

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 1 of 75

[1- Upcoming Events](#)

[2- Instincts kick in as Groton lifeguard saves child](#)

[3- We the People Column: Security for Judges is Essential to Judicial Independence and the Rule of Law](#)

[4- USDA Sends Fire Resources to Assist Canada Wildfire Response](#)

[5- 4x400m Relay School Record is Broke Again](#)

[5- Saturday State Track Meet Recap](#)

[13- Weber Landscaping Greenhouse Ad](#)

[14- SD SearchLight: Hunger relief group says it's facing a \\$2.5 million budget shortfall due to federal cuts](#)

[15- Sunday Extras](#)

[33- Gov. Rhoden's Weekly Column](#)

[34- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column](#)

[35- Rep. Dusty Johnson's Weekly Column](#)

[36- Weekly Round\[s\] Up](#)

[38- Rev. Snyder's Column](#)

[40- South Dakota Average Gas Prices](#)

[41- Drought Monitor](#)

[42- EarthTalk - Renewable Energy](#)

[43- Weather Pages](#)

[48- Daily Devotional](#)

[49- Subscription Form](#)

[50- Lottery Numbers](#)

[51- Upcoming Groton Events](#)

[52- News from the Associated Press](#)

Sunday, June 1:

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m.; at Zion 11 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran worship 9 a.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

United Methodist: Worship with communion at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.

Legion at Volga (vs. Canton at 2 p.m., Volga at 4 p.m.)



Monday, June 2:

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, mixed vegetables, fruit, biscuit.

State Girls Golf Meet in Madison

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

Legion at Aberdeen Smitty's, 6 p.m.

U12 W&R hosts Sisseton, 5:30 p.m. (DH); U10 W&R hosts Clark 5:30 p.m. (DH); U8 B&W at Aberdeen (north complex), 5:30 p.m. (DH)

T-Ball practice at 6 p.m. at soccer field.

Tuesday, June 3:

Senior Menu: Scalloped potatoes and ham, Monterey blend, strawberry ambrosia, whole wheat bread.

State Girls Golf Meet in Madison

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Jr. Legion at Britton, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

U12 R&B hosts Roslyn, 5:30 p.m. (DH); U10 R&B at Aberdeen (north complex), 5:30 p.m. (DH)

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

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

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Instincts kick in as Groton lifeguard saves child

By Elizabeth Varin

A birthday party at the Groton Swimming Pool took a scary turn Saturday morning when an 8-year-old began struggling in the water.

But quick action by lifeguard Addison Hoffman kept a scary moment from becoming something worse.

Hoffman, a second-year lifeguard at the pool, recalled sitting in the lifeguard stand Saturday morning at the beginning of a birthday party. While she recognized some of the kids heading into the pool, Hoffman said she didn't know a few of the swimmers. She kept a closer eye on them as she didn't know how well they could swim.

"I could see that she was kind of bobbing up and down, and I thought she was just messing around and playing because kids do that a lot. They bob," she said. "I got off the stand so I could get a better view. Then I saw her fully submerge under water.

"I jumped in to get her and swam her to the wall," she said.

Hoffman helped the girl out of the pool area between the deep diving board area and the slide.

"It was a little nerve wracking because I had never saved a kid before," Hoffman said. "But your instincts just kick in and you know what to do."

While Saturday's incident ended safely, Hoffman advises parents to gauge how well their children can swim. If they aren't strong swimmers, have them wear floaties and keep a good eye on them.

"And take swim lessons at the Groton pool," she added.



Addison Hoffman

(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 3 of 75

We the People

The South Dakota Humanities Council is making available a weekly column -- "We the People" -- that focuses on the U.S. Constitution. It is written by David Adler, who is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality, and civic education.



By David Adler

Security for Judges is Essential to Judicial Independence and the Rule of Law

Reporting from the Wall Street Journal over the Memorial Day weekend that a security committee at the federal Judicial Conference in March discussed a proposal to create an armed security force responsible for the safety of the judiciary, separate from the U.S. Marshal's Service, reflects a sad reality: judges who have ruled against President Donald Trump have faced death threats and vicious personal attacks, amid other hostile acts designed to intimidate them. It should be clear to all that the safety of federal judges is pivotal to the preservation of an independent judiciary and the rule of law, even more critical than the Article III structural guarantees of judicial independence: judges shall serve during good behavior, they may not be removed from the bench unless they commit impeachable offenses—treason, bribery, and high crimes and misdemeanors—and their salaries may not be diminished during their tenure. The structural constitutional protections afforded the judiciary would be rendered irrelevant if judges feared for their lives in rendering decisions based on facts and the law.

The growing recognition among judges that their health, safety and lives—and those of their families—are on the line when they issue, for example, temporary injunctions against President Trump, to halt his usurpations of power and the violation of individuals' civil rights and civil liberties, has been heightened by his public statements, including those on Truth Social, that judges who have ruled against him—"USA hating judges" and "radical Left lunatics"—in both his first and second terms in office, are "scum" and "Monsters who want our country to go to Hell." Trump and his associates have called for the impeachment of "opposition" judges and have attacked them by name. Some have been swatted. In recent months, dozens of pizzas have been delivered to the homes of judges, an action designed to intimidate them by demonstrating that their home addresses are known and that they can be reached.

What the Trump regime refuses to acknowledge is that many of the judicial decisions that have frozen his actions have been Republican-appointed judges, including those nominated by Trump himself. Trump's parade of losses in the federal courts has been followed by a steady stream of attacks, the goal of which has been to denigrate judges, demean the principle of judicial independence, and deny, altogether, the authority of the judiciary to review presidential acts. Such court bashing invites threats to judges.

As of May 23, the New York Times reports, at least 177 rulings, including decisions of Trump-nominated judges, "have at least temporarily paused some of the administration's initiatives." The Trump Administration's insistence that judges who halt Trump's aggrandizement of power are backing criminals fans the flames of MAGA loyalists. The concerns among judges at the March conference, in addition to those expressed by eminent, retired judges, include the fear that Attorney General Pam Bondi, who has been hyper-critical of those who have halted Trump's acts, might withdraw the protection of the U.S. Marshals. J. Michael Luttig, a retired federal judge, revered by conservative legal scholars, pointedly stated that the federal judiciary cannot "trust this president and his attorney general to ensure their protection. How could anyone?"

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 4 of 75

Trump's intemperate and dangerous attacks on those judges who have ruled against him represent a departure from both the measured criticisms of court rulings by previous presidents, as does the occasion that he used to deliver them. His fusillade of indecorous Memorial Day assaults on judicial independence, essential to the maintenance of the republic, pales in comparison to the messages of presidents past, who have marked with eloquent and patriotic language the sobering day when our nation honors the fallen who have sacrificed their lives in the name of freedom. On May 31, 1982, President Ronald Reagan expressed the awe that we Americans feel for those who "give their lives so that others might live." On May 25, 1998, President Bill Clinton urged the citizenry "to commit ourselves to a future worthy of their sacrifice." On May 27, 2002, President Barack Obama stated, "Our nation owes a debt to its fallen heroes that we can never fully repay, but we can honor their sacrifice, and we must." To honor their ultimate sacrifice requires of the president, at a minimum, to defend democracy, the Constitution, and judicial independence, for which our fallen heroes have given their lives.

David Adler is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality and civic education. This column is made possible with the support of the South Dakota Humanities Council, South Dakota NewsMedia Association and this newspaper.

USDA Sends Fire Resources to Assist Canada Wildfire Response

(Washington, D.C., May 31, 2025) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins today announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service is deploying resources to assist the wildfire response currently impacting Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Alberta, Canada. The Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Center raised the wildfire preparedness level to 5 on May 29, 2025, as the country is experiencing very high to extreme wildfire activity. USDA deployed an airtanker to Alberta, on May 31st, and the United States is mobilizing over 150 firefighters and support personnel to assist with the Canadian wildfire response. The United States is also mobilizing other equipment including sprinkler kits, pumps, and hoses.

"We are here to help our neighbors during their time of need, and our Forest Service Wildland Firefighters are the best in the business. I am thankful for the men and women who are bravely stepping up to serve. We pray for their success as they fight fires and save lives," said Secretary Rollins.

The current fire activity in the United States remains normal. USDA will retain readiness and if we anticipate any operational needs, we reserve the right to recall our resources. USDA Forest Service operational readiness will never be diminished.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 5 of 75

Saturday State Track Meet Recap

From Groton Area Facebook Page

The Tigers had a strong finish Saturday at the State Track & Field Meet! Here is a recap of Day #3:

- Laila Roberts, Taryn Traphagen, McKenna Tietz, and Kella Tracy secured an impressive 2nd place finish in the 4x400m relay, with a season best and school record-breaking time of 4:01.25!

- Laila Roberts, Kella Tracy, McKenna Tietz, and Taryn Traphagen secured a 5th place finish in the 4x200m Relay with a season best time of 1:46.80!

- McKenna Tietz placed 7th in the Girls 300m Hurdles, with a time of 47.69!

- In the 1600m Run, Jayden Schwan finished 10th with a personal best time of 4:33.17 and Ryelle Gilbert finished 19th with a time of 5:39.59!



4x400m Relay School Record is Broke Again

- These four incredible ladies have done it again, as they capped off their season with an impressive 2nd place finish at the 2025 State A Track & Field Meet in Sioux Falls Saturday!

- Senior, Laila Roberts, and Sophomore team members, Taryn Traphagen, McKenna Tietz, and Kella Tracy recorded a solid 4:01.25 in the 4x400m Relay today, setting the mark even lower for the Groton Area School Record Books!

**Photos by Bruce Babcock and
Jodi Schwan**



Final day three of the South Dakota High School State Track Meet at Howard Wood Stadium in Sioux Falls.

Groton Daily Independent

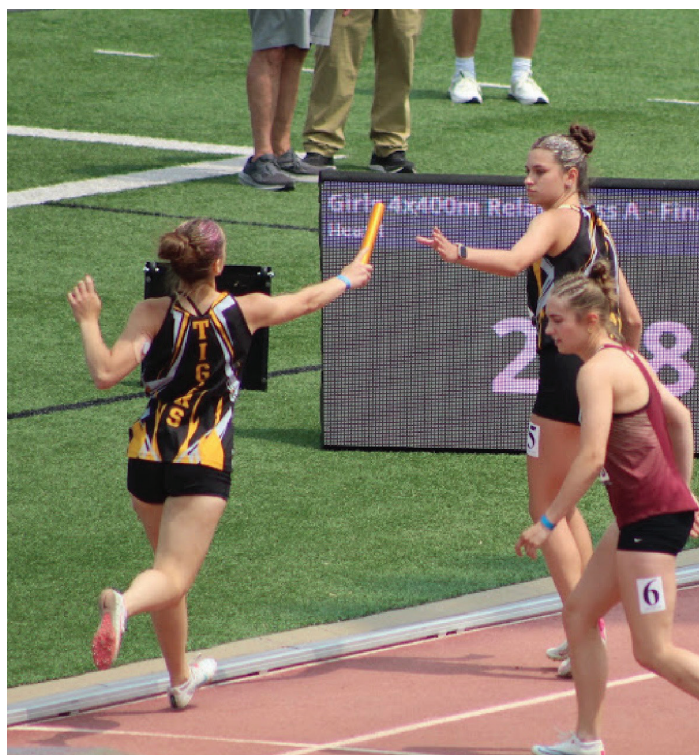
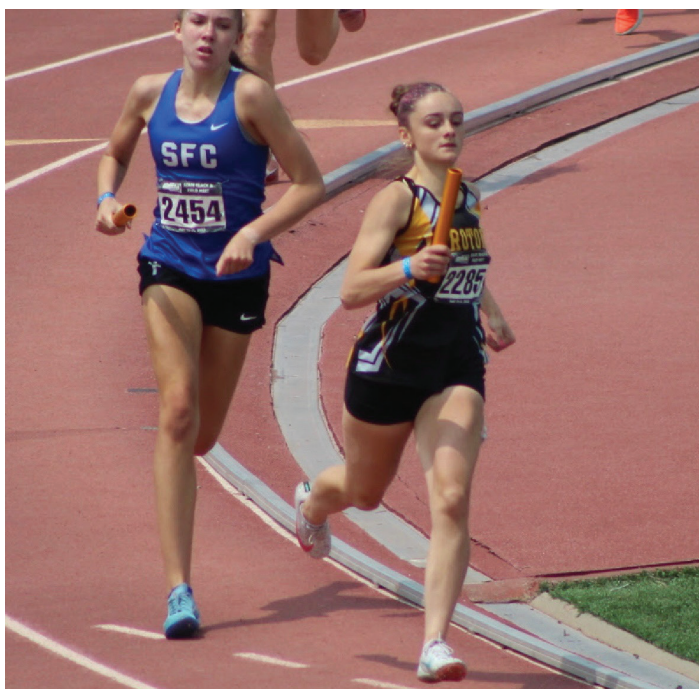
Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 6 of 75



Award stand for the girls 300m Intermediate Hurdles. Groton Area McKenna Tietz placed seventh in the 300m. Establishing a new school record the previous day in the 300m H.

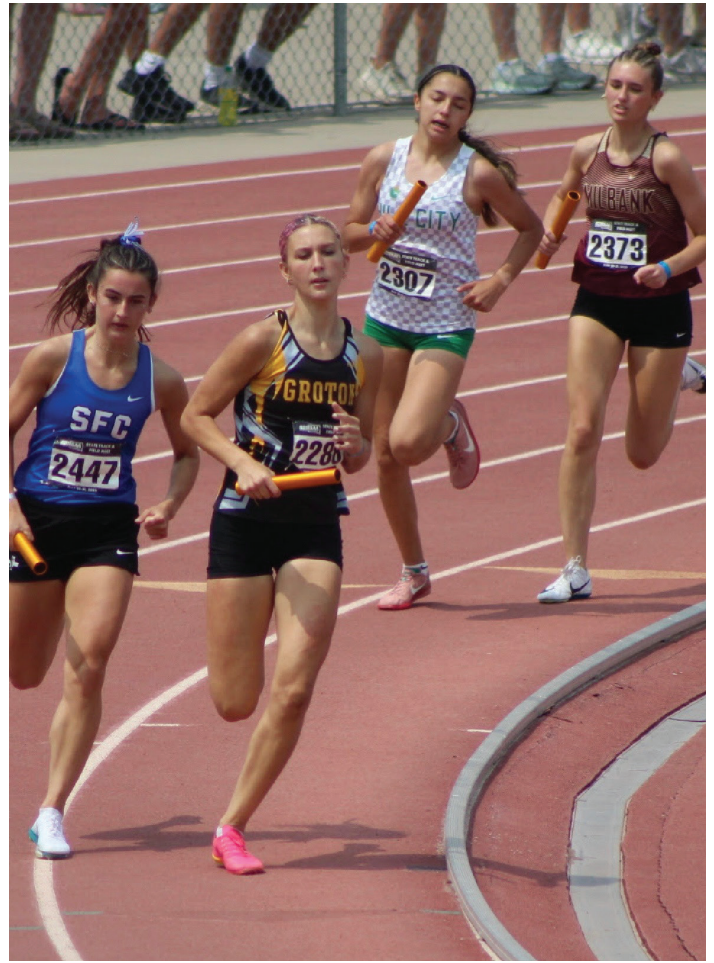
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 7 of 75



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 8 of 75



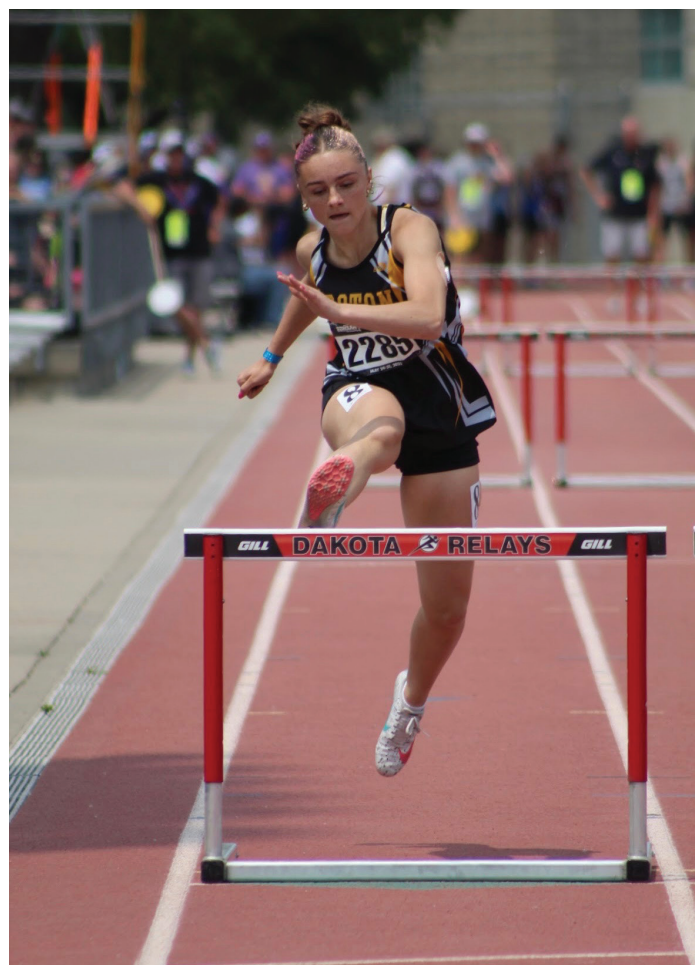
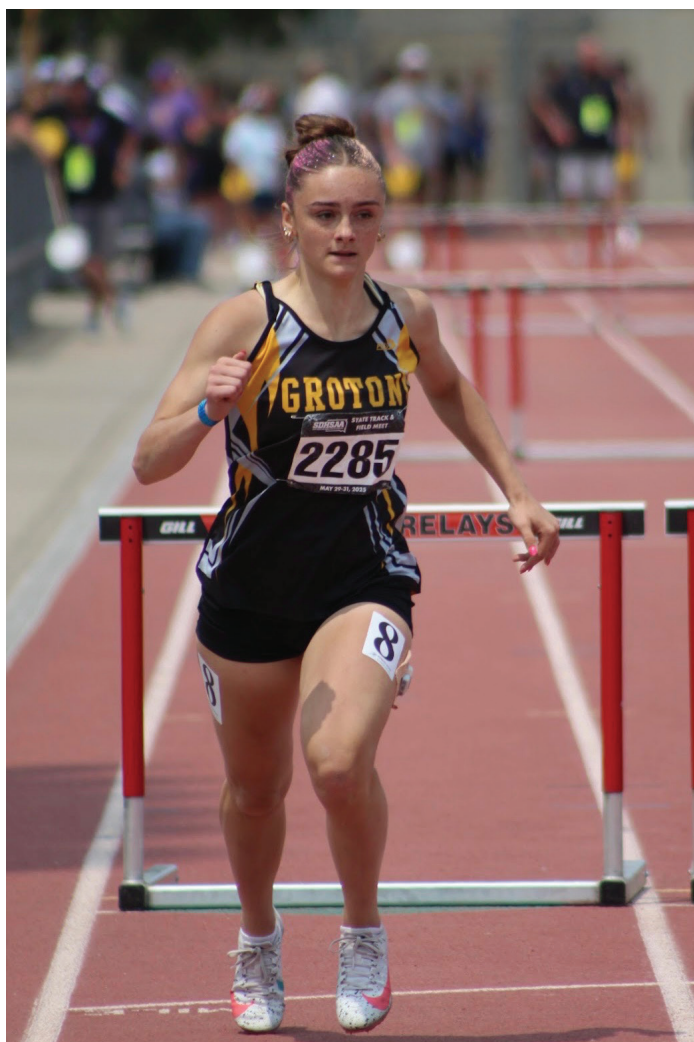
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 9 of 75



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 10 of 75



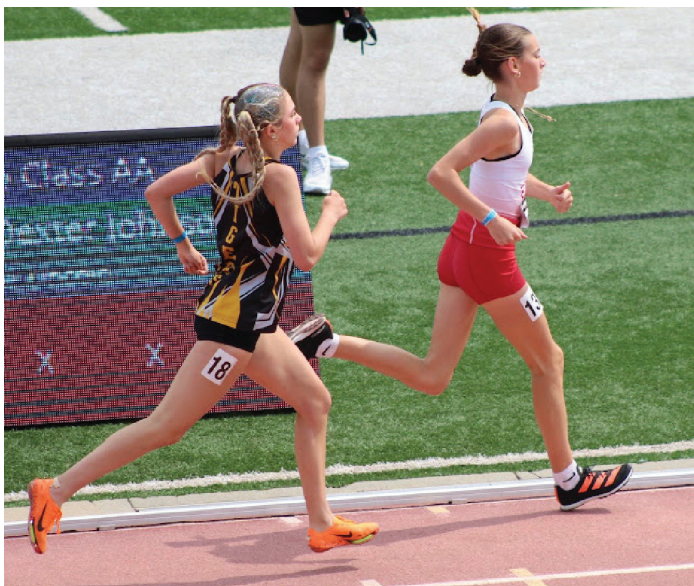
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 11 of 75



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 12 of 75



Marty Weismantel representing the SDH-SAA awards Groton Area McKenna Tietz the seventh place medal in the 300m hurdles.

OPENING MAY 2ND
CLOSING JUNE 2ND

WEBER LANDSCAPING GREENHOUSE

620 WEST THIRD AVENUE

GROTON

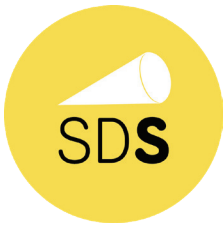
HOURS OF OPERATION

M-F 10-6

SAT 10-4

SUN 12-4





SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Hunger relief group says it's facing a \$2.5 million budget shortfall due to federal cuts

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - MAY 31, 2025 7:00 AM

South Dakota's largest hunger-relief organization says it faces a \$2.5 million budget shortfall next year because of President Donald Trump's federal funding cuts.

Feeding South Dakota CEO Lori Dykstra addressed lawmakers on a budget committee Friday in Pierre. She said the group has already cut the amount of food it provides and has merged distribution sites. She warned that unless the funding gap is filled, 21 food distribution events in 15 counties will be eliminated, affecting 3,400 families and eliminating more than 1.7 million meals annually.

"We're not here to say whether or not the federal funding decisions are right or wrong," Dykstra said. "We're just letting you know that one of the unintentional consequences is that the food safety net for Feeding South Dakota and for all of your neighbors facing hunger is at risk."

The cuts come from the rollback of federal aid by the Trump administration, particularly programs begun during the COVID-19 pandemic to help the U.S. Department of Agriculture support food distribution.

Dykstra said the group must now find \$2.5 million to replace lost USDA support in fiscal year 2026, which begins July 1, or make cuts.

Dykstra also warned that if the current budget reconciliation legislation in Congress is enacted, the state could be on the hook for 5% of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits and a larger share of SNAP administrative costs, adding up to a possible \$13 million total state obligation. SNAP participants can use their benefits to purchase food.

"SNAP benefits get people out of food lines," she said. "So, it's either they're in the food bank line or they're in the grocery store."

Dykstra said 113,000 South Dakotans are food insecure, meaning they are uncertain about where their next meal will come from, often forced to skip meals, eat less, or purchase cheaper, less nutritious food.



Feeding South Dakota's Rapid City location on May 30, 2025. (Seth Tupper/South Dakota Searchlight)

Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked for five years as a multimedia specialist and journalist with South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 15 of 75



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



*...Aspire to lead a quiet life,
to mind your own business,
and to work
with your own hands,
as we commanded you...*

1 THESSALONIANS 4:11

Peasant with a Stick by Vincent van Gogh (1881)

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"IT'S A WARM-UP FOR GREENLAND,"

BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Hagarites (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. From Daniel 5, who was holding a great feast when handwriting appeared on the wall? *Job, Belshazzar, Hagar, Hanun*

3. Where did Jesus cause demons to go out of two men into a herd of pigs? *Appii, Assos, Damascus, Gadarenes*

4. Who used unfair labor practices at his brick-making establishment? *Pharaoh, Silas, Joash, Jonathan*

5. What did Nebuchadnezzar dream of that reached into heaven? *Tree, River, Ladder, Rope*

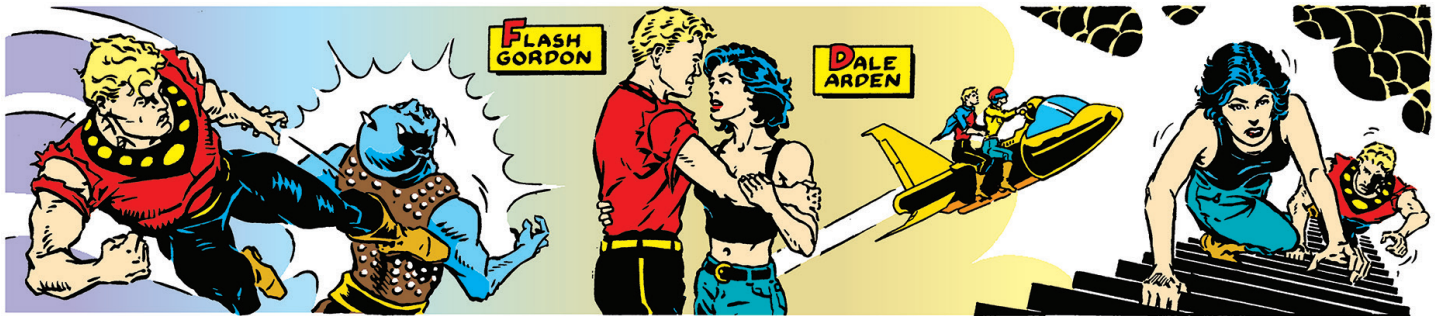
6. Who fasted 40 days and nights after being fed by an angel? *Darius, Paul, Elijah, Ahab*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Belshazzar, 3) Gadarenes, 4) Pharaoh, 5) Tree, 6) Elijah

Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscribersite at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.

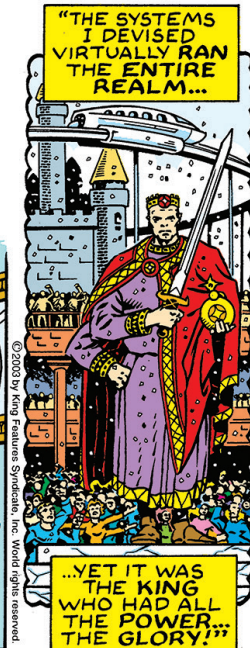
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 17 of 75

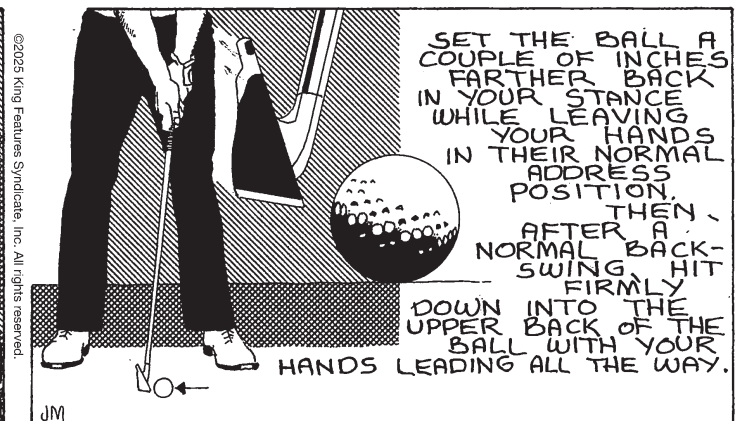
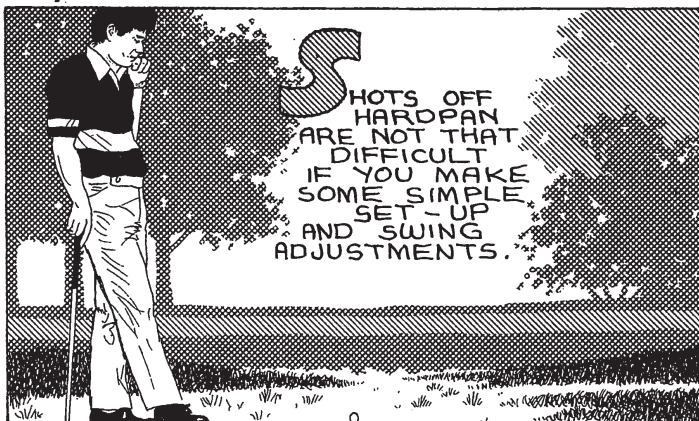


FLASH GORDON

BY JIM KEEFE 5/18



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Doctor Uses Dictation Machine During Patient's Medical Exam

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have recently begun seeing a new physician who dictates into a recorder during my entire exam. I find this very off-putting and don't know what to do. Here is an example:

Doctor: What brings you in today?

Me: I have a sore throat.

Doctor speaks into to the recorder: Patient presents a complaint of a sore throat today.

Doctor: When did it start?

Me: Thursday.

Doctor speaks into to the recorder: Patient states that it began Thursday.

This back and forth into the recorder continues for the entire visit. I don't feel as if I can really have a discussion about a concern with him when he continues to interrupt me to dictate. I feel as if I am bothering him while he is working if I want to add a detail or expound on what I said.

I understand physicians are under pressure to complete their charting, and their schedules are very full, but I also believe that building a rapport is important for the doctor-patient relationship. This is not possible when I am stopped every few sentences so he can dictate.

There is no head physician or practice manager to discuss this with. Do I bring it up directly with him or say nothing? Or should I find a new physician? -- N.F.H.

ANSWER: I would also feel frustrated if my doctor did this to me. It does make it seem like writing the note is more important than listening to the patient. Even the doctor who stays behind a computer screen to make notes may not seem present in the exam room, and I certainly have been guilty of this on occasion.

I will say that newer technology may help solve this problem. When I saw my own doctor last month, I noticed that he placed his phone down, but I didn't pay any more attention until he showed me (after the visit) what the "AI scribe" wrote as a chart note without him doing anything. I was impressed with the quality and thoroughness of the note that was seemingly written without him having to change his usual questions. (I did agree to the use of this technology before the office visit.)

I have also had human scribes in the room when I've seen a doctor (dermatology in particular), and while it's easier to connect with the doctor who is paying attention to me instead of their charting, having another human in the room does feel less private.

What your doctor does seems clunky and, in some ways, the worst of both worlds. It won't be easy to bring it up with him directly, but this is the only alternative to finding a new doctor. Even if you do find a new doctor, your original doctor should know that his using a dictation machine is costing him patients.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I read that getting the chicken pox vaccine leads to a higher risk of shingles later in life compared to getting the chicken pox illness. Is this true? -- T.S.E.

ANSWER: This is completely false. Large studies have shown that vaccinated children have a 79% lower incidence of shingles compared to unvaccinated children. Put in another way from a separate study, the risk of developing shingles was 2.3 times higher among children who got chicken pox compared to those who got the vaccine.

Getting vaccinated as an adult over 50 for shingles, whether you had the vaccine or chicken pox, is the best way to prevent shingles, which is painful, can lead to severe complications, and can even increase the risk of stroke.

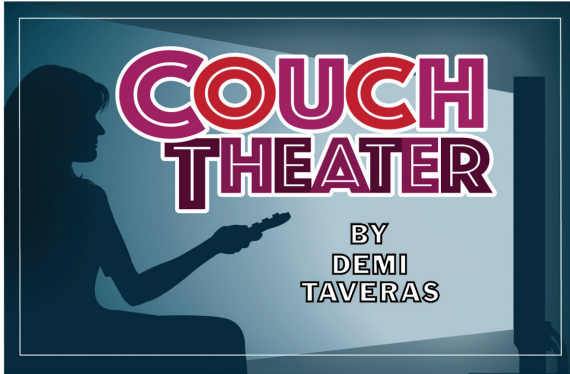
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 19 of 75



"Sinners" (R) -- This supernatural horror flick from director Ryan Coogler ("Black Panther: Wakanda Forever") has become one of the biggest film releases of the year, hopefully making it one to watch during next year's award season. Taking place in 1932 Mississippi, the film follows twin brothers Smoke and Stack Moore, as well as their cousin Sammie, as they start up a local juke joint for the Black community in their town. Despite a pastor's warnings that the blues can summon supernatural spirits, Sammie and other local musicians perform blues songs during the juke joint's opening night. Little do they know that their entrancing tunes beckon a vampire clan closer and closer, and a massacre is sure to follow. Michael B. Jordan stuns in the dual role of Smoke and Stack, and Ludwig Goransson's soundtrack is the perfect finishing garnish to this incredible film. Available to rent on June 3. (Amazon Prime Video)



Taraji P. Henson stars in "Straw." (Courtesy of Netflix)

"Straw" (R) -- Tyler Perry's films are often centered around telling underrepresented Black stories that often evoke intense emotions in their characters and their audience. His latest release, which is available to stream on June 6, puts this same formula to work with Taraji P. Henson being a force to reckon with in the lead role. She portrays single mother Janiyah, who is at her wit's end after a series of events cause her to lose out on money for her daughter's medical bills. With nowhere left to turn, Janiyah heads to the bank, preparing to commit a robbery. Once she's there and in the thick of the action, cooler heads like bank manager Nicole (Sherri Shepherd) and Detective Kay Raymond (Teyana Taylor) attempt to talk Janiyah out of making a terrible mistake. (Netflix)

"Stick" (TV-MA) -- Owen Wilson takes on his first leading role since the trainwreck that was "Haunted Mansion" (2023), and this time, it seems like this role is a bit more his speed. Wilson plays Pryce Cahill, a "long washed up" professional golfer who lacks a purpose after both his golfing career and marriage went south. While teaching golf basics to the elderly, Pryce encounters a teen boy named Santi (Peter Dinklage), whose golf swing shows serious potential. So, Pryce decides to take Santi under his wing and sign him up for an amateur championship tournament to see if Santi can win it all! The first three episodes premiere June 4, with subsequent episodes releasing every Wednesday. (Apple TV+)

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 20 of 75



1. Where did the melody for The Toys' "A Lover's Concerto" come from?
2. Name the Chicago song that includes the lyric "Eh, cumpari, ci vo sunari."
3. Which group released "Nightshift"?
4. Name the artist who wrote and released "Young Turks."
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Here we come, walking down the street, We get the funniest looks from everyone we meet."

Answers

1. The melody is Minuet in G Major by Christian Petzold, in 1725. For a long time it was believed that it had been written by Johann Sebastian Bach because the song was found in a compilation by Bach's sister.
2. "Saturday in the Park," in 1972. The Italian lyric comes from "Eh, Cumpari" by Julius La Rosa, in 1953.
3. The Commodores, in 1985. The song charted around the globe.
4. Rod Stewart, in 1981.
5. Theme song from "The Monkees" television show, 1966-1968, starring Micky Dolenz, Michael Nesmith, Peter Tork and Davy Jones. The show was canceled after the second season due to a dispute: The band wanted more guest stars and the TV network didn't. Meanwhile, the show's exposure did make the group very successful.

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GRIN and BEAR IT[®] Wagner

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



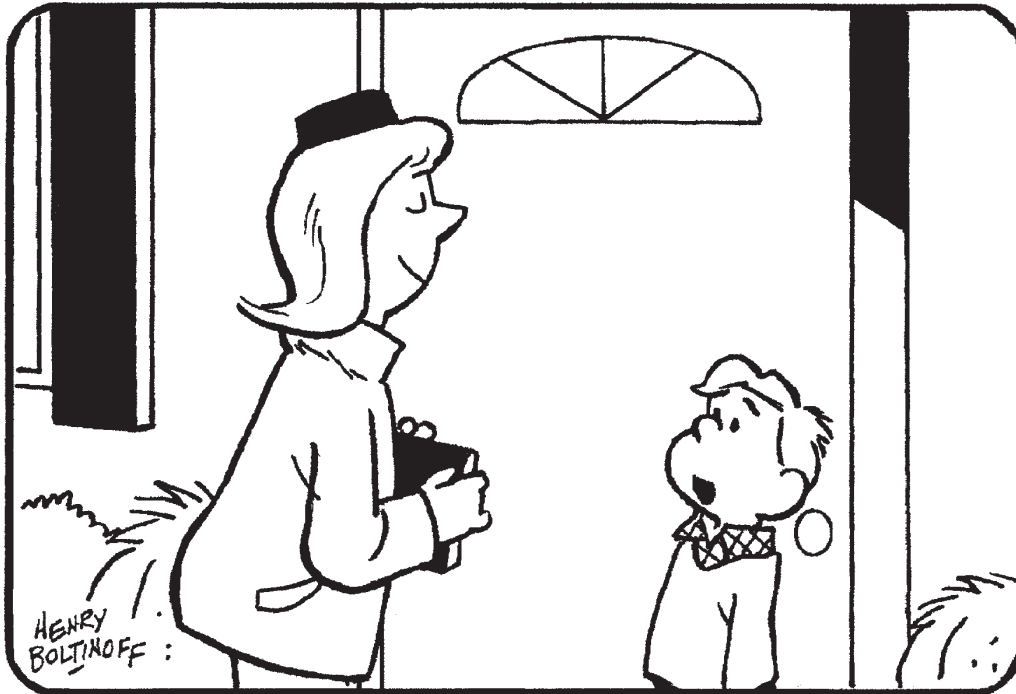
"We got that once-in-a-lifetime offer again!"

Groton Daily Independent

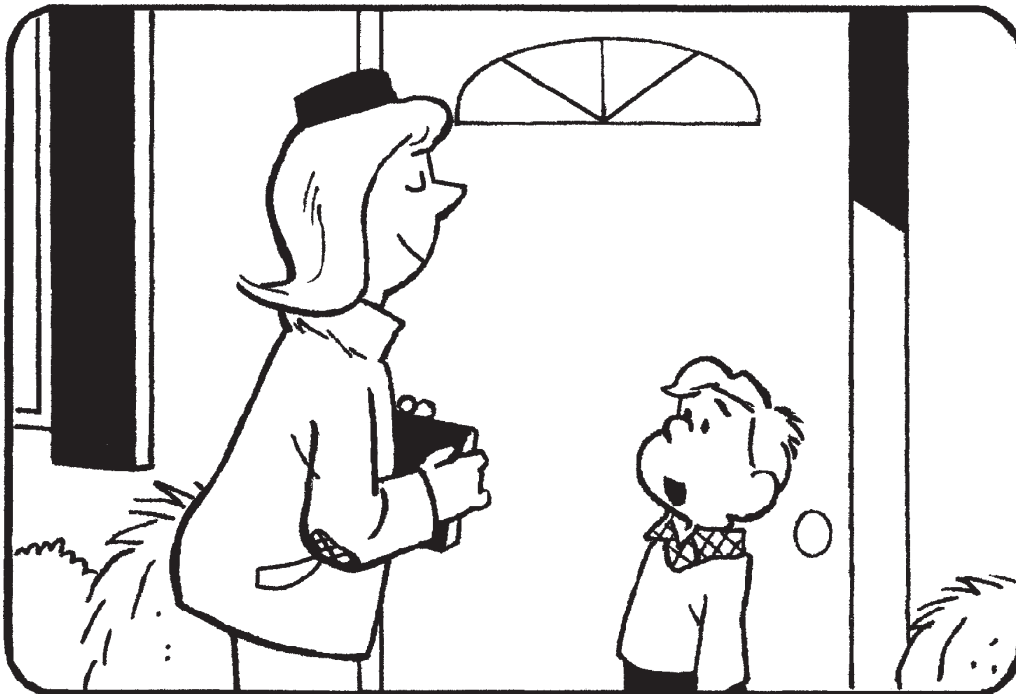
Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 21 of 75

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Boy is moved. 2. Sweater is shorter. 3. Window is lower. 4. Woman is taller. 5. Elbow patch is added. 6. Bush is not as tall.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 22 of 75



* When cooking meat, you have to take care. Here are two tips straight from my local butcher: First, let meats come to room temperature before cooking. It allows the meat to cook more evenly and you won't end up with a cold center and a burnt outside. Secondly, when your meat comes off the grill or out of the oven, give it time to rest before serving. This allows the juices to redistribute throughout the cut of meat, and you'll end up with juicy goodness in every bite.

* "Depending on how you scoop it, you can end up with too much or too little flour. Here is a tip about getting the best amount every time. Give the flour a stir with a spoon and then lightly spoon it into a measuring cup. When it is heaped over, use a knife to level out the measure without tamping down."

-- Y.E. in Arkansas

* "Baking is a science as well as an art. It's about interaction of ingredients and what happens when they mix in certain ways. So this is not so much a tip as a caution. Make sure of your substitutions, and use the right amounts of things. Then your cakes will be light and fluffy and your pastry will be flaky and moist." -- B.G. in Pennsylvania

* Berries are in season and there's no greater time to stock up. But don't feel like you have to make jam out of all the berries. Freeze in a single layer and transfer to a freezer-safe bag or container. They can be popped into muffins and quick breads, as well as eaten straight out of the bag for a delicious treat.

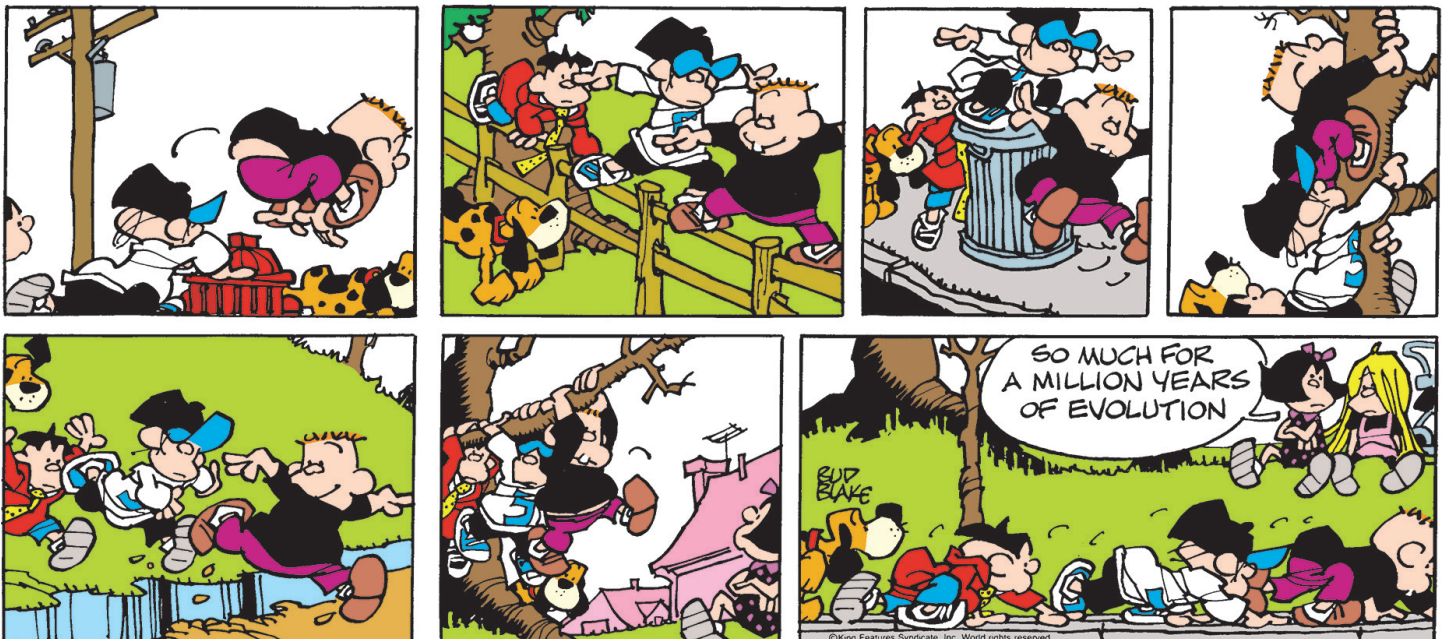
* When searing meat on a stovetop, be sure your pan is oiled (if called for) and at temperature. Otherwise, it'll stick.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 23 of 75

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Science room
4 Novelist
Waugh
8 Baby carriage
12 Mode lead-in
13 "Break My
Heart" singer
Dua
14 Deserve
15 Most spiteful
17 Erte's style
18 Naval rank
19 Director
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22 Frasier's
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26 Hay bundles
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30 Dr. of hip-hop
31 Spanish
cheers
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33 Close
34 "Diamonds"
singer
35 Kilmer of
"Top Gun"
36 Paper packs
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39 "Great Expect-
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40 Hosp. areas
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54 Legendary
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55 Donkey
- 6 Mini-albums,
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7 Tree with pods
8 Bicycle part
9 "Norma —"
10 Lob's path
11 L-P link
16 Corvette
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28 Jet type
29 Baseball's
Hodges
- 32 MRI's kin
33 Neighbor of
Tibet
35 TiVo precur-
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36 Foes
38 Hawkeye
39 "For — sake!"
42 Actress Merrill
43 Eve's grand-
son
44 Without
45 Busy insect
46 Sgt., for one
47 Corn spike
49 Chopper

DOWN

- 1 Lingerie trim
2 Cumming or
Bates
3 Cave crea-
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4 Sets straight
5 Property
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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 24 of 75

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

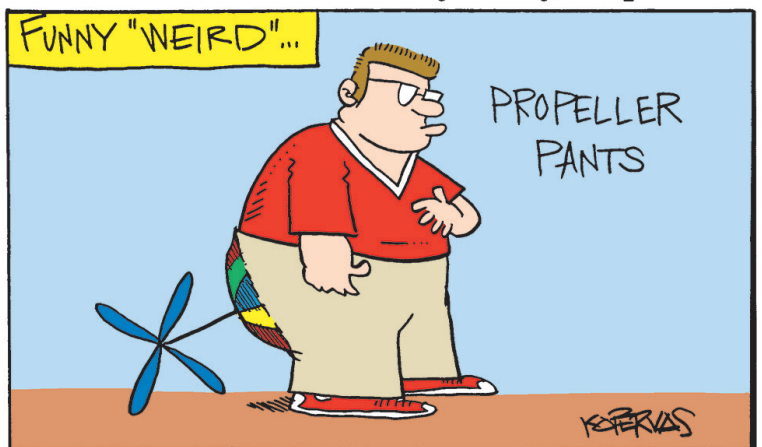
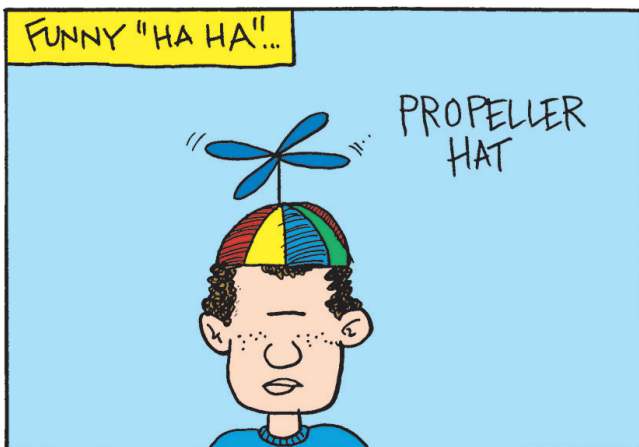
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Olive



Out on a Limb

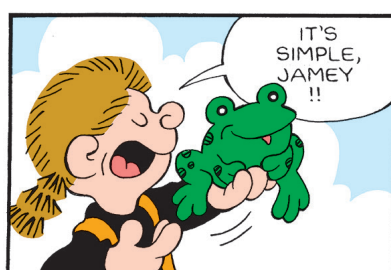
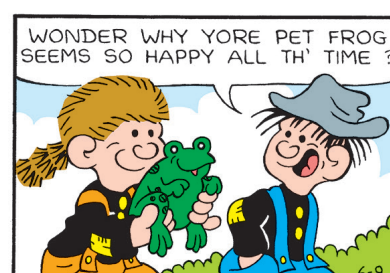
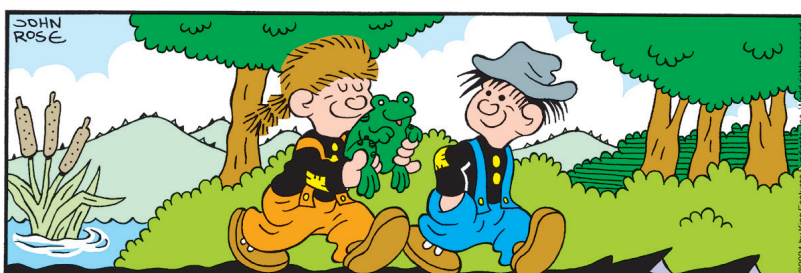
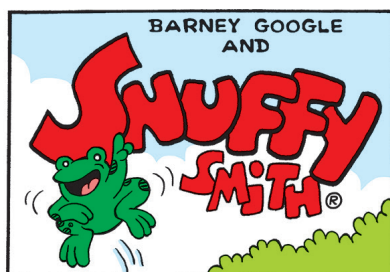
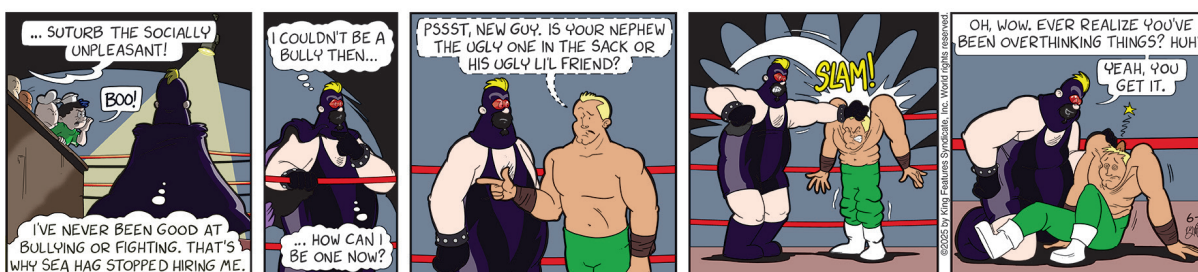
by Gary Kopervas



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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 25 of 75

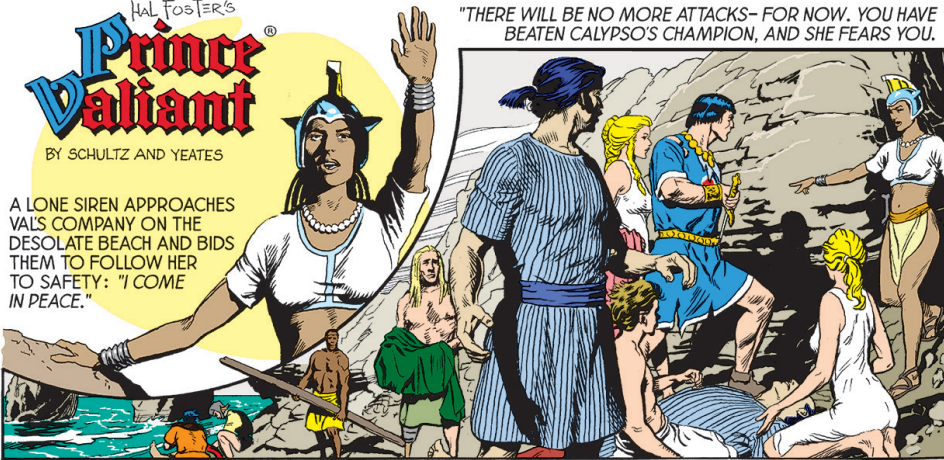


Groton Daily Independent

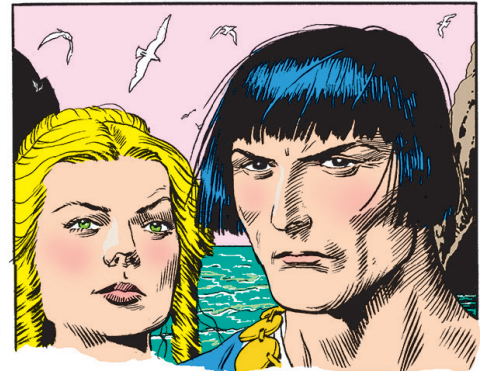
Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 26 of 75

HAL FOSTER'S **Prince Valiant** BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

A LONE SIREN APPROACHES VAL'S COMPANY ON THE DESOLATE BEACH AND BIDS THEM TO FOLLOW HER TO SAFETY: "I COME IN PEACE."



"THERE WILL BE NO MORE ATTACKS- FOR NOW. YOU HAVE BEATEN CALYPSO'S CHAMPION, AND SHE FEARS YOU."



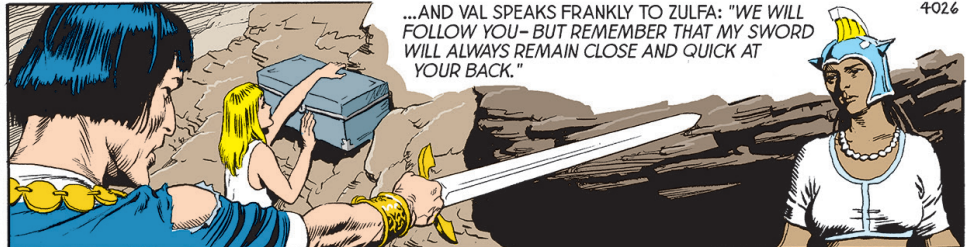
"I AM ZULFA, AND HAVE COME BECAUSE I DO NOT BELIEVE YOU MEAN US ANY HARM. BUT IF CALYPSO LEARNED OF MY ACTIONS, SHE WOULD KILL ME." VAL REGARDS THIS ZULFA SUSPICIOUSLY...

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4026



... BUT, AWARE THAT THE DEADLY TIDAL CURRENT WILL SOON RETURN, HE KNOWS THEY MUST FIND A WAY UP. A CRUDE PALLET IS FASHIONED FOR THE INJURED POLYPHEMUS...



...AND VAL SPEAKS FRANKLY TO ZULFA: "WE WILL FOLLOW YOU- BUT REMEMBER THAT MY SWORD WILL ALWAYS REMAIN CLOSE AND QUICK AT YOUR BACK."



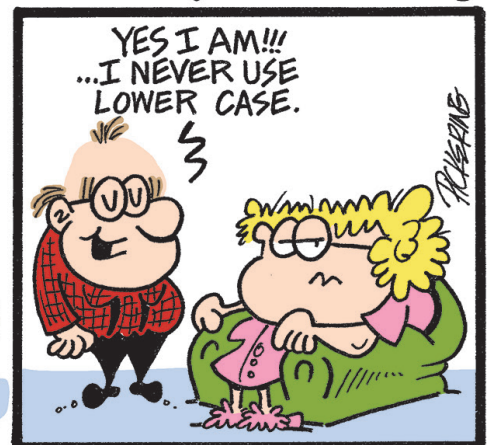
... AND, AS THEY ARE ABOUT TO LEAVE, VAL CURIOUSLY NOTES THAT KAREN'S SURVIVING GUARD IS ARGUING VEHEMENTLY WITH HIS DAUGHTER...

NEXT:
Refuge

YEATES 4/6/14

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



YES I AM!!!
...I NEVER USE
LOWER CASE.

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PICKERING

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 27 of 75

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Outwitting the scammers

My phone number appears to have gotten on another list somewhere, and the potential scammers are coming out of the woodwork -- again. I have my suspicions about where they could have found my number this time, but I can't prove it, of course. All I can do is keep fending them off ... by not answering the phone if I don't recognize the number or hanging up quickly if I've answered and realize it's a scam. After a period of time, it will wind down as they don't have the satisfaction of anyone answering or falling for their scheme.

I try to stay off their radar by keeping to a minimum the number of places that have my information, but sometimes it's just required that you provide a phone number. We have to weigh the value of what we'll get -- perhaps it's the grocery store loyalty card that requires a phone number to sign up, or even for voter registration -- versus the potential abuse of our phone number when the scammers get it.

I keep a spare email address for the same reason. If forced to give one out, and not really trusting what will be done with it, I give the "trash" address and once a month go through and delete what generally turns out to be 95% spam email.

Then there are the passwords for the things we need to do online. We're advised to have "strong" passwords, but what does that really mean? It means using all the types of keys on the keyboard: upper and lower case letters, symbols and numbers. Don't go with something that's too easy for a thief to figure out, like the name of your former high school.

We can outwit the thieves who want our money and peace of mind. It just takes a little work.
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Downtown Groton

Call/Text Paul: 605-397-7460
Call/Text Tina: 605-397-7285



Senior Citizens 65+
Physical Therapy.

\$20 a month

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 28 of 75

1. Name the Minnesota Vikings wide receiver who made a one-handed, 46-yard touchdown catch on the final play of the game to seal a 28-23 win over the Cleveland Browns in December 1980.

2. What two Seattle Mariners hit back-to-back home runs twice in the first inning in a 15-4 drubbing of the Chicago White Sox on May 2, 2002?

3. It took Wayne Gretzky 1,487 regular-season NHL games to score 894 career goals. How many regular-season games did it take Alex Ovechkin to score 895 goals?

4. What facility in England, which opened in 1907, is the world's first purpose-built motor racing circuit?

5. Name the prospect who received a prank phone call from someone claiming to be New Orleans Saints general manager Mickey Loomis during the 2025 NFL Draft.

6. Before becoming a pro wrestling superstar, he played 289 Minor League Baseball games with St. Louis Cardinals and Cincinnati Reds affiliates from 1971-74. Who is he?

7. Arsene Wenger managed what English football club to three Premier League titles and seven FA Cup championships from 1996-2018?



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. Ahmad Rashad.

2. Bret Boone and Mike Cameron.

3. 1,487.

4. Brooklands.

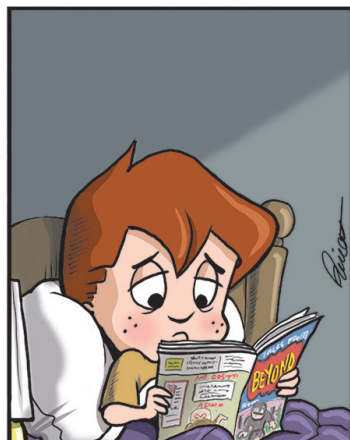
5. University of Colorado quarterback Shedeur Sanders.

6. Randy Poffo, better known as "Macho Man" Randy Savage.

7. Arsenal.

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Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps





PR and first aid for dogs

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Several years ago, my family's dog "Aker" passed away when his heart stopped. We were never sure why this happened, and I was just a kid. But I've always wondered if it was possible to perform CPR on a pet if this happens in the future. I adopted a puppy recently and I want to be able to help him whenever he's hurt or injured. -- Becca R. in Boulder, Colorado

DEAR BECCA: You can perform CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) on a pet whose heart has stopped -- in fact, you can even get training on pet CPR and first aid through the Red Cross.

The process for pet CPR is very similar to that of human CPR. If a dog or cat becomes ill and collapses, you first check for breathing and heartbeat -- look to see if their chest is moving, and place your hand on their chest to feel for a heartbeat. If there is no heartbeat or breathing, place the pet on their right side and perform chest compressions directly over their heart at a rate of 100-120 compressions per minute. Give rescue breaths every 30 compressions. Keep performing CPR until they begin to breathe on their own, or until you reach the emergency vet clinic.

Those instructions don't reveal some key factors, like: What if a dog is barrel-chested? How do you give rescue breaths to a large dog? Pet CPR and first-aid training will answer those questions, and help you feel confident that you can provide immediate care for illness, shock or injury until your pet can get to the vet for advanced care.

Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 30 of 75

Strange BUT TRUE

* According to legend, and the official story from Nathan's, four immigrants held the first hot dog eating contest at Nathan's Famous stand on Coney Island on July 4, 1916, to prove who was the most patriotic.

* Koala bears have no sweat glands, so they cool themselves by licking their arms and stretching out as they rest in trees.

* Asbestos used to be a common sight on film sets. The carcinogenic mineral was a common substitute for snow-

flakes in film-making until shortly after World War II.

* No matter how hot your summer day feels, you won't actually be able to cook an egg on a sidewalk. That's because you'd need a temperature of at least 158 F, and the highest recorded only reached 131 F. Besides that, concrete isn't a good heat conductor.

* When it comes to wine, and Sauvignon Blanc in particular, a cat pee-like aroma is often indicative of a high-quality vintage.

* Inazawa Grand Bowl bowling center in Japan is the world's largest bowling alley, with 116 lanes.

* Mars' dust storms, the planet's defining weather feature, are the largest in the solar system and can last for months.

* Despite producing 95% of the world's bourbon supply, Kentucky's official drink is milk.


* A museum in Helsinki, Finland, has been infested with *Loxosceles laeta*, venomous recluse spiders, that originally came from South America. The spiders are extremely resistant to attempts to kill them, and no one knows who imported them.

* The average person can only hear sounds up to 20 kHz, but a violin string can vibrate at frequencies of up to 100 kHz.

* A male cheetah can cause a female cheetah to ovulate by barking at her.

Thought for the Day: "Never limit yourself because of others' limited imagination; never limit others because of your own limited imagination." -- Mae Jemison

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The Garden Bug

Landscape architecture is the analysis, planning, design, construction and stewardship of natural and built environments such as conservation areas, historic gardens and monuments, institutional and recreational settings, transportation corridors, private homes, etc. It requires advanced training and licensing.

- Brenda Weaver
Source: www.asla.org

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 31 of 75



by Freddy Groves

The monsters among us

Just when you think you've seen it all and that you're basically shockproof, along comes something that makes you wonder how people can do the things they do.

Take the guy who collected years of VA benefits belonging to his uncle. As bad as that is, it's only the tip of the iceberg. The criminal was the caregiver for his uncle, who had severe physical disabilities and was often locked in the garage without

access to food or a bathroom.

The criminal pocketed the over \$9,000 per month in disability compensation, as well as the Social Security the uncle received. Then, when the uncle died, the thief didn't let anyone know, telling relatives the uncle went to live in a nursing home. That left him free to continue to collect the money and spend it on a lavish lifestyle, vacations, reptiles and, apparently, shotguns -- despite being a convicted felon who could not own guns.

When the scheme fell apart, after relatives started hunting for the nursing home and their family member, police found the body of the uncle in a garbage can in the shed in the backyard. He'd been dead for probably five years.

Can you imagine? I can't.

There are questions, of course.

How was a convicted felon given custodial rights over a disabled veteran, not only his care but his finances? Was the felon not investigated as a fiduciary to manage all that money, with requirements to send reports and answer questions about the veteran?

Where was the family who hadn't seen or talked to their relative since 2018? Did they not visit or at least call on the phone?

Did the VA not check the veteran in person at least once? Were there no mandatory physical exams to verify that the disability level and benefits were still appropriate? No calls on the phone?

Several balls were dropped during this veteran's life, by family, by neighbors, by the VA. I cannot believe no one checked on him.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 32 of 75

Wishing Well®

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HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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1. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What are male bees called?
2. TELEVISION: Which TV streaming network plans to host a new series based on the "Harry Potter" books?
3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many months have 31 days?
4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first president to appear on television?
5. MATH: What is the Roman numeral MMXXV in Arabic numbers?
6. MOVIES: What is the name of the spaceship in the movie "Alien"?
7. LITERATURE: "Nicholas Nickleby" is a novel written by which author?
8. AD SLOGANS: Which airline uses the slogan "Fly the Friendly Skies"?
9. ACRONYMS: What phrase does the real estate acronym DTI stand for?
10. FOOD & DRINK: What are the seeds of a pomegranate called?

Answers

1. Drones.
2. HBO Max.
3. Seven: January, March, May, July, August, October and December.
4. Franklin D. Roosevelt.
5. 2025.
6. Nostromo.
7. Charles Dickens.
8. United Airlines.
9. Debt-to-income ratio.
10. Arils.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 33 of 75

South Dakota Governor



Larry Rhoden



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Opportunities in Education

May is graduation season. Kids across South Dakota are looking forward to enjoying the summer, and they're also looking ahead to whatever comes next. Hopefully, they have the opportunity to enjoy the warm summer weather – then get to work on whatever their futures have in store!

On my Open for Opportunity tour, I've been able to visit many schools across all levels of education – including an elementary school in Winner, a high school in Aberdeen, a tribal school on the Standing Rock Reservation, several of our tech colleges, and every one of our Board of Regents institutions. I've seen a wide variety of high-quality educational opportunities that are setting our kids up for success in their careers and lives. More than that, I've seen hard-working South Dakotans full of passion for helping our kids learn and grow.

I've also had the opportunity to speak to several groups of young South Dakotans. About a month ago, I spoke to a lunch where we honored students who were in the top 1% of their high school graduating class – a terrific accomplishment! I also visited with young female leaders at Girls State and will be doing the same at Boys State.

With each of these groups of young leaders, I shared a simple bit of advice that I got from a pastor long ago: "Don't wait for doors to open. Check and see if they're locked. Oftentimes, you'll find that they're unlocked." The same is true for each of us – and for our entire state – as we pursue opportunities.

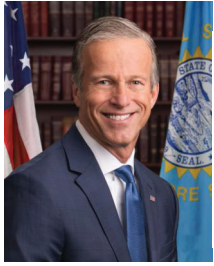
In each of these audiences, I looked around the room and saw hundreds of bright-eyed South Dakotans eager to make their mark on the world. I see the same energy and enthusiasm in the eyes of my own young grandchildren. If they check the doors, they'll find more unlocked doors than they anticipated – and they'll have even more opportunity to make their mark on South Dakota.

The purpose of education is to prepare our students to be strong citizens with the potential for productive careers. And every South Dakota student should have the opportunity to get the right education for their needs. As we continue working to keep South Dakota strong, safe, and free, I will be prioritizing our kids' education – because they truly are our future.

Opportunity is not limited by my vision, or even the vision of any individual South Dakotan. It is as broad as the South Dakota prairie and as high as Black Elk Peak. Our young South Dakotans know how to dream big, and they have the youth and vitality to chase down those big dreams. I wish them well and will support them however I can as we work together to chase down opportunities for South Dakota.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 34 of 75



JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

Out and About in South Dakota

I recently had the opportunity to travel all over South Dakota: to Clark and Redfield, Beresford and Dakota Dunes, and to Wall and Philip. I appreciate the chance to travel the state far and wide to get feedback on my work in Washington, and it's always nice to see some familiar faces and meet new folks along the way.

During my travels, I had valuable conversations with South Dakotans. I visited Redfield Community Memorial Hospital, where I heard from talented and dedicated health care professionals. In Wall and Philip, I sat down with local leaders to hear about their communities' needs and how I can be helpful to them. I had a chance to catch up with local leaders over the famous pies at Leo's Good Foods on Main Street in Redfield. And I had a great conversation with the sheriffs of Pennington, Meade, and Jackson counties about their important work keeping their communities safe.

South Dakota small businesses were also on my calendar. I enjoyed meeting a number of business owners at the Dakota Valley Business Roundtable in Dakota Dunes, and I had good conversations with the Clark Chamber of Commerce. I visited Tony's Collision Center, Westside Implement, and Dakota Style Foods in Clark.

As the Senate is preparing to take up legislation to extend the 2017 Trump tax cuts for families and businesses, South Dakota small businesses' input is especially valuable. Farms, ranches, and small businesses in our state benefited from lower tax rates and incentives to invest in their employees and in new technology after Republicans passed pro-growth tax reforms in 2017. With much of that policy set to expire at the end of this year, I'm working to provide tax certainty to South Dakota businesses so they can help get our economy moving again.

These tax policies have been especially impactful for American manufacturers. I appreciated the opportunity to meet with workers at Spartan Emergency Response's facility in Brandon, where South Dakotans build emergency vehicles used across the country. I had a great time visiting Long Creek Steel north of Beresford and learning about water tank and tower production at the Maguire plant in Sioux Falls.

As I travel around the state, I also appreciate meeting young South Dakotans. Whether addressing Girls State at the University of South Dakota, cheering on runners at the state track meet in Sioux Falls, or just interacting with community members of all ages, it's always heartening to meet the next generation of leaders and hear what's on their mind.

Getting to interact with South Dakotans from every walk of life is one of my favorite parts of my job. It's a pleasure to be able to see our state and hear from its people. I hope to see you around this summer, and I hope you will come say hello.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 35 of 75



Modernizing Government

BIG Update

The 250 students at Girls State in Vermillion had great questions and high enthusiasm about being civically involved. We had a great conversation about politics and policy in D.C., why that matters in South Dakota, and the importance of civility in politics. The American Legion Auxiliary always puts on a great event, and I was happy to join them..

BIG News

The Senate recently voted to prohibit California's zero-emissions mandates from going into effect. These mandates would force all vehicles sold in California to be zero-emissions—electric vehicles—by 2035, restricting consumer choice. If someone wants to drive an EV, they have the right to do so, but I don't think the government should be choosing the car that is best for you.

As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I've long opposed policies like this that would create harmful patchworks of different regulations. The House voted on this issue in early May, and it now awaits President Trump's signature.

BIG Idea

America's environmental review process is still done on paper, which slows down a process that already takes years to complete. This slow, laborious process disincentivizes investments and expansion of our economy.

I introduced the Interactive Federal Review Act to modernize this process that is stuck in the 90s. My bill would direct the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to use interactive, digital platforms to complete the permitting process, cutting the review times in half.

President Trump recently issued a memorandum encouraging federal agencies to adopt this electronic approach to permitting. I look forward to working with the Trump Administration and Congress to speed up vital infrastructure projects in our country and let America build again..

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 36 of 75



MAY 19-25, 2025

Welcome to the Weekly Round[s] Up! We had yet another busy week out in DC. The highlight of my week was meeting with veterans who traveled to Washington this past week as part of the Midwest Honor Flight. There were 76 South Dakota veterans in attendance representing

37 towns across the state. This group of veterans selflessly served our nation in the Vietnam War, the Korean War and World War II. We'll never be able to repay them for their sacrifice, but welcoming them to our nation's capital so they can see the memorials that are dedicated to their service is a great tribute. More on the rest of my week in my Weekly Round[s] Up:

South Dakota groups I met with: Tom Heinz, President of the Coffee Cup Travel Plazas; members of A.B.A.T.E. of South Dakota; Steve Bumann, Chief Investment Officer at BankWest; South Dakota members of the Zero to Three program; South Dakota veterans who were in town as part of the Midwest Honor Flight; South Dakota members of the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association; R.F. Buche, President of the G.F. Buche Company; South Dakota members of the Edward Jones Grassroots Task Force; South Dakota members of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society; the American Council of Engineering Companies of South Dakota; Jenny Briest with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation; and South Dakota Supreme Court Chief Justice Steven Jensen.

South Dakota towns represented: Aberdeen, Belle Fourche, Beresford, Brandon, Britton, Brookings, Custer, Dakota Dunes, De Smet, Deadwood, Dell Rapids, Flandreau, Freeman, Gann Valley, Hartford, Hot Springs, Huron, Lake Preston, Lead, Lennox, Menno, Mina, Mitchell, North Sioux City, Philip, Pierre, Rapid City, Redfield, Salem, Selby, Sioux Falls, Spearfish, Sturgis, Tabor, Tea, Vermillion, Wallace, Watertown, Wessington Springs, Wagner, White Lake and Willow Lake.

Other meetings: General David Allvin, Chief of Staff for the Air Force; and Dr. Ben Ebert, President and CEO of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

I spoke with members of the American Property Casualty Insurance Association ahead of their Legislative Action Day. I attended our Senate Bible Study, where our reading of the week was Matthew 5:13-16.

Hearings: I attended seven open hearings this past week. We had one hearing in the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC), where we heard from Secretary of the Air Force, and fellow South Dakotan, Dr. Troy Meink. In addition, we had one hearing in SASC's Subcommittee on Strategic Forces and one hearing in SASC's Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, which I chair.

As our appropriations process picks up, so are our Appropriations Committee hearings! I attended three appropriations subcommittee hearings this past week. We had two hearings in the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education, and Related Agencies. We heard from HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. in one hearing and Department of Labor Secretary Lori Chavez DeRemer in the other. In addition, we heard from Secretary of Interior Doug Burgum in a hearing of the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.

Finally, we had one hearing in the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 37 of 75

Classified briefings: I had one classified briefing as part of my work on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Votes taken: 22 – many of these were related to a Congressional Review Act to overturn a rule in California. This rule, which would go into effect next year, would require 35% of vehicles sold in 2026 to be electric, and reaching 100% of new sales by 2035. If a manufacturer doesn't meet that goal, they would be forced to pay a huge fine. While this is a California rule, it would affect manufacturing in states across the country, so we voted to overturn it.

My staff in South Dakota visited: Belle Fourche, Britton, Elm Springs, Mobridge, Sisseton, Sturgis and Wakpala.

Steps taken: 54,083 steps or 26.32 miles.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 38 of 75



Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

What's Chocolate Got To Do With It?

Did you ever have a morning when everything went exactly as you planned? Well, neither have I.

I plan my schedule to include everything I need for the day. But, unlike The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, I fall way short of accomplishing that.

When I think I have my schedule in place, something undermines everything I've done so far. Oh boy, if I only had the scheduling gift of The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

She can plan a dozen projects simultaneously and complete them all at once, usually ahead of schedule. After living with her for 54 years, I still don't know how she does it. I want to ask her, but you know how that would turn out.

Without her knowing, I could watch her and see how she is doing what she is doing at the time. No matter how much I watch, I could never figure out her multitasking secret. If I knew that one secret, imagine all the stuff I could do in one day.

I took a break one morning and went into the kitchen to get a cup of coffee. For some reason, I opened one of the cupboard doors and was surprised to find a Hershey chocolate bar. I'm not quite sure where that came from, but I was so excited to find it.

The thought in my head was, "Should I, or shouldn't I?"

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage cannot eat chocolate. It gives her a headache, so she says. So, I don't think she purchased that chocolate bar. Why would she? However, it did not matter where it came from; all that matters is where it's going. I went to my easy chair with my cup of coffee and the amazing chocolate bar.

I can't remember the last time I had a chocolate bar, but I was really anticipating enjoying this one. After taking a sip of coffee, I unwrapped my chocolate bar and looked at it briefly.

Do you know how wonderfully delicious a chocolate bar looks? I couldn't keep my eyes off that amazing treat.

I took the first bite and found my world flourishing like red roses. I had forgotten how chocolate affects my attitude.

No matter how angry, grouchy, or frustrated I feel, one bite of a chocolate bar makes it all disappear.

Growing up near Hershey, Pennsylvania, I was very familiar with their chocolate. In fact, my father worked there for a short time and often brought home samples.

I sighed as I sipped my coffee. I stared at the chocolate bar and wondered who created it. Whoever created it deserves a Nobel Peace Prize.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 39 of 75

After two bites, I had forgotten all my stress that morning. All I could think about were lovely roses floating in my mind and their amazing fragrance. Chocolate has a way of doing that for me. My best thoughts come while eating chocolate.

Suddenly, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage burst into the room where I was sitting and demanded, "Just what are you doing?"

At first, I was so euphoric that I didn't recognize her. All I saw were red roses around her head. I smiled, and then suddenly realized who she was.

At that point, there was no way I could hide that chocolate bar I was enjoying.

"I'm just," I said cautiously, "resting from a very hard morning." I flashed a smile at her, but she wasn't smiling at me.

"And where did you get that chocolate bar?"

It's one thing to lie but quite another thing to lie to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. There are reciprocations. My head was so euphoric that I didn't quite know how to answer her.

"I just found it in the cupboard," I said with a big smile.

She stared at me and said, "You found it in the cupboard? I purchased that chocolate bar for our granddaughter's birthday this week. You had no right to eat her birthday present."

I wasn't sure I understood what she meant, but eating that chocolate bar made me calm. It blocked out any negativity.

"That's okay," I said cheerfully, "I'll go to the store and buy her a chocolate bar."

My plan was to buy three chocolate bars, hide two, and give one back for our granddaughter's birthday.

When I eat chocolate, I can think as clearly as ever. That's why I like chocolate.

"Okay," The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "as long as you only buy one Hershey's chocolate bar. That would be just perfect."

I'm going to fix this problem somehow. But for now, I have at least three more bites of this Hershey's chocolate bar.

As I was enjoying this chocolate bar, I had an interesting thought. Will there be Chocolate in heaven?

When I finished that amazing Hershey Chocolate Bar, I remember what Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-30, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Like everyone else, my days can be very stressful. A chocolate bar can only go so far. To truly experience peace from Jesus' perspective, I need to come unto the Lord. This invitation requires that I act on it and come to the Lord.

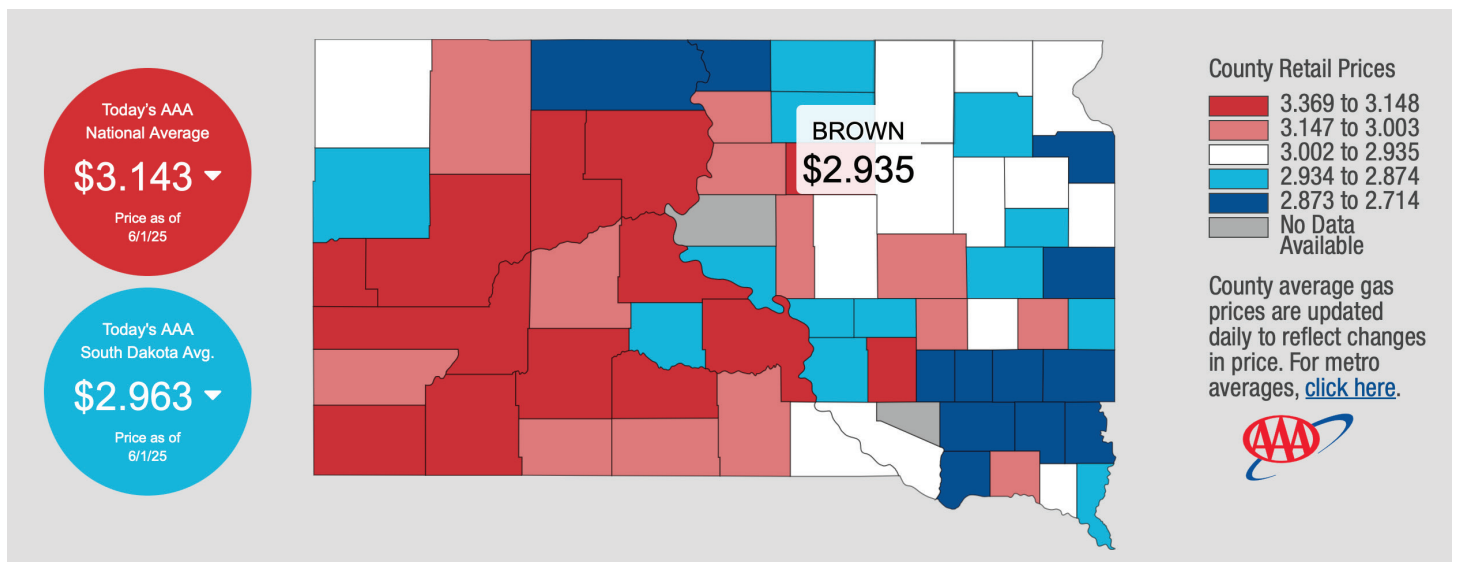
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 40 of 75

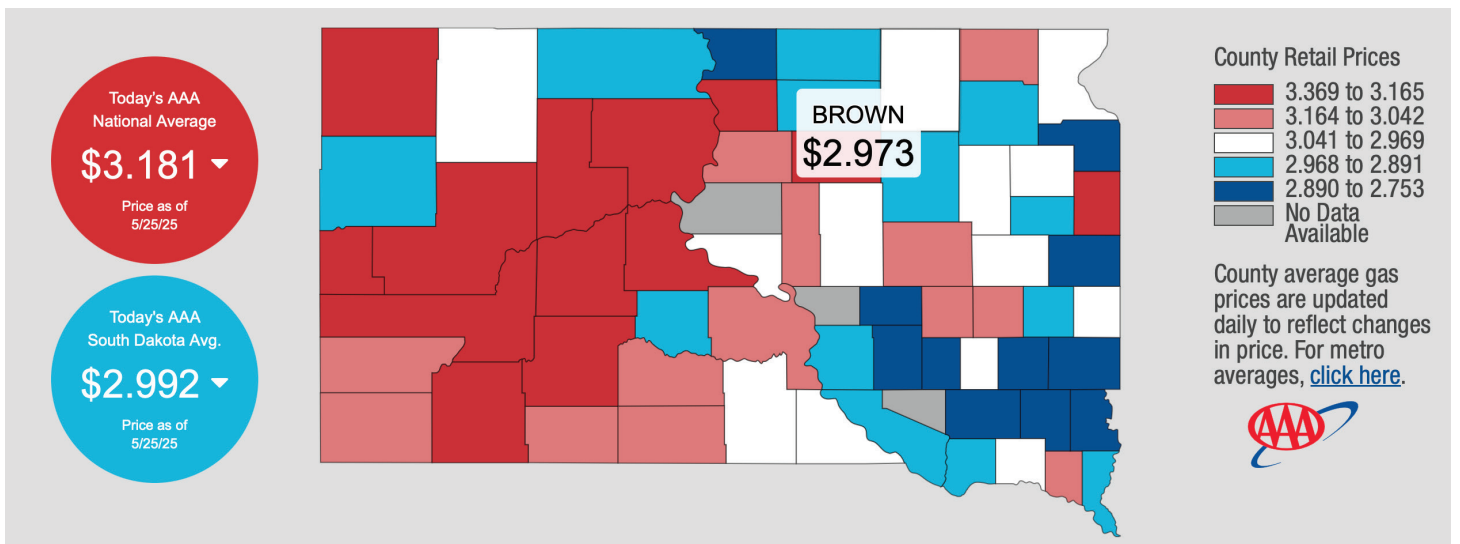
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$2.963	\$3.155	\$3.650	\$3.189
Yesterday Avg.	\$2.972	\$3.167	\$3.631	\$3.198
Week Ago Avg.	\$2.992	\$3.189	\$3.693	\$3.238
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.068	\$3.233	\$3.661	\$3.269
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.305	\$3.487	\$3.925	\$3.460

This Week



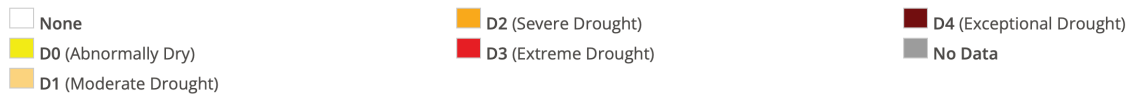
Last Week



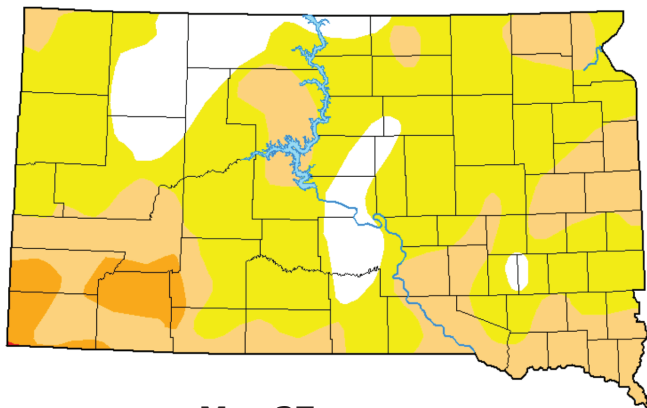
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 41 of 75

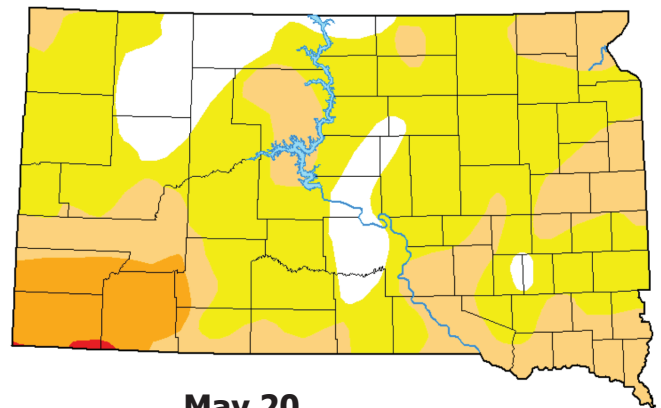
Drought Classification



Drought Monitor



May 27



May 20

From May 24-26, widespread precipitation (1 to 3 inches, locally more) resulted in a 1-category improvement to portions of southwestern South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and northeastern Colorado. Much cooler temperatures accompanied this widespread precipitation which contributed to topsoil moisture recharge. Based on multiple indicators such as the SPI at various time scales and soil moisture, severe (D2) to extreme (D3) drought was reduced in coverage across central to western Nebraska along with adjacent areas of southwestern South Dakota. Although precipitation was lighter across southeastern Colorado, SPIs at multiple time scales, soil moisture, and VegDri no longer support any D1. Southern Nebraska and northern Kansas missed out on this past week's precipitation and a couple of small 1-category degradations were made. A 1-category degradation was also warranted for western Colorado based on 90 to 180-day SPI.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 42 of 75

EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Which companies and industry sectors stand to profit the most from global warming?

-- Jerry M., Largo, FL

According to a report by Swiss Re, a global insurance provider, climate change could erode a total of \$23 trillion of global gross domestic product by 2050. But while global warming is a crisis prevalent in today's news headlines, many companies and industries still stand to profit from its devastation.



Renewable energy is one sector that stands to profit from climate change. Credit: pexels.com.

With Trump's reelection, we've already seen a push against clean energy initiatives and an executive order expanding coal mining, relevant because these actions will undoubtedly worsen global warming. The Institute of International Finance reports that our current measures are insufficient to keep global temperature rise below 2°C, which scientists warn will have devastating effects on our planet. As a result of this grim future, businesses must adapt and develop new strategies based on an ever-changing market.

There are a few standout industries booming as a result. Predictably, global warming is a major driving force for the HVAC industry, with rising temperatures boosting the demand for air conditioning. The renewable energy sector is also experiencing steady growth, with an anticipated growth of 4.22 percent from 2025 until 2029, as experts predict Trump's efforts will only slow long-term effects. The events of 2024 demonstrated the costly effects of climate change, totaling \$140 billion in damages, with disasters like the Los Angeles wildfires and Hurricane Milton being especially prominent.

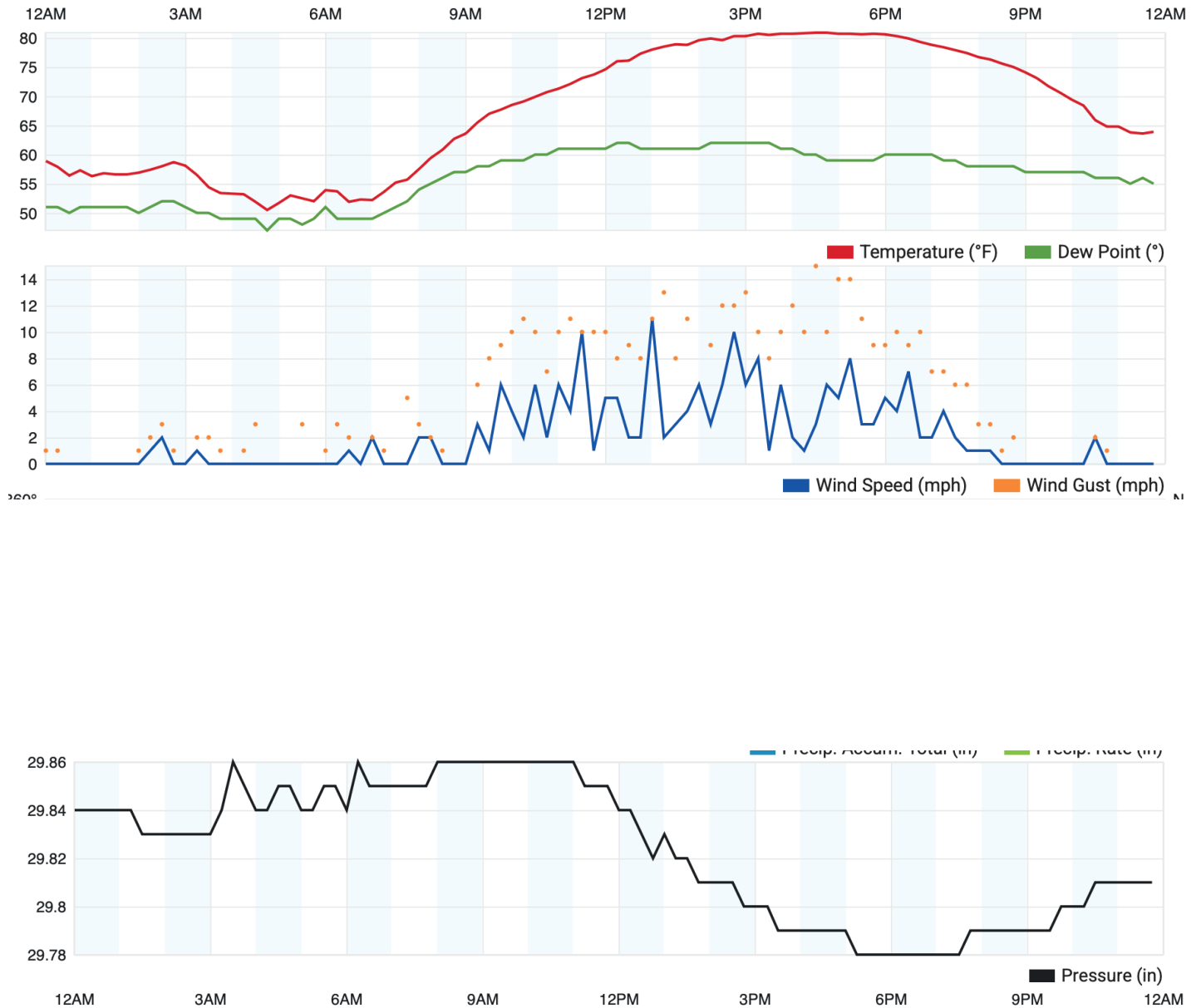
In a dynamic market, any sector could boom next. Mining and exploration could expand to colder regions as thawing permafrost reveals previously inaccessible mineral reserves. This idea also applies to tourism, as people may flock to areas previously deemed too frigid or remote or undertake "last chance" tourism—a rush to visit threatened locations like Venice, where rising sea levels foreshadow an uncertain future. There are many companies to keep an eye on, as investments are being poured into solutions to mitigate climate effects. NextEra Energy is a leader in renewable solutions as they strive to decarbonize the power grid—they are also investing in green hydrogen to reduce emissions. Another example is Tesla, which in addition to its electric vehicles also creates solar energy and battery storage products.

In the words of Gautum Jain, a scholar at Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy: "The political environment has changed, so some of them are conforming to that... but mostly it is a rational business decision." Whether it's supporting businesses that prioritize sustainability, reducing personal carbon footprints, or advocating for environmental policy, our collective choices can ensure our world not only adapts to climate change, but actively combats it.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 43 of 75

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 44 of 75

Today



High: 86 °F

Areas Smoke

Tonight



Low: 58 °F

Areas Smoke

Monday



High: 85 °F

Areas Smoke
then Showers
Likely

Monday Night



Low: 49 °F

Chance
T-storms and
Breezy then
Chance
Showers

Tuesday



High: 73 °F

Mostly Sunny

THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

2

WHAT THIS MEANS:
SCATTERED severe storms
possible

TIMING

MONDAY afternoon
into **MONDAY** evening

PRIMARY THREATS



LARGE HAIL



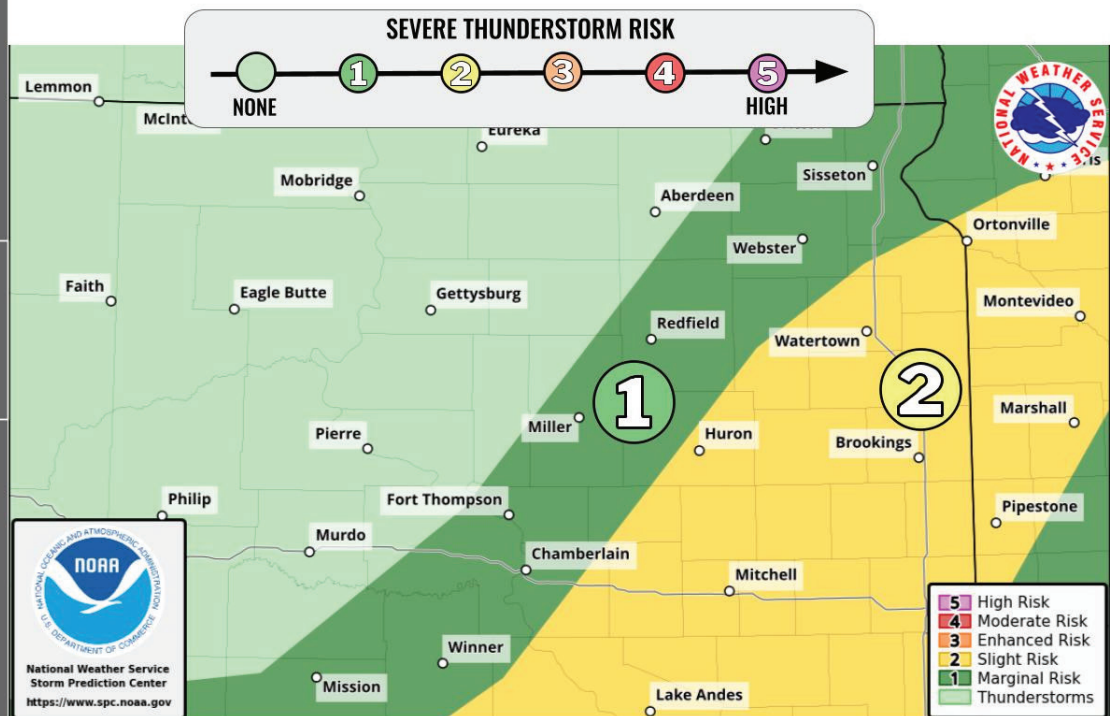
DAMAGING WIND

SECONDARY THREATS



HEAVY
RAIN

SEVERE STORMS Monday Afternoon & Evening



Showers and thunderstorms will push through the forecast area Monday with a threat for some of these storms to become severe Monday afternoon and evening over eastern and southeastern South Dakota into west central MN. Main threats include large hail (1"+ in diameter) and wind gusts of 60+ mph.

Groton Daily Independent

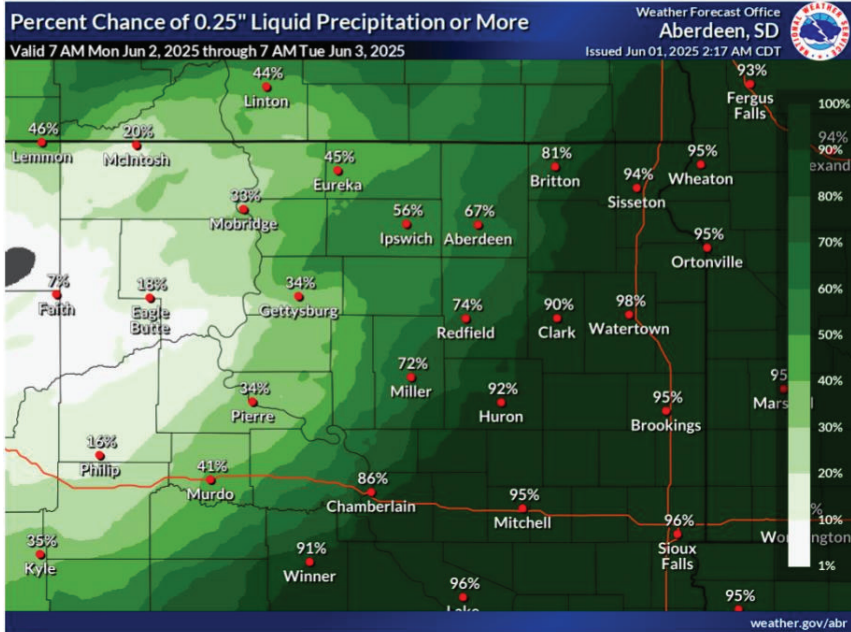
Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 45 of 75



Rainfall Amounts Monday

June 1, 2025
3:58 AM

Mainly Monday Afternoon Through Tuesday Morning



- Highest probabilities (75 to 95%) for rainfall amounts at or over 0.25" will be along and east of the James River Monday evening through Tuesday morning.
- Exact rainfall amounts will differ location to location depending on intensity of thunderstorms and how they track.
- **Moderate to potentially heavy rain** will be possible over portions of far eastern SD into west central MN Monday evening.



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Air Quality and Health

Exposure to air pollutants such as particulate matter and ground-level ozone can cause:



Headaches



Difficulty breathing



Irritated eyes,
sinuses



Chest pains,
asthma attacks



Fatigue



Irritated throat,
increased coughing

Poor air quality can be hazardous to anyone, and it can aggravate health problems such as asthma, heart disease, and lung disease.

Seniors, children and those with compromised immune systems are especially at risk.

weather.gov



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 46 of 75

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 81 °F at 4:18 PM

Low Temp: 50 °F at 4:40 AM

Wind: 15 mph at 4:25 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 30 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 99 in 1933

Record Low: 34 in 1946

Average High: 76

Average Low: 51

Average Precip in June.: 0.10

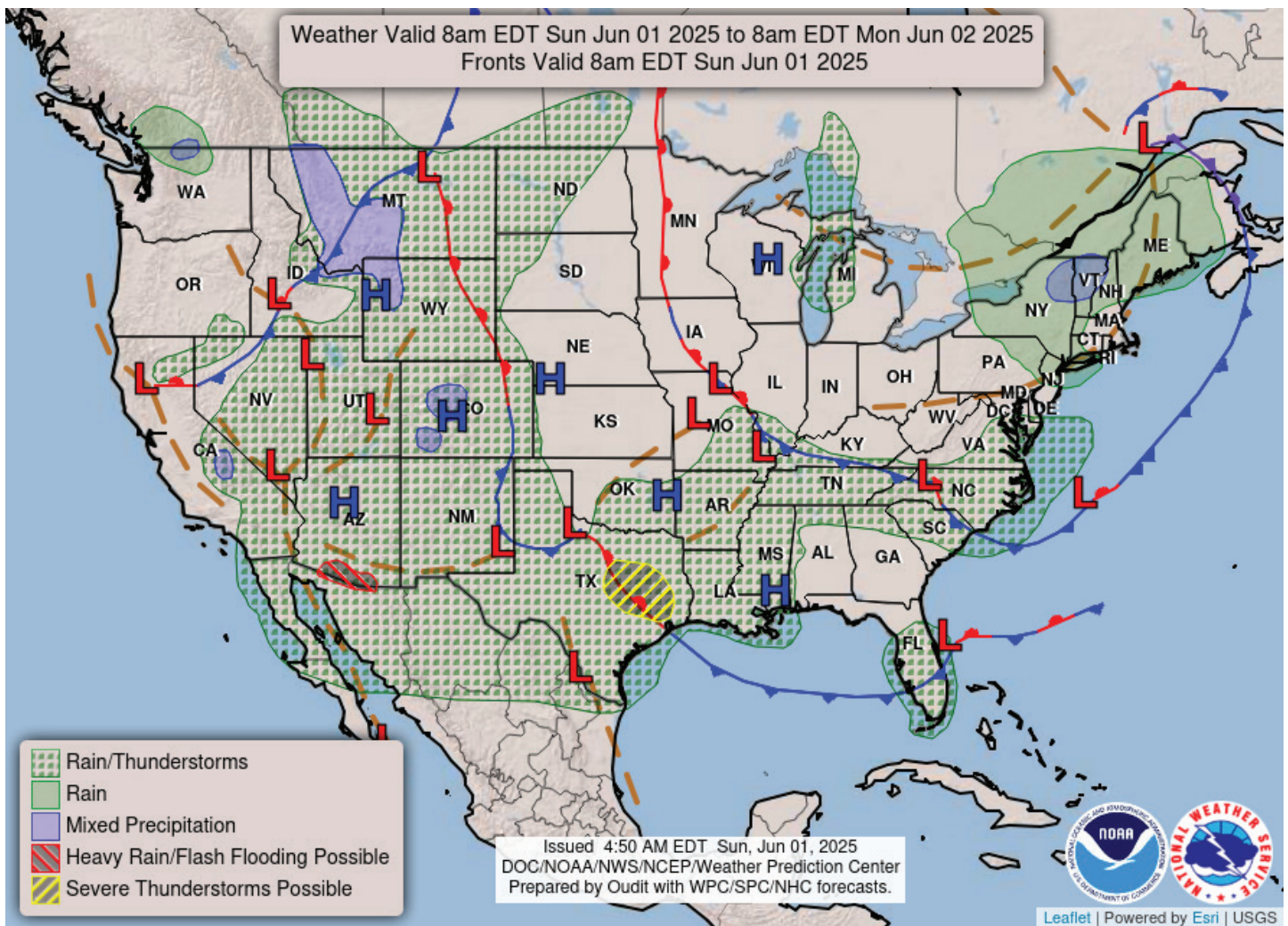
Precip to date in June: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 7.35

Precip Year to Date: 6.05

Sunset Tonight: 9:15:33 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:44:35 am



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 47 of 75

Today in Weather History

June 1st, 1990 A small F0 tornado blew over two mobile homes on the north side of Groton. Numerous trees were either blown down or lost limbs. Also, high winds of 65 mph occurred 5 miles south and 1 mile east of Mellette.

June 1st, 2008: Severe thunderstorms developed along the eastern slopes of the Black Hills and dropped large hail and heavy rain over eastern Custer and Shannon Counties. Softball-sized hail was reported south of Hermosa.

June 1st, 2011: High water levels coming into June and above-average June rainfall kept water levels up on Blue Dog, Bitter, Rush, and Waubay Lakes in Day County throughout the month. The high lake levels continued to cause extensive road and property damage. Many families remained away from their homes and cabins. Also, hundreds of acres of farmland remained flooded along with many roads. Road and property damage would cost several millions of dollars. The high lake levels and flooding would continue for the next several months. In Hamlin County, Lake Poinsett, including several other lakes, continued to flood and damage several homes along with several county and township roads. High lake levels and flooding would continue for the next several months.

1812 - Apple trees at New Haven CT did not blossom until the first of June, the latest such occurrence during the period beginning in 1794. Snow whitened the ground in Cleveland OH and Rochester NY. (David Ludlum)

1903 - A strong tornado just 50 to 75 yards in width killed many persons around the Gainesville GA Cotton Mill. The tornado strengthened and widened near the end of its four mile path, killing 40 persons at New Holland GA. A total of 104 persons were killed in the tornado. (The Weather Channel)

1980 - A man from Falmouth ME was struck by lightning restoring his eyesight. The man had been blind and partially deaf since a truck accident in 1971. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms in the Upper Mississippi Valley and the Lower Ohio Valley produced wind gusts to 81 mph at Albert Lea Airport in southern Minnesota, and baseball size hail around Otterbein IN, Sarona WI, and Danville IL. Two inches of hail totally destroyed 5000 acres of corn and soybean north of Danville. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms drenched north central Texas with torrential rains, with more than 14 inches reported in Commanche County. Afternoon thunderstorm in New Jersey and Pennsylvania produced wind gusts to 70 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing during the afternoon over the Southern Plains Region produced severe weather through the evening and the night, spawning nine tornadoes. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 80 mph at Alpine TX, and baseball size hail at Balmorhea, TX, Fluvanna, TX, and in Borden County, TX. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 48 of 75



"The nice thing about friends is that you get to choose them. But, when it comes to family members, you're stuck with what you get. And boy, did I ever get stuck," said the comedian.

No doubt that many of us feel this way about our Moms and Dads or brothers and sisters. And, even though names and addresses vary, all families have some things in common and some things that are vastly different.

But, there are two primary truths that cannot be denied:

1 God intended parents to be the primary teachers and influencers of their children.

2 Family ties are never completely severed no matter where parents or children eventually complete their lives. An invisible bond remains.

The contrast between a "wise son bringing joy to his father and a foolish son bringing grief to his mother" implies that this family is "divided" or "dysfunctional." It emphasizes the fact that the behavior of one member of the family affects the behavior of all of the other family members. This tragedy is seen throughout the Bible.

The "joy" infused into the family by the "wise son" does not eliminate the "grief" that invades a family from a son who is "foolish."

The "foolish" son is the one who, by his behavior, brings "hardships" to the parents as well as others in the family.

However, the "hardships" need not remain. Again and again, Solomon reminds us that gaining wisdom from God is a choice that will change. This is the result of being born again.

Prayer: Because You love us, Father, no parent or child is beyond Your mercy and grace. Your Son offers us hope! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture:

"A wise son brings joy to his father and a foolish son brings grief to his mother."

— Proverbs 10:1

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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 49 of 75

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 50 of 75



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.30.25

2 28 37 38 58 13

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$202,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.31.25

5 11 23 40 47 10

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$37,270,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.31.25

11 18 22 27 31 13

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 15 Mins 11 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.31.25

1 25 27 28 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$20,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.31.25

34 44 61 64 68 19

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.31.25

1 29 37 56 68 13

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$20,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 51 of 75

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

At least 31 Palestinians are killed while heading to a Gaza aid hub, officials and witnesses say

By MOHAMMAD JAHJOUH and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — At least 31 people were killed and scores were wounded on Sunday as they were on their way to receive food in the Gaza Strip, according to health officials and multiple witnesses. The witnesses said Israeli forces fired on crowds around a kilometer (1,000 yards) away from an aid site run by an Israeli-backed foundation.

The army released a brief statement saying it was “currently unaware of injuries caused by (Israeli military) fire within the Humanitarian Aid distribution site. The matter is still under review.”

The foundation said in a statement that it delivered aid “without incident” early on Sunday and has denied previous accounts of chaos and gunfire around its sites, which are in Israeli military zones where independent access is limited.

The Gaza Health Ministry said 31 people were killed and 170 others were wounded, updating an earlier toll.

Hours earlier, officials at a nearby field hospital run by the Red Cross said that at least 21 people were killed and another 175 were wounded, without saying who opened fire on them. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters.

An Associated Press reporter saw dozens of wounded people being treated at the hospital.

A new aid system marred by chaos

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation’s distribution of aid has been marred by chaos, and multiple witnesses have said Israeli troops fired on crowds near the delivery sites. Before Sunday, at least six people had been killed and more than 50 wounded according to local health officials.

The foundation says the private security contractors guarding its sites have not fired on the crowds, while the Israeli military has acknowledged firing warning shots on previous occasions.

The foundation said in a statement that it distributed 16 truckloads of aid early Sunday “without incident,” and dismissed what it referred to as “false reporting about deaths, mass injuries and chaos.”

‘The scene was horrible’

Thousands of people headed toward the distribution site hours before dawn. As they headed toward the site, Israeli forces ordered them to disperse and come back later, witnesses said. When the crowds reached the Flag Roundabout, around 1 kilometer (1,000 yards) away, at around 3 a.m., Israeli forces opened fire, the witnesses said.

“There was fire from all directions, from naval warships, from tanks and drones,” said Amr Abu Teiba, who was in the crowd.

He said he saw at least 10 bodies with gunshot wounds and several other wounded people, including women. People used carts to ferry the dead and wounded to the field hospital. “The scene was horrible,” he said.

Ibrahim Abu Saoud, another eyewitness, provided a nearly identical account. He said the military fired from about 300 meters (yards) away.

Abu Saoud said he saw many people with gunshot wounds, including a young man who he said had died at the scene. “We weren’t able to help him,” he said.

Mohammed Abu Teaima, 33, said he saw Israeli forces open fire and kill his cousin and another woman as they were heading toward the distribution site. He said his cousin was shot in his chest and died at the scene. Many others were wounded, including his brother-in-law, he said.

“They opened heavy fire directly toward us,” he said as he was waiting outside the Red Cross field hospital for word on his wounded relative.

The AP reporter arrived at the field hospital at around 6 a.m. and saw dozens of wounded, including women and children. The reporter also saw crowds of people returning from the distribution point. Some

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 53 of 75

were carrying boxes of aid but most appeared to be coming back empty-handed.

The hub is part of a controversial new aid system

Israel and the United States say the new system is aimed at preventing Hamas from siphoning off assistance. Israel has not provided any evidence of systematic diversion, and the U.N. denies it has occurred.

U.N. agencies and major aid groups have refused to work with the new system, saying it violates humanitarian principles because it allows Israel to control who receives aid and forces people to relocate to distribution sites, risking yet more mass displacement in the territory.

The U.N. system has struggled to bring in aid after Israel slightly eased its total blockade of the territory last month. Those groups say Israeli restrictions, the breakdown of law and order, and widespread looting make it extremely difficult to deliver aid to Gaza's roughly 2 million Palestinians.

Experts have warned that the territory is at risk of famine if more aid is not brought in.

The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting 251. They are still holding 58 hostages, around a third of them believed to be alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefire agreements or other deals.

Israel's military campaign has killed over 54,000 people, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many of the dead were civilians or combatants. The offensive has destroyed vast areas of the territory, displaced around 90% of its population and left people almost completely reliant on international aid.

The country that made smoking sexy is breaking up with cigarettes

By THOMAS ADAMSON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Brigitte Bardot lounged barefoot on a Saint-Tropez beach, drawing languorous puffs from her cigarette. Another actor, Jean-Paul Belmondo, swaggered down the Champs-Élysées with smoke curling from his defiant lips, capturing a generation's restless rebellion.

In France, cigarettes were never just cigarettes — they were cinematic statements, flirtations and rebellions wrapped in rolling paper.

Yet beginning July 1, if Bardot and Belmondo's iconic film scenes were repeated in real life, they would be subject to up to €135 (\$153) in fines.

After glamorizing tobacco for decades, France is preparing for its most sweeping smoking ban yet. The new restrictions, announced by Health Minister Catherine Vautrin, will outlaw smoking in virtually all outdoor public areas where children may gather, including beaches, parks, gardens, playgrounds, sports venues, school entrances and bus stops.

"Tobacco must disappear where there are children," Vautrin told French media. The freedom to smoke "stops where children's right to breathe clean air starts."

If Vautrin's law reflects public health priorities, it also signals a deeper cultural shift. Smoking has defined identity, fashion and cinema here for so long that the new measure feels like a quiet French revolution in a country whose relationship with tobacco is famously complex.

According to France's League Against Cancer, over 90 percent of French films from 2015 to 2019 featured smoking scenes — more than double the rate in Hollywood productions. Each French movie averaged nearly three minutes of on-screen smoking, effectively the same exposure as six 30-second television ads.

Cinema has been particularly influential. Belmondo's rebellious smoker in Jean-Luc Godard's "Breathless" became shorthand for youthful defiance worldwide. Bardot's cigarette smoke wafted through "And God Created Woman," symbolizing unbridled sensuality.

Yet this glamorization has consequences. According to France's public health authorities, around 75,000 people die from tobacco-related illnesses each year. Although smoking rates have dipped recently — fewer than 25% of French adults now smoke daily, a historic low — the habit remains stubbornly embedded, especially among young people and the urban chic.

France's relationship with tobacco has long been fraught with contradiction. Air France did not ban

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 54 of 75

smoking on all its flights until 2000, years after major U.S. carriers began phasing it out in the late 1980s and early '90s. The delay reflected a country slower to sever its cultural romance with cigarettes, even at 35,000 feet.

Strolling through the stylish streets of Le Marais, the trendiest neighborhood in Paris, reactions to the smoking ban ranged from pragmatic acceptance to nostalgic defiance.

"It's about time. I don't want my kids growing up thinking smoke is romantic," said Clémence Laurent, a 34-year-old fashion buyer, sipping espresso at a crowded café terrace. "Sure, Bardot made cigarettes seem glamorous. But Bardot didn't worry about today's warnings on lung cancer."

At a nearby boutique, vintage dealer Luc Baudry, 53, saw the ban as an attack on something essentially French. "Smoking has always been part of our culture. Take away cigarettes and what do we have left? Kale smoothies?" he scoffed.

Across from him, 72-year-old Jeanne Lévy chuckled throatily, her voice deeply etched — she said — by decades of Gauloises. "I smoked my first cigarette watching Jeanne Moreau," she confessed, eyes twinkling behind vintage sunglasses. "It was her voice — smoky, sexy, lived-in. Who didn't want that voice?"

Indeed, Jeanne Moreau's gravelly, nicotine-scraped voice transformed tobacco into poetry itself, immortalized in classics such as François Truffaut's "Jules et Jim." Smoking acquired an existential glamour that made quitting unimaginable for generations of French smokers.

France's new law mirrors broader European trends. Countries like Britain and Sweden have already tightened smoking regulations in public spaces. Sweden banned smoking on outdoor restaurant terraces, at bus stops and near schoolyards in 2019. Spain, meanwhile, is extending its smoking ban to café and restaurant terraces—spaces that remain exempt in France, at least for now.

In the Paris park Place des Vosges, literature student Thomas Bouchard clutched an electronic cigarette that is still exempt from the new ban and shrugged.

"Maybe vaping's our compromise," he said, exhaling gently. "A little less sexy, perhaps. But fewer wrinkles too."

Pacers beat Knicks 125-108 in Game 6 to reach NBA Finals for the second time in franchise history

By MICHAEL MAROT AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Pascal Siakam and Tyrese Haliburton made sure the Indiana Pacers gave their fans a celebration they waited 25 years to see again.

Siakam had 31 points and Haliburton scored 11 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter, carrying the Pacers to a 125-108 victory over the New York Knicks on Saturday night for a 4-2 series win and their first trip to the NBA Finals since 2000.

It's just the second time in franchise history that they'll play for the championship. The series begins Thursday at Oklahoma City.

"Pascal and Tyrese put us on their backs and made sure we would not lose," coach Rick Carlisle told the gold-clad crowd that was on its feet for the waning minutes and the postgame party. "But our work has just begun."

Siakam won the Larry Bird Trophy as the Eastern Conference finals MVP. Bird is the only other coach to take the Pacers to the Finals. Haliburton finished with 13 assists and Obi Toppin added 18 points and six rebounds against his former team.

OG Anunoby led the Knicks with 24 points. Karl-Anthony Towns had 22 points and 14 rebounds, while Jalen Brunson added 19 points as the Pacers' relentless ball pressure forced New York into 17 turnovers.

"There were stretches where we played very good defense and stretches where we didn't," Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said. "I think once you dig into it and you look at it, was it our defense? Or was it our turnovers? I think it was probably a combination of both."

Whatever the explanation, the Knicks are headed home again courtesy of the Pacers. New York still hasn't played in the finals since 1999.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 55 of 75

It was a magical night at Gainbridge Fieldhouse — from the festive pregame atmosphere through the roaring ovation for the starters as they departed with 47.2 seconds to go to Reggie Miller's presentation of the Eastern Conference's Bob Cousy Trophy to Pacers owner Herb Simon on TNT's final NBA broadcast. Miller was one of the telecast's color analysts.

And yet, it was a tough, physical game that didn't always follow the Pacers' preferred style.

Whether it was Towns limping after drawing a foul or Haliburton holding his jaw when he took a shot that knocked him to the ground, the tone was set early — and never really changed with so much at stake.

Indiana finally broke open a close game by opening the second half on a 9-0 run, then extended their lead to 78-63 courtesy of three straight 3-pointers — two from Thomas Bryant and one from Andrew Nembhard. The run ignited the crowd, which included everyone from Colts quarterback Anthony Richardson to WNBA star Caitlin Clark to Timothee Chalamet to Kylie Jenner.

But when the Knicks answered with eight straight to cut the deficit to 78-71, the Pacers responded with another 9-0 run to take their biggest lead of the game and the Knicks were forced to play catch-up the rest of the night.

"This is no time to be popping champagne," said Carlisle, who won the 2011 title as coach of the Dallas Mavericks. "When you get to this point of the season, it's two teams and it's one goal. So it becomes an all or nothing thing and we understand the magnitude of it."

Hamas seeks amendments to Gaza ceasefire proposal but US envoy calls it 'unacceptable'

By SAM MEDNICK and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Hamas is seeking amendments to the latest U.S. ceasefire proposal for Gaza, a senior official with the group told The Associated Press on Saturday, but U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff called the Hamas response "totally unacceptable."

The latest friction in negotiations comes as the fighting nears 20 months of war, and as desperation grows among hungry Palestinians and relatives of hostages in Gaza.

The Hamas official, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the talks, said proposed amendments focused on "the U.S. guarantees, the timing of hostage release, the delivery of aid and the withdrawal of Israeli forces." There were no details.

A separate Hamas statement said the proposal aims for a permanent ceasefire, a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and an ensured flow of aid. It said 10 living hostages and the bodies of 18 others would be released "in exchange for an agreed-upon number of Palestinian prisoners." Fifty-eight hostages remain and Israel believes 35 are dead.

Witkoff on social media instead described a 60-day ceasefire deal that would free half the living hostages in Gaza and return half of those who have died. He urged Hamas to accept the framework proposal as the basis for talks that he said could begin next week.

Israeli officials have approved the U.S. proposal for a temporary ceasefire. U.S. President Donald Trump has said negotiators were nearing a deal.

A top Hamas official, Bassem Naim, accused Israel of disagreeing with agreed-upon provisions and alleged a "complete bias toward the other side" that he said violates the fairness of mediation.

"We want the bloodshed to stop," Motasim, a man from the Al-Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza, said of the talks. "I swear to God, we are tired."

Desperation rises inside Gaza

Palestinians in Gaza blocked and offloaded 77 food trucks, the U.N. World Food Program said, as hunger mounts following Israel's monthslong blockade of the territory. The WFP said the aid, mostly flour, was taken before the trucks could reach their destination.

A witness in the southern city of Khan Younis, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal, told the AP the U.N. convoy was stopped at a makeshift roadblock and offloaded by desperate civilians in their thousands.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 56 of 75

The nearly three-month blockade on Gaza has pushed the population of over 2 million to the brink of famine. While Israel allowed some aid to enter in recent days, aid organizations say far from enough is getting in.

Israel's military body in charge of aid coordination in Gaza, COGAT, said 579 trucks of aid had entered over the past week. The U.N. has said 600 per day were entering under the previous ceasefire that Israel ended with new bombardment.

The WFP said the fear of starvation in Gaza is high. "We need to flood communities with food for the next few days to calm anxieties," it said in a statement. It added that it has over 140,000 metric tons of food — enough to feed Gazans for two months — ready to be brought in.

The United Nations said earlier this month that Israeli authorities have forced them to use unsecured routes within areas controlled by Israel's military in the eastern areas of Rafah and Khan Younis, where armed gangs are active and trucks were stopped.

Attacks, gangs and lack of protection hamper UN distribution

An internal document shared with aid groups about security incidents, seen by the AP, said there were four incidents of facilities being looted in three days at the end of May, not including Saturday's.

The U.N. says it has been unable to get enough aid in because of fighting.

A new U.S.- and Israeli-backed foundation started operations in Gaza this week, distributing food at several sites in a chaotic rollout.

Israel says the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation eventually will replace the aid operation by the U.N. and others. It says the new mechanism is necessary, accusing Hamas of siphoning off large amounts of aid. The U.N. denies that significant diversion takes place.

The GHF works with armed contractors, which it says are needed to distribute food safely. Aid groups have accused the foundation of militarizing aid. The GHF said it distributed 30 truckloads of food on Saturday and called it their largest distribution so far.

Israeli strikes kill at least 60

Israel continued its military campaign across Gaza, saying it struck dozens of targets over the past day. Gaza's Health Ministry said at least 60 people were killed by Israeli strikes in the past 24 hours.

The ministry said three people were killed by Israeli gunfire early Saturday in Rafah. Three others were killed — parents and a child — when their car was struck in Gaza City. An Israeli strike hit another car in Gaza City, killing four. And an Israeli strike hit a tent sheltering displaced people in Khan Younis, killing six, said Weam Fares, a spokesperson for Nasser Hospital.

Israel's military said several projectiles from Gaza fell in open areas.

The war began when Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing around 1,200 people, most of them civilians, and taking 250 hostages.

Israeli strikes have killed more than 54,000 Gaza residents, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its tally.

A group of hostages' relatives again pleaded for a comprehensive ceasefire deal that would free everyone at once, saying the remaining hostages "will not survive continued military pressure."

Iran has amassed even more near weapons-grade uranium, UN watchdog says

By STEPHANIE LIECHTENSTEIN Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — Iran has further increased its stockpile of uranium enriched to near weapons-grade levels, a confidential report by the U.N. nuclear watchdog said Saturday. In a separate report, the agency called on Tehran to urgently change course and comply with its years-long probe.

The report comes at a sensitive time, as the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump seeks to reach a deal with Tehran to limit its nuclear program. The two sides have held several rounds of talks, so far without agreement.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 57 of 75

The report by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency — which was seen by The Associated Press — says that as of May 17, Iran has amassed 408.6 kilograms (900.8 pounds) of uranium enriched up to 60%.

That's an increase of 133.8 kilograms (294.9 pounds) — or almost 50% — since the IAEA's last report in February. The 60% enriched material is a short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90%. A report in February put this stockpile level at 274.8 kilograms (605.8 pounds).

What does the report say?

The IAEA report raised a stern warning, saying that Iran is now "the only non-nuclear-weapon state to produce such material" — something the agency said was of "serious concern."

Approximately 42 kilograms of 60% enriched uranium is theoretically enough to produce one atomic bomb, if enriched further to 90%, according to the watchdog.

The IAEA report, a quarterly, also estimated that as of May 17, Iran's overall stockpile of enriched uranium — which includes uranium enriched to lower levels — stood at 9,247.6 kilograms (20,387.4 pounds). That's an increase of 953.2 kilograms (2,101.4 pounds) since February's report.

Iran has maintained its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only, but the IAEA chief, Rafael Mariano Grossi, has warned that Tehran has enough uranium enriched to near-weapons-grade levels to make "several" nuclear bombs if it chose to do so.

Iranian officials have increasingly suggested that Tehran could pursue an atomic bomb.

U.S. intelligence agencies assess that Iran has yet to begin a weapons program, but has "undertaken activities that better position it to produce a nuclear device, if it chooses to do so."

Iran is furious over the report

Iran's Foreign Ministry and the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran said in a joint statement that the IAEA report was based on "unreliable and differing information sources" and accused it of being biased, unprofessional and lacking crucial, updated information.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its disappointment about the report, which was prepared by imposing pressure on the agency for political purposes, and expresses its obvious objection about its content," the statement read.

The statement reiterated that the country's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters, issued a religious decree that nuclear weapons would not be part of the country's defense arsenal. However, Iran stressed that under international law, the country has a right to a peaceful nuclear program, including uranium enrichment. The statement said the uranium enrichment was under "transparent" monitoring by the IAEA, which the IAEA denies.

The statement also accused the IAEA of turning a blind eye toward the U.S.'s 2018 withdrawal from the nuclear deal.

Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi, who is mediating the U.S.-Iran talks was in Tehran on Saturday to present the latest U.S. proposal for ongoing talks, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi wrote on X. The talks seek to limit Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of some of the crushing economic sanctions the U.S. has imposed on the Islamic Republic, which have strained relations for almost 50 years. The fifth round of talks between the U.S. and Iran concluded in Rome last week with "some but not conclusive progress," al-Busaidi said at the time.

Israel's swift reaction

Israel said Saturday's report was a clear warning sign that "Iran is totally determined to complete its nuclear weapons program," according to a statement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office.

It said IAEA's report "strongly reinforces what Israel has been saying for years — the purpose of Iran's nuclear program is not peaceful."

It also added that Iran's level of enrichment "has no civilian justification whatsoever" and appealed on the international community to "act now to stop Iran."

It is rare for Netanyahu to make statements on Saturday, the Jewish day of rest, underlying the urgency with which he sees the matter.

Call for cooperation

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 58 of 75

Grossi said Saturday that he "reiterates his urgent call upon Iran to cooperate fully and effectively" with the IAEA's years long investigation into uranium traces discovered at several sites in Iran.

The IAEA also circulated to member states on Saturday a second, 22-page confidential report, also seen by the AP, that Grossi was asked to produce following a resolution passed by the 35-member IAEA Board of Governors last November.

In this so-called "comprehensive report," the IAEA said that Iran's cooperation with the agency has "been less than satisfactory" when it comes to uranium traces discovered by IAEA inspectors at several locations in Iran that Tehran has failed to declare as nuclear sites.

Western officials suspect that the uranium traces discovered by the IAEA could provide evidence that Iran had a secret military nuclear program until 2003.

One of the sites became known publicly in 2018 after Netanyahu revealed it at the United Nations and called it a clandestine nuclear warehouse hidden at a rug-cleaning plant.

Iran denied this but in 2019 IAEA inspectors detected the presence of manmade uranium particles there.

What is the IAEA inspecting in Iran?

After initially blocking IAEA access, inspectors were able to collect samples in 2020 from two other locations where they also detected the presence of manmade uranium particles.

The three locations became known as Turqzabad, Varamin and Marivan.

A fourth undeclared location named as Lavisian-Shian is also part of the IAEA probe but IAEA inspectors never visited the site because it was razed and demolished by Iran after 2003.

In Saturday's comprehensive report, the IAEA says the "lack of answers and clarifications provided by Iran" to questions the watchdog had regarding Lavisian-Shian, Varamin and Marivan "has led the agency to conclude that these three locations, and other possible related locations, were part of an undeclared structured nuclear program carried out by Iran until the early 2000s and that some activities used undeclared nuclear material."

What's next?

Saturday's comprehensive report could be a basis for possible further steps by European nations, leading to a potential escalation in tensions between Iran and the West.

European countries could move to trigger snap-back sanctions against Iran that were lifted under the original 2015 nuclear deal ahead of October, when the deal formally expires.

On Thursday, senior Iranian officials dismissed speculation about an imminent nuclear deal with the United States, emphasizing that any agreement must fully lift sanctions and allow the country's nuclear program to continue.

The comments came a day after Trump said he has told Netanyahu to hold off on striking Iran to give the U.S. administration more time to push for a new deal with Tehran.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Saturday that Trump has made it clear that Iran can never obtain a nuclear bomb.

"Special Envoy Witkoff has sent a detailed and acceptable proposal to the Iranian regime, and it's in their best interest to accept it," she said. "Out of respect for the ongoing deal, the Administration will not comment on details of the proposal to the media."

The Black hair industry imports products from China. Here's what tariffs mean for braids and wigs

By CHARLOTTE KRAMON Associated Press/Report for America

ATLANTA (AP) — Before the oppressive summer heat descends on Atlanta, therapist Brittanee Sims usually gets her thick, curly hair braided at a salon to preserve her healthy mane.

But it's more expensive this year. So she'll only pay for her teenage daughter and son to get their summer hairdos. Not having braided hair "creates more of a hassle for everything," said Sims, who counts herself among the tens of millions of women that regularly spend on the Black hair care industry.

Now, she said, she has to "go home and figure out what I'm gonna do to my hair in the morning, after

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 59 of 75

I went to the gym and it's messed up with sweating and frizz."

President Donald Trump's tariffs are driving up prices for products many Black women consider essential, squeezing shoppers and stylists even more as they grapple with inflation and higher rents. Much of the synthetic braiding hair, human hair for extensions, wigs and weaves, styling tools, braiding gel and other products is imported from or has packaging from China, which was subject to a combined 145% tariff in April. India also is a major global source of human hair.

Many Black women have hair types and workplace-favored styles that require careful attention, and they can spend hundreds of dollars at salons each month on extensions, weaves, wigs and braids. The Associated Press spoke with several Black hair industry experts, beauty supply store owners, and wholesale companies, as well as nearly two dozen Black stylists and braiders, some of whom may have to raise prices even as business has slowed.

On Thursday, a federal appeals court reinstated most of Trump's tariffs on imported goods after they were blocked the day before by a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of International Trade.

Earlier this month, the United States agreed to drop the 145% tax on goods imported from China to 30% while the two economic superpowers negotiate new trade agreements. Imports from most other countries face baseline tariff rates at 10%.

Regardless, the next few months "are already shot" for many items, said Marty Parker, a University of Georgia business professor and supply chain expert who worked in the hair care industry. The costs companies have been facing at ports are making their way down to consumers, supply shortages are getting worse, and it's unclear what will happen if negotiations break down.

"Prices go up very fast and come down very slow," Parker said.

Costs go up for Atlanta stylists

Some stylists said they're seeing fewer clients because prices are going up for virtually everything.

Atlanta stylists are paying more for hair from China. Atlanta stylist Yana Ellis, who also sells products like wigs, paid an extra \$245 in shipping for 52 bundles of hair in March compared to 40 bundles in December. AaNiyah Butler said her shipping costs for human hair more than doubled from February to May. And Dajiah Blackshear found in early May that a beauty supply store raised the cost of the kind of hair she's used for years by \$100.

The store owner said he may have to stop selling that brand of hair because it went up so much. Similarly, some wholesale hair stores have seen higher costs or are expecting them in the coming weeks. Even the typical \$6 to \$10 cost of a pack of synthetic hair has crept up.

Blackshear doesn't want clients to bring hair because she likes to vet the quality. But if expenses continue to mount, she may have to raise her prices.

"It's going to be extremely difficult," she said, especially for clients who are "having to make those hard decisions, between 'do I get my hair done or do I pay my bills?'"

Janice Lowe, who runs 5 Starr Salon in a lower-income neighborhood southeast of Atlanta, has started asking clients to bring hair and is unable to purchase certain products.

"I'm falling behind on my obligations," she said.

The industry braces for uncertainty

Consultants vary on how much prices will rise, when they'll go up and for how long — and the full harm to stylists and consumers could be months away.

The global Black hair care industry was worth about \$3.2 billion in 2023, according to market.us, and Black women spend six times more on hair care than other ethnicities.

Stylists often purchase some harder-to-get professional products from door-to-door distributors that buy from wholesale companies or larger distributors that purchase directly from other countries.

Lowe has seen some of her distributors vanish altogether, making it harder to get professional lines such as Black-owned leading professional hair care brand Design Essentials, manufactured in Atlanta at McBride Research Laboratories.

Design Essentials is trying to delay big price increases until 2026 or 2027, and may turn to layoffs or pause promotions to save money, said president Cornell McBride Jr. Most packaging plastics come from

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 60 of 75

China, but ingredients can come from many places.

"Nobody wants to put it to the consumer but the person who pays is the consumer in the end," McBride Jr. said.

Hawa Keita and her mother usually charge customers between \$160 and \$250 for braiding at their shop, Eve's African Hair Braiding in College Park southwest of Atlanta. Keita is determined to take losses because their customers "can't afford the Atlanta prices," Keita said.

The cost of a box of 100 packs of braiding hair from China went up for the first time in two years, from \$250 to \$300, Keita said. They order weekly, often multiple boxes. Some companies say they'll soon raise prices or run out of stock.

Making customers happy is ultimately what will keep the business afloat, Keita said. She smiled as she recounted braiding a young woman's hair for her birthday with a style she suggested.

"When we finished, she gave me the biggest hug, and she was in here screaming and just yelling because she just really loved her hair," Keita said.

Priced-out consumers face unfair beauty standards

For many Black Americans, especially women, affording their hair care also means confronting unfavorable beauty standards. Georgia State University law professor Tanya Washington said recent discoveries about dangerous chemicals in synthetic hair and hair straightening products have sparked conversations among Black women looking for hairstyles that don't require as much imported products.

But embracing natural hairdos can be daunting for women like the soon-to-be lawyers and clerks Washington advises who face pressure to straighten their hair.

"That puts everyone who does not have organically, naturally derived straight hair at a disadvantage in these spaces," she said. "I think that a definition of professionalism that favors one phenotype — European phenotype — over all others, is inappropriate."

Longstanding income disparities between Black and white American women can also make higher hair care prices untenable. According to the U.S. Census, as of 2023, the median household income in Atlanta is \$131,319 for white households and \$47,937 for Black households.

It's an inequality issue that professional hairstylists are aware of nationwide.

Stylist Mitzi Mitchell, owner of PIC ONE Beauty Services in Pennsylvania, said she has stocked up on certain products and tools for another year in anticipation of price increases.

She wants to avoid "bootleg" products, which are made illegally and often aren't as safe, but became much more prevalent in the marketplace during economic downturns.

"I'm really conscientious about my Black minority clients because we make a heck of a lot less than other nationalities," said Mitchell, who is Black. "I try to keep prices low so we can continue to have the same services, but I know I will have to raise it."

2 killed in Russian attacks on Ukraine as prospects for talks remain uncertain

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian drone and missile attacks on Ukraine on Saturday killed at least two people, including a 9-year-old girl, officials said, as uncertainty remains about whether Kyiv diplomats will attend a new round of peace talks proposed by Moscow for early next week in Istanbul.

Russian troops launched some 109 drones and five missiles across Ukraine overnight and into Saturday, the Ukrainian air force said. Three of the missiles and 42 drones were destroyed and another 30 drones failed to reach their targets without causing damage, it said.

The girl was killed in a strike on the front-line village of Dolynka in the Zaporizhzhia region, and a 16-year-old was injured, Zaporizhzhia's Gov. Ivan Fedorov said.

"One house was destroyed. The shockwave from the blast also damaged several other houses, cars, and outbuildings," Fedorov wrote on Telegram.

A man was killed by Russian shelling in Ukraine's Kherson region, Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin wrote on

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 61 of 75

Telegram.

Moscow did not comment on either attack.

Russia's Ministry of Defense said Saturday that it had gained control of the Ukrainian village of Novopil in the Donetsk region, and took the village of Vodolaha in the northern Sumy region. Ukrainian authorities in Sumy ordered mandatory evacuations in 11 more settlements as Russian forces make steady gains in the area.

The new additions bring the total number of settlements under evacuation orders in Sumy, which borders Russia's Kursk region, to 213.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said some 50,000 Russian troops have amassed in the area with the intention of launching an offensive to carve out a buffer zone inside Ukrainian territory.

Speaking Saturday, Ukraine's top army chief Oleksandr Syrskiy said that Russian forces were focusing their main offensive efforts on Pokrovsk, Toretsk and Lyman in the Donetsk region, as well as the Sumy border area.

Syrskiy also said Ukrainian forces are still holding territory in Russia's Kursk region, a statement that Moscow has repeatedly denied. Russia said on April 26 that it had pushed all Ukrainian troops from the Kursk region after Ukrainian troops seized land there during a surprise incursion in August 2024. "The enemy is holding its best units here," Syrskiy said referring to Kursk, "which it planned to use in the east."

Elsewhere, 14 people were injured including four children after Ukrainian drones struck apartment buildings Saturday in the Russian town of Rylysk and the village of Artakovo in the western Kursk region, local acting Gov. Alexander Khinshtein said.

Peace talk uncertainty

Andrii Yermak, a top adviser to Zelenskyy, said Friday that Kyiv was ready to resume direct peace talks with Russia in Istanbul on Monday but that the Kremlin should first provide a promised memorandum setting out its position on ending the more than three-year war.

Zelenskyy said Friday that Russia was "undermining diplomacy" by withholding the document.

"For some reason, the Russians are concealing this document. This is an absolutely bizarre position. There is no clarity about the format," Zelenskyy wrote on Telegram.

Moscow previously said it would share its memorandum during the talks.

US defense secretary warns Indo-Pacific allies of 'imminent' threat from China

By TARA COPP and DAVID RISING Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth reassured allies in the Indo-Pacific on Saturday that they will not be left alone to face increasing military and economic pressure from China, while insisting that they also contribute more to their own defense.

He said Washington will bolster its defenses overseas to counter what the Pentagon sees as rapidly developing threats by Beijing, particularly in its aggressive stance toward Taiwan. China has conducted numerous exercises to test what a blockade would look like of the self-governing island, which Beijing claims as its own and the U.S. has pledged to defend.

China's army "is rehearsing for the real deal," Hegseth said in a keynote speech at a security conference in Singapore. "We are not going to sugarcoat it — the threat China poses is real. And it could be imminent."

The head of China's delegation accused Hegseth of making "groundless accusations."

"Some of the claims are completely fabricated, some distort facts and some are cases of a thief crying 'stop thief,'" said Rear Adm. Hu Gangfeng, vice president of China's National Defense University. He did not offer specific objections.

"These actions are nothing more than attempts to provoke trouble, incite division and stir up confrontation to destabilize the Asia-Pacific region," he said.

Hegseth says China is training to invade Taiwan

China has a stated goal of ensuring its military is capable of taking Taiwan by force if necessary by 2027,

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 62 of 75

a deadline that is seen by experts as more of an aspirational goal than a hard war deadline.

China also has built sophisticated, artificial islands in the South China Sea to support new military outposts and developed highly advanced hypersonic and space capabilities, which are driving the United States to create its own space-based "Golden Dome" missile defenses.

Speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue, a global security conference hosted by the International Institute for Security Studies, Hegseth said China is no longer just building up its military forces to take Taiwan, it's "actively training for it, every day."

Hegseth also called out China for its ambitions in Latin America, particularly its efforts to increase its influence over the Panama Canal.

He urged Indo-Pacific countries to increase defense spending to levels similar to the 5% of their gross domestic product European nations are now pressed to contribute.

"We must all do our part," Hegseth said.

Following the speech, the European Union's top diplomat Kaja Kallas pushed back at Hegseth's comment that European countries should focus their defense efforts in their own region and leave the Indo-Pacific more to the U.S. She said that with North Korean troops fighting for Russia and China supporting Moscow, European and Asian security were "very much interlinked."

Questions about US commitment to Indo-Pacific

Hegseth also repeated a pledge made by previous administrations to bolster the U.S. military in the Indo-Pacific to provide a more robust deterrent. While both the Obama and Biden administrations had also committed to pivoting to the Pacific and established new military agreements throughout the region, a full shift has never been realized.

Instead, U.S. military resources from the Indo-Pacific have been regularly pulled to support military needs in the Middle East and Europe, especially since the wars in Ukraine and Gaza. In the first few months of President Donald Trump's second term, that's also been the case.

In the last few months, the Trump administration has taken a Patriot missile defense battalion out of the Indo-Pacific in order to send it to the Middle East, a massive logistical operation that required 73 military cargo aircraft flights, and sent Coast Guard ships back to the U.S. to help defend the U.S.-Mexico border.

Hegseth was asked why the U.S. pulled those resources if the Indo-Pacific is the priority theater. He did not directly answer but said the shift of resources was necessary to defend against Houthi missile attacks launched from Yemen, and to bolster protections against illegal immigration into the U.S.

At the same time, he stressed the need for American allies and partners to step up their own defense spending and preparations, saying the U.S. was not interested in going it alone.

"Ultimately a strong, resolute and capable network of allies and partners is our key strategic advantage," he said. "China envies what we have together, and it sees what we can collectively bring to bear on defense, but it's up to all of us to ensure that we live up to that potential by investing."

The Indo-Pacific nations caught in between have tried to balance relations with both the U.S. and China over the years. Beijing is the primary trading partner for many, but is also feared as a regional bully, in part due to its increasingly aggressive claims on natural resources such as critical fisheries.

Hegseth cautioned that playing both sides, seeking U.S. military support and Chinese economic support, carries risk.

"Economic dependence on China only deepens their malign influence and complicates our defense decision space during times of tension," Hegseth said.

Asked how he would reconcile that statement with Trump's threat of steep tariffs on most in the region, Hegseth he was "in the business of tanks, not trade."

But Illinois Democrat Sen. Tammy Duckworth, who is part of a congressional delegation attending Shangri-La, objected to pressuring regional allies.

"The United States is not asking people to choose between us and the PRC," Duckworth said, in reference to the People's Republic of China.

Australia's Defense Minister Richard Marles welcomed Hegseth's assurance that the Indo-Pacific was an

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 63 of 75

American strategic priority and agreed that Australia and other nations needed to do their part.

"Reality is that there is no effective balance of power in this region absent the United States, but we cannot leave it to the United States alone," he said.

Still, Marles suggested the Trump administration's aggressive trade policies were counterproductive. "The shock and disruption from the high tariffs has been costly and destabilizing."

China sends lower-level delegation

China usually sends its own defense minister to the conference, but Dong Jun did not attend this year in a snub to the U.S. over Trump's erratic tariffs war. His absence was something the U.S. delegation said it intended to capitalize on.

"We are here this morning. And somebody else isn't," Hegseth said.

Asked by a member of the Chinese delegation how committed the U.S. would remain if Asian alliances like ASEAN had differences with Washington, Hegseth said the U.S. would not be constrained by "the confines of how previous administrations looked at this region."

"We're opening our arms to countries across the spectrum — traditional allies, non-traditional allies," he said.

He said U.S. support would not require local governments to align with the West on cultural or climate issues.

Trump fast-tracks Utah uranium mine, but industry revival may wait for higher prices

By MEAD GRUVER and HANNAH SCHOENBAUM Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — In the southeastern Utah desert famous for red rock arches and canyon labyrinths, the long-dormant uranium mining industry is looking to revive under President Donald Trump.

Hundreds of abandoned uranium mines dot the West's arid landscapes, hazardous reminders of the promise and peril of nuclear power during the Cold War. Now, one mine that the Trump administration fast-tracked for regulatory approval could reopen for the first time since the 1980s.

Normally it would have taken months, if not years, for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to review plans to reopen a project like Anfield Energy's Velvet-Wood mine 35 miles (56 kilometers) south of Moab. But the bureau's regulators green-lit the project in just 11 days under a "national energy emergency" Trump has declared that allows expedited environmental reviews for energy projects.

More permits and approvals will be needed, plus site work to get the mine operating again. And the price of uranium would have to rise enough to make domestic production financially sustainable. If that happens, it would mean revival — and jobs — to an industry that locally has been moribund since the Ronald Reagan era.

"President Trump has made it clear that our energy security is national security," Interior Secretary Doug Burgum said in announcing the fast-tracking policy in April. "These emergency procedures reflect our unwavering commitment to protecting both."

More fast approvals appear likely. Trump's order also applies to oil, gas, coal, biofuel and hydropower projects — but not renewable energy — on federal lands.

Conditions are ripe for more U.S. uranium mining

Global uranium prices are double what they were at a low point seven years ago and, for the past year, the U.S. has banned uranium imports from Russia due to that country's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

More domestic mining would address a major imbalance. The U.S. imports about 98% of the uranium it uses to generate 30% of the world's nuclear energy. More than two-thirds of U.S. imports come from the world's top three uranium-mining countries: Canada, Australia and Kazakhstan.

Less government regulation won't spur more U.S. uranium mining by itself. The market matters. And while spot-market prices are up from several years ago, they're down about a third from their recent high in early 2024.

While some new uranium mining and processing projects have been announced, their number falls far

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 64 of 75

short of a surge. That suggests prices need to rise — and stay there — for a true industry revival, said John Uhrie, a former uranium executive who now works in the cement industry.

"Until the price goes up dramatically, you're not going to be able to actually put these places into operation," Uhrie said. "You need significant capital on the ground."

Still, the industry is showing new life in the Southwest.

Anfield Energy, a Canadian company, also looks to reopen the Shootaring Canyon uranium mill in southern Utah near Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. It closed in the early 1980s. A uranium mill turns raw ore into yellowcake, a powdery substance later processed elsewhere into nuclear fuel.

Anfield officials did not return messages seeking comment on plans to reopen the mill and the Velvet-Wood mine.

Energy Fuels, another Canadian company which ranks as the top U.S. uranium miner, opened the Pinyon Plain mine about 10 miles (16 kilometers) from the Grand Canyon in late 2023.

And just off U.S. 191 in southeastern Utah is a hub of the industry, Uranium Fuels' White Mesa mill, the country's only uranium mill still in operation.

In Moab, uranium has a long — and mixed — legacy

These days, Moab is a desert tourism hot spot bustling with outdoor enthusiasts. But the town of 5,200 has a deeper history with uranium. Nods to Moab's post-World War II mining heyday can be spotted around town — the Atomic Hair Salon isn't just named for its blowout hairstyles.

The biggest reminder is the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action project, a 480-acre (194-hectare) site just outside town. The decades-long, \$1 billion U.S. Department of Energy effort to haul off toxic tailings that were leaching into the Colorado River upstream from the Grand Canyon and Lake Mead should wrap up within five more years.

That mill's polluting legacy makes some Moab residents wary of restarting uranium mining and processing, especially after the Trump administration cut short their ability to weigh in on the Velvet-Wood mine plans.

"This was a process I would have been involved in," said Sarah Fields, director of the local group Uranium Watch. "They provided no opportunity for the public to say, 'You need to look at this, you need to look at that.'"

Grand Canyon Trust, a group critical of the Pinyon Plain mine as a danger to groundwater, points out that the U.S. nuclear industry isn't at risk of losing access to uranium.

"This is all being done under the assumption there is some energy emergency and that is just not true," said Amber Reimondo, the group's energy director.

Supply and demand will decide uranium mining's future

Hundreds of miles to the north, other nuclear energy projects point to the U.S. industry's future.

With Bill Gates' support, TerraPower is building a 345-megawatt sodium-cooled fast reactor outside Kemmerer in western Wyoming that could, in theory, meet demand for carbon-free power at lower costs and with less construction time than conventional reactor units.

Meanwhile, about 40% of uranium mined in the U.S. in 2024 came from four Wyoming "in-situ" mines that use wells to dissolve uranium in underground deposits and pump it to the surface without having to dig big holes or send miners underground. Similar mines in Texas and Nebraska and stockpiled ore processed at White Mesa accounted for the rest.

None — as yet — came from mines in Utah.

Powering electric cars and computing technology will require more electricity in the years ahead. Nuclear power offers a zero-carbon, round-the-clock option.

Meeting the demand for nuclear fuel domestically is another matter. With prices higher, almost 700,000 pounds of yellowcake was produced in the U.S. in 2024 — up more than a dozen-fold from the year before but still far short of the 32 million pounds imported into the U.S.

Even if mining increases, it's not clear that U.S. capacity to turn the ore into fuel would keep pace, said Uhrie, the former uranium mining executive.

"Re-establishing a viable uranium industry from soup to nuts — meaning from mining through process-

ing to yellow cake production, to conversion, to enrichment to produce nuclear fuel — remains a huge lift,” Uhrie said.

Deep cuts erode the foundations of US public health system, end progress, threaten worse to come

By LAURA UNGAR and MICHELLE R. SMITH Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Americans are losing a vast array of people and programs dedicated to keeping them healthy. Gone are specialists who were confronting a measles outbreak in Ohio, workers who drove a van to schools in North Carolina to offer vaccinations and a program that provided free tests to sick people in Tennessee.

State and local health departments responsible for invisible but critical work such as inspecting restaurants, monitoring wastewater for new and harmful germs, responding to outbreaks before they get too big — and a host of other tasks to protect both individuals and communities — are being hollowed out.

“Nobody wants to go swim in a community pool and come out of it with a rash or a disease from it. Nobody wants to walk out their door and take a fresh breath of air and start wheezing,” said Lori Tremmel Freeman, executive director of the National Association of County and City Health Officials.

But local health officials say they now have no choice but to do a lot less of it. The Trump administration is cutting health spending on an unprecedented scale, experts say, including pulling \$11 billion of direct federal support because the pandemic is over and eliminating 20,000 jobs at national health agencies that in part assist and support local public health work. It’s proposing billions more be slashed.

Together, public health leaders said, the cuts are reducing the entire system to a shadow of what it once was, threatening to undermine even routine work at a time when the nation faces the deadliest measles outbreak since at least the 1990s, rising whooping cough cases and the risk that bird flu could spread widely among people.

The moves reflect a shift that Americans may not fully realize, away from the very idea of public health: doing the work that no individual can do alone to safeguard the population as a whole. That’s one of the most critical responsibilities of government, notes James Williams, county executive in Santa Clara County, California. And it goes beyond having police and fire departments.

“It means not having babies suffering from diseases that you vanquished. It means making sure that people have access to the most accurate and up-to-date information and decisions that help their longevity,” Williams said. “It means having a society and communities able to actually prosper, with people living healthy and full lives.”

Keeping communities healthy saves lives — and money

Just outside a Charlotte, North Carolina, high school in March, nurse Kim Cristino set out five vaccines as a 17-year-old girl in ripped jeans stepped onto a health department van. The patient barely flinched as Cristino gave her three shots in one arm and two in the other to prevent diseases including measles, diphtheria and polio.

Like many other teens that morning, the girl was getting some shots years later than recommended. The clinic’s appearance at Independence High School gave her a convenient way to get up to date.

“It lessens the barriers for parents who would have to be taking off from work and trying to get their kids to a provider,” Cristino said.

The vaccinations also help the community around her. The teen won’t come down with a life-threatening disease and the whole community is protected from outbreaks — if enough people are vaccinated.

The Mecklenburg County department, with “Protecting and Promoting the Public’s Health” emblazoned on its van, is similar to other U.S. health departments. They run programs to reduce suicides and drug overdoses, improve prenatal health and help people stop smoking. They educate people about health and test for and treat diseases such as HIV and tuberculosis. Some, including Mecklenburg, operate medical and dental clinics too.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 66 of 75

"You come to work every day and think: What's going to be my challenge today? Sometimes it's a new disease," said Raynard Washington, Mecklenburg's director. "That's why having a backbone infrastructure is so important."

What they do is cost-effective, experts have found. For every dollar spent on childhood immunizations, the country is estimated to save \$11; on tobacco cessation, \$2-\$3; on asthma control, \$70.

Disease prevention is unseen — and ignored

Critical care can be glamorous — surgeons, cardiologists and cancer doctors can pull off breathtaking medical feats to save lives at the last possible moment. Prevention work is low key. It's impossible to identify who was saved because, if it goes well, the person never knows when they've fended off a mortal threat with the invisible shield of public health.

"People don't appreciate it," said Dr. Umair Shah, former health director for Washington state. "Therefore, they don't invest in it."

State health departments are funded by a varying mix of federal and state tax money. Some states deliver services in a centralized way while others provide resources to local departments, which generally also get money from counties, cities or towns. Some large cities get direct federal funding for their health departments.

Mecklenburg — a large department with around 1,000 workers serving 1.2 million people — has an annual budget of around \$135 million, while some metro hospitals have operating expenses in the billions. About 70% of the department's budget comes from local funds, which helps fill gaps in state and federal money. But Mecklenburg is still strapped for cash and resources.

At times, employees work 12- to 14-hour days, especially during outbreaks. Nurse Carmel Jenkins recalled responding to mpox exposures at a day care center — arriving before 5:30 a.m. to alert the children's parents and working late into the evening.

"Even though there may be limited resources, we still have a service to provide," said Jenkins, a director of clinical services for the department. "We don't mind going above and beyond to be able to do that."

Chaos in Washington puts 'lives at risk'

In March, the Trump administration pulled \$11 billion from state and local health departments without warning under the leadership of Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a longtime anti-vaccine activist and public health critic. The cuts abruptly ended COVID-era grants, which had also been approved for non-COVID work including vaccination and disease detection, tracking and testing.

A week later, thousands of people were laid off at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Many had worked closely with state and local health departments to provide information, grants and other support.

The sudden, one-two punch delivered a serious blow to the system, public health leaders said in interviews, court filings and public testimony.

A Kennedy spokesman said in an email that America remains unhealthy compared with other developed nations and HHS is reorganizing what he said were "broken systems" and reprioritizing resources to "centralize programs and functions that will improve our service to the American people."

"These cuts are not about abandoning public health — they're about reforming it," spokesman Andrew Nixon said, adding: "We reject the implication that HHS has turned its back on urgent health threats."

HHS justified the grant cancellations by saying the money was for COVID and the pandemic is over. But most of the cuts were in areas that are especially important given today's health threats. The biggest chunk, more than \$8.9 billion, involved epidemiology and laboratory capacity related to infectious diseases, while another \$2 billion was related to immunizations. In some places, the cuts are on hold due to a federal judge's order in a lawsuit by states. But elsewhere, cuts are continuing.

In Mecklenburg, for example, 11 community health workers lost their jobs, meaning less outreach to groups like the Hispanic community. All eight employees dedicated to the mobile vaccine program were laid off.

In Columbus, Ohio — one of several communities in Republican-led states suing over the cuts — the health department had to lay off nine disease intervention specialists. This left it operating at 25% capacity in its disease tracing and investigation work just as it prepared to address a measles outbreak.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 67 of 75

Kansas City, Missouri, will not be able to do its own testing for infectious diseases because the cut came just as the city was about to buy \$500,000 worth of equipment. And Nashville had to end a program of offering free flu and COVID tests and cancel plans to buy a van to deliver vaccinations.

The cities complained the cuts had created "severe budget uncertainty" and forced them to redirect their limited resources "to respond to the resulting chaos."

CDC staff cuts are also having a ripple effect on state and local departments. Children who are deaf or hard of hearing will no longer benefit from an early intervention program run by states after everyone who worked on the program at CDC was laid off. The team in the Office on Smoking and Health, which funds state tobacco hotlines that help people quit, was let go.

So was the CDC team that worked to reduce drownings, partly through funding low-cost swimming lessons in local communities. Drownings kill 4,000 people a year in the U.S.

"The experts who know the things that can be done to help prevent the No. 1 cause of death from children ages 1 to 4 have been eliminated," Connecticut state health commissioner Dr. Manisha Juthani told a Democratic congressional hearing in April, referring to drownings.

She said the abrupt and disorganized nature of the cuts leaves her department scrambling as officials try to understand what is being cut and to close important programs on the federal government's impractical timelines.

"The current uncertainty puts lives at risk," she said.

Public health funding is going bust — and about to get worse

The new cuts are especially damaging because health departments are funded differently than other government agencies meant to protect the public: Funding pours in during emergencies and slows to a relative trickle when they subside. Mecklenburg's Washington notes the contrast with fire departments, which are kept ready at all times, not scrambling to find firefighters and fire trucks when houses are already burning.

With health departments, "there's a long-established pattern of boom-and-bust funding," said Dr. Steven Stack, Kentucky's public health commissioner and past president of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials.

A temporary surge of money during the pandemic allowed some health departments to expand and strengthen programs. In Alabama, the influx of COVID money allowed the state to reopen a health department in largely rural Coosa County that closed a decade ago due to a lack of money. In California's Santa Clara County, a COVID-era lab grant paved the way for a new science branch with nearly 50 positions.

But by early this year, most of that money had disappeared, along with other COVID-era grants across the nation — some because they ended and some because the government rescinded them. Departments were again left brittle and vulnerable.

"We're facing funding cliff after funding cliff after funding cliff," said Dr. Sara Cody, Santa Clara County's health director. "What really worries me is I felt that we had finally built the infrastructure in the public health department. ... We were still pretty trim, but we weren't just, like, bones."

In Chicago, one-time COVID grants made up 51% of the health department budget, and their ending will push staff numbers below the pre-pandemic level of 588 — slowing responses to outbreaks and forcing officials to scale back food safety, violence prevention and other programs.

In Mecklenburg, the department lost 180 employees as COVID funds dried up. It also lost a wastewater monitoring partnership with the University of North Carolina at Charlotte that helped the county react quickly to changing COVID variants and could have also been used to detect new threats like bird flu.

The cuts are not over.

The Trump administration has proposed cutting billions more from CDC's budget, enough to cut the agency's spending in half. CDC sends about 80 percent of its budget to states and local communities.

Michael Eby, director of clinical services in Mecklenburg, said the relentless cuts to the system leave departments unable to respond to new pandemics and old diseases returning across the United States.

"Without the appropriate funding, we can't properly address these threats," he said. "We're at risk of them getting out of control and really causing a lot of damage and death to individuals that we could have

saved, that we could have protected.”

A growing number of New Orleans fugitives’ friends and family arrested for aiding in jail escape

By JACK BROOK Associated Press/Report for America

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The 10 men who escaped from a New Orleans jail more than two weeks ago by cutting out a hole behind a toilet received help from at least 15 people, many of them friends and family who provided food, cash, transport and shelter according to court documents.

Records reviewed by The Associated Press show how some of the fugitives received aid before and after their escape — including from a number of people named in police reports but not yet facing charges.

A former jail employee is accused of driving escapee Lenton Vanburen to a relative’s home and helping him FaceTime family the day of the escape, while another friend later offered him a hiding place in a vacant apartment he had been hired to repaint.

Others sent money via apps, lied to authorities during interrogation and messaged or called the fugitives, police say. Some are now held on bonds \$1 million or higher and most face the felony charge of accessory after the fact.

In a city with an entrenched mistrust of the criminal justice system, authorities on Thursday raised the reward to \$50,000 per fugitive. They stressed that friends and family are key to capturing the two remaining escapees, convicted murderer Derrick Groves and Antoine Massey, who faces kidnapping and rape charges.

“We understand that some of you might be reporting a friend, a loved one, a relative and albeit not easy, it is critical to your safety and the safety of the public that you report them,” Jonathan Tapp, special agent in charge of FBI New Orleans, said Thursday.

Former jail employee appears linked to escape

After the audacious escape in the early hours of May 16, a woman who police described as “associated” with Groves “picked up” and transported escapee Vanburen to a relative’s residence, the documents show.

En-route, she video-called Vanburen’s sisters, who came to meet him.

This woman — who has not been charged with aiding in the escape — shares the same name as a former Orleans Parish Sheriff’s Office employee, according to court records. In 2023, that employee was arrested for bringing a folding knife and a bag of Cheetos containing tobacco and marijuana into the jail.

The charges were dropped in part due to the woman’s lack of criminal history and she “successfully completed” a pretrial diversion program, the Orleans Parish District Attorney’s office told The Associated Press. The Orleans Parish Sheriff’s Office did not respond to request for comment.

In a text message to an AP reporter, the woman denied bringing in contraband or aiding fugitives.

Separately, authorities arrested a jail plumber they say helped the men escape, but his attorney maintains he was just trying to unclog a toilet.

Phone records aid in arrests

Several escapees, including Massey, relied on internet phone services to communicate with accomplices and “avoid detection” by not leaving a trail of cellular signals, police reports say.

Escapee Corey Boyd used an internet phone service to message several contacts seeking money and access to their iCloud accounts, threatening to kill one person if they did not comply, court records show.

The FBI reviewed months of calls from Boyd’s “top caller” while incarcerated. They then found a brief call from a new phone number the night after the escape and used that to help track down Boyd. They discovered that Boyd’s aunt was messaging him on Instagram to help him get food as hid in the apartment where a SWAT team captured him May 20.

A victim of abuse arrested as accomplice

One of the women accused of helping Massey and described by police as his “paramour” also suffered from years of physical abuse from him, court records show.

The woman, who had previously filed a protective order against Massey after he attempted to strangle her, was aware of his planned escape and later misled authorities, police say.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 69 of 75

She exchanged messages with Massey's 31-year-old sister saying they hoped he "never gets caught."

Authorities staked out the New Orleans home of Massey's sister but a search six days after the escape turned up empty-handed. Police learned Massey had been inside the home before the raid and altered and deleted evidence on his sister's phone.

Court records show police accuse Massey's sister of lying to them, slowing down the manhunt and forcing them to lose "critical days and hours" in the search.

Authorities appeal to public for help

At least seven of the people facing felony charges for aiding the fugitives have ties to Lenton Vanburen, Jr. according to authorities.

After alerting two of his sisters by prison phone in the hours before his escape, he instructed they contact "my girl" and provide her with a "clean phone" so the two could communicate.

The woman identified by police as Vanburen's love interest told The Associated Press she never received the phone and denied involvement in the escape plans.

Vanburen's sisters met up with him the night of his escape at a family member's residence where he was able to shower, change clothes and was given toiletries. Another family member later reportedly took him to a relative's home in Mississippi.

Vanburen was ultimately captured in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on Monday and two men arrested this week were accused of helping him find shelter in a hotel — paid for in cash — and an apartment undergoing renovation. The Baton Rouge court system had no record of their legal representation.

In another case, a 59-year-old Louisiana woman is accused of sending cash to fugitive Jermaine Donald, a family friend, according to her attorney.

Lindsey Hortenstine, communications director for the Orleans Parish Public Defenders' office, said that most of the people arrested in connection with helping the fugitives have not yet secured attorneys.

Louisiana State Police Superintendent Colonel Robert Hodges said tips from friends and family remain essential to locating the remaining fugitives.

"They're tired, they're looking over their shoulder, looking for resources," Hodges said. "I think the advantage goes to law enforcement and we need the public's help to ensure that we keep that advantage."

Death toll reaches 151 in north-central Nigerian town submerged in floods, with thousands displaced

By TAIWO ADEBAYO and CHINEDU ASADU Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — The death toll from devastating flooding in a market town in Nigeria's north-central state of Niger rose to at least 151 on Saturday, the local emergency service said, amid efforts to find more victims.

Torrents of predawn rainfall early Thursday unleashed the devastating flood on Mokwa, nearly 380 kilometers (236 miles) west of Abuja and a major trading and transportation hub where northern Nigerian farmers sell beans, onions and other food to traders from the south.

The spokesperson for the Niger State emergency service, Ibrahim Audu Hussein, confirmed the updated fatality count to The Associated Press on Saturday. In addition to the rising death toll, 11 people were injured and more than 3,000 people were displaced, the official added.

At least 500 households across three communities were affected by the sudden and intense flood that built rapidly in about five hours, leaving roofs barely visible and surviving residents waist-deep in water, trying to salvage what they could and rescue others.

Hussein added that two roads were washed away and two bridges collapsed.

In a statement on Friday night, President Bola Tinubu expressed condolences and said he had directed the activation of an emergency response to support victims and "accelerate" recovery.

He said that security agencies have also been asked to assist in emergency operations, which remain underway amid concerns that more bodies could be recovered in remote areas.

"Relief materials and temporary shelter assistance are being deployed without delay," the president said,

promising “no Nigerian affected will be left behind or unheard of.”

Flooding is common during Nigeria’s wet season. Communities in northern Nigeria have been experiencing prolonged dry spells worsened by climate change and excessive rainfall that leads to severe flooding during the brief wet season. But this flood has been particularly deadly in Mokwa, a farming region near the banks of the River Niger.

Mokwa community leader Aliko Musa told the AP the villagers are not used to such flooding.

The chairman of the Mokwa local government area, Jibril Muregi, told local news website Premium Times that construction of flood-control works was long overdue.

Takeaways from AP’s report on how federal public health cuts are affecting communities across the US

By LAURA UNGAR and MICHELLE R. SMITH Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Americans are losing a vast array of people and programs dedicated to keeping them healthy. State and local health departments responsible for invisible but critical work including inspecting restaurants, monitoring wastewater for harmful germs, responding to outbreaks and other tasks to protect both individuals and communities are being hollowed out.

The Trump administration is cutting health spending on an unprecedented scale, experts say. It’s pulled \$11 billion of direct federal support and eliminated 20,000 jobs at national health agencies that in part support local public health work. It’s proposing billions more be slashed.

Public health leaders said the cuts are reducing the entire system to a shadow of what it once was and threatening to undermine even routine work – even as the nation faces threats from diseases like measles, whooping cough and bird flu.

The moves reflect a shift away from the very idea of public health: doing the work that no individual can do alone to safeguard the population as a whole.

Here are some takeaways from The Associated Press examination of how federal cuts to public health are affecting communities and people across the United States.

Disease prevention is unseen — and ignored

Prevention work is low key. It’s impossible to identify who was saved because, if it goes well, the person never knows when they’ve fended off a mortal threat with the invisible shield of public health.

The health department in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, for example, has run a mobile clinic that it brings to high schools to ensure students are up-to-date on shots for diseases like measles and polio. Those shots help both the student and the wider community stay healthy — if enough people are vaccinated.

U.S. health departments run programs to reduce suicides and drug overdoses, improve prenatal health and help people stop smoking. They educate people about health and test for and treat diseases such as HIV and tuberculosis. Some, including Mecklenburg, operate medical and dental clinics too.

The work departments do is also cost effective, experts have found. For every dollar spent on childhood immunizations, the country is estimated to save \$11; on tobacco cessation, \$2-\$3; on asthma control, \$70.

Chaos in Washington puts ‘lives at risk’

State and local health departments depend on federal money and support. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention sends about 80 percent of its budget to states and local communities and helps those departments with its expertise and other resources.

When the Trump administration pulled \$11 billion from state and local health departments without warning in March, then laid off thousands of people at CDC a week later, public health leaders said the cuts delivered a serious blow to communities across the country.

All eight employees dedicated to the mobile vaccine program in Mecklenburg were laid off. Nine disease intervention specialists in Columbus, Ohio, were let go as the department prepared to address a measles outbreak. Nashville had to end a program offering free flu and COVID tests.

Meanwhile, tobacco hotlines, early intervention programs for children who are deaf or hard of hearing, and programs to prevent drowning are all being affected in states and communities because CDC teams

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 71 of 75

were laid off.

A spokesman for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said HHS is reorganizing what he said were "broken systems" and rejected "the implication that HHS has turned its back on urgent health threats."

HHS justified the grant cancellations by saying the money was for COVID and the pandemic is over. But most of the cuts were in areas that are especially important given today's health threats, including epidemiology and laboratory capacity as well as immunizations.

Connecticut's state health commissioner told a Democratic congressional hearing the current uncertainty "puts lives at risk."

Public health funding is going bust — and about to get worse

The new cuts are especially damaging because health departments are funded differently than other government agencies meant to protect the public: Funding pours in during emergencies and slows to a relative trickle when they subside. Public health leaders often cite the contrast with fire departments, which are kept ready at all times, not scrambling to find firefighters and fire trucks when houses are already burning.

A temporary surge of money during the pandemic allowed some health departments to expand and strengthen programs. But by early this year, most of that money had disappeared, along with other COVID-era grants across the nation — some because they ended and some because the government rescinded them. Departments were again left brittle and vulnerable.

In Chicago, one-time COVID grants made up 51% of the health department budget, and their ending will push staff numbers below pre-pandemic levels — slowing responses to outbreaks and forcing officials to scale back food safety, violence prevention and other programs.

In Mecklenburg, the department lost 180 employees as COVID funds dried up. It also lost a wastewater monitoring partnership with the University of North Carolina at Charlotte that helped the county react quickly to changing COVID variants and could have also been used to detect new threats like bird flu.

The cuts are not over.

The Trump administration has proposed cutting billions more from CDC's budget, enough to cut the agency's spending in half. CDC sends about 80 percent of its budget to states and local communities

Public health leaders warn the the relentless cuts to the system leave departments unable to respond to new pandemics and old diseases returning across the United States.

Dogs and cats can also suffer from allergies, but there are ways to help our furry friends

By LAURA UNGAR AP Science Writer

About five years ago, Gail Friedman noticed her Parson Russell Terrier was constantly licking his paws and seemed super uncomfortable.

"The poor dog. I would put baby socks on his feet so that he wouldn't lick them or bite at them," said Friedman, of Oak Brook, Illinois. "I was constantly changing the socks, washing his feet a lot. Nothing worked."

It turned out her canine companion, Mr. Friedman, had allergies.

It's a common and tricky problem in pets — caused by various things such as pollen, dust, mold, chemicals and food — but veterinarians say there are several ways to ease their suffering.

What sorts of allergies do dogs and cats get?

Allergies happen when the immune system overreacts to a foreign substance. Cats and dogs react to many of the same things people do, as well as pests like fleas.

There are no definitive recent statistics on how many pets have allergies, but research suggests the problem is growing.

"I probably see allergic dogs and cats every single day, probably multiple times a day," said Dr. Karen

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 72 of 75

Woodard, medical director at Thrive Pet Healthcare-Elmhurst in Illinois.

About 90% of allergic pets react to environmental triggers, Woodard said, and the rest have food allergies only.

Dog breeds that are especially vulnerable include various types of terriers, boxers and bulldogs; in cats, it's Persians, Siamese and Himalayans.

Pets can even be allergic to other animals — cats to dogs, dogs to cats and either to another species.

"It's possible for them to be allergic to us, just like we are to them," said Thrive's Dr. Anthea Elliott Schick of Scottsdale, Arizona, immediate past president of the American College of Veterinary Dermatology.

How can you tell if your pet has allergies?

Allergic cats and dogs aren't as likely as humans to sneeze and cough. More often, they scratch and lick themselves, shake their heads and develop ear infections.

Woodard said her Yorkie mix, Teddy, had the classic signs — scratching around his shoulders and getting rashes and ear infections starting as a six-month-old puppy. She lived in the South at the time, and he tested positive for allergies to various trees and grasses there.

A common sign of allergies in her feline patients is "overdoing their grooming," said Woodard, who's on the Chicago Veterinary Medical Association's board of directors. "Cats shouldn't be pulling their hair out when they groom. So if you start seeing bald patches on your cat, even though the skin underneath it looks normal, that could be a sign of allergies."

Even food allergies, often to chicken, beef, lamb or other protein sources, frequently show up on the skin, although pets can have vomiting or diarrhea, too.

Rarely, pets can develop life-threatening anaphylactic reactions, perhaps after being stung by an insect. But most allergies are simply miserable for the animals.

"It breaks my heart because it gets to a point that not only do I have socks on poor Mr. Friedman — which is humiliating for him — he sometimes gets so bad he has to wear the cone of shame," Gail Friedman said. "And that's not fair because he can't move around right, he can't sleep right. It's terrible."

How can you help your pet?

The first step is to get a diagnosis from the vet. This could involve allergy testing, or in the case of food allergies, an "elimination diet," which involves feeding limited ingredients the pet hasn't previously eaten.

If the allergy culprit is environmental, there are medications like anti-inflammatory drugs and newer oral and injectable medications for dogs to block chemical signals associated with itchiness. Food allergies may be treated with special diets such as "hydrolyzed" food, in which proteins are chemically broken down into tiny pieces.

All this can get expensive. Friedman estimates she's spent about \$10,000 on testing, medication and care for Mr. Friedman and another allergic dog.

But vets say there are also ways to help pets at home by cleaning their bedding frequently, wiping their fur with a wet washcloth and giving them baths.

Outdoors, "they're almost acting like little Swiffers, getting allergens on their skin, and it goes through their skin and actually becomes a problem," Schick said. "We say bathe your dog, at a minimum, once a week if they're allergic."

After she's tried nearly everything, Friedman's dogs are still vexed by allergies. But they're doing better.

"I'm going to keep experimenting until we find what stops it completely," she said. "All you can do is try."

Turmoil, worry swirl over cuts to key federal agencies as hurricane season begins

By SETH BORENSTEIN and GABRIELA AOUN ANGUEIRA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With predictions for a busy hurricane season beginning Sunday, experts in storms and disasters are worried about something potentially as chaotic as the swirling winds: Massive cuts to the federal system that forecasts, tracks and responds to hurricanes.

Experts are alarmed over the large-scale staff reductions, travel and training restrictions and grant cut-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 73 of 75

offs since President Donald Trump took office at both the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which prepares for and responds to hurricanes, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which tracks and forecasts them.

"My nightmare is a major catastrophic storm hitting an area that is reeling from the impact of all of this nonsense from the Trump administration and people will die. And that could happen in Florida, that could happen in Texas, that could happen in South Carolina," said Susan Cutter, the director of the Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute at the University of South Carolina.

Representatives of both NOAA and FEMA say the agencies are prepared.

Experts: DOGE cuts diminish FEMA

About 2,000 full-time staff have left FEMA since Trump took office in January, a loss of roughly one-third of the agency's full-time workforce, amid Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) mandated cuts. Scholars who study emergency management are concerned by both the reduction in capacity and the "brain drain" of experienced staff.

"There's really been a brain drain within FEMA in addition to the loss of overall employees," said Samantha Montano, who teaches emergency management at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. She noted that many who left were in critical management positions.

The agency is run by an acting chief, David Richardson, a former Marine Corps officer who served overseas and worked as the Department of Homeland Security's assistant secretary for countering weapons of mass destruction. He does not appear to have any experience in managing disasters. Emergency management requires knowing where to get things, who to call, how things work and how to get it done quickly — which comes from experience and establishing relationships with state officials, Montano and Cutter said.

What's happening reminds former Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Craig Fugate of 2005, the year Hurricane Katrina devastated Louisiana and exposed inexperienced and poorly prepared governments at all levels, especially the then-FEMA chief who came from a horse-rearing association. Fugate said he's especially worried about top experienced disaster people leaving FEMA.

FEMA canceled various emergency management trainings this spring, moved others online and restricted travel to events such as the National Hurricane Conference. Some trainings have resumed.

"Given the reduction in staffing, being unable to do trainings, participate in conferences, there's potential that the federal government's ability is diminished," said former Florida Emergency Management chief Bryan Koon, now president of the disaster preparedness firm IEM.

FEMA has also cut disaster resilience programs. Making areas more survivable saves up to \$13 for every dollar spent, said Lori Peek, director of the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado.

The federal government promises to be ready for hurricane season, which runs through November.

"FEMA is shifting from bloated DC-centric dead weight to a lean, deployable disaster force that empowers state actors to provide relief for their citizens," Associate FEMA Administrator Geoff Harbaugh said in a email. "FEMA is fully activated in preparation for hurricane season."

FEMA's relationship with states

Richardson promised to push more responsibilities to the states. He warned that the agency will only do what the law requires and shift more costs to states.

But Koon noted that states haven't budgeted for FEMA's changes, adding: "The biggest issue right now is just the uncertainty."

Some states — which coordinate disaster operations — are experienced in catastrophes, have well trained staff and will do fine, such as Texas and Florida, Fugate said. But it's the poorer states that worry the experts.

The feds often pick up the entire bill in big disasters and most of it in smaller ones. In the Trump administration, disaster declarations have been denied or delayed. When disaster declarations were issued for nine states last week, some had been pending for two months and others were only partially approved.

"We've just relied on FEMA for so much for so long and not knowing who's going to fill the gap and how

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 74 of 75

we're going to fill it is really scary," said University at Albany emergency management professor Jeannette Sutton.

Hurricane center dodges NOAA cuts

NOAA, the parent agency of the National Weather Service, has undergone a series of dramatic job cuts, with some people then reinstated. A sizable chunk of the weather service's 121 local field offices as of late March had vacancy rates of more than 20%, what's seen by outsiders as a critical level of understaffing. Local weather offices are crucial in helping people translate national warnings into what to do locally.

"It should be all hands on deck and we're being hollowed out," former NWS director Louis Uccellini said.

But the National Hurricane Center, which tracks and warns of hurricanes in the Atlantic, Pacific and Caribbean, has been spared. Acting NOAA Administrator Laura Grimm, National Weather Service Director Ken Graham and National Hurricane Center Director Michael Brennan said the agency is prepared for the season with the Miami-based storm center fully staffed and so are the planes that fly into storms.

For the first time this year, the hurricane center will incorporate artificial intelligence into forecasting because it has shown to improve predictions generally, Brennan said.

"Our services have never been better," Graham said. "Our ability to serve this country has never been better. And it will be this year as well."

But beyond the hurricane center, weather balloons launches have been curtailed because of lack of staffing. In some places, balloon launches have dropped from twice a day to once a day.

NOAA hopes to get more balloons launched if needed, Brennan said.

Data from the balloons is crucial for understanding steering currents and needed for forecasts, Uccellini said. He said when hurricanes threatened during his tenure he would order the launch of several extra balloons in the Great Plains to help figure out if storms would hit the United States.

"Hurricane forecasts, I'm expecting not to be as accurate this year because of that lack of balloon data," said former NOAA meteorologist Jeff Masters, now at Yale Climate Connections.

Today in History: June 1, priceless recordings destroyed in Universal Studios fire

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, June 1, the 152nd day of 2025. There are 213 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On June 1, 2008, a fire at Universal Studios Hollywood destroyed 3 acres (1.2 hectares) of the studio's property, including a vault that held as many as 175,000 irreplaceable master audio recordings from hundreds of musicians including Billie Holiday, Louis Armstrong, Aretha Franklin, Elton John and Nirvana.

Also on this date:

In 1813, the mortally wounded commander of the USS Chesapeake, Capt. James Lawrence, gave the order, "Don't give up the ship," during a losing battle with the British frigate HMS Shannon during the War of 1812.

In 1916, the Senate voted 47-22 to confirm Louis Brandeis as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, the first Jewish American to serve on the nation's highest bench.

In 1943, a civilian flight from Portugal to England was shot down by German bombers during World War II, killing all 17 people aboard, including actor Leslie Howard.

In 1957, Don Bowden, a student at the University of California at Berkeley, became the first American to break the four-minute mile during a meet in Stockton, California, with a time of 3:58.7.

In 1962, former Nazi official Adolf Eichmann was executed after being found guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his actions during World War II.

In 1980, Cable News Network, the first 24-hour television news channel, made its debut.

In 1990, U.S. President George H.W. Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev signed an agreement to stop producing and reduce existing stockpiles of chemical weapons held by the two Cold War superpowers.

In 2001, Crown Prince Dipendra of Nepal shot and killed nine members of the Nepalese royal family,

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 01, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 341 ~ 75 of 75

including his parents, King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya, before mortally wounding himself.

In 2009, General Motors filed for Chapter 11 reorganization, becoming the largest U.S. industrial company to enter bankruptcy protection.

In 2020, police violently broke up a protest by thousands of people in Lafayette Park across from the White House, using chemical agents, clubs and punches to send protesters fleeing; the protesters had gathered following the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis a week earlier. Later that day, President Donald Trump, after declaring himself "the president of law and order" and threatening to deploy the U.S. military in a speech, walked across the empty park to be photographed holding a Bible in front of St. John's Church, which had been damaged a night earlier.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Pat Boone is 91. Actor Morgan Freeman is 88. Actor Brian Cox is 79. Actor Jonathan Pryce is 78. Rock musician Ronnie Wood (The Rolling Stones) is 78. Country singer-songwriter Ronnie Dunn is 72. Actor Lisa Hartman Black is 69. Actor Teri Polo is 56. Model-TV personality Heidi Klum is 52. Singer Alanis Morissette is 51. Singer-songwriter Brandi Carlile is 44. Actor-comedian Amy Schumer is 44. Tennis Hall of Famer Justine Henin is 43. Comedian Nikki Glaser is 41. Actor Zazie Beetz is 34. Actor Tom Holland is 29. Actor Willow Shields is 25.