

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 1 of 52

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
- [4- Names Released in Douglas County Fatal Crash](#)
- [5- Weekly Vikings Roundup](#)
- [7- Prairie Doc: Shed Those Fears of Cancer Treatment](#)
- [8- SD SearchLight: Efforts to curb SD's syphilis outbreak yield results, but public health advocate says work remains](#)
- [10- Weber Landscaping Greenhouse Ad](#)
- [11- EarthTalk - Corruption](#)
- [12- Weather Pages](#)
- [17- Daily Devotional](#)
- [18- Subscription Form](#)
- [19- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [20- Upcoming Groton Events](#)
- [21- News from the Associated Press](#)

Monday, May 19

Senior Menu: Chicken alfredo, broccoli, blushing pears, whole wheat bread.

Cancelled: Girls Golf at Milbank, 10 a.m.

Cancelled: Junior High Northeast Conference Track Meet, 10 a.m.

Postponed to Friday, May 23: Track at Warner, 11 a.m.

Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, Potluck at Noon

St. John's Lutheran: Christian Literature Circle, 7:30 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 20

Senior Menu: Tatertot hot dish, green beans, pineapple, whole wheat bread.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Quilting, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, May 21

Senior Menu: Cheeseburger on bun, lettuce/tomato/onion, potato salad, corn, fruit.

Region High School Baseball at two highest seeds
Groton United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.

Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.



Thursday, May 22

Senior Menu: Beef tips with mashed potato, baby carrots, cherry fluff, whole wheat bread.

Girls Golf at Sisseton, 10 a.m.

Track at Webster, Noon

Friday, May 23

Senior Menu: Chicken pasta salad, three bean salad, cinnamon apple sauce, breadstick.

Track at Warner, 11 a.m.

Groton Daily Independent
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Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 2 of 52

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.

Brooklyn Bridge Collision

A Mexican navy ship crashed into New York City's Brooklyn Bridge Saturday, killing two sailors and injuring at least 19 others, two of them critically. No one on the bridge was harmed, and a preliminary investigation revealed no significant structural damage to the bridge.

The Cuauhtémoc is a 160-foot-tall vessel bringing Mexican cadets on an annual worldwide tour following their training. The ship was scheduled to carry its 277-person crew to 22 ports across 15 countries in under a year. After docking for several days, the Cuauhtémoc was due to depart Manhattan and head toward Iceland. It was not immediately clear what caused the vessel to veer off course and crash. Initial findings suggest a power cut and mechanical malfunction are to blame; a federal investigation remains ongoing.

The Brooklyn Bridge is a major tourist attraction, bearing an estimated 32,000 pedestrians in addition to the 100,000 commuter vehicles it handles every day. It was once the world's longest suspension bridge.

Leo's First Mass

An estimated 200,000 onlookers flocked to the Vatican yesterday to hear newly installed Pope Leo XIV preside over his first Mass. The pontiff's first homily called for unity and openness from the church and its nearly 1.4 billion members.

Born Robert Prevost, the 69-year-old Chicago native became the first US citizen to become pope after being selected to succeed Pope Francis earlier this month. While popes often oversee Sunday service (and other private and public ceremonies), Pope Leo's inaugural Mass was attended by a number of world dignitaries, including Vice President JD Vance, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and Britain's Prince Edward.

He was also presented with two symbolic items. The first is a fisherman's ring, honoring St. Peter and reflecting the call to evangelism; the second is a pallium, a strip of lamb's wool representing the role of a "shepherd" of the church's flock.

Moody's Lowers Rating

The US lost its last perfect credit rating Friday, with Moody's downgrading US debt one notch, from an Aaa rating to Aa1. The decision—over the rising US deficit, increased interest payment ratios, and sluggish growth—ends the country's perfect Moody's credit rating, in place since 1917.

Moody's said it expects federal debt to jump from 98% of the US gross domestic product last year to 134% by 2035, with the deficit expected to jump to nearly 9% of GDP. The company said the decade-plus-long increase in the deficit and interest payment ratios exceeds metrics from similar countries. The decision signals increased risk for US bond investors and could drive higher borrowing costs as investors may require a higher yield to buy US Treasury debt.

Moody's is the last major credit rating agency to have granted the US a perfect rating after Fitch downgraded the US in 2023 and S&P Global did so in 2011.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 3 of 52

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Austria wins 69th Eurovision Song Contest, with Israel and Estonia finishing second and third, respectively. Listen to Austria's winning song, "Wasted Love"

Oklahoma City Thunder, Minnesota Timberwolves, Indiana Pacers, and New York Knicks advance to NBA Conference Finals; see bracket and schedule and NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs' second round wraps over the weekend; conference finals begin tomorrow.

Journalism edges Gosger to win 150th Preakness Stakes.

Scottie Scheffler wins 2025 PGA Championship for his third career major title.

Science & Technology

World's first human bladder transplant successfully carried out two weeks ago, doctors announced yesterday; recipient lost the majority of original organ to cancer,

OpenAI introduces Codex, its first AI agent dedicated to generating production-ready software code.

Google I/O 2025, the company's annual developer conference, kicks off tomorrow.

Researchers discover how malaria-causing parasite hides from body's immune system; bug turns genes on and off, allowing infected cells to stick to blood vessel walls and evade antibodies.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher (S&P 500 +0.7%, Dow +0.8%, Nasdaq +0.5%) despite report revealing second-lowest consumer sentiment level on record.

Walmart will "eat" some tariff costs, pass some of the cost to consumers, Treasury secretary says; statement comes amid pressure from President Donald Trump for Walmart to assume tariff costs.

Black faith leaders plan May 25 Target boycott, pressing retailer to reestablish diversity initiatives.

New Jersey Transit engineers reach deal to end three-day strike; trains to resume normal operations tomorrow

Politics & World Affairs

Car bomb near California fertility clinic kills one person, wounds four others; FBI identifies suspect, calls attack an act of terrorism tied to antinatalist ideology.

Tornadoes in Kentucky, Missouri, and Virginia kill at least 28 people.

President Donald Trump to call Russian President Vladimir Putin today to discuss end to war in Ukraine.

Russia launches sweeping drone attack.

Israel launches expanded ground invasion in Gaza, with strikes killing over 100 people in 24 hours, per Gaza's Health Ministry.

Polish presidential election heads to June 1 runoff, with liberal mayor slightly ahead of conservative historian.

Pro-West candidate wins Romania's election, defeating populist-nationalist candidate.

Portugal's ruling center-right party leads in snap election, on track to fall short of majority.

Former President Joe Biden was diagnosed with prostate cancer that has spread to the bone Friday, his personal office has disclosed.

Names Released in Douglas County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash

Where: SD Highway 44 and 398th Avenue, 10 miles northeast of Armour, SD

When: 2:20 p.m., Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Driver 1: Sheryl Lynn Tate, 65-year-old female from Winner, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2004 Chrysler Town and Country, towing a small utility trailer

Seat belt Used: Yes

Passenger 1: Annette Dawn Farmer, 29-year-old female from Sioux Falls, SD, serious, non-life-threatening injuries

Seat belt Used: Under investigation

Driver 2: Matthew James Boelter, 38-year-old male from Tyndall, SD, no injuries

Vehicle 2: 2008 Peterbilt 389 with dump trailer

Seat belt Used: Yes

Douglas County, S.D.- One woman died and another was seriously injured in a two vehicle crash 10 miles northeast of Armour, SD, Wednesday afternoon.

Preliminary crash information indicates Sheryl Lynn Tate, the driver of a 2004 Chrysler Town and Country, was traveling east on SD Highway 44. A Peterbilt semi with dump trailer, driven by Matthew James Boelter, was traveling the same direction ahead of the Chrysler and had slowed down for a right turn. The approaching Chrysler swerved to the right, colliding with the right rear side of the dump trailer.

Boelter, the driver of the semi, was not injured. Tate was pronounced deceased at the scene, and a passenger in the Chrysler, Annette Dawn Farmer, sustained serious, non-life-threatening injuries.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. All information released so far is only preliminary.

The Highway Patrol is an agency of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

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Note: Records of state-reportable crashes are now available at <http://www.safesd.gov/> . Records should be available about 10 days after the investigation is complete.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 5 of 52

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The 2025 NFL schedule is officially out, and it's shaping up to be an unusual season for the Minnesota Vikings. While we've known the opponents for months, the release of dates and locations gives us a clearer picture of the road ahead. Let's break down the schedule and take a closer look at how things stack up.

PRESEASON

Week 1: VS Houston Texans (August 9, 3 pm) – Minnesota has never lost to Houston, holding a perfect record in the all-time series. In recent years, the two franchises have become surprisingly intertwined, with several players having spent time on both sides. That crossover adds an extra layer of intrigue to this early preseason matchup.

Week 2: VS New England Patriots (August 16, 12 pm) – The Vikings remain home for the second pre-season game when they host the Patriots. New England's QB Drake Maye, the third overall pick in the 2024 draft, has a new number one WR this year after they signed former Viking Stefon Diggs.

Week 3: @ Tennessee Titans (August 22, 7 pm) – The Vikings travel to Tennessee for the final preseason game. The Titans selected QB Cam Ward with the first overall pick in last month's draft, hoping the former zero-star recruit can help them rebuild the struggling franchise.

REGULAR SEASON

Week 1: @ Chicago Bears (September 8, 7:15 pm) – The Vikings open the season on the road against a division rival on Monday Night Football. This will be a good test for Vikings' QB J.J. McCarthy, as we'll get to see how he performs in prime time against a team that, on paper, the Vikings should beat. The Vikings have a 68-58-2 record all-time against the Bears and have won 13 of the 20 games they've played this decade.

Week 2: VS Atlanta Falcons (September 14, 7:20 pm) – After a short road trip, the Vikings return home to play the Falcons on Sunday Night Football. Back-to-back prime-time games to open the season have me worried, as the Vikings historically don't fare well in those games, but this is a perfect way for the team to start re-writing that narrative. The Vikings have a 22-12 record all-time against the Falcons and have won five of the six games they've played this decade.

Week 3: VS Cincinnati Bengals (September 21, 12 pm) – The Vikings welcome Joe Burrow and the Bengals' explosive offense to US Bank Stadium. Expect a ton of scoring as the top two WRs in the NFL look to put on a show. The Vikings have a 7-8 record all-time against the Bengals and have lost two of the three games they've played this decade (both losses have been in overtime).

Week 4: @* Pittsburgh Steelers (September 28, 8:30 am) – The Vikings head overseas to play in the first-ever NFL game at Croke Park in Dublin, Ireland. This could be the final time the Vikings face Aaron Rodgers since all signs point to him signing with the Steelers at some point. Rodgers will be looking for revenge after the Vikings declined to sign him this offseason. The Vikings have a 10-9 record all-time against the Steelers and have split the two games they've played this decade.

Week 5: @* Cleveland Browns (October 5, 8:30 am) – The Vikings will play back-to-back games in Europe, this time at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London, England. Both of these overseas games are considered away games, but I expect to see plenty of purple in the stands. The Vikings have a 12-5 record all-time against the Browns and have split the two games they've played this decade.

Week 6: Bye Week – The Vikings sail home and get some much-needed rest, as the next four games will be the toughest test of the season.

Week 7: VS Philadelphia Eagles (October 19, 12 pm) – Coming off their bye week, the Vikings will host the defending Super Bowl champions in what promises to be a high-stakes showdown. The rivalry between these two teams has simmered ever since the 2017 NFC Championship Game, when the Vikings were denied a chance to play the Super Bowl in their own stadium—a wound that still stings for many fans. The Vikings have a 15-16 record all-time against the Eagles and have lost four of the six games they've played this decade.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 6 of 52

Week 8: @ Los Angeles Chargers (October 23, 7:15 pm) – After a tough game against the Eagles, the Vikings will travel to Los Angeles for a Thursday Night Football matchup. The Chargers' head coach, Jim Harbaugh, coached J.J. McCarthy at Michigan when they won the National Championship. The Vikings have an 8-7 record all-time against the Chargers and have won three of the four games they've played this decade.

That wraps up the first half of the Vikings' 2025 schedule. In next week's article, we'll break down the second half of the season, including late-season matchups that could shape the playoff race. Skol!

Shed Those Fears of Cancer Treatment

Mrs. B came into the emergency room one night, years ago, with some stress related issue. After taking her history, I began to suspect there was something else bothering her. As I was beginning her physical exam she blurted out, "I know there is a breast mass but you're not going to send me to any breast cancer doctor!" She had already decided to avoid standard treatment and her next comment explained why, "My aunt suffered because of awful unnecessary surgery and chemotherapy," she said. I sensed there was no changing her mind and that meant trouble for my patient.



By the late Richard P. Holm, MD

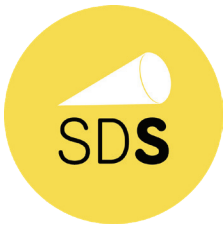
The story evolved as my patient's breast cancer grew and eroded through her skin to become a weeping and tender sore. She soon sought out unconventional treatment by a non-physician from a neighboring town with an internet degree of some kind who promised to help her. The treatment involved a curious machine with flashing lights and an unusual noise which apparently indicated which group of herbal supplements the patient needed to buy in order to cure the cancer "naturally."

More women are diagnosed with breast cancer than any other malignancy, except for skin cancer. If the breast cancer hasn't spread outside of breast tissue, then, with treatment, the five-year survival is about 99 percent. If the cancer has spread to lymph nodes just outside the breast, then, with treatment, the five-year survival is about 90 percent. Even if the cancer has spread to distant parts of the body, which happens only in about six percent of the cases, then, with treatment, more than 25 percent are still alive after five years. Since 1989, the number of people who die from breast cancer has been steadily decreasing which is the direct result of improved methods for breast cancer screening, detection and treatment.

My patient died less than a year from our meeting in the emergency room. I still regret not convincing her to get help from a science-based breast cancer physician. She may have lived years longer and in more comfort. Many people are now being saved who were previously lost to all types of cancers. Even when lifesaving is not possible, current cancer treatment can at least improve the quality of the time that remains.

Bottom line: The fear of death and the fear of suffering keep some people from seeking medical help. Please shed those fears and seek science-based help.

The late Richard P. Holm, MD is founder of The Prairie Doc® a For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit www.prairiedoc.org and follow Prairie Doc® on social media featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central. Prairie Doc Radio is on weekly on SDPB radio at 6am and 1pm Central.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Efforts to curb SD's syphilis outbreak yield results, but public health advocate says work remains

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - MAY 18, 2025 10:56 AM

South Dakota has about half the number of syphilis cases this year as it did at the same time last year, and about a third as many as the same time in 2022, when the outbreak peaked and the state reported the highest rate in the country.

About 160 cases were reported by the end of last month, according to the state Department of Health. Although that's an improvement compared to the past few years, the number remains high compared to cases before 2020.

Syphilis is a bacterial infection most often spread through sex that can be cured, but can cause serious health problems without treatment and can be spread from mothers to unborn babies.

Syphilis was close to being eradicated in the United States in the 1990s, but cases in South Dakota were increasing in the years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Syphilis infections nationwide climbed rapidly in recent years, reaching a 70-year high in 2022, according to the most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A majority of cases in South Dakota are among Native Americans. While the highest number of cases so far this year is in Pennington County, where Rapid City is located, the highest rates are in counties that include tribal lands, such as Buffalo, Dewey and Oglala Lakota counties.

There was a time not too many years ago when there were hardly any reported cases, said Meghan Curry O'Connell, chief public health officer at the Great Plains Tribal Leaders' Health Board in Rapid City.

"We still have lots of work to do," she said.

Tribal and state entities have partnered in the last few years to address the situation. Some tribal health care systems send nurses to find and treat patients in the Rapid City area and on reservations. The state Department of Health launched its Wellness on Wheels program last year as well. The program provides



A cooler is filled with doses of penicillin on April 24, 2024, at the Oyate Health Center in Rapid City. (Seth Tupper/South Dakota Searchlight)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 9 of 52

a mobile health care unit for rural communities, including STI testing, treatment, education, counseling and referrals to community resources.

Curry O'Connell said the work has had an impact on syphilis cases.

"They're coming down, but we're not where they need to be yet," she said. "We'll just have to continue working to contain the outbreak, treat people, and get the rates back to where they were."

The disease can potentially persist for decades if untreated, which can lead to death. During pregnancy, it poses a dangerous risk to the baby; congenital syphilis can cause bone deformities, severe anemia, jaundice, meningitis and even death.

The state had the highest rate of congenital syphilis in the country in 2023 with 54 cases, which was 482.1 cases per 100,000 births. Congenital syphilis cases are below that pace this year but remain higher than 2020, with eight cases reported so far.

While efforts to address syphilis among adults as a whole have yielded results, efforts to screen pregnant women have been less successful. That's because some women are not receiving prenatal care, Curry O'Connell said, which means they aren't getting screened and monitored leading up to birth.

Curry O'Connell said she worries potential cuts to Medicaid by Congress and the Trump administration will worsen access to maternal care in the state, which could affect work to screen and catch syphilis.

Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan who regularly reports on the intersection of politics and policy with health, education, social services and Indigenous affairs. Her work with South Dakota Searchlight earned her the title of South Dakota's Outstanding Young Journalist in 2024, and she was a 2024 finalist for the national Livingston Awards.

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



Groton Daily Independent

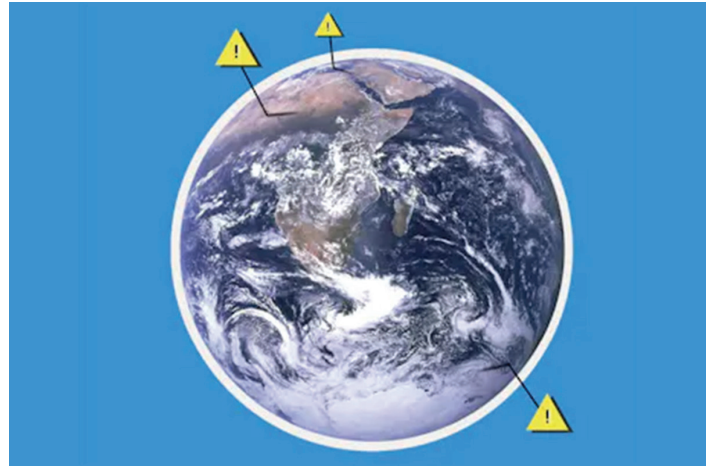
Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 11 of 52

EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: How big a role has corruption played in slowing the global fight to combat climate change, and what's being done to increase transparency?

-- Horace Wilson, Miami, FL

Climate change is a pressing problem worldwide, and yet corruption continues to obstruct significant progress. Corruption is defined as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. Powerful industries, and the people they fund, often spread misinformation and lobby at meetings with world leaders to obstruct policy decisions. Governmental bribery and fraud lead to the misuse of money meant for climate protection. All these forms of corruption cost billions of dollars and potentially thousands of lives.



The Climate & Corruption Atlas analyzes corrupt behaviors and makes recommendations to stakeholders involved in managing climate funds.

Some of the largest backers of climate corruption are large fossil fuel companies. A study by Transparency International (TI) in January 2024 found that seven major Big Oil companies had a total lobbying budget of 64 million Euros, and attended more than 1,000 meetings with the European Commission, mostly concerned with Green Deal policies. Big Oil networks hold power by hiring former government officials and funding large events and research institutions. Lobbying and bribery lead to weak environmental policies, and corruption feeds the illegal trade of animals and other wildlife crimes.

Climate change and fraud have a reciprocal relationship. Studies show that climate-induced disasters can lead to greater corruption. After a natural disaster, a country will often receive money and other resources, which officials could deliberately misuse. Exacerbated by the quick response that disaster relief requires, less thorough oversight over funds can result in wasted money, worsening the effects on communities.

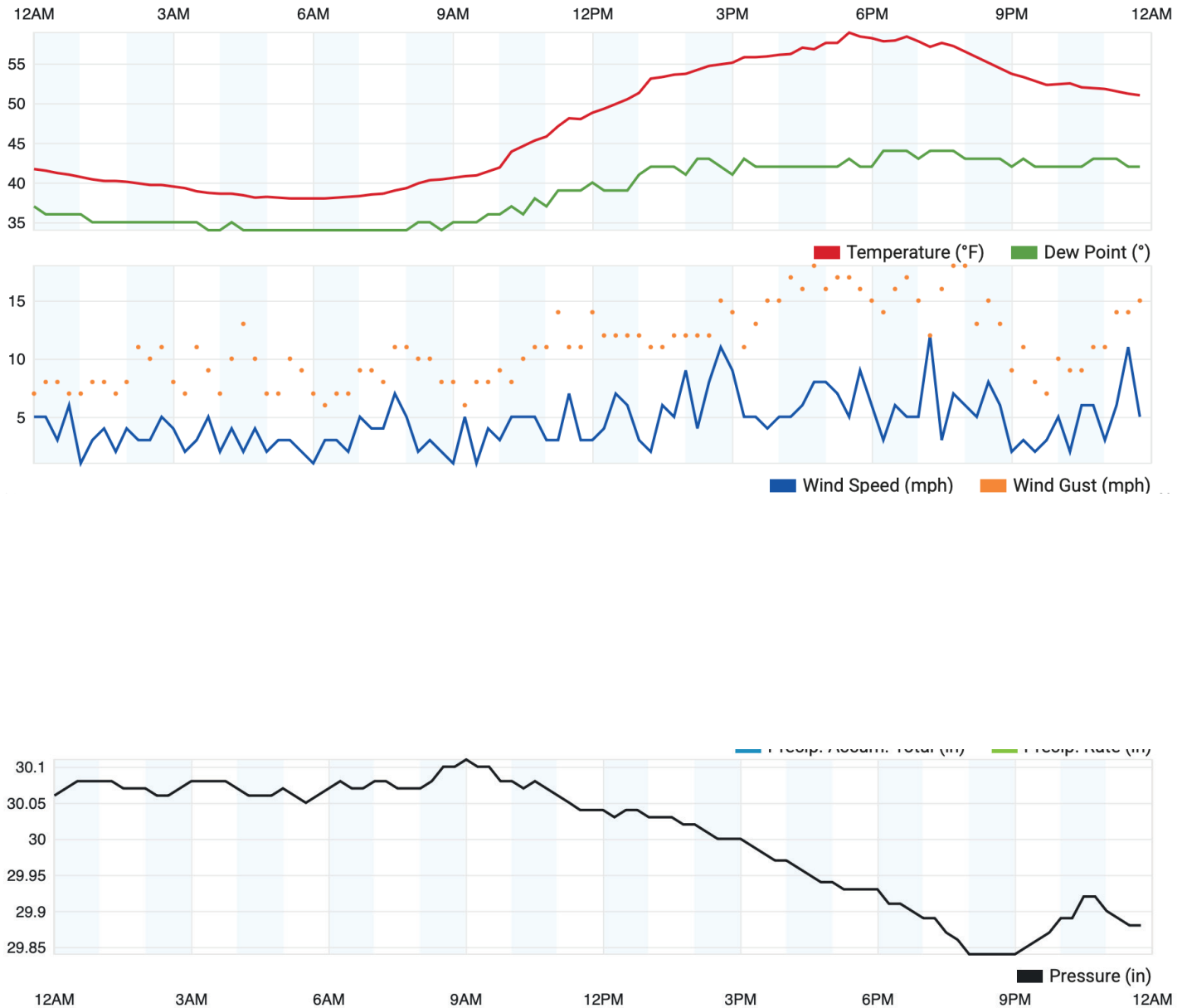
TI's Corruption Perception Index (2024) and the ND-GAIN measurement of climate readiness were analyzed together and showed a correlation, where countries with worse corruption had worse climate readiness, especially pronounced in developing areas such as East Asia, South Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. In these countries, environmental defenders also face a higher risk of being murdered.

The interplay of corruption and climate change can seem overwhelming, but there are groups and people fighting for protection. As Drs. Gvantsa Gverdtseteli and Roberto Kukutschka stated for TI, "Making sure that as many impacted people as possible are involved in climate projects and weeding out undue influence is key to their success." The National Whistleblower Center protects and rewards whistleblowers who expose corruption via legal assistance, policy promotion and public education. For those who need help against corruption, the Targeting Natural Resource Corruption Consortium provides resources. TI's work includes a Climate and Corruption Atlas, which tracks and analyzes corruption cases across the world. On the local level, groups should seek to engage communities in disaster relief to better tailor the funding solutions, as well as increase public availability of both climate and financial data..

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 12 of 52

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Broton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 13 of 52

Wind Advisory

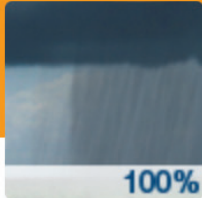
Monday

Monday Night

Tuesday

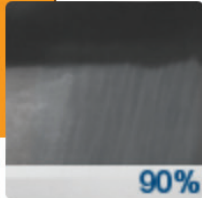
Tuesday Night

Wednesday



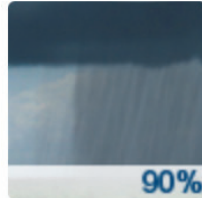
High: 50 °F

Heavy Rain
and Breezy



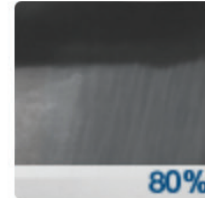
Low: 40 °F

Showers and
Breezy



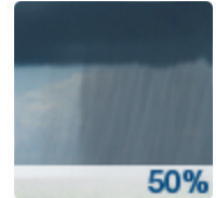
High: 44 °F

Showers



Low: 34 °F

Showers



High: 50 °F

Chance
Showers



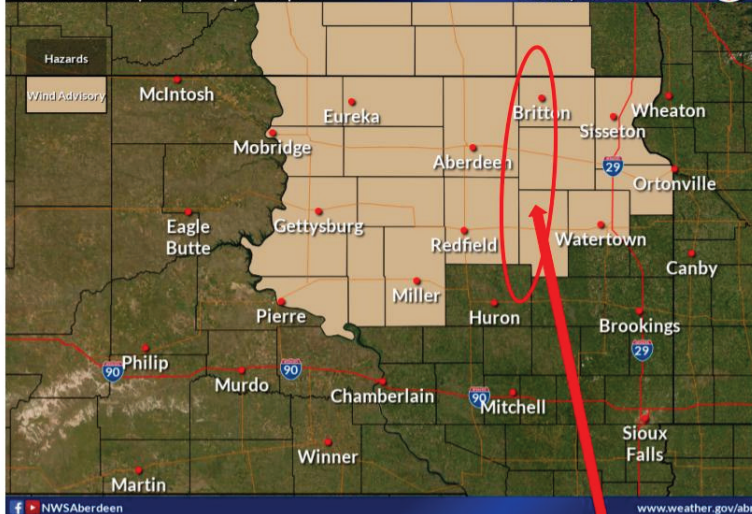
Windy Today Into Tonight

May 19, 2025
4:13 AM

Wind Advisory For Monday, May 19th

East Winds 20 To 30 mph With Gusts Up To 50 mph

Weather Forecast Office
Aberdeen, SD
Issued May 19, 2025 3:33 AM CDT



Maximum Wind Gust Forecast (mph)

	5/19 Mon						5/20 Tue			
	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	Maximum
Aberdeen	36	37	37	37	37	30	28	24	24	37
Britton	41	44	45	45	44	39	35	31	30	45
Chamberlain	40	39	37	35	31	24	21	20	22	40
Clark	48	47	48	49	48	44	39	31	30	49
Eagle Butte	41	41	41	38	35	30	28	29	29	41
Eureka	46	49	49	48	46	39	35	28	26	49
Gettysburg	44	45	45	44	40	36	30	23	24	45
McIntosh	35	40	44	43	37	31	25	23	24	44
Milbank	35	36	38	39	35	32	30	28	25	39
Miller	39	39	38	38	33	29	23	22	23	39
Mobridge	40	41	40	40	36	31	25	22	22	41
Murdo	36	35	33	30	29	29	26	29	31	36
Pierre	39	39	37	36	32	29	21	20	22	39
Redfield	39	39	39	39	38	29	26	23	23	39
Sisseton	32	36	38	39	36	33	30	28	26	39
Watertown	44	43	45	46	45	39	35	31	30	46
Webster	46	47	48	49	49	46	39	33	31	49
Wheaton	32	36	37	38	36	33	30	29	26	38

Maximum Wind Gust Forecast (mph)



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

With showers and occasionally thunderstorms in the forecast for a prolonged period of time, locally heavy rainfall totals will be possible. Over the next 72 hours (ending Wednesday afternoon), the chances for receiving one to two inches (or more) of rainfall is high; greater than 60 percent for a large portion of the region. A majority of the precipitation will fall between now and Tuesday afternoon.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 14 of 52



Rain Chances Today Through Wednesday

May 19, 2025
4:17 AM

- **Today:** Highs: 40 to 60°
 - Cloudy. Showers and Thunderstorms moving in from the south.
 - There is a Marginal Risk for excessive rainfall across the area today and Tuesday.
- Precipitation starts to taper off Tuesday night, ending Wednesday.
- **Percent chance of rainfall for Mon -> Wed:**
 - 1.00" or more: 75-100%
 - 2.00" or more: 30-80%

	Probability of Precipitation Forecast (%)														Maximum
	5/19			5/20			5/21			5/22					
	Mon			Tue			Wed			Thu					
	6am	12pm	6pm	12am	6am	12pm	6pm	12am	6am	12pm	6pm	12am	6am		
Aberdeen	100	100	90	85	90	95	90	75	65	55	50	15	0	100	
Britton	100	100	90	90	95	95	95	85	65	60	55	20	5	100	
Chamberlain	85	70	60	50	70	80	75	60	50	35	35	20	5	86	
Clark	100	100	80	80	90	95	95	80	65	60	50	25	5	100	
Eagle Butte	100	100	85	85	80	80	75	50	50	50	50	15	5	100	
Eureka	100	100	85	85	90	90	90	80	65	60	40	15	0	100	
Gettysburg	100	100	80	80	80	85	85	70	55	50	45	15	0	100	
McIntosh	100	100	95	95	90	90	85	65	60	55	55	15	5	100	
Milbank	75	100	85	90	100	95	95	85	65	65	55	25	5	100	
Miller	90	85	80	80	85	90	90	70	55	50	45	20	0	92	
Mobridge	100	100	90	90	85	85	85	70	55	55	45	15	0	100	
Murdo	100	80	55	65	75	75	65	40	40	35	35	15	5	100	
Pierre	100	90	65	60	80	80	70	50	40	40	40	15	5	100	
Redfield	100	95	85	85	85	95	95	75	60	50	45	20	0	99	
Sisseton	90	100	90	90	95	95	95	85	60	60	50	20	5	100	
Watertown	100	100	85	85	95	95	95	80	60	60	50	25	5	100	
Webster	100	100	80	85	95	95	95	85	65	60	50	25	5	100	
Wheaton	55	90	90	90	95	95	90	80	65	60	50	20	5	95	

102030405060708090100

Probabilities of Precipitation Forecast (%)

Created: 3 am CDT Mon 5/19/2025 | Values are maximums over the period beginning at the time shown.

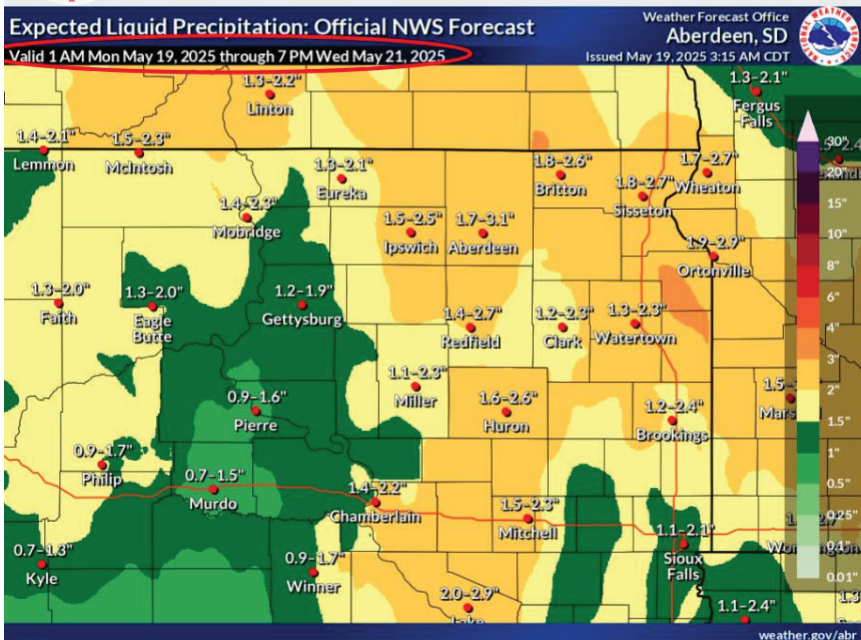


National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD



Potential Three Day Precipitation Forecast

May 19, 2025
4:24 AM



Key Messages:

- **Potential multi-day rain event**
 - Today through Wednesday
- **A majority of precipitation will fall by Tuesday evening**
- 50% chance of rainfall amounts, at the end of Wednesday, falling between the ranges shown here



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 15 of 52

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 59 °F at 5:28 PM

Low Temp: 38 °F at 5:28 AM

Wind: 18 mph at 4:42 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 07 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 97 in 1932

Record Low: 28 in 2002

Average High: 72

Average Low: 46

Average Precip in May.: 2.11

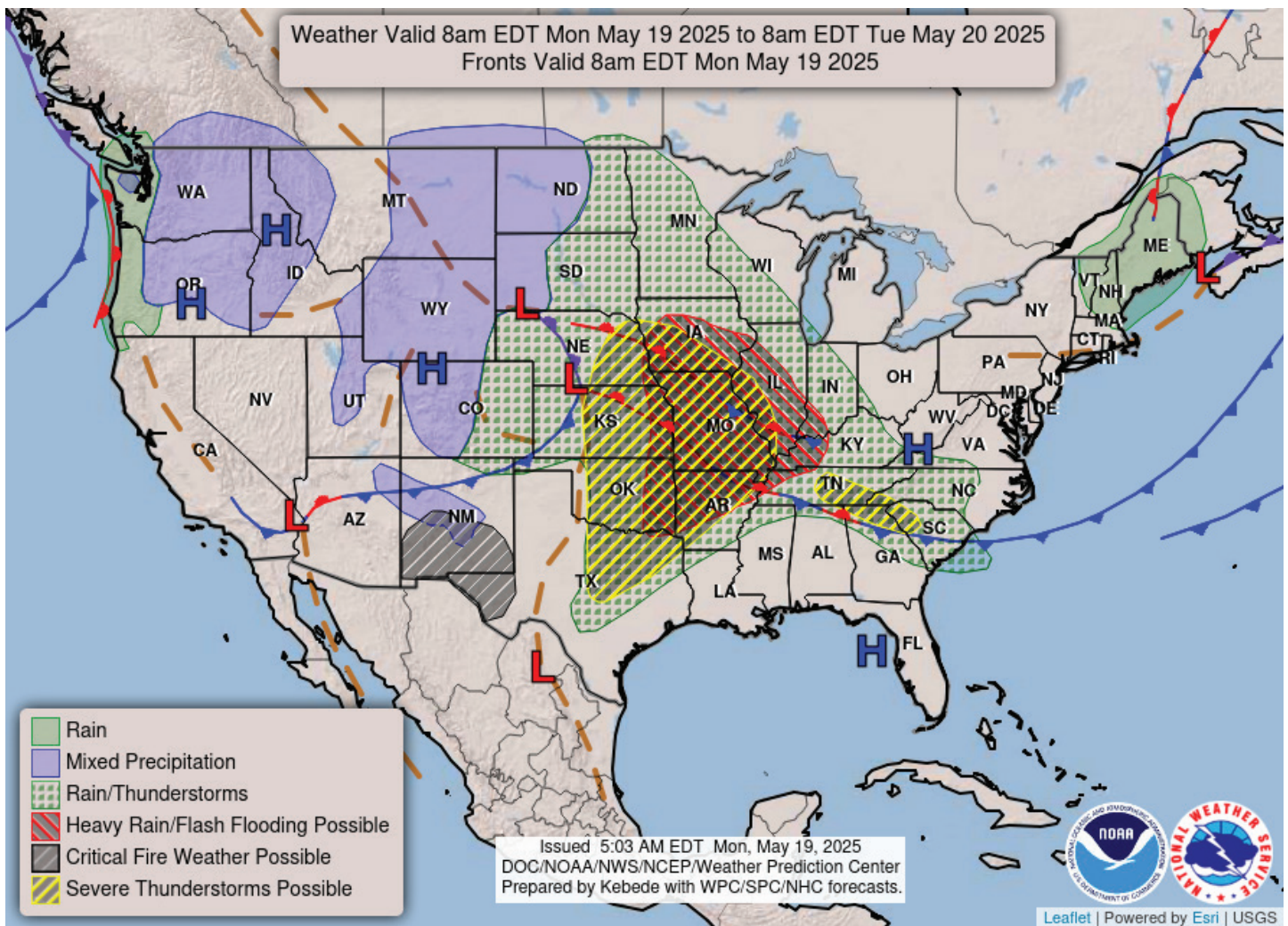
Precip to date in May.: 1.73

Average Precip to date: 6.08

Precip Year to Date: 4.36

Sunset Tonight: 9:02:36 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:54:14 am



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 16 of 52

Today in Weather History

May 19th, 1982: With the ground in the Black Hills already saturated from heavy rains the previous week, developing thunderstorms were not a welcome sight. The thunderstorms produced additional heavy rains, including 3.58 inches at Spearfish, 3.32 inches at Cheyenne Crossing, and 0.82 of an inch in twelve minutes at Hot Springs. With Flash Flood Warnings in effect, much of the area water came out of the banks of many streams, causing widespread damage in the Hills. A diversion Dam broke at Spearfish, causing a mudslide to cover some roads. In Deadwood, the main water line broke, leaving the city temporarily without water. Homes were evacuated at Nisland, Hot Springs, and Bridger. Damage throughout the Black Hills included washed-out bridges, flooded basements, several breached dams, and roads thoroughly washed away.

1780 - The infamous "dark day" in New England tradition. At noon it was nearly as dark as night. Chickens went to roost, and many persons were fearful of divine wrath. The phenomena was caused by forest fires to the west of New England. (David Ludlum)

1955 - Lake Maloya NM received 11.28 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1975 - Thunderstorms produced golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 110 mph in Minnesota, between Fridley and Hugo. Fifty persons were injured. The hail and high winds destroyed fifty mobile homes, and a dozen aircraft, and also destroyed a third of the Brighton Elementary School. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in Texas produced thirteen inches of rain northwest of Lavernia. The heavy rain, along with golf ball size hail, destroyed eighty percent of the crops in the area, while high winds toppled trees. Golf ball size hail was also reported south of Dallas and around San Antonio. Up to eight inches of rain drenched Guadalupe County. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Severe thunderstorms in southwest Texas produced hail as large as tennis balls around Midland, with the hail accumulating up to a foot deep. Showers and thunderstorms in the Middle Atlantic Coast Region produced 3.5 inches of rain near Schuylkill PA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front spawned ten tornadoes from Illinois to Tennessee during the afternoon and night. Snow, wind and cold prevailed in the Northern Plateau Region and the Northern Rockies. Dixie, ID, was blanketed with nine inches of snow, winds gusted to 87 mph at Choteau MT, and the temperature at Crater Lake, OR, dipped to 11 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Thunderstorms deluged Hot Springs AR with thirteen inches of rain in nine hours resulting in a devastating flood. Two waves of water, four to six feet deep, swept down Central Avenue flooding stores and the famous bathhouses on Bathhouse Row. Water released from Lake Hamilton devastated the area between it and Remmel Dam. The 500 foot Carpenter Dam Bridge across Lake Catherine was completely washed away, as were cabins and mobile homes near the lake, many of which flowed right over the top of Remmel Dam. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 17 of 52



"Attitude" is an interesting word. And it has different meanings to different people. There are times when we speak of a "good" attitude, and times when we speak of a "bad" attitude. Normally, an attitude refers to a position that someone has about something or even someone else. But, is it fair to say that our God, who is compassionate and caring, has an attitude?

"There are six things the Lord hates; seven are an abomination to Him."

Well, if we learn what those "things" are, is that all we have to worry about? Not really. These "things" are not intended to be an exhaustive list. We all make lists that we can add things to or remove things from — even God can do this. But these "things" are very serious to God and build on the list Solomon began earlier. Here, however, he reinforces the Lord's attitude toward such "things." Read the list very carefully and discover some "things" that God has an "attitude" toward:

Haughty eyes: A proud, condescending glare that comes from a heart full of arrogance and deceit.

A lying tongue: God only honors truth and purity.

Hands that shed innocent blood: Any person unjustly killed, which certainly includes the unborn child.

Hearts that "devise" wicked schemes: Using scams to hide the truth from simple and trusting folk.

Feet that rush to evil: Feet follow the plans of the heart and engage the soul in sin.

A false witness: Lies, to some, are as natural as breathing.

Strife-spreaders: "Trouble-makers" are all around us and will be destroyed.

Today's Prayer: Lord, if we took Your Words as seriously as You do, what beautiful lives we would live! Help us to avoid these "things" and be pleasing to You. We need You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "There are six things the Lord hates—no, seven things he detests: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that kill the innocent, a heart that plots evil, feet that race to do wrong, a false witness who pours out lies, a person who sows discord in a family."

-Proverbs 6:16–19

We all need the encouragement, comfort, and peace that comes through God's grace. Our daily devotionals, known as Seeds of Hope, have been a means through which thousands of people have experienced this grace. Each devotional comes from God's Word and we pray this good "seed" finds good soil in your heart. Our aim is that the Seeds of Hope will be a great source of daily encouragement to you and that God will use them to draw you near to Him

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 18 of 52

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Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 19 of 52



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.16.25

2 22 42 62 66 14

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$139,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 41 Mins
38 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.17.25

16 18 24 25 34 2

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$34,960,000

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 56 Mins 38
Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.18.25

1 3 4 18 30 8

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 11 Mins 39
Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.17.25

2 22 24 30 34

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$20,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 16 Hrs 11 Mins
38 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.17.25

14 18 31 34 37 17

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 40 Mins 38
Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.17.25

7 34 40 42 52 15

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$134,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 40 Mins 38
Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 20 of 52

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

New Jersey Transit train engineers reach tentative deal to end strike that halted NYC routes

By BRUCE SHIPKOWSKI and CHRISTOPHER WEBER Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — New Jersey Transit's train engineers reached a tentative deal Sunday to end their three-day strike that had halted service for some 100,000 daily riders, including routes to Newark airport and across the Hudson River to New York City. The union said its members would return to work on Tuesday, when trains would resume their regular schedules.

The walkout that began Friday was the state's first transit strike in over 40 years, forcing people who normally rely on New Jersey Transit to take buses, cars, taxis and boats instead or consider staying home. The main sticking point had been how to accomplish a wage increase for the engineers without creating a financially disastrous domino effect for the transit agency.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen initially announced regular train service would begin again Monday, but moments later, union spokesperson Jamie Horwitz said NJ Transit informed them that it would be Tuesday at 12:01 a.m. instead.

A transit agency statement said the Tuesday start was necessary because "it takes approximately 24 hours to inspect and prepare the infrastructure before returning to full scheduled service."

A union statement sent by email said the terms of the agreement would be sent to the union's 450 members who work as locomotive engineers or trainees at the passenger railroad.

"While I won't get into the exact details of the deal reached, I will say that the only real issue was wages and we were able to reach an agreement that boosts hourly pay beyond the proposal rejected by our members last month and beyond where we were when NJ Transit's managers walked away from the table Thursday evening," said Tom Haas, the union's general chairman at NJ Transit.

He added that the union was able to show management "ways to boost engineers' wages ... without causing any significant budget issue or requiring a fare increase."

The union statement also said the deal would be submitted for a ratification vote by the national union and would require a vote of the New Jersey Transit board at its next regularly scheduled meeting on June 11. NJ Transit's board also has to approve the deal.

"To offer the understatement of the year, this is a very good outcome," New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy said at a Sunday evening news conference. He commended the two sides for finding an agreement that is "both fair to NJ Transit's employees while also being affordable for our state's commuters and taxpayers."

NJ Transit CEO Kris Kolluri didn't provide details of the deal, but said it was "fair and fiscally responsible." He thanked the union for negotiating in good faith.

"The deal itself reflects a series of concessions that came together by way of a work bill that will eventually end up paying for this fair wage that the union has asked for," Kolluri said at the news conference.

Buses would be provided on Monday, but Murphy and Kolluri both urged commuters, if possible, to work from home for one more day.

"Please do that tomorrow so we can move essential employees through the system," Kolluri said.

A month earlier, members of the union had overwhelmingly rejected a labor agreement with management.

NJ Transit — the nation's third-largest transit system — operates buses and rail in the state, providing nearly 1 million weekday trips, including into New York City. The walkout halted all NJ Transit commuter trains, which provide heavily used public transit routes between New York City's Penn Station on one side of the Hudson River and communities in northern New Jersey on the other, as well as the Newark airport, which has grappled with unrelated delays of its own recently.

Mark Wallace, the union's national president, had said NJ Transit needs to pay engineers a wage that's comparable to Amtrak and Long Island Railroad because some are leaving for jobs on those other railroads for better pay.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 22 of 52

The union had said its members have been earning an average salary of \$113,000 a year and it wanted to see an agreement for an average salary of \$170,000.

NJ Transit leadership, though, disputed the union's data, saying the engineers have average total earnings of \$135,000 annually, with the highest earners exceeding \$200,000.

The UK and the EU will announce new deals and renew ties, 5 years after Brexit

By SYLVIA HUI, PAN PYLAS and JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The United Kingdom and the European Union are expected to announce new deals on fishing rights and defense cooperation as officials met in London on Monday for their first formal summit since Brexit.

The government of British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who met with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and other senior EU officials, billed the summit as a major milestone in resetting relations with the 27-nation trade bloc.

British media reported Monday that the two sides agreed on a deal on fishing access for EU boats in U.K. waters ahead of the summit. Officials were also set to announce details of a new U.K.-EU defense and security partnership that will allow the U.K. to access a EU defense loan program, the reports said.

"Historic day ... Britain back on the world stage," Cabinet Office minister Nick Thomas-Symonds, who was leading negotiations, posted on social media Monday, without providing details on the deals.

Starmer's government hopes that the agreements could improve the British economy, which has been hit by a drop in EU trade caused by increased costs and red tape after the United Kingdom left the bloc in 2020.

Resetting relations

Since becoming prime minister in July, Starmer has sought to reset relations with the EU, following years of tensions in the wake of the U.K.'s 2016 Brexit referendum.

Post-Brexit relations have been governed by a trade agreement negotiated by then Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Starmer thinks that can be improved in a way that boosts trade and bolsters security.

"This is about making people better off, about making the country more secure, about making sure there are more jobs in the U.K.," Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds told Times Radio.

Stronger ties with the EU will bring "more benefits for the United Kingdom" following trade agreements that the U.K. struck in recent weeks with India and the United States, Starmer said.

Non-tariff barriers

Though no tariffs are slapped on the export of goods between both sides, an array of non-tariff barriers, including more onerous border checks and laborious paperwork, have made trade more difficult.

Post-Brexit visa restrictions have also hobbled the cross-border activities of professionals such as bankers or lawyers, as well as cultural exchanges, including touring bands and school trips.

Since the Labour Party took power last year after 14 years of Conservative government, a period that was largely marked by upheavals surrounding the Brexit vote and its aftermath, both sides have sought to improve relations.

That's been most evident in the more coordinated response to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in the wake of a change of approach by Washington following the return of U.S. President Donald Trump.

But Starmer has stressed that the U.K. won't rejoin the EU's frictionless single market and customs union, nor agree to the free movement of people between the U.K. and the EU.

Security, fishing and youth mobility

Talks on strengthening ties have focused largely on security and defense, and on a youth mobility plan that would allow young Britons and Europeans to live and work temporarily in each other's territory.

That remains a politically touchy issue in the U.K., seen by some Brexiteers as inching back toward free movement — though the U.K. already has youth mobility arrangements with countries including Australia and Canada.

Another issue that has long been a sticking point in U.K.-EU relations is fishing — an economically minor but symbolically important issue for the U.K. and EU member states such as France. Disputes over the issue nearly derailed a Brexit deal back in 2020.

The summit is also expected to cover aligning standards on the sale of agricultural products, which could eliminate costly checks on food products exported across the English Channel.

Thomas-Symonds said he was confident that trade could be improved for food imports and exports.

"We know we've had lorries waiting for 16 hours, fresh food in the back not able to be exported, because frankly it's just going off, red tape, all the certifications that are required, we absolutely want to reduce that," he told the BBC.

Opposition objects to a 'surrender'

Some of the trade-offs may prove difficult for Starmer, who faces growing challenges from the pro-Brexit and anti-immigration Reform U.K. party and will likely see accusations of "betraying Brexit," whatever the outcome of the talks.

Reform, which recently won big in local elections, and the opposition Conservative Party have already called the deal a "surrender" to the EU before any details were confirmed.

Trump, who has backed Brexit, could also be a potential headache for Starmer.

"The reset could still be blown off course by disagreements over how to consolidate existing areas of cooperation like fisheries and/or external factors, such as a negative reaction from the U.S. to the U.K. seeking closer ties with the EU," said Jannike Wachowiak, research associate at the UK in a Changing Europe think tank.

Trump hopes for ceasefire progress in Russia-Ukraine war in Monday calls with Putin and Zelenskyy

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is hoping separate phone calls Monday with Russian leader Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will make progress toward a ceasefire in the war in Ukraine.

Trump expressed his hopes for a "productive day" Monday — and a ceasefire — in a social media post over the weekend. His effort will also include calls to NATO leaders.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov confirmed to the media on Monday that Putin and Trump will speak at 5 p.m. Moscow time (1400 GMT), about 10 a.m. Eastern, and called the conversation "important, given the talks that took place in Istanbul" last week between Russian and Ukrainian officials, the first such negotiations since March 2022.

Trump has struggled to end a war that began with Russia's invasion in February 2022, and that makes these conversations a serious test of his reputation as a dealmaker after having claimed he would quickly settle the conflict once he was back in the White House, if not even before he took office.

The Republican president is banking on the idea that his force of personality and personal history with Putin will be enough to break any impasse over a pause in the fighting.

"His sensibilities are that he's got to get on the phone with President Putin, and that is going to clear up some of the logjam and get us to the place that we need to get to," said Trump's envoy, Steve Witkoff. "I think it's going to be a very successful call."

Trump's frustration builds over failure to end war

Still, there are fears that Trump has an affinity for Putin that could put Ukraine at a disadvantage with any agreements engineered by the U.S. government.

Bridget Brink said she resigned last month as the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine "because the policy since the beginning of the administration was to put pressure on the victim Ukraine, rather than on the aggressor, Russia."

Brink said the sign that she needed to depart was an Oval Office meeting in February where Trump and his team openly berated Zelenskyy for not being sufficiently deferential to them.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 24 of 52

"I believe that peace at any price is not peace at all," Brink said. "It's appeasement and as we know from history, appeasement only leads to more war."

Trump's frustration about the war had been building before his post Saturday on Truth Social about the coming calls, which he said would begin first with Putin at 10 a.m. Monday.

Trump said his discussion with Putin would focus on stopping the "bloodbath" of the war. It also will cover trade, a sign that Trump might be seeking to use financial incentives to broker some kind of agreement after Russia's invasion led to severe sanctions by the United States and its allies that have steadily eroded Moscow's ability to grow.

Trump's hope, according to the post, is that "a war that should have never happened will end."

His treasury secretary, Scott Bessent, said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press" that Trump had made it clear that a failure by Putin to negotiate "in good faith" could lead to additional sanctions against Russia.

Bessent suggested the sanctions that began during the administration of Democratic President Joe Biden were inadequate because they did not stop Russia's oil revenues, due to concerns that doing so would increase U.S. prices. The United States sought to cap Russia's oil revenues while preserving the country's petroleum exports to limit the damage from the inflation that the war produced.

No ceasefire but an exchange of prisoners

Putin recently rejected an offer by Zelenskyy to meet in-person in Turkey as an alternative to a 30-day ceasefire urged by Ukraine and its Western allies, including Washington.

Those talks ended on Friday after less than two hours, without a ceasefire in place. Still, both countries committed to exchange 1,000 prisoners of war each, with Ukraine's intelligence chief, Kyrylo Budanov, saying on Ukrainian television Saturday that the exchanges could happen as early as this week.

While wrapping up his four-day trip to the Middle East, Trump said on Friday that Putin had not gone to Turkey because Trump himself wasn't there.

"He and I will meet, and I think we'll solve it or maybe not," Trump told reporters after boarding Air Force One. "At least we'll know. And if we don't solve it, it'll be very interesting."

Zelenskyy met with Trump's vice president, JD Vance, and top diplomat, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, in Rome on Sunday, as well as European leaders, intensifying his efforts before the Monday calls.

The Ukrainian president said on the social media site X that during his talks with the American officials, they discussed the negotiations in Turkey and that "the Russians sent a low level delegation of non-decision-makers." He also said he stressed that Ukraine is engaged in "real diplomacy" to have a ceasefire.

"We have also touched upon the need for sanctions against Russia, bilateral trade, defense cooperation, battlefield situation and upcoming prisoners exchange," Zelenskyy said. "Pressure is needed against Russia until they are eager to stop the war."

The German government said Chancellor Friedrich Merz and French, British and Italian leaders spoke with Trump late Sunday about the situation in Ukraine and his upcoming call with Putin. A brief statement gave no details of the conversation, but said the plan is for the exchange to be continued directly after the Trump-Putin call.

In a post on X about the conversation, French President Emmanuel Macron said that Putin on Monday "must show he wants peace by accepting the 30-day unconditional ceasefire proposed by President Trump and backed by Ukraine and Europe."

The push came as the Kremlin launched its largest drone barrage against Ukraine since the start of the full-scale invasion in 2022, firing a total of 273 exploding drones and decoys, Ukraine's air force said Sunday. The attacks targeted the country's Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk regions.

Witkoff spoke Sunday on ABC's "This Week" and Brink appeared on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Israel's Netanyahu acknowledges pressure from allies in decision to resume Gaza aid

By TIA GOLDENBERG, SAMY MAGDY and WAFI SHURAFIA Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday that his decision

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 25 of 52

to resume aid to Gaza after a weeklong blockade came after pressure from allies who said they would not be able to grant Israel the support it needs to win the war so long as there were "images of hunger" coming out of the Palestinian territory.

Israel has faced condemnation from the U.N., aid groups and some European allies for its blockade of goods into the war-ravaged territory, including food, fuel and medicine.

On Sunday it said it would allow a "basic" amount of aid into Gaza to prevent a "hunger crisis" from developing. Food experts have already warned that the blockade risked sparking famine in Gaza, a territory of roughly 2 million people.

Under the Trump administration, the United States — Israel's top ally — has mostly avoided criticizing Israel's steps in its war against Hamas, and blames the militant group for the humanitarian crisis.

But it has increasingly highlighted the crisis in Gaza. President Donald Trump on his recent trip to the Middle East — a visit where he did not stop in Israel — voiced concern about the humanitarian situation in Gaza, as did his Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who said on a visit to Turkey that he was "troubled" by it.

The decision to let in aid comes as Israel steps up its offensive in the Gaza Strip in what it says is a bid to pressure Hamas to agree to a ceasefire deal on Israel's terms.

Under the newly launched air and ground offensive, Israel plans to displace hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and secure aid distribution inside the territory.

Netanyahu said Monday that the plan would include "taking control of all of Gaza" and a military spokesperson ordered the evacuation of Gaza's second-largest city, Khan Younis.

Netanyahu warns of a 'red line' on Gaza

In a video statement posted to social media, Netanyahu said that Israel's allies had voiced concern about "images of hunger."

Israel's "greatest friends in the world," he said, including senators but without mentioning specific nationalities, had said there is "one thing we cannot stand. We cannot accept images of hunger, mass hunger. We cannot stand that. We will not be able to support you."

Netanyahu said the situation was approaching a "red line" and a "dangerous point," but it was not clear if he was referring to the crisis in Gaza or the potential loss of support from allies.

"Therefore to achieve victory, we need to somehow solve the problem," Netanyahu said.

The video statement appeared aimed at pacifying anger from Netanyahu's nationalist base at the decision to resume aid. Netanyahu has been under pressure from two far-right governing partners not to send aid back into Gaza. At least one of them said Monday he was begrudgingly on board with the decision.

The aid that would be let in would be "minimal," Netanyahu said, without specifying precisely when it would resume, and would act as bridge toward the beginning of a new approach to aid delivery in Gaza, which will see a U.S.-backed organization distribute aid in organized hubs in Gaza that will be secured by the Israeli military.

Trucks wait along border to enter Gaza

Israel says the plan is meant to prevent Hamas from accessing aid, which Israel says it uses to bolster its rule in Gaza.

Aid groups say the mechanism is not practical, that it will not reach the most vulnerable Palestinians and say they won't participate because it doesn't align with their humanitarian principles.

A U.N. official said a shipment of 20 aid trucks carrying mostly food is expected to enter on Monday. The official was not authorized to brief media and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Israeli authorities have not commented on when the aid would begin entering.

An Associated Press photographer saw at least three trucks loaded with humanitarian aid on the Israeli side of a crossing with Gaza.

Palestinians say an Israeli undercover raid has killed a militant

As the aid waited to enter the territory again, fighting continued to rage there, including an early morning raid in the southern city of Khan Younis by what Palestinian residents said was an undercover Israeli force disguised as displaced Palestinians.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 26 of 52

The force killed Ahmed Sarhan, a leader of the armed wing of the Popular Resistance Committees, in a shootout, the group said, and detained his wife and child, according to Palestinian witnesses.

The forces drove in on a civilian vehicle and carried out the raid under heavy aircover, killing at least six people, including Sarhan, according to Nasser Hospital. They carried what appeared to be luggage and blankets on top of their white vehicle.

The Israeli military had no immediate comment on the apparent raid.

Pope Leo XIV and JD Vance meet ahead of US-led diplomatic flurry to reach ceasefire in Ukraine

By NICOLE WINFIELD and JACQUELYN MARTIN Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Pope Leo XIV and U.S. Vice President JD Vance met at the Vatican on Monday ahead of a flurry of U.S.-led diplomatic efforts to make progress on a ceasefire in Russia's war in Ukraine.

Vance, a Catholic convert, had led the U.S. delegation to the formal Mass opening the pontificate of the first American pope. Joining him at the meeting on Monday was Secretary of State Marco Rubio, also a Catholic, Vance spokesperson Luke Schroeder said.

"There was an exchange of views on some current international issues, calling for respect for humanitarian law and international law in areas of conflict and for a negotiated solution between the parties involved," according to a Vatican statement after their meeting.

The Vatican listed Vance's delegation as the first of several private audiences Leo was having Monday with people who had come to Rome for his inaugural Mass, including other Christian leaders and a group of faithful from his old diocese in Chiclayo, Peru.

The Vatican, which was largely sidelined during the first three years of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, has offered to host any peace talks while continuing humanitarian efforts to facilitate prisoner swaps and reunite Ukrainian children taken by Russia.

After greeting Leo briefly at the end of Sunday's Mass, Vance spent the rest of the day in separate meetings, including with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. He also met with European Union Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Italy's Premier Giorgia Meloni, who said she hoped the trilateral meeting could be a "new beginning."

In the evening, Meloni spoke by phone with U.S. President Donald Trump and several other European leaders ahead of Trump's expected call with Russia's President Vladimir Putin on Monday, according to a statement from Meloni's office.

'Every Effort'

Leo, the former Cardinal Robert Prevost, is a Chicago-born Augustinian missionary who spent the bulk of his ministry in Chiclayo, a commercial city of around 800,000 on Peru's northern Pacific coast.

In the days since his May 8 election, Leo has vowed "every effort" to help bring peace to Ukraine. He also has emphasized his continuity with Pope Francis, who made caring for migrants and the poor a priority of his pontificate.

Before his election, Prevost shared news articles on X that were critical of the Trump administration's plans for mass deportations of migrants.

Vance was one of the last foreign officials to meet with Francis before the Argentine pope's April 21 death. The two had tangled over migration, with Francis publicly rebuking the Trump administration's deportation plan and correcting Vance's theological justification for it.

Biden has been diagnosed with aggressive prostate cancer

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Joe Biden has been diagnosed with prostate cancer, his office said Sunday.

The finding came after the 82-year-old reported urinary symptoms, which led doctors to discover a

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 27 of 52

nodule on his prostate. He was diagnosed with prostate cancer on Friday, with the cancer cells having spread to the bone.

"While this represents a more aggressive form of the disease, the cancer appears to be hormone-sensitive which allows for effective management," his office said. "The President and his family are reviewing treatment options with his physicians."

Prostate cancers are graded for aggressiveness using what's known as a Gleason score. The scores range from 6 to 10, with 8, 9 and 10 prostate cancers behaving more aggressively. Biden's office said his score was 9, suggesting his cancer is among the most aggressive.

When prostate cancer spreads to other parts of the body, it often spreads to the bones. Metastasized cancer is much harder to treat than localized cancer because it can be hard for drugs to reach all the tumors and completely root out the disease.

However, when prostate cancers need hormones to grow, as in Biden's case, they can be susceptible to treatment that deprives the tumors of hormones.

Outcomes have improved in recent decades and patients can expect to live with metastatic prostate cancer for four or five years, said Dr. Matthew Smith of Massachusetts General Brigham Cancer Center.

"It's very treatable, but not curable," Smith said. "Most men in this situation would be treated with drugs and would not be advised to have either surgery or radiation therapy."

Many political leaders sent Biden their wishes for his recovery.

President Donald Trump, a longtime political opponent, posted on social media that he was saddened by the news and "we wish Joe a fast and successful recovery."

Biden's vice president, Kamala Harris, said on social media that she was keeping him in her family's "hearts and prayers during this time."

"Joe is a fighter — and I know he will face this challenge with the same strength, resilience, and optimism that have always defined his life and leadership," Harris wrote.

Former President Barack Obama said his thoughts and prayers were with Biden, his former vice president, lauding his toughness. "Nobody has done more to find breakthrough treatments for cancer in all its forms than Joe, and I am certain he will fight this challenge with his trademark resolve and grace," Obama wrote on social media.

The health of Biden was a dominant concern among voters during his time as president. After a calamitous debate performance in June while seeking reelection, Biden abandoned his bid for a second term. Harris became the nominee and lost to Trump, a Republican who returned to the White House after a four-year hiatus.

But in recent days, Biden rejected concerns about his age despite reporting in the new book "Original Sin" by Jake Tapper and Alex Thompson that aides had shielded the public from the extent of his decline while serving as president.

In February 2023, Biden had a skin lesion removed from his chest that was a basal cell carcinoma, a common form of skin cancer. And in November 2021, he had a polyp removed from his colon that was a benign, but potentially pre-cancerous lesion.

In 2022, Biden made a "cancer moonshot" one of his administration's priorities with the goal of halving the cancer death rate over the next 25 years. The initiative was a continuation of his work as vice president to address a disease that had killed his older son, Beau, who died from brain cancer in 2015.

His father, when announcing the goal to halve the cancer death rate, said this could be an "American moment to prove to ourselves and, quite frankly, the world that we can do really big things."

Aid workers feel helpless as Israel's blockade pushes Gaza towards famine

By SARAH EL DEEB Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Two cases pushed nutritionist Rana Soboh to wits' end. First, a woman was rushed to a Gaza emergency room after fainting while she breastfed her newborn. She told Soboh she hadn't eaten

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 28 of 52

in days.

The next day at another medical facility, Soboh found a severely malnourished 1-year-old boy weighing 5 kilograms (11 pounds), less than half what's normal. He hadn't grown any teeth. He was too weak to cry. The mother was also malnourished, "a skeleton, covered in skin."

When the mother asked for food, Soboh started crying uncontrollably.

A feeling of powerlessness has overwhelmed her. Soboh said sometimes she gives a little money or a bit of her own food. But now she, too, is struggling.

"This is the worst feeling, wanting to help but knowing you can't. I wished the earth would crack open and swallow me," she said. "What more cruel scenes does the world need to see?"

After months of trying to raise alarm, humanitarian workers are overflowing with anger, frustration and horror over Israel's nearly three-month blockade. The Associated Press spoke to over a dozen aid workers, some with years of experience in emergencies around the world and Palestinians who have worked through this and other wars.

They say what is happening in Gaza is a catastrophe, among the worst they have ever seen. It's more painful, they say, because it's man-made, caused by Israel cutting off all food, fuel, medicine and other supplies to the territory nearly 11 weeks ago.

The world's top authority on food crises last week warned of famine unless the blockade ends. Almost the entire population of around 2.3 million is acutely malnourished, and one in five Palestinians are on the brink of starvation, it said.

Israel late Sunday said it would allow a "basic" amount of food into Gaza, saying it didn't want a hunger crisis to jeopardize its new military offensive. It was not immediately clear how much would be allowed in, or when, or how.

Israel says it imposed the blockade to force Hamas to release hostages, a decision that rights groups call a "starvation tactic" and a violation of international law.

Aid workers are also wrestling with moves by Israel and the U.S. to impose a new aid system, despite their objections. The system would limit distribution to a few locations and put it under armed private contractors — to prevent theft by Hamas, Israel says. Humanitarian workers say it won't meet Gaza's needs and violates humanitarian principles. The U.N. denies that significant aid diversion takes place.

The workers say they should be allowed to do their jobs. Some 170,000 metric tons of aid, including food, sits in trucks a few miles away, just inside Israel.

"The humanitarian community is well-experienced and well-versed in terms of treating malnutrition," said Rachel Cummings, emergency coordinator for Save the Children in Gaza. But "we need food into Gaza and to stop this, by design, attack on the children across the whole of Gaza."

Last lifelines are closing

Community kitchens are the last lifeline for most people, but more than 60% have shut down as supplies run out. Those still working can only produce 260,000 meals a day.

At his kitchen in Khan Younis, Nihad Abu Kush and 10 cooks prepare enough meals for about 1,000 people a day. More than 2,000 show up every morning, he said.

There are no lines, just a sea of people terrified of being among the half who will miss out. They push and shove, waving pots for portions from the vats of lentils, beans or peas in tomato sauce.

"I feel so helpless because the numbers grow every day," Abu Kush said. "I look at their faces and I am unable to do anything."

On a recent day, he gave up his own portion after he locked eyes with a child with an empty pot. "I was among the 1,000 who didn't get any," Abu Kush said.

A breaking point

Soboh, a nutritionist with MedGlobal, said her team stretches supplies of malnutrition treatments. Each can of baby formula is divided among several mothers. Therapy food portions are reduced by half. They give supplements only to children up to a year old, no longer up to 2.

But their fixes get overwhelmed in the rising need.

Staff try to dissuade mothers too weak to breastfeed from giving newborns sugar water, which can cause

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 29 of 52

deadly diarrhea and infections, Soboh said.

But it's the mothers' only alternative. Flour sold in the markets is rotten, full of insects, devoid of nutrition and enormously expensive. Still, if they find the cash, parents take risky trips to get it just to fill their children's stomachs, she said.

Aid groups distributing water have reduced daily allowances to 5 liters a day per person, a third of the minimum in emergency conditions. Families must choose between using water to drink, wash hands or to cook, risking infection.

Mahmoud al-Saqqa, Oxfam's food security sector coordinator, said parents tell him their kids are dizzy from lack of food. They search through garbage for scraps.

"We see the hunger in their eyes," he said. His group, like most, distributed its last food stocks weeks ago.

One of Soboh's colleagues, Fady Abed, said desperate adults in his neighborhood ask him for the nutty-butter bars used to treat severely malnourished children to slake their own hunger.

"You feel like you let them down" refusing them, Abed said. He struggles to feed his own family.

"Fear of famine," he said, "is in every home."

Pumping air for 72 hours

Medical workers improvise alternatives as supplies run out and machines break down.

Al-Awda Hospital in northern Gaza lacks fuel and oxygen cylinders, so staff use hand-pumped respirators to keep patients breathing, said hospital director Mohammed Salha.

Staff took turns hand-pumping air for one patient for 72 hours straight. The patient still died.

"People are dying ... because we simply don't have the basics," he said.

At Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza, doctors don't have drills, sealant or titanium plates to treat the many skull fractures from bombardment.

They use expired gelatins to stop bleeding, but that doesn't stop spinal fluid from leaking, which can be deadly, said a foreign doctor volunteering with the aid group Medical Aid for Palestinians.

Sometimes, there's nothing he can do. He has child patients whose cochlear implants are defective, but there's no way to replace them. Without them, "they will never be able to develop normal speech," he said.

The doctor spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations from his organization to avoid reprisals from Israeli authorities.

Israel has cut in half the number of foreign doctors allowed into Gaza since March.

New aid system

Israel imposed the blockade and resumed its military campaign in March, breaking a two-month ceasefire with Hamas. COGAT, the Israeli military body in charge of overseeing aid, did not comment to the AP. Israeli officials have said they track the calories in Gaza and assert that there is enough aid after an influx during the ceasefire.

Israel and the United States are pressing the U.N. and aid groups to join the planned new distribution system. The U.N. and most aid groups say they can't join because it enables Israel to use aid as a weapon for its political and military goals.

In particular, it would depopulate much of Gaza by forcing Palestinians to move to planned distribution hubs.

"In the end, this is using food to humiliate, control and direct people," said al-Saqqa of Oxfam. "Every human being has the right to food."

Trump's big bill advances in rare weekend vote, but conservatives demand more changes

By KEVIN FREKING, LISA MASCARO and LEAH ASKARINAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans narrowly advanced President Donald Trump's big tax cuts package out of a key committee during a rare Sunday night vote, but just barely, as conservative holdouts are demanding quicker cuts to Medicaid and green energy programs before giving their full support.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 30 of 52

Speaker Mike Johnson met with Republican lawmakers shortly before the meeting and acknowledged to reporters that there are still details to “iron out.” He said some changes were being made, but declined to provide details.

It’s all setting up a difficult week ahead for the GOP leadership racing toward a Memorial Day deadline, a week away, to pass the package from the House. The Budget Committee, which just days ago failed to advance the package when four conservative Republicans objected, was able to do so Sunday on a vote of 17-16, with the four hold-outs voting “present” to allow it to move ahead, as talks continue.

“The bill does not yet meet the moment,” said Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, a leader of the House Freedom Caucus, in a social media post immediately after the late-night session. “We can and must do better before we pass the final product.”

The path ahead for Johnson is unclear as he tries to hold his narrow House majority together to pass the president’s top domestic priority of extending the tax breaks while pumping in money for border security and deportations — all while cutting spending.

Republicans criticizing the measure argued that the bill’s new spending and the tax cuts are front-loaded in the bill, while the measures to offset the cost are back-loaded. In particular, they are looking to speed up the new work requirements that Republicans want to enact for able-bodied participants in Medicaid.

Johnson indicated he wants to impose the the work requirements “as soon as possible” but acknowledged it may take states longer to change their systems. Those requirements would not kick in until 2029 under the current bill.

“There will be more details to iron out and several more to take care of,” Johnson, R-La., said outside the hearing room.

“But I’m looking forward to very thoughtful discussions, very productive discussions over the next few days, and I’m absolutely convinced we’re going to get this in final form and pass it.”

More talks are ahead, but Johnson is looking to put the bill on the House floor before the end of the week.

Democrats have decried the cuts Republicans are proposing to Medicaid and food stamps to offset the costs of the tax breaks.

“This spending bill is terrible, and I think the American people know that,” Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., told CNN’s “State of the Union” on Sunday. “There is nothing wrong with us bringing the government in balance. But there is a problem when that balance comes on the back of working men and women. And that’s what is happening here.”

The first time that Republicans tried advancing the bill out of the House Budget Committee last week, the deficit hawks joined with Democratic lawmakers in voting against reporting the measure to the full House.

Those same four Republicans — Roy and Reps. Ralph Norman of South Carolina, Josh Brecheen of Oklahoma and Rep. Andrew Clyde of Georgia — cast their “present” votes Sunday.

Norman pointed to a recent downgrade of the nation’s credit rating in making his arguments for steeper reductions.

“We’ve got a lot more work to do,” Norman said. “We’re excited about what we did. We want to move the bill forward.”

At its core, the sprawling legislative package permanently extends the existing income tax cuts that were approved during Trump’s first term in 2017 and adds temporary new ones that the president campaigned on in 2024, including no taxes on tips, overtime pay and auto loan interest payments. The measure also proposes big spending increases for border security and defense.

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a nonpartisan fiscal watchdog group, estimates that the House bill is shaping up to add roughly \$3.3 trillion to the debt over the next decade.

Johnson is not just having to address the concerns of the deficit hawks in his party. He’s also facing pressure from centrists who will be warily eyeing the proposed changes to Medicaid, food assistance programs and the rolling back of clean energy tax credits. Republican lawmakers from New York and elsewhere are also demanding a much larger state and local tax deduction.

As it stands, the bill proposes tripling what’s currently a \$10,000 cap on the state and local tax deduction, increasing it to \$30,000 for joint filers with incomes up to \$400,000 a year.

Rep. Nick LaLota, one of the New York lawmakers leading the effort to lift the cap, said they have proposed a deduction of \$62,000 for single filers and \$124,000 for joint filers.

Rep. Jodey Arrington, the chairman of the House Budget Committee, said the bill remained under negotiation.

"Deliberations continue at this very moment," Arrington said. "They will continue on into the week, and I suspect right up until the time we put this big, beautiful bill on the floor of the House."

If the bill passes the House this week, it would then move to the Senate, where Republican lawmakers are also eyeing changes that could make final passage in the House more difficult.

The US is reinstating records for international students. For some, it's too late

By MAKIYA SEMINERA, ANNIE MA and JANIE HAR Associated Press

After the government terminated his legal status in the U.S., one student abruptly lost his laboratory job in Houston and, fearing detention, he returned to his home country in south Asia on a one-way ticket.

The Trump administration later reversed course in its expansive crackdown on international students, but there was a major obstacle. The student cannot return because his American visa was revoked.

Without it, he's "stranded," said the student, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation.

As the government begins reinstating students' records, many face a daunting and complicated path toward rebuilding their lives. For those who left, there is no guarantee they can return. Others have faced challenges reenrolling in school and returning to jobs.

Mental anguish from their ordeals linger, as do feelings of vulnerability. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has expanded the grounds for terminating a student's legal status, leaving many to fear they could be targeted again.

A total of more than 4,700 international students had their permission to study in the U.S. canceled this spring, with little notice or explanation. In court hearings, Department of Homeland Security officials said they ran the names of student visa holders through an FBI-run database that contains the names of suspects and people who have been arrested, even if they were never charged with a crime or had charges dropped.

At a court hearing last week in Oakland, California, lawyers for international students sought a nationwide injunction they said would protect their clients and others across the country.

But government attorneys said that wasn't necessary because ICE was mailing status reactivation letters to affected students. It likely will take two weeks for all students to receive their letter, which can then be shared with universities and employers, assistant U.S. attorney Elizabeth Kurlan said.

The plaintiffs' lawyers said the letter is meaningless, arguing ICE's new policy suggests student records can be terminated on a whim. There's also no evidence ICE has asked the State Department to restore revoked visas, the plaintiffs' attorneys said.

A student who left faces a long wait for another US visa

The man in Houston left within about a week of learning his legal status had been terminated. Around that time, he also received an email that the visa he used to enter the U.S. had been revoked. He believes his termination stemmed from a 2021 fraud case that was dismissed.

Over nearly a decade he had built a life in the U.S., where he was enrolled in "optional practical training," which allows foreign students to stay and work for up to three years on their student visas. In his home country, he is now looking for work and living with his mother.

The wait time for a U.S. visa interview is at least a year, he said.

Even if he got another visa, returning would be complicated because of his financial situation. He had a car loan and credit cards in the U.S. that he can't afford to pay after losing his job, and his credit score has since dropped, he said.

"Revoking a visa or revoking a SEVIS status does not just affect the educational side of things, it af-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 32 of 52

fects the whole life," said the student, who has struggled with feelings of loneliness and also grief over his father's recent death.

SEVIS is the Student and Exchange Visitor Information Systems database that tracks international students' compliance with their visa status.

Students who left the country may not have known their rights or had the resources to hire a lawyer, said Ben Loveman, an immigration attorney. They now will have a harder time being reinstated, he said.

"There were huge consequences," Loveman said.

Some students see new risk to studying in the US

For a Nepali programmer in Texas who had his status terminated, the ordeal brought up a mistake he thought he had left in the past.

The programmer, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation, was arrested four years ago for drunken driving. He said he took responsibility for his actions, performing community service hours, serving probation and paying fines. The judge told him the records could be sealed after two years, but the case appears to explain why he was targeted by immigration authorities.

"I followed everything," he said. "If they're going to take it all, at least give me due process."

His status has since been restored, and the programmer, who is on an OPT program, has gone back to his job. But the episode hasn't faded from his mind.

If the right opportunity emerged in another country like New Zealand or Canada, he said he would take it and leave.

A student at Iowa State University who also requested anonymity out of concern about being targeted, said he is looking for options to leave the U.S., after what he describes as a "dark period."

The Ph.D. student said his status termination pushed him to a mental breaking point. He had a plane ticket back home to Bangladesh reserved. He hardly left his apartment, and when he did, he felt he was being followed.

He attributes his termination to pending charges against him for marijuana possession, but he said he hadn't been convicted.

After his status reinstatement, he restarted a teaching assistant job he had lost. Then, he had to catch up on grading almost three weeks of assignments for dozens of students.

While he's relieved to get back to school, he's confident about his decision to leave by the end of the year — either for home or Europe. The degree is not worth the risk of another status termination, he said.

"How much should I suffer to continue here?" he said.

Couple set to go on trial over staged cross burning in front of campaign sign for Black candidate

By COLLEEN SLEVIN Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — In the run-up to the 2023 mayoral election in Colorado Springs, a racial slur was scrawled across a Black candidate's sign and a cross set on fire in front of it.

It was a stunt to generate sympathy and support for the Black candidate, Yemi Mobolade, prosecutors have said, but two people accused of staging it are set to go on trial Monday, charged with making a threat against him.

Mobolade, the city's first Black mayor, is scheduled to testify in the case as a victim, according to court documents.

But one of the defendants claims Mobolade himself was a participant in the plan to help him win. And the defendant's attorneys say their alleged actions were political theater — free speech that is constitutionally protected and wasn't meant to cause harm.

"This was a hoax in every sense of the word," defendant Ashley Blackcloud told The Associated Press. She said Mobolade knew in advance about their plans to burn the cross, but she would not comment further, citing a court order that bars discussing information gathered in the case before the trial. Blackcloud, who is indigenous and Black, said the stunt was not intended to hurt anyone.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 33 of 52

Mobolade has previously denied any involvement emphatically. A city spokesperson, Vanessa Zink, said the mayor did not want to make any additional comment.

The second defendant — Blackcloud's husband, Derrick Bernard — is serving a life sentence after being convicted last year of ordering the killing of a rapper in Colorado Springs. The man charged with carrying out the killing was recently acquitted, and Bernard is appealing his conviction.

Messages left for Blackcloud's lawyer and Bernard's lawyer were not returned.

However, in motions to dismiss the case they pointed out that the cross was set on fire in the middle of the night, which no one other than the defendants apparently saw.

They are, however, accused of spreading word about it in emails to the media and others that include images of the scene.

They are each charged with using a means of interstate commerce — the internet and email — to make a threat and conveying false information about an attempt to intimidate Mobolade with a fire. They are also both charged with being part of a conspiracy to do that. They have pleaded not guilty.

According to jury instructions in the case, prosecutors must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Bernard and Blackcloud intended Mobolade to fear that violence would result in order for them to be found guilty.

Earlier this month, U.S. District Judge Regina M. Rodriguez ruled that the alleged actions are not ones that are clearly protected by the First Amendment, which would have required her to dismiss the case.

"It is up to the jury to determine whether the cross burning was a true threat or merely political speech," she wrote.

A third person indicted in the alleged scheme, Deanna West, pleaded guilty in March to one count of being part of a conspiracy to set the fire and then spread false information about it, under a plea agreement with prosecutors. According to that agreement, West's lawyer and government prosecutors agreed that the conspiracy's goal was to interfere in the campaign of Mobolade's opponent and create the belief that Mobolade was being discouraged from running because of his race.

West is also scheduled to testify for the government.

According to the indictment, Bernard communicated with Mobolade before the cross burning on April 23, 2023, and after Mobolade won election in a May 6, 2023, runoff.

About a week before the cross burning, Bernard told the then-candidate in a Facebook message that he was "mobilizing my squadron in defense and for the final push. Black ops style big brother. The klan cannot be allowed to run this city again."

They spoke for about five minutes on the telephone three days after the incident.

In a video statement posted on social media in December, Mobolade said he had fully cooperated with the investigation and had been truthful with law enforcement.

"I fully and truthfully cooperated throughout this investigation. I had no knowledge, warning or involvement in this crime," he said.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for Colorado, which is prosecuting the case, declined to comment on whether it had questioned or investigated Mobolade about whether he was involved in the cross burning.

More storms take aim at central US, where many are digging out from tornado damage

By MATTHEW BROWN and CAROLYN KASTER Associated Press

LONDON, Ky. (AP) — More severe storms were expected to roll across the central U.S. this week following the weather-related deaths of more than two dozen people and a devastating Kentucky tornado.

The National Weather Service said a "multitude of hazardous weather" would impact the U.S. over the next several days — from thunderstorms and potentially baseball-sized hail on the Plains, to heavy mountain snow in the West and dangerous heat in the South.

Areas at risk of thunderstorms include communities in Kentucky and Missouri that were hit by Friday's tornadoes.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 34 of 52

In London, Kentucky, people whose houses were destroyed scrambled Sunday to put tarps over salvageable items or haul them away for safe storage, said Zach Wilson. His parents' house was in ruins, their belongings scattered.

"We're trying the hardest to get anything that looks of value and getting it protected, especially pictures and papers and things like that," he said.

Here's the latest on the recent storms, some tornado history and where to look out for the next weather impacts.

Deadly storms claim dozens of lives

At least 19 people were killed and 10 seriously injured in Kentucky, where a tornado on Friday damaged hundreds of homes and tossed vehicles in southeastern Laurel County. Officials said the death toll could rise and that three people remained in critical condition Sunday.

Wilson said he raced to his parents' home in London, Kentucky, after the storm.

"It was dark and still raining but every lightning flash, it was lighting up your nightmares: Everything was gone," he said. "The thankful thing was me and my brother got here and got them out of where they had barricaded themselves."

Survey teams were expected on the ground Monday so the state can apply for federal disaster assistance, Gov. Andy Beshear said. Some of the two dozen state roads that had closures could take days to reopen.

In St. Louis, five people died and 38 were injured as the storm system swept through on Friday, according to Mayor Cara Spencer. More than 5,000 homes in the city were affected, she said.

On Sunday, city inspectors were going through damaged areas to condemn unsafe structures, Spencer said. She asked for people not to sightsee in damaged areas.

A tornado that started in the St. Louis suburb of Clayton traveled at least eight miles (13 kilometers), had 150-mph (241-kph) winds and had a maximum width of one mile (1.6 kilometers), according to the weather service. It touched down in the area of Forest Park, home to the St. Louis Zoo and the site of the 1904 World's Fair and the Olympic Games that same year.

In Scott County, about 130 miles (209 kilometers) south of St. Louis, a tornado killed two people, injured several others and destroyed multiple homes, Sheriff Derick Wheatley wrote on social media.

The weather system spawned tornadoes in Wisconsin and temporarily enveloped parts of Illinois — including Chicago — in a pall of dust.

Two people were killed in the Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C., by falling trees while driving.

The storms hit after the Trump administration cut staffing of National Weather Service offices, with outside experts worrying about how it would affect warnings in disasters such as tornadoes.

A history of tornadoes

The majority of the world's tornadoes occur in the U.S., which has about 1,200 annually.

Researchers in 2018 found that deadly tornadoes were happening less frequently in the traditional "Tornado Alley" of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas and more frequently in parts of the more densely populated and tree-filled South.

They can happen any time of day or night, but certain times of the year bring peak "tornado season." That's from May into early June for the southern Plains and earlier in the spring on the Gulf Coast.

The deadliest tornado in Kentucky's history was hundreds of yards wide when it tore through downtown Louisville's business district in March 1890, collapsing multistory buildings including one with 200 people inside. Seventy-six people were killed.

The last tornado to cause mass fatalities in Kentucky was a December 2021 twister that lasted almost five hours. It traveled some 165 miles (266 kilometers), leaving a path of destruction that included 57 dead and more than 500 injured, according to the weather service. Officials recorded at least 41 tornadoes during that storm, which killed at least 77 people statewide.

On the same day, a deadly tornado struck the St. Louis area, killing six people at an Amazon facility in nearby Illinois.

More storms threaten in coming days

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 35 of 52

Thunderstorms with potentially damaging winds were forecast for a region stretching from northeast Colorado to central Texas.

And tornadoes will again be a threat particularly from central Kansas to Oklahoma, according to the National Weather Service.

Meanwhile, triple-digit temperatures were forecast for parts of south Texas with the potential to break daily records. The hot, dry air also sets the stage for critical wildfire conditions through early this week in southern New Mexico and West Texas.

Up to a foot of snow was expected in parts of Idaho and western Montana.

Pro-EU centrist wins Romania's tense presidential race over hard-right nationalist

By STEPHEN McGRATH and JUSTIN SPIKE Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Pro-European Union candidate Nicusor Dan on Sunday won Romania's closely watched presidential runoff against a hard-right nationalist who modeled his campaign after U.S. President Donald Trump. The victory marked a major turnaround in a tense election that many viewed as a geopolitical choice for the former Eastern Bloc country between East or West.

The race pitted front-runner George Simion, the 38-year-old leader of the hard-right Alliance for the Unity of Romanians, or AUR, against Dan, the incumbent mayor of Bucharest. It was held months after the cancelation of the previous election plunged Romania into its worst political crisis in decades.

With more than 99% of polling stations reporting, Dan was ahead with 53.9%, while Simion trailed at 46.1%, according to official data. In the first-round vote on May 4, Simion won almost twice as many votes as Dan, and many local surveys predicted he would secure the presidency.

But in a swing that appeared to be a repudiation of Simion's skeptical approach to the EU, which Romania joined in 2007, Dan picked up almost 900,000 more votes to solidly defeat his opponent in the final round.

On Sunday evening, thousands gathered outside Dan's headquarters near Bucharest City Hall to await the final results, chanting "Nicusor!" Each time his lead widened as more results came in, the crowd, many waving the flags of Europe, would erupt in cheers.

Once it was clear he had secured a victory, Dan gave an emotional speech from an outdoor stage where he thanked his supporters, and reached out to Simion's backers with a message of national unity.

"What you have done as a society in these past weeks has been extraordinary," he said. "Our full respect for those who had a different choice today, and for those who made a different choice in the first round. We have a Romania to build together, regardless of political choices."

High turnout drives win for Dan

Final electoral data showed a 64% voter turnout — a sharp increase from the first round on May 4 where 53% of eligible voters cast a ballot. About 1.64 million Romanians abroad participated in the vote, some 660,000 more than in the first round.

The high turnout was believed to have benefited Dan who, shortly after 11 p.m. local time, emerged onto the balcony of his headquarters and waved to his thousands of supporters who had gathered along the length of a boulevard in central Bucharest, eliciting an ecstatic roar from the crowd.

At the raucous rally, Ruxandra Gheorghiu, 23, told The Associated Press that she had been considering leaving Romania, but that with Dan's victory, "I feel like everything is going to be fine."

"I was so scared that our European course is near the end. ... We are still in Europe and we are not fighting for this right," she said. "I cannot explain the feeling right now."

Dan, a 55-year-old mathematician who rose to prominence as a civic activist fighting against illegal real estate projects, founded the reformist Save Romania Union party in 2016 but later left, and ran independently on a pro-EU ticket reaffirming Western ties, support for Ukraine and fiscal reform.

After the election Sunday, EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen sent her "warmest congratulations" to Dan and noted that Romanians "turned out massively" to vote.

"They have chosen the promise of an open, prosperous Romania in a strong Europe," she said in a post

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 36 of 52

on X. "Together let's deliver on that promise."

What's going on in Romania?

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

Simion capitalized on the furor over the annulment of that election and, after coming fourth in last year's canceled race, allied with Georgescu, who was banned in March from running in the election redo.

Simion then surged to front-runner in the May 4 first round after becoming the standard-bearer for the hard right, and promised to appoint Georgescu prime minister if he secured the presidency.

Years of endemic corruption and growing anger toward Romania's political establishment have fueled a surge in support for anti-establishment and hard-right figures, reflecting a broader pattern across Europe. Both Simion and Dan have made their political careers railing against Romania's old political class.

Cristian Andrei, a Bucharest-based political consultant, told the AP that the election results showed that Romanians "rejected hate and reactionary politics and embraced the pro-western direction" for their country, which has played a major logistical role in delivering Western assistance to neighboring Ukraine in its fight against Russia's full-scale invasion.

"It is a win for the optimistic Romania, but there is a large part of voters that are really upset with the direction of the country," he said. "Romania comes out of this election very divided, with a totally new political landscape, where older political parties are challenged to adapt to a new reality."

In the lead-up to Sunday's vote, Simion's rhetoric had raised some concerns that he wouldn't respect the outcome if he lost. In the early afternoon, he told reporters that his team was confident in a "landslide victory," if the election was "free and fair."

In the afternoon on election day, he repeated allegations of voting irregularities among Romanian citizens in neighboring Moldova and said that his party members would conduct a parallel vote count after polls closed.

However, Simion gave a statement on social media in the early hours on Monday acknowledging that "we lost the second round of the elections."

"We cannot accuse significant tampering with the ballots," he said. "We'll continue to represent the sovereignist, patriotic, conservative movement in Romania, and we'll continue to fight ... for freedom, for God, for family and for our common ideas."

The president is elected for a five-year term and has significant decision-making powers in matters of national security and foreign policy. As winner of Sunday's race, Dan will be charged with nominating a new prime minister after Marcel Ciolacu stepped down following the failure of his coalition's candidate to advance to the runoff.

These trees exist in only one place on Earth. Now climate change and goats threaten their survival

By ANNIKA HAMMERSCHLAG Associated Press

SOCOTRA, Yemen (AP) — On a windswept plateau high above the Arabian Sea, Sena Keybani cradles a sapling that barely reaches her ankle. The young plant, protected by a makeshift fence of wood and wire, is a kind of dragon's blood tree — a species found only on the Yemeni island of Socotra that is now struggling to survive intensifying threats from climate change.

"Seeing the trees die, it's like losing one of your babies," said Keybani, whose family runs a nursery dedicated to preserving the species.

Known for their mushroom-shaped canopies and the blood-red sap that courses through their wood, the trees once stood in great numbers. But increasingly severe cyclones, grazing by invasive goats, and persistent turmoil in Yemen — which is one of the world's poorest countries and beset by a decade-long civil war — have pushed the species, and the unique ecosystem it supports, toward collapse.

Often compared to the Galapagos Islands, Socotra floats in splendid isolation some 240 kilometers (150

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 37 of 52

miles) off the Horn of Africa. Its biological riches — including 825 plant species, of which more than a third exist nowhere else on Earth — have earned it UNESCO World Heritage status. Among them are bottle trees, whose swollen trunks jut from rock like sculptures, and frankincense, their gnarled limbs twisting skywards.

But it's the dragon's blood tree that has long captured imaginations, its otherworldly form seeming to belong more to the pages of Dr. Seuss than to any terrestrial forest. The island receives about 5,000 tourists annually, many drawn by the surreal sight of the dragon's blood forests.

Visitors are required to hire local guides and stay in campsites run by Socotran families to ensure tourist dollars are distributed locally. If the trees were to disappear, the industry that sustains many islanders could vanish with them.

"With the income we receive from tourism, we live better than those on the mainland," said Mubarak Kofi, Socotra's head of tourism.

But the tree is more than a botanical curiosity: It's a pillar of Socotra's ecosystem. The umbrella-like canopies capture fog and rain, which they channel into the soil below, allowing neighboring plants to thrive in the arid climate.

"When you lose the trees, you lose everything — the soil, the water, the entire ecosystem," said Kay Van Damme, a Belgian conservation biologist who has worked on Socotra since 1999.

Without intervention, scientists like Van Damme warn these trees could disappear within a few centuries — and with them many other species.

"We've succeeded, as humans, to destroy huge amounts of nature on most of the world's islands," he said. "Socotra is a place where we can actually really do something. But if we don't, this one is on us."

Increasingly intense cyclones uproot trees

Across the rugged expanse of Socotra's Firmihin plateau, the largest remaining dragon's blood forest unfolds against the backdrop of jagged mountains. Thousands of wide canopies balance atop slender trunks. Socotra starlings dart among the dense crowns while Egyptian vultures bank against the relentless gusts. Below, goats weave through the rocky undergrowth.

The frequency of severe cyclones has increased dramatically across the Arabian Sea in recent decades, according to a 2017 study in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, and Socotra's dragon's blood trees are paying the price.

In 2015, a devastating one-two punch of cyclones — unprecedented in their intensity — tore across the island. Centuries-old specimens, some over 500 years old, which had weathered countless previous storms, were uprooted by the thousands. The destruction continued in 2018 with yet another cyclone.

As greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, so too will the intensity of the storms, warned Hiroyuki Murakami, a climate scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the study's lead author. "Climate models all over the world robustly project more favorable conditions for tropical cyclones."

Invasive goats endanger young trees

But storms aren't the only threat. Unlike pine or oak trees, which grow 60 to 90 centimeters (25 to 35 inches) per year, dragon's blood trees creep along at just 2 to 3 centimeters (about 1 inch) annually. By the time they reach maturity, many have already succumbed to an insidious danger: goats.

An invasive species on Socotra, free-roaming goats devour saplings before they have a chance to grow. Outside of hard-to-reach cliffs, the only place young dragon's blood trees can survive is within protected nurseries.

"The majority of forests that have been surveyed are what we call over-mature — there are no young trees, there are no seedlings," said Alan Forrest, a biodiversity scientist at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh's Centre for Middle Eastern Plants. "So you've got old trees coming down and dying, and there's not a lot of regeneration going on."

Keybani's family's nursery is one of several critical enclosures that keep out goats and allow saplings to grow undisturbed.

"Within those nurseries and enclosures, the reproduction and age structure of the vegetation is much

better," Forrest said. "And therefore, it will be more resilient to climate change."

Conflict threatens conservation

But such conservation efforts are complicated by Yemen's stalemated civil war. As the Saudi Arabia-backed, internationally recognized government battles Houthi rebels — a Shiite group backed by Iran — the conflict has spilled beyond the country's borders. Houthi attacks on Israel and commercial shipping in the Red Sea have drawn retaliation from Israeli and Western forces, further destabilizing the region.

"The Yemeni government has 99 problems right now," said Abdulrahman Al-Eryani, an advisor with Gulf State Analytics, a Washington-based risk consulting firm. "Policymakers are focused on stabilizing the country and ensuring essential services like electricity and water remain functional. Addressing climate issues would be a luxury."

With little national support, conservation efforts are left largely up to Socotrans. But local resources are scarce, said Sami Mubarak, an ecotourism guide on the island.

Mubarak gestures toward the Keybani family nursery's slanting fence posts, strung together with flimsy wire. The enclosures only last a few years before the wind and rain break them down. Funding for sturdier nurseries with cement fence posts would go a long way, he said.

"Right now, there are only a few small environmental projects — it's not enough," he said. "We need the local authority and national government of Yemen to make conservation a priority."

Authorities say suspect in California fertility clinic bombing left behind 'anti-pro-life' writings

By SARAH RAZA and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

A 25-year-old man the FBI believes was responsible for an explosion that ripped through a Southern California fertility clinic left behind "anti-pro-life" writings before carrying out an attack investigators called terrorism, authorities said Sunday.

Guy Edward Bartkus of Twentynine Palms, California, was identified by the FBI as the suspect in the apparent car bomb detonation Saturday that damaged the clinic in the upscale city of Palm Springs in the desert east of Los Angeles. His writings seemed to indicate anti-natalist views, which hold that people should not continue to procreate, authorities said.

The blast gutted the American Reproductive Centers fertility clinic and shattered the windows of nearby buildings along a palm tree-lined street. Witnesses described a loud boom followed by a chaotic scene, with people screaming in terror and glass strewn along the sidewalk and street.

Investigators said Bartkus died in the blast, which a senior FBI official called possibly the "largest bombing scene that we've had in Southern California." A body was found near a charred vehicle outside the clinic.

Bartkus attempted to livestream the explosion and left behind writings that communicated "nihilistic ideations" that were still being examined to determine his state of mind, said Akil Davis, the assistant director in charge of the FBI's Los Angeles field office. U.S. Attorney Bilal "Bill" Essayli, the top federal prosecutor in the area, called the message "anti-pro-life."

"This was a targeted attack against the IVF facility," Davis said Sunday. "Make no mistake: we are treating this, as I said yesterday, as an intentional act of terrorism."

The bombing injured four other people, though Davis said all embryos at the facility were saved.

"Good guys one, bad guys zero," he said.

Authorities were executing a search warrant in Twentynine Palms, a city of 28,000 residents about 50 miles (80 km) northeast of Palm Springs, as part of the investigation.

"Thank God today happened to be a day that we have no patients," Dr. Maher Abdallah, who leads the clinic, told The Associated Press in a phone interview Saturday.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 39 of 52

Great Scottie! Scheffler pulls away to win PGA Championship for 3rd major title

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Scottie Scheffler had every reason to worry the PGA Championship was slipping away.

A five-shot lead on the front nine was gone in four holes. Every shot seemed to go left and he didn't know why. Jon Rahm was peeling off birdies and on the verge of tracking him down Sunday at Quail Hollow.

And that's when Scheffler showed why he has been golf's No. 1 player for two straight years, why he has compiled more PGA Tour titles quicker than anyone this side of Tiger Woods and Jack Nicklaus since 1950.

And why he now has the Wanamaker Trophy to go along with two Masters titles.

Scheffler turned a tense Sunday into another runaway by not missing a shot when the pressure was at its peak, giving himself another pleasant walk to the 18th green with another major title secure in the hands of golf's best.

"This back nine will be one that I remember for a long time," Scheffler said. "It was a grind out there. I think at one point on the front I maybe had a four- or five-shot lead, and making the turn, I think I was tied for the lead.

"So to step up when I needed to the most, I'll remember that for a while."

There was nothing fancy about it, just fairways and greens and holing the putts that eluded Rahm in his first time in serious contention at a major since he won the 2023 Masters and left at the end of the year for LIV Golf.

Rahm's hopes ended when he failed to convert birdie chances on the two easiest holes on the back nine at Quail Hollow, and then finished bogey-double bogey-double bogey. By then the tournament was effective over. It only cost Rahm money.

The only comfort for Scheffler was looking across the lake on the par-5 15th to see Rahm in a bunker, leading to bogey on the 16th that gave Scheffler a three-shot cushion. Scheffler recalls thinking, "If I birdie here, it's going to go a long way."

He drilled 3-wood just over the back of the green, and from the same spot where Rahm earlier that hit putter 12 feet by the hole, Scheffler coziered it up to a foot for birdie.

Scheffler closed with a bogey he could afford for an even-par 71, giving him a five-shot victory and his third major title. Scheffler became the first player since Seve Ballesteros to win his first three majors by three shots or more.

The margin doesn't match up with the grind. That much was clear when Scheffler raised his arms on the 18th green and then ferociously slammed his cap to the turf, a brand of emotion rarely seen by the 28-year-old Texas star.

"Just a lot of happiness," he said. "Just maybe thankful as well. It was a long week. I felt like this was as hard as I battled for a tournament in my career."

It was a lot sweeter than last year, when he was arrested outside Valhalla Golf Club for charges later dropped that he wasn't following police instructions as they investigated a traffic fatality.

No change of that happening at Quail Hollow. He stayed close enough to walk.

Inside the ropes, this was no walk in the park the final margin might suggest.

Scheffler had a five-shot lead standing on the sixth tee. But with a shaky swing that led to two bogeys, and with Rahm making three birdies in a four-hole stretch around the turn, they were tied when Scheffler got to the 10th tee.

It looked like a duel to the finish, with Bryson DeChambeau doing all he could to get in the mix. Under the most pressure he felt all day, Scheffler didn't miss a shot off the tee or from the fairway until his lead was back to four shots.

Rahm wound up seven shots behind, but the two-time major champion was the only serious threat. After bogey on the 16th hole, he had to take on a dangerous pin at the par-3 17th. It bounded over the sunbaked green into the water for double bogey. And his last tee shot went left off the grassy bank and

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 40 of 52

into the stream for another double bogey.

All that work to make up a five-shot deficit at the start of the day and Rahm closed with a 73 to tie for eighth.

"Yeah, the last three holes, it's a tough pill to swallow right now," Rahm said.

"I'll get over it. I'll move on," Rahm said. "Again, there's a lot more positive than negative to think about this week. I'm really happy I put myself in position and hopefully learn from this and give it another go in the U.S. Open."

DeChambeau birdied the 14th and 15th to get within two shots, but he never had another good look at birdie and bogeyed the 18th for a 70. He tied for second with Harris English (65) and Davis Riley, who overcame a triple bogey on No. 7 to play bogey-free the rest of the way and salvaged a 72.

"I'm baffled right now. Just felt like things just didn't go my way this week," DeChambeau said. "I drove it as good as I can. ... I gave myself a good chance. I just felt like a couple breaks went a different way."

J.T. Poston, the North Carolina native who also flirted with an outside chance, bogeyed the last two holes for a 73 to tie for fifth.

English finished his Sunday-best score as Scheffler was making his way down the third hole. He had a flight to catch that afternoon. He also was the clubhouse leader. But he looked at Scheffler's name atop the leaderboard and said with a smile, "I don't see him slipping a whole lot. I see myself catching my flight."

But then Scheffler unable to find his swing. He hit only two fairway on the front nine. He failed to convert birdies on the par-5 seventh and the reachable par-4 eighth. On eight of his nine holes, his miss was to the left. And he was tied with the red-hot Rahm.

But part of Scheffler's greatness is his ability to wear down a field, which he did at the Masters both times he won.

"I hit the important shots well this week, and that's why I'm walking away with the trophy," Scheffler said.

He finished at 11-under 273 and picked up his 15th victory in just his sixth year on the PGA Tour. Dating to 1950, Scheffler is the third-fastest player to go from one to 15 tour wins, behind only Tiger Woods and Jack Nicklaus, and even then by a matter of months.

His victory comes a month after Rory McIlroy captured the Masters to complete the career Grand Slam. The PGA Championship was always going to be a tough act to follow and it didn't come close in terms of drama. But it served as a reminder why Scheffler has been No. 1 for two straight years, and why it will take a lot to replace him.

McIlroy made the cut on the number, shot 72-72 on the weekend and tied for 47th. It was his lowest 72-hole finish in four years in the majors. McIlroy declined all four days to speak to the media.

Scheffler came into the PGA Championship off an eight-shot victory in the CJ Cup Byron Nelson. And then he won a major by five. It was the first time since Woods in 2000 that a player won consecutive PGA Tour starts by five shots or more in the same season.

Things to know about Biden's prostate cancer diagnosis

By CARLA K. JOHNSON AP Medical Writer

Former President Joe Biden's office said Sunday that he has been diagnosed with aggressive prostate cancer and is reviewing treatment options with his doctors.

Biden was having increasing urinary symptoms and was seen last week by doctors who found a prostate nodule. On Friday, he was diagnosed with prostate cancer and the cancer cells have spread to the bone, his office said in a statement.

When caught early, prostate cancer is highly survivable, but it is also the second-leading cause of cancer death in men. About one in eight men will be diagnosed over their lifetime with prostate cancer, according to the American Cancer Society.

Here are some things to know about prostate cancer that has spread.

What is the prostate gland?

The prostate is part of the reproductive system in men. It makes fluid for semen. It's located below the

bladder and it wraps around the urethra, the tube that carries urine and semen out through the penis.

How serious is Biden's cancer?

Biden's cancer has spread to the bone, his office said. That makes it more serious than localized or early-stage prostate cancer.

Outcomes have improved in recent decades and patients can expect to live with metastatic prostate cancer for four or five years, said Dr. Matthew Smith of Massachusetts General Brigham Cancer Center.

"It's very treatable, but not curable," Smith said.

What are the treatment options?

Prostate cancer can be treated with drugs that lower levels of hormones in the body or stop them from getting into prostate cancer cells. The drugs can slow down the growth of cancer cells.

"Most men in this situation would be treated with drugs and would not be advised to have either surgery or radiation therapy," Smith said.

What is a Gleason score?

Prostate cancers are graded for aggressiveness using what's known as a Gleason score. The scores range from 6 to 10, with 8, 9 and 10 prostate cancers behaving more aggressively. Biden's office said his score was 9, suggesting his cancer is among the most aggressive.

Israel says it will allow 'basic' aid into Gaza after nearly 3 months of blockade

By WAFAA SHURAF, SAMY MAGDY and TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel announced Sunday it will allow a limited amount of humanitarian aid into Gaza after a nearly three-month blockade, days after global experts on food security warned of famine.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said a "starvation crisis" would jeopardize Israel's new military offensive in Gaza, and his Cabinet approved a decision to allow a "basic" amount of food into the territory of over 2 million people.

It was not immediately clear when aid would enter Gaza, or how. The Israeli military body in charge of overseeing aid did not comment. Israel has been trying to impose a new aid system, despite objections by aid workers. Netanyahu said Israel would work to ensure that aid does not reach militants.

Israel imposed the blockade starting March 2, cutting off all food, medicine and other supplies to Gaza, while pressing Hamas to accept new ceasefire terms. Israel resumed the war days later, shattering a two-month truce.

Earlier on Sunday, Israel said it launched "extensive" new ground operations in its new offensive — the largest since the ceasefire. Airstrikes killed at least 103 people, including dozens of children, hospitals and medics said. The bombardment also forced northern Gaza's main hospital to close as it reported direct strikes.

Israel wants Hamas to agree to a temporary ceasefire that would free hostages from Gaza but not necessarily end the war. Hamas says it wants a full withdrawal of Israeli forces and a path to ending the war as part of any deal.

"When the Jews want a truce, Hamas refuses, and when Hamas wants a truce, the Jews refuse it. Both sides agree to exterminate the Palestinian people," said Jabaliya resident Abu Mohammad Yassin, who was among those fleeing the new offensive on foot or in donkey carts. "For God's sake, have mercy on us. We are tired of displacement."

Israel's military, which recently called up tens of thousands of reservists, said the ground operations are throughout the Palestinian territory's north and south. Israel's chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir, said that plans include "dissecting" the strip.

Airstrikes killed more than 48 people — including 18 children and 13 women — in and around the southern city of Khan Younis, according to Nasser Hospital, which said it struggled to count the dead because of the condition of bodies.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 42 of 52

In northern Gaza, a strike on a home in Jabaliya killed nine members of a family, according to the Gaza Health Ministry's emergency services. Another strike on a residence there killed 10, including seven children and a woman, according to the civil defense, which operates under the Hamas-run government.

Israel's military had no immediate comment. Its statement announcing the ground operations said preliminary strikes over the past week killed dozens of militants and struck more than 670 targets. Israel blames civilian casualties on Hamas because the militant group operates from civilian areas.

Talks in Qatar

Israel had said it would wait until the end of U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to the Middle East before launching its offensive, saying it was giving ceasefire efforts a chance. Trump didn't visit Israel on his trip that ended Friday.

Netanyahu's office said his negotiating team in Qatar was "working to realize every chance for a deal," including one that would end fighting in exchange for the release of all remaining 58 hostages, Hamas' exile from Gaza and the disarmament of the territory.

Hamas has refused to leave Gaza or disarm.

Gaza's Health Ministry has said almost 3,000 people have been killed since the last ceasefire ended.

Frustration in Israel has been rising. A small but growing number of Israelis are refusing to show up for military service, even risking imprisonment. Other Israelis have been displaying photos of children killed in Gaza during weekly rallies demanding a deal to free all hostages and end the war.

The war in Gaza began on Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel, killing 1,200 people and abducting 251 others. Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed more than 53,000 Palestinians, many of them women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants in its count.

Hospital cites Israeli 'siege'

Health officials said fighting around the Indonesian Hospital in northern Gaza and an Israeli military "siege" prompted it to shut down. It was the main medical facility in the north after Israeli strikes last year forced the Kamal Adwan and Beit Hanoun hospitals to stop offering services.

"There is direct targeting on the hospital, including the intensive care unit," Indonesian Hospital director Dr. Marwan al-Sultan said in a statement, adding that no one could reach the facility that had about 30 patients and 15 medical staff inside.

Israel's military said that troops were operating against militant infrastructure sites in northern Gaza, including the area "directly adjacent" to the hospital.

Israel has repeatedly targeted hospitals, accusing Hamas of being active in and around the facilities. Human rights groups and U.N.-backed experts have accused Israel of systematically destroying Gaza's health care system.

In northern Gaza, at least 43 people were killed in strikes, according to first responders from the Health Ministry and civil defense. Gaza City's Shifa Hospital said 15 children and 12 women were among the dead.

A drone strike Sunday afternoon killed at least seven Palestinians near a school sheltering displaced people northwest of Gaza City, according to the Health Ministry's emergency service. Other strikes in central Gaza killed at least 12 people, including two children and four women, according to hospitals.

In Gaza City, Um Mahmoud al-Aloul lay across the shrouded body of her daughter, Nour al-Aloul.

"You took my soul with you," she cried. "I used to turn off my phone from how much you called."

Israel has launched a new offensive in blockaded Gaza. Here's what to know

By JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The war in the Gaza Strip has reached one of its darkest periods. Israel cut off all food and supplies to the territory nearly three months ago. The military has launched another major offensive against Hamas, including "extensive" ground operations.

Hundreds of people in the Palestinian territory have been killed in recent days. Experts have warned of

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 43 of 52

a looming famine. Doctors say overwhelmed hospitals are running out of medicine to treat even routine conditions.

Israel on Sunday said it would allow a “basic” amount of food into Gaza so a hunger crisis wouldn’t jeopardize its new military operation. There were no immediate details.

The military is preparing for a new organization with U.S. backing to take over aid delivery, despite alarms raised by humanitarian groups that say the plans won’t meet the massive need and could weaponize food assistance. It’s unclear when operations would begin or who would fund them.

Talks continue in Qatar on a new ceasefire and exchange of hostages for Palestinian prisoners, but the sides still seem far apart. Hamas demands an end to the war. Israel vows to keep fighting even after the hostages are freed — until Hamas has been destroyed or disarmed and sent into exile.

Here’s what to know about the more than 19-month war.

Casualties soar in Gaza

Israel ended a six-week ceasefire in mid-March and resumed its attacks in Gaza, saying military pressure is needed to get Hamas to free hostages abducted in the Oct. 7, 2023 attack by militants on southern Israel that ignited the war.

On Sunday alone, Israeli strikes killed more than 100 people, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which doesn’t distinguish between civilians and combatants. The strikes forced the closure of the Indonesian Hospital, the main health facility serving northern Gaza.

The strikes — often at night, as people sleep in their tents — have targeted hospitals, schools, medical clinics, mosques and a Thai restaurant-turned shelter. The European Hospital, the only remaining facility providing cancer treatment in Gaza, was put out of service last week.

Israel says it targets only militants and accuses Hamas of using civilians as human shields.

The U.N. children’s agency estimates that an average of 100 children were killed or maimed by Israeli airstrikes every day in the last 10 days of March.

Almost 3,000 of the more than 53,000 dead since the start of the war have been killed since Israel broke the ceasefire on March 18, the Health Ministry said.

Supplies blocked since March

Israel has blocked all supplies, including food, fuel and medicine, from reaching Gaza since the beginning of March. Its military campaign, which has destroyed vast areas and driven around 90% of the population from their homes, has left the territory almost entirely reliant on international aid.

Most community kitchens have shut down. The main food providers inside Gaza — the U.N.’s World Food Program and World Central Kitchen — say they are out of food. Vegetables and meat are inaccessible or unaffordable. Crowds line up for hours for a small scoop of rice.

Food security experts said last week that Gaza would likely fall into famine if Israel doesn’t lift its blockade and stop its military campaign.

Nearly 500,000 Palestinians face possible starvation — living in “catastrophic” levels of hunger — and 1 million others can barely get enough food, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, a leading international authority on the severity of hunger crises.

Satellite photos obtained by The Associated Press show what appear to be Israeli preparations for the new aid distribution program. The photos from May 10 show four bases in southern Gaza.

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation — made up of American security contractors, former government officials, ex-military officers and humanitarian officials — says it would initially set up four distribution sites, guarded by private security firms. Each would serve 300,000 people, covering only about half of Gaza’s population.

The proposal said subcontractors will use armored vehicles to transport supplies from the Gaza border to distribution sites, where they will also provide security. It said the aim is to deter criminal gangs or militants from redirecting aid.

New offensive endangers hostages, families and protesters say

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to use even greater force to achieve the two main war aims of returning all the hostages and dismantling Hamas.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 44 of 52

Hamas abducted 251 hostages in the 2023 attack and killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians. The militant group is still holding 58 hostages, around a third believed to be alive, after releasing most of the rest in ceasefire agreements or other deals.

Hamas has refused to release the remaining hostages without a deal that ensures a lasting ceasefire and an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. It has also demanded the release of more Palestinian prisoners.

Families of many of the hostages, and their supporters, have held mass protests for months demanding a deal to return their loved ones, and fear that the renewed offensive puts them in grave danger. Hamas is believed to be holding the hostages — its only bargaining chip — in different locations, including tunnels, and has said it will kill them if Israeli forces try to rescue them.

No sign of Trump pressuring Israel

Despite skipping Israel on his Middle East tour last week, U.S. President Donald Trump's administration has voiced full support for Israel's actions in Gaza and he has shown no public sign of pressuring Netanyahu's government over the aid cutoff or the deaths of civilians.

Hamas released an Israeli-American soldier before Trump's visit to Gulf Arab countries last week in what it said was a goodwill gesture aimed at getting the long-stalled ceasefire talks back on track. Trump has said that he wants to get the the rest of the hostages out, but hasn't called on Israel to end the war.

Instead, he has proposed resettling much of Gaza's population of around 2 million Palestinians in other countries and redeveloping the territory for others. Israel has embraced the proposal, which has been condemned by Palestinians, Arab countries and much of the international community.

Experts say it would likely violate international law.

Trump's tariffs may mean Walmart shoppers pay more, his treasury chief acknowledges

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent acknowledged Sunday that Walmart, the largest U.S. retailer, may pass along some of the costs from President Donald Trump's tariffs to its shoppers through higher prices.

Bessent described his call with the company's CEO a day after Trump warned Walmart to avoid raising prices from the tariffs at all and vowed to keep a close watch on what it does.

As doubts persist about Trump's economic leadership, Bessent pushed back against inflation concerns, praised the uncertainty caused by Trump as a negotiating tactic for trade talks and dismissed the downgrade Friday of U.S. government debt by Moody's Ratings.

Yet Walmart does not appear prepared to "eat the tariffs" in full, as Trump has insisted the company and China would do.

Bessent said he spoke Saturday with Walmart CEO Doug McMillon, stressing in two news show interviews that what he thought really mattered for Walmart customers was the decline in gasoline prices. Gas is averaging roughly \$3.18 a gallon, down from a year ago but also higher over the past week, according to AAA.

"Walmart will be absorbing some of the tariffs, some may get passed on to consumers," Bessent said on CNN. "Overall, I would expect inflation to remain in line. But I don't blame consumers for being skittish after what happened to them for years under Biden," a reference to inflation hitting a four-decade high in June 2022 under then President Joe Biden as the recovery from the pandemic, government spending and the Russian invasion of Ukraine pushed up costs.

Walmart did not comment on Bessent's description of his conversation with McMillon.

In a social media post on Saturday morning, Trump said Walmart should not charge its customers more money to offset the new tariff costs. "I'll be watching, and so will your customers!!!" he posted.

Bessent said Walmart on its earnings call on Thursday had been obligated under federal regulations "to give the worst-case scenario so that they're not sued," suggesting in an NBC interview that the price increases would not be severe in his view.

But Walmart executives said last week that higher prices began to appear on their shelves in late April and accelerated this month.

"We're wired to keep prices low, but there's a limit to what we can bear, or any retailer for that matter," Chief Financial Officer John David Rainey told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Bessent maintained that the ratings downgrade was a "lagging indicator" as the financial markets had already priced in the costs of a total federal debt of roughly \$36 trillion. Still, the tax plan being pushed by Trump would add more roughly \$3.3 trillion to deficits over the next decade, including a \$600 billion increase in 2027 alone, according to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

The treasury secretary maintained that deficits would not be a problem because the economy would grow faster than the debt accumulation, reducing its increase as a size of the overall economy.

Most independent analyses are skeptical of the administration's claims that it can achieve 3% average growth as Trump's 2018 tax cuts failed to do so. Those tax cuts from Trump's first term did boost economic growth before the pandemic, but they also raised the budget deficit relative to previous estimates by the Congressional Budget Office.

On tariffs, the Trump administration is still trying to determine rates with roughly 40 major trading partners before a July deadline. It's also in the early stages of a 90-day negotiation with China, after agreed a week ago to reset tariffs on that country from 145% to 30% so that talks can proceed.

Bessent said any worries about tariffs by small business owners most likely reflected the higher rate previously being charged on China. Still, the uncertainty has been a major drag for consumers and businesses trying to make spending plans in the weeks, months and years ahead.

"Strategic uncertainty is a negotiating tactic," Bessent said. "So if we were to give too much certainty to the other countries, then they would play us in the negotiations."

Bessent appeared on NBC's "Meet the Press" and CNN's "State of the Union."

Pope Leo XIV offers message of unity for polarized Catholic Church as pontificate officially starts

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Leo XIV vowed Sunday to work for unity in a polarized Catholic Church and world, as history's first American pope offered a message of healing during an inaugural Mass in St. Peter's Square before an estimated 200,000 pilgrims, presidents, patriarchs and princes.

Leo officially opened his pontificate by taking his first popemobile tour through the piazza, a rite of passage that has become synonymous with the papacy's global reach and mediatic draw. The 69-year-old Augustinian missionary smiled and waved from the back of the truck to people waving U.S., Peruvian and other national flags, and stopped to bless some babies in the crowd.

During the Mass, Leo appeared to choke up when the two potent symbols of the papacy were placed on him — the lambswool stole over his shoulders and the fisherman's ring on his finger — as if the weight of responsibility of leading the 1.4-billion strong church had just sunk in.

He turned his hand to look at the ring and then clasped his hands in front of him in prayer.

U.S. Vice President JD Vance, one of the last foreign officials to see Pope Francis before he died, led the American delegation honoring the Chicago-born Leo. Vance paid his respects at Francis' tomb after arriving in Rome late Saturday.

The theme of Leo's papacy

In his homily, Leo said that he wanted to be a servant to the faithful through the two dimensions of the papacy, love and unity, so that the church could be a force for peace in the world.

"I would like that our first great desire be for a united church, a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a haven for a reconciled world," he said. "In this our time, we still see too much discord, too many wounds caused by hatred, violence, prejudice, the fear of difference, and an economic paradigm that exploits the Earth's resources and marginalizes the poorest."

His words echoed some of Francis' key priorities, but his call for unity was significant, given the polariza-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 46 of 52

tion in the Catholic Church in the United States and beyond.

Francis' radical 12-year pontificate, which emphasized care for the poor and marginalized, and disdain for the capitalist economic system, often alienated conservatives who begged for a new pope who could pacify divisions. Leo's election on May 8, after a remarkably quick 24-hour conclave, appears to have pleased conservative Catholics who seem to appreciate his more disciplined, traditional style and Augustinian background, emphasizing core truths of Catholic doctrine.

Leo drove that message home by wearing the papacy's formal red cape, or mozzetta, to receive Vance and official government delegations after the Mass. Francis had eschewed many of the formalities of the papacy as part of his simple style, but Leo's return to the traditional garb has pleased conservatives and traditionalists, who breathed a sigh of relief when he came out onto the the loggia wearing the red cape on May 8.

But Leo did break protocol when he gave his older brother, Louis Prevost, a self-described political "MAGA-type," a bear hug in the basilica when he and his wife came up to greet the pope.

"Let us build a church founded on God's love, a sign of unity, a missionary church that opens its arms to the world, proclaims the word, allows itself to be made restless by history, and becomes a leaven of harmony for humanity," Leo said.

Tight security and protocol

Strict diplomatic protocol dictated the seating arrangements at the inaugural Mass, with both the U.S. and Peru getting front-row seats thanks to Leo's dual citizenship. Vance, a Catholic convert who tangled with Francis over the Trump administration's mass migrant deportation plans, was joined by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who arrived in Rome ahead of time to try to advance Russia-Ukraine peace talks.

Peruvian President Dina Boluarte was one of around a dozen heads of state who attended, as well as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Russia had planned to send its culture minister, but was represented by its ambassador, reports said.

Diplomatic protocol also dictated the dress code: While most wore black, a handful of Catholic royals — Queen Letizia of Spain and Princess Charlene of Monaco, among others — wore white in a special privilege allowed them. Three dozen of the world's other Christian churches sent representatives, the Jewish community had a 13-member delegation, half of them rabbis. Other representatives headed Buddhist, Muslim, Zoroastrian, Hindu, Sikh and Jain delegations.

Security was tight, as it was for Francis' funeral on April 26, which drew an estimated 250,000 people. The Vatican said that 200,000 were on hand Sunday in the piazza and surrounding streets, parks and piazzas, where giant television screens and portable toilets were set up.

At the end of the Mass, Leo expressed hope for negotiations to bring a "just and lasting peace" in Ukraine and offered prayers for the people of Gaza — children, families and older people who are "reduced to starvation," he said. Leo made no mention of hostages taken by Hamas from southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, as Francis usually did when praying for Gaza.

Zelenskyy later had a formal audience with Leo at the Vatican, and then met with Vance and Rubio at the U.S. residence in Rome. In a post on X, Zelenskyy said that he stressed the need for a "full and unconditional ceasefire as soon as possible" and for diplomatic pressure on Russia "until they are eager to stop the war."

Americans are rejoicing

Susan Hanssen, a professor who was born in Chicago and just arrived in Rome to teach, said that she thought Leo's homily about unity would resonate in the U.S. and beyond.

"I think he will inspire," she said after the Mass. "What I particularly loved was the phrasing, unity within the doctrine of the faith, and then in love."

U.S. seminarian Ethan Menning, 21, from Omaha, Nebraska, wrapped himself in an American flag, purchased at a truck stop in Iowa, to celebrate.

"Rome always felt like home for a Catholic, but now coming here and seeing one of our own on the throne of Peter ... it almost makes Jesus himself more accessible," he said.

The two symbols of the papacy handed to Leo were the pallium stole and the fisherman's ring. The pallium,

draped across his shoulders, symbolizes the pastor carrying his flock as the pope carries the faithful. The ring, which becomes Leo's official seal, harks back to Jesus' call to the apostle Peter to cast his fishing nets.

Gregory and Susan Hudak, who lived for 40 years in the Chicago area, found themselves in Rome after booking a trip in February, with just a faint hope of perhaps glimpsing the pope. Seeing the popemobile pass by in front of them, with Leo on board, was even better than watching Michael Jordan play, said Gary Hudak, a former altar boy wearing a Chicago Bears hat.

"Originally, the only hope I had coming here was to see the inside of the Sistine Chapel," he said. "Seeing the pope was not scheduled, it was a long-shot hope. And this was a treasure, simple as that."

Ukraine's leader meets with US and European officials ahead of high-stakes Trump-Putin call

By GIADA ZAMPANO and ELISE MORTON Associated Press

ROME, Italy (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with top U.S. officials and European leaders on Sunday in Rome, ahead of a high-stakes phone call Monday between U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin on ending the war in Ukraine.

The discussions came as Russia launched what Ukraine called its largest drone barrage against Ukraine since the start of its full-scale invasion in 2022, after the first direct talks between Moscow and Kyiv in years failed to yield a ceasefire Friday.

Zelenskyy spoke with U.S. Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio at the U.S. ambassador's residence, after attending the inaugural Mass for Pope Leo XIV in St. Peter's Square.

Zelenskyy said on social media he had underscored the need for "real diplomacy" and reaffirmed Ukraine's commitment to a "full and unconditional ceasefire."

He said they discussed sanctions against Russia, bilateral trade, defense cooperation and plans for the upcoming prisoner exchange with Russia that was agreed in talks between the two sides in Istanbul.

Trump has said he plans to speak with Putin about stopping the "bloodbath" in Ukraine, and then speak to Zelenskyy and leaders of various NATO countries.

Zelenskyy also met with the new pope after the Mass. "The authority and voice of the Holy See can play an important role in bringing this war to an end," the Ukrainian president wrote on social media. He thanked the Vatican for its readiness to become a platform for direct negotiations between Ukraine and Russia.

Rubio on Saturday said the Vatican could be a venue for peace talks, taking up the Holy See's longstanding offer after Leo vowed to personally make "every effort" to help end the war.

Ahead of a meeting in Rome with Vance and Italy's Premier Giorgia Meloni, EU Commission head Ursula Von der Leyen urged parties to "push things forward."

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said he spoke to Zelenskyy and Rubio on the sidelines of the pope's inauguration. Merz said he had agreed with the leaders of France and Britain "that we will speak again with the American president in preparation for this conversation."

Merz told reporters that "my firm impression is that both the Europeans and the Americans are determined to work together, but now also in a goal-oriented manner, to ensure that this terrible war ends soon."

Putin spurned Zelenskyy's offer to meet face-to-face in Turkey after he himself proposed direct negotiations — although not at the presidential level — as an alternative to a 30-day ceasefire urged by Ukraine and its Western allies, including the U.S.

The talks in Istanbul broke up after less than two hours, although both sides agreed on exchanging 1,000 prisoners of war each, according to the heads of both delegations. Ukraine's intelligence chief, Kyrylo Budanov, said on Ukrainian television Saturday that the exchange could happen as early as next week.

Russia on Sunday fired a total of 273 exploding drones and decoys targeting Ukraine's Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk regions, Ukraine's air force said. Of those, 88 were intercepted and 128 lost, likely being electronically jammed.

Yuriy Ihnat, head of the air force's communications department, told The Associated Press the barrage was the biggest drone attack since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion.

Previously, Russia's largest known single drone attack was on the eve of the war's third anniversary, when Russia pounded Ukraine with 267 drones.

Kyiv regional Gov. Mykola Kalashnyk said a 28-year-old woman was killed in a drone attack and three other people, including a 4-year-old child, were wounded.

Russia's Defense Ministry said its air defenses shot down seven Ukrainian drones overnight and another 18 Sunday morning.

The future of history: Trump could leave less documentation behind than any previous US president

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For generations, official American documents have been meticulously preserved and protected — from the era of quills and parchment to boxes of paper to the cloud, safeguarding snapshots of the government and the nation for posterity.

Now, the Trump administration has sought to expand the executive branch's power to shield from public view key administration initiatives. Officials have used apps like Signal that can auto-delete messages containing sensitive information rather than retaining them for record-keeping. And they have shaken up the National Archives leadership.

To historians and archivists, it points to the possibility that President Donald Trump will leave less for the nation's historical record than nearly any president before him.

Such an eventuality creates a conundrum: How will experts — and even ordinary Americans — piece together what occurred when those charged with setting aside the artifacts properly documenting history refuse to do so?

How to preserve history?

The Trump administration says it's the "most transparent in history," citing the president's fondness for taking questions from reporters nearly every day. But flooding the airwaves, media outlets and the internet with all things Trump isn't the same as keeping records that document the inner workings of an administration, historians caution.

"He thinks he controls history," says Timothy Naftali, a presidential historian who served as founding director of the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda, California. "He wants to control what Americans ultimately find out about the truth of his administration, and that's dangerous."

Trump long refused to release his tax returns despite every other major White House candidate and president having done so since Jimmy Carter. And, today, White House stenographers still record every word Trump utters, but many of their transcriptions are languishing in the White House press office without authorization for release — meaning no official record of what the president says for weeks, if at all.

"You want to have a record because that's how you ensure accountability," said Lindsay Chervinsky, executive director of the George Washington Presidential Library in Mount Vernon, Virginia.

The law mandates maintaining records

The Presidential Records Act of 1978 mandates the preservation, forever, of White House and vice presidential documents and communications. It deems them the property of the U.S. government and directs the National Archives and Records Administration to administer them after a president's term.

After his first term, rather than turn classified documents over the National Archives, Trump hauled boxes of potentially sensitive documents to his Florida estate, Mar-a-Lago, where they ended piled in his bedroom, a ballroom and even a bathroom and shower. The FBI raided the property to recover them. The case was later scrapped.

Trudy Huskamp Peterson, who served as acting archivist of the United States from 1993 to 1995, said keeping such records for the public is important because "decision-making always involves conflicting views, and it's really important to get that internal documentation to see what the arguments were."

Presidential clashes with archivists predate Trump

President George H.W. Bush's administration destroyed some informal notes, visitor logs and emails.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 49 of 52

After President Bill Clinton left office, his former national security adviser, Sandy Berger, pleaded guilty to taking copies of a document about terrorist threats from the National Archives.

President George W. Bush's administration disabled automatic archiving for some official emails, encouraged some staffers to use private email accounts outside their work addresses and lost 22 million emails that were supposed to have been archived, though they were eventually uncovered in 2009.

Congress updated the Presidential Records Act in 2014 to encompass electronic messaging — including commercial email services known to be used by government employees to conduct official business.

But back then, use of auto-delete apps like Signal was far less common.

"It's far easier to copy — or forward — a commercial email to a dot-gov address to be preserved, than it is to screenshot a series of messages on an app like Signal," said Jason R. Baron, a professor at the University of Maryland and former director of litigation at the National Archives.

Relying on 'an honor system'

There were efforts during the first Trump administration to safeguard transparency, including a memo issued through the Office of White House counsel Don McGahn in February 2017 that reminded White House personnel of the necessity to preserve and maintain presidential records.

The White House now points to having recently ordered the declassification of beives of historical files, including records related to the assassinations of Kennedy, his brother Robert and Martin Luther King Jr.

The Trump administration says it also ended a Biden policy that allowed staffers to use Microsoft Teams, where chats weren't captured by White House systems. The Biden administration had over 800 users on Teams, meaning an unknown number of presidential records might have been lost, the Trump administration now says.

But the White House did not answer questions about the possibly of drafting a new memo on record retention like McGahn's from 2017.

Chervinsky, author of "The Cabinet: George Washington and the Creation of an American Institution, said Congress, the courts and even the public often don't have the bandwidth to ensure records retention laws are enforced, meaning, "A lot of it is still, I think, an honor system."

"There aren't that many people who are practicing oversight," she said. "So, a lot of it does require people acting in good faith and using the operating systems that they're supposed to use, and using the filing systems they're supposed to use."

Angered by the role the National Archives played in his documents case, meanwhile, Trump fired the ostensibly independent agency's head, Archivist of the United States Colleen Shogan, and named Secretary of State Marco Rubio as her acting replacement.

Peterson, the former acting national archivist, said she still believes key information about the Trump administration will eventually emerge, but "I don't know how soon."

"Ultimately things come out," she said. "That's just the way the world works."

Trump's clash with the courts raises prospect of showdown over separation of powers

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Tucked deep in the thousand-plus pages of the multitrillion-dollar budget bill making its way through the Republican-controlled U.S. House is a paragraph curtailing a court's greatest tool for forcing the government to obey its rulings: the power to enforce contempt findings.

It's unclear whether the bill can pass the House in its current form — it failed in a committee vote Friday — whether the U.S. Senate would preserve the contempt provision or whether courts would uphold it. But the fact that GOP lawmakers are including it shows how much those in power in the nation's capital are thinking about the consequences of defying judges as the battle between the Trump administration and the courts escalates.

Republican President Donald Trump raised the stakes again Friday when he attacked the U.S. Supreme Court for its ruling barring his administration from quickly resuming deportations under an 18th-century

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 50 of 52

wartime law: "THE SUPREME COURT WON'T ALLOW US TO GET CRIMINALS OUT OF OUR COUNTRY!" Trump posted on his social media network, Truth Social.

Trump vs. the district courts

The most intense skirmishes have come in the lower courts.

One federal judge has found that members of the administration may be liable for contempt after ignoring his order to turn around planes deporting people under the Alien Enemies Act of 1798. Trump's administration has scoffed at another judge's ruling that it "facilitate" the return of a man wrongly deported to El Salvador, even though the Supreme Court upheld that decision.

In other cases, the administration has removed immigrants against court orders or had judges find that the administration is not complying with their directives. Dan Bongino, now Trump's deputy director of the FBI, called on the president to "ignore" a judge's order in one of Bongino's final appearances on his talk radio show in February.

"Who's going to arrest him? The marshals?" Bongino asked, naming the agency that enforces federal judges' criminal contempt orders. "You guys know who the U.S. Marshals work for? Department of Justice."

Administration walking 'close to the line'

The rhetoric obscures the fact that the administration has complied with the vast majority of court rulings against it, many of them related to Trump's executive orders. Trump has said multiple times he will comply with orders, even as he attacks by name judges who rule against him.

While skirmishes over whether the federal government is complying with court orders are not unusual, it's the intensity of the Trump administration's pushback that is, legal experts say.

"It seems to me they are walking as close to the line as they can, and even stepping over it, in an effort to see how much they can get away with," said Steve Vladeck, a Georgetown law professor. "It's what you would expect from a very clever and mischievous child."

Mike Davis, whose Article III Project pushes for pro-Trump judicial appointments, predicted that Trump will prevail over what he sees as hostile judges.

"The more they do this, the more it's going to anger the American people, and the chief justice is going to follow the politics on this like he always does," Davis said.

The clash was the subtext of an unusual Supreme Court session Thursday, the day before the ruling that angered the president. His administration was seeking to stop lower courts from issuing nationwide injunctions barring its initiatives. Previous administrations have also chafed against national orders, and multiple Supreme Court justices have expressed concern that they are overused.

Still, at one point, Justice Amy Coney Barrett pressed Solicitor General D. John Sauer over his assertion that the administration would not necessarily obey a ruling from an appeals court.

"Really?" asked Barrett, who was nominated to the court by Trump.

Sauer contended that was standard Department of Justice policy and he assured the nation's highest court the administration would honor its rulings.

'He's NOT coming back'

Some justices have expressed alarm about whether the administration respects the rule of law.

Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Ketanji Brown-Jackson, both nominated by Democratic presidents, have warned about government disobedience of court orders and threats toward judges. Chief Justice John Roberts, nominated by a Republican president, George W. Bush, issued a statement condemning Trump's push to impeach James E. Boasberg, the federal judge who found probable cause that the administration committed contempt by ignoring his order on deportations.

Even after the Supreme Court upheld a Maryland judge's ruling directing the administration to "facilitate" the return of Kilmar Abrego Garcia, the White House account on X said in a post: "he's NOT coming back."

Legal experts said the Abrego Garcia case may be heading toward contempt.

U.S. District Court Judge Paula Xinis has complained of "bad faith" from the administration as she orders reports on what, if anything, it's doing to comply with her order. But contempt processes are slow and deliberative, and, when the government's involved, there's usually a resolution before penalties kick in.

What is contempt of court?

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 51 of 52

Courts can hold parties to civil litigation or criminal cases in contempt for disobeying their orders. The penalty can take the form of fines or other civil punishments, or even prosecution and jail time, if pursued criminally.

The provision in the Republican budget bill would prohibit courts from enforcing contempt citations for violations of injunctions or temporary restraining orders — the two main types of rulings used to rein in the Trump administration — unless the plaintiffs have paid a bond. That rarely happens when someone sues the government.

In an extensive review of contempt cases involving the government, Yale law professor Nick Parrillo identified only 67 where someone was ultimately found in contempt. That was out of more than 650 cases where contempt was considered against the government. Appellate courts reliably overturned the penalties.

But the higher courts always left open the possibility that the next contempt penalties could stick.

"The courts, for their part, don't want to find out how far their authority goes," said David Noll, a Rutgers law professor, "and the executive doesn't really want to undermine the legal order because the economy and their ability to just get stuff done depends on the law."

'It's truly uncharted territory'

Legal experts are gaming out whether judges could appoint independent prosecutors or be forced to rely on Trump's Department of Justice. Then there's the question of whether U.S. marshals would arrest anyone convicted of the offense.

"If you get to the point of asking the marshals to arrest a contemnor, it's truly uncharted territory," Noll said.

There's a second form of contempt that could not be blocked by the Department of Justice — civil contempt, leading to fines. This may be a more potent tool for judges because it doesn't rely on federal prosecution and cannot be expunged with a presidential pardon, said Justin Levitt, a department official in the Obama administration who also advised Democratic President Joe Biden.

"Should the courts want, they have the tools to make individuals who plan on defying the courts miserable," Levitt said, noting that lawyers representing the administration and those taking specific actions to violate orders would be the most at risk.

There are other deterrents courts have outside of contempt.

Judges can stop treating the Justice Department like a trustworthy agency, making it harder for the government to win cases. There were indications in Friday's Supreme Court order that the majority didn't trust the administration's handling of the deportations. And defying courts is deeply unpopular: A recent Pew Research Center poll found that about 8 in 10 Americans say that if a federal court rules a Trump administration action is illegal, the government has to follow the court's decision and stop its action.

That's part of the reason the broader picture might not be as dramatic as the fights over a few of the immigration cases, said Vladeck, the Georgetown professor.

"In the majority of these cases, the courts are successfully restraining the executive branch and the executive branch is abiding by their rulings," he said.

Today in History: May 19, West Virginia's Matewan Massacre

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, May 19, the 139th day of 2025. There are 226 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On May 19, 1920, ten people were killed in a gun battle between coal miners, who were led by a local police chief, and a group of private security guards hired to evict them for joining a union in Matewan, West Virginia.

Also on this date:

In 1536, Anne Boleyn, the second wife of England's King Henry VIII, was beheaded at the Tower of London after being convicted of adultery.

In 1883, William Cody held the first of his "Buffalo Bill's Wild West" shows in Omaha, Nebraska.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 328 ~ 52 of 52

In 1921, President Warren G. Harding signed the Emergency Quota Act, which established national quotas for immigrants.

In 1943, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met with President Franklin D. Roosevelt at the White House, where the two leaders agreed on May 1, 1944, as the date for the D-Day invasion of France (expansion plans for the invasion caused the date of the landing to be delayed by a month).

In 1962, film star Marilyn Monroe sang "Happy Birthday to You" to President John F. Kennedy during a Democratic fundraiser at New York's Madison Square Garden.

In 2018, Britain's Prince Harry wed American actor Meghan Markle in St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle.

Today's Birthdays: TV personality David Hartman is 90. Musician-composer Pete Townshend (The Who) is 80. Singer-actor Grace Jones is 77. Former racing driver Dario Franchitti is 52. Basketball Hall of Famer Kevin Garnett is 49. Country musician-producer Shooter Jennings is 46. Comedian-actor Michael Che is 42. Singer Sam Smith is 33. Media personality-singer JoJo Siwa is 22.