruled island.

China made clear lines of communication compromised the strengthening of mutually beneficial ties between the two powerful world economies. It responded with military exercises off Taiwan, including firing missiles that splashed down in surrounding waters.

After the White House summoned China’s ambassador, Qin Gang, late Thursday to protest the military exercises, White House spokesman John Kirby on Friday condemned the decision to end important dialogue with the United States as "irresponsible."

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