

Groton Daily Independent

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Monday, May 26

MEMORIAL DAY

State High School Baseball at Brookings

Tuesday, May 27

Senior Menu: Lemon chicken breast, wild rice green beans, tropical fruit, whole wheat bread.

Girls Golf Region at Sioux Valley (Volga), 10 a.m.
State High School Baseball at Brookings

Wednesday, May 28

Senior Menu Turkey mashed potato with gravy, California blend, orange and pineapple, dinner roll.
Groton United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

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

Thursday, May 29

Senior Menu: Taco salad with chips, Mexican rice with beans, fruit, breadstick, cookie.

State Track at Sioux Falls

James Valley Annual Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, May 30

Senior Menu: Hot pork sandwich, cucumber salad, oven roasted potato, honey fruit salad.

State Track at Sioux Falls

Saturday, May 31

State Track at Sioux Falls

Monday, June 2

State Girls Golf at Madison

Tuesday June 3

State Girls Golf at Madison

Groton Daily Independent
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Newsweek

The Bulletin

YOUR DAILY BRIEFING OF
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

WORLD IN BRIEF

Memorial Day: Travelers faced major disruptions this Memorial Day weekend as the Federal Aviation Administration grounded hundreds of flights nationwide due to severe weather. Meanwhile, store hours on Memorial Day will vary based on store and location.

US sends new bombers to frontline air base: The United States appears to have rotated its bomber fleet to the Western Pacific Ocean by deploying aircraft to Guam, a strategic hub that serves as a staging area for projecting power.

Major energy boost for the US: Geothermal energy from Nevada's Great Basin could supply as much as 10 percent of the United States' electricity needs, according to a newly released assessment by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Firebombing attack on embassy in Israel: FBI special agents on Sunday arrested dual U.S.-German citizen Joseph Neumayer at JFK International Airport in New York in connection with an attempt to destroy the Branch Office of the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, the U.S. Department of Justice said in a Sunday press release.

In the Russia-Ukraine war, NATO fighter jets were scrambled near Poland's eastern border on Monday as Ukraine was struck by a Russian missile and drone attack.

How Trump Is Winning Back Young Americans

The rundown: More than 100 days into President Trump's second term, a surprising trend is emerging—growing support from young adults.

Why it matters: Once seen as a demographic firmly aligned with Democrats, younger Americans are showing signs of drift and are increasingly warming to Trump's message, polls show. Experts told Newsweek that this is driven less by enthusiasm for Trump's agenda than by deep frustration with the economy, political institutions and the direction of the country. The shift has been evident in multiple recent polls. For example, the J.L. Partners/Daily Mail poll, conducted between May 13 and 14 among 1,003 registered voters, showed that Trump's approval rating among 18-29 year olds jumped six points from the previous poll, when it stood at 44 percent.

TL/DR: An even bigger increase was seen in the latest YouGov/Economist poll, conducted between May 19 and 16 among 1,710 adults.

What happens now? Melissa Deckman, an expert in generational voting trends, doubts that Trump's popularity among young voters will last, particularly amid such a volatile economy. "I suspect that once companies such as Walmart increase prices as a reaction to the tariffs, Trump's favorability will drop with many groups, including younger Americans," she said.

"Living with Parkinson's Disease"

"I am concerned your symptoms are due to Parkinson's disease," is something I have said to numerous patients over the years. This is a degenerative neurologic disease which is common enough that most patients have heard of it or even know someone living with it.

Most commonly, the patient or their family might have noticed classic symptoms: a tremor, difficulty with movement like walking, or balance problems. Importantly, not all tremor is Parkinson's, though that is typically the biggest concern my patients have.

Parkinson's disease is typically a diagnosis made by findings on history and physical exam; it is uncommon that further testing is used. Often, we will refer to our experts in neurology to confirm a suspected diagnosis.

As a progressive neurological disease, we don't currently have any tools to stop or slow the progression of Parkinson's, but we have many tools to improve symptoms and quality of life.

First and foremost, regular exercise is paramount for patients with Parkinson's. Quality of life and functional status is better in patients exercising with moderate intensity 150 minutes per week. The type of exercise doesn't necessarily matter, so find something that is enjoyable enough to stick with.

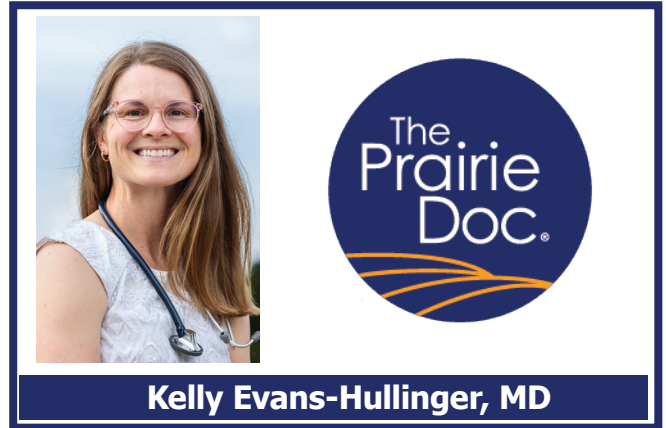
Beyond independent exercise, specialized therapies administered by a qualified physical therapist and speech therapist can reduce symptoms. Physical therapists will help with walking, movement, and balance; speech therapists can improve patients' speech and communication and, if needed, help with swallowing problems.

Medications are commonly used to help with tremor and rigidity in Parkinson's disease. Most often, the first line treatment is a medication called carbidopa-levodopa, and most patients see immediate gratification with the effect of the medication on their movement symptoms. If needed, other medication options can be added.

Finally, options such as deep brain stimulation (DBS) can be used in more severe disease in which medications are not adequate to control motor symptoms. This involves insertion of a device into the affected area of the brain; electrical stimulation there alleviates those symptoms. Other interventions are sometimes used as well with the help of a specialty-trained neurologist.

In summary, Parkinson's disease is fairly common as people age, and most patients live for many years with the disease. It is important to be educated on the disease and all the options that might improve symptoms and quality of life while one lives with Parkinson's disease, and a qualified physician can help tailor those treatments to each individual patient.

Kelly Evans-Hullinger, MD. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices Internal Medicine at Avera Medical Group in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, and on social media. Watch On Call with the Prairie Doc, most Thursday's at 7PM on SDPB and streaming on Facebook and listen to Prairie Doc Radio Sunday's at 6am and 1pm on SDPB Radio.



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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

Welcome back! Last week, we covered the first half of the Vikings' 2025 schedule. This week, we're diving into the second half, where playoff positioning starts to come into focus and every game carries a little more weight.

Week 9: @ Detroit Lions (November 2, 12 pm) – Minnesota will travel to Detroit in week 9, facing one of only two teams who beat the Vikings last season. The Lions lost both coordinators this offseason, but at this point in the season, they'll likely have most of the wrinkles ironed out. This will be a tough matchup. The Vikings have an 80-45-2 record all-time against the Lions and have won eleven of the twenty games they've played this decade.

Week 10: VS Baltimore Ravens (November 9, 12 pm) – Following a physical matchup against the Lions, the Vikings return home and prepare for Lamar Jackson and the Baltimore Ravens who won 12 games last season. The Vikings have a 3-4 record all-time against the Ravens and have split the two games they've played this decade.

Week 11: VS Chicago Bears (November 16, 12 pm) – The Vikings play the Bears again, but this game will be in the friendly confines of US Bank Stadium.

Week 12: @ Green Bay Packers (November 23, 12 pm) – The Vikings have a stretch of four road games in five weeks, beginning with a border battle against the Green Bay Packers. Divisional matchups are always difficult, but Vikings-Packers games always seem to kick the intensity up a few notches. The Vikings have a 60-66-3 record all-time against the Packers and have won eleven of the twenty games they've played this decade (plus a tie in 2018).

Week 13: @ Seattle Seahawks (November 30, 3:05 pm) – Minnesota travels to Seattle to face Sam Darnold and the Seahawks. After a fantastic 2024 season, Darnold left the Vikings and signed a multi-year contract to be the starting QB in Seattle. Vikings' defensive coordinator Brian Flores went against Darnold every day in practice, so I expect the defense to be dialed in for this matchup. The Vikings have a 7-13 record all-time against the Seahawks and have lost five of the seven games they've played this decade.

Week 14: Vs Washington Commanders (December 7, 12 pm) – The only home game in this five-game stretch, the Vikings will face the 2024 Offensive Rookie of the Year Jayden Daniels. The Commanders had a surprisingly good season last year, but will Daniels suffer a sophomore slump in 2025? The Vikings have a 15-13 record all-time against the Commanders/Redskins, and have won three of the four games they've played this decade.

Week 15: @ Dallas Cowboys (December 14, 7:20 pm) – Another prime-time game for the Vikings, this one in Dallas to face the Cowboys. There always seems to be drama surrounding "America's Team", and this year is no different. There's a decent chance the Cowboys will have imploded at this point. The Vikings have a 15-19 record all-time against the Cowboys and have lost four of the five games they've played this decade.

Week 16: @ New York Giants (December 21, 12 pm) – The final road game of the 2025 season, the Vikings will travel to the Big Apple to battle the Giants. It will be interesting to see who is starting at QB for the Giants, as they signed Russell Wilson and Jameis Winston in free agency before drafting Jaxon Dart in the first round last month. The Vikings have a 19-13 record all-time against the Giants and have won five of the six games they've played this decade.

Week 17: VS Detroit Lions (December 25, 3:30 pm) – The Vikings were apparently on the naughty list this year, because they have to face the Detroit Lions on Christmas day. Luckily for Minnesota, they'll be at home for a game that is sure to have huge playoff implications. This game will be airing on Netflix.

Week 18: VS Green Bay Packers (TBD) – The Vikings close out the season with a week 18 home game against the Packers. This game could be for the division title and a home game in the playoffs. But even if it's not, Vikings-Packers games are always must-see TV.

With the full 2025 schedule now laid out, the path to the postseason is clear... but far from easy. If the Vikings can stay healthy and find consistency on both sides of the ball, they'll have every opportunity to make a run. As always, expectations are high in Minnesota. Now it's time to see if this team is ready to meet them. Skol!

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JAMES VALLEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS 68th ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, May 29th
Groton Area High School Arena
5:30pm Registration & Meal
6:30pm Meeting

- Membership Gift
- Serving Ken's Famous Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Corn, & Dessert
- Many Door Prizes, including a \$500 JVT Credit

Our Groton office will close at 4pm.



Groton
Area
Tigers
Groton, SD

Free
viewing
sponsored by
the Groton
American
Legion

GDILIVE



Groton Memorial Day Program
Noon, May 26 - Groton Cemetery

A production of the
Groton Daily Independent

For more info: GDILIVE.COM



MEMORIAL DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



Groton Post #39 Memorial Day Schedule

Hufton at 7:30 a.m.

James at 8:15 a.m.

Verdon at 8:45 a.m.

Bates-Scotland at 9:15 a.m.

Ferney at 10 a.m.

Andover Union at 11 a.m.

Groton at Noon

**Guest speaker at Groton
is Todd Oliver.**

**Lunch to follow at the Groton Post
#39 home served by the
Legion Auxiliary.**

**In the event of inclement weather,
the ceremony will be held at the
Post home.**

**Groton Post #39 is sponsoring
the FREE viewing of the broadcast
at**

GDILIVE.COM

**People in their vehicles can listen
on the radio at 89.3 FM.**

OPENING MAY 2ND
CLOSING JUNE 2ND

WEBER LANDSCAPING GREENHOUSE

620 WEST THIRD AVENUE

GROTON

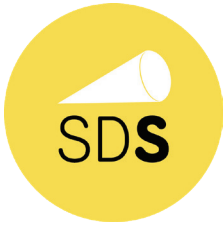
HOURS OF OPERATION

M-F 10-6

SAT 10-4

SUN 12-4





SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

COMMENTARY

Noem fails to follow her own advice with taxpayer money

by Dana Hess



South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem delivers her 2025 State of the State address to lawmakers at the Capitol in Pierre on Jan. 14, 2025. (Joshua Haiar/South Dakota Searchlight)

During her tenure as the governor of South Dakota, Kristi Noem liked to remind legislators at budget time that the money they were dealing with was not their own.

From a 2019 address to the Legislature: "I'm committed to maintaining the fiscal integrity for which our state is known. We won't spend money we don't have. We will not raise taxes."

From 2022: "I recognize that taxpayer dollars are not our own — they belong to the people of South Dakota. We all must remember throughout our budget discussions that this money belongs to the hard-working people of South Dakota."

From 2025: "During my time as governor, I have always kept my budget proposals focused on our people, not government programs. After all, this is the people's money.

They entrust it to us and expect us to spend it wisely and responsibly."

Those are good reminders that legislators should take to heart. However, it seems that Noem was just reading from the teleprompter rather than paying attention to her own advice. Recently Noem's actions with taxpayer dollars were the topic of discussion on a couple of fronts.

A South Dakota Searchlight story noted that the Government Operations and Audit Committee in Pierre was trying to get answers about how Noem rang up \$750,000 on her state credit card during her six years as governor. Noem admonished lawmakers to look out for the way taxpayer dollars were spent while she was racking up travel expenses on a book tour, a Canadian hunting excursion and various out-of-state political trips to tout the hopes of Republican candidates, including Donald Trump.

Who's to say if South Dakota will ever have another governor like Noem who became the darling of the Republican Party for her reaction to the pandemic. During her many travels, she was quick to praise South Dakota's maskless response to the pandemic and just as quick to label as fake news anyone who dared point out that the state was leading the league in per capita COVID-19 deaths.

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Lawmakers on the committee learned that under the current laws, there isn't much that state bookkeepers can do when called on to cover a governor's credit card expenses. They can question a credit card charge, but if it isn't then handled voluntarily by the elected official, the state has to pay.

Basically, the current law treats elected officials like adults. As adults, those officials should know when the people should pay and when they should reach into their own wallets to cover any expense that doesn't directly have anything to do with their elected positions. Given the example Noem set, lawmakers who took her advice about fiscal integrity seriously are now faced with proposing legislation that calls for creating some sort of credit card overseer or nanny. That's a move that wouldn't be needed if Noem's credit card use was more statesmanlike instead of resembling a sailor on leave.

Another Searchlight story published on the same day chronicled Noem's appearance before the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security. At the meeting, Noem had it pointed out that her new department has budget problems.

"Your department is out of control," said Sen. Chris Murphy, a Democrat from Connecticut. "You are running out of money."

Given that Noem has been given responsibility for Trump's signature issue — immigration control — it would certainly be a bad look for the president if the department charged with rounding up illegal immigrants ran out of funds before the end of the fiscal year. Fiscal restraint may be the order of the day as Noem works for a man who changes Cabinet secretaries the way other presidents changed their socks.

For her part, Noem doesn't seem like she's pinching pennies, spending \$100 million on TV commercials that praise Trump policies and warn immigrants not to come to the United States illegally.

She has also unveiled a plan to offer \$1,000 in "travel assistance" to illegal immigrants who self-deport. The cost of that could be as much as \$1 billion if Trump reaches his goal of deporting 1 million people. Those hardly seem like the actions of someone who has been entrusted by taxpayers to spend their funds "wisely and responsibly."

All of Noem's budget guidance for South Dakota lawmakers should have come with another bit of helpful advice: Do as I say, not as I do.

Dana Hess spent more than 25 years in South Dakota journalism, editing newspapers in Redfield, Milbank and Pierre. He's retired and lives in Brookings, working occasionally as a freelance writer.

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EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: What is mariculture and why are proponents so bullish on it as a solution to environmental challenges?

-- Peter Manchin, Atlanta, GA

Growing demand for seafood adds more pressure to ocean populations. Mariculture has an alternative that can help mitigate environmental challenges and even climate change. This type of aquacultural practice cultivates marine species in their natural habitats. Like conventional land-based agriculture, farms are carefully monitored and use a variety of pens, nets and cages to centralize the farmed species. Among the organisms are mollusks, crustaceans and finfish, all which are a popular staple for seafood.



Mariculture is an aquacultural practice whereby "farmers" cultivate marine species in their natural habitats. Credit: Pexels.com.

Traditionally, seafood production involves catching these animals in their natural habitats, a process that entirely removes organisms from the ecosystem. If demand is high, overfishing can greatly disrupt the wild populations and reduce the long-term viability of seafood industries. Biodiversity will also plummet if this trend continues. In the 2022 Food and Agriculture Organization Report, researchers found that 35 percent of fish were overfished, causing many populations to decline and reach endangered levels.

Mariculture is a very promising solution to these impacts due to its regenerative capabilities and controlled approach to food production. Most mariculture species are born in hatcheries or taken in small amounts from the wild, leaving the natural populations relatively untouched and free of any human-induced pressures. As Robert Jones, Global Aquaculture Lead at The Nature Conservancy, explains, "[Marine] aquaculture can be one of the more resource-efficient means of animal protein."

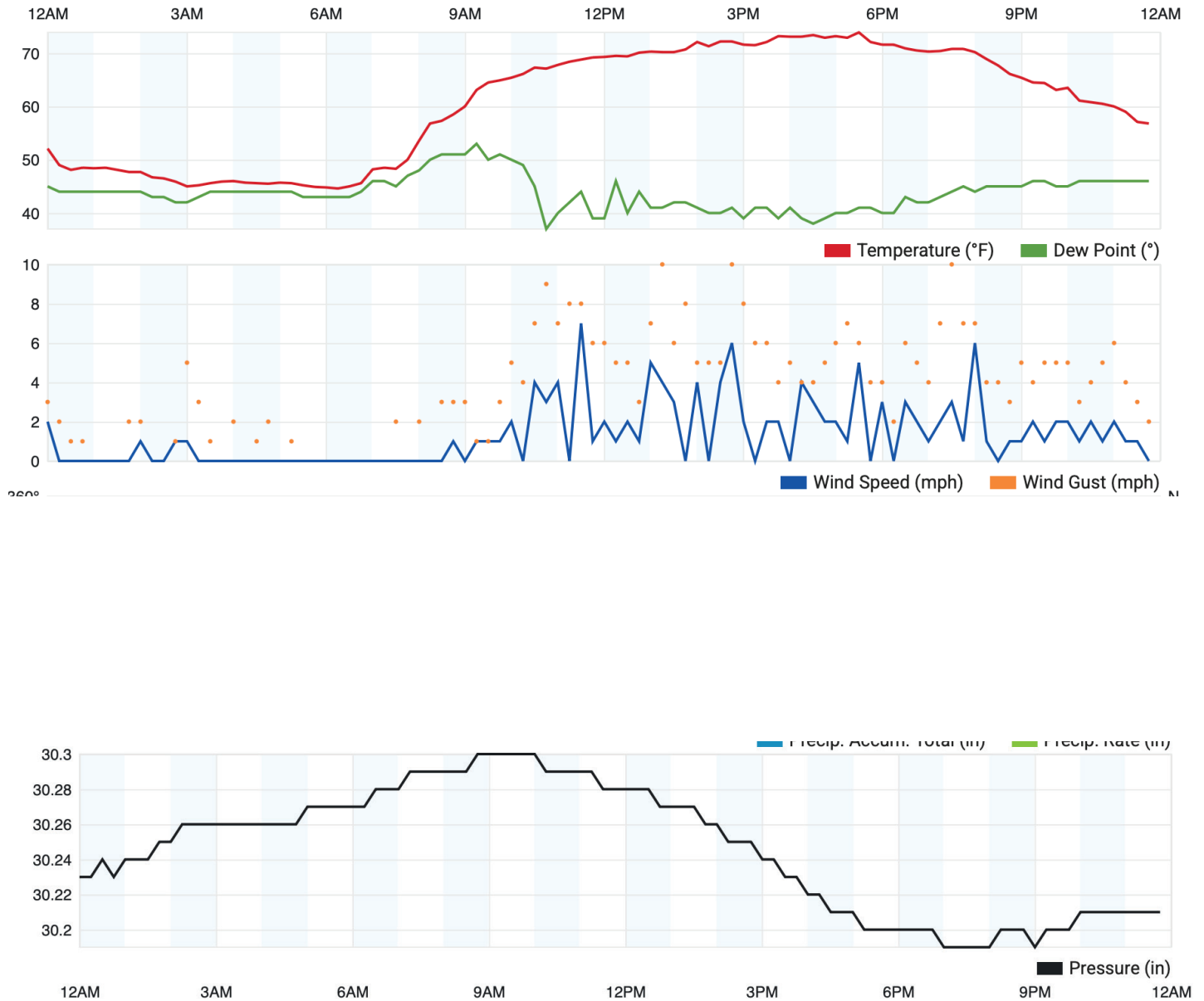
There have also been developments toward transforming mariculture into a way to fight climate change. Since oceans absorb around 30 percent of carbon dioxide emissions, adding marine plants like seaweed to farms can accelerate this carbon sequestration. That said, mariculture isn't perfect. Farming in open waters can create a lot of waste from feces, uneaten food or chemicals. Also, accidents are much more detrimental to the ecosystem, causing disease spread and invasive species if the organisms ever get into the wild. Nonetheless, researchers continue to restructure their approach to mariculture. A report by Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Mariculture noted how selecting farm sites with strong water circulation can help disperse waste and mitigate this issue. There has also been increasing supervision and protocols regarding farm species' health, which can reduce the possibility of disastrous escapes.

To support mariculture and contribute to a future of sustainable seafood, make wiser seafood choices that promote responsible practices. The Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch can provide many helpful resources for finding sustainably sourced fish. You can also encourage businesses to adopt mariculture products or supporting investment and research to integrate mariculture.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Memorial Day



High: 72 °F

Mostly Sunny

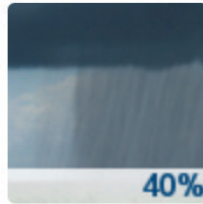
Tonight



Low: 46 °F

Mostly Cloudy

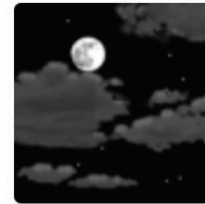
Tuesday



High: 67 °F

Chance
Showers

Tuesday Night



Low: 43 °F

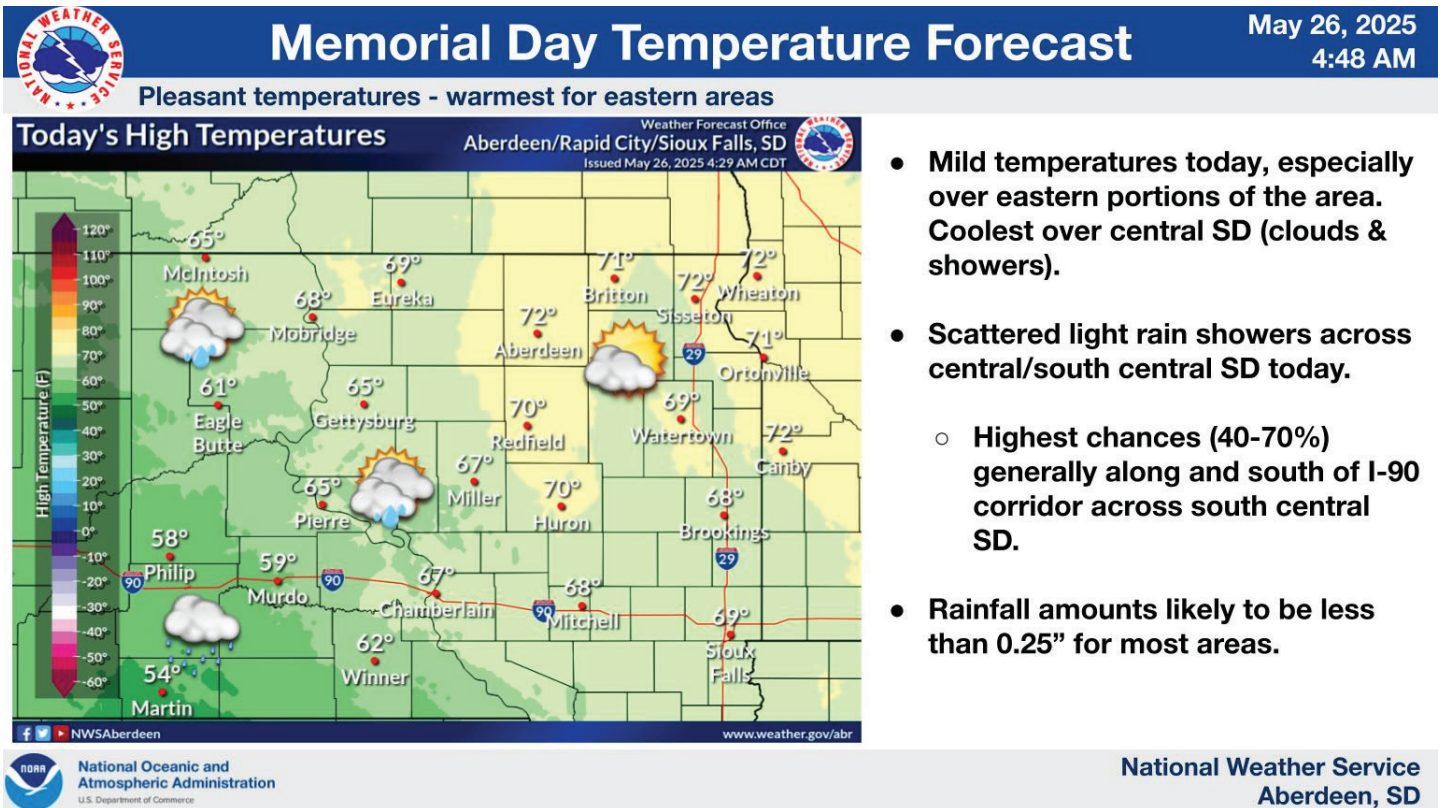
Partly Cloudy

Wednesday



High: 71 °F

Mostly Sunny
then Chance
Showers



Southeast breezes will be felt across the region today, with pleasant temperatures in the 60s and 70s for most areas. Scattered light showers will affect central and south central South Dakota, but generally expecting less than a quarter inch of rainfall for most areas.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 74 °F at 4:24 PM

Low Temp: 44 °F at 5:50 AM

Wind: 11 mph at 2:43 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 20 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 97 in 2018

Record Low: 30 in 1992

Average High: 74

Average Low: 49

Average Precip in May.: 2.79

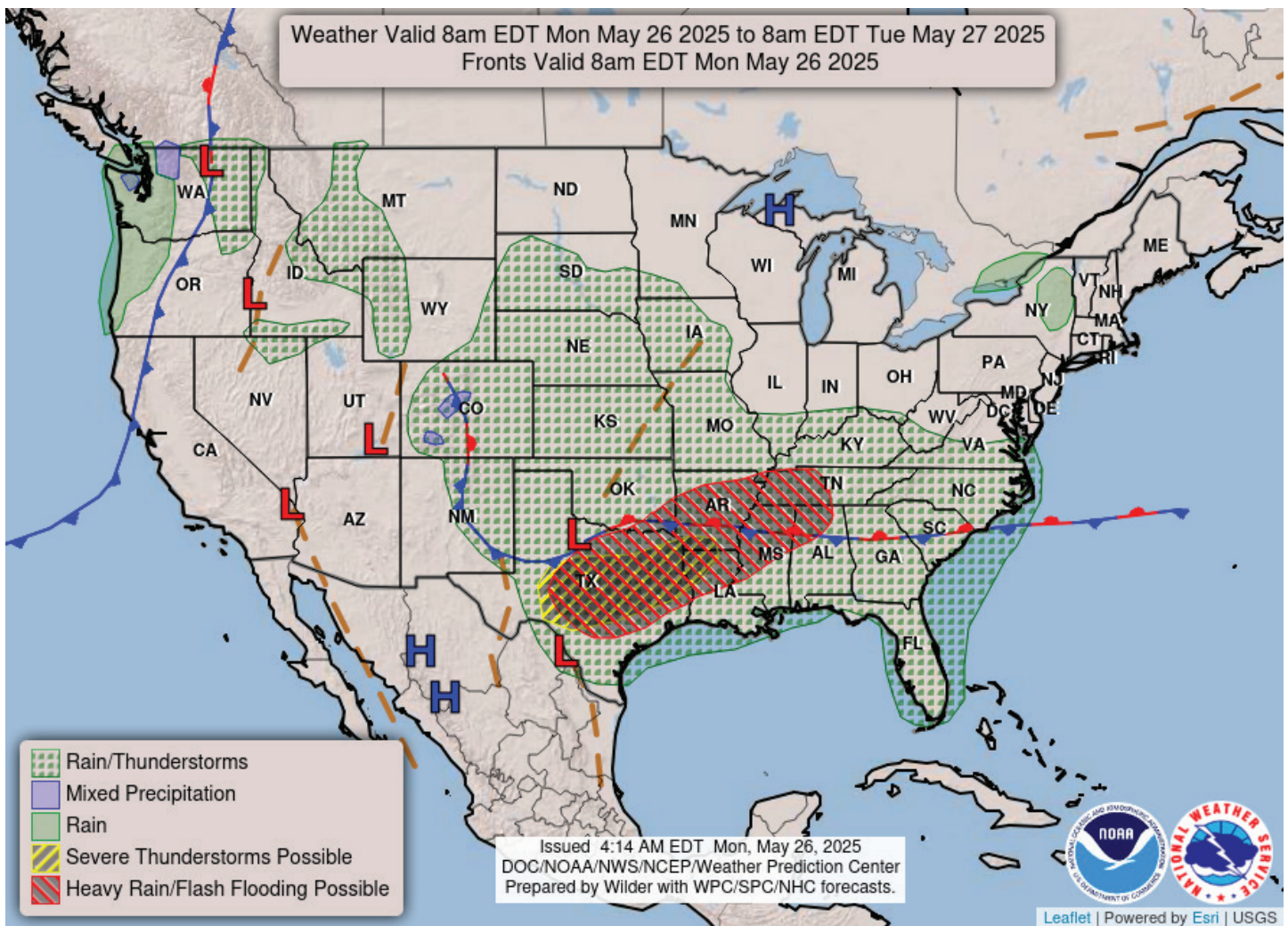
Precip to date in May.: 3.35

Average Precip to date: 6.76

Precip Year to Date: 5.98

Sunset Tonight: 9:10:00 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:48:16 am



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Today in Weather History

May 26th, 1983: Up to 5 inches of unofficial rainfall caused widespread flooding of basements and streets in and near Aberdeen. Only 1.72 inches of rain was reported at the Aberdeen airport.

May 26th, 1985: Hail of unknown diameter was five inches deep, 1 mile north of Rosholt. Some hail remained on the ground until the following morning.

May 26th, 1992: A widespread frost and hard freeze hit most of South Dakota except portions of the southeast, causing up to \$14 million in potential crop losses to corn, soybeans, wheat, and other crops. Some low temperatures include 23 degrees 12 miles SSW of Harrold; 26 at one mile west of Highmore and 23 north of Highmore; 27 in Kennebec; and 28 degrees 1 NW of Faulkton and Redfield.

1771 - A famous Virginia flood occurred as heavy rains in the mountains brought all rivers in the state to record high levels. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1917 - A tornado touched down near Louisiana MO about noon and remained on the ground for a distance of 293 miles, finally lifting seven hours and twenty minutes later in eastern Jennings County, IN. The twister cut a swath of destruction two and a half miles wide through Mattoon, IL. There were 101 persons killed in the tornado, including 53 at Mattoon, and 38 at Charleston IL. Damage from the storm totalled 2.5 million dollars. (David Ludlum)

1984 - Thunderstorms during the late evening and early morning hours produced 6 to 13 inches of rain at Tulsa OK in six hours (8.63 inches at the airport). Flooding claimed fourteen lives and caused 90 million dollars property damage. 4600 cars, 743 houses, and 387 apartments were destroyed or severely damage in the flood. (Storm Data) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in southwest Iowa spawned five tornadoes and produced up to ten inches of rain. Seven inches of rain at Red Oak forced evacuation of nearly 100 persons from the town. Record flooding took place in southwest Iowa the last twelve days of May as up to 17 inches of rain drenched the area. Total damage to crops and property was estimated at 16 million dollars. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - There was "frost on the roses" in the Upper Ohio Valley and the Central Appalachian Mountain Region. Thirteen cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Youngstown OH with a reading of 30 degrees. Evening thunderstorms in North Dakota produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Jamestown. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms in produced large hail in eastern Oklahoma during the pre-dawn hours, and again during the evening and night. Hail two inches in diameter was reported near Prague, and thunderstorm winds gusted to 70 mph near Kenefic. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from eastern Colorado to western Arkansas and north-eastern Texas. Severe thunderstorms spawned three tornadoes, and there were eighty-eight reports of large hail or damaging winnds. Evening thunderstorms over central Oklahoma spawned strong tornadoes east of Hinton and east of Binger, produced hail three inches in diameter at Minco, and produced wind gusts to 85 mph at Blanchard. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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"Have it your way" was the Burger King slogan for forty years. However, it was changed. Their new slogan is: "You Rule."

Why the change?

In a recently released statement, the management team said the new motto is intended to remind people that "they can and should live how they want anytime. It's ok not to be perfect. Self-expression is most important; it's our differences that make us individuals instead of robots."

Burger King's Senior Vice President noted in an interview "that 'Have it Your Way' focuses only on the purchase...the ability to customize a burger. By contrast," he said, "'You Rule' is about making a connection with a person's greater lifestyle."

How confusing.

A "lifestyle" reflects our way of life; our values and attitudes. If we "be our way," it can be dangerous. It seems to suggest that "anything goes"... there is no wrong unless we agree on right and wrong. Furthermore, no one has any right to interfere with "my way."

Unfortunately, our ways seldom agree with the ways of God unless we have been born again.

Hearts are sinful,

Thoughts are corrupt,

Desires self-centered,

And evil ways are the lifestyle of the non-believer.

"To fear the Lord is to hate evil," said Solomon.

Then, speaking on behalf of God, he said:

"I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech."

God's Word and wisdom is very clear:

It's either His way or the evil way.

It cannot be both.

Prayer: Lord, living our way – a self-centered way – is the easy way – but the wrong way. Give us a deep desire to seek Your way and live a life that pleases You! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "All who fear the Lord will hate evil. Therefore, I hate pride and arrogance, corruption and perverse speech." — Proverbs 8:13

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

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The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.2% Sales Tax

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- ☐ Colored\$79.88/year
- ☐ Colored\$42.60/6 months
- ☐ E-Weekly*\$31.95/year

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State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

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Password _____

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

paypal.me/paperpaul

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



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.23.25

7 18 40 55 68 18

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$173,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 19 Mins 48 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.24.25

8 19 24 28 49 1

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$36,610,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 34 Mins 48 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.25.25

12 20 30 35 47 2

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 49 Mins 48 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.24.25

1 2 6 28 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$20,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 16 Hrs 49 Mins 48 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.24.25

25 29 50 64 65 3

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 18 Mins 48 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.24.25

12 18 28 48 52 5

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$177,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 18 Mins 49 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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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

Israeli strikes kill 52 in Gaza, including 36 in a school-turned-shelter, medics say

By WAFAA SHURAF and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli strikes killed at least 52 people in the Gaza Strip on Monday, including 36 in a school-turned-shelter that was struck as people slept, setting their belongings ablaze, according to local health officials. The military said it targeted militants operating from the school.

Israel renewed its offensive in March after ending a ceasefire with Hamas. It has vowed to seize control of Gaza and keep fighting until Hamas is destroyed or disarmed, and until it returns the remaining 58 hostages, a third of them believed to be alive, from the Oct. 7, 2023, attack that ignited the war.

Israel began allowing a trickle of humanitarian aid into Gaza last week after blocking all food, medicine, fuel or other goods from entering for 2 1/2 months. Aid groups have warned of famine and say the aid that has come in is nowhere near enough to meeting mounting needs.

A new aid system supported by Israel and the United States but rejected by U.N. agencies and aid groups is expected to begin operations as soon as Monday, despite the resignation of the American leading the effort, who said it would not be able to operate independently.

Israel says it plans to seize full control of Gaza and facilitate what it describes as the voluntary migration of its over 2 million population, a plan rejected by Palestinians and much of the international community. Hamas warned Palestinians on Monday not to cooperate with the new aid system, saying it is aimed at furthering those objectives.

Israel's military campaign has destroyed vast areas of Gaza and internally displaced some 90% of its population. Many have fled multiple times.

Rescuers recover charred remains

The strike on the school in the Daraj neighborhood of Gaza City also wounded dozens of people, said Fahmy Awad, head of the ministry's emergency service. He said a father and his five children were among the dead. The Shifa and al-Ahli hospitals in Gaza City confirmed the overall toll.

Awad said the school was hit three times while people slept, setting fire to their belongings. Footage circulating online showed rescuers struggling to extinguish fires and recovering charred remains.

The military said it targeted a militant command and control center inside the school that Hamas and Islamic Jihad used to gather intelligence for attacks. Israel blames civilian deaths on Hamas because it operates in residential areas.

A separate strike on a home in Jabalya in northern Gaza killed 16 members of the same family, including five women and two children, according to Shifa Hospital, which received the bodies.

Palestinian militants meanwhile fired three projectiles from Gaza, two of which fell short within the territory and a third that was intercepted, according to the Israeli military.

Plans to control aid hit another obstacle

Israel plans to roll out a new aid distribution system run by a group known as the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, made up of former humanitarian, government and military officials, that would set up distribution points guarded by private security firms.

Israel accuses Hamas of siphoning off assistance, without providing evidence. The foundation said in a statement that it would begin delivering aid Monday and would reach a million Palestinians — around half of Gaza's population — by the end of the week.

U.N. agencies and major aid groups have refused to cooperate with the planned U.S.-backed system, saying it would force even more displacement, fail to meet local needs and violate humanitarian principles that prohibit a warring party from controlling humanitarian assistance. They also say there is no evidence of systematic diversion of aid by militants.

Jake Wood, the American heading the foundation, unexpectedly resigned Sunday, saying it had become

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clear that the foundation would not be allowed to operate independently. It's not clear who is funding the group.

Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted 251 people in the 2023 attack. More than half the hostages have been returned in ceasefire agreements or other deals, eight have been rescued, and Israeli forces have recovered the remains of dozens more.

The offensive has destroyed vast areas of Gaza, rendering entire neighborhoods uninhabitable. Hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to shelter in schools and squalid tent camps for well over a year.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed around 54,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. It says more than half the dead are women and children but does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its count.

How has Minneapolis changed since the murder of George Floyd 5 years ago?

By STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Some things have changed for the better in Minneapolis since Memorial Day 2020, when a police officer murdered George Floyd. Some have not.

Sunday marked five years since white Officer Derek Chauvin used his knee to pin the Black man's neck to the pavement for 9 1/2 minutes, leading to his death.

A tidal wave of racial justice protests erupted in U.S. cities. Demonstrators chanted Floyd's dying words: "I can't breathe." The protests were mostly peaceful at first but some turned violent, and parts of Minneapolis have yet to recover from the rioting, looting and arson. And the city is still struggling to decide what should become of the intersection where Floyd was killed.

The Minneapolis Police Department has faced some changes under court supervision that aim to reduce racial disparities. Violent crime, which spiked during the COVID-19 pandemic and after Floyd's death, is mostly back around pre-pandemic levels, although homicides are inching up.

A place of pilgrimage

The intersection where a crowd of concerned onlookers urged Chauvin and other officers to heed Floyd's dying cries quickly became known as George Floyd Square.

A large sculpture of a clenched fist is just one of the tributes to Floyd. He died steps from the Cup Foods convenience store that has since been renamed Unity Foods. The area draws visitors from around the world.

One visitor last week was Alfred "A.J." Flowers Jr., a local activist, who said the police killings of young Black men before Floyd's murder only fueled the frustration and rage that erupted on the streets five years ago.

It's significant that the Black community tends to come together at "places where we die, whether it's by our own hands or by police violence," Flowers said.

The fate of George Floyd Square

A majority of City Council members support building a pedestrian-only mall where Floyd drew his final breaths, but Mayor Jacob Frey and many property and business owners oppose the idea of closing the area to all vehicles. Any final decisions remain a long way off.

In the meantime, businesses in the neighborhood are struggling and crime remains high.

Flowers urged authorities to provide more support for Black-owned businesses, housing, education and crime prevention to improve the local economy.

The shell of the 3rd Precinct police station, which was allowed to burn during the unrest in 2020, has been the subject of intense debate. The City Council last month voted to proceed with a plan to build a "Democracy Center" there that would house voter services and a community space.

The former chief of police has said he doesn't regret the decision to abandon the structure.

The demise of defund the police

The slogan "Defund the Police" caught fire after Floyd's death, but it never came to pass. While a majority of council members initially backed the idea, what appeared on the city ballot in 2021 was a more

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modest attempt to reimagine policing. Voters rejected it.

The police force lost hundreds of officers following the unrest. From nearly 900 in early 2020, the ranks fell to less than 600 as officers retired, took disability or went to work elsewhere. Staffing started to recover last year.

Officers are now back engaging with the community at George Floyd Square, which became a “no-go zone” for police immediately after Floyd’s death. Flowers acknowledged there have been “significant strides” in community-police relations.

Police Chief Brian O’Hara said his “officers are starting to heal.”

“I think they’re starting to be proud of what they do again, getting back to the reasons they got into this profession in the first place,” he told reporters last week.

Remaking policing

President Donald Trump’s administration moved Wednesday to cancel agreements to overhaul the police departments in Minneapolis and Louisville, Kentucky, both accused of widespread abuses.

Frey, the mayor, decried the timing of the announcement as “political theater” in the week before the anniversary of Floyd’s murder.

National reform advocates also denounced the administration’s move. But O’Hara and Frey pledged Minneapolis would move forward, with or without the White House. The police department is also operating under a consent decree with the Minnesota Human Rights Department.

The decree proposes addressing race-based policing and strengthening public safety by ensuring officers only use reasonable force, never punish or retaliate, and de-escalate conflicts when possible, among other aims.

The mayor and chief noted that Minneapolis got high marks in a report released Tuesday by a nonprofit that monitors various cities’ compliance with consent decrees.

Activists cautioned that Minneapolis has little to brag about.

“We understand that change takes time,” Michelle Gross, president of Communities United Against Police Brutality, said in a statement last week. “However, the progress being claimed by the city is not being felt in the streets.”

Many Venezuelan voters, frustrated and disillusioned, skip election for lawmakers and governors

By REGINA GARCIA CANO Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuelans still reeling from the outcome of last year’s presidential election did not respond Sunday to government calls to get out and vote for lawmakers, governors and other officials. That left voting centers practically empty at times and put officials on the defensive.

The election, which the political opposition urged people to boycott, was the first to allow broad voter participation since the presidential contest that President Nicolás Maduro claimed to have won last year despite credible evidence to the contrary. It took place two days after the government detained dozens of people, including a prominent opposition leader, and linked them to an alleged plot to hinder the vote.

Members of the military throughout the day outnumbered voters at many polling centers in the capital, Caracas, where no lines formed outside in stark contrast with the enthusiasm of the July presidential election, when some people lined up for hours. But senior government officials insisted polling centers saw such overwhelming participation on Sunday that they had to remain open past the scheduled 12 hours of operation.

Electoral authorities said 42.66% of registered voters cast ballots across the country. Some 21.4 million people were registered, meaning the National Electoral Council claimed that about 9.12 million voters participated.

Voter participation, in the eyes of the opposition, legitimizes Maduro’s claim to power and his government’s repressive apparatus, which after the July presidential election detained more than 2,000 people including protesters, poll workers, political activists and minors, to quash dissent.

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"I'm not going to vote," truck driver Carlos León, 41, said standing near a desolate polling station in downtown Caracas. "I don't believe in the (electoral authority). I don't think they'll respect the vote. Nobody forgets what happened in the presidential elections. It's sad, but it's true."

A nationwide poll conducted between April 29 and May 4 by the Venezuela-based research firm Delphos showed that only 15.9% of voters expressed a high probability of voting Sunday. Of those, 74.2% said they would vote for the candidates of the ruling United Socialist Party of Venezuela and its allies, while 13.8% said they would vote for contenders associated with two opposition leaders who are not boycotting the elections.

"Today, we witnessed an event that attempted to disguise itself as an election, but failed to deceive the country or the world," Edmundo González, who is recognized by the United States and several other countries as the winner of the July presidential election, posted on X.

"What the world saw today was an act of civic courage. A silent but powerful declaration that the desire for change, dignity, and a future remains intact," he added.

Opposition leaders chose González, a retired diplomat, as the faction's presidential candidate because the government banned primary winner Maria Corina Machado from running for office. González has been in exile since September to avoid arrest and, for the same reason, Machado has not been seen in public since January.

Machado's close ally, Juan Pablo Guanipa, was among 70 people detained Friday for alleged anti-government activities. Interior Minister Diosdado Cabello linked Guanipa to an alleged "terrorist group" plotting to disturb Sunday's vote.

Guanipa's brother, Tomás, rejected the accusation and said the arrest was punishment for "thinking differently" from the government.

All-controlling ruling party

The ruling party-loyal National Electoral Council oversaw Sunday's election for state legislators, 285 members of the unicameral National Assembly and all 24 governors, including the newly created governorship purportedly established to administer Essequibo, a region long under dispute between Venezuela and neighboring Guyana.

Among the members of the opposition who were on Sunday's ballot were twice-failed presidential candidate Henrique Capriles, who won a seat in the National Assembly, and former lawmaker Juan Requesens, who lost his bid for governor. Requesens spent years in prison after authorities accused him of participating in a failed drone attack against Maduro.

The electoral body reported that the ruling party won 23 of the 24 gubernatorial races. Maduro's party also kept control of the National Assembly.

Maduro after voting said the electronic polling process is "very fast and very easy," seemingly justifying the lack of lines at polling centers. His ruling-party ally, Gov. Freddy Bernal, explained the apparent low turnout similarly.

"We won't see long lines because the process is very fast," Bernal, who was reelected governor of the state of Táchira, told state television.

Maduro also criticized opposition factions who asked people not to vote.

"What did they win? They lost everything," Maduro said three times regarding previous opposition boycotts. "They — the ones running that campaign — are nothing, and Venezuela continues its course."

Centralized government

The ruling party controls 19 governorships and more than 90% of the National Assembly seats.

But in Maduro's Venezuela, regional elected officials, regardless of party affiliation, have limited impact on people's lives because his highly centralized government controls practically everything from Caracas. The government also represses the opposition by, for instance, disqualifying a candidate after the election or appointing a ruling-party loyalist to oversee the elected offices held by opponents, rendering them powerless.

Further, after the opposition won control of the National Assembly in 2015, Maduro created an election

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for members of a Constituent Assembly in 2017. That body, controlled by the ruling party, decreed itself superior to all other branches of government until it ceased to exist in 2020.

On Sunday, state television showed daylight footage of voters gathered at some polling centers outside Caracas, including from Indigenous communities where people traveled by boat and defied heavy rains to vote.

In a working-class neighborhood in the capital, the National Guard placed three armored personnel carriers, but by midday, the nearest voting center had no visible activity and soldiers were looking at their cellphones while they sheltered from the sun.

Meanwhile, voters at a polling place in downtown Caracas said they cast ballots out of fear of losing their government jobs or food and other state-controlled benefits. And in an opposition stronghold, some ignored the boycott calls believing that voting is their civic duty, while others saw the election as a chance to keep their local government under opposition control.

"I'm defending my municipality," said Edith, the owner of a bankrupt family business who declined to give her last name out of fear of government reprisals. "I'm still angry with what happened in July, but I have to defend it."

Russia and Ukraine complete prisoner swap hours after Moscow launches major aerial assault

By SAMYA KULLAB and OLEKSII YEROSHENKO Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia and Ukraine swapped hundreds more prisoners Sunday in the third and last part of a major exchange that was a rare moment of cooperation in otherwise failed efforts to reach a ceasefire in the more than three years of war.

Hours earlier, the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, and other regions came under a massive Russian drone-and-missile attack that killed at least 12 people and injured dozens. Ukrainian officials described it as the largest aerial assault since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Late Sunday, Ukrainian cities came under attack for a third straight night with Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko reporting that air defense forces were working in the capital against enemy drones. Oleh Syniehubov, the head of the Kharkiv military administration, said Kharkiv and its suburbs were also under attack by drones.

Information about victims was being clarified, Syniehubov said, urging residents to "stay safe places until the end of the alarm."

Earlier, Russia's Defense Ministry said each side exchanged 303 soldiers, following the release of 307 combatants and civilians each on Saturday, and 390 on Friday — the biggest total swap of the war.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirmed Sunday's exchange, saying on X that "303 Ukrainian defenders are home." He noted that the troops returning to Ukraine were members of the "Armed Forces, the National Guard, the State Border Guard Service, and the State Special Transport Service."

Nataliya Borovyk, the sister of released Ukrainian soldier Ihor Ulesov, was overwhelmed when she learned of her brother's return.

"My uncle had to calm me down and put me in a taxi so I could get here," she told The Associated Press. "A moment like that stays with you forever."

Borovyk said the family had been waiting anxiously for news, and that she had hoped her brother might be released in the first part of the exchange on Friday.

"We were worried about all the guys. He wasn't there on Friday, but I was here — I at least greeted them, I stood there until the very end and waited, (hoping) maybe he would appear after all."

In talks held in Istanbul earlier this month — the first time the two sides met face to face for peace talks — Kyiv and Moscow agreed to swap 1,000 prisoners of war and civilian detainees each. The exchange has been the only tangible outcome from the talks.

Largest aerial attack of the war

The scale of the onslaught was stunning — Russia hit Ukraine with 367 drones and missiles, the largest

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single aerial attack of the war, according to Yuriy Ihnat, a spokesperson for Ukraine's Air Force.

In all, Russia used 69 missiles of various types and 298 drones, including Iranian-designed Shahed drones, he told The Associated Press.

There was no immediate comment from Moscow on the strikes.

For Kyiv, the day was particularly somber as the city observed Kyiv Day, a national holiday that falls on the last Sunday in May, commemorating its founding in the 5th century,

Zelenskyy said Russian missiles and drones hit more than 30 cities and villages, and urged Western partners to ramp up sanctions on Russia — a longstanding demand of the Ukrainian leader but one that despite warnings to Moscow by the United States and Europe has not materialized in ways to deter Russia.

"These were deliberate strikes on ordinary cities," Zelenskyy wrote on X, adding that Sunday's targets included Kyiv, Zhytomyr, Khmelnytskyi, Ternopil, Chernihiv, Sumy, Odesa, Poltava, Dnipro, Mykolaiv, Kharkiv and Cherkasy regions.

"America's silence, the silence of others in the world, only encourages" Russian President Vladimir Putin, he said. "Without truly strong pressure on the Russian leadership, this brutality cannot be stopped. Sanctions will certainly help."

U.S. President Donald Trump made it clear he is losing patience with Putin, leveling some of his sharpest criticism at him on Sunday night.

"I've always had a very good relationship with Vladimir Putin of Russia, but something has happened to him. He has gone absolutely CRAZY!" Trump wrote in a social media post. He said Putin is "needlessly killing a lot of people" by firing missiles and drones into Ukrainian cities "for no reason whatsoever."

But Trump expressed frustration with Zelenskyy as well, saying that he is "doing his Country no favors by talking the way he does."

Keith Kellogg, Washington's special envoy to Ukraine, condemned the Russian attacks on X, calling it "a clear violation" of the Geneva Protocols. "These attacks are shameful. Stop the killing. Ceasefire now."

Russia's Defense Ministry, meanwhile, said its air defenses shot down 110 Ukrainian drones overnight.

'Sleepless night'

Sounds of explosions boomed throughout the night in Kyiv and the surrounding area as Ukrainian air defense persisted for hours in efforts to shoot down Russian drones and missiles. At least four people were killed and 16 were injured in the capital itself, according to the security service.

"A difficult Sunday morning in Ukraine after a sleepless night," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said on X, adding that the assault "lasted all night."

Fires broke out in homes and businesses, set off by falling drone debris.

In Zhytomyr region, west of Kyiv, the emergency service said three children were killed, aged 8, 12 and 17. Twelve people were injured in the attacks, it said. At least four people were killed in the Khmelnytskyi region, in western Ukraine. One man was killed in Mykolaiv region, in southern Ukraine.

Kyiv Mayor Klitschko said a student dormitory in Holosiivskyi district was hit by a drone and one of the building's walls was on fire. In Dniprovskyi district, a private house was destroyed and in Shevchenkovskyi district, windows in a residential building were smashed.

The scale of Russia's use of aerial weapons aside, the attacks over the past 48 hours have been among the most intense strikes on Ukraine since the February 2022 invasion.

A village engulfed in smoke and rubble

In Markhalivka, just outside Kyiv where several village homes were burned down, the Fedorenkos watched their ruined home in tears.

"The street looks like Bakhmut, like Mariupol, it's just terrible," said 76-year-old Liubov Fedorenko, comparing their village to some of Ukraine's most devastated cities. She told the AP she was grateful her daughter and grandchildren hadn't joined them for the weekend.

"I was trying to persuade my daughter to come to us," Fedorenko said, adding that she told her daughter, "After all, you live on the eighth floor in Kyiv, and here it's the ground floor."

"She said, 'No, mum, I'm not coming.' And thank God she didn't come, because the rocket hit (the house) on the side where the children's rooms were," Fedorenko said.

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No halt in fighting

The POW exchange was the latest of scores of swaps since the war began but also the biggest involving Ukrainian civilians.

Still, it has not halted the fighting. Battles have continued along the roughly 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line, where tens of thousands of soldiers have been killed, and neither country has relented in its deep strikes.

Russia's Defense Ministry quoted Yaroslav Yakimkin of the "North" group of Russian forces as saying Sunday that Ukrainian troops have been pushed back from the border in the Kursk region, which Putin visited days ago.

"The troops continue to advance forward every day," Yakimkin said, adding that Russian forces have taken Marine and Loknya in Ukraine's northeastern Sumy region, which borders Kursk, over the past week, and were advancing in the Kharkiv region around the largely destroyed town of Vovchansk.

Speaking on Russian state TV on Sunday, a Russian serviceman said that Putin was reportedly flying over the Kursk region in a helicopter when the area came under intense Ukrainian drone attack during his visit.

Putin's helicopter was "virtually at the epicenter of repelling a large-scale attack by the enemy's drones," said Yuri Dashkin, described as commander of a Russian air defense division. He added that Russian air defense units shot down 46 drones during the incident.

Pope Leo XIV declares 'I am Roman!' as he completes formalities to become bishop of Rome

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Pope Leo XIV declared himself a Roman on Sunday as he completed the final ceremonial steps cementing his role as the bishop of Rome.

The first American pope formally took possession of the St. John Lateran Basilica, which is Rome's cathedral and seat of the diocese, with an evening Mass attended by Roman priests and faithful.

He then took the popemobile for a visit to St. Mary Major, where he prayed before Pope Francis' tomb and an icon of the Virgin Mary beloved to many Roman faithful.

In his homily, Leo said he wanted to listen to them "in order to learn, understand and decide things together."

One of the many titles that Leo assumed when he was elected May 8 was bishop of Rome. Given his responsibilities running the 1.4-billion strong universal Catholic Church, popes delegate the day-to-day governance of running of the diocese of Roman to a vicar.

Sunday's ceremonies at the St. John Lateran and a stop at St. Mary Major basilicas follow Leo's visit last week to the St. Paul Outside the Walls basilica. Together with St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, the four papal basilicas are the most important basilicas in the West.

Rome's Mayor Roberto Gualtieri welcomed Leo first at the steps to City Hall, noting that his May 8 election fell during a Holy Year, an event occurring every 25 years to invite pilgrims to Rome. The city underwent two years of traffic-clogging public works projects to prepare and expects to welcome upward of 30 million people in 2025.

Leo said he felt the "serious but passionate responsibility" to serve all Romans during the Holy Year and beyond.

Wearing his formal red papal cape and brocaded stole, Leo recalled the words he had uttered from the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica on the night of his election. The Augustinian pope quoted St. Augustine in saying: "With you I am Christian, and for you, bishop."

"By special title, today I can say that for you and with you I am Roman!" Leo said.

The former Robert Prevost succeeded Pope Francis, the first Latin American pope. Francis died April 21 and is buried at St. Mary Major, near the icon of the Madonna known as the Salus Populi Romani.

Thousands mark 5th anniversary of George Floyd's murder as they call for justice and decry Trump

By MARK VANCLEAVE and KENDRIA LAFLEUR Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Police reform and civil-rights activists joined thousands of ordinary people Sunday to mark the fifth anniversary of George Floyd's murder and decry the Trump administration for actions they say set their efforts back decades.

The Rev. Al Sharpton said at a graveside service with the dead man's family in Houston that Floyd, 46, represented all of those "who are defenseless against people who thought they could put their knee on our neck."

He compared Floyd's killing to that of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old Black child who was abducted, mutilated and slain in Mississippi in 1955 after being accused of offending a white woman.

"What Emmett Till was in his time, George Floyd has been for this time in history," Sharpton said.

Site of his death

Events in Minneapolis centered around George Floyd Square, the intersection where police Officer Derek Chauvin used his knee to pin Floyd's neck to the pavement for 9 1/2 minutes, even as Floyd cried "I can't breathe."

By midday Sunday, a steady stream of people were paying their respects at a memorial in front of Cup Foods, where he was killed. Across the street, activists had set up a feeding area at an old gas station that has often served as a staging area since Floyd's death. In the middle of the street, a fake pig's head was mounted on a stick. The head wore a police cap.

Events started Friday with music, a street festival and a "self-care fair." It culminated Sunday evening when hundreds gathered at the square for a candlelit vigil that included a worship service, a gospel concert and speeches calling for racial justice. A brass band then led the crowd on a short march through city streets.

Even with Minneapolis officials' promises to remake the police department, some activists contend the progress has come at a glacial pace.

"We understand that change takes time," Michelle Gross, president of Communities United Against Police Brutality, said in a statement last week. "However, the progress being claimed by the city is not being felt in the streets."

Slow pace of change

Activists had hoped that the worldwide protests that followed Floyd's murder on May 25, 2020, would lead to national police reform and focus on racial justice.

Under President Joe Biden, the U.S. Justice Department had aggressively pushed for oversight of local police it had accused of widespread abuses. But the Trump administration moved Wednesday to cancel settlements with Minneapolis and Louisville that called for an overhaul of their police departments following Floyd's murder and the killing of Breonna Taylor.

Trump also has declared an end to diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives within the federal government, and his administration is using federal funds as leverage to force local governments, universities and public school districts to do the same. And Republican-led states have accelerated their efforts to stamp out DEI initiatives.

In Houston, Sharpton castigated the administration's settlement cancellations, saying they were "tantamount to the Department of Justice and the president spitting on the grave of George Floyd."

"To wait to the anniversary and announce this, knowing this family was going to be brought back to the brokenheartedness of what happened shows the disregard and insensitivity of this administration," he said. "But the reason that we will not be deterred is that Trump was president when George Floyd happened and he didn't do anything then. We made things happen. And we're going to make them happen again."

The future?

Detrius Smith of Dallas, who was visiting the Floyd memorial site with her three daughters and five grandchildren, told one granddaughter about how people globally united to decry racial injustice after Floyd's murder.

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"It just really feels good, just really to see everybody out here celebrating the life, and the memories of George Floyd and just really remembering what happened," Smith said. "We want to do everything we can to work together so everybody can have the same equal rights and everybody can move forward and not have something like that to continue to happen in this nation."

Gail Ferguson of Minneapolis visited the site of Floyd's death on Sunday, as she has done every year on the anniversary of his death. Ferguson, who is a professor at the University of Minnesota's Institute of Child Development leading an anti-racist parenting intervention program for white parents of young white children, said Floyd's murder brought attention to what she calls a racism pandemic.

"It exposed white supremacy, and it exposed the fragility and the passivity that can be part of the culture of whiteness," she said.

Trump says he'll delay a threatened 50% tariff on the European Union until July

By SEUNG MIN KIM The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Sunday that the U.S. will delay implementation of a 50% tariff on goods from the European Union from June 1 until July 9 to buy time for negotiations with the bloc.

That agreement came after a call Sunday with Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, who had told Trump that she "wants to get down to serious negotiations," according to the U.S. president's retelling.

"I told anybody that would listen, they have to do that," Trump told reporters on Sunday in Morristown, New Jersey, as he prepared to return to Washington. Von der Leyen, Trump said, vowed to "rapidly get together and see if we can work something out."

In a social media post Friday, Trump had threatened to impose the 50% tariff on EU goods, complaining that the 27-member bloc had been "very difficult to deal with" on trade and that negotiations were "going nowhere." Those tariffs would have kicked in starting June 1.

But the call with von der Leyen appeared to smooth over tensions, at least for now.

"I agreed to the extension — July 9, 2025 — It was my privilege to do so," Trump said on Truth Social shortly after he spoke with reporters on Sunday evening.

For her part, von der Leyen said the EU and the U.S. "share the world's most consequential and close trade relationship."

"Europe is ready to advance talks swiftly and decisively," she said. "To reach a good deal, we would need the time until July 9."

Israel's latest strikes in Gaza kill 38 people including children

By WAFAA SHURAF and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli strikes over the past 24 hours killed at least 38 people in Gaza, including children, local health officials said Sunday, with no data available for a second straight day from now-inaccessible hospitals in the north.

Further details emerged of the Palestinian doctor who lost nine of her 10 children in an Israeli strike on Friday.

Gaza's Health Ministry said 3,785 people have been killed since Israel ended a ceasefire in March, vowing to destroy Hamas and return the 58 hostages it still holds from the Oct. 7, 2023, attack that triggered the war. Hamas has said it will only release the hostages in exchange for a lasting ceasefire and an Israeli withdrawal.

Israel also blocked all food, medicine and fuel from entering Gaza for 2 1/2 months before letting a trickle of aid enter last week, after experts' warnings of famine and pressure from some of Israel's top allies.

Israel is pursuing a new U.S.-backed plan to control all aid to Gaza, but the American heading the effort

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unexpectedly resigned Sunday, saying it had become clear that his organization would not be allowed to operate independently.

The United Nations has rejected the plan. U.N. World Food Program executive director Cindy McCain told CBS she has not seen evidence to support Israel's claims that Hamas is responsible for the looting of aid trucks. "These people are desperate, and they see a World Food Program truck coming in and they run for it," she said.

COGAT, the Israeli defense body overseeing aid for Gaza, said 107 trucks of aid entered Sunday. The U.N. has called the rate far from enough. About 600 trucks a day entered during the ceasefire.

Israel also says it plans to seize full control of Gaza and facilitate what it describes as the voluntary migration of its over 2 million population, a plan rejected by Palestinians and much of the international community.

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem visited Israel on Sunday and met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

More on the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation resignation

Jake Wood was the executive director of what had been a troubled effort to get more aid into Gaza in a way that would be acceptable to Israel, which has sought to tightly control all aid deliveries.

He said in a statement Sunday that it had become clear "it is not possible to implement this plan while also strictly adhering to the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence, which I will not abandon."

He urged Israel to expand aid supplies "through all mechanisms" and for others to continue to explore "innovative new methods" for delivering aid.

Neither the foundation nor the U.S. had given many details of who was funding the new group, whose creation was announced in recent weeks, or how it would operate. The U.N. and international aid organizations feared it was an attempt to supplant them.

More on the killing of a doctor's 9 children

In Friday's strike, only one of pediatrician Alaa al-Najjar's 10 children survived at their home near the southern city of Khan Younis. The 11-year-old and al-Najjar's husband, also a doctor, were badly hurt.

The children's charred remains were put in a single body bag, said a fellow pediatrician at Nasser Hospital, Alaa al-Zayan.

The home was struck minutes after Hamdi al-Najjar had driven his wife to the hospital. His brother, Ismail al-Najjar, was first to arrive at the scene.

"They were innocent children," the brother said, the youngest 7 months old. "And my brother has no business with (Palestinian) factions."

Israel has said "the claim regarding harm to uninvolved civilians is under review." It blames Hamas for civilian deaths because it operates in densely populated areas.

There was no immediate comment from the military on the latest strikes. One killed a mother and two children in the central city of Deir al-Balah, according to al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital. Another in northern Gaza's Jabaliya area killed at least five, including two women and a child, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

Also on Friday in Khan Younis, two International Committee of the Red Cross staffers were killed when shelling struck their home, the ICRC said.

"This is not an endless war," Israel's military chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir, said during a visit to Khan Younis. Recent ceasefire talks in Qatar gained no ground.

Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the Oct. 7 attack and abducted 251. Around a third of the remaining hostages are believed to be alive. Israel's 19-month offensive has killed over 53,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which says women and children make up most of the dead. It does not provide figures for the number of civilians or combatants killed.

New from Hezbollah's leader

Speaking on the anniversary of Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon in 2000, Hezbollah leader Naim Kasseem reiterated the Lebanese militant group's stance that it will not discuss giving up its remaining weapons until Israel withdraws from the five border points it occupies in southern Lebanon and stops

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its airstrikes.

The speech came nearly six months after the latest Israel-Hezbollah war ended with a U.S.-brokered ceasefire. Under the deal, Israel and Hezbollah were supposed to withdraw forces from southern Lebanon.

Israeli officials have said they plan to remain at the five points indefinitely to secure their border. Israel has also continued to carry out near-daily airstrikes in southern Lebanon and sometimes in Beirut's suburbs.

"We adhered completely" to the agreement, Kassem said, adding: "Don't ask us for anything else from now on. Let Israel withdraw, stop its aggression, release the prisoners and fulfill all obligations under the agreement. After that, we will discuss each new development."

A missile from the Houthis

Separately, Israel's military said it intercepted a missile fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels on Sunday. It triggered air raid sirens in Jerusalem and other areas. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

The Iran-backed Houthis have launched repeated missile attacks targeting Israel as well as international shipping in the Red Sea, portraying it as a response to Israel's military campaign in Gaza. Most of the targeted ships had no relation to Israel or the conflict.

The United States halted a punishing bombing campaign against the Houthis earlier this month, saying the rebels had pledged to stop attacking ships. That informal ceasefire did not include attacks on Israel.

Alex Palou makes history as 1st Spanish driver to win the Indianapolis 500

By JENNA FRYER AP Auto Racing Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Alex Palou took the ceremonial swig of milk in victory lane at the Indianapolis 500. He allowed his wife to have a sip, she in turn gave a sip to their baby, and team owner Chip Ganassi ended up with the bottle and took a drink, as well.

"I have to tell you, it was the best milk I ever had," Palou said.

The first Spaniard to win "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing" then took a victory lap with his entourage around Indianapolis Motor Speedway in the back of a pickup truck. At one point, Palou climbed onto its roof and raised his arms in triumph, the winning wreath draped around his neck. He briefly lost his balance and Ganassi instinctively reached out to grab his star driver.

No need.

Palou rarely makes a wrong move.

Palou came to the speedway as the two-time defending IndyCar champion — he has three titles in four years — and had opened this year with victories in four of the first five races. It's the kind of start not seen since 1964, when A.J. Foyt won the first seven races of the season, including the Indy 500.

But it was win No. 6 that Palou had circled on his calendar. Without an Indy 500 win, he said, his career would be incomplete.

"Like he said last week, if he was to go through his whole career and not win here at Indianapolis, it wouldn't be a complete career," Ganassi said. "I don't want to say his career is complete now — he's got a lot in him yet. Look at the last five, six races we've had. It's just incredible. He's on a roll."

Such a roll that IndyCar officials were trying to hustle along the postrace commitments for Palou to get him downtown to watch the Indiana Pacers play the New York Knicks in Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals. Palou on Saturday wore a Tyrese Haliburton jersey in the Indy 500 parade.

"That's going to help some people in Indiana to know me," Palou said.

Palou was in fuel-saving mode over the closing laps, following former Chip Ganassi Racing teammate Marcus Ericsson. Palou got tired of staying put with 16 laps remaining and charged ahead — a move Ericsson said "will keep me up at night. What I did and what I didn't do." Palou was never challenged from there, taking the checkered flag as a crash brought out a caution.

He stopped the car just beyond the Yard of Bricks, climbing out of it and nearly losing his balance as he

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raised his arms in triumph. Palou jumped down and took off in a run down the front stretch, pulling off his gloves and tossing them behind him, and ultimately was engulfed by his father, Ramon, and his team in a jubilant celebration.

Scott Dixon and Dario Franchitti both hugged him, a pair of former Ganassi Indy 500 winners welcoming him into their exclusive club. He wasn't sure what the win will do for him Spain, which celebrates Formula 1 drivers Fernando Alonso and Carlos Sainz Jr., but Palou said for the first time he can recall he saw throngs of fans with Spanish flags chanting his name at an IndyCar race.

"It makes it extra special that I'm the first Spanish driver to win it," Palou said. "But honestly, if I was the 50th Spanish driver to win, I would be as happy as I am now."

Meanwhile, Ericsson climbed from his car in pit lane and pressed his hands to his face, the disappointment of coming oh-so-close to a second Indianapolis 500 victory etched across his face. David Maluks was third for A.J. Foyt Racing.

"It's pretty painful," Ericsson said of his second career Indy 500 runner-up finish. "I need to look at it again. You replay it in your head a million times after the finish, wondering what I could have done differently. Second means nothing in this race."

Josef Newgarden's bid to win three consecutive Indy 500s ended with a fuel pump issue. He was trying to become the first driver to come from the back row to win because he and Team Penske teammate Will Power were dropped to the back of the field for failing inspection before the final rounds of qualifying.

Power wound up 19th, the highest-finishing Penske driver on a miserable day for the organization owned by Roger Penske. He earlier this week fired his top three IndyCar executives for a second technical infraction in just over a year, and has had to defend the optics of his teams failing inspections when he also owns IndyCar, Indianapolis Motor Speedway and the Indy 500.

Penske has won the Indy 500 a record 20 times.

It was the sixth Indy 500 win for Ganassi, who has been on a dominating wave since hiring Palou before the 2021 season. Palou won the championship in his first year with the team, added two more titles, and now seems on pace for a fourth one.

"I'll tell you what, that kid's a good driver. I think he's off to a good start," Ganassi said. "We're gonna have a good season. It might be OK. Yeah, might be okay. Might be looking at a championship."

Ganassi also vowed that winning the Indy 500 win "is going to make Alex Palou's career. It is going to make his life."

Palou started the race tied with Pato O'Ward as the co-favorites, listed at +500 by BetMGM Sportsbook. O'Ward finished fourth — the fifth time in six career starts the Mexican has finished sixth or higher. Kyle Larson won't complete "the double" after crashing out of the Indianapolis 500 before he headed to North Carolina to compete in the Coca-Cola 600 NASCAR race.

'Lilo & Stich' teams with Tom Cruise and 'Mission Impossible' for a monster Memorial Day weekend

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

"Lilo & Stich" teamed with Tom Cruise for a monster Memorial Day box office weekend.

Disney's live action version of "Lilo & Stich" earned a staggering \$145.5 million in North American theaters, according to studio estimates Sunday, the second biggest domestic opening of the year after "A Minecraft Movie."

The movie is a faithful remake of the 2002 original's story of a six-legged alien and a Hawaiian girl that has created a big cult following in the decades since. But the duo was no little brother and sister to the better-known figures in Disney's parade of live-action remakes. It was second only to the \$185 million opening of "The Lion King" in 2019 and outshot all projections, wowing box office observers.

"This overperformed by a huge margin," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore.

"Lilo & Stich" surpassed Cruise's 2022 "Top Gun: Maverick" as the biggest domestic Memorial Day weekend earner ever, and global estimates put it past \$300 million.

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Paramount Pictures' "Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning," the eighth and (probably) last appearance of Cruise as Ethan Hunt in a nearly three-decade run, was a distant second, but still brought in a franchise record \$63 million through Sunday, outearning "Mission: Impossible - Fallout," which opened domestically to \$61 million in 2018.

And the spy thriller with Cruise's frequent partner Christopher McQuarrie in the director's chair for the fourth time in the franchise was the top global earner with \$127 million.

Cruise has been a relentless global promoter of his movies, and he's been the industry's loudest cheerleader for going to theaters. This film, like its predecessor in the series, premiered at the Cannes Film Festival.

"The spectacle of what Tom and McQ put on the screen, it screams theatrical," said Chris Aronson, Paramount's president of domestic distribution. "The product they put out just screams, 'This has to be in theaters.'"

The previous film, 2023's "Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One" launched with a franchise-best \$80 million over five days in a July opening, though it came in shy of industry expectations with a \$56.2 million haul over a three-day weekend.

This weekend as a whole blasted past last year, when the Memorial Day box office saw just \$132 million for all films in the Friday-through-Monday span. And it appears that it will top 2013 as the best Memorial Day the industry has had, with an estimated overall total of \$325 million.

Critics were wearying of Disney's live action and CGI remakes of its animated classics. Mark Kennedy of The Associated Press called this "Lilo & Stich" "utterly unnecessary." There were signs audiences were agreeing. "Snow White" opened to a sleepy \$43 million in March, and several similar releases were tepid.

But this film tapped into a latent love for oddball pairing.

It also furthered a trend that includes "A Minecraft Movie" of PG-rated films outpacing the PG-13 movies that usually dominate, made all the more impressive by the lower kids' ticket prices the more family-oriented films bring.

Dergarabedian credits a strong lead-up of films that have put people in theaters and remain the box office top 10, including "Minecraft," "Sinners," "Thunderbolts" and "Final Destination: Bloodlines."

"I can't think of a better lineup of films to ignite leading up to Memorial weekend to ignite the spark that got us this record-breaking holiday frame," he said.

Top 10 movies by domestic box office

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

1. "Lilo & Stich," \$145.5 million.
2. "Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning," \$63 million.
3. "Final Destination: Bloodlines," \$19.7 million.
4. "Thunderbolts," \$9.2 million.
5. "Sinners," \$8.8 million.
6. "The Last Rodeo," \$5.3 million.
7. "Friendship," \$4.6 million.
8. "A Minecraft Movie," \$2.2 million.
9. "The Accountant 2," \$2 million.
10. "Hurry Up Tomorrow," \$740,000.

The Digital Equity Act tried to close the digital divide. Trump calls it racist and acts to end it

By BARBARA ORTUTAY and CLAIRE RUSH Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — One program distributes laptops in rural Iowa. Another helped people get back online after Hurricane Helene washed away computers and phones in western North Carolina. Programs

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in Oregon and rural Alabama teach older people, including some who have never touched a computer, how to navigate in an increasingly digital world.

It all came crashing down this month when President Donald Trump — on his own digital platform, Truth Social — announced his intention to end the Digital Equity Act, a federal grant program meant to help bridge the digital divide. He branded it as “RACIST and ILLEGAL” and said it amounts to “woke handouts based on race.” He said it was an “ILLEGAL \$2.5 BILLION DOLLAR giveaway,” though the program was actually funded with \$2.75 billion.

The name seemed innocuous enough when the program was approved by Congress in 2021 as part of a \$65 billion investment meant to bring internet access to every home and business in the United States. The broadband program itself was a key component of the \$1 trillion infrastructure law pushed through by the administration of Democratic President Joe Biden.

The Digital Equity Act was intended to fill gaps and cover unmet needs that surfaced during the massive broadband rollout. It gave states and tribes flexibility to deliver high-speed internet access to families that could not afford it, computers to kids who did not have them, telehealth access to older adults in rural areas, and training and job skills to veterans.

Whether Trump has the legal authority to end the program remains unknown. But for now the Republican administration can simply stop spending the money.

“I just felt my heart break for what we were finally, finally in this country, going to address, the digital divide,” said Angela Siefer, executive director of the National Digital Inclusion Alliance, a nonprofit that was awarded — but has not received — a \$25.7 million grant to work with groups across the country to help provide access to technology. “The digital divide is not just physical access to the internet, it is being able to use that to do what you need to do.”

The word ‘equity’

While the name of the program likely got it targeted — the Trump administration has been aggressively scrubbing the government of programs that promote diversity, equity or inclusion — the Digital Equity Act was supposed to be broader in scope.

Though Trump called it racist, the words “race” or “racial” appear just twice in the law’s text: once, alongside “color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or disability,” in a passage stating that no groups should be excluded from funding, and later, in a list of covered populations, along with older adults, veterans, people with disabilities, English learners, people with low literacy levels and rural Americans.

“Digital Equity passed with overwhelming bipartisan support,” said Democratic Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, the act’s chief proponent, in a statement. “And that’s because my Republican colleagues have heard the same stories as I have — like kids in rural communities forced to drive to McDonalds parking lots for Wi-Fi to do their homework.

“It is insane — absolutely nuts — that Trump is blocking resources to help make sure kids in rural school districts can get hot spots or laptops, all because he doesn’t like the word equity!”

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration, which administers the program, declined to comment. It’s not entirely clear how much of the \$2.75 billion has been awarded, though last March the NTIA announced the allocation of \$811 million to states, territories and tribes.

‘More confident’

On a recent morning in Portland, Oregon, Brandon Dorn was among those taking a keyboard basics class offered by Free Geek, a nonprofit that provides free courses to help people learn to use computers. The class was offered at a low-income housing building to make it accessible for residents.

Dorn and the others were given laptops and shown the different functions of keys: control, shift and caps lock, how to copy and paste. They played a typing game that taught finger and key placement on a color-coded keyboard.

Dorn, 63, said the classes helped because “in this day and age, everything has to go through the computer.” He said it helped him feel more confident and less dependent on his children or grandchildren to

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do things such as making appointments online.

"Folks my age, we didn't get this luxury because we were too busy working, raising the family," he said. "So this is a great way to help us help ourselves."

Juan Muro, Free Geek's executive director, said participants get the tools and skills they need to access things like online banking, job applications, online education programs and telehealth. He said Trump's move to end funding has put nonprofits such as Free Geek in a precarious position, forcing them to make up the difference through their own fundraising and "beg for money to just provide individuals with essential stuff."

Sara Nichols works for the Land of Sky Regional Council, a multicounty planning and development organization in western North Carolina. On the Friday before Trump's inauguration in January, the organization received notice that it was approved for a grant. But like other groups The Associated Press contacted, it has not seen any money.

Land of Sky had spent a lot of resources helping people recover from last year's storms. The award notice, Nichols said, came as "incredible news."

"But between this and the state losing, getting their letters terminated, we feel just like stuck. What are we going to do? How are we going to move forward? How are we going to let our communities continue to fall behind?"

Filling unmet needs

More than one-fifth of Americans do not have broadband internet access at home, according to the Pew Research Center. In rural communities, the number jumps to 27 percent.

Beyond giving people access to technology and fast internet, many programs funded by the Digital Equity Act sought to provide "digital navigators" — human helpers to guide people new to the online world.

"In the United States we do not have a consistent source of funding to help individuals get online, understand how to be safe online and how to use that technology to accomplish all the things that are required now as part of life that are online," said Siefer of the National Digital Inclusion Alliance.

This includes everything from providing families with internet hot spots so they can get online at home to helping seniors avoid online scams.

"Health, workforce, education, jobs, everything, right?" Siefer said. "This law was going to be the start for the U.S. to figure out this issue. It's a new issue in the big scheme of things, because now technology is no longer a nice-to-have. You have to have the internet and you have to know how to use the technology just to survive, let alone to thrive today."

Siefer said the word "equity" in the name probably prompted Trump to target the program for elimination.

"But it means that he didn't actually look at what this program does," she said. "Because who doesn't want grandma to be safe online? Who doesn't want a veteran to be able to talk to their doctor rather than get in a car and drive two hours? Who doesn't want students to be able to do their homework?"

What's open and closed on Memorial Day?

The Associated Press undefined

In what had long been celebrated every May 30 to honor America's fallen soldiers, Memorial Day officially became a federal holiday in 1971, observed on the last Monday in May.

Businesses increasingly have chosen to stay open, leading to what is now one of the biggest retail sales and travel weekends of the year.

Here's what is open and closed this year on Memorial Day:

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

Government offices, post offices, courts and schools are closed.

BANKS AND MARKETS

U.S. stock markets and banks are closed Monday.

Most FedEx and UPS pickup and delivery services will also not be available on Memorial Day, though some special services will be accessible.

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RETAILERS

Warehouse membership club Costco will be closed on Memorial Day, but the vast majority of retailers will be open, with many trying to lure customers with big promotional sales. Hours may vary by location.

TRAVEL

Memorial Day is also considered the unofficial opening of the summer travel season. Americans are expected to get away in record numbers over the long Memorial Day weekend even as economic and technical worries rattle the U.S. travel industry.

Auto club AAA projects that more than 45 million people — 1.4 million more than last year — will venture at least 50 miles from their homes between Thursday and Monday, with the vast majority going by car. The holiday's previous domestic travel record of 44 million people was set 20 years ago.

AAA's fuel tracker shows motorists can expect to pay less for gasoline this year. The U.S. average price on Wednesday was \$3.18 for a gallon of regular gas compared to \$3.60 a year ago.

AAA projects 39.4 million people will travel by car over the weekend — the highest number for that holiday since AAA began tracking it in 2000 — and that another 3.61 million people will travel by air, a nearly 2% increase over last year's 3.55 million.

Air safety has been on the minds of travelers after a midair collision in January of a passenger jet and a U.S. Army helicopter above Washington, D.C. killed 67 people. There have also been some close calls.

In recent weeks, flight delays and cancellations stemming from an air traffic controller shortage and equipment failures at a facility that directs aircraft in and out of the Newark, New Jersey, airport have also made some people reluctant to get on a plane.

In an uneasy climate, diverse pride groups converge on DC with differing interests but common goals

By GARY FIELDS, CHRISTINE FERNANDO and MIKE PESOLI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — You've heard of twofers. Kenya Hutton is a "threefer."

His parents are immigrants, he's a Black man and he's gay — at a moment in history when anti-immigrant fervor, racism and anti-LGBTQ feelings are rampant and amplified by Trump administration policies.

Hutton is hardly alone.

As members of the Black and Latino LGBTQ and transgender and other communities come to the nation's capital for World Pride in the coming days, many are under siege from multiple directions thanks to their multiple identities. They will hold individualized programs and celebrations that blend into World Pride.

Their mutual jeopardy will be a unifying theme. The celebrations, music, food, parades, plays and parties will unfold against a backdrop of human rights and political strategizing and, in some cases, discussions about how to survive in a climate that contains many people who do not want them around.

"I always tell folks that DC was the perfect place to have World Pride," Hutton said. "We have so many different identity prides here in D.C., from Black Pride to Trans Pride to API Pride, Latinx Pride, Military Pride, Women's Pride, Silver Pride, we have so many different groups of people that have their own pride celebration."

Looking for solutions to an 'intersectional' problem

Frankie Miranda, the first openly gay president and CEO of the Hispanic Federation, says immigrants and the LGBTQ+ community have been "in triage mode for months" as they defend "a multiapproach attack on many members of our community from different sides."

Miranda, who is Puerto Rican, said immigrant families are being separated and the LGBTQ community targeted. After years of progress, those efforts are being eroded and "fundamental rights challenged and taken away," he said. "It's a reminder of how much work we still have ahead and of how we must work in an intersectional way."

Miranda urged Pride events to have direct calls to action and take a more political approach this year, including by looking to the 2026 elections.

Susan Appleton, professor of women, gender. and sexuality studies at the Washington University School

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of Law in St. Louis, said the nation's culture and society, "including law," have always regulated gender, race and other identities. But, she said, "I think we're in a very unusual time when the targets have become very explicit and when for many years we haven't seen the lack of empathy that we see now."

"But I do think it's encouraging to me to see that there is a vigorous resistance," she said. "I don't know whether it will accomplish anything, but I think it is important to make sure that all voices are heard."

That people are facing multiple grievances, she said, now shows "it's not sufficient to look at race alone or gender alone or sexuality alone but all those factors." They intersect and "create unique vectors of oppression."

People at the intersections between the Latino community and immigrant communities "face attacks from all sides," said Dee Tum-Monge, a board member for the Latinx History Project, the steering organization for Latinx Pride. World Pride is aiming "to create spaces focused around community care and political organizing while still celebrating our joy," they say.

The focus, Tum-Monge said, is shifting away from just voting and federal action to work that attendees can do at local levels. Amid mounting threats to immigrants and the LGBTQ+ community, Tum-Monge said organizers are particularly concerned about security and will be watching for international participants who may face obstacles traveling.

Statements as diverse as those making them

Although official events are kicking off now, programs that have begun suggest how diverse activities will be. The scene last week was almost solemn as people walked along the National Mall in sight of the Capitol, reading messages on some of the hundreds of quilts made by transgender people from around the country.

The "Freedom to Be" quilt project was there to raise awareness of the transgender community, which has been under fire from President Donald Trump. The messages ranged from defiance to hopes for acceptance. "I hope there are days when you fall in love with being alive," said one. And on another: "THERE'S A LAND THAT I SEE WHERE THE CHILDREN SHOULD BE FREE."

Abdool Corlette, head of brand for the American Civil Liberties Union and a co-creator of the project, said a message needed to be sent.

"We are seeing across the board an attempt to erase trans folks from all public life," Corlette said. "And we knew that we need to take up space. We needed to memorialize people's stories and do it in the literal backyard of the Capitol."

Gillian Branstetter, his co-creator and communications strategist at the ACLU's Women's Project, said actions like the Republican president's executive order that affects military personnel are abstract to some but have real impacts in the transgender community where health care is threatened, along with the loss of jobs and threats of violence.

The scene was anything but solemn 3 miles north of the Mall, inside the student center at Howard University, one of the nation's renowned historically Black universities. It was festive and bright, filled with joy and shouts of encouragement and music as members of various groups — called houses — competed in events that included fashion modeling and dance at the Cirque du Slay Ball.

One attendee, John Smith III (stage name IconFatty Prodigy), said the balls are modeled on Cirque du Soleil and are about community and safe spaces. Iran Paylor (stage name Bang Garcon) said the houses are places set up by LGBTQ communities to give safe spaces to others estranged from their families and ostracized within the Black community when they came out.

Black Pride is a key center of gravity

D.C. Black Pride began in 1975 at the ClubHouse, founded by members of the city's LGBTQ community. Over the years, an event around Memorial Day became a tradition. The ClubHouse closed in 1990, but three members of the community kept the tradition going. The first Black Gay and Lesbian Pride event was held on May 25, 1991.

Hutton is the president and CEO of the Center for Black Equity, founded in 1999 as a way to bring together all of the Black pride movements that were being created around the country following the model

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in Washington. There are 54 in the United States and 12 internationally, he said.

As a Black gay man, Hutton already had battles on multiple fronts. Now there is an additional category to worry about.

"I'm also a child of immigrants, just to add that on top of my intersections," he said. "I'm always paying attention to immigration conversations. It's very hard navigating the world right now."

But, he said, his responsibility is to use the access he has developed over the years to create safe spaces. "So even though it is difficult to navigate and listen to the news every day, I also understand that I've been given this task."

The job has been hard this year. Sponsors have pulled out of the celebrations and he knows some international travelers are not coming due to fear they will have difficulties with law enforcement.

Hutton understands why various groups want individual activities; one version will not accommodate all audiences. But the cornerstone of Black pride is community. "We have the opportunity to really showcase all of these communities to the world," he said.

In the end, he said, he wants one message to resound after the gathering of communities: "We're not going anywhere."

"We'll continue pushing our rights forward, not just for us in America," Hutton said. "As someone told me, when America sneezes, the world catches a cold. So we have to make sure that America doesn't catch a cold."

Five years later: How the murder of George Floyd changed America

By HAYA PANJWANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The following episode of The Story Behind the AP Story contains sound and descriptions that some listeners may find graphic or violent. Listener discretion is advised.

Haya Panjwani, host: In the summer of 2020, as the world was just beginning to grasp the COVID-19 pandemic, a video surfaced that would spark a movement like no other.

Aaron Morrison, editor: So, on May 25, 2020, George Floyd, who was a Black man from Houston, Texas, was in Minneapolis where he'd moved to find job opportunities.

PANJWANI: Aaron Morrison, the AP's race and ethnicity editor.

MORRISON: And on this day, in particular, a store clerk reported that Floyd had allegedly used a counterfeit \$20 bill. He was restrained by at least a few officers, one in particular named Derek Chauvin, who's a white police officer, knelt on George Floyd's neck and back for over nine minutes. Floyd was handcuffed to the ground, and while a crowd of people had assembled, essentially demanding that George Floyd be released from the hold because as a now viral and famous video of the, of the encounter shows, George Floyd repeatedly said that he could not breathe.

George Floyd, in a recorded video: I can't breathe! They gon' kill me, they gon' kill me, man.

MORRISON: Before he took his last, last breath right there on the street.

PANJWANI: I'm Haya Panjwani. On this episode of the Story Behind the AP Story we revisit the murder of George Floyd five years later. We'll hear from people who were on the ground in the days immediately after Floyd's death, the trial that followed and how that summer shaped sentiments around race.

Noreen Nasir is a video journalist who was in Minneapolis covering the city's reaction to the death of George Floyd.

Noreen Nasir, video journalist: Initially, I think there was a lot of anger, of course, and some of that anger then turned into, you know, the images of destruction that we then saw and then I think got a lot of focus and attention in the media.

Sound from protests in Minneapolis in 2020: He can't breathe, he can't breathe, he can't breathe...

NASIR: But I think what was also lost in some of that focus that was very palpable on the ground was a deep sense of like sadness that a lot of folks felt. There was a lot of grief, I remember, on the ground especially at the site of the memorial. Going there at various times in the days that followed, that memorial just sort of like grew and grew and grew. There were these you know reverberations around like what this meant for race and racism across the country, things that and themes that then I think people were

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really trying to point to in the days and months that followed.

There was one night, you know, we were there, things that one of those early nights where things got really sort of tense and there were buildings that were broken into, there was looting that was happening. And I spoke to some of the business owners. A lot of them are also, you know, they're immigrants. A lot of them were Somali Americans. They had come to this country. And for them, you know, I could see the sort of like conflicted feelings that they were having just in their own emotions and the way that they themselves were processing this thing. For them, they were saying, you we are Black. We are perceived as Black in this country, we are Black. And then at the same time, they're saying, we're also these business owners. We are grieving, and also, we want to protect our businesses, this is our livelihood. You would see a lot of on the boarded-up businesses, signs that said minority owned, almost as a way to say, "Hey, please don't target us, like we're in the same boat."

PANJWANI: Amy Forliti was a crime and courts reporter during the time of George Floyd's killing in 2020.

Amy Forliti, editor: The centerpiece was definitely the bystander video of George Floyd's final moments. Prosecutors played that footage really early in the case. They did it the first time during their opening statement and the prosecutor then told jurors to believe your eyes and that idea of believing your eyes or believing what you see on the video right before you was a theme that prosecutors came back to throughout the trial.

The defense took a different approach with that whole idea of believing what you see, and said that everyone there had a different perspective and came from a different vantage point and interpreted the events of that day differently. And the defense said that Chauvin's perspective was one of a reasonable police officer.

Many of the people who did testify said that they just felt helpless, that they couldn't do anything, and they saw Floyd's life being basically snuffed out, and they couldn't do anything. The teenager who recorded that video said that it seemed Chauvin just didn't care, and she testified that she stayed up at night apologizing to George Floyd because she didn't do more to help him.

I also remember some very poignant words at closing arguments. When we talk about the cause of death, prosecutor Jerry Blackwell referred to how the defense was saying that this was a heart issue that killed Floyd and that he had an enlarged heart. And the prosecutor said, and I'm paraphrasing here, but he told jurors that George Floyd didn't die because his heart was too big, but because Derek Chauvin's heart was too small.

In the end, a jury of six white people and six Black or multiracial people convicted Chauvin of three counts, including unintentional second-degree murder, which was the most serious count against him. After that verdict was read, a crowd gathered in the street and started cheering and rejoicing over that. He went on to later plead guilty to a federal count of violating George Floyd's civil rights.

PANJWANI: Some right-wing politicians and social media personalities have called for Chauvin to be pardoned by President Donald Trump.

FORLITI: But if he does, it's really important to note that this won't impact Chauvin's state murder conviction at all. He will still have to serve out the remainder of his state sentence on the murder charge. So, he's not going to walk out of a Texas prison and be free. He would likely have to come back to Minnesota to serve the rest of his sentence.

MORRISON: Folks who maybe did not understand or support such a reckoning have increasingly dismissed everything that happened in 2020 as wokeness, so-called wokeness, gone or run amok. They are hoping and advocating for Derek Chauvin to be pardoned because, in their view, this wasn't true justice.

NASIR: This happened at a time where it was, of course, it was the middle of the pandemic, and we were all in lockdown and we were all just at home. And frustration, I think, in different ways had been building up for a while for a lot of people. And so when this happened, it really just touched a nerve and then it sort of lit it all on fire. Everyone was watching this because no one was going anywhere. There was nothing to distract anyone.

And a lot of people were joining protests for the first time. Particularly when it came to the issue of racism in the U.S. And then, of course, in the months also that followed his initial death, Black Lives Matter

as a movement sort of really spread. And the movement itself had started years earlier after the death of Trayvon Martin, but in 2020, it really took off across the country in a way that I think we had not seen before. And then it took off around the world where then folks were looking at their own interactions with police in their countries and looking at the way that racism played out in policing interactions.

PANJWANI: This has been The Story Behind the AP Story. For more on AP's race and ethnicity coverage, visit apnews.com.

The US military spent \$6 billion in the past 3 years to recruit and retain troops

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. military spent more than \$6 billion over the past three years to recruit and retain service members, in what has been a growing campaign to counter enlistment shortfalls.

The financial incentives to reenlist in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines increased dramatically from 2022 through last year, with the Navy vastly outspending the others, according to funding totals provided by the services. The overall amount of recruiting bonuses also rose steadily, fueled by significant jumps in spending by the Army and Marine Corps.

The military services have routinely poured money into recruiting and retention bonuses over the years. But the totals spiked as Pentagon leaders tried to reverse falling enlistment numbers, particularly as COVID-19 restrictions locked down public events, fairs and school visits that recruiters relied on to meet with young people.

Coupled with an array of new programs, an increased number of recruiters and adjustments to enlistment requirements, the additional incentives have helped the services bounce back from the shortfalls. All but the Navy met their recruiting targets last year and all are expected to do so this year.

President Donald Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth repeatedly point to Trump's election as a reason for the recruiting rebound. But the enlistment increases began long before last November, and officials have tied them more directly to the widespread overhauls that the services have done, including the increased financial incentives.

The Army, the military's largest service, spent more on recruiting bonuses in 2022 and 2024 than the other services. But it was significantly outspent by the Navy in 2023, when the sea service was struggling to overcome a large enlistment shortfall.

As a result, even though the Navy is a smaller service, it spent more overall in the three years than the Army did.

The Navy also has spent considerably more than the others to entice sailors to reenlist, doling out retention bonuses to roughly 70,000 service members for each of the past three years. That total is more than double the number of troops the Army gave retention bonuses to each year, even though the Army is a much larger service.

"Navy is dedicated to retaining our most capable sailors; retention is a critical component of achieving our end-strength goals," Adm. James Kilby, the vice chief of naval operations, told a Senate Armed Services subcommittee in March.

He said reenlistment for enlisted sailors "remains healthy" but officers are a challenge in specific jobs, including aviation, explosive ordnance disposal, surface and submarine warfare, health professionals and naval special operations. He added that the Navy has struggled to fill all of its at-sea jobs and is using financial incentives as one way to combat the problem.

The Army has seen the greatest recruiting struggles over the past decade, and by using a range of new programs and policies has had one of the largest comebacks. The Navy has had the most trouble more recently, and took a number of steps to expand those eligible for service and spend more in bonuses.

While the Army spends hundreds of millions each year to recruit troops, it also has relied on an array of new programs and policies to woo young people. A key driver of the Army's rebound has been its decision

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to create the Future Soldier Prep Course, at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, in August 2022.

That program gives lower-performing recruits up to 90 days of academic or fitness instruction to help them meet military standards and move on to basic training. It has resulted in thousands of enlistments.

The Air Force increased its spending on recruiting bonuses in 2023 as it also struggled to overcome shortfalls, but lowered the amount the following year. The payments were for jobs including munitions systems, aircraft maintenance and security forces. The Space Force does not currently authorize enlistment bonuses.

The Marine Corps and the tiny Space Force have consistently hit their recruiting goals, although the Marines had to dig deep into their pool of delayed entry candidates in 2022 to meet their target. The Corps, which is much smaller than the Army and Air Force, spends the least on bonuses and tends to spread the amount among a larger number of service members.

Maj. Jacoby Getty, a Marine spokesman, said the spike in retention bonuses from \$126 million in 2023 to \$201 million in 2024 was because Marines were allowed to reenlist a year early for the first time. More than 7,000 Marines got bonuses as a result, a jump of nearly 2,200 over the previous year.

When asked about bonuses in 2023, Gen. Eric Smith, the Marine commandant, famously told a naval conference that "your bonus is you get to call yourself a Marine."

"That's your bonus, right?" he said. "There's no dollar amount that goes with that."

The services tailor their recruiting and retention money to bolster harder-to-fill jobs, including cyber, intelligence and special operations forces. The Army and Marine Corps also use the money to woo troops to some combat, armor and artillery jobs.

Scientists have lost their jobs or grants in US cuts. Foreign universities want to hire them

By CHRISTINA LARSON, ADITHI RAMAKRISHNAN and JAMEY KEATEN Associated Press

As the Trump administration cut billions of dollars in federal funding to scientific research, thousands of scientists in the U.S. lost their jobs or grants — and governments and universities around the world spotted an opportunity.

The "Canada Leads" program, launched in April, hopes to foster the next generation of innovators by bringing early-career biomedical researchers north of the border.

Aix-Marseille University in France started the "Safe Place for Science" program in March — pledging to "welcome" U.S.-based scientists who "may feel threatened or hindered in their research."

Australia's "Global Talent Attraction Program," announced in April, promises competitive salaries and relocation packages.

"In response to what is happening in the U.S.," said Anna-Maria Arabia, head of the Australian Academy of Sciences, "we see an unparalleled opportunity to attract some of the smartest minds here."

Since World War II, the U.S. has invested huge amounts of money in scientific research conducted at independent universities and federal agencies. That funding helped the U.S. to become the world's leading scientific power — and has led to the invention of cell phones and the internet as well as new ways to treat cancer, heart disease and strokes, noted Holden Thorp, editor-in-chief of the journal Science.

But today that system is being shaken.

Since President Donald Trump took office in January, his administration has pointed to what it calls waste and inefficiency in federal science spending and made major cuts to staff levels and grant funding at the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, NASA and other agencies, as well as slashing research dollars that flow to some private universities.

The White House budget proposal for next year calls to cut the NIH budget by roughly 40% and the National Science Foundation's by 55%.

"The Trump administration is spending its first few months reviewing the previous administration's projects, identifying waste, and realigning our research spending to match the American people's priorities and continue our innovative dominance," said White House spokesperson Kush Desai.

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Already, several universities have announced hiring freezes, laid off staff or stopped admitting new graduate students. On Thursday, the Trump administration revoked Harvard University's ability to enroll international students, though a judge put that on hold.

Research institutions abroad are watching with concern for collaborations that depend on colleagues in the U.S. — but they also see opportunities to potentially poach talent.

"There are threats to science ... south of the border," said Brad Wouters, of University Health Network, Canada's leading hospital and medical research center, which launched the "Canada Leads" recruitment drive. "There's a whole pool of talent, a whole cohort that is being affected by this moment."

Promising a safe place to do science

Universities worldwide are always trying to recruit from one another, just as tech companies and businesses in other fields do. What's unusual about the current moment is that many global recruiters are targeting researchers by promising something that seems newly threatened: academic freedom.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said this month that the European Union intends "to enshrine freedom of scientific research into law." She spoke at the launch of the bloc's "Choose Europe for Science" — which was in the works before the Trump administration cuts but has sought to capitalize on the moment.

Eric Berton, president of Aix-Marseille University, expressed a similar sentiment after launching the institution's "Safe Place for Science" program.

"Our American research colleagues are not particularly interested by money," he said of applicants. "What they want above all is to be able to continue their research and that their academic freedom be preserved."

Too early to say 'brain drain'

It's too early to say how many scientists will choose to leave the U.S. It will take months for universities to review applications and dole out funding, and longer for researchers to uproot their lives.

Plus, the American lead in funding research and development is enormous — and even significant cuts may leave crucial programs standing. The U.S. has been the world's leading funder of R&D — including government, university and private investment — for decades. In 2023, the country funded 29% of the world's R&D, according to the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

But some institutions abroad are reporting significant early interest from researchers in the U.S. Nearly half of the applications to "Safe Place for Science" — 139 out of 300 total — came from U.S.-based scientists, including AI researchers and astrophysicists.

U.S.-based applicants in this year's recruitment round for France's Institute of Genetics, Molecular and Cellular Biology roughly doubled over last year.

At the Max Planck Society in Germany, the Lise Meitner Excellence Program — aimed at young female researchers — drew triple the number of applications from U.S.-based scientists this year as last year.

Recruiters who work with companies and nonprofits say they see a similar trend.

Natalie Derry, a U.K.-based managing partner of the Global Emerging Sciences Practice at recruiter WittKieffer, said her team has seen a 25% to 35% increase in applicants from the U.S. cold-calling about open positions. When they reach out to scientists currently based in the U.S., "we are getting a much higher hit rate of people showing interest."

Still, there are practical hurdles to overcome for would-be continent-hoppers, she said. That can include language hurdles, arranging childcare or eldercare, and significant differences in national pension or retirement programs.

Community ties

Brandon Coventry never thought he would consider a scientific career outside the United States. But federal funding cuts and questions over whether new grants will materialize have left him unsure. While reluctant to leave his family and friends, he's applied to faculty positions in Canada and France.

"I've never wanted to necessarily leave the United States, but this is a serious contender for me," said Coventry, who is a postdoctoral fellow studying neural implants at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

But it's not easy to pick up and move a scientific career — let alone a life.

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Marianna Zhang was studying how children develop race and gender stereotypes as a postdoctoral fellow at New York University when her National Science Foundation grant was canceled. She said it felt like "America as a country was no longer interested in studying questions like mine."

Still, she wasn't sure of her next move. "It's no easy solution, just fleeing and escaping to another country," she said.

The recruitment programs range in ambition, from those trying to attract a dozen researchers to a single university to the continent-wide "Choose Europe" initiative.

But it's unclear if the total amount of funding and new positions offered could match what's being shed in the U.S.

A global vacuum

Even as universities and institutes think about recruiting talent from the U.S., there's more apprehension than glee at the funding cuts.

"Science is a global endeavor," said Patrick Cramer, head of the Max Planck Society, noting that datasets and discoveries are often shared among international collaborators.

One aim of recruitment drives is to "to help prevent the loss of talent to the global scientific community," he said.

Researchers worldwide will suffer if collaborations are shut down and databases taken offline, scientists say.

"The U.S. was always an example, in both science and education," said Patrick Schultz, president of France's Institute of Genetics, Molecular and Cellular Biology. So the cuts and policies were "very frightening also for us because it was an example for the whole world."

Can Pope Leo remain a U.S. citizen now that he's a foreign head of state?

By RUSS BYNUM Associated Press

Pope Leo XIV's election as the first U.S.-born leader of the Catholic Church elevated him to the extremely rare, and legally thorny, position of being an American citizen who now is also a foreign head of state.

Born in Chicago as Robert Prevost in 1955, the new pope for the past decade has held dual citizenship in the U.S. and Peru, where he spent time as a missionary and bishop.

As pope, Leo serves as leader of both the Holy See, the governing body of the Catholic Church, and Vatican City, an independent state.

Can the pope remain a U.S. citizen while leading a foreign government? Here are things to know about Leo's citizenship.

Is the Vatican considered a sovereign nation?

In addition to being the spiritual leader for what the church says is roughly 1.4 billion Catholics worldwide, Leo is also the head of what's recognized as the world's smallest nation.

Vatican City covers just 0.17 square miles (0.44 square kilometers) and has a population of a few hundred people. It became an independent state in 1929 under a treaty between Italy and the Holy See.

Could Leo be stripped of his U.S. citizenship?

Americans working for foreign governments aren't automatically at risk of forfeiting their U.S. citizenship.

But the U.S. State Department says on its website that it may "actively review" the citizenship status of Americans who "serve as a foreign head of state, foreign head of government, or foreign minister."

"Such cases raise complex questions of international law, including issues related to the level of immunity from U.S. jurisdiction that the person so serving may be afforded," the policy states.

The State Department declined to comment on the pope's status. A spokesperson said the department doesn't discuss the citizenship of individuals.

The core issue is whether foreign leaders should hold American citizenship when they also enjoy broad immunity from U.S. laws, said Peter Spiro, a Temple University law professor and an expert on citizenship law. Such immunity clashes with the constitutional principle that no U.S. citizen should be above the law.

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However, the U.S. Supreme Court in a 1980 decision ruled that Americans can't be stripped of their citizenship unless they intentionally renounce it.

"The State Department never assumes that you intend to lose your citizenship unless you specifically say so through the renunciation process," Spiro said.

He said it would be hard to argue that Leo, by becoming pope, demonstrated an intent to give up being a U.S. citizen.

"I think it's highly unlikely that the U.S. moves to terminate the pope's citizenship," Spiro said.

Can the pope remain a citizen of Peru?

Peruvian law has no conflict with Pope Leo remaining a citizen, said Jorge Puch, deputy director of registry archives at Peru's National Registry of Identification and Civil Status.

Leo was granted Peruvian citizenship in August 2015, the month before Pope Francis appointed him bishop of Chiclayo in the South American country's northern region. To qualify, he had to live in Peru for at least two years and pass a civics test.

"It is the most praiseworthy thing our beloved supreme pontiff could have done: Wanting to have Peruvian nationality without having been Peruvian by birth," Puch said.

All adult Peruvians, including naturalized citizens, are required to vote in elections through age 69. Voting in Peru's presidential election next April won't be mandatory for Leo. He turns 70 in September.

Did prior popes retain citizenship in their home countries?

It's not clear what happened to the citizenship status of Leo's predecessors once they became pope. That's not information the Vatican discloses.

Pope Francis renewed his passport in his home country of Argentina in 2014, the year after he became pope. German-born Pope Benedict XVI and Pope John Paul II, a native of Poland, never publicly relinquished citizenship in their home countries.

John Paul was the first non-Italian pope in 455 years.

Margaret Susan Thompson, a Syracuse University history professor and expert on American Catholicism, said she doubts Leo would renounce his U.S. citizenship. But she believes the new pope was sending a message when he delivered his first speech in Italian and Spanish without using English.

"I think he wants to stress that he is the pope of the universal Catholic Church," Thompson said, "and not an American holding that position."

Have other US citizens served as leaders of a foreign government?

Yes. Here are a few notable examples.

Former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was born in New York to British parents in 1964. He left the U.S. as a young boy and renounced his American citizenship in 2016 while serving as the U.K.'s foreign secretary. Johnson became prime minister three years later.

Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed was an American citizen when he was elected president of Somalia in 2017. Born in Somalia, he moved to the U.S. in 1985 and became a citizen in the 1990s. Mohamed gave up his U.S. citizenship two years into his presidency.

Valdas Adamkus became a U.S. citizen after his family fled Lithuania to escape Soviet occupation. He returned to win Lithuania's presidency in 1998, years after the Soviet Union collapsed. He relinquished his American citizenship after being elected.

Today in History: May 26

The World War II Dunkirk evacuation begins

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, May 26, the 146th day of 2025. There are 219 days left in the year. This is Memorial Day.

Today in history:

On May 26, 1940, Operation Dynamo, the evacuation of more than 338,000 Allied troops from Dunkirk, France, began during World War II.

Also on this date:

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In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed a measure creating the Montana Territory.

In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge signed the Immigration Act of 1924, which barred immigration from Asia and restricted the total number of immigrants from other parts of the world to 165,000 annually.

In 1927, the Ford Model T officially ended production as Henry Ford and his son Edsel drove the 15 millionth Model T off the Ford assembly line in Highland Park, Michigan.

In 1938, the House Un-American Activities Committee was established by Congress.

In 1954, an explosion occurred aboard the aircraft carrier USS Bennington off Rhode Island, killing 103 sailors.

In 1967, the Beatles album "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" was released.

In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev signed the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty in Moscow following the SALT I negotiations between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. (The U.S. withdrew from the treaty under President George W. Bush in 2002.)

In 1981, 14 people were killed when a Marine jet crashed onto the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz off Florida.

In 2009, California's Supreme Court upheld the state's Proposition 8 same-sex marriage ban but said the 18,000 same-sex weddings that had taken place before the prohibition passed were still valid. (Same-sex marriage became legal nationwide in June 2015.)

2009, President Barack Obama nominated federal appeals judge Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 2011, Ratko Mladić, the brutal Bosnian Serb general suspected of leading the massacre of 8,000 Muslim men and boys in Srebrenica, was arrested after a 16-year manhunt. (Extradited to face trial in The Hague, Netherlands, Mladić was convicted in 2017 on genocide and war crimes charges and is serving a life sentence.)

Today's Birthdays: Sportscaster Brent Musburger is 86. Singer-songwriter Stevie Nicks is 77. Actor Pam Grier is 76. Country singer Hank Williams Jr. is 76. Celebrity chef Masaharu Morimoto is 70. Actor Genie Francis is 63. Comedian Bobcat Goldthwait is 63. Musician Lenny Kravitz is 61. Actor Helena Bonham Carter is 59. Actor Joseph Fiennes is 55. Actor-producer-writer Matt Stone is 54. Singer-songwriter Lauryn Hill is 50. Singer Jaheim is 47.