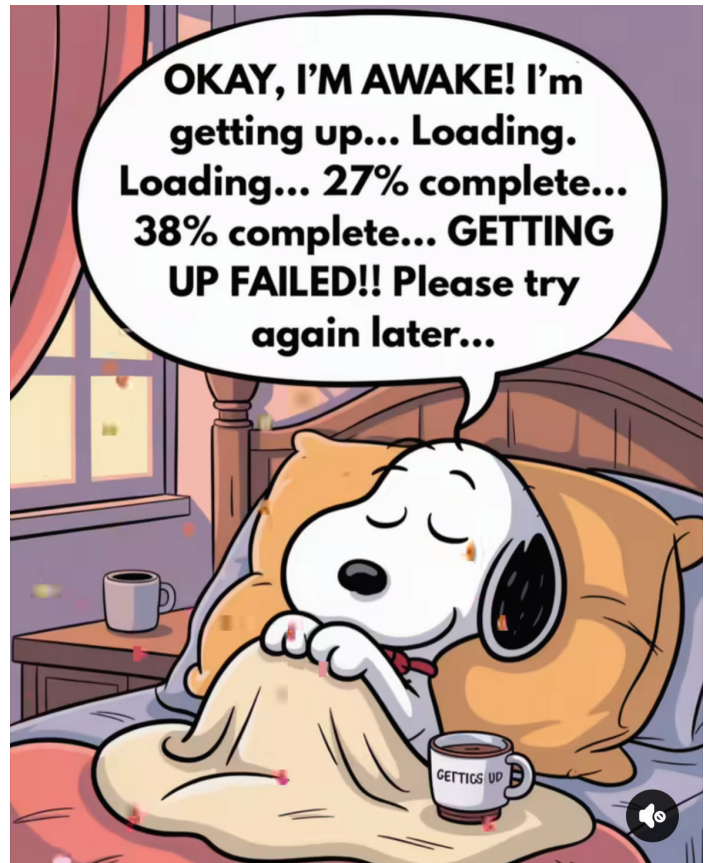


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Tuesday, May 27

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

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1440

Why 1440? The printing press was invented around the year 1440, spreading knowledge to the masses and changing the course of history. More facts: In every day, there are 1,440 minutes. We're here to make each one count.

Russian Drone Strikes

At least 12 people were killed and several others wounded following a massive Russian drone and missile strike on Ukrainian cities Sunday. The barrage—which included more than 350 explosive drones and nine cruise missiles—was the largest to date in the three-year war.

The attacks are the latest sign of dimming prospects in US-led ceasefire talks, and come less than a week after a two-hour call between President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Trump harshly criticized Putin to reporters after the weekend strikes—though it remains unclear whether they will lead to a shift in administration policy toward the war. Putin said the move was in response to Ukrainian drones in Russian territory.

On the ground, Russia holds almost 20% of prewar Ukrainian territory and has attempted to advance along the front lines, though both sides have been in an effective stalemate for months.

Dieselgate Managers Convicted

A German court convicted four former Volkswagen officials of fraud yesterday in the decade old “Dieselgate” scandal. Two executives working in engine technology received sentences of several years in prison; the others received suspended sentences.

The US Environmental Protection Agency discovered the scandal in 2015, revealing VW had installed so-called defeat devices in models dating as far back as 2009. The software enabled vehicles to illegally pass diesel-efficiency standards in controlled environments, while producing up to 40 times as much pollution in real-life driving conditions. More than 11 million cars worldwide were impacted by the fraud, which engineers said they enacted under time frame and budget constraints.

The scandal—which cost VW \$34B in fines and legal fees—is thought to have expedited a global shift to battery-powered cars. Before 2015, diesel cars accounted for over half the European market. They now make up less than 10% of the market.

‘Piano Man’ Diagnosis

Billy Joel’s wife thanked fans yesterday for their outpouring of support following the disclosure of a brain condition impacting the musician’s hearing, vision, and balance.

The 76-year-old singer was recently diagnosed with normal pressure hydrocephalus, a disorder causing cerebrospinal fluid to build up around the brain, impacting its function. The condition becomes more common with age, found in 0.003% of people under 65 but 5.9% of people above 80. It can be caused by a variety of factors, including a brain tumor, head injury, or infection. Joel will undergo physical therapy to treat the condition, which is reversible. He is canceling all planned concerts through July 2026.

Joel is among a cohort of older musicians who continue to tour later in life. Musicians over the age of 60 made up four of the 10 highest-grossing tour acts last year, collectively raking in over \$844M.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

"It Was Just an Accident" by Iranian dissident filmmaker Jafar Panahi wins Palme d'Or, top prize at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival; see full list of winners.

Phil Robertson, star of "Duck Dynasty," dies at age 79 following Alzheimer's diagnosis.

Alex Palou becomes first Spaniard to win Indianapolis 500.

Team USA wins men's hockey world championship for first time since 1933.

Science & Technology

SpaceX to attempt ninth launch of its massive Starship, with window opening at 7:30 pm ET tonight; previous two launches ended in failure.

Aerosols from penguin excrement may help trigger cloud formation, reducing solar heating and helping stabilize local areas of the Antarctic climate, study finds.

New theory suggests an ancient asteroid impact on the moon temporarily created a weak magnetic field; study answers longstanding question of why some lunar rocks are highly magnetic.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close lower Friday (S&P 500 -0.7%, Dow -0.6%, Nasdaq -1.0%), with Apple stock falling 3% on comments by President Donald Trump that iPhones must be made in the US or face additional tariffs.

White House delays deadline for 50% tariff on European Union goods until July 9 as trade negotiations continue.

Volvo Cars cuts 3,000 jobs—15% of its office-based workforce—as part of \$1.9B cost-cutting drive.

Politics & World Affairs

Suspect arrested after minivan strikes pedestrians at Liverpool FC victory parade, injuring dozens of people; an investigation into the incident is ongoing, with police ruling out terrorism as a motive.

Former Rep. Charles Rangel (D, NY-13), first Black chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, dies at age 94.

Hawaii's Kilauea volcano erupts, sending lava up more than 1,000 feet; residential areas not impacted as of this writing.

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**BROWN COUNTY
BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY**

May 27, 2025, 8:45 A.M.

COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS, COURTHOUSE ANNEX - 25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD

1. Call To Order - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Opportunity for Public Comment
 - ❖ *Public comment will be limited to 10 minutes or at Boards Discretion. Presentations will be limited to 3 minutes.*
4. Second Reading/Possible Adoption of the following Ordinances:
 - a. Ord. #294 – Rezone for Timothy & Kelly Serr
 - b. Ord. #295 – Rezone for Adam Monson
 - c. Ord. #296 – Rezone for Jeffery & Tamara Sahli
 - d. Ord. #297 – Rezone for Shane Reich
 - e. Ord. #298 – Rezone for James Johnson/William Mundhenke
5. Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent:
 - a. Award Bid for Sand Lake Bridge Project
6. Scott Meints, Emergency Management Director:
 - a. Mass Notification Proposal
7. Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager:
 - a. Discuss Options for Sprinkler System in Expo Building
 - b. Fair Board Member Resignation
 - c. Approve & Authorize Chairman to sign Trash Pick-up Services Contract for Brown County Fair
8. Lynn Heupel, Auditor
 - a. Discuss Software Purchase
9. Discuss Employee Parking Lot
10. Consent Calendar
 - a. Approval of General Meeting Minutes for May 20, 2025
 - b. Claims
 - c. HR Report
 - d. Claim Assignments
 - e. Lottery Permit
 - f. Auditors Report of Accounts for March & April
 - g. Zoning Ordinances – Set Hearing Date/Authorize Advertising
 - h. Plats:
 - i. Preliminary Plat
 1. Mina Lake Northeast Addition
 - ii. Final Plats
 1. Leikvold Second Addition
 2. Hubert Outlot
 3. DM Smith Addition
 4. E. Price Addition
 5. Scarborough Second Addition
11. Other Business
12. Executive Session (if requested per SDCL 1-25-2)
13. Adjourn

You can join the Brown County Commission Meeting via **your computer, tablet, or smartphone** at <https://meet.goto.com/BrCoCommission>

You can also dial in using your phone. United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3311](tel:+18722403311) - Access Code: 601-168-909 #

Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://meet.goto.com/install>

Official Recordings of Commission Meetings along with the Minutes can be found at <https://www.brown.sd.us/node/454>

Groton Memorial Day Program



Retired USAF Lieutenant Colonel Todd Oliver was the guest speaker. Todd graduated from Groton Area High School in 1983. He was appointed to the USAF Military Academy and graduated in 1987. Todd retired in 2009 after serving 22 years on active duty. He accumulated over 5,000 hours flying C-130 H and C-130J Tactical Airlift Aircraft. He currently is a contract C-130J simulator instructor pilot at Little Rock AFB AR. He is the son of Jack and Maggie Oliver of Groton. He is married to Sharon (Barta) Oliver. They have one child, Tyler. Todd and his family currently live in Little Rock Arkansas.. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

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Memorial Day Service program was conducted by the American Legion Groton Post 39. Pictured is Master of Ceremonies, Bruce Babcock, Groton Post Commander. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Members of the honor guard give a 21-gun salute for service members who have died during Monday's Memorial Day Ceremony at Groton Union Cemetery. Pictured left to right are Doug Hamilton, Neil Wagner, Les Hinds, Bruce Babcock, Roger Overacker, Bob Voss and Dale Kurth. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

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Debra McKiver (at the microphone) and Tami Zimney (Groton Auxiliary President) took turns reading the honor roll during the Memorial Day Ceremony held Monday at Groton Union Cemetery. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Doug Hamilton raises the U.S. flag at the end of the Memorial Day ceremony Monday.

(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Cody Keller cooked the smoked pork and special baked beans for the lunch at the Legion Post home after the Memorial Day Program. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

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Groton American Legion Auxillary hosted the Memorial Day luncheon at the Groton Legion Hall. Pictured L-R Sam Oswald, Ardella Theunissen, Tami Zimney, Coralea Wolter, Anna Oswald, Lori Giedt, Grace Oswald, Deb McKiver, Wendy Cooper, and Jan Seibel. Not pictured Rita Kampa. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

Letter from Aaron Grant

Veterans, Family & Friends,

I don't have to remind you what today is about. For all of us today is about remembrance.

For many, Memorial Day is a name. Veterans who have lost friends or acquaintances in war or even suicide long after war have a name they will never forget.

For me, it is LT. Brian McPhillips. He was one of the best officers I knew. He did all the menial tasks with his men - even scrubbing toilets and hosing off a mud-caked tank. Infectiously positive. Motivating. He was up in a humvee turret and an Iraqi got off a lucky shot and killed the LT. instantly. It still doesn't seem real.

People come up to me and say "happy Memorial Day." It used to bother me until I realized that this thanks is often a civilians greatest understanding of the day, and in a moment they are truly grateful they don't know what else to say.

I take it as an opportunity to say "thank you, but today is not about me. It's about the ones who didn't make it home."

It is a teachable moment, and I have heard another veteran say "Have a reverent Memorial Day."

The point is, it is our job as veterans to be our brothers keeper. If we don't share these names they will be forgotten. We cannot assume that anyone knows anything about what sacrifice really is. They must be taught. It is a hard sort of honor.

And, your job is never done. Besides this, you are the one they will look to in a crisis. You. So be ready with the name, be ready for that teachable moment. There may be never be another chance to share it.

Semper Parati. Always ready.

By Design, Aaron "Hammer" Grant
Staff NCO - US Marine Corps
Author, Teacher, Consultant
Master of Military History
Combat Peer Support Specialist
Marine Corps League Commandant
Legion County Commander
V.F.W. Commander
(Aaron Grant is from Groton)

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.



The Funeral of Carroll Dean
10:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 27th
at Aldersgate Church in Aberdeen

on
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FUNERAL CHAPEL**

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SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Eight decades after dying in Pearl Harbor attack, sailor gets Arlington farewell

DNA and dental evidence help identify remains from USS Oklahoma

BY: CHAYA TONG - MAY 26, 2025 5:00 AM

More than 80 years after he died in the attack on Pearl Harbor, John Connolly was finally laid to rest – not as an unknown in a mass grave, but as a naval officer in Arlington National Cemetery.

When the Navy first called to tell his daughter, Virginia Harbison, that her father's remains had been identified, she hung up. At 91, living in assisted care in Texas, she could hardly believe it. It was her son, Bill Ingram, who called her back to share the news again. She was silent for so long that he had to ask if she was all right. "Bill," she said, "I hadn't thought about that for 60 years."

She has lived the full life her father never had the chance to. In March, Ingram pushed his mother in her wheelchair to her father's gravesite for the burial.

"They fold the flag in this very tight, nice triangle, and then with white gloves, the commanding officer comes and takes it and kneels down and hands it to my mother," said Ingram, who lives in San Francisco. "It was incredible."

On Dec. 7, 1941, during the attack on Pearl Harbor, 429 service members aboard the USS Oklahoma died. Horrifyingly, men trapped below deck after the ship capsized could be heard tapping out "SOS" in Morse code as the air supply dwindled. Though 32 men were rescued, the rest were tragically not reached in time.

After the war ended, the remains were recovered and buried in the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii, too water damaged and commingled to be identified individually. There they remained for years until modern science caught up with historical tragedy.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency disinterred the USS Oklahoma remains in 2015 to send to a DNA laboratory. Carrie LeGarde, a forensic archaeologist with the agency and project lead for the Oklahoma Project, said her team started the process by testing small pieces of bone for maternal line DNA. Overall, they inventoried 13,000 bones and took 4,900 DNA samples. For Connolly, identification was complicated.

"We had several sequences that had multiple individuals, and that was actually the case with John Con-



Sailors carry a casket with the remains of John Connolly at Arlington National Cemetery in March 2025. (Tracey Attlee/Special to

the Georgia Recorder)

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nolly, and part of why his identification occurred later in the project," she said.

Since John Connolly was older than most of the men aboard the USS Oklahoma as one of the few officers on the ship and scheduled to retire just three weeks after the bombing, the team at DPAA relied on dental evidence in addition to DNA testing to confirm his identity.

Connolly was born in Savannah, Georgia, in 1893 and joined the Navy in 1912. He served during World War I and was eventually promoted to a chief warrant officer. In 1941, his wife, Mary Connolly, and their two daughters, 8-year-old Virginia and 6-year-old Helen, were eagerly awaiting his return and retirement in Long Beach, California, when the Navy informed them he had died.

Mary Connolly never remarried.

"She was very sad all her life because she married at age 30 or 31 and her husband was away in the service, but was killed right before he was supposed to retire," Ingram said.

Connolly's memory has been passed down through the generations.

"We've taken my family to Hawaii, and we went to the memorial and found the marker for his name," Ingram said.

Everything changed last year when Ingram got a call from the Navy. In a 200-page report, the Navy detailed the historical background, identification process and scientific evidence.

"With the research that was involved, both with historical research and medical research, there's a lot of folks at DPAA that are involved," Navy POW/MIA branch head Richard Jenkins said. "We as a service will explain that to the family, with the hopes of them feeling comfortable with the findings and showing them that it's not just any set of remains, it's actually going to be that person."

There's a story that runs in Ingram's family about his grandfather. A couple of years after World War II, a young man knocked on the family home and introduced himself to Virginia and Mary Connolly. He had been on the USS Oklahoma with John Connolly, he said, and when the ship was hit, Connolly pushed open a hatch and forced him out. Connolly had saved his life.

In 1944, the Navy re-commissioned one of their ships as the USS John Connolly. Though his story was a tragic one – an officer who never returned home whose remains were left unknown – history has granted him a second chance at closure. Over eight decades later, he got the hero's burial he deserved.

"They did everything. They had a band. They played 'Taps.' They fired the guns," Ingram said. "Seven soldiers fired three times for a 21-gun salute."

A final sendoff at last.

This story was originally published by the Georgia Recorder. Like South Dakota Searchlight, it's part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. The Recorder maintains editorial independence.

Chaya Tong is an Atlanta-based journalist. She is a graduate of Emory University and has written for a variety of publications in addition to the Georgia Recorder, including The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The Bitter Southerner, The Daily Beast, Politico PRO, the Jackson Clarion Ledger and The Chronicle of Higher Education.

SD seeks Medicaid work rules in spite of similar moves by Congress

State department estimates 80% of Medicaid expansion population already meets proposed requirements or exceptions

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - MAY 26, 2025 11:30 AM

Despite Republican U.S. Congress members' intentions to set Medicaid work requirements at a federal level, South Dakota officials plan to ask President Donald Trump to approve their own set of Medicaid work requirements.

Medicaid is government-funded health insurance for people with low incomes, and for adults and children with disabilities. South Dakotans voted in 2022 to expand Medicaid to adults with incomes below 138% of the poverty level, a decision that allowed the state to capitalize on a 90% federal funding match. In 2024, voters passed another constitutional amendment to let the state to seek approval from the federal government to impose Medicaid work requirements.

The state's waiver proposal seeking approval for a Medicaid work requirement had been drafted by the time Congress began to debate work requirements at the federal level this year.

Individuals working, earning an income and gaining "independence and self-sufficiency" experience "greater health and economic well-being," the proposal states.

Ben Hanson, North and South Dakota government relations director for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, said barriers to accessible and affordable health care hurt South Dakotans in the long run. He worries work requirements at the state or federal level will burden employees and small business owners with paperwork. A majority of Medicaid recipients already work or are exempted from work, he said.

Given South Dakota's tight budget outlook, he worries lawmakers won't pay to properly staff and oversee a work requirement program. Too little staff and too much paperwork, could keep South Dakotans from seeking needed care, he said, which could lead to more costly expenses if a medical condition goes untreated.

"It seems like it's set up for non-success," Hanson said.

The state will take public comment on its proposal through June 18.

How is SD's proposal different from the federal proposal?

At the federal level, proposed Medicaid work requirements would mandate those between 19 and 65 who rely on the state-federal health program to work, participate in community service, or attend an educational program for at least 80 hours each month.

South Dakota's state-level work rules, as proposed, wouldn't require employed Medicaid recipients to



U.S. House Republicans are debating cutbacks to Medicaid, the health care program for lower-income Americans and some people with disabilities. (Photo by Thomas Barwick/Getty Images)

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work or be in school for a set number of hours. The state would review compliance on an annual basis, at the time of Medicaid renewal.

The federal government also has more exceptions to its proposed changes than the state.

South Dakota would allow exceptions for people who are:

Pregnant or postpartum,

Disabled, as determined by the Social Security Administration,

Have a cancer or other serious or terminal medical condition verified by a physician,

In an intensive behavioral health treatment program, hospitalized or living in a nursing home facility,

In an area with at least unemployment 20% higher than the national average and are exempt from SNAP requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents.

People who would meet the state's requirements are:

Employed

Enrolled in job training or school

Caretakers for a dependent child in their home

Caretakers for an elderly or disabled person in their home

People who already meet work requirements for other federal programs like SNAP or unemployment insurance.

The federal program would also exempt tribal community members, those in the foster care system, people who were in foster care who are younger than 26, individuals released from incarceration in the last 90 days, among others, from work requirements.

During Trump's first administration, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approved 13 state work requirement waivers. Arkansas' program was the first to implement its program in 2018, but that state was stopped by a federal court after nine months. About 18,000 people lost coverage in Arkansas. Employment levels did not increase.

The Biden administration rescinded all work requirement approvals, but Georgia started its own work requirement program in July 2023 without federal support.

How would work requirements impact South Dakota's Medicaid expansion enrollment?

Per South Dakota Department of Social Services' estimate, 80% of the people who got coverage under Medicaid expansion already work or wouldn't have to under its proposed work requirement.

South Dakota's Medicaid expansion population as of April 2025 stood at 30,542. Covering the expansion population will cost about \$364.5 million this year.

A work requirement program would reduce enrollment by 5-10% in the first year, the department said.

That would save the Medicaid program between \$48.9 million and \$71 million in the first year, the department claims. In the following years, the department expects enrollment to stay flat if work requirements are implemented rather than grow at a previously anticipated 2% each year.

South Dakota voters will decide next year whether to continue requiring Medicaid expansion if federal support for the program declines. The ballot question will ask voters to authorize the termination of Medicaid expansion if federal support falls below 90%.

In addition to setting work requirements at a federal level, Republicans pushed a Medicaid overhaul through the House in a budget reconciliation package this week. The changes reduce the program by \$625 million over 10 years under the latest estimate by the Congressional Budget Office.

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

What top IVF advocates want from the White House fertility care plan

BY: ELISHA BROWN - MAY 26, 2025 3:00 PM

Republican President Donald Trump, who called himself the “father of IVF” on the campaign trail, issued an executive order in February directing policy advisers to create a report on how to make in vitro fertilization more accessible for Americans.

“Today, many hopeful couples dream of starting a family, but as many as one in seven are unable to conceive a child,” the order read. “Despite their hopes and efforts, infertility struggles can make conception difficult, turning what should be a joyful experience into an emotional and financial struggle.”

Trump gave domestic policy officials a 90-day deadline to send him a list of recommendations on how to protect access to IVF and reduce out-of-pocket costs for fertility care.

Leaders at the American Society for Reproductive Medicine and Resolve: The National Infertility Association — leading IVF advocacy groups — told States Newsroom they were not consulted by the Trump administration about the IVF plan.

“We’ve been leading the effort for over a decade and passed legislation in state after state that now has improved coverage for 60 million Americans,” said Sean Tipton, American Society for Reproductive Medicine’s chief advocacy and policy officer. “We clearly have the expertise to be of assistance, but they didn’t want to talk to us.”

Resolve President and CEO Barbara Collura said the administration did not consult her organization, either. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Both Collura and Tipton said they hope the administration will call for expansion of IVF insurance coverage for servicemembers, veterans and other federal employees.

Collura said the U.S. Office of Personnel Management can require health insurance plans to offer comprehensive IVF coverage, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services could declare IVF an essential health benefit through the Affordable Care Act and the U.S. Department of Defense could mandate coverage under Tricare. Members of the military can only get IVF covered today if they prove infertility stemmed from combat duty.

“The Veterans Health Administration also does not offer IVF as routine care, and we want to change that, but we believe that that has to be done through Congress,” she said.

Congress would also have to direct private insurers to mandate IVF coverage. Trump first raised this idea in August during a Wisconsin town hall, but NBC News reported that GOP members of Congress were skeptical of the costs.

Republicans on Capitol Hill are focused on passing a “big, beautiful bill” that includes tax cuts for the wealthy and a massive decrease in Medicaid funding, according to our D.C. Bureau. It’s unclear if Congress would be open to insurance coverage mandates.

The Trump administration laid off health care researchers and other government employees this year. HHS fired its six-person Assisted Reproductive Technology team in April.



Barbara Collura, CEO and president of Resolve: The National Infertility Association, spoke outside the Alabama Statehouse in Montgomery on Feb. 28, 2024, after a court decision likening embryos to people led fertility clinics to halt services. (Photo

by Brian Lyman/Alabama Reflector)

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The advocates are also wary of a faction of conservatives who have pushed a concept called “restorative reproductive medicine,” the notion that providers should treat the root causes of infertility through hormonal therapies, testing and nutrition, and turn to IVF as a last resort.

“It’s a political term backed by political groups that has nothing to do with medicine,” Tipton said. “When you look at the details, it sounds a lot like what our clinicians would refer to as the diagnostic workup for infertility patients, but make no mistake, this is a term that is pushed by groups who oppose IVF.”

Officials at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, have backed restorative reproductive medicine. Emma Waters, a policy analyst at the foundation’s Center for Technology and the Human Person, cowrote a report released in March backing the concept and calling for increased regulation of the infertility industry.

Janae Stracke, the vice president of Heritage Action, the foundation’s advocacy arm, praised a law Arkansas passed in April requiring the use of fertility awareness-based methods — checking body temperatures and cervical fluid levels to track menstrual cycles — in Title X programs.

“The RESTORE Act is groundbreaking legislation that champions reproductive healthcare for women in Arkansas by prioritizing restorative reproductive medicine and empowering women with the tools they need to thrive,” Stracke said in a statement.

Little Rock-based Arkansas Fertility and Gynecology has a header at the top of its website warning against restorative reproductive medicine, saying it’s “not a medically proven alternative to IVF.”

Collura said she fears restorative reproductive medicine could grow in popularity and lead insurance companies to mandate that patients try it before getting approved for fertility treatments.

“That bypasses what the diagnosis is. Reproduction is time-based: The longer you wait, the poorer outcomes you have,” she said. “We certainly don’t want people to be forced into certain treatments that are actually not going to help them.”

Dr. Karenne Fru, a reproductive endocrinologist at Muna Fertility in the Atlanta area, said proponents of restorative reproductive medicine misunderstand what physicians do, and doing tests for patients seeking fertility services is a basic standard of practice.

“It is not a cure-all for someone with a total sperm count of, say, 100,000 or an absent vas deferens — the sperm can’t get out. There’s no way you can exercise, eat right, sleep well and fix that. That is how you’re born,” Fru said.

Her state just passed a law protecting IVF, but she said that conflicts with Georgia’s fetal personhood language in the six-week abortion ban that allows prospective parents to claim fetuses on their income taxes. Fru testified before state lawmakers in March during a hearing for a bill that would have banned all abortion and jeopardized fertility care, Georgia Recorder reported.

Trump’s promises about IVF insurance coverage have led some of her patients to postpone their reproductive plans, she said.

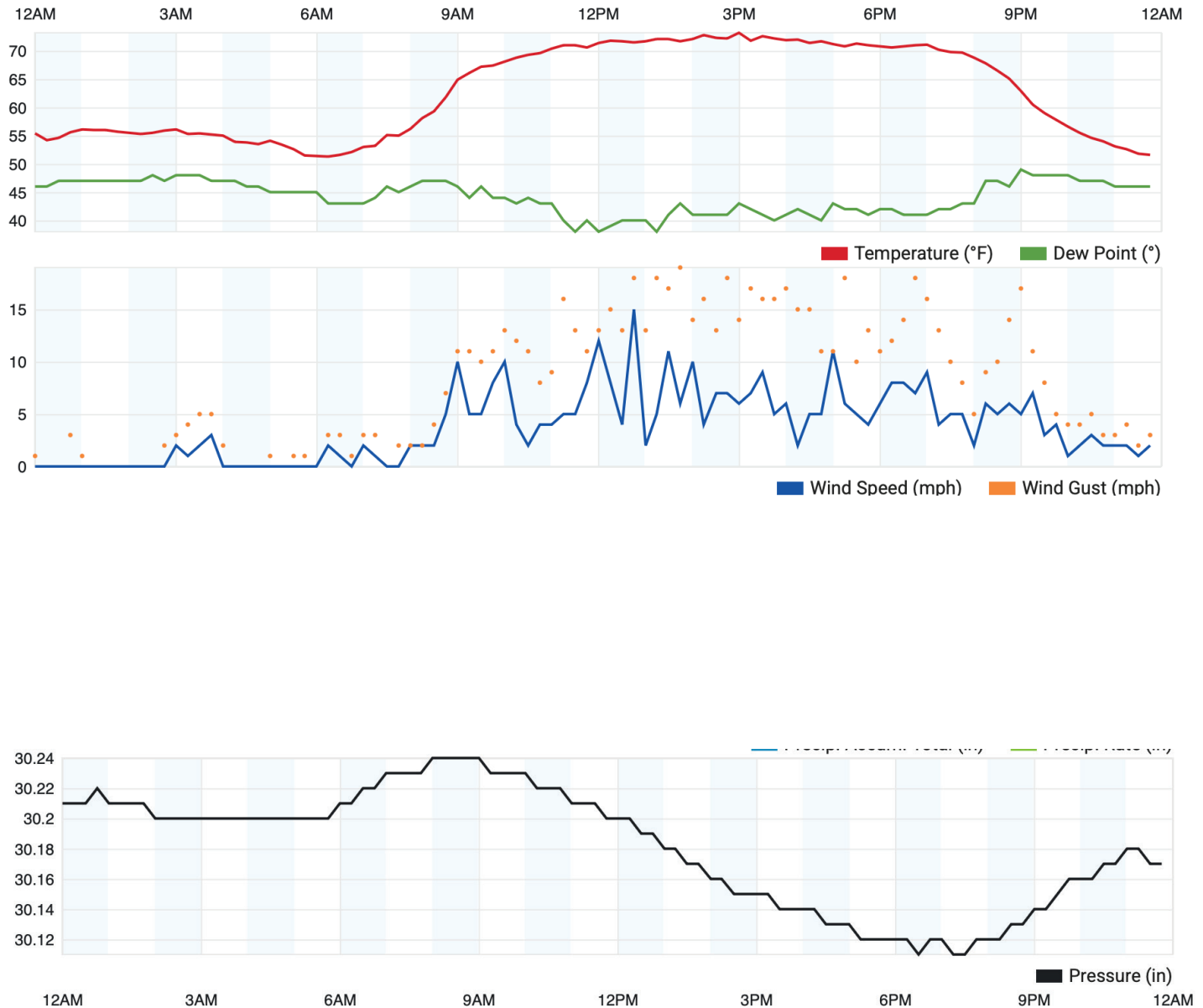
“There are a lot of patients who are delaying care because they think that the president is going to make IVF free,” she said. “And I think that playing with people’s hopes and dreams in this way is unnecessarily cruel.”

Elisha Brown is the Reproductive Rights Today newsletter author at States Newsroom. She is based in Durham, North Carolina, where she previously worked as a reporter covering reproductive rights, policy, and inequality for Facing South. Her work has appeared in The New York Times, The Daily Beast, The Atlantic, and Vox. She attended American University in Washington, D.C. and was raised in South Carolina.

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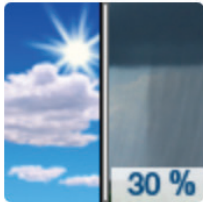
Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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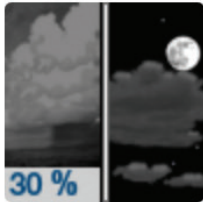
Today



High: 67 °F

Mostly Sunny
then Chance
Showers

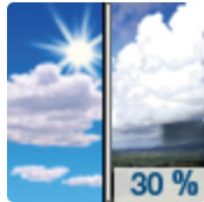
Tonight



Low: 43 °F

Chance
Showers then
Partly Cloudy

Wednesday



High: 69 °F

Mostly Sunny
then Chance
Showers

Wednesday
Night



Low: 45 °F

Mostly Clear

Thursday



High: 76 °F

Sunny

Rest of the Week

Tuesday



40-60%
showers/storms
- Mainly east of the
Missouri River

Highs: 61-70°
Lows: 43-48°

Wednesday



20-40% chance of
showers/storms

Highs: 65-72°
Lows: 45-51°

Thursday/
Friday



Mostly Sunny

Highs:
70s/80s

Showers and thunderstorms are possible through the midweek before quiet weather expected for the end of the week. Temperatures will gradually warm through the week with highs in the 80s by Friday!

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 74 °F at 2:52 PM

Low Temp: 51 °F at 6:05 AM

Wind: 19 mph at 1:33 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 22 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 101 in 2018

Record Low: 28 in 1907

Average High: 75

Average Low: 49

Average Precip in May.: 2.88

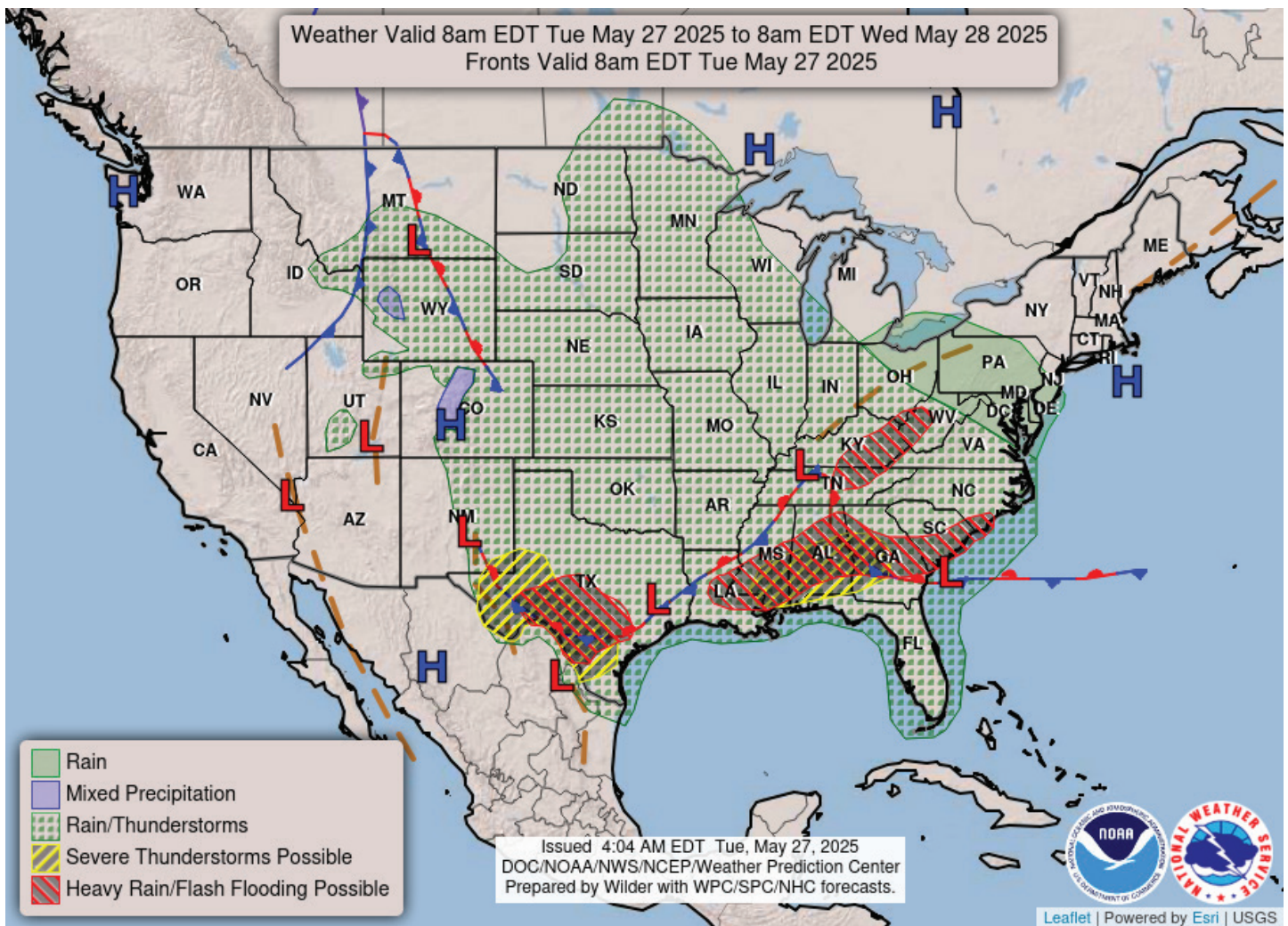
Precip to date in May.: 3.35

Average Precip to date: 6.85

Precip Year to Date: 5.98

Sunset Tonight: 9:10:59 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:47:34 am



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Today in Weather History

May 27th, 1942: A short estimated F2 touchdown uprooted 27 trees on the western edge of Bryant in Hamlin County. One barn was destroyed.

May 27th, 1996: On May 26th, 4 to 6 inches of rain fell in 24 hours over the lower Bad River Basin. Also, 3 to 5 inches of rain fell over much of Western South Dakota. This runoff caused the Bad River at Fort Pierre to crest at 26.25 feet or about 5 feet above flood stage late on the 27th before falling back below flood stage on the 30th. The entire length of the Bad River Road from U.S. Highway 83 near Fort Pierre to U.S. Highway 14 near Midland was closed to all except local traffic on the 27th. Twenty-five to 35 volunteers were filling sandbags all day on the 27th around two homes along the river. Most of the damage was associated with flooding of agricultural land and some county roads. One resident along the river said the river was the highest it has been in 32 years.

1896 - A massive tornado struck Saint Louis, MO, killing 306 persons and causing thirteen million dollars damage. The tornado path was short, but cut across a densely populated area. It touched down six miles west of Eads Bridge in Saint Louis and widened to a mile as it crossed into East Saint Louis. The tornado was the most destructive of record in the U.S. up until that time. It pierced a five-eighths inch thick iron sheet with a two by four inch pine plank. A brilliant display of lightning accompanied the storm. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms in West Texas produced baseball size hail at Crane, hail up to three and a half inches in diameter at Post, and grapefruit size hail south of Midland. Five days of flooding commenced in Oklahoma. Thunderstorms produced 7 to 9 inches of rain in central Oklahoma. Oklahoma City reported 4.33 inches of rain in six hours. Up to six inches of rain caused flooding in north central Texas. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Sunny and warm weather prevailed across much of the nation to kick off the Memorial Day weekend. Afternoon thunderstorms in southern Florida caused the mercury at Miami to dip to a record low reading of 69 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Unseasonably hot weather prevailed in the southeastern U.S. Ten cities reported record high temperatures for the date as readings soared into the 90s. Lakeland, FL, reported a record high of 99 degrees, and Biloxi, MS, reported a temperature of 90 degrees along with a relative humidity of 75 percent. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from north central Texas to the Central Gulf Coast Region. Severe thunderstorms spawned four tornadoes, and there were eighty-one reports of large hail or damaging winds. Late afternoon thunderstorms over southeast Louisiana produced high winds which injured twenty-seven persons at an outdoor music concert in Baton Rouge, and high winds which gusted to 78 mph at the Lake Ponchartrain Causeway. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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"I love those who love me," says Wisdom.

"Those who seek me find me," she continues.

Wisdom is available to everyone who seeks her. If those who find her love her, she will love them in return. Furthermore, the matter is set in absolute and unquestionable terms.

How can this be true?

It refers us back to verse thirteen: "To fear the Lord is to hate evil."

If we love wisdom, we will automatically hate evil.

Love is always a choice, and those whom we choose to love become the center of our lives.

As a result of this choice, we honor them by our loyalty, faithfulness, and obedience. Love is much more than emotions or sentiments. Love is other-centered, sacrificial, mutual, and reciprocal.

If we truly love wisdom, we will apply its truth to our lives and benefit from its rewards.

That's why God gave us Proverbs! He wants His very best for us!

An interesting, yet seldom used phrase is "self-destructive or self-defeating behaviors." Like it or not, many of us engage in behaviors that do not work in our favor or best interests.

Often we are unaware that what we are doing will destroy and defeat us:

- not studying His Word and praying
- not being accountable to or serving God

Even Solomon, with all of his wisdom and wealth, came to the end of his life and lacked self-control and had no fear of God.

And if God offers us anything, it is the path to success in life through His work and His Word.

We have:

- His wisdom to endow us
- His light to guide us
- His power to strengthen us
- His presence to comfort us
- His grace to save us

Prayer: Father, You have offered us so much more than we deserve. Awaken our minds and hearts and help us to take advantage of each of Your gifts. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "I love all who love me. Those who search will surely find me."

— Proverbs 8:16

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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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.23.25

7 18 40 55 68 18

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$173,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 4 Mins 39 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.26.25

2 13 25 37 42 1

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$36,880,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 19 Mins 39 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.26.25

12 15 19 22 33 3

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 34 Mins 39 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.24.25

1 2 6 28 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$20,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 34 Mins 40 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.26.25

7 13 27 29 67 8

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 3 Mins 39 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.26.25

13 47 52 64 67 25

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$189,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 3 Mins 39 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

4 Liverpool fans seriously hurt when car plowed into a crowd. The suspect acted alone, police say

By JON SUPER Associated Press

LIVERPOOL, England (AP) — British police were holding a 53-year-old man on Tuesday over a collision that turned a joyous soccer celebration in Liverpool to tragedy and sent more than two dozen people to hospitals, four of them in very serious condition.

Merseyside Police said they are not treating the incident as terrorism and are not looking for other suspects. The force has not identified the arrested driver. Police in Britain usually do not name suspects until they are charged.

Detectives were working to piece together how a minivan plowed into crowds packing a narrow street, just after the players of Liverpool Football Club had celebrated the Premier League championship with an open-topped bus parade.

Water Street, near the River Mersey in the heart of the city, was cordoned off by police tape, and a blue tent had been erected on the road strewn with the detritus of celebration, including bottles, cans and Liverpool flags.

Liverpool City Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram said four of the injured were “very, very ill in hospital.”

The North West Ambulance Service said a total of 47 people were injured, of whom 27 were taken to local hospitals, while 20 were treated at the scene of the crash for minor injuries. There were no reported deaths.

Four of the injured are children, said ambulance service spokesman Dave Kitchin.

Four of the victims, including a child, were trapped under the van and firefighters had to lift the vehicle to free them.

Hundreds of thousands of Liverpoolians had crammed the streets of the port city in northwest England on Monday to celebrate the team winning England’s Premier League this season for a record-tying 20th top-flight title.

As the parade was wrapping up, a minivan turned into a street just off the parade route and plowed into the sea of fans wrapped in their red Liverpool scarves, jerseys and other memorabilia. A video on social media showed the van strike a man, tossing him in the air, before veering into a larger crowd, where it plowed a path through the group and pushed bodies along the street before coming to a stop.

“It was extremely fast,” said Harry Rashid, who was with his wife and two young daughters as the minivan passed by them. “Initially, we just heard the pop, pop, pop of people just being knocked off the bonnet of a car.”

Rashid said the crowd charged the halted vehicle and began smashing windows.

“But then he put his foot down again and just plowed through the rest of them, he just kept going,” Rashid said. “It was horrible. And you could hear the bumps as he was going over the people.”

Police identified the suspect as a white local man, in a possible decision to prevent misinformation from flooding social media.

Last summer, a teen in the nearby town of Southport killed three girls in a stabbing rampage at a dance class and wounded 10 others, including two adults. An incorrect name of the suspect was spread on social media and people said he was an asylum-seeker. In fact, he had been born in the U.K. Rioting spread across England and Northern Ireland, targeting Muslims and refugees in hotels for asylum-seekers, lasting about a week.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer called the scenes in Liverpool appalling and hailed the bravery of rescuers.

“Everyone, especially children, should be able to celebrate their heroes without this horror,” Starmer said. “The city has a long and proud history of coming together through difficult times. Liverpool stands together and the whole country stands with Liverpool.”

Hong Kong's baby pandas finally have names. Meet Jia Jia and De De

By KANIS LEUNG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong's first locally born giant pandas have finally been named and introduced as Jia Jia and De De.

The names of the cubs, affectionately known as "Elder Sister" and "Little Brother," were announced Tuesday in a ceremony at Ocean Park, the theme park housing them, their parents and two other giant pandas that arrived from mainland China last year.

The names were the winning suggestions from residents in a naming contest that drew more than 35,700 entries.

The Chinese character "Jia," from the female cub's name "Jia Jia," carries a message of support and features an element of family and a sense of auspicious grace. The name embodies the prosperity of families and the nation and the happiness of the people, the park said.

The Chinese character "De," from the male cub's name, means to succeed, carrying the connotation that Hong Kong is successful in everything. De also has the same pronunciation as the Chinese character for virtue, the park said, suggesting giant pandas possess virtues cherished by Chinese people.

Ocean Park chairman Paulo Pong said they followed tradition by using Mandarin pronunciation for the pandas' English names. He said "Jia" sounds like a word in the Cantonese term for elder sister, while "De De" sounds a bit like the Cantonese phrase for little brother. Cantonese is the mother language of many Hong Kongers.

"It's a very positive pair of names," he said. "We have to be a bit creative here with the names."

The cubs, who live with their mom, attracted crowds of visitors on Tuesday. Jia Jia explored a rock and walked around their area, while De De climbed a tree.

Visitor Polly Luk, a panda lover with an annual pass to the park, spent an hour in line to see the cubs.

"I'm so used to their old names. Even now they have new names, I'll still call them 'Elder Sister' and 'Little Brother,'" Luk said.

The twins' birth in August made their mother, Ying Ying, the world's oldest first-time panda mom. Their popularity among residents, visitors and on social media raised hopes for a tourism boost in the city, where politicians touted the commercial opportunities as the "panda economy."

Observers are watching whether housing six pandas helps the park revive its business, especially when caring for the animals in captivity is expensive. Ocean Park recorded a deficit of 71.6 million Hong Kong dollars (\$9.2 million) last financial year.

The park recorded a nearly 40% growth in visitor flow and 40% increase in overall income during a five-day holiday beginning May 1 in mainland China, said Pong, who hopes the growth momentum will continue through summer, Halloween and Christmas seasons.

Pandas are considered China's unofficial national mascot. The country's giant panda loan program with overseas zoos has long been seen as a tool of Beijing's soft-power diplomacy.

Police say driver who plowed into Liverpool soccer fans acted alone, not believed to be terrorism

By BRIAN MELLEY and STEVE DOUGLAS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A 53-year-old British man plowed a minivan into a crowd of Liverpool soccer fans who were celebrating the city's Premier League championship Monday, injuring more than 45 people as shouts of joy turned into shrieks of terror.

The driver arrested was believed to be the only one involved and the crash was not being investigated as an act of terrorism, police said.

Ambulances took 27 people to the hospital, including two with serious injuries, and another 20 people were treated at the scene for minor injuries, said Dave Kitchin of North West Ambulance Service. At least

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four children were injured.

Four of the victims, including a child, were trapped under the van and firefighters had to lift the vehicle to free them. A paramedic on a bicycle was also struck but was not injured.

"It has cast a very dark shadow over what had been a joyous day for the city," City Council leader Liam Robinson said at a late night news conference.

As the parade was wrapping up, a gray minivan turned onto the parade route and plowed into the sea of fans wrapped in their red Liverpool scarves, jerseys and other memorabilia. A video on social media showed the van strike a man, tossing him in the air, before veering into a larger crowd, where it plowed a path through the group and pushed bodies along the street before coming to a stop.

"It was extremely fast," said Harry Rashid, who was with his wife and two young daughters as the minivan passed by them. "Initially, we just heard the pop, pop, pop of people just being knocked off the bonnet of a car."

Rashid said the crowd charged the halted vehicle and began smashing windows.

"But then he put his foot down again and just plowed through the rest of them, he just kept going," Rashid said. "It was horrible. And you could hear the bumps as he was going over the people."

Rashid said it looked deliberate.

"My daughter started screaming, and there were people on the ground," he said. "They were just innocent people, just fans going to enjoy the parade."

Liverpool fans had come out in the hundreds of thousands to celebrate the team winning the Premier League this season for a record-tying 20th top-flight title.

Peter Jones, who had traveled from Isle of Man, said he heard the car smash into the crowd and saw at least a half-dozen people down.

"We heard a frantic beeping ahead, a car flew past me and my mate, people were chasing it and trying to stop him, windows smashed at the back," Jones said. "He then drove into people, police and medics ran past us, and people were being treated on the side of the road."

Police said they were conducting extensive inquiries to establish what led to the collision and asked people not to speculate or share "distressing content online."

Police identified the suspect as white, in a possible decision to prevent misinformation from flooding social media.

Last summer, a teen in the nearby town of Southport killed three girls in a stabbing rampage at a dance class and wounded 10 others, including two adults. An incorrect name of the suspect was spread on social media and people said he was an asylum seeker. In fact, he had been born in the U.K. Rioting spread across England and Northern Ireland, targeting Muslims and refugees in hotels of asylum seekers and lasted about a week.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer called the scenes appalling and hailed the bravery of rescuers.

"Everyone, especially children, should be able to celebrate their heroes without this horror," Starmer said. "The city has a long and proud history of coming together through difficult times. Liverpool stands together and the whole country stands with Liverpool."

Liverpool Football Club's legacy is overshadowed by a disaster 36 years ago when 97 of its fans were killed in a stadium crush during a match against Nottingham Forest at Hillsborough Stadium in Sheffield. The tragedy was compounded by a coverup into the cause and missteps by police.

Supporters were denied the chance to publicly celebrate the club's last league title in 2020 due to restrictions in place during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This time, flag-waving fans braved wet weather to line the streets and climb up traffic lights for a view of Liverpool's players, who were atop two buses bearing the words "Ours Again."

The hourslong procession — surrounded by a heavy police presence — crawled along a 10-mile (16-kilometer) route and through a sea of red smoke and rain. Fireworks exploded from the Royal Liver Building in the heart of the city.

The team in a short statement said its thoughts and prayers were with those affected. The Premier League issued a similar statement expressing shock at the "appalling events in Liverpool."

As Ukrainian POWs die in Russian prisons, autopsies point to a system of brutality

By HANNA ARHIROVA, VASILISA STEPANENKO and ILLIA NOVIKOV Associated Press
KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — “Everything will be all right.”

Ukrainian soldier Serhii Hryhoriev said this so often during brief phone calls from the front that his wife and two daughters took it to heart. His younger daughter, Oksana, tattooed the phrase on her wrist as a talisman.

Even after Hryhoriev was captured by the Russian army in 2022, his anxious family clung to the belief that he would ultimately be OK. After all, Russia is bound by international law to protect prisoners of war.

When Hryhoriev finally came home, though, it was in a body bag.

A Russian death certificate said the 59-year-old died of a stroke. But a Ukrainian autopsy and a former POW who was detained with him tell a different story about how he died — one of violence and medical neglect at the hands of his captors.

Hryhoriev is one of more than 200 Ukrainian POWs who have died while imprisoned since Russia’s full-scale invasion three years ago. Abuse inside Russian prisons was likely a contributing factor in many of these deaths, according to officials from human rights groups, the U.N., the Ukrainian government and a Ukrainian medical examiner who has performed dozens of POW autopsies.

The officials say the prison death toll adds to evidence that Russia is systematically brutalizing captured soldiers. They say forensic discrepancies like Hryhoriev’s, and the repatriation of bodies that are mutilated and decomposed, point to an effort to cover up alleged torture, starvation and poor health care at dozens of prisons and detention centers across Russia and occupied Ukraine.

Russian authorities did not respond to requests for comment. They have previously accused Ukraine of mistreating Russian POWs — allegations the U.N. has partially backed up, though it says Ukraine’s violations are far less common and severe than what Russia is accused of.

‘Alive and well’

Hryhoriev joined the Ukrainian army in 2019 after he lost his job as an office worker at a high school. When the war began three years later, he was stationed with other soldiers in Mariupol, an industrial port city that was the site of a fierce battle — and far from his home in the central Poltava region.

On April 10, 2022, Hryhoriev called his family to reassure them that “everything will be all right.” That was the last time they ever spoke to him.

Two days later, a relative of a soldier in Hryhoriev’s unit called to say the men had been captured. After Mariupol fell to Russia, more than 2,000 soldiers defending the city became Russian prisoners.

Soon his family got a call from the International Committee of the Red Cross, which confirmed he was alive and officially registered as a POW, guaranteeing his protection under the Geneva Conventions. “We were told: ‘that means everything is fine ... Russia has to return him,’” Hryhoriev’s wife, Halyna, recalled.

In August 2022, she received a letter from him, that addressed her by a nickname. “My dear Halochka,” he wrote. “I am alive and well. Everything will be all right.”

Desperate for more information, his daughter Oksana, 31, scoured Russian social media accounts, where videos of Ukrainian POWs regularly appeared. Eventually, she saw him in one — looking gaunt and missing teeth. His gray hair was cropped very short, framing gentle features now partially covered by a beard.

In the video, likely shot under duress, Hryhoriev said to the camera: “I’m alive and well.”

“But if you looked at him, you could see that wasn’t true,” Oksana said.

The truth was dismal, said Oleksii Honcharov, a 48-year-old Ukrainian POW who was detained with him.

Honcharov lived in the same prison barracks as Hryhoriev starting in the fall of 2022. Over a period of months, he witnessed Hryhoriev absorb the same severe punishment as every other POW at the Kamensk-Shakhtinsky Correctional Colony in southwest Russia.

“Everyone got hit -- no exceptions,” said Honcharov, who was repatriated to Ukraine in February as part of a prisoner swap. “Some more, some less, but we all took it.”

Honcharov endured months of chest pain while in captivity. Even then, the beatings never stopped, he

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said, and sometimes they began after his pleas for medical care, which were ignored.

"Toward the end, I could barely walk," said Honcharov, who was diagnosed with tuberculosis once back in Ukraine – an increasingly common ailment among returning POWs.

A 2024 U.N. report found that 95% of released Ukrainian POWs had endured "systematic" torture. Prisoners described beatings, electric shocks, suffocation, sexual violence, prolonged stress positions, mock executions, and sleep deprivation.

"This conduct could not be more unlawful," said Danielle Bell, the U.N.'s top human rights monitor in Ukraine.

The report also said some Russian POWs were mistreated by Ukrainian forces during their initial capture -- including beatings, threats and electric shocks. But the abuse stopped once Russian POWs were moved to official Ukrainian detention centers, the report said.

Hryhoriev was physically strong and often outlasted younger prisoners during forced exercises, Honcharov recalled. But over time, he began showing signs of physical decline: dizziness, fatigue and, eventually, an inability to walk without help.

Yet despite his worsening condition, prison officials provided only minimal health care, Honcharov said.

Piecing together how POWs died

In a bright, sterile room with the sour-sweet smell of human decomposition, Inna Padei performs autopsies on Ukrainian soldiers repatriated by Russia, as well as civilians exhumed from mass graves. Hundreds of bodies zipped up in black plastic bags have been delivered in refrigerated trucks to the morgue where she works in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine.

Those who died in battle are still wearing military fatigues and often have obvious external wounds. The bodies of former POWs are dressed in prison uniforms and are often mutilated and decomposed.

It is the job of Padei and other forensic experts to piece together how soldiers like Hryhoriev died. These reports are often the only reliable information the soldiers' families get — and they will be used by Ukraine, along with testimony from former POWs, to bring war crimes charges against Russia at the International Criminal Court.

The body of a former POW recently examined by Padei had an almond-sized fracture on the right side of its skull. That suggested the soldier was struck by a blunt object — a blow potentially strong enough to have killed him instantly, or shortly after, she said.

"These injuries may not always be the direct cause of death," Padei said, "but they clearly indicate the use of force and torture against the servicemen."

Earlier this year, Amnesty International documented widespread torture of Ukrainian POWs in Russia. Its report was especially critical of Russia's secrecy regarding the whereabouts and condition of POWs, saying it refused to grant rights groups or health workers access to its prisons, leaving families in the dark for months or years about their loved ones.

Of the more than 5,000 POWs Russia has repatriated to Ukraine, at least 206 died in captivity, including more than 50 when an explosion ripped through a Russian-controlled prison barracks, according to the Ukrainian government. An additional 245 Ukrainian POWs were killed by Russian soldiers on the battlefield, according to Ukrainian prosecutors.

The toll of dead POWs is expected to rise as more bodies are returned and identified, but forensic experts face significant challenges in determining causes of death.

In some cases, internal organs are missing. Other times, it appears as if bruises or injuries have been hidden or removed.

Ukrainian officials believe the mutilation of bodies is an effort by Russia to conceal the true causes of death. Extreme decomposition is another obstacle, officials say.

"They hold the bodies until they reach a state where nothing can be determined," said Petro Yatsenko, a spokesperson for the Ukrainian government agency in charge of POW affairs.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said the prompt exchange of POWs must be part of any ceasefire agreement, along with the return of thousands of Ukrainian civilians, including children forcibly

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deported to Russia. A major prisoner exchange between Russia and Ukraine took place over the weekend.

The Associated Press interviewed relatives of 21 Ukrainian POWs who died in captivity. Autopsies performed in Ukraine found that five of these POWs died of heart failure, including soldiers who were 22, 39 and 43. Four others died from tuberculosis or pneumonia, and three others perished, respectively, from an infection, asphyxia and a blunt force head wound.

Padei said cases like these — and others she has seen — are red flags, suggesting that physical abuse and untreated injuries and illness likely contributed to many soldiers' deaths.

"Under normal or humane conditions, these would not have been fatal," Padei said.

In one autopsy report, coroners said an individual had been electrocuted and beaten just days before dying of heart failure and extreme emaciation. Other autopsies noted that bodies showed signs of gangrene or untreated infections.

"Everything the returned prisoners describe ... we see the same on the bodies," Padei said.

'Angel in the sky'

Months into Hryhoriev's detention at the Kamensk-Shakhtinsky prison — and after his daughter saw him in the Russian army's social media video — his health deteriorated significantly, according to Honcharov.

But instead of being sent to a hospital, Hryhoriev was moved to a tiny cell that was isolated from other prisoners. Another Ukrainian captive, a paramedic, was assigned to stay with him.

"It was damp, cold, with no lighting at all," recalled Honcharov.

He died in that cell about a month later, Honcharov said. It was May 20, 2023, according to his Russian death certificate.

The Hryhoriev family didn't learn he had died until more than six months later, when a former POW reached out. Then, in March 2024, police in central Ukraine called: A body had arrived with a Russian death certificate bearing Hryhoriev's name. A DNA test confirmed it was him.

An autopsy performed in Ukraine disputed Russia's claim that Hryhoriev died of a stroke. It said he bled to death after blunt trauma to his abdomen that also damaged his spleen.

Hryhoriev's body was handed over to the family last June, and soon after he was buried in his hometown of Pyriatyn.

To honor him, Hryhoriev's wife and older daughter, Yana, followed Oksana's lead and tattooed their wrists with the optimistic expression he had drilled into them.

"Now we have an angel in the sky watching over us," Halyna said. "We believe everything will be all right."

A new aid system in Gaza has started operations, a US-backed group says

By WAFAA SHURAF and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — A new aid system in Gaza opened its first distribution hubs Monday, according to a U.S.-backed group that said it began delivering food to Palestinians who face growing hunger after Israel's nearly three-month blockade to pressure Hamas.

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation is taking over the handling of aid despite objections from United Nations. The desperately needed supplies started flowing on a day that saw Israeli strikes kill at least 52 people in Gaza.

The group said truckloads of food — it did not say how many — had been delivered to its hubs, and distribution to Palestinians had begun. It was not clear where the hubs were located or how those receiving supplies were chosen.

"More trucks with aid will be delivered tomorrow, with the flow of aid increasing each day," the foundation said in a statement.

The U.N. and aid groups have pushed back against the new system, which is backed by Israel and the United States. They assert that Israel is trying to use food as a weapon and say a new system won't be effective.

Israel has pushed for an alternative aid delivery plan because it says it must stop Hamas from seizing

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aid. The U.N. has denied that the militant group has diverted large amounts.

It's not clear who is funding the group

The foundation began operations a day after the resignation of its executive director. Jake Wood, an American, said it had become clear the foundation would not be allowed to operate independently. It's not clear who is funding the group, which said it had appointed an interim leader, John Acree, to replace Wood,

The organization is made up of former humanitarian, government and military officials. It has said its distribution points will be guarded by private security firms and that the aid would reach a million Palestinians — around half of Gaza's population — by the end of the week.

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

Hamas warned Palestinians on Monday not to cooperate with the new aid system, saying it is part of Israel's plans to transfer much of Gaza's population to other countries.

Israel says it plans to facilitate what it describes as the voluntary migration of much of Gaza's population of 2 million, a plan rejected by Palestinians and much of the international community.

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

Airstrikes hit shelter

The Israeli airstrikes killed at least 36 people in a school-turned-shelter that was hit 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.

Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted 251 people in the 2023 attack. 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.

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.

Ultrationalists march in east Jerusalem, break into UN compound

Ultrationalist Israelis gathered Monday in Jerusalem for an annual procession marking Israel's 1967 conquest of the city's eastern sector. Some protesters chanted "Death to Arabs" and harassed Palestinian residents.

Police kept a close watch as demonstrators jumped, danced and sang. The event threatened to inflame tensions that are rife in the restive city amid nearly 600 days of war in Gaza.

Hours earlier, a small group of protesters, including an Israeli member of parliament, stormed a compound in east Jerusalem belonging to the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, which Israel has banned. The compound has been mostly empty since January, when staff were asked to stay away for security reasons. The U.N. says the compound is protected under international law.

King Charles to outline Mark Carney's priorities in Canada's Parliament amid Trump annexation threat

By ROB GILLIES Associated Press

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — King Charles III will outline new Prime Minister Mark Carney's government priorities in a speech in the Canadian Parliament on Tuesday. It's widely viewed as a show of support in the face of annexation threats by U.S. President Donald Trump.

Trump's repeated suggestion that the U.S. annex Canada prompted Prime Minister Carney to invite Charles to give the speech from the throne. The king is the head of state in Canada, which is a member of the British Commonwealth of former colonies.

Carney said in a statement the visit speaks to the "vitality of our constitutional monarchy and our distinct identity."

It is rare for the monarch to deliver what's called the speech from the throne in Canada. Charles' mother, Queen Elizabeth II, did it twice in her 70-year reign, the last time in 1977.

The speech is not written by the king or his U.K. advisers as Charles serves as a nonpartisan head of state. He will read what is put before him by Canada's government.

Carney, the new prime minister and a former head of the Bank of England, and Canada's first Indigenous governor general, Mary Simon, the king's representative in Canada, met with the king on Monday.

Canadians are largely indifferent to the monarchy, but Carney has been eager to show the differences between Canada and the United States. The king's visit clearly underscores Canada's sovereignty, he said.

Carney won the job of prime minister by promising to confront the increased aggression shown by Trump.

The new U.S. ambassador to Canada, Pete Hoekstra, said sending messages to the U.S. isn't necessary and Canadians should move on from the 51st state talk, telling the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation that if there's a message to be sent there are easier ways to do that, such as calling him or calling the president.

A horse-drawn carriage will take the king and queen to the Senate of Canada Building for the speech. It will be accompanied by 28 horses — 14 before and 14 after. He will receive the Royal Salute from the 100-person guard of honor from the 3rd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment before entering the chamber for his speech.

The king will return to the U.K. after the speech and a visit to Canada's National War Memorial.

Trump targeted Democrats over questionable online fundraising. His campaign has similar issues

By BRIAN SLODYSKO and STEVE PEOPLES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When President Donald Trump directed his attorney general last month to investigate online fundraising, he cited concerns that foreigners and fraudsters were using elaborate "schemes" and "dummy accounts" to funnel illegal contributions to politicians and causes.

Instead of calling for an expansive probe, however, the president identified just one potential target: ActBlue, the Democrats' online fundraising juggernaut, which has acknowledged receiving over 200 potentially illicit contributions last year from foreign internet addresses.

Trump's announcement contained a glaring omission — his political committees also received scores of potentially problematic contributions.

An Associated Press review of donations to Trump over the past five years found 1,600 contributions from donors who live abroad, have close ties to foreign interests or failed to disclose basic information, often making it difficult, if not impossible, to identify them and verify the legality of their donations. Among those was \$5,000 linked to a derelict building, and \$5,000 from a Chinese businessman who listed a La Quinta Inn as his address. Another sizable donation — \$1 million — was made by the wife of an African oil and mining magnate.

It's against the law for U.S. candidates and political committees to accept contributions from foreign nationals. Laws also place strict limits on donation amounts and prohibit the laundering of contributions to

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get around legal caps. For the most part, such donations have been policed by campaigns and the Federal Election Commission, with only the most egregious examples being targeted by federal law enforcement.

But after reclaiming the White House, Trump embarked on a campaign of retribution against his perceived enemies, launching broadsides against universities, law firms and his own former officials. If the Justice Department were to investigate ActBlue, it could imperil a key fundraising tool for Trump's political rivals before the 2026 midterm elections, when Republicans' threadbare House majority — and the president's ability to pass an agenda through Congress — will be on the line.

"This is him taking direct aim at the center of Democratic and progressive fundraising to hamstring his political opponents," said Ezra Reese, an attorney who leads the political law division at the Elias Law Group, a leading Democratic firm that does not represent ActBlue. "I don't think there's any question that they picked their target first. He's not even pretending."

Trump's committees collected scores of donations from people living overseas

The White House did not respond to questions about Trump's fundraising, including what sort of fraud prevention measures his committees have in place. Instead, a senior administration official pointed to the findings of a recent House Republican investigation of ActBlue that the White House alleges "uncovered specific evidence of potentially unlawful conduct."

"The memorandum directs the attorney general to investigate this matter broadly, and she will follow the evidence and take appropriate action as warranted," said the official, who insisted on anonymity to discuss the matter.

Neither the Justice Department nor Trump's 2024 campaign co-manager Chris LaCivita responded to requests for comment.

U.S. citizens living abroad are free to donate to politicians back home. But it can be difficult even for campaigns to discern who is allowed to give and whether a person may be serving as a "straw" donor for someone else seeking to influence U.S. elections.

The AP identified only two Trump donors out of more than 200 living abroad whose U.S. citizenship was listed as "verified" in the president's campaign finance reports. He received over 1,000 contributions from 150 donors who omitted key identifying details such as their city, state, address or country. Trump also received at least 90 contributions from people who did not give a full name, are listed as "anonymous" or whose donations include the notation "name not provided."

Many of these Trump donors contributed through WinRed, the Republicans' online fundraising platform that is the GOP's answer to ActBlue. Only about three dozen of these contributions were rejected, most of which came from an unknown source and were paid in cryptocurrency, campaign finance disclosures show.

WinRed officials did not respond to a request for comment.

"Foreign money in our elections is a legitimate concern," said Dan Weiner, a former Federal Election Commission attorney who is now director of the Brennan Center's elections and government program. "What's not legitimate is to single out one political opponent and pretend the problem is limited to them."

Donating from a La Quinta Inn

Jiajun "Jack" Zhang, for example, is a jet-setting Chinese businessman whose Qingdao Scaffolding Co. boasts of being one of the "biggest manufacturers and suppliers in China" of scaffolding. In October, he used WinRed to donate \$5,000 to Trump, campaign finance disclosures show.

Zhang lives in China's Shandong province, according to his LinkedIn account, and is described in French business filings as a Chinese national. But his contribution to Trump lists a La Quinta Inn in Hawaiian Gardens, California, as his address, records show. The donation was made around the time that Zhang posted a photo on social media of his family visiting Disneyland, which is near the hotel.

Zhang did not respond to an email seeking comment.

Other potentially troublesome donations include four from unnamed donors listing an address of "999 Anonymous Dr."

There is also a series of contributions made through WinRed that listed the donor's address as a vacant building in Washington that was formerly a funeral home. The donor, identified only as "Alex, A" on Trump's

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campaign finance report, gave nearly \$5,000, spread across more than 40 separate transactions last year. Those types of donations tend to draw scrutiny from campaigns and regulators.

Regulators and watchdogs have also long been concerned about donations from individuals with ties to foreign interests. Trump has received many such contributions, including one in December from Nnenna Peters, the wife of Benedict Peters, a Nigerian billionaire who is the founder and CEO of oil and mining businesses.

Nnenna Peters, who goes by Ella, gave \$1 million to Trump's inaugural committee. A naturalized citizen, Nnenna Peters — who lives in Potomac, Maryland, a tony suburb of the capital — is allowed to make campaign donations.

Federal law, however, bars U.S. citizens from making contributions on behalf of a noncitizen spouse if the money is not a shared asset. For example, experts said, a husband could be prohibited from making a campaign donation using funds from a checking account solely in his wife's name.

In practice, such a prohibition is hard to enforce because it is difficult to assess whether spouses are acting on their own accord or on behalf of significant others. Government watchdogs say donations like these raise the risk of an attempt to influence U.S. policy on behalf of a foreign interest.

That was precisely the kind of problem Trump cited in his executive order that singled out ActBlue.

Benedict Peters, as it turns out, has a lot to offer that could be of interest to Trump, who has made the extraction of natural resources a focus on his second administration. In particular, the Trump administration has sought to secure access to critical minerals that help power modern technology. Peters' Aiteo Group markets itself as one of the largest energy conglomerates in Nigeria, while his company, Bravura Holdings, purports to hold the rights to vast critical mineral deposits across Africa.

His wife's donation stands out in light of her past giving: She donated exclusively to Democrats, records show, including a \$66,800 contribution to Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign.

"This clearly could have come from her husband," said Craig Holman, a registered lobbyist for Public Citizen, a Washington-based government watchdog group. "This is something the FEC should take a very, very close look at."

Benedict and Ella Peters did not respond to requests for comment.

Indifference towards campaign finance rules

The questionable donations fit a pattern for Trump, who has in the past exhibited indifference toward campaign finance rules and used his presidential powers to assist those facing legal trouble in such matters.

In January, Trump's Justice Department dropped its case against former Rep. Jeff Fortenberry, a Nebraska Republican accused of accepting a \$30,000 contribution from a Nigerian billionaire. During his first term, Trump pardoned conservative commentator Dinesh D'Souza and Republican donor Michael Liberty, who were both convicted of using straw donors to evade contribution limits. He also pardoned former California Rep. Duncan Hunter, who was convicted in 2020 of stealing \$250,000 from his campaign fund.

Trump's political efforts have also drawn contributions from straw donors and foreigners who have been subjected to legal scrutiny.

Among them is Barry Zekelman, a Canadian steel industry billionaire, who was fined \$975,000 in 2022 by the Federal Election Commission for funneling \$1.75 million to America First Action, Trump's official super PAC, in 2018. The contribution helped Zekelman secure a dinner with Trump at which steel tariffs were discussed.

Two Soviet-born U.S. citizens, Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman, were convicted in a straw donor scheme that funneled \$325,000 to the same super PAC in the runup to Trump's losing 2020 reelection campaign.

Jesse Benton, a Republican political operative, was convicted in 2022 of serving as a straw donor for a Russian businessman who contributed \$25,000 to Trump's 2016 campaign.

Democrats say Trump's focus on ActBlue is a lot to stomach in light of Trump's acceptance of questionable donations and his seeming lack of interest in enforcing campaign finance laws more generally. They noted that Trump in February fired a commissioner at the Federal Election Commission. The firing, followed by the resignation of a Republican commissioner, has denied the agency the quorum necessary to enforce campaign finance laws and regulations.

"It's telling that while Trump and his allies attack grassroots-funded platforms like ours, their own campaigns have welcomed money from questionable sources," ActBlue spokesperson Megan Hughes said.

Republicans counter that there is well-founded reason to investigate the Democratic platform, which eased some fraud detection protocols in 2024 before the presidential election.

Democrats are concerned about ActBlue's future

There is, however, a political upside to investigating ActBlue. The platform has proved more successful than WinRed, the Republican platform designed to imitate it, which took in less than half of the \$3.8 billion that ActBlue raised during the 2024 election cycle.

ActBlue representatives declined to say whether they have been contacted by the Justice Department.

ActBlue is expected to battle any investigation. It took a different approach when a Republican-led congressional committee launched an investigation in 2023. That committee's findings turned out to be the basis for some of the allegations cited by Trump in his executive order.

Democrats, meanwhile, are preparing for the worst.

"There is a pervasive fear that ActBlue could cease to exist," said Matt Hodges, a veteran Democratic operative who served as the director of engineering for Joe Biden's 2020 campaign. "That's the worst fear people have — that this will escalate or drain legal resources that hinder their ability to operate."

He predicted that the Democrats could lose more than \$10 million in the short term if ActBlue were forced to shut down. That has led some Democrats to begin thinking about alternatives, but they acknowledged it might be too late to create something as successful as ActBlue with the midterms around the corner.

Trump honors fallen soldiers on Memorial Day, while attacking Biden and judges

By SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) — President Donald Trump paid tribute to fallen service members during a Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery on Monday, in an address that honored the "great, great warriors" yet also briefly veered into politics as he boasted of a nation he is "fixing after a long and hard four years."

Though the holiday is one that U.S. presidents typically treat with pure solemnity, Trump began it with an all-caps Memorial Day social media post that attacked his predecessor and called federal judges who have blocked his deportation initiatives "monsters who want our country to go to hell."

Yet at Arlington National Cemetery, where more than 400,000 have been laid to rest, Trump commemorated the sacrifice of U.S. service members and singled out several Gold Star families to tell the stories of their fallen relatives.

"We just revere their incredible legacy," Trump said. "We salute them in their eternal and everlasting glory. And we continue our relentless pursuit of America's destiny as we make our nation stronger, prouder, freer and greater than ever before."

"Their valor," he said, "gave us the freest, greatest and most noble republic ever to exist on the face of the earth. A republic that I am fixing after a long and hard four years."

During his remarks, Trump told the story of Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Shannon Kent, killed along with three other Americans by a suicide bomber in 2019 in Syria, leaving behind her husband, 3-year-old son and 18-month-old son.

The Pine Plains, New York, native was on her fifth combat deployment, he said, embedded with a team hunting Islamic State group militants in Syria, serving as linguist, translator and cryptologic technician working alongside special forces.

"She was among the first women ever to do it, and she did it better than anyone," Trump said, calling out Kent's family for applause at the ceremony.

The crowd also heard of Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Elroy Harworth from Erhard, Minnesota, whose plane went down in enemy territory during the Vietnam War, dying while his wife was seven months pregnant. His

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son, who was cheered in the audience, followed his father's path and has been in the Army for 20 years. There was also the story of Army Cpl. Ryan McGhee of Fredericksburg, Virginia, who enlisted after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and whose mother was in the audience.

Trump said McGhee knew he wanted to be an Army Ranger since he saw the towers fall on that day, did three tours in Afghanistan, then deployed to Iraq. Sixteen years ago this month, the president said, McGhee died in a fire, and "gave his life at 21 years old."

Vice President JD Vance, who spoke before Trump, said the lesson of all the gravestones is: "We must be cautious in sending our people to war." He urged the crowd to push political leaders to treat the lives of soldiers as the "most precious resource."

Later in his remarks, Trump pointed to a "big, big celebration" coming next year as the U.S. celebrates its 250th birthday, joking that "in some ways, I'm glad I missed that second term" when he lost to Joe Biden.

"Because I wouldn't be president for that," Trump said, as the crowd laughed. "In addition, we have the World Cup and we have the Olympics. Can you imagine? I missed that four years. And now look what I have, I have everything. Amazing the way things work out."

Prior to speaking, Trump placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a somber tradition for U.S. presidents. The president paused after placing the wreath, then stepped back and saluted during the playing of taps. Vance and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth joined him.

The president began the day with a decidedly different tone.

In a social media message in all capital letters, Trump ranted at Biden, calling him the "scum" who spent the last four years trying to destroy the country with radical leftism and who, he said, left behind an open border.

That was after he posted a separate message proclaiming "HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!" Wishing people a happy Memorial Day is regarded as verboten because the day is considered a somber one to honor soldiers killed in service.

Vance emphasized as much when he spoke to U.S. Naval Academy graduates in Annapolis on Friday, when he said that he and Trump would "lead the most solemn occasion in our nation, Memorial Day at Arlington Cemetery."

"You will learn as I have that when people say things like 'Happy Memorial Day,' you appreciate the sentiment behind it but know that it's wrong because Memorial Day is not a happy day," Vance said last week. "Memorial Day is not for those who served and came home, it is for those who served that didn't."

King Charles III arrives in Canada to underscore its sovereignty after Trump annexation threats

By ROB GILLIES Associated Press

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — Britain's King Charles III arrived Monday in Ottawa on a visit that Canada's leader says will underscore his nation's sovereignty amid President Donald Trump's talk of the United States annexing its northern neighbor.

Trump's repeated suggestion that the U.S. annex Canada prompted Prime Minister Mark Carney to invite Charles to give the speech from the throne that will outline his government's agenda for the new Parliament.

The king is the head of state in Canada, which is a member of the British Commonwealth of former colonies.

"This historic honor matches the weight of our times. It speaks to our enduring tradition and friendship, to the vitality of our constitutional monarchy and our distinct identity, and to the historic ties that crisscross only fortify," Carney said in a statement.

"Canada's strength lies in building a strong future while embracing its English, French, and Indigenous roots — the union of peoples that forms our bedrock."

Carney, the new prime minister and a former head of the Bank of England, and Canada's first Indigenous governor general, Mary Simon, the king's representative in Canada, greeted the king and Queen Camilla at the airport. A 25-member honor guard from the Royal Canadian Dragoons, for which the king

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is colonel-in-chief, was also on hand.

The king, in a taupe suit and red tie, later dropped the ceremonial first puck during a street hockey game at a community event.

Spectator Norman MacDonald said he's "proud" the king came to Ottawa to deliver a message on behalf of Canadians.

"Canada is not, obviously, for sale, and it's not going to be bullied," he said.

Canadians stress their differences from the U.S.

It is rare for the monarch to deliver what's called the speech from the throne in Canada. Charles' mother, Queen Elizabeth II, did it twice in her 70-year reign, the last time in 1977.

Canadians are largely indifferent to the monarchy, but Carney has been eager to show the differences between Canada and the United States. The king's visit clearly underscores Canada's sovereignty, he said.

After America gained independence from Britain, Canada remained a colony until 1867 and afterward, continued as a constitutional monarchy with a British-style parliamentary system.

"We are different," former Quebec Premier Jean Charest said. "If you look at why King Charles is reading the speech from the throne, then you have to then acknowledge Canada's story."

However, the new U.S. ambassador to Canada, Pete Hoekstra, said sending messages isn't necessary and Canadians should move on from the 51st state talk, telling the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation that if there's a message to be sent there are easier ways to do that, such as calling him or calling the president.

Royal historian Carolyn Harris expects Trump to notice the visit because he has repeatedly spoken about his admiration for the royal family. Trump might see how different Canada is from the U.S.

"It is a very distinctive history that goes back to the waves of loyalists who settled here after the American revolution," Harris said. "And we're going to see the king in a Canadian context, escorted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, surrounded by Canadian symbolism. This is very much King Charles III in his role as King of Canada."

A royal invitation to Trump ruffles Canadians' feathers

The speech, which will be delivered Tuesday, is not written by the king or his U.K. advisers as Charles serves as a nonpartisan head of state. He will read what is put before him by Canada's government.

"Charles can only act with the consent and with the advice of his prime minister. But at the same time he cannot act in a way that would throw any of the other 14 Commonwealth realms under the bus. So it is the finest tightrope to walk," said Justin Vovk, a Canadian royal historian.

Canadians were not happy when U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer extended a state visit invitation to Trump on behalf of the king during a time when Trump threatened Canada's sovereignty.

"They weren't impressed by that gesture, quite simply, given the circumstance," Carney told Britain's Sky News. "It was a time when we were quite clear ... about the issues around sovereignty."

The king has more recently been showing support for Canada, including displaying Canadian military medals on his chest during a visit to a British aircraft carrier.

Charles will meet privately with Carney. And Camilla participated in a swearing-in ceremony to become a Canadian privy counsellor, a lifetime appointment that allows her to give advice about the country to the king.

The king will return to the U.K. after Tuesday's speech and a visit to Canada's National War Memorial.

Former US Rep. Charles Rangel, who spent nearly 50 years representing New York, has died

By DEEPTI HAJELA and CEDAR ATTANASIO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Former U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel of New York, an outspoken, gravel-voiced Harlem Democrat who spent nearly five decades on Capitol Hill and was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, died Monday at age 94.

His family confirmed the death in a statement provided by City College of New York spokesperson Mi-

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chelle Stent. He died at a hospital in New York, Stent said.

A veteran of the Korean War, he defeated legendary Harlem politician Adam Clayton Powell in 1970 to start his congressional career. During the next 40-plus years, he became a legend himself as dean of the New York congressional delegation and, in 2007, the first African American to chair the powerful Ways and Means Committee.

He stepped down from that committee amid an ethics cloud, and the House censured him in 2010. But he continued to serve in Congress until his retirement in 2017.

Rangel was the last surviving member of the Gang of Four — African American political figures who wielded great power in New York City and state politics. The others were David Dinkins, New York City's first Black mayor; Percy Sutton, who was Manhattan Borough president; and Basil Paterson, a deputy mayor and New York secretary of state.

"Charlie was a true activist — we've marched together, been arrested together and painted crack houses together," the Rev. Al Sharpton, leader of the National Action Network, said in a statement, noting that he met Rangel as a teenager.

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York issued a statement calling Rangel "a patriot, hero, statesman, leader, trailblazer, change agent and champion for justice who made his beloved Harlem, the City of New York and the United States of America a better place for all."

Rangel's voice was memorable

Few could forget Rangel after hearing him talk. His distinctive gravel-toned voice and wry sense of humor were a memorable mix.

That voice — one of the most liberal in the House — was loudest in opposition to the Iraq War, which he branded a "death tax" on poor people and minorities. In 2004, he tried to end the war by offering a bill to restart the military service draft. Republicans called his bluff and brought the bill to a vote. Even Rangel voted against it.

A year later, Rangel's fight over the war became bitterly personal with then-Vice President Dick Cheney.

Rangel said Cheney, who has a history of heart trouble, might be too sick to perform his job.

"I would like to believe he's sick rather than just mean and evil," Rangel said. After several such verbal jabs, Cheney hit back, saying Rangel was "losing it."

The charismatic Harlem lawmaker rarely backed down from a fight after he first entered the House in 1971 as a dragon slayer of sorts, having unseated Powell in the Democratic congressional primary in 1970. The flamboyant elder Powell, a city political icon first elected to the House in 1944, was ill and haunted by scandal at the time.

In 1987, Congress approved what was known as the "Rangel amendment," which denied foreign tax credits to U.S. companies investing in apartheid-era South Africa.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton noted that he urged her to run for the Senate in 2000. Former President Bill Clinton recalled working with Rangel in the 1990s to extend tax credits for businesses that invest in economically distressed areas.

The House censured him over ethics violations

Rangel became leader of the main tax-writing committee of the House, which has jurisdiction over programs including Social Security and Medicare, after the 2006 midterm elections when Democrats ended 12 years of Republican control of the chamber. But in 2010, a House ethics committee conducted a hearing on 13 counts of alleged financial and fundraising misconduct over issues surrounding financial disclosures and use of congressional resources.

He was convicted of 11 ethics violations. The House found he had failed to pay taxes on a vacation villa, filed misleading financial disclosure forms and improperly solicited donations for a college center from corporations with business before his committee.

The House followed the ethics committee's recommendation that he be censured, the most serious punishment short of expulsion.

'Committed to fighting for the little guy'

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Rangel looked after his constituents, sponsoring empowerment zones with tax credits for businesses moving into economically depressed areas and developers of low income housing.

"I have always been committed to fighting for the little guy," Rangel said in 2012.

Rangel was born June 11, 1930. During the Korean War, he earned a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. He would always say that he measured his days, even the troubled ones around the ethics scandal, against the time in 1950 when he survived being wounded as other soldiers didn't make it.

It became the title of his autobiography: "And I Haven't Had A Bad Day Since."

A high school dropout, he went to college on the G.I. Bill, getting degrees from New York University and St. John's University Law School.

10 people shot at holiday weekend South Carolina boat party

LITTLE RIVER, S.C. (AP) — Ten people were shot during a fight that started after a private boat hosting a holiday weekend party arrived at a dock Sunday night on the South Carolina coast, authorities said.

No one died in the shooting in Little River around 9:30 p.m., although some of the wounded were in critical condition, Horry County Police said in a statement.

At least one person was taken to the hospital who was not hurt by gunfire, police said.

The shooting happened around a dock where a private charter boat leaves for cruises. The boat was docked and detectives are trying to figure out exactly where the fight and shooting began, police said.

A flyer online advertised a party Sunday night with a DJ on a three-hour cruise ending at 9 p.m. A woman who answered a phone number on the flyer early Monday said she was distraught seeing her friends get shot but then said she didn't want to talk any more and hung up.

Someone who answered the phone at the company that owns the boat said he didn't want to talk to a reporter.

No arrests have been made as detectives continue to investigate, police said.

Randy Evans told a Charleston newspaper that his 25-year-old son was shot in the ankle and toe but managed to use his bathing suit as a makeshift tourniquet to help people who were more severely injured.

"The surgery was better than they expected," Evans told The Post and Courier after his son didn't need pins in his foot or ankle. "He's going to be OK."

Evans said his son told him that an argument after the boat docked turned ugly.

A North Myrtle Beach police officer responding to the shooting accidentally shot himself in the leg at a marina about 3 miles (5 kilometers) away and is in the hospital in stable condition, North Myrtle Beach spokeswoman Lauren Jessie said.

Little River is about 20 miles (32 kilometers) northeast of Myrtle Beach. The fishing village is known for its docks and marinas where fishing expeditions, a casino boat and several dolphin cruises leave daily.

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

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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 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."

'Duck Dynasty' patriarch and conservative cultural icon Phil Robertson dies

WEST MONROE, La. (AP) — Phil Robertson, who turned his small duck calling interest in the sportsman's paradise of northern Louisiana into a big business and conservative cultural phenomenon, died Sunday, according to his family. He was 79.

Robertson's family announced in December on their Unashamed With the Robertson Family podcast that the patriarch of the clan had Alzheimer's disease. The statement on social media from Robertson's daughter-in-law didn't mention how he died.

"Thank you for the love and prayers of so many whose lives have been impacted by his life saved by grace, his bold faith, and by his desire to tell everyone who would listen the Good News of Jesus. We are grateful for his life on earth and will continue the legacy of love for God and love for others until we see him again," Korie Robertson wrote.

Phil Robertson skyrocketed to fame in the early 2010s when the A&E network created a reality show, presented like a sitcom. It followed the adventures of Robertson, his three sons — including Willie, who runs the family's Duck Commander company, their wives and a host of other relatives and friends.

Phil Robertson and his boys were immediately recognizable by their long beards and their conservative, Christian and family-oriented beliefs.

That got Robertson into trouble, too. He told a magazine reporter in 2013 that gay people are sinners and African Americans were happy under Jim Crow laws.

A&E suspended him from "Duck Dynasty" but reversed course in a few weeks after a backlash that included Sarah Palin.

At the time, Robertson's family called his comments coarse, but said his beliefs were grounded in the Bible and he "is a Godly man." They also said that "as a family, we cannot imagine the show going forward without our patriarch at the helm."

A lifelong Louisiana man

Robertson was born in north Louisiana and spent his life in the woods and lakes that make up the region called Sportsman's Paradise.

Robertson played football at Louisiana Tech and taught school. He also loved to hunt and created a duck call in the early 1970s that he said replicated the exact sound of a duck.

The calls were the centerpiece of the Duck Commander business Robertson would grow into a multimillion-dollar enterprise before A&E came calling.

The family just didn't sell outdoor and hunting gear, but a lifestyle.

"The Robertsons face everything from beavers to business deals in their own special way — with a twist of downhome practicality and a sharp sense of humor," A&E wrote in its promotion for "Duck Dynasty."

Tributes pour in

Appreciations for Robertson appeared on social media shortly after this death was announced, largely from conservative politicians.

Republican Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas wrote on X, "The great #PhilRobertson passed today. He loved Jesus & he was utterly fearless. One of my fondest memories was duck hunting with Phil — he was the best shot I ever met. And, in 2016, he recorded this amazing commercial for me. Rest in peace, my friend."

"Saddened to hear of the passing of Phil Robertson — a man of deep faith, bold conviction, and unwavering love for his family," wrote Ben Carson, former Housing and Urban Development Secretary, also on X. "I'll never forget the time I spent with Phil and his wonderful family at their homestead in West Monroe, LA. We rode through the swamp stopping at his favorite duck blinds before being welcomed by Miss Kay with a warm, home-cooked meal, surrounded by their extended family and close friends."

A&E shared their own tribute to the "Duck Dynasty" X account, writing: "We are saddened to hear of the

passing of Phil Robertson, a hunting industry pioneer and the patriarch of the beloved Robertson family. Our thoughts are with them during this difficult time. We extend our deepest condolences and respect their privacy as they grieve."

The 2028 podcast primary is underway as Democrats try to reshape their image

By MEG KINNARD and ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON Associated Press

The Democrats' 2028 podcast primary is well underway.

From Govs. Gavin Newsom of California, Andy Beshear of Kentucky and Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan to former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, potential presidential contenders are following the lead of President Donald Trump, who frequently went on podcasts appealing to younger men during his 2024 campaign.

Liberal strategists acknowledge Trump showed that Democratic candidates need to master the podcast space, which is typically looser and more freewheeling than a press conference or a traditional media interview.

"The way that politicians communicate and need to be seen by their audience is changing," said Liz Minnella, who fundraised for Democratic nominee Kamala Harris and this year launched Connect Forward, a group to support liberal influencers. "I hate to give him credit, but he found a way to connect with people, talk to them like human beings in non-political speak."

Newsom, long derided by conservatives as a San Francisco liberal, has welcomed conservatives onto his podcast and agreed with them on issues such as trans participation in women's sports. Beshear, a lower-profile Democrat in a red state, hosted his teenagers to teach him how to use the youth slang "skibidi."

The likely 2028 contenders have produced many hours of content already. Here's a look at key moments and what we've learned about the field so far.

Andy Beshear's 'be you, boo'

Launching "The Andy Beshear Podcast" earlier this year, the Kentucky governor now has hosted a donor, a former ambassador, businessmen he calls friends and U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who ran for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

He even brought on his two children to explain slang words high schoolers are using, asking them to explain to him how to use terms like "skibidi" to say something looks good, or "doing it for the plot" to say you'll be taking a risk on something despite a potentially bad outcome.

From his first episode, the 47-year-old politician outlines some rules and says the first is "be authentic, you be you, boo."

The governor did not respond to a request for comment on his strategy, but has mostly taken a position of dissecting and broadcasting opposition to Trump's policies, such as potential cuts to Medicaid and the use of the Signal messaging app by the president's national security team to discuss sensitive military operations.

In one of Beshear's most recent episodes earlier this month, his producer asks the governor a frequent listener's question: Will you run for president?

"If it were three years ago, this was something that we would have never thought about," Beshear said, sitting beside his wife, Britanny. "But I'm committed to not leaving a broken country to my kids or anyone else's. Now, what that looks like going forward, I don't know. My job right now is to try to lift up as many leaders as possible all across the country that are hopefully focused on the right things with the right message to re-earn the faith of the American people."

Gretchen Whitmer talks about the hug

Whitmer recently appeared on "Pod Save America" for a shorter interview than other contenders have done on podcasts. Whitmer had received some backlash for sharing a hug with the president last month as he arrived in her home state, less than a month after she shielded her face from cameras during an Oval Office appearance alongside Trump.

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Whitmer and Trump announced a new fighter jet mission at a National Guard base outside Detroit that is seen as a major economic driver for the area.

"This is a BFD," she said on the podcast, referencing if not outright saying a profane phrase that starts with "big" and ends with "deal."

"It doesn't mean I've abandoned any of my values. It doesn't mean that I'm not going to stand my ground and fight where we have to, but this is one of those moments where as a public servant you're reminded your job is to put service above self and that's what it was all about."

Gavin Newsom gives mic to MAGA figures

In February, California's governor launched "This is Gavin Newsom" as what he called a mechanism for talking "directly with people I disagree with, people I look up to, and you — the listeners."

Thus far, he's had a wide array of guests, including former Trump strategist Steve Bannon and conservative influencer Charlie Kirk, as well as Klobuchar and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, Harris' 2024 running mate.

The conversations have mostly been chummy. Newsom — who has in recent weeks broken with California's legislature and faced liberal criticism for his positioning on trans issues, immigration and homelessness — has fielded backlash for giving a platform to some of his party's biggest critics.

Newsom has also drawn criticism for opposing the participation of trans athletes in women's sports.

"I think it's an issue of fairness, I completely agree with you on that," Newsom told Kirk in his debut episode. "It is an issue of fairness — it's deeply unfair."

The diverse guest list could be part of Newsom's attempt to self-brand as a centrist ahead of a possible 2028 run, hearing out conservative critics while trying to assume his party's mantle.

In March, the governor told HBO's Bill Maher that Democrats had developed a "toxic" brand and criticized some in the party who are unwilling to "have a conversation" with their opponents.

Buttigieg says Democrats need to reach 'people who don't think like us'

Buttigieg's appearance on Andrew Schulz's "Flagrant" podcast came months after the comedian sat down with Trump.

During his three-hour sit-down with Schulz, Buttigieg sported a beard as he talked candidly about his personal life, describing his experiences serving in the military before he came out publicly as gay and raising his biracial children, even laughing along as Schulz and other hosts cracked jokes related to homosexuality or asked pointed questions about his personal life.

But mostly, Buttigieg — who spoke in Iowa earlier this month — discussed his time in politics and accused Trump of failing to deliver on economic promises from the 2024 campaign.

"We have to be encountering people who don't think like us and don't view the world the way we do, both in order to actually, legitimately, become smarter and better and make better choices and have better positions, and just in order to persuade," Buttigieg said.

Today in History: May 27, the Golden Gate Bridge opens

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Tuesday, May 27, the 147th day of 2025. There are 218 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On May 27, 1937, the newly completed Golden Gate Bridge connecting San Francisco and Marin County, California, was opened to pedestrian traffic (vehicles began crossing the next day).

Also on this date:

In 1896, 255 people were killed when a devastating F4 tornado struck St. Louis, Missouri, and East St. Louis, Illinois.

In 1930, New York's Chrysler Building, at the time the world's tallest building, opened to the public.

In 1941, the British Royal Navy sank the German battleship Bismarck off France, killing over 2,000 German sailors.

In 1942, Doris "Dorie" Miller, a cook aboard the USS West Virginia, became the first African-American to receive the Navy Cross for displaying "extraordinary courage and disregard for his own personal safety" during Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

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In 1968, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *United States v. O'Brien*, upheld the conviction of David O'Brien for destroying his draft card outside a Boston courthouse, ruling that the act was not protected by freedom of speech.

In 1993, a bomb set by the Sicilian mafia exploded outside the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy; 5 people were killed and 48 wounded, and dozens of centuries-old paintings were destroyed or damaged.

In 1994, Nobel Prize-winning author Alexander Solzhenitsyn returned to Russia to the emotional cheers of thousands after spending two decades in exile.

In 1998, Michael Fortier, the government's star witness in the Oklahoma City bombing case, was sentenced to 12 years in prison after apologizing for not warning anyone about the deadly plot. (Fortier was freed in January 2006.)

In 2006, a magnitude 6.4 earthquake struck the Indonesian island of Java near the city of Yogyakarta, killing more than 5,700 people.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Lee Meriwether is 90. Actor Bruce Weitz is 82. Musician Bruce Cockburn is 80. Singer Dee Dee Bridgewater is 75. Football Hall of Famer Jackie Slater is 71. Actor Richard Schiff is 70. Singer Siouxsie Sioux is 68. Musician Neil Finn (Split Enz, Crowded House) is 67. Actor Peri Gilpin is 64. Comedian Adam Carolla is 61. Actor Todd Bridges is 60. Baseball Hall of Famer Jeff Bagwell is 57. Baseball Hall of Famer Frank Thomas is 57. Actor Paul Bettany is 54. Actor Jack McBrayer is 52. Rapper-musician Andre 3000 (Outkast) is 50. Rapper Jadakiss is 50. Celebrity chef Jamie Oliver is 50. Actor Ben Feldman is 45. Actor-singer Chris Colfer is 35. Actor Lily-Rose Depp is 26. Olympic gymnastics gold medalist Jade Carey is 25.