

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 1 of 67

[1- Upcoming Events](#)
[2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
[4- DI Day at DQ](#)
[5- Ethan Clark among students honored at DSU Dean's Cup](#)
[6- Weber Landscaping Greenhouse Ad](#)
[7- Prairie Doc: SD BAND: Bridging Rural Behavioral Healthcare Needs in South Dakota](#)
[8- Weekly Vikings Roundup](#)
[9- High School Baseball Teams win two games](#)
[12- SD SearchLight: Open process and publicity draw wide range of offers for state prison site](#)
[14- EarthTalk - Social Housing](#)
[15- Weather Pages](#)
[19- Daily Devotional](#)
[20- Subscription Form](#)
[21- Lottery Numbers](#)
[22- Upcoming Groton Events](#)
[23- News from the Associated Press](#)



Monday, May 5

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, mixed vegetables, 4w5aa, garlic bread.
School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.
School Lunch: Popcorn chicken, tiny whole potatoes.
Junior High Track at Sisseton, 2 p.m.
Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 6

Senior Menu: Sloopy joe on bun, oven roasted potatoes, California blend, tropical fruit.
School Breakfast: Waffles.
School Lunch: Chicken nuggets, puzzle tots.
Track at Sisseton, 1:30 p.m.
City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid LWML, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 7

Senior Menu: Ham, au gratin, creamed peas, cheesecake with fruit glaze, dinner roll.
School Breakfast: Muffins.
School Lunch: Cheese nachos, refried beans.
Groton Chamber Board Meeting, Noon, City. Hall
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.; Sara Circle, 5 p.m.
Groton United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.
Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 8

Senior Menu: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, oranges, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.
School Lunch: Hot dogs, chips.
Girls Golf at Lee Park Golf Course, 10 a.m.
Junior High Track at Roncalli
Elementary Track and Field Day, 12:30 p.m.
Groton Lions Club Meeting, 104 N Main, 6 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent
PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445
Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460

© 2025 Groton Daily Independent

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 2 of 67

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.

Buffett Plots Retirement

Famed investor Warren Buffett will step down as CEO of Berkshire Hathaway by the end of the year. The 94-year-old made the announcement at the company's annual shareholder meeting, a widely anticipated event referred to as the "Woodstock of Capitalism". Buffett seeks to install Greg Abel, vice chairman of noninsurance operations, as his replacement.

Born and raised (and still residing) in Omaha, Nebraska, Buffett took the lead at Berkshire Hathaway—then a struggling textile company—in 1970. Since then, the company has grown into a wide-ranging conglomerate with controlling shares in roughly 70 companies. Known for his dedication to value investing (which emphasizes finding undervalued stocks), the company has delivered average returns of almost 20% since Buffett took over. More recently, the company has stockpiled cash, with close to \$350B on hand.

Buffett's longtime business partner, Charlie Munger, passed away at age 99 in late 2023. Explore the best resources from across the internet on Buffett's life and career here.

Starbase, USA

Hundreds of Texas voters approved the establishment of a SpaceX city over the weekend. Starbase, Texas—a roughly 1.5-square-mile coastal area on the state's southernmost tip—will operate as its own municipality, pending certification of Saturday's election results.

More than 500 people reside within the proposed town borders, most of them employed by SpaceX. The overwhelming vote in favor of incorporation (212-6) enables Starbase to create its own zoning laws, raise revenue, hire local officials, and block roads for rocket launches. Saturday's vote also selected the town's first mayor—engineer Bobby Peden—alongside two commissioners, all SpaceX employees or family members.

SpaceX uses the area on Boca Chica Beach to test its 400-foot-tall Starship—the world's largest and most powerful rocket. SpaceX CEO Elon Musk hopes to use Starship for an inaugural mission sending humans to Mars as soon as 2028.

Met Gala Tonight

Tonight is the annual benefit for the Metropolitan Museum of Art's fabrics and textile wing, the Costume Institute, an event colloquially referred to as the Met Gala. Vogue's livestream of the red carpet will begin at 6 pm ET.

The Met Gala was first launched in 1948 as a midnight dinner at New York's luxury Waldorf Astoria hotel. It has since become one of the biggest nights in fashion. Each year's theme is named after the Costume Institute's corresponding spring collection, in this case, "Superfine: Tailoring Black Style." The collection is inspired by Monica L. Miller's 2009 book, "Slaves to Fashion," on the history of Black dandyism and the rise of Black fashion.

This year, Vogue's Editor-in-Chief Anna Wintour—who has organized the gala since the 1990s—is joined by co-chairs Colman Domingo, Lewis Hamilton, A\$AP Rocky, and Pharrell Williams, with LeBron James serving as an honorary co-chair. An estimated 450 of the most prominent people across pop culture and entertainment are expected to attend.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 3 of 67

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Sovereignty edges race favorite Journalism to win 151st Kentucky Derby; the Preakness Stakes, the second leg of horse racing's Triple Crown, is set for May 17.

Jury selection begins today in the trial of Sean "Diddy" Combs on charges of sex trafficking and racketeering; Combs turned down a plea deal last week.

Bomb attack thwarted at free Lady Gaga concert at Rio de Janeiro's world-famous Copacabana Beach; concert drew a record crowd of more than 2 million attendees.

Science & Technology

National Science Foundation to cap indirect costs—funding attached to research and development grants to support operations and administrative functions—at 15%; follows similar efforts at the Department of Energy and National Institutes of Health.

Common gut fungus is found to help treat certain types of fatty liver disease; study sheds light on the complex influence of the gut microbiome on the body.

Sperm cells switch to a hyperactive swimming state in warmer temperatures, new study finds; research may help lead to new fertility treatments.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher Friday (S&P 500 +1.5%, Dow +1.4%, Nasdaq +1.5%), with the S&P 500 notching its ninth consecutive day of gains, the longest winning streak since November 2004.

OPEC+ countries reportedly agree to hike oil output to nearly 1 million barrels per day in April, May, and June; decision comes despite oil prices reaching a four-year low last month amid concerns over a trade war and economic slowdown.

Apple ends policy barring cryptocurrency apps from directing their users to off-app payment systems; decision follows judge's April 30 ruling the company's behavior violated a 2021 injunction.

Politics & World Affairs

Yemen's Houthi rebels fire missile at Israel's main international airport in Tel Aviv, wounding eight people; Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vows to respond.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, of the center-left Labor Party, becomes the country's first prime minister to win reelection in 21 years; conservative opposition leader Peter Dutton loses parliamentary seat.

Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey experiences air traffic control staffing issues, prompting hundreds of flight delays; United Airlines cancels all round-trip flights from the airport, impacting 35 flights per day.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 4 of 67

Wed., May 7 from 4-9 pm

**DI DAY
AT DQ**

**Here's your chance to support
the two Groton Area teams attending
Global Finals in Kansas City, MO. A
portion of the evening sales go to DI.**

Imagination will get you everywhere!

.Thanks for your support!

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 5 of 67

Ethan Clark among students honored at DSU Dean's Cup

Each year, The Beacom College of Computer & Cyber Sciences Dean's Cup highlights the talents of Dakota State University students.

This year was no exception, but in addition to the talents of the contestants, the competition showcased the abilities of last year's winner, too.

John Brumels, a cyber defense master's degree student from Sioux Falls, took first place last year, and jumped in to help organize this year's event. He decided that instead of just a standard hackathon, the competition should be a build-a-thon.

Over one week, students in all majors were given the opportunity to build something using technology, and create a five-minute video explaining their project. A panel of judges critiqued the projects on four categories:

- Innovation and creativity
- Technical execution
- Impact and expression
- Presentation clarity

"The students really stepped up to the challenge," said Dr. Mary Bell, dean of The Beacom College. "All demonstrated what they can accomplish when technology meets with imagination," she stated.

Three students were honored with cash awards for their projects, funds which are generated from the annual DakotaCon cybersecurity conference.

Ethan Clark, computer science and cyber operations double major from Groton, S.D., 1st place for creating a hardware-based VPN client using a Raspberry Pi

Hunter Wade –a cyber defense master's degree student from Flandreau, S.D., 2ndplace for his power-sheel-based automation tool

Rayn Light, cyber operations major from Brandon, S.D., 3rd place for building a QUIC-over-HTTP/3 command and control infrastructure

Two students were awarded prizes as part of a raffle, Brooks Robison and Oluwajuwon Adedowole.

OPENING MAY 2ND
CLOSING JUNE 2ND

WEBER LANDSCAPING GREENHOUSE

620 WEST THIRD AVENUE

GROTON

HOURS OF OPERATION

M-F 10-6

SAT 10-4

SUN 12-4



SD BAND: Bridging Rural Behavioral Healthcare Needs in South Dakota

As a school psychologist working for a small public school, I remember a teacher asking me to observe a student in her classroom. She expressed concerns about an elementary student's unusual behavior, lack of playing with classmates, lack of communication and even some unusual motor movements, including flapping her hands. This was in 2001, and I was experiencing my first referral for a student who would eventually receive an educational diagnosis of autism.

At that time, autism was considered rare, and providing educational support to meet their needs was challenging. I began to see a growing number of referrals, increasing communication and behavioral challenges, and came to realize that my training and experience as a school psychologist weren't enough. In 2010, after completing the required coursework and supervision, and passing

the National Behavior Analyst Certification Board examination, I began a career as a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) in South Dakota. At that time, fewer than 10 BCBA professionals were in South Dakota.

Today, there are 88 active BCBAs registered in South Dakota, far below Minnesota (517), Iowa (282), and Nebraska (300). Even when compared to states with similar rural and frontier characteristics, South Dakota lags behind North Dakota (97), Montana (92), and Alaska (89). Currently, nationwide demand for behavior analysts is higher than ever. Annual nationwide demand for individuals holding BCBA certification has increased each year since 2010, with a striking 58% increase from 2023 to 2024.

One major reason South Dakota has fallen behind was the absence of an in-state training program until 2021. Recognizing this critical gap, a partnership between the Public Health and Health Sciences programs in the University of South Dakota's School of Health Sciences, the University of South Dakota's Center for Disabilities, and LifeScape -a Sioux Falls-based non-profit organization- launched the Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA) two-year graduate program. This program aims to expand South Dakota's behavioral health workforce and contribute essential public health services across the state.

Students who complete the USD ABA graduate program must independently complete 2,000 hours of ABA supervised fieldwork experience. When you consider that most BCBAs in South Dakota live near the state's larger population centers, Sioux Falls and Rapid City, it's apparent that those supervised fieldwork experience hours are mostly completed where supervision is available. This barrier creates limited access to BCBAs in rural communities but highlights a great opportunity: addressing disparities in access to specialists in rural areas. South Dakota continues to experience critical shortages of professionals trained to support individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities.

The South Dakota Behavior Analyst Network Development (SD BAND) was formed to address the critical need for enhanced behavioral health services and the greater integration of BCBAs throughout the state, especially in underserved rural communities. This network of state partners includes the University of South Dakota (USD), Community Healthcare Association of the Dakotas (CHAD), South Dakota Department of Social Services (SD DSS), South Dakota Department of Human Services (SD DHS), and the Community Support Providers of South Dakota (CSPSD). SD BAND is tasked with expanding the presence and collaboration of BCBAs within community health centers and other health care settings across South Dakota, to raise awareness among health care providers, adult service providers, and the broader community about the crucial role of BCBAs, and to facilitate their integration into existing service delivery options.

Ryan Groeneweg, Ed.S., BCBA, Mr. Groeneweg has been the Director of Community Education at the USD Center for Disabilities since January 2019. In this role, he is the principal investigator (PI) for the South Dakota Department of Education Training and Technical Assistance Grant (2019 to present), and the South Dakota State Autism Grant (2019 to present). He is also an assistant professor at the USD School of Medicine and the program director for the USD School of Health Science Master in Health Science, with a Specialization in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and the USD ABA Certificate Graduate program. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairedoc.org, and on social media. Watch On Call with the Prairie Doc, most Thursday's at 7PM streaming on Facebook and listen to Prairie Doc Radio Sunday's at 6am and 1pm.



Ryan Groeneweg, Ed.S., BCBA

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 8 of 67

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

Last week we did an instant analysis of the Minnesota Vikings' draft picks, with a quick breakdown of each rookie and how they might fit on the team, not only this year but also in the future. This week we take a look at the experts' opinions of the Vikings' draft haul. This should all be taken with a grain of salt, of course, since we won't know how good or bad a draft class is until they've been in the league for a few years. But that's not going to stop us from looking at some knee-jerk reactions from around the league.

René Bugner (@RNBWCV) put together a handy chart that we'll be using for these evaluations. The chart lists 24 draft grades taken from all the "experts" around the league, then averages them out to rank how each team did. And I have to say, the experts were not kind to the Vikings.

When all the draft grades are averaged out, it gives us a GPA for each team. The Vikings are ranked 29th with a 2.35 GPA. Comparatively, the New England Patriots were 1st with a 3.67 GPA, followed by the New York Giants (3.65) and the Seattle Seahawks (3.63). The Cincinnati Bengals had the worst GPA by far (2.06).

Looking around the NFC North, the Chicago Bears had top marks in the division with a 3.04 GPA, tied for 19th league-wide. The Green Bay Packers appear next with a 2.65 GPA, which is 25th league-wide. The Lions were last in the division with a 2.33 GPA, which was the second-lowest grade when looking at the league as a whole.

Digging into the Vikings' grade, Chris Trapasso from CBS Sports was the only expert to give the Vikings an A. Here's what he had to say: "General manager Kwesi Adofo-Mensah started this draft with four selections, added one more, and knocked this selection process out of the park. Jackson in Round 1 directly helps J.J. McCarthy and the run game. He's a pro-ready guard with All-Pro upside.

Felton's speed is evident on film -- and from looking at his combine workout -- but there's also run-after-the-catch pop his profile, and Ingram-Dawkins can be another chess piece for Brian Flores up front.

King is a throwback type linebacker who provides much needed size to that position, and Bartholomew was probably the most underrated receiving tight end in the class. Needs met, and they were aligned with prospects snagged at the right values"

The lowest grades the Vikings received were from Thor Nystrom and Vinnie Lyer, who both gave the Vikings Ds.

Thor had a lengthy breakdown at Fantasy Life, but his overall breakdown was: "(Vikings' GM) Adofo-Mensah told the media over the weekend that, in the circumstances that he was in, hitting it down the fairway was the best course of action. That's what he did, adding an immediate starter at LG while fleshing out the roster's depth."

Vinnie Lyer from Sporting News wrote: "The Vikings had an underwhelming draft after some strong previous work from Kwesi Adofo-Mensah. They ended up with some good offensive line depth early with Jackson, but the rest of the picks don't work to keep them as a playoff team in QB transition. They also should not have bothered trading for Sam Howell"

Groton Area Tigers Varsity Defeats Elkton Varsity Blue Sox On Back Of Clutch Display From Lincoln Krause

By GameChanger Media

Lincoln Krause drove in four runs on two hits to lead Groton Area Tigers Varsity past Elkton Varsity Blue Sox 15-0 on Sunday. In the fourth inning, Krause doubled, scoring two runs.

Groton Area Tigers Varsity scored 11 runs in the fourth inning on the way to victory. an error scored two runs, Brevin Fliehs was struck by a pitch, driving in a run, a wild pitch scored one run, Carter Simon doubled, scoring two runs, Gavin Englund drew a walk, scoring one run, Kellen Antonsen was struck by a pitch, driving in a run, Krause doubled, scoring two runs, and Fliehs singled, scoring one run.

Groton Area Tigers Varsity jumped out to the lead in the bottom of the third inning after Fliehs grounded out, scoring one run, Nicholas Morris doubled, scoring one run, and Englund doubled, scoring two runs.

Morris earned the win for Groton Area Tigers Varsity. The starting pitcher surrendered two hits and zero runs over four innings, striking out four and walking one. Samuel Schuurman took the loss for Elkton Varsity Blue Sox. The righty went three innings, giving up nine runs (six earned) on seven hits, striking out two and walking four.

Groton Area Tigers Varsity collected 10 hits in the game. Krause, Simon, and Englund each collected two hits for Groton Area Tigers Varsity. Groton Area Tigers Varsity had a strong eye at the plate, collecting seven walks for the game. TC Schuster and Alex Abeln led the team with two bases on balls each. Groton Area Tigers Varsity didn't commit a single error in the field. Karsten Fliehs had the most chances in the field with four.

Jack Stein went 2-for-2 at the plate to lead Elkton Varsity Blue Sox in hits.

Groton Area Tigers Varsity play at home on Sunday against Clark Area in their next game.

Brevin Fliehs Leads Groton Area Tigers Varsity Past Clark Area (C/WL/H/C)

By GameChanger Media

Brevin Fliehs collected three hits in three at bats, as Groton Area Tigers Varsity defeated Clark Area (C/WL/H/C) 11-1 on Sunday. Fliehs hit an inside the park home run in the fifth inning, doubled in the third inning, and singled in the first inning.

Groton Area Tigers Varsity opened the scoring in the bottom of the third thanks to two doubles. Groton Area Tigers Varsity first got on the board when Fliehs doubled, scoring one run.

Groton Area Tigers Varsity scored five runs on four hits in the bottom of the fourth inning. Lincoln Krause singled, scoring one run, Carter Simon singled, scoring two runs, and Karsten Fliehs singled, scoring two runs.

Groton Area Tigers Varsity added three more runs in the bottom of the fifth inning on three hits. Fliehs hit an inside the park home run, scoring two runs, and Nicholas Morris hit a sacrifice fly, scoring one run.

Jarrett Erdmann earned the win for Groton Area Tigers Varsity. The pitcher surrendered two hits and one run (zero earned) over five innings, striking out five and walking three. Watson Grantham took the loss for Clark Area (C/WL/H/C). The righty went four innings, allowing eight runs (five earned) on eight hits, striking out six and walking five.

Groton Area Tigers Varsity collected 11 hits in the game. Krause, Simon, and Gavin Englund each collected multiple hits for Groton Area Tigers Varsity. Simon led Groton Area Tigers Varsity with two walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, amassing six walks for the game.

Grantham led Clark Area (C/WL/H/C) with one run batted in. The pitcher went 1-for-3 on the day. Josh Kannegieter and Grantham each collected one hit for Clark Area (C/WL/H/C).

Groton Area Tigers Varsity play at home on Sunday against Sisseton-Britton-Webster in their next game.

Copyright © 2025 GameChanger Media, Inc. All rights reserved. Any reuse or republication of this story must include the preceding attribution and is subject to the Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc. Terms of Use, License Agreement, and Privacy Policy.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 10 of 67

Clark Area (C/WL/H/C) 1 - 11 Groton Area Tigers Varsity

📍 Home 📅 Sunday May 04, 2025

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
CLRK	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	3
GRTN	0	0	3	5	3	11	11	1

BATTING

Clark Area (C/WL/H/C)	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
W Granth... #14 (P)	3	0	1	1	0
C Pommer #1 (SS)	3	0	0	0	1
J Steen #21 (C)	3	0	0	0	1
K Vande... #55 (DH)	0	0	0	0	2
J Kannegi... #2 (1B)	2	0	1	0	1
W Olson #44 (LF)	2	0	0	0	1
D Severs... #61 (CF)	1	0	0	0	1
W Hovde #10 (RF)	2	1	0	0	0
C Luvaas #20 (3B)	2	0	0	0	1
Totals	18	1	2	1	5

TB: W Grantham, J Kannegieter, **LOB:** 5

PITCHING

Clark Area (C/WL/H/C)	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
W Gran... #14	4.0	8	5	5	6
C Luvaas #20	0.2	3	3	1	0
Totals	4.2	11	8	6	1

L: W Grantham, **P-S:** W Grantham 107-63, C Luvaas 23-12, **WP:** W Grantham 2, C Luvaas, **HBP:** W Grantham, **BF:** W Grantham 27, C Luvaas 6

Groton Area Tigers Varsity	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
L Krause #2 (LF)	3	3	2	1	1
T Schust... #21 (RF)	4	0	0	0	1
B Fliehs #6 (CF)	3	3	3	3	1
C Simon #4 (1B)	2	3	2	1	2
G Englund #18 (3B)	3	1	2	2	1
N Morris #17 (SS)	3	0	0	1	0
K Fliehs #10 (C)	3	0	1	2	0
N Groeb... #13 (DH)	1	1	1	0	1
K Antonsen #7 (2B)	3	0	0	0	0
CR: J Schwan #11	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	25	11	11	10	6

2B: B Fliehs, G Englund, **HR:** B Fliehs, **TB:** C Simon 2, L Krause 2, N Groeblichhoff, K Fliehs, B Fliehs 7, G Englund 3, **SF:** N Morris, **CS:** B Fliehs, **HBP:** N Groeblichhoff, **LOB:** 7

Groton Area Tigers Varsity	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
J Erdm... #00	5.0	2	1	0	3
Totals	5.0	2	1	0	3

W: J Erdmann, **P-S:** J Erdmann 82-49, **WP:** J Erdmann, **BF:** J Erdmann 21

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 11 of 67

Elkton Varsity Blue Sox 0 - 15 Groton Area Tigers Varsity

📍 Home 📅 Sunday May 04, 2025

	1	2	3	4	R	H	E
ELKT	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
GRTN	0	0	4	11	15	10	0

BATTING

Elkton Varsity Blue Sox	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
E Erickson #0 (C)	2	0	0	0	0	1
S Schuur... #22 (P)	2	0	0	0	0	1
J Stein #7 (2B)	2	0	2	0	0	0
A Neill #24 (1B)	2	0	0	0	0	0
A Kinner #12 (3B)	1	0	0	0	1	1
W Osland #26 (SS)	1	0	0	0	0	0
A Melchor #13 (CF)	1	0	0	0	0	0
M Skime #5 (LF)	1	0	0	0	0	0
A Myers #25 (RF)	1	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	13	0	2	0	1	4

TB: J Stein 2, **CS:** J Stein, **SB:** J Stein, **LOB:** 2

PITCHING

Elkton Varsity Blue Sox	IP	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
S Schuur... #22	3.0	7	9	6	4	2
A Kinner #12	0.2	3	6	6	3	2
Totals	3.2	10	15	8	7	4

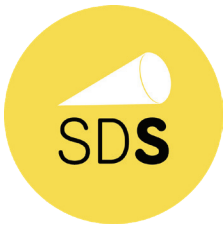
L: S Schuurman, **P-S:** S Schuurman 77-35, A Kinner 38-17, **WP:** S Schuurman, A Kinner 4, **HBP:** S Schuurman, A Kinner 3, **BF:** S Schuurman 22, A Kinner 11

Groton Area Tigers Varsity	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
L Krause #2 (LF)	4	2	2	4	0	0
T Schust... #21 (2B)	1	2	1	0	2	0
B Fliehs #6 (CF)	3	1	1	2	0	0
N Morris #17 (P)	3	1	1	1	0	2
C Simon #4 (1B)	3	2	2	2	0	0
G Englund #18 (3B)	2	1	2	2	1	0
N Groeb... #13 (DH)	2	0	0	0	0	1
A Abeln #5 (SS)	1	2	0	0	2	0
K Fliehs #10 (C)	2	0	1	0	1	1
K Antonsen #7	1	2	0	1	1	0
CR: J Schwan #11	0	2	0	0	0	0
Totals	22	15	10	12	7	4

2B: L Krause, G Englund, N Morris, C Simon, **TB:** K Fliehs, B Fliehs, T Schuster, L Krause 3, G Englund 3, N Morris 2, C Simon 3, **HBP:** B Fliehs, T Schuster, K Antonsen, N Groebelinghoff, **SB:** T Schuster, L Krause, **LOB:** 4

Groton Area Tigers Varsity	IP	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
N Morris #17	4.0	2	0	0	1	4
Totals	4.0	2	0	0	1	4

W: N Morris, **P-S:** N Morris 45-30, **BF:** N Morris 14



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Open process and publicity draw wide range of offers for state prison site

One lawmaker describes former Sioux Falls Citibank campus as 'almost turn-key'

BY: JOHN HULT - MAY 4, 2025 10:41 AM

When the South Dakota Department of Corrections announced the site where it hoped to build a 1,500-bed men's prison in 2023, it told the public it was the only usable site available.

The state had sent a request for information months earlier, hoping someone would offer up land for the project. No one who was willing to sell had exactly what the state was after, Corrections Secretary Kellie Wasko said.

This week, department spokesman Michael Winder again wrote that "no formal submissions" met the criteria for the prison.

"The state continued to do outreach, get referrals, and conduct research" after the request was placed, Winder wrote, but "in the fall of 2023, the other sites the state was pursuing declined to sell."

So the department transferred \$8 million to the state Office of School and Public Lands, laying claim to 320 acres of farmland a few miles south of Harrisburg that had been leased to farmers for years. The lease proceeds were used to fund the state's K-12 schools, and the \$8 million went into the trust fund into which those lease payments had flowed.

The site was a "gift from God," Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden would later say. But its selection sparked fierce opposition, political activism and a lawsuit from neighbors. It also contributed to the Rhoden administration's failure to push the \$825 million project across the finish line during the 2025 legislative session.

In March, the state sent out another request for information, this time as part of an effort to "reset" discussions on a correctional facility to replace the state penitentiary.

In less than a month, more than a dozen options emerged.

One of them, the former Citibank campus in northern Sioux Falls, was apparently available as an option back in 2023.

Citibank had built a new headquarters on the south end of Sioux Falls in 2019. A representative for the company selling the land said they didn't submit it as a possible prison site in 2023, but said the state didn't reach out during the "outreach" phase of its site search.

"I don't know what happened the first time around," said Troy Fawcett of NAI Sioux Falls Commercial Real Estate.

New process wider in scope

Rhoden's office wouldn't comment on whether the former Citibank campus just north of the state penitentiary was under consideration in 2023, but spokeswoman Josie Harms did note its size in a statement to South Dakota Searchlight.

In the first request for information, the state sought at least 100-200 acres of land or more for a 1,500 bed facility, based on a consultant's report.

"The Project Prison Reset task force isn't looking back — we're moving forward," Harms wrote to Searchlight. "With that said, the Citibank building is only 70 acres."

Ryan Brunner, a policy adviser for Rhoden, presented the new options to members of Project Prison Reset during the group's second meeting on Tuesday in Springfield. He told Searchlight after the meeting that several options may not have been for sale in 2023, and that the market in Sioux Falls has changed.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 13 of 67

"We'll have to do some analysis on these sites to see if they're a fit or not," Brunner said.

The parameters for a potential site are less restrictive this time around.

The governor's work group is exploring all options, including smaller facilities, multiple facilities and locations outside the Sioux Falls area. There's a preference for sites within 20 miles of Sioux Falls in the newer request for information, but that's not a requirement.

That easing of requirements made it possible for the state to field offers from Big Stone City, Aberdeen, Huron and Mitchell. Big Stone has an empty cheese plant on more than 100 acres. Huron has 100 acres in an industrial park. Mitchell has more than that, on land south of town near its landfill. Aberdeen has two options on two ends of the Hub City.

The newer parameters also put the Citibank site, with its 70 acres, in the running. That offer is the spendiest option by asking price, at \$33.8 million, and the one with the smallest footprint.

It does offer some enticements the others do not, though.

It has buildings that could be refurbished, rather than built from the ground up. It's connected to water and sewer, and is less than a mile from the current penitentiary campus. The minimum and maximum security units on the current penitentiary grounds will remain, regardless of the future of the 1881 main penitentiary.

More options offer more wiggle room

Sen. Chris Karr, R-Sioux Falls, told South Dakota Searchlight that the work group's Springfield trip, with its tour of the medium-security Mike Dufree State Prison and rundowns of the multiple vocational programs offered there to more than 1,000 inmates, was illuminating. It solidified his skepticism on the need for 100 acres or more.

The Mike Dufree campus, formerly a university, is smaller than 70 acres. The penitentiary in Sioux Falls is overcrowded by medium security inmates, Karr noted, not maximum security ones. The 1,500-bed proposal and its 100-plus acres were designed around maximum security housing units.

"I'm not convinced we need 100 acres," Karr said. "I don't think anybody is at this point."

Karr's not fully sold on any of the new proposals – there isn't space at any of them for the ideal security perimeter, for example – but said the idea that Citibank is "almost turn-key" is appealing.

Karr said the state should have worked harder to find sites back in 2023, instead of requesting information and waiting for offers. The work of site selection may have been more fruitful if it had included the kind of public forums now taking place with Project Prison Reset, he said.

"This is getting vetted and discussed the way it should have been the first time around," he said.

Other options include multiple undeveloped properties with 100 acres or more in the Sioux Falls area, most presented for sale on a per-acre basis.

There's land at the intersection of interstates 29 and 90, a plot near Amazon's Sioux Falls distribution center, and another near the Department of Correction's West Farm site, home to a facility for juveniles in state custody.

The Sioux Falls Development Foundation has offered land near Worthing as another Lincoln County option, and the city of Canton pointed to tracts of land west of town.

Lt. Gov. Tony Venhuizen leads the Project Prison Reset work group. During the initial site discussions in 2023, he was still a Republican state representative for District 13 in Sioux Falls.

He's pleased to have so many offers, noting that the publicity surrounding the work group may have drawn more attention.

Even so, he said, "we need to be realistic" about how the potential sales might go over with neighbors. The site obtained in 2023, he said, is still an option.

"I don't find it particularly surprising that we have owners of land in some of these communities who are willing to offer it," Venhuizen said.

John is the senior reporter for South Dakota Searchlight. He has more than 15 years experience covering criminal justice, the environment and public affairs in South Dakota, including more than a decade at the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 14 of 67

EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: What is “social housing” and how is it a climate solution? -- H.N., Milwaukee, WI

A house of one’s own has always been a tenet of the American Dream. Social housing, i.e. government subsidized rental housing, gives many a stepping stone to fulfilling the dream, with manageable price tags and positive environmental impact. Within social housing are two subsects: Public housing is owned by state and local governments; community housing is managed and often owned by non-profit groups.

With the rising demand for housing, lower and middle-class citizens are paying larger rents and mortgages. Social housing’s four pillars target these issues directly. First, the buildings and land are primarily owned by the public, with some properties owned by non-profits. Second, since owners and investors have no profit motive, housing is permanently affordable and protected from market speculation. Third, the communities welcome members of varying socioeconomic classes, with individual rents adjusted for income. Fourth, the neighborhood is led by the residents—a microcosm of democracy.

An added incentive of social housing is its climate-friendliness. Though it may evoke images of rundown structures infested with rats and mold, social housing units, like those built by Seattle Social Housing Developer, by law must follow “passive house” standards, designed to be energy-efficient with balanced ventilation for air control, and high-performance windows with shading for radiation control. The result is 40-60 percent less energy consumed compared to a non-passive house construction. Social housing lowers carbon emissions in many ways. Most structures are built in or near urban areas, allowing residents to walk or take public transit. The proximity to workplaces, schools, stores and other amenities reduces car dependency and, therefore, carbon emissions. Studies show that doubling urban density reduces CO2 emissions from travel and residential energy usage by 48 and 35 percent respectively.

Social housing provides economic and environmental solutions, but trouble with funding and construction hinders progress. And in many cities, social housing is not viable due to zoning laws that forbid structures other than single-family detached homes in the majority of cities and suburbs. Though some organizations are pushing for new construction, Jenny Schuetz, a former Senior Fellow at Brookings Metro, reminds social housing activists that “high-quality subsidized housing needs a long-term commitment, not a brief flirtation.” Existing public housing has been deteriorating due to the lack of public funds for maintenance, so how do we know current undertakings will not end up in similar conditions?

The answer is not clear cut. However, you can do your part by staying informed on the housing crisis and current lawmaker bills concerning real estate. Join initiatives to promote social housing and learn from successful projects like those in Austria, Vienna or Sendero Verde, New York.



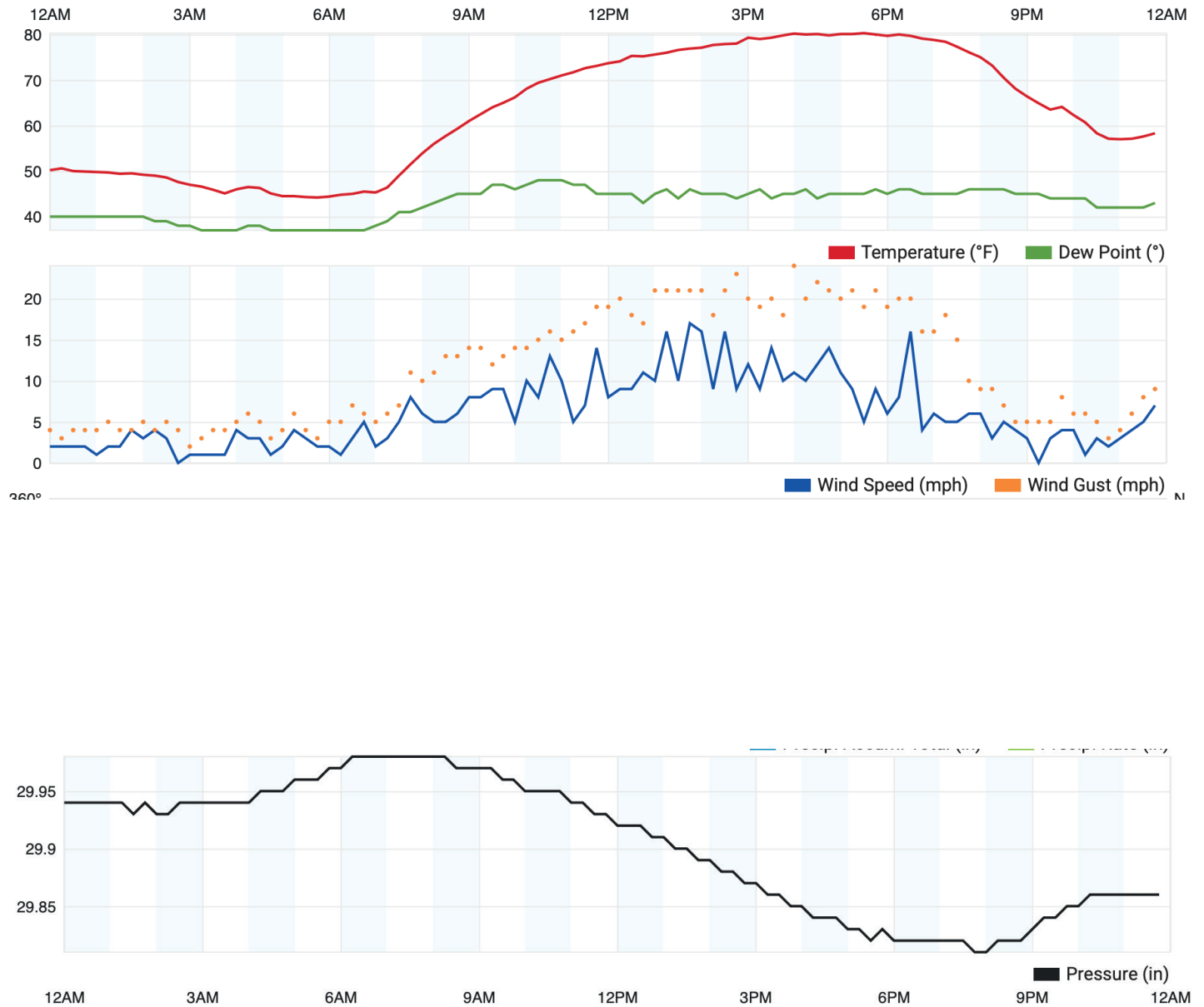
“Social housing” developments like this one in Devonport, England are much more common in Europe but gaining popularity in some parts of the U.S..

Credit: Chris, FlickrCC.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 15 of 67

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 16 of 67

Today



High: 79 °F

Sunny then
Sunny and
Breezy

Tonight



Low: 47 °F

Mostly Clear

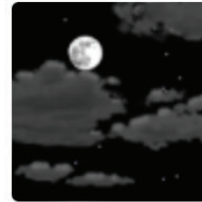
Tuesday



High: 78 °F

Sunny

Tuesday Night



Low: 45 °F

Partly Cloudy

Wednesday



High: 74 °F

Mostly Sunny

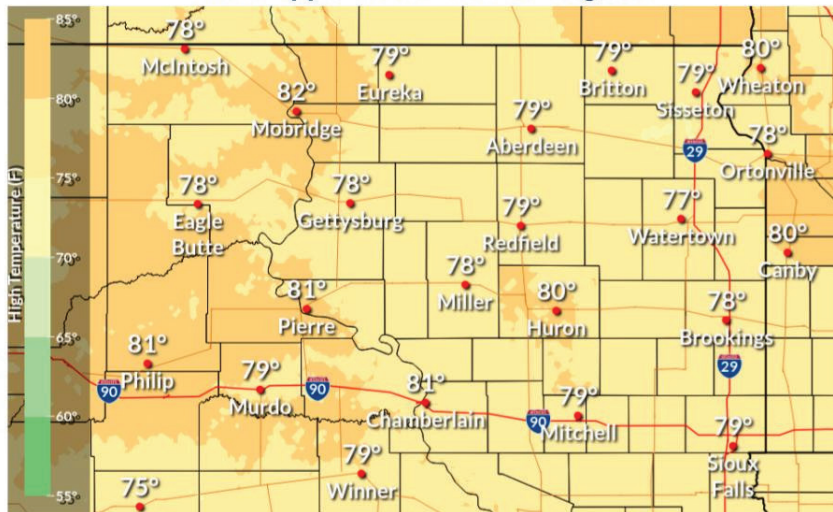


Warm Week Ahead

Mainly Dry Weather Continues

May 5, 2025
4:15 AM

High Temperatures Today in the upper 70s to near 80 degrees



Highlights for the week:

- **Mainly Dry.** However, there is a...
 - 30-60% chance of showers and thunderstorms over north central SD late this afternoon into this evening. Severe weather is not expected.
 - 20% chance of showers Tuesday evening west of the Missouri River
- **Highs in the mid 70s to mid 80s**
(10 to 15 degrees above normal)



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Temperature will rise into the upper 70s to near 80 degrees today. The highlights for the week include mainly dry weather. The exception will be west of the Missouri River. There is a 30 to 60 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms over north central South Dakota this afternoon into this evening. Severe weather is not expected. There is a 20 percent chance of showers Tuesday evening west of the Missouri River. Highs in the mid 70s to mid 80s over much of the week will be around 10 to 15 degrees above normal for this time of the year.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 17 of 67

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 80 °F at 4:15 PM

Low Temp: 44 °F at 5:49 AM

Wind: 24 mph at 1:58 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 14 hours, 33 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 92 in 2000

Record Low: 24 in 1968

Average High: 66

Average Low: 39

Average Precip in May.: .54

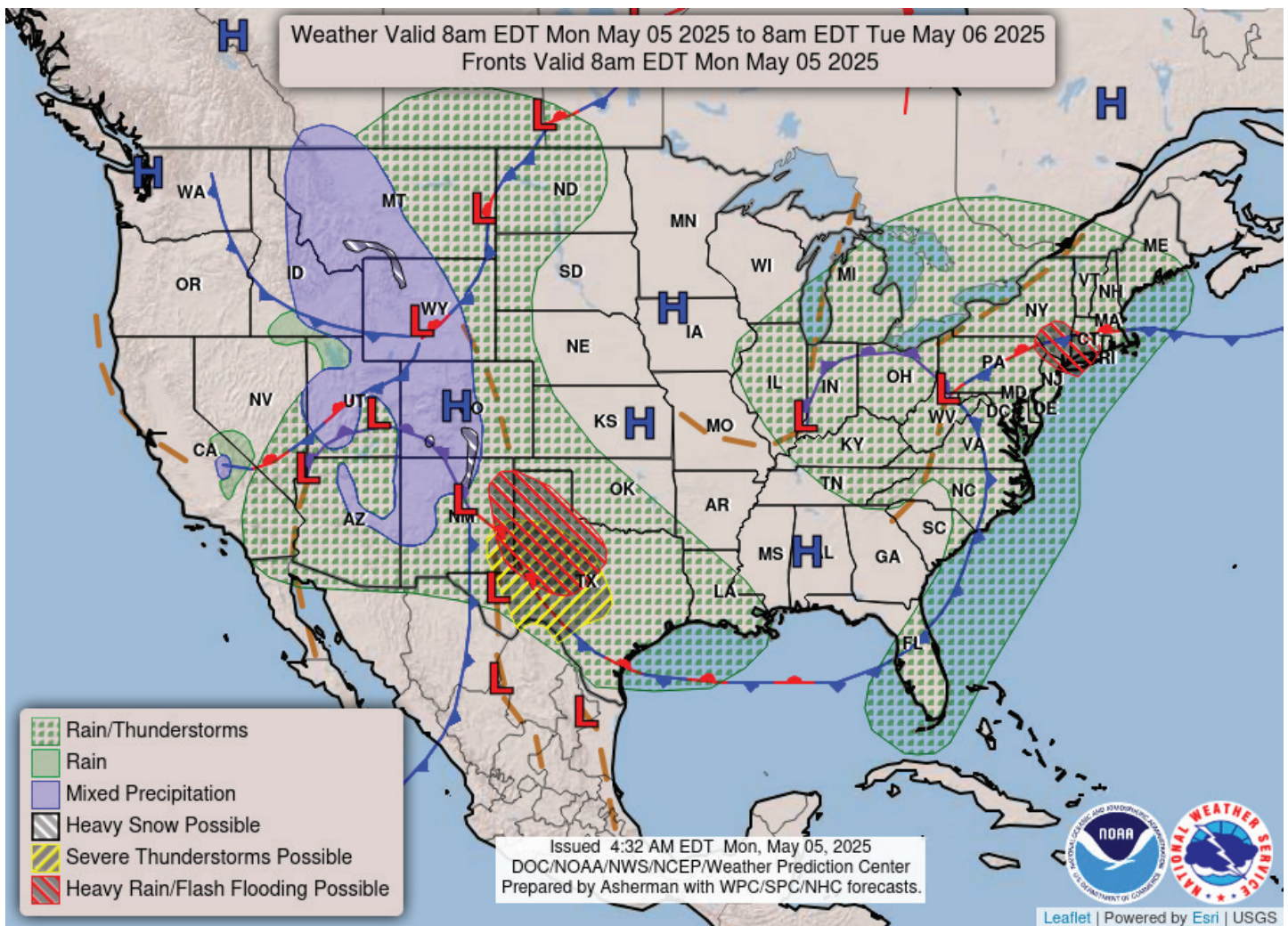
Precip to date in May.: 0.30

Average Precip to date: 4.51

Precip Year to Date: 2.93

Sunset Tonight: 8:45:54 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:10:49 am



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 18 of 67

Today in Weather History

May 5th, 1964: A two-state, F3 tornado moved northeast from 4 miles WNW of Herreid to the south of Streeter, North Dakota, a distance of about 55 miles. The blacktop was ripped for 400 yards on Highway 10, five miles north of Herreid, South Dakota. Two barns were destroyed northeast of Hague, North Dakota, with a dozen cattle killed on one farm. The F3 damage occurred at one farm about midway between Wishek and Hogue. Other barns were destroyed south of Burnstad.

May 5th, 1986: A tight pressure gradient produced winds over 60 mph in west central Minnesota. City officials in Browns Valley estimated a quarter of the city suffered damage. The grandstand's roof was blown off and landed a quarter of a block away. Seventy-five homes and six businesses sustained roof damage. In nearby Dumont, Minnesota, the wind ripped a large grain bin off its foundation and tore open the top of another.

May 5th, 2007: A north-to-south frontal boundary, powerful low-level winds, and abundant gulf moisture resulted in training thunderstorms across parts of central and northeast South Dakota. The training thunderstorms produced torrential rains from 3 to over 10 inches, resulting in widespread flash flooding across Brown, Buffalo, Hand, Spink, Clark, Day, Marshall, and Roberts Counties. The counties of Brown, Buffalo, Clark, Day, Marshall, and Spink were declared disaster areas by President Bush. The Governor also declared a state of emergency for the flooded counties, with Senator John Thune and Representative Stephanie Herseth surveying the flood damage. Eight local, state, and FEMA damage assessment teams came to Brown and other counties.

The flooding affected dozens of cities, with several hundred homes, businesses, and countless roads affected, damaged, or destroyed. Aberdeen received the most extensive damage, especially on the north side of Aberdeen. Seventy-five percent of the homes in Aberdeen received some water in their basements. Basement water levels ranged from a few inches to very deep water all the way up to the first floor of homes. Many homes had the basement walls collapse. The overwhelming load on the drainage systems caused sewage to back up into many homes across the region. Also, many vehicles stalled on the roads, and the flooding damaged many others. Power outages also occurred across the area. Many families were displaced from their homes, and many were living in emergency shelters. Countless homes were condemned across the region, and many were considered unlivable. Thousands of acres of crops were also flooded and damaged with many seeds, and large quantities of fertilizer washed away.

Rainfall amounts from this historic event included 3.65 inches in Miller, 3.82 inches in Britton, 4 inches in Eden, 4.47 inches in Andover, 4.90 inches in Webster, 5.68 inches west of Britton, 5.7 inches in Garden City, and 5.82 inches in Conde. Locations with six or more inches of rain included 6 inches in Langford, 6.33 inches in Gann Valley, 6.72 inches in Clark, 7.41 inches in Ashton, 7.49 inches in Stratford, 7.55 inches near Mellette, 7.97 inches in Aberdeen, 8.02 inches in Redfield, 8.73 inches in Columbia, and 8.74 inches in Groton. Groton's 8.74 inches of rainfall set a new 24-hour state rainfall record. Adding in the rainfall for the previous day, Aberdeen received a total of 9.00 inches; Columbia received a total of 10.19 inches; Groton received an astonishing two-day total rainfall of 10.74 inches.

1917 - The same storm which a day earlier produced eight inches of snow in the Texas panhandle, produced a foot of snow at Denver CO, their heaviest snow of record for the month of May. (David Ludlum)

1930 - The temperature at College Park, VA, soared from 43 degrees to 93 degrees to begin an exceptional heat wave. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - Unseasonably hot weather prevailed in the western U.S. A dozen cities in California reported record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 93 degrees at San Francisco, 98 degrees at San Jose, 100 degrees at Sacramento, and 101 degrees at Redding, were the warmest of record for so early in the season. The high of 94 degrees at Medford OR was also the warmest of record for so early in the season. (The National Weather Summary)

1987 - Parts of the western U.S. were in the midst of a blistering May heat wave. The reading of 100 degrees in Downtown Sacramento CA was their earliest of record. Sacramento CA established daily record highs on nine of eleven days between the 4th and the 14th. (The Weather Channel)

When Storms Come

How do you respond when facing challenges?

Matthew 14:22-33 Jesus Walks on the Water

22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, 24 and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

25 Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

29 "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Storms are inevitable. In nature, powerful tempests leave a changed landscape behind them. Similarly, challenging circumstances can alter the topography of our life.

When difficulties arise, how do you respond? Do you say to the Lord, "I am doing what You asked, so why is this happening?" Such thinking assumes that being in the center of God's will exempts us from problems. In Matthew 14, we learn that Jesus instructed the disciples to get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the opposite shore. While they were obeying Him, high winds and waves developed. Storms can arise even when we are exactly where God wants us to be (John 16:33).

Another question we sometimes ask is, "Father, what have I done wrong?" God does use trials to correct us, but not all situations come from our mistakes. He may allow troubles to perfect us—that is, to mature us and grow us into Christ's likeness.

God uses different things to train and equip us, because He wants each of His children to become a strong, vital servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. Realize that nothing can happen to a believer unless God allows it. Instead of keeping our head bent low against the struggles of life, let's look up to the Lord and seek His purposes in our challenges.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 20 of 67

The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.2% Sales Tax

- ☐ Black & White\$48.99/year
- ☐ Colored\$79.88/year
- ☐ Colored\$42.60/6 months
- ☐ E-Weekly*\$31.95/year

* The E-Weekly is a PDF file emailed to you each week. It does not grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

Groton Daily Independent www.397news.com Subscription Form

This option will grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

- ☐ 1 Month\$15.98
- ☐ 3 Months.....\$26.63
- ☐ 6 Months.....\$31.95
- ☐ 9 Months.....\$42.60
- ☐ 12 Months.....\$53.25

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

The following will be used for your log-in information.

E-mail _____

Password _____

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

paypal.me/paperpaul

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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 21 of 67



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.02.25

14 37 40 41 68 2

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$90,000,000

NEXT 1 Days 17 Hrs 18 Mins
DRAW: 51 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.03.25

21 23 39 45 50 1

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$32,520,000

NEXT 16 Hrs 33 Mins 51
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.04.25

12 26 31 35 43 14

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT 16 Hrs 48 Mins 51
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.03.25

4 9 13 20 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$143,000

NEXT 2 Days 16 Hrs 48
DRAW: Mins 51 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.03.25

14 23 33 38 60 3

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT 17 Hrs 17 Mins 51
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.03.25

10 21 23 35 65 24

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$54,000,000

NEXT 17 Hrs 17 Mins 51
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 22 of 67

Upcoming Groton Events

03/22/2025 Spring Vendor Fair at the GHS Gym 10am-2pm
03/29/2025 Men's Singles Bowling Tournament at the Jungle 10am, 1pm & 4pm
04/05/2025 Dueling Duo Baseball/Softball Fundraiser at the Legion Post #39, 6-11:30pm
04/06/2025 Pancake Sunday, Historical Society Fundraiser, 10am-1pm, Community Center
04/12/2025 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt at the City Park 10am Sharp
04/12/2025 Groton Firemens Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
05/03/2025 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
05/12/2025 High School Girls Golf Meet at Olive Grove
05/26/2025 Memorial Day Services Groton Union Cemetery with lunch at Legion Post #39, 12pm
06/07/2025 Day of Play
06/13/2025 SDSU 4 Person Scramble at Olive Grove
06/21/2025 Groton Triathlon
06/23/2025 Ladies 2 Person Scramble at Olive Grove
07/04/2025 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
07/09/2025 Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar at the Groton Legion 11am-1pm
07/11-13/25 2025 VFW 12U Class B State Baseball Tournament
07/13/2025 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm
07/16/2025 Men's Pro Am Golf at Olive Grove
07/25/2025 Ferney Open Scramble Golf at Olive Grove
08/01/2025 Wine on Nine Fundraiser at Olive Grove
08/09/2025 2nd Annual Celebration in the Park/Rib Cook-Off 1-9:30pm
08/14/2025 Family Fun Fest, Downtown Main Street 5:30-7:30pm (2nd Thursday)
08/23/2025 Glacial Tournament at Olive Grove
09/05/2025 Homecoming Parade 1pm
09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
09/07/2025 Sunflower Classic Couples Scramble at Olive Grove
10/10/2025 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am
10/11/2025 Pumpkin Fest 10am-3pm City Park
10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1:30pm
12/06/2025 Olive Grove Holiday Party and Silent Live Auction Fundraiser

News from the **AP** Associated Press

South Dakota students weigh protest against university honors for homeland security chief Noem

By SARAH RAZA Associated Press

MADISON, S.D. (AP) — Dakota State University hasn't experienced the student protests taking place at other U.S. colleges. Nestled in rural South Dakota, most of the nearly 4,000 students have been focused on their studies or job hunts, avoiding politics and partisan groups.

Until now.

The university administration decided to award an honorary doctorate to Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and invited her to give a commencement speech May 10, bringing politics to the campus.

In response, students have planned a rally on graduation day opposing the former South Dakota governor and the Trump administration and expect protestors from across southeast South Dakota to join them.

They want to speak out against the federal government's immigration policies, which are being implemented with Noem's oversight, on behalf of peers who fear for their legal status. They also are expected to protest Noem's anti-LGBT actions during her time as governor.

Some students and faculty also said they thought the honorary degree was too high an honor to bestow upon her.

Among DSU students, many are unsure if they should join the objections or stay quiet to avoid the kind of punishments suffered by students at more outspoken colleges.

"The atmosphere is tense," humanities instructor Daniel Spencer said. "Students are afraid of making their voices heard."

Students studying in its renowned cybersecurity program have traditionally been hesitant to take political stances because they fear potential blowback when they later seek government and private sector jobs.

DSU's location in Madison, a small town about an hour's drive northwest of Sioux Falls, also is a factor.

"Many of our students are from rural South Dakota, and there's a bit of an unwillingness to confront authority," Professor Emeritus Dale Droge said. "We don't have very many students in the political sciences or history where they might be thinking about these more civil rights kind of actions."

Hundreds of international students who attend DSU and haven't yet been affected by recent DHS actions are weighing their participation options. The agency had terminated the legal status of more than 1,000 international students before reversing course and outlining a new policy for those terminations.

"I have international students coming to me from outside of the senate, across campus, who expressed to me that they don't want to get involved in any of this because they have fears of getting their visas revoked," said Anden Wieseler, a DSU junior and student senate vice president.

Noem's support for DSU

DSU selected Noem because she was an "unwavering champion of Dakota State" during her time as governor, university spokesperson Andrew Sogn said in a written statement to The Associated Press.

Noem supported the university's cybersecurity initiatives and helped secure millions of dollars in funding, cementing the school's standing as a national cybersecurity leader, Sogn said.

"She was asked to share remarks with DSU's graduates based on her distinguished and ground-breaking career in public service, and her many efforts to support the citizens of the state of South Dakota and the nation," Sogn said.

Noem's office did not respond to a request for comment.

DSU President José-Marie Griffiths nominated Noem to receive an honorary doctorate, though the university declined to provide details of the offer. The general faculty and student senate voted against the nomination, with only one of the 15 student senators voting in favor of the nomination, Wiesler said.

Fear of speaking out

"There is a fear among a lot of the international student body on speaking on this matter, just a result

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 24 of 67

of the current political climate,” said Tyler Sprik, a freshman and student senator. “That’s part of the reason me and several other senators have become so involved — it’s because a lot of our colleagues can’t.”

Faculty members also are apprehensive to share their opinions publicly. Some said the administration discouraged them from speaking to media and joining student rallies. Some cited President Donald Trump’s heightened scrutiny on higher education as reason for caution.

Other students said they feared reprisal from the administration and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because they didn’t want to jeopardize their jobs.

While faculty members are welcome to speak with the media, DSU faculty are afforded fewer protections than in other states due to a 2020 state law outlawing faculty unions at public colleges, Sogn said.

Droge is troubled by the reluctance to speak out.

“It is very concerning to me that we’ve reached a point in not just Dakota State, but in so many institutions that people are afraid to speak freely even on issues like this of free speech and principles and ethics,” Droge said. “These things aren’t against the university in any way but it’s about allowing people to speak their minds freely.”

Some faculty members also said having a high-profile figure at commencement may take attention away from the graduates.

“The biggest chatter I’ve heard from students and other faculty is first and foremost concern that there will be a disruption to the commencement, which we all feel is so important to the students that are there,” said Stephen Krebsbach, a computer science professor.

Still, many students are preparing for the rally.

“The students’ attitude is clear. No honor for Noem. Give commencement back to the graduates and listen to us,” Sprik said.

The conclave to choose the next pope will be the most geographically diverse in history

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — There is no rule that cardinals electing a new pope vote a certain way according to their nationality or region. But understanding their makeup in geographic terms can help explain some of their priorities as they open the conclave Wednesday to choose a new leader of the 1.4-billion strong Catholic Church.

A cardinal who heads the Vatican’s liturgy office might have a very different set of concerns from the archbishop of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. A cardinal who runs a large European archdiocese with hundreds of priests likely has other priorities than the Vatican ambassador ministering to war-torn Syria or the archbishop of Managua, Nicaragua, whose church has been under siege by the government.

There are currently 135 cardinals who are under age 80 and eligible to vote in the conclave, hailing from 71 different countries in the most geographically diverse conclave in history. Already two have formally told the Holy See that they cannot attend for health reasons, bringing the number of men who will enter the Sistine Chapel down to 133.

A two-thirds majority is needed to be elected pope, meaning that if the number of electors holds at 133, the winner must secure 89 votes.

The countries with the most electors are: Italy (17), United States (10), Brazil (7), France and Spain (5), Argentina, Canada, India, Poland and Portugal (4).

Here is a regional breakdown of the full 135 cardinal electors, according to Vatican statistics and following the Vatican’s geographic grouping.

Europe: 53. (An elector who says he’s skipping the conclave is from Spain, so the actual number of Europeans is expected to be 52.)

Asia (including the Middle East): 23

Africa: 18. (Another elector who says he’s skipping the conclave is from Kenya, so the number of Africans is expected to be 17.)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 25 of 67

South America: 17

North America: 16 (of whom 10 are American, 4 are Canadian and 2 are Mexican)

Central America: 4

Oceania: 4 (1 each from Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Tonga)

Israel plans to capture all of Gaza under new plan, officials say

By TIA GOLDENBERG and SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israel approved plans on Monday to capture the entire Gaza Strip and remain in the territory for an unspecified amount of time, two Israeli officials said, in a move that if implemented would vastly expand Israel's operations in the Palestinian territory and likely bring fierce international opposition.

Israeli Cabinet ministers approved the plan in an early morning vote, hours after the Israeli military chief said the army was calling up tens of thousands of reserve soldiers.

The new plan, which the officials said was meant to help Israel achieve its war aims of defeating Hamas and freeing hostages held in Gaza, also would push hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to southern Gaza, what would likely exacerbate an already dire humanitarian crisis.

Since a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas collapsed in mid-March, Israel has unleashed fierce strikes on the territory that have killed hundreds. It has captured swathes of territory and now controls roughly 50% of Gaza. Before the truce ended, Israel halted all humanitarian aid into Gaza, including food, fuel and water, setting off what is believed to be the worst humanitarian crisis in nearly 19 months of war.

The ban on aid has prompted widespread hunger and shortages have set off looting.

Israel is trying to ratchet up pressure on Hamas

The Israeli officials said the plan included the "capturing of the strip and the holding of territories." The plan would also seek to prevent the militant Hamas group from distributing humanitarian aid, which Israel says strengthens the group's rule in Gaza. It also accuses Hamas of keeping the aid for itself to bolster its capabilities. The plan also included powerful strikes against Hamas targets, the officials said.

The officials said Israel was in touch with several countries about President Donald Trump's plan to take over Gaza and relocate its population, under what Israel has termed "voluntary emigration" yet which has sparked condemnations from Israel's allies in Europe and the Arab world.

One of the officials said the plan would be implemented gradually. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were discussing military plans.

For weeks, Israel has been trying to ratchet up pressure on Hamas and prompt it to show more flexibility in ceasefire negotiations. But international mediators trying to bring the sides toward a new deal have struggled to do so. Israel's measures do not appear to have moved Hamas away from its negotiating positions.

The previous ceasefire was meant to lead the sides to negotiate an end to the war, but that goal has been a repeated sticking point in talks between Israel and Hamas. Israel says it won't agree to end the war until Hamas is defeated. Hamas meanwhile has demanded an agreement that winds down the war.

Israel's expansion announcement has angered families of the hostages. The Hostage Forum, which supports families, said on Monday that the plan puts every hostage at risk and urged Israel's decision-makers to secure a deal and prioritize the hostages.

At a Knesset committee meeting Monday, Einav Zangauker, whose son Matan is being held hostage, called on soldiers "not to report for reserve duty for moral and ethical reasons."

Israel wants to prevent Hamas from handling aid

The Israeli officials did not disclose details on how the plan seeks to prevent Hamas from involvement in aid distribution. One said the ministers had approved "the option of aid distribution," without elaborating.

According to an internal memo circulated among aid groups and seen by The Associated Press, Israel told the United Nations that it will use private security companies to control aid distribution in Gaza. The U.N., in a statement Sunday, said it would not participate in the plan as presented to it, saying it violates

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 26 of 67

its core principles.

The memo, sent to aid organizations on Sunday, detailed notes from a meeting between the Israeli defense body in charge of coordinating aid to Gaza, COGAT and the UN.

Under COGAT's plan, all aid will enter Gaza through the Kerem Shalom crossing, letting approximately 60 trucks enter daily and distributing 20 kilograms of aid parcels directly to people on the day of entry, although their contents were unclear as was how many people will have access to the aid.

The memo said the aid will be distributed at logistics hubs, which will be run by private security companies. The memo said that facial recognition will be used to identify Palestinians at the hubs and SMS alerts will notify people in the area that they can collect aid.

Aid workers say the plan to centralize aid, rather than delivering it to Palestinians where they are, will forcibly displace people.

The fighting has displaced more than 90% of Gaza's population, often multiple times, and turned Gaza into an uninhabitable moonscape.

The UN accuses Israel of wanting to control aid as a 'pressure tactic'

The U.N. said the plan would leave large parts of the population, including the most vulnerable, without supplies. It said the plan "appears designed to reinforce control over life-sustaining items as a pressure tactic – as part of a military strategy."

The memo says that the U.S. government has voiced clear support for Israel's plan, but it's unclear who would provide funding for the private military companies or the aid.

COGAT and the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Earlier this week, the AP obtained dozens of documents about aid groups' concerns that the hubs could end up permanently displacing Palestinians and forcing them to live in "de facto internment conditions".

Meanwhile, Israeli strikes across Gaza continued overnight, killing at least 17 people in northern Gaza, according to hospital staff. Strikes hit Gaza City, Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya and among the dead were eight women and children, according to staff at the Shifa hospital, where the bodies were brought.

The war in Gaza began when Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking about 250 hostages. Israel says 59 captives remain in Gaza, although about 35 are believed to be dead.

Israel's offensive has killed more than 52,000 people in Gaza, many of them women and children, according to Palestinian health officials, who do not distinguish between combatants and civilians in their count.

Israel occupied Gaza in the 1967 Mideast war and withdrew troops and settlers in 2005. Two years later, Hamas took over and has controlled the territory since.

In battle against transgender rights, Trump targets HUD's housing policies

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH and SALLY HO Associated Press

As a transgender man, the words "you're a girl" gutted Tazz Webster, a taunt hurled at him from the day he moved into his St. Louis apartment.

The government-subsidized building's manager also insisted on calling Webster by the wrong name, the 38-year-old said, and ridiculed him with shouts of, "You're not a real man!"

"I just felt like I was being terrorized," Webster told The Associated Press. "I felt that I was being judged and mistreated, like I was less of a human being."

Then one day in March 2022, the manager shoved Webster so hard he stumbled backward. After regaining his balance, Webster said he pushed the manager back. Four months later he was homeless.

Webster filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity office, the agency tasked with investigating housing discrimination and enforcing the landmark Fair Housing Act that guarantees equal access to housing for all Americans.

Webster's harassment allegation was serious enough that it was investigated for more than two years, until the office suddenly notified him in February it was dropping his case without a finding, citing lack of jurisdiction.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 27 of 67

The timing of the closure was not a coincidence.

In the months since President Donald Trump took back the White House and installed a loyalist to lead the federal housing department, HUD Secretary Scott Turner and his team have moved swiftly and strategically to undo, uproot and remake the agency's decades of work and priorities.

In the crosshairs is an intense focus on transgender people, as HUD retreats from long-established fair-housing protections by closing their discrimination complaints and, more broadly, moving to undo the Obama-era Equal Access Rule that cemented transgender people's rights to discrimination protection in housing.

"It's time to get rid of all the far-left gender ideology and get government out of the way of what the Lord established from the beginning when he created man in his own image — male and female," Turner said in announcing in February that he was halting enforcement of the Equal Access Rule.

Sex discrimination in the Fair Housing Act

At issue is the fact that discrimination against LGBTQ+ people wasn't specifically cited in the Fair Housing Act. But the Equal Access Rule enacted in 2012 under former President Barack Obama further defined sex discrimination to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

The policy was expanded in 2016 to cover transgender people seeking help at federally funded emergency shelters, escalating opposition from the right.

In 2020, the first Trump administration unsuccessfully moved to relieve shelters of any obligation to serve transgender people. Now, advocates fear an emboldened Trump will go further and forbid shelters from accommodating gender identity altogether, as his administration announces unspecified revisions to the Equal Access Rule.

"Our protections can't be a pingpong ball that changes every four years," said Seran Gee, an attorney for Advocates for Trans Equality.

Everything Webster owned was trashed

After being left with permanent injuries in a car crash, Webster, who survives on disability payments, was grateful to move in April 2021 into an apartment near the city's 1,300-acre (526-hectare) Forest Park, scene of the 1904 World's Fair and home to museums and a zoo.

His rent was initially less than \$200 per month, he said. That is because Branscome Apartments had a contract with the federal government to provide subsidized housing to people with disabilities and low-income seniors.

But the HUD money also comes with strings, said Linda Morris, staff attorney for the ACLU's Women's Rights Project, who leads the organization's housing discrimination work.

"The Equal Access Rule applies to HUD-funded programs and shelters," said Morris, who doesn't represent Webster. "If an entity is going to accept federal funding they have to comply."

Under the rule, HUD-funded housing and programs must provide equal access to everyone regardless of gender identity, and can't require intrusive questioning.

Four months after the shoving incident, Webster found his door kicked in and his belongings trashed, even though, he said, he was up to date on his rent and never received an official eviction notice.

Gone were his king-size bed, dishes, Social Security card and birth certificate. Even worse was the loss of the obituary for his mother, who died when he was 12, and her necklace, a treasured memento.

"I had nothing," said Webster, who had been mostly staying away from the apartment for fear of another run-in with the manager. "I was so afraid to be there, I would go to my friend's house and spent nights at a time and then come back, switch my clothes," and leave.

Court records in an eviction case filed against Webster in April 2022 cited repeated unsuccessful efforts to serve him. After he was gone, the case was dropped.

Last August, Webster filed a lawsuit in Missouri state court alleging he was illegally evicted.

"There was never a court order allowing them to change the locks, allowing them to throw away his belongings," said attorney KB Doman of Arch City Defenders, an advocacy group representing Webster.

The suit seeks \$25,000 in property damage and for "severe emotional stress and trauma." The apart-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 28 of 67

ment has denied the allegations in court filings.

Stephen Strum, the attorney representing the building, declined the AP's requests for comment on the HUD case and said the pending lawsuit "merely alleges that my client did not properly follow the steps for evicting."

To Doman, Webster's case reflects a larger trend.

"A lot of people that would have some recourse, at least through HUD investigating, really are just out on their own now," she said. "It's going to be harder for trans people to find safe, stable housing, and it's very hard already."

Closure of Webster's case is just one of many, HUD attorneys say

Since Turner took the helm at HUD, the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity has instructed staff to pause investigations of all gender identity discrimination cases, according to two HUD attorneys who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of losing their jobs or benefits.

One said letters were then issued closing the cases for lack of jurisdiction. HUD has not disclosed how many cases have been dropped.

Webster's letter and another provided to the AP cite Trump's executive order calling for the federal government to define sex as only male or female.

Morris, of the ACLU, said she has never seen an executive order cited in a jurisdictional closure of a complaint.

"So that's really alarming," said Morris, who described the closures as "very much consistent with this administration's broader attacks on trans people and on civil rights more broadly."

Asked about policy changes concerning transgender discrimination, HUD spokesperson Kasey Lovett said the agency was enforcing the Fair Housing Act while implementing Trump's executive order "restoring biological truth to the federal government."

In a statement citing Trump's order, she said government policy recognizes two sexes that "are not changeable and are grounded in fundamental and incontrovertible reality."

'A nationwide federal push to erase trans identity'

Bea Gonzalez, a transgender man, was kicked out of a suburban St. Louis domestic violence shelter on a chilly night in November 2021, along with his three children, then 2, 5 and 7.

The family was just settling into a room after filling out paperwork at Bridgeway Behavioral Health Women's Center when Gonzalez was told they had to go because he disclosed he was a transgender man.

"I wasn't about to go back into the closet," the 33-year-old said of his insistence on telling the truth even after it was suggested he keep his trans identity secret.

He needed a domestic violence shelter, he said, for greater security for the children and because he feared for his safety as a trans man in a men's shelter, some of which don't accept children anyway.

The city had no domestic violence shelters for men, said his attorney Kalila Jackson. "In the St. Louis metropolitan area, there was no place else for him to go. There were no other options."

The family was sent to a motel, but when they arrived they discovered it hadn't been paid for, and the organization that sent them there was closed. "So I was stranded," said Gonzalez, who did not have a car. "I had to call a friend who was able to let us stay for the night."

Jackson said Bridgeway received HUD funding and that its policy of barring transgender men was a violation of the Equal Access Rule and "straight up sex discrimination."

Jackson said the message the shelter sent was this: "You're biologically a girl, you should dress as a girl. Since you say that you are a man, we are not going to accept you here."

HUD didn't address Gonzalez's or Webster's complaints when the AP sought comment on their cases.

HUD investigated Gonzalez's complaint for 2 1/2 years until it suddenly notified him in March the agency was dropping it without a finding. The company operating the shelter, Preferred Family Healthcare, did not respond to the AP's requests for comment.

After 455 days of being shuttled between six shelters in six cities in two states — Missouri and Illinois — Gonzalez ultimately found stable housing, where his children live with him part time.

He sees what happened as part of what he describes as a "nationwide federal push to erase trans identity."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 29 of 67

Shelters struggle to comply with Trump directives

Advocates are concerned by HUD's shift, noting high rates of discrimination — and homelessness — among people who are LGBTQ+.

Nearly one-third of trans people say they have been homeless at some point in their lives, while 70% who stayed in a shelter reported being harassed, assaulted or kicked out because of their gender identity, according to an Advocates for Trans Equality survey released in 2015, a year before Obama expanded protections for trans people in shelters.

Teens who come out to families who aren't accepting are particularly at risk, said Ann Olivia, CEO of the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

Some shelters that might have served them in the past are becoming less welcoming now amid upheaval with the Equal Access Rule, Olivia said.

"Folks who are trans just won't go if they don't think that they're going to be treated with respect," she said, adding that is particularly problematic for young people who are "vulnerable to sex traffickers and to other types of abuse."

Further complicating the situation are seemingly contradictory requirements in new HUD contracts with nonprofits that find permanent housing and run shelters for the homeless. One section stipulates they can't promote "gender ideology" while another requires compliance with anti-discrimination law, according to a copy provided to the AP.

Organizations say they are confused.

"What is promoting gender ideology? What does that mean?" asked Jeannette Ruffins, CEO of Home-ward NYC, a nonprofit that runs three permanent housing sites for LGBTQ+ young adults, as well as a homeless shelter.

"Does housing LGBTQ young adults promote gender identity?" she asked. "You know, they're coming to us. This is already their gender identity. Like I'm not promoting it."

Ruffins called a board meeting to discuss potential "vulnerabilities" on their website, something she said most New York City nonprofits were doing as well.

Her organization made small changes to their website, saying they were LGBTQ+ "affirming and friendly" in a few places rather than LGBTQ+ "serving," hoping that will make them less of a target.

In Memphis, Tennessee, a nonprofit that provides emergency shelter for transgender people is looking to increase capacity because of the uncertainty.

Kayla Gore, executive director of My Sistah's House, said it can do that because it doesn't take federal funding.

"People are confused," Gore said. "They don't know what to do because they want to protect their bottom line."

'This is the world'

Nearly three years after losing his apartment, Webster remains homeless, staying with friends and sometimes sleeping on the floor.

He is on a waiting list for subsidized housing because he can't afford rent otherwise. But he expects the massive federal funding cuts and Trump administration directives banning diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives will make the wait even longer.

"Let's be honest. This is the world," he said. "People, they do hateful things. If you legalize them to hating, then they feel like they have a right."

Iran's top diplomat is in Pakistan to mediate in escalation with India over Kashmir attack

By MUNIRB AHMED and MUHAMMAD YOUSAF Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Iran's foreign minister was in Pakistan on Monday to try and mediate in the escalation between Islamabad and New Delhi after last month's deadly attack on tourists in the Indian-controlled part of Kashmir.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 30 of 67

Abbas Araghchi's visit was the first by a foreign dignitary since tensions flared in the wake of the April 22 massacre of 26 tourists, which India blames on Pakistan. Tehran has offered to help ease tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbors.

Pakistan's military has been on high alert after Cabinet Minister Attaullah Tarar cited credible intelligence indicating that India could attack. Pakistan has denied any role in the massacre of mostly Indian tourists, and offered to cooperate with a credible international investigation. India has so far not accepted the offer and several world leaders have urged both sides to exercise restraint and avoid further escalation.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, who is due to meet with Araghchi, welcomed mediation to defuse the tensions with India. Since last week, Dar said he'd spoken to over a dozen foreign dignitaries, including U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

"We will not be the first to take any escalatory step," Dar said in Islamabad, but added that he had warned the international community that should there be "any act of aggression by India, Pakistan will resolutely defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity."

He accused the Indian air force of attempting to breach Pakistani airspace on April 28. Pakistan scrambled aircraft and forced Indian jets to turn back, he said. There was no immediate comment from India on those claims.

Kashmir is split between India and Pakistan and claimed by both in its entirety. The two countries have fought two of their three wars over the Himalayan region and their ties have been shaped by conflict, aggressive diplomacy and mutual suspicion, mostly due to their competing claims over Kashmir.

The latest flare-up led the two countries to expel each other's diplomats and nationals, as well as the shuttering of airspace.

On Monday, Pakistan's Information Minister Attaullah Tarar led a group of journalists to the mountain village of Bella Noor Shah, near Muzaffarabad — the main city in the Pakistan-administered Kashmir — where he said New Delhi had falsely claimed the presence of a militant training camp.

Residents of the village told reporters they had never seen any such camp in the area.

"It is clear there is no truth to the Indian claim," Tarar said.

Also Monday, Pakistan's military said it test-fired a short-range missile, the second such test launch after a medium-range missile on Saturday.

The military said that the Fatah surface-to-surface missile has a range of 120 kilometers (75 miles) and was launched from an undisclosed location. Such missiles are never fired toward India, and usually end up reaching the Arabian Sea or the deserts of southern Balochistan province.

Berlin still bears scars 80 years after pivotal battle that sealed the defeat of Nazi Germany

By KERSTIN SOPKE and PIETRO DE CRISTOFARO Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Central Berlin was in ruins after the Red Army completed the Allied victory over Nazi Germany in an intense fight for the capital in May 1945.

After decades of division and its revival as the capital of a reunited, democratic Germany, the city is now transformed, blending painstakingly restored buildings with modern architecture. But the scars of the past remain visible in many places: facades riddled with holes from bullets and shrapnel, or gaps in rows of houses sometimes plugged by new buildings.

An Associated Press story from May 9, 1945, painted a stark picture. It read: "This town is a city of the dead. As a metropolis it has simply ceased to exist. Every house within miles of the center seems to have had its own bomb."

Berlin, the epicenter of Adolf Hitler's power, was the ultimate prize as the Allies closed in from east and west on the disintegrating German defenses in the final stage of World War II.

"We all had a little case next to the bed, even the children," recalled Eva-Maria Kolb, now 89, of the constant aerial bombing in the last six months of the war. "When there was an air raid warning you had to pull something on quickly and then go down to the basement."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 31 of 67

The final Battle of Berlin in late April and early May 1945 reduced much of what was left of the city to rubble. The Soviet military attacked from several directions with an enormous concentration of troops, who faced a struggle to cross rivers and canals and an intensifying street fight as they moved deeper and deeper into the city.

On April 25, Berlin was encircled. Hitler killed himself in his bunker on April 30; and on May 2, the commander of German military forces in Berlin, Gen. Helmuth Weidling, capitulated to Soviet forces.

"Berlin was a heap of rubble — because of these last 10 days, almost everything in the center was ruined," said Jörg Morré, the director of the Museum Berlin-Karlshorst, located in the building where Germany's final surrender was signed.

But "the infrastructure could be repaired relatively quickly — the sewerage system wasn't so badly damaged. They managed to get the water supply and pipes going again. A lot of old Berliners are still familiar with hand pumps ... electricity came, so that the trams starting running again, and the commuter trains."

Kolb said: "It was, of course, a great relief in '45 that the war was over and Hitler was no longer alive ... everyone who wasn't a Nazi was very, very grateful that the war was over."

She recalled that parts of the city were rubble, but she went to a school in the Tempelhof district, south of the center, "that was only half-ruined. It no longer had a roof and the second or third floor was missing — but we had lessons. Only when it rained were lessons canceled."

'This marked the end'

Post-war Berlin was divided into sectors controlled by the wartime allies. That hardened into a Cold War division that saw two separate German states founded in 1949 and ultimately led to the building in 1961 of the Berlin Wall, which fell 28 years later as communist rule collapsed in East Germany.

Germany was reunited in 1990 and the national government moved to Berlin in 1999. Parliament now meets in the restored Reichstag, where the raising of the Soviet Union's red flag in 1945 was emblematic of the victory over Nazi Germany. Graffiti left by Soviet troops at the Reichstag has been preserved at several places in the building.

The military surrender of Berlin on May 2, 1945, wasn't quite the end of the war. Hitler's successor, Grand Adm. Karl Dönitz, tried to fight on but was quickly forced to negotiate Germany's surrender.

Germany's unconditional capitulation was signed at Allied headquarters in Reims, France, on May 7 and came into effect the following day.

But the Soviet Union had only a liaison officer at the ceremony and fighting against the Red Army continued in the east, so a second ceremony was agreed at Soviet headquarters in Berlin on May 8, Morré said. As a result, the West and Russia mark the end of the war in Europe on May 8 and May 9, respectively.

"In this room, World War II ended in Europe," he said, in the preserved hall where the capitulation was signed in Berlin. "This marked the end."

Trump threatens 100% tariff on foreign-made films

By JILL COLVIN and JAKE COYLE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump is opening a new salvo in his tariff war, targeting films made outside the U.S.

In a post Sunday night on his Truth Social platform, Trump said he has authorized the Department of Commerce and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to slap a 100% tariff "on any and all Movies coming into our Country that are produced in Foreign Lands."

"The Movie Industry in America is DYING a very fast death," he wrote, complaining that other countries "are offering all sorts of incentives to draw" filmmakers and studios away from the U.S. "This is a concerted effort by other Nations and, therefore, a National Security threat. It is, in addition to everything else, messaging and propaganda!"

It wasn't immediately clear how any such tariff on international productions could be implemented. It's common for both large and smaller films to include production both in the U.S. and other countries.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 32 of 67

Big-budget movies like the upcoming "Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning," for instance, are shot around the world.

Incentive programs for years have influenced where movies are shot, increasingly driving film production out of California and to other states and countries with favorable tax incentives, like Canada and the United Kingdom.

Yet tariffs are designed to lead consumers toward American products. And in movie theaters, American-produced movies overwhelmingly dominate the domestic marketplace.

China has ramped up its domestic movie production, culminating in the animated blockbuster "Ne Zha 2" grossing more than \$2 billion this year. But even then, its sales came almost entirely from mainland China. In North America, it earned just \$20.9 million.

The Motion Picture Association didn't immediately respond to messages Sunday evening.

The MPA's data shows how much Hollywood exports have dominated cinemas. According to the MPA, the American movies produced \$22.6 billion in exports and \$15.3 billion in trade surplus in 2023.

Trump has made good on the "tariff man" label he gave himself years ago, slapping new taxes on goods made in countries around the globe. That includes a 145% tariff on Chinese goods and a 10% baseline tariff on goods from other countries, with even higher levies threatened.

By unilaterally imposing tariffs, Trump has exerted extraordinary influence over the flow of commerce, creating political risks and pulling the market in different directions. There are tariffs on autos, steel and aluminum, with more imports, including pharmaceutical drugs, set to be subject to new tariffs in the weeks ahead.

Trump has long voiced concern about movie production moving overseas.

Shortly before he took office, he announced that he had tapped actors Mel Gibson, Jon Voight and Sylvester Stallone to serve as "special ambassadors" to Hollywood to bring it "BACK—BIGGER, BETTER, AND STRONGER THAN EVER BEFORE!"

U.S. film and television production has been hampered in recent years, with setbacks from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hollywood guild strikes of 2023 and the recent wildfires in the Los Angeles area. Overall production in the U.S. was down 26% last year compared with 2021, according to data from ProdPro, which tracks production.

The group's annual survey of executives, which asked about preferred filming locations, found no location in the U.S. made the top five, according to the Hollywood Reporter. Toronto, the U.K., Vancouver, Central Europe and Australia came out on top, with California placing sixth, Georgia seventh, New Jersey eighth and New York ninth.

The problem is especially acute in California. In the greater Los Angeles area, production last year was down 5.6% from 2023 according to FilmLA, second only to 2020, during the peak of the pandemic. Last October, Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed expanding California's Film & Television Tax Credit program to \$750 million annually, up from \$330 million.

Other U.S. cities like Atlanta, New York, Chicago and San Francisco have also used aggressive tax incentives to lure film and TV productions. Those programs can take the form of cash grants, as in Texas, or tax credits, which Georgia and New Mexico offer.

"Other nations have been stealing the movie-making capabilities from the United States," Trump told reporters at the White House on Sunday night after returning from a weekend in Florida. "If they're not willing to make a movie inside the United States we should have a tariff on movies that come in."

Trump says he will reopen Alcatraz prison

By JILL COLVIN and MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump says he is directing his government to reopen and expand Alcatraz, the notorious former prison on a hard-to-reach California island off San Francisco that has been closed for more than 60 years.

In a post on his Truth Social site Sunday evening, Trump wrote that, "For too long, America has been

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 33 of 67

plagued by vicious, violent, and repeat Criminal Offenders, the dregs of society, who will never contribute anything other than Misery and Suffering. When we were a more serious Nation, in times past, we did not hesitate to lock up the most dangerous criminals, and keep them far away from anyone they could harm. That's the way it's supposed to be."

"That is why, today," he said, "I am directing the Bureau of Prisons, together with the Department of Justice, FBI, and Homeland Security, to reopen a substantially enlarged and rebuilt ALCATRAZ, to house America's most ruthless and violent Offenders."

Trump's directive to rebuild and reopen the long-shuttered penitentiary was the latest salvo in his effort to overhaul how and where federal prisoners and immigration detainees are locked up. But such a move would likely be an expensive and challenging proposition. The prison was closed in 1963 due to crumbling infrastructure and the high costs of repairing and supplying the island facility, because everything from fuel to food had to be brought by boat.

Bringing the facility up to modern-day standards would require massive investments at a time when the Bureau of Prisons has been shuttering prisons for similar infrastructure issues.

The prison — infamously inescapable due to the strong ocean currents and cold Pacific waters that surround it — was known as the "The Rock" and housed some of the nation's most notorious criminals, including gangster Al Capone and George "Machine Gun" Kelly.

It has long been part of the cultural imagination and has been the subject of numerous movies, including "The Rock" starring Sean Connery and Nicolas Cage.

Still in the 29 years it was open, 36 men attempted 14 separate escapes, according to the FBI. Nearly all were caught or didn't survive the attempt.

The fate of three particular inmates — John Anglin, his brother Clarence and Frank Morris — is of some debate and was dramatized in the 1979 film "Escape from Alcatraz" starring Clint Eastwood.

Alcatraz Island is now a major tourist site that is operate by the National Park Service and is a designated National Historic Landmark.

Trump, returning to the White House on Sunday night after a weekend in Florida, said he'd come up with the idea because of frustrations with "radicalized judges" who have insisted those being deported receive due process. Alcatraz, he said, has long been a "symbol of law and order. You know, it's got quite a history."

A spokesperson for the Bureau of Prisons said in a statement that the agency "will comply with all Presidential Orders." The spokesperson did not immediately answer questions from The Associated Press regarding the practicality and feasibility of reopening Alcatraz or the agency's role in the future of the former prison given the National Park Service's control of the island.

Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat whose district includes the island, questioned the feasibility of reopening the prison after so many years. "It is now a very popular national park and major tourist attraction. The President's proposal is not a serious one," she wrote on X.

The island serves as a veritable time machine to a bygone era of corrections. The Bureau of Prisons currently has 16 penitentiaries performing the same high-security functions as Alcatraz, including its maximum security facility in Florence, Colorado, and the U.S. penitentiary in Terre Haute, Indiana, which is home to the federal death chamber.

The order comes as Trump has been clashing with the courts as he tries to send accused gang members to a maximum-security prison in El Salvador, without due process. Trump has also floated the legally dubious idea of sending some federal U.S. prisoners to the Terrorism Confinement Center, known as CECOT.

Trump has also directed the opening of a detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to hold up to 30,000 of what he has labeled the "worst criminal aliens."

The Bureau of Prisons has faced myriad crises in recent years and has been subjected to increased scrutiny after Jeffrey Epstein's suicide at a federal jail in New York City in 2019. An AP investigation uncovered deep, previously unreported flaws within the Bureau of Prisons. AP reporting has disclosed widespread criminal activity by employees, dozens of escapes, chronic violence, deaths and severe staffing shortages that have hampered responses to emergencies, including assaults and suicides.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 34 of 67

The AP's investigation also exposed rampant sexual abuse at a federal women's prison in Dublin, California. Last year, President Joe Biden signed a law strengthening oversight of the agency after AP reporting spotlighted its many flaws.

At the same time, the Bureau of Prisons is operating in a state of flux — with a recently installed new director and a redefined mission that includes taking in thousands of immigration detainees at some of its prisons and jails under an agreement with the Department of Homeland Security. The agency last year closed several facilities, in part to cut costs, but is also in the process of building a new prison in Kentucky.

Tourist boats capsized in sudden storm in southwest China, leaving 10 dead

BEIJING (AP) — Four boats capsized in a sudden storm at a tourist spot in southwestern China, killing 10 people, state media said Monday.

More than 80 people fell into a river when strong winds hit the scenic area in Guizhou province late Sunday afternoon, state broadcaster CCTV said.

The boats capsized after a sudden rain and hail storm on the upper reaches of the Wu River, a tributary of the Yangtze, China's longest river. In one video shared by state media, a man could be seen performing CPR on another person, while one of the vessels drifted upside down.

Initial reports said two tourist boats had capsized, but state media said on Monday that four boats were involved. The other two boats had no passengers, and the seven crew members were able to save themselves, CCTV said.

Guizhou's mountains and rivers are a major tourism draw, and many Chinese were traveling during a five-day national holiday that ended Monday.

Chinese President Xi Jinping called for all-out efforts to find the missing and care for the injured, the official Xinhua News Agency said on Sunday. Seventy people were sent to a hospital, most with minor injuries.

Noting a recent series of fatal accidents, Xi underscored the importance of strengthening safety at tourist attractions, large public venues and residential communities, as well as for the rush of people returning at the end of major holidays.

CCTV said the capsized boats had a maximum capacity of about 40 people each and were not overloaded.

An eyewitness told state-owned Beijing News the waters were deep but that some people had managed to swim to safety. However, the storm had come suddenly and a thick mist obscured the surface of the river.

Houston sent to early playoff exit with 103-89 loss to Warriors in Game 7

By KRISTIE RIEKEN AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — With a chance to close out their first-round playoff series against the Golden State Warriors, the Houston Rockets instead delivered a playoff flop to end their season Sunday night.

The Rockets won consecutive games to claw back from a 3-1 deficit and force a Game 7 but played their worst game of the series to be sent packing with a 103-89 loss.

"We had our chances in this series," coach Ime Udoka said. "We all expected to continue to be playing so it's a letdown. It's going to sting now but use it as motivation and let's all come back better. Don't be satisfied."

Houston won 52 games to capture the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference and return to the post-season for the first time since 2020. The seven seed Warriors eliminated the Rockets in the playoffs for a fifth time after doing so four times between 2015 and 2019.

"We had whatever amount of wins and second place and all that, but nobody cares about that right now," Udoka said. "It's about where we finished."

Stephen Curry scored 14 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter and Buddy Hield made nine 3-pointers and finished with 33 points to lead Golden State to the win.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 35 of 67

Hield was 9 of 11 from 3-point range, setting an NBA record for a Game 7 and making more 3s than the Rockets, who were 6 of 18 from long range.

They didn't lead after the first quarter and allowed Curry to get going in the second half to put the game away after Hield carried the team in first two quarters.

Fred Vleet scored a combined 55 points in the last two games to help Houston extend the series. But he was limited to 17 points on 6-of-13 shooting Sunday as the Rockets were sent home early.

He was far from the only Rockets player who struggled. Big man Alperen Sengun had 21 points and 14 rebounds. But he missed several easy shots on a 9-of-23 night.

Despite the loss, Sengun was proud to see the growth of the team which won just 22 games in the 2022-23 season.

"We learned how to play together," he said. "We talk every day. It was a hard series for us. Obviously, we're upset right now, but it's going to be a great offseason for us and it's going to make us better next year."

Jalen Green, who had 38 points to lead Houston to a Game 2 win, finished with eight points.

"First playoffs is no excuse," he said. "I've got to be better."

Green, who was the second overall pick in the 2021 draft, was criticized during this series for not doing more to lead the team after scoring fewer than 10 points in four of the seven games.

But VanVleet took up for his teammate.

"Everybody's journey is different," he said. "The weight of the world seems to be on his shoulders at times, but he played well. We knew they were going to load up on him. On the path to greatness, there's going to be stumbles and failures."

Iraq's justice minister says prisons are at double their capacity as amnesty law takes effect

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — As a general amnesty law takes effect in Iraq, the country's prisons are facing a crisis of overcrowding, housing more than double their intended capacity, the country's justice minister said in an interview.

Justice Minister Khaled Shwani told The Associated Press on Saturday that Iraq's 31 prisons currently hold approximately 65,000 inmates, despite the system being built to accommodate only half that number.

He acknowledged that the overcrowding has put a severe strain on prison healthcare and human rights standards.

"When we took office, overcrowding stood at 300%," he said. "After two years of reform, we've reduced it to 200%. Our goal is to bring that down to 100% by next year in line with international standards."

Thousands more detainees remain in the custody of security agencies but have not yet been transferred to the Ministry of Justice due to lack of prison capacity. Four new prisons are under construction, Shwani said, while three have been closed in recent years. Two others have been opened and six existing prisons expanded.

The general amnesty law passed in January had strong support from Sunni lawmakers who argue that their community has been disproportionately targeted by terrorism charges, with confessions sometimes extracted under torture.

But opponents say the law would allow the release of people involved in public corruption and embezzlement as well as militants who committed war crimes.

The Iraqi Observatory for Human Rights, a watchdog group, said in a statement that "the current version of the general amnesty law raises deep concerns over its potential legal and security consequences."

Shwani said 2,118 prisoners have been released from the justice ministry's prisons since the amnesty law took effect, while others had been released from the custody of security agencies before being transferred to the Ministry of Justice.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 36 of 67

"We have a committee studying the status of inmates and identifying those who may qualify for release, but the vision is not yet final," he said. The minister said he expects a "good number" to be released but "cannot specify an exact percentage until we receive clarity from the judiciary on who qualifies for the amnesty."

Iraq's prisons house hundreds of foreign nationals, most of them convicted of terrorism-related charges or affiliation with the al-Qaida and Islamic State militant groups.

The inmates hail from countries including Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Egypt, North African nations, and several European states, as well as a handful of U.S. citizens. Shwani said discussions are underway with several governments to repatriate their citizens, excluding those sentenced to death.

He said inmates have been repatriated under existing agreements with Iran, Turkey, and the United Kingdom, including 127 Iranian inmates who were recently transferred back to Tehran.

An Iranian who was convicted in the 2022 killing of a U.S. citizen in Baghdad remains in custody, however, Shwani said.

Stephen Edward Troell, 45, a native of Tennessee, was fatally shot in his car in November by assailants as he pulled up to the street where he lived in Baghdad's central Karrada district with his family. Iranian citizen Mohammed Ali Ridha was convicted in the killing, along with four Iraqis, in what was described as a kidnapping gone wrong.

All executions have been halted following the issuance of the general amnesty law, Shwani said.

Iraq has faced criticism from human rights groups over its application of the death penalty and particularly over mass executions carried out without prior notice to lawyers or family members of the prisoners.

Shwani pushed back against the criticisms of prison conditions and of the executions.

"There are strict measures in place for any violations committed against inmates," he said. "Many employees have been referred for investigation, dismissed, and prosecuted."

He insisted that the "number of executions carried out is limited — not as high as reported in the media" and said the death penalty is only applied in "crimes that severely threaten national security and public safety," including inmates convicted in a 2016 bombing attack in Baghdad's Karrada district that killed hundreds of people, as well as cases of child rape and high-ranking IS leaders.

Executions have been paused to reassess cases under the new amnesty law, he said.

Cinco de Mayo celebrates resilience and culture of Mexican people

By FERNANDA FIGUEROA Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Cinco de Mayo festivities are taking place across the U.S. with music, tacos, tequila and colorful displays of Mexican culture — even if they're not always the most authentic.

The day falls on a Monday this year, meaning the bulk of the celebrations took place over the weekend. In California, a state with a large Mexican American population, there was a mix of art displays, classic car shows, parades and food truck offerings.

In Austin, Texas, events included an opportunity for children to get their photo taken with characters from the Disney animated musical "Encanto," which is itself a celebration of Mexican culture. A luncheon with speakers talking about the significance of the Mexican holiday and Mexican Americans in Austin was planned for Monday.

Here's a look at the celebration and its roots:

What the day celebrates

Cinco de Mayo marks the anniversary of the 1862 victory by Mexican troops over invading French forces at the Battle of Puebla. The triumph over the better-equipped and much larger French troops was an enormous emotional boost for Mexican soldiers led by Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza.

In Mexico, historical reenactments are held annually in the central city of Puebla to commemorate the victory. Participants dress as Mexican and French troops, and as Zacapoaxtla — the Indigenous and farmer contingent that helped Mexican troops win.

In the United States the date is seen as a celebration of Mexican American culture, stretching back to

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 37 of 67

the 1800s in California. Festivities typically include parades, street food, block parties, mariachi competitions and baile folklórico, or folkloric ballet, with whirling dancers wearing bright, ruffled dresses and their hair tied with shiny ribbons.

Latino activists and scholars say that disconnect in the U.S. is bolstered by the hazy history of Cinco de Mayo, and marketing that plays on stereotypes that include fake, droopy mustaches and gigantic, colorful sombreros. The day often is mistaken for Mexican Independence Day, which is in September.

It's not all about tequila and tacos

For many Americans with or without Mexican ancestry, the day is an excuse to toss back tequila shots and gorge on tortilla chips, nachos and tacos.

The celebrations in the U.S. started as a way for Mexican Americans to preserve their cultural identity, said Sehila Mota Casper, director of Latinos in Heritage Conservation.

"Since then we've seen a shift to more commercialization and commodification and mockery over the years," Mota Casper said. "I think that has a lot to do with the commercialization of products and especially Latino heritage."

Mota Casper encourages people to learn about that day in history and its importance in Mexico.

Jacob Troncoza, 49, said he celebrates Cinco de Mayo in his household because he's proud of his Mexican ancestry.

"I try to make sure that the kids understand what it's about, which was the revolution, the war, and the battles that our grandfathers fought on," said Troncoza, who was born in east Los Angeles.

Others, like Andrea Ruiz don't because her Mexican dad never did. But she noted what she deemed the irony in widespread celebrations.

"I think it's funny Trump ... and all of his supporters want to get Mexicans out, call them criminals, but then on Cinco de Mayo, they want to go and eat tacos and drink tequila," the 23-year-old Ruiz said.

Political rhetoric

Since returning to the White House, Trump has continued to label Mexican immigrants as criminals and gang members. He's also sought to end birthright citizenship, renamed the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America and ended the federal government's diversity, equity and inclusion programs.

Trump acknowledged Cinco de Mayo during his first term, posting on X, "Happy #CincoDeMayo!" and "I love Hispanics!" as he sat with a "taco bowl." In the last presidential election, data showed more young Hispanic men moved to the right and voted for Trump.

It's unclear if the current administration will acknowledge Cinco de Mayo — designated a holiday in Mexico but not in the United States. The Associated Press sent an email to the White House Press Office late Friday seeking comment.

Trump's handling of immigration remains a point of strength as he ramps up deportations and targets people living in the U.S. without legal status, according to a recent poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. While Trump's actions remain divisive, there's less of a consensus that the Republican president has overstepped on immigration than on other issues, the poll found.

Organizers of Chicago's Cinco de Mayo parade said they canceled it because the city has become a target for immigration agents.

Stephen Curry and Buddy Hield lead Warriors past Rockets 103-89 in Game 7

By KRISTIE RIEKEN AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Buddy Hield became an unlikely playoff hero for the Golden State Warriors, leading the team early in Game 7 against the Houston Rockets before Stephen Curry took over late.

Curry scored 14 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter, Hield made nine 3-pointers and scored 33 points, and the Warriors advanced to the Western Conference semifinals with a 103-89 win over the Houston Rockets on Sunday night.

"We were lucky to get out of this series," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said. "That was an incredibly

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 38 of 67

impressive display of resolve.”

The Warriors will face the Timberwolves Tuesday night in Minnesota.

After not scoring in Game 6, Hield had a scorching first half with six 3-pointers and 22 points to carry the Warriors to a 12-point lead, with Curry scoring just three points before the break. Then Curry took over in the closing minutes and performed his signature “night night” gesture as the Warriors put the Rockets away.

“This was not just a lights-out shooting performance for Buddy,” Kerr said. “It was a two-way performance. I thought his defense was fantastic.”

The Warriors became the seventh No. 7 seed in NBA history to advance to the semifinals and eliminated Houston in the playoffs for a fifth time. They sent the James Harden-led Rockets packing four times between 2015 and 2019.

None of the players from those teams remain with Houston, leading Fred VanVleet to say before the series that “this ain’t that team.”

Draymond Green, who helped beat the Rockets in Game 7 in 2018 to advance to the NBA Finals, mentioned VanVleet’s quote before continuing.

“It’s that organization though,” he said. “We like coming to the city playing in these situations. It’s been good to us.”

Hield was 9 of 11 from 3-point range, setting an NBA record for a Game 7 and making more 3s than the Rockets, who were 6 of 18 from long range.

“Just trying to seize the moment and relish the moment and just be in the moment at the same time,” Hield said. “Just trying to be myself. But tonight was fun.”

Curry added 10 rebounds and seven assists.

Amen Thompson scored 24 points to lead Houston, which forced Game 7 with two straight wins but couldn’t put away the experienced Warriors.

“We had our chances in this series,” Rockets coach Ime Udoka said. “We all expected to continue to be playing, so it’s a letdown. It’s going to sting now, but use it as motivation and let’s all come back better.”

Golden State led by eight entering the fourth and opened the quarter with a 5-0 run, capped by a 3 from Curry, to make it 75-62.

Houston scored the next six points, but the Warriors used a 7-2 spurt with four points from Curry to make it 82-70 with about seven minutes left.

Curry made a contested 3, rebounded a missed jumper by Thompson and found Hield for an open corner 3 that made it 94-74 with 2:31 remaining.

That sent many of the red-clad Rockets fans streaming for the exits.

Jimmy Butler added 20 points, eight rebounds and seven assists for the Warriors, who improved to 28-11 since his debut on Feb. 8 after a trade from Miami.

VanVleet scored a combined 55 points in the last two games to help Houston extend the series. But he was limited to 17 points on 6-of-13 shooting Sunday to send the second-seeded Rockets home early in their first trip to the playoffs since 2020.

He was far from the only Rocket who struggled. Big man Alperen Sengun had 21 points and 14 rebounds. But he missed several easy shots on a 9-of-23 night.

Jalen Green, who had 38 points to lead Houston to a Game 2 win, finished with eight points.

“First playoffs is no excuse,” he said. “I’ve got to be better.”

The Warriors played without key reserve Gary Payton II, who sat out with an illness that coach Steve Kerr said had him “sick as a dog.”

Draymond Green added 16 points for the Warriors, who had four starters score in double figures.

Sean 'Diddy' Combs sex trafficking trial is set to start with jury selection

NEW YORK (AP) — Sean “Diddy” Combs, the hip-hop entrepreneur whose wildly successful career has been dotted by allegations of violence, will be brought to a New York courthouse Monday to be tried on charges that he used the influence and resources of his business empire to sexually abuse women.

Jury selection is scheduled to begin in the morning and potentially take several days. Opening statements by the lawyers and the start of testimony is expected next week.

The 17-page indictment against Combs reads like a charging document filed against a Mafia leader or the head of a drug gang, accusing him of engaging in sex trafficking and presiding over a racketeering conspiracy.

The indictment says that with the help of people in his entourage and employees from his network of businesses, Combs engaged in a two-decade pattern of abusive behavior against women and others.

Women were manipulated into participating in drug-fueled sexual performances with male sex workers that Combs called “Freak Offs,” prosecutors say.

To keep women in line, prosecutors say Combs used a mix of influence and violence: He offered to boost their entertainment careers if they did what he asked — or cut them off if they didn’t.

And when he wasn’t getting what he wanted, the indictment says Combs and his associates resorted to violent acts including beatings, kidnapping and arson. Once, the indictment alleges, he even dangled someone from a balcony.

Combs and his lawyers say he is innocent.

Any group sex was consensual, they say. There was no effort to coerce people into things they didn’t want to do, and nothing that happened amounted to a criminal racket, they said.

The trial is expected to take at least eight weeks.

Combs, 55, has acknowledged one episode of violence that is likely to be featured in the trial. In 2016, a security camera recorded him beating up his former girlfriend, the R&B singer Cassie, in the hallway of a Los Angeles hotel. Cassie filed a lawsuit in late 2023 saying Combs had subjected her to years of abuse, including beatings and rape.

The Associated Press does not typically name people who say they have been sexually abused unless they come forward publicly, as Cassie, whose legal name is Casandra Ventura, did.

Combs’ attorney, Marc Agnifilo has said Combs was “not a perfect person” and that there had been drug use and toxic relationships, but said that all sexual activity between Combs, Cassie and other people was consensual.

The trial is the latest and most serious in a long string of legal problems for Combs.

In 1999 he was charged with bursting into the offices of an Interscope Records executive with his bodyguards and beating him with a champagne bottle and a chair. The executive, Steve Stoute, later asked prosecutors to go easy on Combs, who pleaded guilty to a lesser charge and took an anger management class.

Later that same year, Combs was stopped by police after he and his then-girlfriend, Jennifer Lopez, fled a nightclub where three people were wounded by gunfire. Combs was acquitted of all charges related to the incident at a 2001 trial, but a rapper in his entourage, Jamal “Shyne” Barrow, was convicted in the shooting and served nearly nine years in prison.

Then in 2015, Combs was charged with assaulting someone with a weight-room kettlebell at the University of California, Los Angeles, where one of his sons played football. Combs said he was defending himself and prosecutors dropped the case.

Now, Combs faces his most serious case yet.

If convicted, he faces the possibility of decades in prison.

Trump blasts Mexico's Sheinbaum for rejecting offer to send US troops into Mexico to fight cartels

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump on Sunday said Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum rejected his proposal to send U.S. troops to Mexico to help thwart the illegal drug trade because she is fearful of the country's powerful cartels.

The comments by Trump came a day after Sheinbaum confirmed that Trump pressed her in a call last month to accept a bigger role for the U.S. military in combating drug cartels in Mexico.

Trump said it was "true" that he proposed sending the troops to Mexico and lashed into Sheinbaum for dismissing the idea.

"Well she's so afraid of the cartels she can't walk, so you know that's the reason," Trump said in comments to reporters aboard Air Force One on Sunday. "And I think she's a lovely woman. The president of Mexico is a lovely woman, but she is so afraid of the cartels that she can't even think straight."

The U.S. military presence along the southern border with Mexico has increased steadily in recent months, following Trump's order in January to increase the army's role in stemming the flow of migrants.

The U.S. Northern Command has surged troops and equipment to the border, increased manned surveillance flights to monitor fentanyl trafficking along the border and sought expanded authority for U.S. Special Forces to work closely with Mexican forces conducting operations against cartels.

But Sheinbaum said that U.S. troops operating inside Mexico was going too far.

"He said, 'How can we help you fight drug trafficking? I propose that the United States military come in and help you.' And you know what I said to him? 'No, President Trump,'" she said on Saturday. "Sovereignty is not for sale. Sovereignty is loved and defended."

She added that she told Trump their two countries "can work together, but you in your territory and us in ours."

Trump in February designated as "foreign terrorist organizations" many gangs and cartels smuggling drugs into the U.S., restricting their movements and lending law enforcement more resources to act against them.

But Sheinbaum's stance — and Trump's response — suggest that U.S. pressure for unilateral military intervention could create tension between the two leaders after cooperation on immigration and trade in the early going of Trump's second term.

Trump said the U.S. military is needed to stem the scourge of fentanyl in the United States.

"They are bad news," Trump said of the cartels. "If Mexico wanted help with the cartels we would be honored to go in and do it. I told her that. I would be honored to go in and do it. The cartels are trying to destroy our country."

The White House has also linked its efforts to reduce the flow of fentanyl to Trump's tariff plan, saying he wants to hold Mexico, Canada, and China accountable for stemming the flow of the drug into the U.S.

A missile from Yemen halts flights in Israel hours before vote on intensifying Gaza war

By OHAD ZWIGENBERG and TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

BEN-GURION INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Israel (AP) — A missile launched by Iranian-backed rebels in Yemen briefly halted flights and commuter traffic at Israel's main international airport on Sunday after its impact near an access road caused panic among passengers.

The attack on Ben-Gurion International Airport came hours before Israeli Cabinet ministers were set to vote on whether to intensify military operations in Gaza. The army was calling up tens of thousands of reserves, Israel's chief of staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir said.

Israel's army said it was the first time a missile struck the airport grounds since the war in Gaza began. The military said initial findings indicated the likely cause was a technical issue with the interceptor.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 41 of 67

Israel's paramedic service Magen David Adom said four people were lightly wounded.

Multiple international airlines canceled or postponed flights. The war with Hamas in Gaza and then Hezbollah in Lebanon had led a wave of airlines to suspend flights to Israel. Many had resumed in recent months.

The Houthis have targeted Israel throughout the war in solidarity with Palestinians, raising their profile at home and internationally as the last member of Iran's self-described "Axis of Resistance" capable of launching regular attacks on Israel. The U.S. military under President Donald Trump has launched an intensified campaign of daily airstrikes targeting the Houthis since March 15.

Early Monday, the rebels issued a warning to airlines that they would carry out "repeated targeting" of Ben-Gurion, Israel's main gateway to the world.

International carriers should "cancel all their flights to the airports of the criminal Israeli enemy, in order to safeguard the safety of their aircraft and passengers," the Houthis said.

Israel vows to respond

Houthi military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree said in a video statement that the group fired a hypersonic ballistic missile at the airport.

Houthi rebels have fired at Israel since the war with Gaza began on Oct. 7, 2023. The missiles have mostly been intercepted, although some have penetrated Israel's missile defense systems, causing damage.

Israel has struck back against the rebels in Yemen.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the U.S. was supporting Israeli operations against the Houthis. "It's not bang, bang and we're done, but there will be bangs," he said. In a later statement, he added Israel would respond to the Houthis "AND, at a time and place of our choosing, to their Iranian terror masters."

Vote on expanding Gaza war

Netanyahu said the security Cabinet was meeting Sunday evening to vote on plans to expand the fighting in Gaza.

"We will operate in additional areas and we will destroy all of the infrastructure above and below ground," Zamir said.

Far-right Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir told Israeli Army Radio he wanted to see a "powerful" expansion of the war, and demanded that Israel bomb "the food and electricity supplies" in Gaza.

An 8-week ceasefire with the Hamas militant group allowed more aid into Gaza and freed some Israeli hostages, but it collapsed in March when Israel resumed strikes. The military has since captured swaths of the coastal enclave. Hundreds of Palestinians have been killed, according to local health officials.

Israel in March halted the entry of goods into Gaza as part of efforts to pressure Hamas to negotiate on Israel's terms for a new ceasefire. That has plunged the territory of 2.3 million people into what is believed to be the worst humanitarian crisis of the war. Hunger has been widespread, and shortages have set off looting.

In a confrontation over efforts to support Gaza, Malta's prime minister, Robert Abela, said his country had offered to send a marine surveyor to look into the damage caused to a ship said to be carrying aid and organized by pro-Palestinian activists. Abela said the captain refused.

The activists said Friday their vessel was struck by drones, blaming Israel. The ship remained in international waters off Malta. The Israeli military has not commented.

New Israeli airstrikes kill children

Israeli airstrikes killed at least seven Palestinians, including parents and their children, ages 2 and 4, in southern and central Gaza, Palestinian medics said. The military had no comment.

The military said two soldiers were killed in combat in Gaza, bringing the number killed since fighting resumed in March to six.

The war in Gaza began when Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking about 250 hostages. Israel says 59 captives remain in Gaza, although about 35 are believed to be dead.

Israel's offensive has killed more than 52,000 people in Gaza, many of them women and children, according to Palestinian health officials, who do not distinguish between combatants and civilians in their count.

The fighting has displaced more than 90% of Gaza's population, often multiple times.

Hard-right candidate Simion secures decisive win in first round of Romania's presidential redo

By STEPHEN McGRATH Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Hard-right nationalist George Simion secured a decisive win Sunday in the first round of Romania's presidential election redo, nearly complete electoral data showed. The election took place months after an annulled vote plunged the European Union and NATO member country into its worst political crisis in decades.

Simion, the 38-year-old leader of the Alliance for the Unity of Romanians, or AUR, was far outpacing all other candidates in the polls with 40.5% of the vote, official electoral data shows, after 99% of votes were counted from Sunday's vote.

Far behind in second place was Bucharest Mayor Nicusor Dan with 20.89%, and in third place the governing coalition's joint candidate, Crin Antonescu, with 20.34%. He conceded defeat after midnight, saying he believes it's an "irreversible result."

Eleven candidates vied for the presidency and a runoff will be held on May 18 between the top two candidates. By the time polls closed, about 9.57 million people — or 53.2% of eligible voters — had cast their ballots, according to the Central Election Bureau, with 973,000 votes cast at polling stations set up in other countries.

Election redo held after vote annulled

The rerun was held after Romania's political landscape was shaken last year when a top court voided the previous election in which the far-right outsider Calin Georgescu topped the first round, following allegations of electoral violations and Russian interference, which Moscow has denied.

In a prerecorded speech aired after polls closed, Simion said that despite many obstacles, Romanians "have risen up" and "we are approaching an exceptional result."

"I am here to restore constitutional order," said Simion, who came fourth in last year's race and later backed Georgescu. "I want democracy, I want normalcy, and I have a single objective: to give back to the Romanian people what was taken from them and to place at the center of decision-making the ordinary, honest, dignified people."

As in many EU countries, antiestablishment sentiment is running high in Romania, fueled by high inflation and cost of living, a large budget deficit and a sluggish economy. Observers say the malaise has bolstered support for nationalist and far-right figures like Georgescu, who is under investigation and barred from the rerun.

Georgescu, who appeared alongside Simion at a polling station on Sunday in the capital, Bucharest, called the vote rerun "a fraud orchestrated by those who have made deceit the only state policy," but said he was there to "acknowledge the power of democracy, the power of the vote that frightens the system, that terrifies the system."

The presidential role carries a five-year term and significant decision-making powers in national security and foreign policy.

Widespread distrust in the authorities

Dan, a 55-year-old mathematician and former anti-corruption activist who founded the Save Romania Union party (USR) in 2016, ran on a pro-EU "Honest Romania" ticket.

"It is about the trust of Romanians and our partners in democracy ... and in my opinion, it is a new beginning that we all have a responsibility to do correctly," Dan said after the polls closed.

Antonescu, 65, a veteran centrist who campaigned on retaining Romania's pro-Western orientation, said Sunday that he voted for "a united Romania, for a strong Romania, for a dignified Romania."

"Democracy means a battle, sometimes taken to the maximum, but it is a battle of ideas," he said after voting had closed. "Let's not forget that we are fellow citizens, sons of the same country, and we must move forward together."

Victor Ponta, who was prime minister from 2012-2015, also pushed a MAGA-style "Romania First" campaign and boasted of having close ties to the Trump administration, stands in fourth place with 14.3% of

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 43 of 67

the vote.

Elena Lasconi, who came second in last year's first round ballot and participated in the rerun, only obtained about 2.6% of the vote. She positioned herself as a staunchly pro-Western, anti-system candidate, railing against what she described as a corrupt political class.

Cristian Andrei, a Bucharest-based political consultant, said Simion's clear victory indicates a complete "reshape" of the political spectrum, and that if Dan reaches the runoff, "it will be a clear signal that the political class and the political establishment have lost."

"You have a populist or pro-sovereign movement ... and you also have this liberal, urban, pro-Western segment of Romania that wants change," he said, adding that it would be a "huge rejection of the classic political parties ... and this will mean that the entire political spectrum will be reshaped."

Crossroads moment for Romania

Distrust in the authorities remains widespread, especially for those who voted for Georgescu, a sizable electorate that Simion has sought to tap into.

"The antiestablishment sentiment is not like an anarchic movement, but is against the people who destroyed this country," Simion told The Associated Press days before the rerun. "We are not a democratic state anymore."

Simion said that his hard-right nationalist Alliance for the Unity of Romanians party is "perfectly aligned with the MAGA movement," capitalizing on a growing wave of populism in Europe after U.S. President Donald Trump's political comeback. AUR rose to prominence in a 2020 parliamentary election, proclaims to stand for "family, nation, faith, and freedom," and has since doubled its support.

Rares Ghiorghe, 36, who works in the energy sector and voted for Simion, says he hopes that if he secures the presidency, Romania can "return to the basic principles of democracy, regain our confidence."

"What happened in December 2024 is definitely a dark chapter in the history of this country, and we can no longer accept it," he said. "I'm hoping things will get back to normal."

The election redo is a crossroads moment for Romania as it seeks to restore its democracy and retain its geopolitical alliances, which have become strained since the canceled election fiasco.

The decision to annul the election and the ban on Georgescu's candidacy drew criticism from U.S. Vice President JD Vance, Elon Musk and Russia, which publicly supported his candidacy in the rerun.

Oscar Piastri wins at Miami for 3rd straight F1 victory, 4th win of season for championship leader

By JENNA FRYER AP Auto Racing Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — The first time Oscar Piastri arrived at the Miami Grand Prix as a Formula 1 driver he was in the slowest car in the field and only narrowly avoided finishing last.

Fast-forward two years and Piastri and McLaren Racing have come full circle.

Piastri maintained his advantage in the F1 championship fight by winning at Miami on Sunday for his fourth win through six races this season. Piastri has won three consecutive F1 races for McLaren Racing, where he and teammate Lando Norris are trying to dethrone four-time defending champion Max Verstappen of Red Bull.

McLaren has won Miami the last two years, with Norris on top last season for his first career F1 victory.

"It's just incredible, the hard work that's gone in," Piastri said of McLaren. "I remember two years ago here in Miami, we were genuinely the slowest team. I think we got lapped twice and to now have won the Grand Prix by over 35 seconds to third is an unbelievable result of the hard work of every single person."

Piastri is the first McLaren driver to win three consecutive F1 races in 28 years; Mika Hakkinen did it with a win in the 1997 season finale and then victories in the first two races of 1998.

He widened his lead over Norris in the driver standings to 16 points, while Verstappen trails Piastri by 32 points.

Norris' win at Miami last season snapped Verstappen's two-year winning streak at the course surrounding Hard Rock Stadium. Norris also won the sprint race on Saturday — Piastri dominated but a late safety

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 44 of 67

car cost him the victory — but Verstappen won the pole in qualifying.

Verstappen, who announced the birth of his first child Friday morning, has been determined to disprove the myth that fatherhood would make him a more conservative driver. It was evident as he darted away at the start and then aggressively held off Norris' challenge for the lead.

The Red Bull and McLaren were side-by-side and Norris was trying to edge ahead of the Dutchman, but he ran off track and lost four spots. Norris said Verstappen forced him off track and there was nothing he could do but try to avoid running into a wall — but F1 took no action against Verstappen.

"What can I say? If I don't go for it, people complain. If I go for it, people complain," Norris said. "You can't win. But it really just how it is with Max — it's crash or their pass."

Verstappen was unapologetic after fading to fourth and insisted he raced within the rules.

"I mean, I had nothing to lose, so I also wanted to have a bit of fun out there," Verstappen said, adding McLaren's strong start to the season is "not frustrating at all."

"We are here to win and today we were miles off that, so it doesn't really matter," Verstappen said.

Norris recovered from the early incident and picked his way back toward the front, but not before Piastri took control away from Verstappen on the 14th of 57 laps. McLaren has decided it will allow Piastri and Norris to race each other cleanly without team orders, and Norris was cleared to challenge his Australian teammate for the victory.

In the waning laps, Norris was able to close the gap but could never catch Piastri and settled for second in a 1-2 finish for McLaren. The two held a nearly 40-second advantage over George Russell of Mercedes, who finished third.

Alex Albon of Williams was fifth, Kimi Antonelli of Mercedes was sixth and Charles Leclerc was seventh after Ferrari ordered Lewis Hamilton to give his teammate the position in the closing laps. Hamilton was eighth.

Carlos Sainz Jr. was ninth for Williams and Yuki Tsunoda was 10th for Red Bull.

Doohan in doubt

Jack Doohan ran into another car on the opening lap and then crashed on the second lap — a showing that won't quiet chatter the rookie is on the verge of being replaced at Alpine by Franco Colapinto.

There have been media reports in Argentina that Colapinto will replace Doohan at F1's next race, later this month in Italy. It was dismissed at the start of the Miami weekend by Alpine team principal Oliver Oakes, who indicated "as it is today" the Australian would still be in the seat at Imola.

"I think it was a sponsor from Argentina off-camera giving his view on Franco, when he's going to be in the car. I'm sure there's a lot of people in Argentina who'd like him in the car this Sunday," Oakes said about the speculation. "We've been pretty open as a team that that's just noise. Jack needs to continue doing a good job. But it's natural that there's always speculation there."

"As it is today, Jack is our driver along with Pierre (Gasly)," he continued. "We've been pretty clear on that. We always evaluate, but today that is the case."

Doohan, who didn't complete two laps Sunday and finished last, has yet to score a point this season through six races. His best finish was 13th at the Chinese Grand Prix.

A timeline of the rise and fall of Sean 'Diddy' Combs

By The Associated Press undefined

For more than two decades, Sean "Diddy" Combs was one of hip-hop's most opportunistic entrepreneurs, spinning his hitmaking talents into a broad business empire that included a record label, a fashion brand, a TV network, deals with liquor companies and a key role in a reality TV show.

But U.S. prosecutors say that behind the scenes, Combs was coercing and abusing women with help from a network of associates who helped silence victims through blackmail and violence.

Combs has pleaded not guilty and denied the allegations. Jury selection for his trial starts Monday.

Here is a timeline of major events in his rise and fall:

1990: Combs, then a student at Howard University, gets his start in the music business with an intern-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 45 of 67

ship at Uptown Records in New York.

Dec. 28, 1991: Nine people die at a celebrity basketball game promoted by Combs and the rapper Heavy D when thousands of fans try to get into a gym at the City College of New York. A mayoral report lays part of the blame for the catastrophe on poor planning by Combs.

1992: Combs is one of the executive producers on "What's the 411?," the debut album by Mary J. Blige.

1993: After being fired by Uptown, Combs establishes his own label, Bad Boy, which quickly cuts a lucrative deal with Arista Records.

1994: Bad Boy releases Notorious B.I.G.'s album "Ready to Die." Two months later, Tupac Shakur survives a shooting in New York and accuses Combs and Biggie of having prior knowledge of the attack, which they deny. Shakur was later killed in a 1996 shooting in Las Vegas.

1996: Combs is convicted of criminal mischief after he allegedly threatened a photographer with a gun.

1997: Biggie is killed in Los Angeles. Combs, then known as Puff Daddy, releases "I'll Be Missing You" in honor of his slain star.

1998: Combs wins two Grammys, one for best rap album for his debut "No Way Out" and another for best rap performance by a duo or group for "I'll Be Missing You" with Faith Evans. Also that year, Combs' Sean John fashion line is founded.

April 16, 1999: Combs and his bodyguards are charged with attacking Interscope Records music executive Steve Stoute in his New York office in a dispute over a music video. Combs is sentenced to an anger management course.

Dec. 27, 1999: Combs is arrested on gun possession charges after he and his girlfriend at the time, Jennifer Lopez, fled a shooting that wounded three people at a New York City nightclub. Some witnesses tell police Combs was among the people shooting in the club. He is later charged with offering his driver \$50,000 to claim ownership of the 9 mm handgun found in his car.

March 17, 2001: Combs is acquitted of all charges related to the nightclub shooting. One of his rap proteges, Jamal "Shyne" Barrows, is convicted in the shooting and serves nearly nine years in prison. Two weeks after the trial, Combs announces he wants to be known as P. Diddy.

2002: Combs becomes the producer and star of "Making the Band," a talent-search TV show.

Feb. 1, 2004: Combs performs at the Super Bowl halftime show along with Janet Jackson, Justin Timberlake and others. A week later, Combs, Nelly and Murphy Lee win a Grammy for best rap performance by a duo or group for "Shake Ya Tailfeather."

April, 2004: Combs makes his Broadway acting debut in "A Raisin in the Sun."

2005: Combs announces he is changing his stage name to Diddy, getting rid of the P.

March, 2008: Combs settles a lawsuit brought by a man who claims Combs punched him after a post-Oscar party outside a Hollywood hotel the previous year. In May, Combs is honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

2015: Combs is arrested after a confrontation at UCLA in Los Angeles, where one of his sons played football. Assault charges are later dropped.

2016: Combs launches the Capital Preparatory School charter school in Harlem. Also that year, he announces he is donating \$1 million to Howard University.

2017: Combs is named the top earner on Forbes' list of the 100 highest-paid celebrities, which says he brought in \$130 million in a single year.

2018: Kim Porter, Combs' former girlfriend and mother of three of his children, dies from pneumonia at age 47.

2022: Combs receives a lifetime honor at the BET Awards.

September, 2023: Combs releases "The Love Album — Off the Grid," his first solo studio project since 2006's chart-topping "Press Play."

Nov. 16, 2023: R&B singer Cassie sues Combs, alleging he subjected her to years of abuse, including beatings and rape. A day later, the lawsuit is settled under undisclosed terms. Combs, through his attorney, denies the accusations.

Nov. 23, 2023: Two more women accuse Combs of sexual abuse in lawsuits. Combs' attorneys call the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 46 of 67

allegations false. Dozens of additional lawsuits follow by women and men who accuse Combs of rape, sexual assault and other attacks. Plaintiffs include singer Dawn Richard, a "Making the Band" contestant who alleged years of psychological and physical abuse. Combs denies all the allegations.

March 25, 2024: Federal agents search Combs' homes in Los Angeles and Miami Beach, Florida.

May 17, 2024: CNN airs video that shows Combs attacking and beating Cassie in a hotel hallway in Los Angeles in 2016. Two days later, Combs posts videos on social media apologizing for the assault.

Sept. 16, 2024: Combs is arrested at his Manhattan hotel. A sex trafficking and racketeering indictment unsealed the next day accuses him of using his business empire to coerce women into participating in sexual performances. Combs denies the allegations. His attorney calls it an unjust prosecution of an "imperfect person."

May 5, 2025: Jury selection is scheduled to begin for Combs' trial.

Brazilian police arrest 2 people over alleged plot targeting Lady Gaga concert in Rio

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Police in Brazil said on Sunday that two people have been arrested in connection with an alleged plot to detonate explosives at a free Lady Gaga concert in Rio de Janeiro.

The Rio event on Saturday was the biggest show of the pop star's career that attracted an estimated 2.5 million fans to Copacabana Beach and had crowds screaming and dancing along.

Felipe Cury, secretary of the Rio police, said authorities believed the suspects sought to target Brazil's LGBTQ community.

"They were clearly saying that they were planning an attack at Lady Gaga's concert motivated by sexual orientation," Cury told a press conference on Sunday.

Rio Police chief Luiz Lima said the group disseminated hate speech and violent content online "aimed at gaining notoriety in order to attract more viewers, more participants — most of them teenagers, many of them children."

Even as Brazilian authorities said they arrested suspects in the hours before Lady Gaga's show, the event went ahead without disruption — leading some to question the seriousness of the threat. Serious security concerns typically lead organizers to cancel such massive events — as happened with Taylor Swift's concerts in Vienna last year.

Police said nothing about the alleged plot at the time to in an effort to "avoid panic" and "the distortion of information."

A spokesperson for Lady Gaga said the pop star and her team "learned about this alleged threat via media reports this morning. Prior to and during the show, there were no known safety concerns, nor any communication from the police or authorities to Lady Gaga regarding any potential risks."

The statement added: "Her team worked closely with law enforcement throughout the planning and execution of the concert and all parties were confident in the safety measures in place."

Security was tight at Saturday's concert, with 5,200 military and police officers deployed to the beach where fans were reveling in the pop singer's classic hits like "Born This Way," which became something of an LGBTQ anthem after its 2011 release.

Homes in several states raided

Authorities arrested two people in connection with the alleged plot — a man described as the group's leader in the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul on illegal weapons possession charges, and a teenager in Rio on child pornography charges. Police did not elaborate on their exact roles in the plot or on how the group came to target Lady Gaga's free concert.

"Those involved were recruiting participants, including teenagers, to carry out integrated attacks using improvised explosives and Molotov cocktails," police said.

The Justice Ministry said that it determined the group posed a "risk to public order." It said the group falsely presented themselves online as "Little Monsters" — Lady Gaga's nickname for her fans — in order to lure teenagers into "networks with violent and self-destructive content."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 47 of 67

During a series of raids on the homes of 15 suspects across several Brazilian states, authorities confiscated phones and other electronic devices. Although police said they believed homemade bombs were intended for use in the planned attack, there was no mention of the raids turning up any weapons or explosive material.

Cury said one of the suspects whose home was raided in the city of Macaé, near Rio, "had a religious motivation" and "claimed the singer (Lady Gaga) was a Satanist."

'Historical moment'

Lady Gaga has expressed gratitude for the enormous crowd in an Instagram post that said nothing of the alleged plot.

"Nothing could prepare me for the feeling I had during last night's show — the absolute pride and joy I felt singing for the people of Brazil," she wrote. "The sight of the crowd during my opening songs took my breath away. Your heart shines so bright, your culture is so vibrant and special, I hope you know how grateful I am to have shared this historical moment with you."

Her free beach concert stood out at a time of surging ticket prices for live music around the world as concert-goers pay budget-busting costs to see their favorite artists. Last month she performed at Coachella Valley music festival in California, where tickets fetched upwards of \$600 for one weekend.

Rio has done this before — last May, superstar Madonna performed the finale to her latest world tour for some 1.6 million fans on the sprawling sands of Copacabana Beach.

Trump, in a new interview, says he doesn't know if he backs due process rights

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump is circumspect about his duties to uphold due process rights laid out in the Constitution, saying in a new interview that he does not know whether U.S. citizens and noncitizens alike deserve that guarantee.

He also said he does not think military force will be needed to make Canada the "51st state" and played down the possibility he would look to run for a third term in the White House.

The comments in a wide-ranging, and at moments combative, interview with NBC's "Meet the Press" came as the Republican president's efforts to quickly enact his agenda face sharper headwinds with Americans just as his second administration crossed the 100-day mark, according to a recent poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Trump, however, made clear that he is not backing away from a to-do list that he insists the American electorate broadly supported when they elected him in November.

Here are some of the highlights from the interview with NBC's Kristen Welker that was taped Friday at his Mar-a-Lago property in Florida and aired Sunday.

Trump doesn't commit to due process

Critics on the left have tried to make the case that Trump is chipping away at due process in the United States. Most notably, they cite the case of Kilmar Abrego Garcia, a Salvadoran man who was living in Maryland when he was mistakenly deported to El Salvador and imprisoned without communication.

Trump says Abrego Garcia is part of a violent transnational gang. The Republican president has sought to turn deportation into a test case for his campaign against illegal immigration despite a Supreme Court order saying the administration must work to return Abrego Garcia to the U.S.

Asked in the interview whether U.S. citizens and noncitizens both deserve due process as laid out in the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution, Trump was noncommittal.

"I don't know. I'm not, I'm not a lawyer. I don't know," Trump said when pressed by Welker.

The Fifth Amendment provides "due process of law," meaning a person has certain rights when it comes to being prosecuted for a crime. Also, the 14th Amendment says no state can "deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Trump said he has "brilliant lawyers ... and they are going to obviously follow what the Supreme Court

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 48 of 67

said."

He said he was pushing to deport "some of the worst, most dangerous people on Earth," but that courts are getting in his way.

"I was elected to get them the hell out of here, and the courts are holding me from doing it," Trump said. Military action against Canada is 'highly unlikely'

The president has repeatedly threatened that he intends to make Canada the "51st state."

Before his White House meeting on Tuesday with newly elected Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, Trump is not backing away from the rhetoric that has angered Canadians.

Trump, however, told NBC that it was "highly unlikely" that the U.S. would need to use military force to make Canada the 51st state.

He offered less certainty about whether his repeated calls for the U.S. to take over Greenland from NATO-ally Denmark can be achieved without military action.

"Something could happen with Greenland," Trump said. "I'll be honest, we need that for national and international security. ... I don't see it with Canada. I just don't see it, I have to be honest with you."

President bristles at recession forecasts

Trump said the U.S. economy is in a "transition period" but he expects it to do "fantastically" despite the economic turmoil sparked by his tariffs.

He offered sharp pushback when Welker noted that some Wall Street analysts now say the chances of a recession are increasing.

"Well, you know, you say, some people on Wall Street say," Trump said. "Well, I tell you something else. Some people on Wall Street say that we're going to have the greatest economy in history."

He also deflected blame for the 0.3% decline in the U.S. economy in the first quarter. He said he was not responsible for it.

"I think the good parts are the Trump economy and the bad parts are the Biden economy because he's done a terrible job," referring to his Democratic predecessor, Joe Biden.

Trump doubled down on his recent comments at a Cabinet meeting that children might have to have two dolls instead of 30, denying that is an acknowledgment his tariffs will lead to supply shortages.

"I'm just saying they don't need to have 30 dolls. They can have three. They don't need to have 250 pencils. They can have five."

Trump plays down third-term talk

The president has repeatedly suggested he could seek a third term in the White House even though the 22nd Amendment of the Constitution says that "No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice."

Trump told NBC there is considerable support for him to run for a third term.

"But this is not something I'm looking to do," Trump said. "I'm looking to have four great years and turn it over to somebody, ideally a great Republican, a great Republican to carry it forward."

Trump's previous comments about a third term sometimes seem more about provoking outrage on the political left. The Trump Organization is even selling red caps with the words "Trump 2028."

But at moments, he has suggested he was seriously looking into a third term. In a late March phone interview with NBC, Trump said, "I'm not joking. There are methods which you could do it."

So JD Vance in 2028? Marco Rubio? Not so fast.

Trump said in the interview that Vice President JD Vance is doing a "fantastic job" and is "brilliant." Secretary of State Marco Rubio, whom Trump last week tasked to simultaneously serve as acting national security adviser, is "great," the president said.

But Trump said it is "far too early" to begin talking about his potential successor.

He is confident that his "Make America Great Again" movement will flourish beyond his time in the White House.

"You look at Marco, you look at JD Vance, who's fantastic," Trump said. "You look at — I could name 10, 15, 20 people right now just sitting here. No, I think we have a tremendous party. And you know what I can't name? I can't name one Democrat."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 49 of 67

Hegseth is 'totally safe'

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has been under fire for his participation in Signal text chains in which sensitive information about military planning was shared. But Trump said he is not looking to replace his Pentagon chief.

"No. Not even a little bit. No. Pete's going to be great," Trump said. Hegseth's job is "totally safe."

The president also said his decision to nominate national security adviser Mike Waltz to be the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations was not punishment for starting the chain to which Waltz inadvertently added a reporter.

"No. I just think he'll do a nice job in the new position," Trump said. He said his decision to have Rubio take over Waltz's duties will likely be temporary.

"Marco's very busy doing other things, so he's not going to keep it long term. We're going to put somebody else in," Trump said, adding that it would nonetheless be possible to do both jobs indefinitely. "You know, there's a theory. Henry Kissinger did both. There's a theory that you don't need two people. But I think I have some really great people that could do a good job."

One person he said he is not considering for the post? Top policy aide Stephen Miller.

"Well, I'd love to have Stephen there, but that would be a downgrade," he said. "Stephen is much higher on the totem pole than that, in my opinion."

Trump insists he's not profiting from the presidency, plans to donate his salary once again

Trump denied he is profiting from the presidency, even as he continues to promote a series of business ventures, including cryptocurrency holdings.

"I'm not profiting from anything. All I'm doing is, I started this long before the election. I want crypto. I think crypto's important because if we don't do it, China's going to. And it's new, it's very popular, it's very hot," Trump said, adding that he hasn't even "even looked" at how much he's made from the venture.

Just days before taking office, Trump launched his own meme coin, which surged in value after it announced that top holders would be invited to an exclusive dinner at the president's Washington-area golf club later this month and a tour of the White House. He also helped launch World Liberty Financial, another cryptocurrency venture, last year.

That's in addition to a long list of other business ventures, from Trump Media & Technology Group, which runs his Truth Social site, to branded sneakers, watches and colognes and perfumes.

"Being president probably cost me money if you really look," Trump said. "In fact, I do something that no other president has done, they think maybe George Washington has done."

He added: "I contribute my entire salary to the government, back to the government. And I'm doing it again."

Another TikTok deal extension

Trump said he is open to extending the deadline for a deal on TikTok once again.

"I'd like to see it done," he said. "I have a little warm spot in my heart for TikTok. TikTok is — it's very interesting, but it'll be protected."

He later added: "If it needs an extension, I would be willing to give it an extension, might not need it."

Last month, Trump used executive action to keep TikTok running in the U.S. for another 75 days to give his administration more time to broker a deal to bring the social media platform under American ownership.

White House officials had believed they were close to a deal in which the app's operations would have been spun off into a new company based in the U.S. and owned and operated by a majority of American investors. But Beijing hit the brakes after Trump slapped wide-ranging tariffs on nations across the globe.

"We actually have a deal. We have a group of purchasers, very substantial people. They're going to pay a lot of money. It's a good thing for us. It's a good thing for China. It's going to be, I think, very good," he said. "But because of the fact that I've essentially cut off China right now with the tariffs that are so high that they're not going to be able to do much business with the United States. But if we make a deal with China I'm sure that'll be a subject, and it'll be a very easy subject to solve."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 50 of 67

Nicaragua is quitting a UN agency over a press freedom award.

Here's a look at the issue

PARIS (AP) — The United Nations agency that promotes education, science and culture and also works for the preservation of outstanding cultural and natural heritage around the world is abruptly losing one of its 194 member states. It marks a blow to the Paris-based body that is also in U.S. President Donald Trump 's crosshairs.

Nicaragua angrily announced its withdrawal from the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in a letter that UNESCO's director general, Audrey Azoulay, said she received Sunday morning.

In the letter seen by The Associated Press, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Valdrack Jaentschke denounced the awarding of a UNESCO press freedom prize to a Nicaraguan newspaper, La Prensa.

The prize jury hailed the newspaper's work in the face of "severe repression" and reporting from exile that "courageously keeps the flame of press freedom alive" in the Central American country.

Nicaragua's government, led by President Daniel Ortega and his wife and co-president, Rosario Murillo, has been cracking down on dissent since it violently repressed protests in 2018, claiming they were backed by foreign powers that sought his overthrow.

In his letter to UNESCO, Jaentschke claimed La Prensa is a pro-U.S. media and "represents the vile betrayal against our Motherland."

Here's a look at the dispute:

UNESCO's Guillermo Cano Prize

UNESCO member states created the World Press Freedom Prize in 1997. The only U.N. prize awarded to journalists, it is named after Colombian newspaper journalist Guillermo Cano Isaza, who was assassinated in Colombia's capital, Bogota, in 1986.

An international jury of media professionals that recommended La Prensa for the 2025 award on Saturday said through its chairman that the newspaper, founded almost a century ago in 1926, "has made courageous efforts to report the truth to the people of Nicaragua."

UNESCO said that "since 2021, following the imprisonment and expulsion of its leaders from the country as well as the confiscation of its assets, La Prensa has continued to inform the Nicaraguan population online, with most of its team in exile and operating from Costa Rica, Spain, Mexico, Germany and the United States."

Some other recent laureates included Belarus' top independent journalists' organization, recognized in 2022, and, in 2019, journalists Kyaw Soe Oo and Wa Lone who were jailed in Myanmar for their reporting on the military's brutal crackdown on Rohingya Muslims.

Nicaragua's fury

Jaentschke's letter said UNESCO recognition for La Prensa was "undeserved" and that the agency's actions were "unacceptable and inadmissible."

The minister alleged, without offering evidence, that La Prensa has promoted U.S. military and political intervention in Nicaragua.

"It is deeply shameful that UNESCO appears as the promoter, and obviously as an accomplice, of an action that offends and attacks the deepest Values of Nicaragua's National Identity and Culture," his signed and stamped letter said.

Nicaragua's government later issued a statement that echoed Jaentschke's claims.

"When UNESCO gives prominence to the traitors, slaves and lackeys of colonialism and imperialism, it totally abandons any sense of objectivity," it said.

UNESCO's regret

In a statement announcing Nicaragua's decision to leave, Azoulay said "UNESCO is fully within its mandate when it defends freedom of expression and press freedom around the world."

"I regret this decision, which will deprive the people of Nicaragua of the benefits of cooperation, particularly in the fields of education and culture," she said.

Trump's UNESCO review

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 51 of 67

In his first presidency, Trump looked dimly on Ortega's rule. In 2018, Trump signed into law a bill to cut off resources to the government of Nicaragua.

But he's also not been much of a fan of UNESCO.

In an executive order in February, Trump called for a review of American involvement in the agency. In his first presidency, Trump's administration in 2017 announced that the U.S. would withdraw from UNESCO, citing anti-Israel bias. That decision took effect a year later.

The United States formally rejoined UNESCO in 2023 after a five-year absence, under the presidency of Joe Biden.

'Thunderbolts' kicks off the summer movie season with \$76 million at the box office

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Marvel Studios' "Thunderbolts" opened with \$76 million in domestic ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday, kicking off the summer box office with a solid No. 1 debut that fell shy of Marvel's more spectacular launches.

All eyes had been on whether "Thunderbolts" — a team-up of antihero rejects similar to "Avengers" — could restore the Walt Disney Co. superhero factory to the kind of box office performance the studio once enjoyed so regularly. The results — similar to the debuts of "The Eternals" (\$71 million) and "Ant-Man and the Wasp" (\$75 million) — suggested Marvel's malaise won't be so easy to snap out of.

Some had expected a bigger opening for "Thunderbolts" because of the film's good word-of-mouth. Unlike most recent MCU entries, reviews (88% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) have been excellent for "Thunderbolts," directed by Jake Schreier and starring Florence Pugh, David Harbour and Sebastian Stan. Audiences gave it an "A-" CinemaScore.

That kind of response should power the movie to strong business in the coming weeks. Though bigger MCU films — including 2024's "Deadpool vs. Wolverine" (with a \$211 million opening on the way to \$1.34 billion worldwide) — have monopolized movie screens immediately, "Thunderbolts" could gather steam more steadily. Or, it could go down as another example of Marvel struggling to rekindle its golden touch.

Marvel spent about \$180 million to produce the movie, which added \$86.1 million in overseas sales. The film also teases the next MCU chapter, "The Fantastic Four: First Steps," due out July 25.

"Marvel set the bar so high for so many years that a \$76 million opening may seem to some like it should have done \$100 million or something like that," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. "This is a great reset. They're hitting the reset with 'Thunderbolts.'" The great reviews and the word-of-mouth should hold it (in) good stead."

The Walt Disney Co. also might not have expected such stout competition from Ryan Coogler's "Sinners." The Warner Bros. release, which had led the box office the last two weeks, continued to hold remarkably well. In its third week, it grossed \$33 million, a dip of only 28%.

"Sinners," a 1932-set vampire movie about bootlegging brothers (both played by Michael B. Jordan) who open a juke joint in their Mississippi hometown, has proven a spring sensation in theaters. It has collected \$179.7 million domestically and \$236.7 million globally thus far.

Warner Bros. also nabbed third place with "A Minecraft Movie," the smash-hit video game adaptation. In its fifth weekend, it rung up another \$13.7 million to bring its North American gross to nearly \$400 million. Worldwide, it has totaled \$873.4 million. Warner Bros. added "Block Party Edition" screenings over the weekend for a sing-along and "meme-along" experience. The film has seen some rowdy screenings from TikTok-inspired moviegoers.

More than three years after cinematographer Halyna Hutchins was killed on set, the Alec Baldwin western "Rust" arrived in theaters. Its release brought some closure to one of Hollywood's greatest tragedies. Distributor Falling Forward Films didn't report box office, but estimates suggested "Rust" grossed approximately \$25,000 in 115 theaters.

Following Hutchins' death, the film's armorer, Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, was sentenced to prison for

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 52 of 67

involuntary manslaughter. First assistant director David Halls was sentenced to probation after pleading no contest to negligent use of a deadly weapon. Involuntary manslaughter charges against Baldwin, a co-producer on the film, were twice dismissed, in 2023 and again in 2024.

As part of a wrongful death settlement, Matt Hutchins, Hutchins' husband, was made an executive producer on the film.

Also opening over the weekend was "The Surfer," starring Nicolas Cage as a man trying to surf a "locals-only" Australian beach. The Madman Films release collected a modest \$674,560 from 884 theaters.

Top 10 movies by domestic box office

With final domestic figures being released Monday, this list factors in the estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore:

1. "Thunderbolts," \$76 million.
2. "Sinners," \$33 million.
3. "A Minecraft Movie," \$13.7 million.
4. "The Accountant 2," \$9.5 million.
5. "Until Dawn," \$3.8 million.
6. "The Amateur," \$1.8 million.
7. "The King of Kings," \$1.7 million.
8. "Warfare," \$1.3 million.
9. "Hit: The Third Case," \$869,667.
10. "The Surfer," \$674,560.

Cuts have eliminated more than a dozen US government health-tracking programs

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s motto is "Make America Healthy Again," but government cuts could make it harder to know if that's happening.

More than a dozen data-gathering programs that track deaths and disease appear to have been eliminated in the tornado of layoffs and proposed budget cuts rolled out in the Trump administration's first 100 days.

The Associated Press examined draft and final budget proposals and spoke to more than a dozen current and former federal employees to determine the scope of the cuts to programs tracking basic facts about Americans' health.

Among those terminated at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention were experts tracking abortions, pregnancies, job-related injuries, lead poisonings, sexual violence and youth smoking, the AP found.

"If you don't have staff, the program is gone," said Patrick Breyse, who used to oversee the CDC's environmental health programs.

Federal officials have not given a public accounting of specific surveillance programs that are being eliminated.

Instead, a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services spokeswoman pointed the AP to a Trump administration budget proposal released Friday. It lacked specifics, but proposes to cut the CDC's core budget by more than half and vows to focus CDC surveillance only on emerging and infectious diseases.

Kennedy has said some of the CDC's other work will be moved to a yet-to-be-created agency, the Administration for a Healthy America. He also has said that the cuts are designed to get rid of waste at a department that has seen its budget grow in recent years.

"Unfortunately, this extra spending and staff has not improved our nation's health as a country," Kennedy wrote last month in The New York Post. "Instead, it has only created more waste, administrative bloat and duplication."

Yet some health experts say the eliminated programs are not duplicative, and erasing them will leave Americans in the dark.

"If the U.S. is interested in making itself healthier again, how is it going to know, if it cancels the pro-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 53 of 67

grams that helps us understand these diseases?" said Graham Mooney, a Johns Hopkins University public health historian.

The core of the nation's health surveillance is done by the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics. Relying on birth and death certificates, it generates information on birth rates, death trends and life expectancy. It also operates longstanding health surveys that provide basic data on obesity, asthma and other health issues.

The center has been barely touched in layoffs, and seems intact under current budget plans.

But many other efforts were targeted by the cuts, the AP found. Some examples:

Pregnancies and abortion

The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, which surveys women across the country, lost its entire staff — about 20 people.

It's the most comprehensive collection of data on the health behaviors and outcomes before, during and after childbirth. Researchers have been using its data to investigate the nation's maternal mortality problem.

Recent layoffs also wiped out the staffs collecting data on in vitro fertilizations and abortions.

Those cuts are especially surprising given that President Donald Trump said he wants to expand IVF access and that the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025 playbook for his administration called for more abortion surveillance.

Lead poisoning

The CDC eliminated its program on lead poisoning in children, which helped local health departments — through funding and expertise — investigate lead poisoning clusters and find where risk is greatest.

Lead poisoning in kids typically stems from exposure to bits of old paint, contaminated dust or drinking water that passes through lead pipes. But the program's staff also played an important role in the investigation of lead-tainted applesauce that affected 500 kids.

Last year, Milwaukee health officials became aware that peeling paint in aging local elementary schools was endangering kids. The city health department began working with CDC to test tens of thousands of students. That assistance stopped last month when the CDC's lead program staff was terminated.

City officials are particularly concerned about losing expertise to help them track the long-term effects.

"We don't know what we don't know," said Mike Totoraitis, the city's health commissioner.

Environmental investigations

Also gone is the staff for the 23-year-old Environmental Public Health Tracking Program, which had information on concerns including possible cancer clusters and weather-related illnesses.

"The loss of that program is going to greatly diminish the ability to make linkages between what might be in the environment and what health might be affected by that," Breyse said.

Transgender data

In some cases, it's not a matter of staffers leaving, but rather the end of specific types of data collection.

Transgender status is no longer being recorded in health-tracking systems, including ones focused on violent deaths and on risky behaviors by kids.

Experts know transgender people are more likely to be victims of violence, but now "it's going to be much more challenging to quantify the extent to which they are at higher risk," said Thomas Simon, the recently retired senior director for scientific programs at the CDC's Division of Violence Prevention.

Violence

The staff and funding seems to have remained intact for a CDC data collection that provides insights into homicides, suicides and accidental deaths involving weapons.

But CDC violence-prevention programs that acted on that information were halted. So, too, was work on a system that collects hospital data on nonfatal injuries from causes such as shootings, crashes and drownings.

Also going away, apparently, is the CDC's National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey. The system is designed to pick up information that's not found in law enforcement statistics. Health officials see that work as important, because not all sexual violence victims go to police.

Work injuries

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 54 of 67

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, which tracks job-related illnesses and deaths and makes recommendations on how to prevent them, was gutted by the cuts.

Kennedy has said that 20% of the people laid off might be reinstated as the agency tries to correct mistakes.

That appeared to happen last month, when the American Federation of Government Employees said that NIOSH workers involved in a black lung disease program for coal miners had been temporarily called back.

But HHS officials did not answer questions about the reinstatement. The AFGE's Micah Niemeier-Walsh later said the workers continued to have June termination dates and "we are concerned this is to give the appearance that the programs are still functioning, when effectively they are not."

There's been no talk of salvaging some other NIOSH programs, including one focused on workplace deaths in the oil and gas industries or a research project into how common hearing loss is in that industry.

Smoking and drugs

The HHS cuts eliminated the 17-member team responsible for the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, one of the main ways the government measures drug use.

Also axed were the CDC staff working on the National Youth Tobacco Survey.

There are other surveys that look at youth smoking and drug use, including the University of Michigan's federally funded "Monitoring the Future" survey of schoolkids.

But the federal studies looked at both adults and adolescents, and provided insights into drug use by high school dropouts. The CDC also delved into specific vaping and tobacco products in the ways that other surveys don't, and was a driver in the federal push to better regulate electronic cigarettes.

"There was overlap among the surveys, but each one had its own specific focus that the other ones didn't cover," said Richard Miech, who leads the Michigan study.

Data modernization and predictions

Work to modernize data collection has been derailed. That includes an upgrade to a 22-year-old system that helps local public health departments track diseases and allows CDC to put together a national picture.

Another casualty was the Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics, which tries to predict disease trends.

The center, created during the COVID-19 pandemic, was working on forecasting the current multi-state measles outbreak. That forecast hasn't been published partly because of the layoffs, according to two CDC officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to discuss it and fear retribution for speaking to the press.

Trump hasn't always supported widespread testing of health problems.

In the spring of 2020, when COVID-19 diagnoses were exploding, the president groused that the nation's ability to do more testing was making the U.S. look like it had a worse problem than other countries. He called testing "a double-edged sword."

Mooney, the Johns Hopkins historian, wonders how interested the new administration is in reporting on health problems.

"You could think it's deliberate," he said. "If you keep people from knowing, they're less likely to be concerned."

Putin says he hopes there will be no need to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine

By The Associated Press undefined

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that the need to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine had not arisen and that he hopes it will not.

In comments aired Sunday in a film by Russian state television about his quarter of a century in power, Putin said Russia has the strength and the means to bring the conflict in Ukraine to a "logical conclusion."

Responding to a question about Ukrainian strikes on Russian territory, Putin said: "There has been no

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 55 of 67

need to use those (nuclear) weapons ... and I hope they will not be required."

"We have enough strength and means to bring what was started in 2022 to a logical conclusion with the outcome Russia requires," he said.

Putin signed a revamped version of Russia's nuclear doctrine in November 2024, spelling out the circumstances that allow him to use Moscow's atomic arsenal, the world's largest. That version lowered the bar, giving him that option in response to even a conventional attack backed by a nuclear power.

In the film, Putin also said Russia did not launch a full-scale invasion of Ukraine — what he called a "special military operation" — in 2014, when it illegally annexed Crimea, because it was "practically unrealistic."

"The country was not ready for such a frontal confrontation with the entire collective West," he said. He claimed also that Russia "sincerely sought to solve the problem of Donbas by peaceful means."

Putin said that reconciliation with Ukraine was "inevitable."

'He should think about ending his war'

Russia and Ukraine, however, remain at odds over competing ceasefire proposals.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said a ceasefire is possible "even from today" if Moscow is serious about ending the war.

Speaking Sunday at a joint news conference with Czech President Petr Pavel, Zelenskyy noted that Russia has ignored a U.S. proposal for a full ceasefire for 54 days and thanked the Czech Republic for backing Ukraine's call for a 30-day ceasefire.

"Putin is very eager to show off his tanks at the (Victory Day) parade," Zelenskyy said, "but he should think about ending his war."

Zelenskyy again expressed deep skepticism over Russia's proposal of a 72-hour ceasefire in Ukraine to mark Victory Day in World War II, saying Moscow continues to launch hundreds of assaults despite publicly signaling interest in a partial truce.

"Even during Easter, despite promises — including to the United States — Russia carried out more than a hundred assaults," Zelenskyy said, referring to Russian attacks during the 30-hour Easter ceasefire unilaterally declared by Putin.

Zelenskyy has repeatedly called for a more substantial 30-day pause in hostilities, as the U.S. had initially proposed.

The Kremlin said the Victory Day truce was on humanitarian grounds and will run from the start of May 8 and last through the end of May 10 to mark Moscow's defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945 — Russia's biggest secular holiday.

Zelenskyy thanked Pavel for his country's military support and said Ukraine hopes to receive 1.8 million artillery shells in 2025 as part of a Czech-led initiative to supply military aid to Kyiv. The initiative, launched in 2024 and supported by NATO allies, supplied Ukraine with 1.5 million artillery rounds last year.

Zelenskyy also said he had discussed with Pavel "the next steps in the development of our aviation coalition," namely the creation of an F-16 training school. He said that such a base could not be opened in Ukraine because of Russian attacks.

Attacks on Ukraine continue

A Russian drone attack overnight on the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, wounded 11 people, Ukraine's State Emergency Service said Sunday. Two children were among the wounded.

The attack woke up Valentyna Fesiuk, an 83-year-old resident of Kyiv's Obolon district.

"I was just sleeping when the house shook," said Valentyna Fesiuk, an 83-year-old resident of Kyiv's Obolon district. "It was at 12:30. An apartment on the 12th floor caught fire," she told The Associated Press.

Another resident, Viacheslav Khotab, saw his car burning. "I was covered with broken glass," he said. "I couldn't do anything."

The 54-year-old was frustrated with stalled peace negotiations: "They can't agree on anything, and we are the ones who suffer the consequences."

Daryna Kravchuk, an 18-year-old student in the district, described how "five to six minutes after the air raid was activated, we heard a strong impact, everything started shaking. ... There were three strikes

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 56 of 67

almost in a row after the air raid was activated."

"It's very scary to witness, we have been suffering from this for so long. People are just suffering all the time. ... It's still very hard to see our country constantly being destroyed," she told the AP.

Two people were killed by Russian guided bombs Sunday, one each in the Dnipropetrovsk and Sumy regions, local officials said.

Russia fired a total of 165 exploding drones and decoys overnight, Ukraine's air force said. Of those, 69 were intercepted and a further 80 lost, likely having been electronically jammed. Russia also launched two ballistic missiles.

Russia's Defense Ministry said its air defenses shot down 13 Ukrainian drones overnight.

Battered by war and economic crisis, Lebanon holds first local elections in almost 10 years

By ALI SHARAFEDDINE and KAREEM CHEHAYEB Associated Press

HARET HREIK, Lebanon (AP) — Lebanese voted Sunday in the country's first local elections in almost a decade, months after a U.S.-brokered ceasefire ended a war between Israel and Hezbollah.

The first round of voting, which is taking place by region, was in the Mount Lebanon districts including Beirut's battered southern suburbs, where Hezbollah headquarters are located and much of their leadership including veteran leader Hassan Nasrallah were killed in Israeli airstrikes during the 14-month war.

The polls for mayors and municipal councils, though not as significant as Lebanon's parliamentary election set for 2026, are a barometer of how much the devastating war that left over 4,000 people dead and entire neighborhoods destroyed has impacted support for politicians and parties, especially in the south where Hezbollah and allies are strong.

Hezbollah and fellow Shitte party the Amal Movement are expected to win most votes for municipal councils and mayors in Beirut's southern suburbs.

Flags of the parties and members wearing green and yellow paraphernalia were present outside the polling stations, assisting supporters wanting to cast their vote for the parties' candidates.

The voting also took place in public schools near the wreckage of buildings destroyed in Israeli airstrikes. Lebanon's cash-strapped government has been scrambling to secure international funds for the reconstruction, which the World Bank estimates at over \$11 billion.

Municipal elections were supposed to have taken place years ago but the government had postponed them three times, including once over budgetary constraints.

Voters said they were especially concerned with rebuilding their homes and livelihoods.

Mohammad Awali, a candidate running for the Haret Hreik municipality, said his local council "has a great responsibility, especially given the extensive destruction that occurred in our area."

Pritzker and Ocasio-Cortez: A billionaire and a former bartender emerge as Trump resistance leaders

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The billionaire heir and the former bartender.

Many Democrats have been in and out of the spotlight as the party looks for effective counters to President Donald Trump and his second administration. But two disparate figures, Gov. JB Pritzker of Illinois and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, have seen their national profiles rise by delivering messages that excite a demoralized and fractured party.

The governor, a 60-year-old heir to the Hyatt hotel fortune, and the congresswoman, the 35-year-old with working-class roots, both won their first elections in 2018. Both have urged mass resistance and accused their party of not fighting more. Each has stood out enough to draw sharp retorts from Trump loyalists.

But as messengers, Pritzker and Ocasio-Cortez could not be more different. And their arguments, despite some overlap, are distinct enough to raise familiar questions for Democrats: Should they make their chal-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 57 of 67

allenges to Trump about threats to democracy and national stability, as Pritzker has done, or portray him as a corrupt billionaire exacerbating an uneven economy, as Ocasio-Cortez does? And beyond the message itself, what qualities should the best messenger have?

What links them, said one prominent Democrat, is "assertiveness."

"People want Trump and Trumpism to be met with equal passion and force," said National Urban League President Marc Morial, a former New Orleans mayor deeply connected in Democratic politics. On that front, he added, Pritzker and Ocasio-Cortez "are both effective national figures — but in very different ways."

Pritzker, an establishment power player

Pritzker was born at the bridge of the baby boomers and Generation X into a sprawling family now entrenched in Democratic politics. Like Trump, he inherited great wealth, but he lambastes the president as a poser on working-class issues.

He chaired Illinois' Human Rights Commission before running for governor. In office, he has signed an Illinois minimum-wage increase and is an ally of unions. His family's hotels are unionized, making them regular options for official Democratic Party events.

When Democratic President Joe Biden exited the 2024 campaign, Pritzker was floated as a replacement. He made no visible moves, quickly backed Vice President Kamala Harris and acted as the de facto host of her nominating convention in his home state.

"Take it from an actual billionaire, Trump is rich in only one thing: stupidity," Pritzker said in Chicago.

Since Harris' defeat, Pritzker has behaved like a future candidate. One of the nation's highest-profile Jewish politicians, he fired up liberals by comparing the Trump administration to the Third Reich.

"If you think I'm overreacting and sounding the alarm too soon, consider this: It took the Nazis one month, three weeks, two days, eight hours and 40 minutes to dismantle a constitutional republic," the governor said his joint budget and State of the State address on Feb. 19. "All I'm saying is when the five-alarm fire starts to burn, every good person better be ready to man a post with a bucket of water if you want to stop it from raging out of control."

Addressing party faithful in the traditional early nominating state of New Hampshire, Pritzker bemoaned "do-nothing" Democrats, called for party honchos to set aside "decades of stale decorum" and urged voters into the streets.

"Never before in my life have I called for mass protests, for mobilization, for disruption, but I am now," he said. Democrats, he added, "must castigate (Republicans) on the soapbox and then punish them at the ballot box."

It was enough for senior Trump aide Stephen Miller to accuse Pritzker of inciting violence. Pritzker wasted no time returning the volley, calling it "terrible hypocrisy" for Trump allies to complain given the Capitol siege on Jan. 6, 2021, and Trump's pardons of the rioters.

AOC, a progressive party crasher

Ocasio-Cortez is a millennial progressive who earned degrees in international relations and economics and worked as a waiter and bartender before entering politics. With support from the progressive Working Families Party, she ousted a top House Democrat, Joe Crowley, in a 2018 primary.

Like Trump, she leverages millions of social media followers. Also like Trump, she is an economic populist. But she comes from the left wing of U.S. politics and without the anti-immigration and cultural conservatism of Trump's right wing or the alliances with billionaire business and tech elites.

She has recently headlined "Fighting Oligarchy" tour with Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., a two-time presidential candidate. The tour has drawn tens of thousands of people across the country, notably including reliably Republican states, often with overflow crowds outside many stops.

Ocasio-Cortez's next political move seems less certain than Pritzker's. She is seen as a potential primary challenger to Chuck Schumer, the Senate Democratic leader from New York, and she only recently became old enough to be constitutionally eligible for the presidency. But she appears poised to inherit the mantle of the 83-year-old Sanders' movement.

She freely criticizes Trump. But she leans more heavily into broader economic and social critiques that

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 58 of 67

she's made since her first House bid and that Sanders has offered for decades.

"For years we have known that our political system has slowly but surely become dominated by big money and billionaires and time after time we have seen how our government and laws are more responsive to corporations and lobbyists than everyday people and voters," she said in Folsom, California. She advocated for "living wages ... stable housing ... guaranteed health care," and blasted "the agenda of dark money to keep our wages low and to loot our public goods like Social Security and Medicare."

She also played up her roots: "From the waitress who is now speaking to you today, I can tell you: impossible is nothing."

Little consensus on the left about the better pitch

Ocasio-Cortez and Pritzker are allied against a common opponent, Trump, and not each other. Advisers to Ocasio-Cortez and Pritzker did not respond to questions.

Adam Green, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, argues Pritzker could be more attractive as a "traitor to his class" in the tradition of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. An East Coast patriot, Roosevelt authored the New Deal's federal expansion to combat the Great Depression of the 1930s.

"How powerful would it be if a billionaire was the one helping to lead the charge against corrupt billionaires and corrupt billionaire corporations that are trying to crack the Constitution and loot the American people?" Green said, adding that "continued silence" on "billionaire issues" should disqualify Pritzker. "We have to be speaking to the shake-up-the-system vibe that people want to see."

Matt Bennett, a co-founder of Third Way, which typically backs centrist Democrats, countered that Pritzker could bring a "more stable" version of Trump's argument that his wealth and success is an asset. Trump's biggest liability, Bennett said, is "chaos" that negatively affects people's lives.

"People are very mad at Elon Musk, but not because he's rich," Bennett said of the Tesla CEO who is leading Trump's Department of Government Efficiency. "They're mad at him because he's vandalizing our government and doing it in a destructive way."

A relative of the governor, Rachel Pritzker, chairs Third Way's board of trustees.

Ocasio-Cortez is often criticized by more moderate Democrats, including Michigan Sen. Elissa Slotkin, who has also positioned herself as a thought leader in the party. Slotkin recently suggested the word "oligarchy" didn't resonate with working-class voters. It was an implicit rebuke of the Ocasio-Cortez-Sanders' tour.

Shortly after Slotkin's comments about oligarchy, Ocasio-Cortez posted on X: "Plenty of politicians on both sides of the aisle feel threatened by rising class consciousness."

Bennett said Democrats who emerge as party leaders, including the 2028 nominee, will be those who offer solutions for voters' frustration "over their needs not being met." It's a notion that Green insisted is indistinguishable from criticizing the billionaire class, along with the tax and labor policies that drive wealth and income gaps in the U.S.

Whatever direction Democrats choose, Bennett said, Ocasio-Cortez has secured her place as a national voice.

"She's very good at what she does. She's formidable," he said. "And anybody on the center-left who denies that is just kidding themselves."

Experts start complex recovery of a superyacht that sank off Sicily, killing 7

By GIADA ZAMPANO and FRANCESCO SPORTELLI Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Marine salvage experts on Sunday began operations to recover from the seabed off Italy's Sicilian coast the British-flagged superyacht "Bayesian," which sank last summer, killing U.K. tech magnate Mike Lynch, his daughter and five others.

Operations will be conducted by two floating cranes: "Hebo Lift 2," which has remotely operated underwater equipment and vehicles, and "Hebo Lift 10," one of the most powerful maritime cranes in Europe, which docked Saturday in the Sicilian port of Termini Imerese after arriving from Rotterdam.

The Italian coast guard is supervising operations and patrolling the security perimeter to ensure the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 59 of 67

safety of personnel working on the recovery. It said that the overall operation to retrieve the Bayesian could take from 20 to 25 days. After the wreck is brought ashore, judicial authorities investigating the sinking will examine it.

Prosecutors are investigating the captain and two crew members for possible responsibility in connection with the Aug. 19, 2024, sinking. The 56-meter (183-foot)-long, 473-ton yacht sank during what appears to have been a sudden downburst, or localized powerful wind from a thunderstorm that spreads rapidly after hitting the surface.

The yacht's 75-meter (246-foot) aluminum mast -- the second tallest in the world — will be cut to allow the hull, which lies 49 meters (160 feet) below the surface, to be brought to the surface more easily, said coast guard Capt. Nicola Silvestri.

In addition to Lynch and his 18-year-old daughter Hannah, Morgan Stanley International Chairman Jonathan Bloomer and wife Judy, attorney Chris Morvillo and wife Neda, and ship's cook Recaldo Thomas died in the shipwreck.

With the help of nearby vessels, 15 of the 22 people were rescued in the initial phase, one body was recovered, and six others reported missing. The bodies of the six missing people were found following long and complex search efforts, which continued until Aug. 23.

Amid Cinco de Mayo celebrations, a tax on Mexican tomatoes looms

By DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Business Writer

Guacamole has been spared from tariffs for now. But salsa may not be so lucky.

While President Donald Trump put threatened tariffs on Mexican avocados on pause, the U.S. government plans to put a nearly 21% duty on fresh Mexican tomatoes starting July 14. A duty — like a tariff — is a tax on imports, and this one would impact the 4 billion pounds of tomatoes the U.S. imports from Mexico each year.

Proponents say the import tax will help rebuild the shrinking U.S. tomato industry and ensure the produce eaten in the U.S. is also grown there. Mexico currently supplies around 70% of U.S. tomato market, up from 30% two decades ago, according to the Florida Tomato Exchange.

"Unless we even the playing field in terms of fair pricing, you're not going to have a domestic industry for fresh tomatoes in the very near future," Robert Guenther, the trade group's executive vice president, said. Florida and California are the top U.S. producers of tomatoes, but most of California's crop is turned into sauces and other products.

Opponents say the duty will make fresh tomatoes more expensive for U.S. buyers. NatureSweet, a San Antonio-based company that grows tomatoes in Mexico as well as the U.S., said it will be paying millions of dollars each month in duties if the decision isn't reversed.

"We will look for ways to adapt or streamline our operations, but the truth is, we are always doing that so we run an efficient business already," said Skip Hulett, NatureSweet's chief legal officer. "Produce is not a large-margin business. We're determining what portion of the cost we could absorb, but these added costs will most certainly need to be passed on to the consumer."

Tim Richards, a professor at the Morrison School of Agribusiness at Arizona State University, expects U.S. retail prices for tomatoes to rise by around 10.5% if the duty goes through.

Mexico's government said last month it was convinced it could negotiate over the issue. But if the tomato tax takes effect, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has hinted her country may impose duties on chicken and pork legs imported from the U.S.

The tug-of-war over tomatoes has a long history. In 1996, shortly after the North American Free Trade Agreement went into effect, the U.S. Department of Commerce investigated allegations that Mexico was exporting tomatoes to the U.S. at artificially low prices, a practice known as dumping.

The U.S. government agreed to suspend the investigation if Mexico met certain rules, including selling its tomatoes at a minimum price. Since then, the agreement has been subject to periodic reviews, but the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 60 of 67

two sides always reached an agreement that avoided duties.

But last month, the Commerce Department announced its withdrawal from the latest agreement, saying it had been "flooded with comments" from U.S. tomato growers who want better protection from Mexican imports.

Guenther, of the Florida Tomato Exchange, said even though Mexican exporters are required to charge a minimum price, shipments are only spot-checked, so exporters can get around that. But more generally, Mexico hurts the U.S. industry because it costs 40% to 50% less to grow tomatoes there, Guenther said. Land is cheaper, labor is cheaper and inputs like seeds and fertilizer cost less, he said.

Tomatoes are a labor-intensive crop, Guenther said, and the U.S. industry typically relies on immigrant workers through the H-2A visa program. That program required farmers to pay workers an average of \$16.98 per hour last year, an amount that has jumped as labor has become harder to find. Richards estimates that workers on Mexican tomato farms earn about one-tenth that rate.

NatureSweet acknowledges that it's more cost-effective to grow tomatoes in Mexico, but says climate is one of the biggest reasons. The company's Mexican greenhouses don't need lighting, heating or cooling systems because of the year-round weather conditions.

"You can relocate some industries, but you can't relocate climate agriculture," Hulett said.

Lance Jungmeyer, the president of the Fresh Produce Association of the Americas, which represents importers of Mexican tomatoes, said Florida doesn't produce the vine-ripened tomatoes that U.S. consumers increasingly favor. Florida tomatoes are picked when they're green and shipped to warehouses to ripen, he said.

"Florida doesn't grow the kinds of specialty tomatoes that have taken off, but they want to get protection," Jungmeyer said. "Their market share is dropping for reasons of their own choice."

Guenther disagrees. "If you put a Florida tomato up against a Mexican tomato, I think it would do very well in taste test," he said.

Adrian Burciaga, co-owner of Don Artemio, an upscale Mexican restaurant in Fort Worth, Texas, wouldn't want to switch to a U.S. producer. He compares it to fine wine; if he wants a good cabernet sauvignon, he gets it from Napa, California. If he wants a good tomato that reminds him of his childhood, he gets it from Mexico.

"We know the flavors they are going to bring to the salsas and moles. We don't want to compromise flavors," Burciaga said.

Burciaga said his restaurant uses 300 to 400 pounds of Roma tomatoes from Mexico every week. He currently pays \$19 for a 25-pound crate of tomatoes. He doesn't relish paying the additional cost, but he feels he has no choice.

Burciaga said the tomato duty — and the threat of Trump implementing the paused 25% tariff on many other products from Mexico — are making it difficult to run his business.

"The uncertainty part concerns us. A small or medium restaurant budgets things out. We know in advance that in six months things will increase, so we're able to adjust," he said. "But we don't know these things in advance. How do you plan and how do you react?"

How the stock market made back all its losses after Trump escalated the trade war

By The Associated Press undefined

It felt much longer, but the U.S. stock market needed just a few weeks to roar all the way back to where it was on President Donald Trump's "Liberation Day." That's when he shocked Wall Street by announcing much steeper tariffs than expected on nearly all U.S. trading partners.

Those tariffs unveiled on April 2 were so severe that they raised fears Trump did not worry about causing a recession in his attempt to reshape the global economy. Within just four days, the S&P 500 fell about 12%, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost nearly 4,600 points, or about 11%.

This past Friday, though, the S&P 500 rallied 1.5% for a ninth straight gain and pulled back to where it

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 61 of 67

was on April 2.

Of course, the index at the heart of many 401(k) accounts is still more than 7% below its all-time high set earlier this year. And stocks could easily fall again as uncertainty remains high about what Trump's tariffs will ultimately do to the economy. But the run for U.S. stocks back upward has been just as wild and unexpected as its fall. Here's a look at what happened:

The pause

On April 9, Trump announced on social media a "90-day PAUSE" for most of the tariffs he'd announced a week earlier, except those against China. The S&P 500 soared 9.5% for one of its best days ever. Even that good news came with a bit of controversy, however: hours before he announced the pause, Trump proclaimed on Truth Social that "this is a great time to buy."

De-escalation

The weeks after the pause were a roller coaster. Trump talked about negotiating tariffs with the trading partners while also using tariffs to force companies to move manufacturing to the U.S., two goals seemingly at odds with one another. The market did find relief in what the Treasury secretary referred to as de-escalation between the U.S. and China. Investors also welcomed Trump's moves to ease tariffs on autos as well as smartphones and other electronics.

Bonds and the buck

The severity of the U.S. stock market's fall after Liberation Day surprised some market watchers. They had assumed Trump would backtrack on policies that hurt the Dow Jones Industrial Average. This is a president, after all, who crowed repeatedly during his first term about how the Dow was doing.

But it was fear in other financial markets that may have forced Trump's hand. Tumbling prices for U.S. government bonds raised worries that the U.S. Treasury market was losing its status as the world's safest place to keep cash. The value of the U.S. dollar also sank in another signal of diminishing faith in the United States as a safe haven for investors.

Trump himself said he had noticed how bond investors were "getting a little queasy" before he paused his tariffs.

The economy

Economists and investors had to reconcile contradictory signals about the economy. Surveys of consumers showed declining confidence, largely due to the uncertainty created by the Trump trade policy. But what investors call "hard data," such as employment numbers, indicated the economy was still doing OK. As of Friday, when the government said employers had added 177,000 jobs in April, the hard numbers appeared to have a advantage over the weak sentiment.

The Fed

The Federal Reserve cut rates three times at the end of 2024, but then implemented a pause of its own by keeping rates steady, in part to assess the impact of the Trump trade policy. The strong jobs report seemed to give the Fed clearance to keep rates where they are for now — despite Trump repeating his call for cuts — but the market is still looking for 3 cuts before the end of the year.

Plenty of profits

Through all the market's tumult, U.S. companies have continued to deliver profit reports for the start of the year that have topped analysts' expectations. Stock prices tend to follow profits over the long term, and that's given the market a notable boost.

Three out of every four companies in the S&P 500 have beaten analysts' expectations for profits in recent weeks, including such market heavyweights as Microsoft and Meta Platforms. They're on track to deliver growth of nearly 13% from a year earlier, according to FactSet.

To be sure

Even as companies have delivered fatter profits than expected, many have also warned they're unsure whether it can last. CEOs have been either lowering or withdrawing their financial forecasts for the year given all the uncertainty around how Trump's tariffs will end up.

United Airlines even made the unusual move of offering two separate forecasts for the year: one if there's a recession, and one if not.

Trump's off-again-on-again approach to tariffs had made this the most volatile period for the market since the onset of the pandemic. The pause is in its fourth week and the administration has yet to announce an agreement with any of U.S. trading partners. Based on his recent comments, Trump is still all-in on tariffs, so the pause could prove to be just that.

"We've already seen how financial markets will react if the administration moves forward with their initial tariff plan, so unless they take a different tack in July when the 90-day pause expires, we will see market action similar to the first week of April," said Chris Zaccarelli, chief investment officer for Northlight Asset Management.

Protesters want Morocco to sever ties with Israel, so they're targeting strategic ports

By SAM METZ and AKRAM OUBACHIR Associated Press

TANGIER, Morocco (AP) — More than a year of protests over Morocco's decision to normalize ties with Israel has emboldened activists and widened a gap between the decisions of the government and the sentiments of the governed. The fury has spilled into the country's strategic ports.

Amid shipping cranes and stacked containers, 34-year-old agricultural engineer Ismail Lghazaoui marched recently through a sea of Palestinian flags and joined protesters carrying signs that read "Reject the ship," in reference to a vessel transporting fighter jet components from Houston, Texas.

Activists are urging Moroccan port officials to try to block ships carrying military cargo to Israel, much like Spain did last year. Protests often target Danish shipping company Maersk, which helps transport components used to make Lockheed Martin's F-35 as part of the U.S. Defense Department's Security Cooperative Participant Program that facilitates weapons sales to allies including Israel.

A similar boycott campaign landed Lghazaoui in prison last year, but that didn't deter him from turning out again for resurgent protests last month, after his release. Lghazaoui is one of more than a dozen activists pursued by Moroccan authorities for criticizing the government's ties with Israel.

During a rally in November in Casablanca where Lghazaoui spoke, plainclothes officers beat him and others to prevent them from advancing toward the U.S. Consulate, he said. He later posted about Maersk on social media and was arrested and charged with incitement. Originally sentenced to a year, he served two months in prison and two on parole after the term was reduced.

"They try to silence people," Lghazaoui told The Associated Press. "They were using me to dissuade people or to push people away from what they were doing."

A push to topple 'normalization'

Morocco is one of four countries that normalized ties with Israel in 2020. That year, Donald Trump brokered the Abraham Accords, which offered incentives for Arab states to establish diplomatic relations with Israel even as its peace talks with Palestinians remained stalled.

The deal delivered something Moroccan diplomats had chased for years: U.S. support for Morocco's claims over the disputed Western Sahara. But its cost — growing public resentment toward normalization — has ballooned throughout the Israel-Hamas war.

"I've rarely seen such a chasm between public opinion and the monarchy. What the power elites are doing goes completely against what the Moroccan people want," said Aboubakr Jamaï, dean of the Madrid Center at the American College of the Mediterranean.

Tens of thousands have taken to the streets of Morocco since the war began. While largely made up of families, students, Islamists, leftists and union members, the protests have also drawn more radical voices. Some have burned Israeli flags or chanted against royal adviser André Azoulay, a Jewish Moroccan.

Clad in riot gear, security forces have stood by and watched as protesters denounce "normalization" and Morocco's expanding trade and military ties with Israel.

But authorities have shown that their tolerance for dissent only goes so far.

Morocco's constitution generally allows for freedom of expression, although it is illegal to criticize the monarchy or King Mohammed VI and those who do can face prosecution. Throughout the war, activists

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 63 of 67

who have implicated the monarchy on social media or protested businesses targeted by boycotts due to their operations in Israel have received prison sentences.

The constraints mirror Egypt and Jordan, which like Morocco have publicly sympathized with the Palestinians, maintained ties with Israel and imprisoned activists who direct their ire toward the government.

However, unlike in those countries, the arrests in Morocco have done little to quell public anger or activists' demands.

A harbor draws heat

In recent weeks, protesters have set their sights on a new target: the country's strategic ports and the companies using them to move military cargo. Activists and port workers recently demanded that two vessels crossing the Atlantic carrying fighter jet parts that they suspected would end up in Israel be blocked from docking in Morocco.

Port protests gained momentum last month when Morocco's largest labor union backed the call to block the two ships, and dozens of religious scholars and preachers, many affiliated with the anti-monarchy Islamist movement Al Adl wal Ihsan, issued an edict with a similar message.

While not officially allowed to participate in politics, Al Adl wal Ihsan has mobilized large crowds and helped lead pro-Palestinian activism throughout the Israel-Hamas war, drawing in young people who feel official parties don't speak to them. On a recent Friday, the group said Moroccans took part in 110 demonstrations across 66 cities in support of Palestinians in Gaza.

Both Al Adl wal Ihsan and union members marched portside in Tangier and Casablanca, where the vessels eventually docked April 20.

In a statement, Maersk acknowledged that ships that passed through the two Moroccan ports carried parts used in the fighter jet. But it denied activists' claims of directly shipping weapons to conflict zones, stating that they require end-use certificates to verify the final destination of military cargo.

A port official in Tangier who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak on the matter said that while cargo docked and unloaded in Morocco undergoes examination, ships docking en route to other destinations do not.

The Israeli military did not respond to questions about the shipments. F-35s are typically assembled in the United States, using components sourced throughout the world, including outer wings and display systems manufactured in Israel.

Morocco's Foreign Ministry did not respond to questions about normalization or its port policies, though diplomats have previously argued that relations with Israel allow them to press for a two-state solution and facilitate aid delivery to Gaza.

Domestic fault lines exposed

Some observers in Morocco have questioned whether the focus on Gaza has diverted attention from pressing domestic struggles. Voices from Moroccan nationalist circles on social media have instead highlighted the marginalization of the Indigenous Amazigh population and the dispute over Western Sahara, which they argue are more central to national identity and sovereignty.

For others, the prolonged war has prompted clear shifts. The Islamist Justice and Development Party, which once backed normalization with Israel while in power, recently invited senior Hamas officials to its congress in Rabat. However, the officials were unable to obtain visas to enter Morocco.

"Palestine will remain our primary cause," said Abdelilah Benkirane, a former prime minister and general secretary of the Justice and Development Party.

Kidnappers in France target cryptocurrency entrepreneurs for ransom

PARIS (AP) — French police rescued the father of a wealthy cryptocurrency entrepreneur in a nighttime raid after he was taken hostage for ransom, the latest alleged criminal effort in France to extort people involved in the management of digital assets.

The man was kidnapped Thursday morning in Paris, the prosecutor's office said Sunday.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 64 of 67

"The victim turned out to be the father of a man who made his fortune in cryptocurrencies, and the incident was accompanied by a ransom demand," its statement said, without giving their names or other specifics about their identities.

Police investigators located the hostage in a house in the Essonne region south of Paris, from which he was rescued on Saturday night, the prosecutor's office said.

It said he was treated for injuries but gave no details. French media reported that the alleged hostage-takers cut off one of the man's fingers.

Police detained 5 people — four were in or close to the house where the man was held captive, while the fifth was at the wheel of a vehicle thought to have been used for the alleged abduction, the prosecutor's office said.

It said the police investigation is looking at an array of possible criminal charges, including kidnapping "with torture or a barbaric act."

In January, police said a co-founder of French crypto-wallet firm Ledger, David Balland, was also kidnapped with his wife from their home in the region of Cher of central France.

Police said they made 10 arrests and that the alleged kidnappers demanded a ransom in cryptocurrency from another of Ledger's co-founders.

A raid by France's elite National Gendarmerie Intervention Group unit that specializes in hostage situations freed Balland the next day, followed the day after that by the liberation, again by the GIGN, of his wife, found tied up in a vehicle, police said.

America's long history of 'checks and balances' is being tested by Trump like rarely before

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — It's what one historian calls an "elaborate, clunky machine," one that's been fundamental to American democracy for more than two centuries.

The principle of "checks and balances" is rooted in the Constitution's design of a national government with three distinct, coequal branches.

President Donald Trump in his first 100 days tested that system like rarely before, signing dozens of executive orders, closing or sharply reducing government agencies funded by Congress, and denigrating judges who have issued dozens of rulings against him.

"The framers were acutely aware of competing interests, and they had great distrust of concentrated authority," said Dartmouth College professor John Carey, an expert on American democracy. "That's where the idea came from."

Their road map has mostly prevented control from falling into "one person's hands," Carey said. But he warned that the system depends on "people operating in good faith ... and not necessarily exercising power to the fullest extent imaginable."

Here's a look at checks and balances and previous tests across U.S. history.

A fight over Jefferson ignoring Adams' appointments

The foundational checks-and-balances fight: President John Adams' made last-minute appointments before he left office in 1801. His successor, Thomas Jefferson, and Secretary of State James Madison ignored them. William Marbury, an Adams justice of the peace appointee, asked the Supreme Court to compel Jefferson and Madison to honor Adams' decisions.

Chief Justice John Marshall concluded in 1803 that the commissions became legitimate with Adams' signature and, thus, Madison acted illegally by shelving them. Marshall, however, stopped short of ordering anything. Marbury had sued under a 1789 law that made the Supreme Court the trial court in the dispute. Marshall's opinion voided that law because it gave justices — who almost exclusively hear appeals — more power than the Constitution afforded them.

The split decision asserted the court's role in interpreting congressional acts — and striking them down — while also adjudicating executive branch actions.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 65 of 67

Hamilton, Jackson and national banks

Congress and President George Washington chartered the First Bank of the United States in 1791. Federalists, led by Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton, favored a strong central government and wanted a national bank that could lend the government money. Anti-Federalists, led by Jefferson and Madison, wanted less centralized power and argued Congress had no authority to charter a bank. But they did not ask the courts to step in.

Andrew Jackson, the first populist president, loathed the bank, believing it to be a sop to the rich. Congress voted in 1832 to extend the charter, with provisions to mollify Jackson. The president vetoed the measure anyway, and Congress failed to muster the two-thirds majorities required by the Constitution to override him. In 1836, the Philadelphia-based bank became a private state bank.

Lincoln and due process

During the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln suspended habeas corpus — a legal process that allows individuals to challenge their detention. That allowed federal authorities to arrest and hold people without granting due process. Lincoln said his maneuver might not be “strictly legal” but was a “public necessity” to protect the Union. The Supreme Court’s Roger Taney, sitting as a circuit judge, declared the suspension illegal but noted he did not have the power to enforce the opinion.

Congress ultimately sided with Lincoln through retroactive statutes. And the Supreme Court, in a separate 1862 case challenging other Lincoln actions, endorsed the president’s argument that the office comes with inherent wartime powers not expressly allowed via the Constitution or congressional act.

Reconstruction: Johnson vs. Congress

After the Civil War and Lincoln’s assassination, “Radical Republicans” in Congress wanted penalties on states that had seceded and on the Confederacy’s leaders and combatants. They also advocated Reconstruction programs that enfranchised and elevated formerly enslaved people (the men, at least). Johnson, a Tennessean, was more lenient on Confederates and harsher to formerly enslaved people. Congress, with appropriations power, established the Freedmen’s Bureau to assist newly freed Black Americans. Johnson, with pardon power, repatriated former Confederates. He also limited Freedmen’s Bureau authority to seize Confederates’ assets.

Spoils system vs. civil service

For a century, nearly all federal jobs were executive branch political appointments: revolving doors after every presidential transition. In 1883, Congress stepped in with the Pendleton Civil Service Reform Act. Changes started with some posts being filled through examinations rather than political favor. Congress added to the law over generations, developing the civil service system that Trump is now seeking to dismantle by reclassifying tens of thousands of government employees. His aim is to turn civil servants into political appointees or other at-will workers who are more easily dismissed from their jobs.

Wilson’s League of Nations

After World War I, the Treaty of Versailles called for an international body to bring countries together to discuss global affairs and prevent war. President Woodrow Wilson advocated for the League of Nations. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman, Republican Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts, brought the treaty to the Senate in 1919 with amendments to limit the League of Nations’ influence. Wilson opposed the caveats, and the Senate fell short of the two-thirds majority needed to ratify the treaty and join the League. After World War II, the U.S. took a lead role, with Senate support, in establishing the United Nations and the NATO alliance.

FDR and court packing

Franklin D. Roosevelt met the Great Depression with large federal programs and aggressive regulatory actions, much of it approved by Democratic majorities in Congress. A conservative Supreme Court struck down some of the New Deal legislation as beyond the scope of congressional power. Roosevelt answered by proposing to expand the nine-seat court and pressuring aging justices to retire. The president’s critics dubbed it “a court-packing scheme.” He disputed the charge. But not even the Democratic Congress seriously entertained his idea.

Presidential term limits

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 66 of 67

Roosevelt ignored the unwritten rule, established by Washington, that a president serves no more than two terms. He won third and fourth terms during World War II, rankling even some of his allies. Soon after his death, a bipartisan coalition pushed the 22nd Amendment that limits presidents to being elected twice. Trump has talked about seeking a third term despite this constitutional prohibition.

Nixon and Watergate

The Washington Post and other media exposed ties between President Richard Nixon's associates and a break-in at Democratic Party headquarters at the Watergate Hotel during the 1972 campaign. By summer 1974, the story ballooned into congressional hearings, court fights and plans for impeachment proceedings. The Supreme Court ruled unanimously against Nixon in his assertion that executive privilege allowed him not to turn over potential evidence of his and top aides' roles in the cover-up — including recordings of private Oval Office conversations. Nixon resigned after a delegation of his fellow Republicans told him that Congress was poised to remove him from office.

Leaving Vietnam

Presidents from John F. Kennedy through Nixon ratcheted up U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia during the Cold War. But Congress never declared war in Vietnam. A 1973 deal, under Nixon, ended official American military involvement. But complete U.S. withdrawal didn't occur until more than two years later — a period during which Congress reduced funding for South Vietnam's democratic government. Congress did not cut off all money for Saigon, as some conservatives later claimed. But lawmakers refused to rubber-stamp larger administration requests, asserting a congressional check on the president's military and foreign policy agenda.

The Affordable Care Act

A Democratic-controlled Congress overhauled the nation's health insurance system in 2010. The Affordable Care Act, in part, tried to require states to expand the Medicaid program that covers millions of children, disabled people and some low-income adults. But the Supreme Court ruled in 2012 that Congress and President Barack Obama could not compel states to expand the program by threatening to withhold other federal money already obligated to the states under previous federal law. The court on multiple occasions has upheld other portions of the law. Republicans, even when they have controlled the White House and Capitol Hill, have been unable to repeal the act.

Today in History: May 5, Alan Shepard becomes first American in space

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, May 5, the 125th day of 2025. There are 240 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On May 5, 1961, astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. became America's first space traveler as he made a 15-minute suborbital flight aboard Mercury capsule Freedom 7.

Also on this date:

In 1821, Napoleon Bonaparte, 51, died in exile on the island of St. Helena.

In 1862, Mexican troops repelled French attacks on the city of Puebla de los Ángeles in the Battle of Puebla, also known as the Battle of Cinco de Mayo.

In 1925, schoolteacher John T. Scopes was charged in Tennessee with violating a state law that prohibited teaching the theory of evolution. (Scopes was found guilty, but his conviction was later set aside.)

In 1945, in the only fatal attack on the U.S. mainland during World War II, a Japanese balloon bomb exploded on Gearhart Mountain in Oregon, killing a pregnant woman and five children.

In 1973, Secretariat won the Kentucky Derby, the first of his Triple Crown victories, in a time of 1:59.4 — a record that still stands.

In 1981, Irish Republican Army hunger-striker Bobby Sands died at age 27 at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland on his 66th day without food.

In 1994, Singapore caned American teenager Michael Fay for vandalism, a day after the sentence was

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 314 ~ 67 of 67

reduced from six lashes to four in response to an appeal by President Bill Clinton.

In 2016, Lonnie Franklin Jr. was convicted of 10 counts of murder in the "Grim Sleeper" serial killings in Los Angeles that targeted poor, young Black women over two decades.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Lance Henriksen is 85. Comedian-actor Michael Palin is 82. Actor Richard E. Grant is 68. R&B singer Raheem DeVaughn is 50. Actor Vincent Kartheiser is 46. Actor Danielle Fishel is 44. Actor Henry Cavill is 42. Singer-songwriter Adele is 37. R&B singer Chris Brown is 36. Tennis player Aryna Sabalenka is 27. Olympic figure skating gold medalist Nathan Chen is 26. Tennis player Carlos Alcaraz is 22.