

# Groton Daily Independent

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## 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.

## Wednesday, June 4:

Senior Menu: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, oranges, whole wheat bread.

Emmanuel Lutheran Sara Circle, 5 p.m.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Groton Chamber Board Meeting, Noon, City. Hall

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

Softball Groton hosts Ipswich (U8B at 5:30, U10B at 5:30, U12 at 6:30)

**Groton Daily Independent**

**PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445**

**Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460**



## Thursday, June 5:

Senior Menu: Cheeseburger casserole, carrots, apple sauce, whole wheat bread.

Emmanuel Lutheran Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.

Legion at Watertown, 5 p.m. (DH)

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

Jr. Teeners at Lake Norden, 5 p.m. (DH)

U10 B&W at Sisseton, 5:30 p.m. (DH); U8 W&R hosts Britton, 5:30 p.m.

T-Ball practice at 6 p.m.

## Friday, June 6

Senior Menu: Cold turkey sub, lettuce/cheese/tomato, macaroni salad, five cup salad.

## Saturday, June 7

Day of Play at Groton Baseball Complex

Amateurs host Northville, 7 p.m.

Legion hosts W.I.N., 5 p.m.

Jr. Teeners hosts W.I.N., 1 p.m.

U12 ALL hosts Britton, 1 p.m. (DH); U10 ALL hosts Webster, 11 a.m. (DH); U8 ALL hosts Britton, 9 a.m. (DH)

Softball in Groton: U8B vs. Britton, 9 a.m.; U8G vs. Britton, 10 a.m.; U10B vs. U10G DH, 11 a.m.; U12/U14 Intersquad Scrimmage DH, 1 p.m.

## Groton Legion Post 39 Firing On All Cylinders Against Canton C-Hawks

By GameChanger Media

Groton Legion Post 39 easily dispatched Canton C-Hawks on Sunday at Volga SD, 11-1.

Groton Legion Post 39 got on the board in the first inning after Carter Simon grounded out, scoring one run.

Groton Legion Post 39 added to their early lead in the top of the second inning when Teylor Diegel singled, scoring two runs, Braxton Imrie singled, scoring one run, and Brevin Fliehs drew a walk, scoring one run.

Simon hit a solo home run to left field in the top of the fifth for the Groton Legion Post 39.

Korbin Kucker earned the win for Groton Legion Post 39. The starter gave up two hits and one run over six innings, striking out eight and walking three. Kayden Chaulk took the loss for Canton C-Hawks. The left-handed pitcher went five innings, surrendering six runs on six hits, striking out two and walking six. Simon pitched one inning of shutout ball for Groton Legion Post 39 in relief. The pitcher gave up zero hits, striking out none and walking two.

Groton Legion Post 39 collected 11 hits in the game. Imrie and Diegel were a force together in the lineup, as they each collected two hits for Groton Legion Post 39. Diegel went 2-for-4 at the plate and led the team with four runs batted in. Groton Legion Post 39 had patience at the plate, tallying eight walks for the game. Nick Morris, Imrie, and Nick Groeblichhoff led the team with two walks each. Imrie stole two bases. Groton Legion Post 39 stole four bases in the game.

Theo Meister led Canton C-Hawks with one run batted in. The left-handed hitter went 1-for-3 on the day. Espn Anderson and Meister each collected one hit for Canton C-Hawks. Wyette Greenwood and Meister each stole multiple bases for Canton C-Hawks. Canton C-Hawks ran wild on the base paths, tallying six stolen bases for the game.

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## Groton Legion Post 39 11 - 1 Canton C-Hawks 17U

📍 Away 📅 Sunday June 01, 2025

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
GRTN	1	4	0	0	1	1	4	11	11	1
CNTN	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1

### BATTING

Groton Legion Post 39	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
T Diegel #7 (CF)	4	1	2	4	0	1
B Imrie #1 (RF)	3	2	2	1	2	0
B Fliehs #6 (SS)	3	0	1	1	1	2
C Simon #4 (1B)	4	1	1	2	0	0
G Englund #18 (3B)	3	1	0	0	0	0
N Morris #17 (2B)	2	2	1	0	2	0
K Fliehs #10 (C)	3	1	1	0	1	0
N Groeblich... #12	2	2	1	0	2	0
J Erdmann #0 (LF)	4	0	0	0	0	2
L Krause #2 (DH)	3	0	1	0	0	0
K Kucker #9 (P)	1	1	1	2	0	0
CR: T McGan... #22	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>

**2B:** B Fliehs, K Kucker, **HR:** C Simon, **TB:** N Morris, C Simon 4, N Groeblichhoff, B Fliehs 2, L Krause, K Kucker 2, K Fliehs, T Diegel 2, B Imrie 2, **HBP:** B Fliehs, G Englund, T Diegel, **SB:** B Fliehs, T McGannon, B Imrie 2, **LOB:** 11

### PITCHING

Groton Legion Post 39	P	IP	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
K Kucker #9	6.0	2	1	1	3	8	0
C Simon #4	1.0	0	0	0	2	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>

**W:** K Kucker, **P-S:** C Simon 21-8, K Kucker 94-54, **HBP:** K Kucker, **BF:** C Simon 5, K Kucker 24

Canton C-Hawks 17U	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
T Meister #21 (SS)	3	0	1	1	1	0
S Sehr #4 (3B)	3	0	0	0	1	1
E Anders... #35 (1B)	3	0	1	0	0	1
J Ulrikson #62 (DH)	2	0	0	0	0	1
W Green... #12 (CF)	2	0	0	0	1	1
R Thomps... #5 (LF)	3	0	0	0	0	2
A Opland #29 (RF)	2	0	0	0	1	1
A Rhead #20 (2B)	3	0	0	0	0	0
L Hill #1 (C)	2	1	0	0	1	1
CR: K Ch... #23 (P)	0	0	0	0	0	0
CR: C Surdez	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>

**TB:** E Anderson, T Meister, **HBP:** J Ulrikson, **SB:** L Hill, W Greenwood 2, T Meister 2, A Rhead, **LOB:** 7

Canton C-Hawks 17U	P	IP	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
K Chaulk #23	5.0	6	6	6	6	2	1
J Ulriks... #62	2.0	5	5	5	2	3	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>

**L:** K Chaulk, **P-S:** J Ulrikson 52-31, K Chaulk 93-47, **WP:** J Ulrikson, K Chaulk, **HBP:** J Ulrikson, K Chaulk 2, **BF:** J Ulrikson 14, K Chaulk 29

## Depite Multiple Home Runs From Carter Simon, Groton Legion Post 39 Defeated By Volga Post 114

By GameChanger Media

Carter Simon hit two home runs and drove in two, but Groton Legion Post 39 lost to Volga Post 114 15-8 on Sunday at Volga SD. Simon homered in the second and fifth innings.

Groton Legion Post 39 collected 11 hits and Volga Post 114 had 15 in the high-scoring affair.

Volga Post 114 opened the scoring in the bottom of the first thanks to two singles. Volga Post 114 first got on the board when Isaac Skovlund singled, scoring one run.

Simon hit a solo home run to center field in the top of the second for the Groton Legion Post 39.

Volga Post 114 extended their early lead with two runs in the bottom of the third thanks to RBI singles by Skovlund and Levi Loban.

Volga Post 114 scored five runs on four hits in the bottom of the fourth inning. Braden Danzeisen doubled, scoring two runs, Skovlund singled, scoring one run, Broden Teske was struck by a pitch, driving in a run, and a wild pitch scored one run.

Simon hit a solo home run to left field in the top of the fifth for the Groton Legion Post 39.

Volga Post 114 scored six runs on two hits in the bottom of the sixth inning. Tate Steffenson laid down a sacrifice bunt, scoring one run, Kam Hauck was struck by a pitch, driving in a run, Danzeisen drew a walk, scoring one run, Skovlund singled, scoring one run, and Bret Milton grounded out, scoring one run.

Andrew Gunderson earned the win for Volga Post 114. The pitcher gave up eight hits and four runs over five innings, striking out three and walking two. Brevin Fliehs took the loss for Groton Legion Post 39. The right-handed pitcher went three and one-third innings, surrendering nine runs (eight earned) on 12 hits, striking out two and walking three.

Groton Legion Post 39 collected 11 hits in the game. Lincoln Krause led Groton Legion Post 39 with three runs batted in from the number seven spot in the lineup. The right fielder went 2-for-4 on the day. Krause, Teylor Diegel, Korbin Kucker, and Simon each collected two hits for Groton Legion Post 39. Kucker paced Groton Legion Post 39 with two walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, piling up eight walks for the game.

Volga Post 114 piled up 15 hits in the game. Skovlund drove the middle of the lineup, leading Volga Post 114 with four runs batted in. The outfielder went 4-for-4 on the day. Hauck, Loban, Danzeisen, and Milton each collected multiple hits for Volga Post 114. Hauck stole three bases. Volga Post 114 ran wild on the base paths, tallying four stolen bases for the game. Volga Post 114 turned one double play in the game.

Groton Legion Post 39 will travel to Aberdeen Smitty's for their next game on Monday.



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## Groton Legion Post 39 8 - 15 2025 Volga Sr Legion Post 114

📍 Away 📅 Sunday June 01, 2025

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
GRTN	0	1	0	2	1	3	1	8	11	4
2025	2	0	2	5	0	6	X	15	15	1

### BATTING

Groton Legion Post 39	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
T Diegel #7 (CF)	4	1	2	0	1	0
B Imrie #1 (RF)	1	0	0	0	0	0
B Fliehs #6 (P)	5	0	1	1	0	1
C Simon #4 (1B)	3	2	2	2	1	1
G Englund #18 (3B)	3	1	1	0	1	1
K Kucker #9 (SS)	2	1	2	1	2	0
L Krause #2 (RF)	4	1	2	3	0	0
N Moris #17	1	0	0	0	0	1
N Morris #17 (2B)	3	0	0	1	0	0
K Fliehs #10 (C)	3	1	0	0	1	1
J Erdmann #0 (LF)	2	1	1	0	1	0
N Groebbling... #12	0	0	0	0	1	0
CR: T McGan... #22	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>

**2B:** L Krause 2, K Kucker 2, **3B:** B Fliehs, **HR:** C Simon 2, **TB:** L Krause 4, B Fliehs 3, K Kucker 4, T Diegel 2, J Erdmann, C Simon 8, G Englund, **CS:** T Diegel, **LOB:** 10

### PITCHING

Groton Legion Post 39	IP	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
B Fliehs #6	3.1	12	9	8	3	2
T Diegel #7	2.0	2	5	5	1	0
K Fliehs #10	0.2	1	1	1	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>

**L:** B Fliehs, **P-S:** B Fliehs 77-46, T Diegel 39-19, K Fliehs 15-7, **WP:** T Diegel 2, **HBP:** B Fliehs, T Diegel 3, **BF:** B Fliehs 26, T Diegel 12, K Fliehs 4

2025 Volga Sr Legion Post 114	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
T Steffen... #4 (SS)	3	2	0	1	1	0
K Hauck #29 (2B)	3	4	2	1	1	0
B Danzeis... #1 (CF)	4	2	2	2	1	0
I Skovlund #7 (RF)	4	3	4	4	0	0
B Milton #17 (1B)	5	1	2	2	0	0
L Loban #9 (3B)	5	1	2	1	0	0
J Burns #42 (DH)	3	0	1	0	1	1
B Teske #16 (C)	2	0	1	1	0	1
E Axtell #30 (LF)	3	1	1	0	1	0
CR: H Stei... #19 (P)	0	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>

**2B:** B Danzeisen, **TB:** J Burns, L Loban 2, B Danzeisen 3, K Hauck 2, I Skovlund 4, B Milton 2, B Teske, E Axtell, **SAC:** T Steffenson, **CS:** B Danzeisen, **HBP:** K Hauck, I Skovlund, B Teske 2, **SB:** K Hauck 3, I Skovlund, **LOB:** 9

2025 Volga Sr Legion Post 114	IP	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
A Gund... #20	5.0	8	4	4	2	3
K Tucker #11	1.0	2	4	4	6	1
H Stein... #19	1.0	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>

**W:** A Gunderson, **P-S:** K Tucker 51-20, A Gunderson 83-48, H Steinhaus 11-7, **WP:** K Tucker, A Gunderson, **BF:** K Tucker 11, A Gunderson 25, H Steinhaus 3

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## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

Minnesota Vikings players and coaches were back on the field last week for Organized Team Activities (OTAs), giving us our first real look at the team as we head into the 2025 season. While OTAs are not mandatory, it was encouraging to hear that most of the team was present, aside from a few excused absences. Even Justin Jefferson was on the field, which is particularly important this year as rookie quarterback J.J. McCarthy looks to build chemistry with his superstar receiver.

The biggest news from the past week is that Vikings GM Kwesi Adofo-Mensah was given a multi-year contract extension, similar to the one awarded to head coach Kevin O'Connell earlier this year. Kwesi was a first-time GM when he was hired by the Vikings after they fired Rick Spielman following the 2021 season. His first draft was a flop, but he's improved every year since. However, his ability to find and sign impact free agents has been excellent—especially last offseason, when he added players like Jonathan Greenard, Andrew Van Ginkel, and Sam Darnold. This offseason looks even stronger, particularly with all the additions in the trenches on both sides of the ball. The Wilfs are confident in Kwesi's trajectory and rewarded him accordingly.

**My Favorite Offseason Move: Upgrading the Trenches**

For years, the Vikings' trenches have been their Achilles heel. On offense, the team has boasted one of the best tackle duos in the league (Darrisaw and O'Neill), but the interior line was undersized and inconsistent. On defense, the story was similar—elite edge rushers but no dominant force in the middle. (I really like Harrison Phillips, but he can't do it all by himself.)

Kwesi and the rest of the Vikings' staff made fixing the trenches a priority this offseason—and in my opinion, they crushed it. They added two Pro Bowl offensive linemen, Will Fries and Ryan Kelly, to replace Ed Ingram and Garrett Bradbury, respectively. Then, to complete the overhaul of the interior O-line, the Vikings spent their first-round pick on Donovan Jackson, who is expected to slide in at left guard immediately.

On the other side of the ball, the Vikings finally got Phillips some help by signing defensive tackles Jonathan Allen and Javon Hargrave. The Vikings now have Pro Bowl-caliber players at every spot along their three-man defensive front—and any Vikings fan can tell you how critical a dominant D-line is in today's NFL.

**My Least Favorite Offseason Move: The Running Backs**

The Vikings extended Aaron Jones this offseason and also traded for Jordan Mason from the San Francisco 49ers. Both are talented players—but I question the value. Jones is now over 30, the age when most running backs begin to decline. Mason is younger and had some impressive runs last season, but Minnesota had to give up draft capital and sign him to a new contract to get him.

I think the Vikings' ground game will be just fine this season. I just didn't love how much money and draft value they allocated to the one position that often yields solid production from rookies or bargain-bin signings.

**The Move That Feels Incomplete: The Secondary**

Future Hall of Famer Harrison Smith is back, along with Swiss army knife Josh Metellus and Pro Bowler Byron Murphy Jr. However, Camryn Bynum will be suiting up for Indianapolis this season, and both Stephon Gilmore and Shaquill Griffin remain unsigned. The Vikings clearly still need to add another cornerback—or two—before the season begins.

The good news? They still have cap space, and there are a few serviceable veterans available. (Asante Samuel Jr. and Rasul Douglas are currently at the top of my wish list.)

## "Teen Mental Health"

The start of summer brings a sense of excitement for many teens. Take a moment to reflect back to your teen years. As we reminisce, we can likely all say that our adolescent years were a unique and informative time of our life. Mental wellbeing habits are often formed during this time as teens strengthen their social and emotional skills, laying a foundation of habits for the rest of their life. Consider what habits you perhaps formed during this time and what supports you had or needed when you were a teen.

There are a variety of important skills that can enhance positive mental wellbeing, and by encouraging teens to practice them, it increases the likelihood of them utilizing them throughout their life. Mental health and physical health are interconnected, so when we encourage physical self-care, we also encourage mental self-care. Healthy nutrition, exercise, and staying active help to maintain positive mental wellbeing. Emotional self-care can also impact mental wellbeing, and it can be practiced through staying active in enjoyable hobbies, music, journaling, play, or spending time outdoors.

Another important factor impacting mental wellbeing that teens face today is the growing use of social media. Having open conversations with teens about their social media use and how it can impact their mental health is crucial to supporting positive mental wellbeing. The Family and Youth Services Bureau guides parents to educate themselves on social media platforms, have an open-minded conversation about the benefits and risks of social media use, establish rules about privacy and boundaries, model healthy social media use to teens, encourage a balance of social media use with other activities, understand critical thinking and media literacy skills, and provide a safe space for teens to come to parents about managing difficult situations like cyberbullying.

One of the most impactful things adults surrounding teens can do to support positive mental wellbeing is allowing themselves to be vulnerable enough to talk openly about mental health with teens. Mental health stigma is a large influence in deterring individuals from seeking help, and in order to combat this stigma, open and truthful conversations can encourage teens to not fear discussing their own mental health challenges. These conversations can open the door to understanding what is going on in a teen's life, providing opportunity to practice healthy skills to promote positive mental wellbeing.

Understanding brain development can also help adults recognize how to support positive mental health for teens. The pre-frontal cortex in the brain allows us to critically think, make sound decisions, and control our impulses; however, this part of the brain is still developing during adolescence and into early adulthood. This helps us understand why impulses and risk-seeking behaviors are common among teens. Having open conversations with teens allows for discussion of harm reduction strategies to reduce risk-seeking behaviors. Harm reduction seeks to meet teens where they are at in a nonjudgmental way. An example of this might be helping a teen access professional support services to manage mental health concerns and learn healthy coping skills.

As you think of teens in your life and reflect back on yourself as a teen, consider what type of supportive adult would have positively impacted you during that time. You have the ability to provide a sense of connection and hope for a teen. You have the choice to be a caring adult in the life of a teen that guides them to practicing healthy skills to establish positive mental health for years to come.



By Curstie Konold MPH,  
CSW-PIP, QMHP

**Today is the Last Day!**  
**Enjoy 40% off**

## WEBER LANDSCAPING GREENHOUSE

620 WEST THIRD AVENUE

GROTON

HOURS OF OPERATION

M-F 10-6

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SAT 10-4

SUN 12-4







## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### COMMENTARY

#### **A strictly free market would make businesses free to ignore South Dakota** **First declared candidate for governor expresses desire to end 'corporate welfare'** **by Dana Hess**

South Dakota Republicans could be choosing from a crowded field when they make their choice for governor in the 2026 primary. With as many as five candidates in the race, would-be governors will need to find a way to distinguish themselves from the pack.

The first announced candidate for that race was Speaker of the House Jon Hansen, a Dell Rapids attorney. He declared his candidacy for the Republican nomination in April.

Hansen was the first candidate for governor to come from the new MAGA wing of the South Dakota Republican Party—referred to as “grassroots patriots” in his announcement speech. His campaign platform contains many of the topics his wing of the party has made a priority: cutting government spending, allowing school choice, protecting private property rights, opposing abortion and tightening election laws.

Another topic that Hansen touched on was ending “corporate welfare.” That’s the name he has given to the practice of using taxpayer dollars to boost private business. His example of corporate welfare gone bad was Tru Shrimp. The company was given a \$6.5 million loan of state and local funds six years ago to build a facility in Madison. While the company did manage to change its name to Iterro, it has yet to break ground.

“I think it’s just unnecessary government mingling, and it’s risky business, and they’re wasting our taxpayer dollars to do it,” Hansen said in a South Dakota Searchlight story. “It’s the sort of stuff that we want to say ‘no more’ to. Let’s get back to the free market, low tax and low regulation.”

South Dakota got serious about using state dollars to entice and build business in 1987 when Gov. George Mickelson helped to create the Revolving Economic Development and Initiative Fund. Mickelson was able to convince the Legislature to implement a 1% sales tax increase that would sunset once it had raised \$40 million for the REDI Fund. Since then the Governor’s Office of Economic Development has made loans and grants worth millions of dollars to new and existing businesses and industries in the state.

Taking state government loans and grants out of the marketplace would certainly be one way Hansen could approach his new role if he were elected governor. That tactic, however, fails to consider the fact that a financial boost from the state is sometimes what it takes to get the free market interested in investing in South Dakota.

Putting an end to low-interest government loans would certainly put the state at a disadvantage when it comes to competing with other states for business and industry.

A recent news release from the GOED showed just how invested the state has become in helping businesses grow. The news release noted a \$3.4 million grant for the Big Stone Energy Storage Project thermal energy facility, a \$2.6 million grant for a Bel Brands expansion and a \$250,682 grant to Dakota Line Energy for a lagoon digester.

The news release said the grants would result in \$419 million in capital expenditures and create 180 full-time jobs. In essence, the state is betting \$6 million in hopes of getting a \$419 million payoff. That kind of “government mingling,” as Hansen called it, seems to offer pretty good odds. It is, however, as he noted, “risky business.”

At its heart, investing in economic development will always be a bit of a gamble. That’s why we expect government officials to place safe bets, though there is always the chance for a bust like Tru Shrimp. That’s the nature of any gamble.

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Hansen won't be the only "patriot" in the Republican primary for governor, with Aberdeen businessman and political influencer Toby Doeden also declaring his candidacy. If "corporate welfare" is going to be an issue in the GOP primary, the people who like to use state loans and grants to boost their local economies have got to do a better job of telling about the benefits of government investment.

One way to do that would be to keep telling their story after the initial news release has been issued. Beyond the cliched photo of local officials with hardhats and shovels for a groundbreaking, taxpayers deserve regular updates on capital expenditures and job creation. This would add a layer of government transparency to the use of tax dollars. It would also soften the criticism from people like Hansen when an outfit like Tru Shrimp is slow to pay off on its state investment.

Politicians often like to tout the benefits of the "free market." By curtailing state grants and low-interest loans, that market will be free to invest in states that are more financially welcoming.

In 1987, the state's economy was badly in need of a jump-start, and it got one from Gov. Mickelson and the REDI Fund. Since then, that gamble has paid off more often than it's gone bust. What Hansen calls "corporate welfare" has been a usually sound investment for South Dakota.

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

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## EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Are there ways living organisms can be used to fix pollution? -- M.L., via email

Pollution remains one of the most significant environmental challenges, contaminating air, water and soil and posing risks to human health. Traditional cleanup methods, like chemical treatments and mechanical removal, often come at a high cost and sometimes harm the environment further. So scientists have turned to bioremediation, a process of using living organisms to break down and remove pollutants. This is proving to be a cost-effective and sustainable solution for fighting contamination across our ecosystems.



**Watershed bioremediation can help restore formerly compromised lands.** Credit: Angie Jane Gray, FlickrCC.

One of the most promising applications of bioremediation involves microorganisms like bacteria and fungi, which are capable of breaking down harmful substances into less toxic forms. Some bacteria, like *Alcanivorax borkumensis*, thrive on oil spills, consuming hydrocarbons and helping to restore marine environments. Other species, like *Pseudomonas* bacteria, can absorb heavy metals from contaminated soil and water, reducing the toxicity of industrial waste sites. Fungi, like *Phanerochaete chrysosporium*, can degrade complex pollutants such as dioxins and pesticides. Scientists are also developing genetically modified microbes to enhance bioremediation efforts. Scientists design these engineered organisms to target specific pollutants, breaking them down more efficiently than their natural counterparts. "We could start trying to predict what compounds a particular bacterium/enzyme [combination] can use from the genome sequence," says David Leys, a scientist who has worked on detoxification for many years.

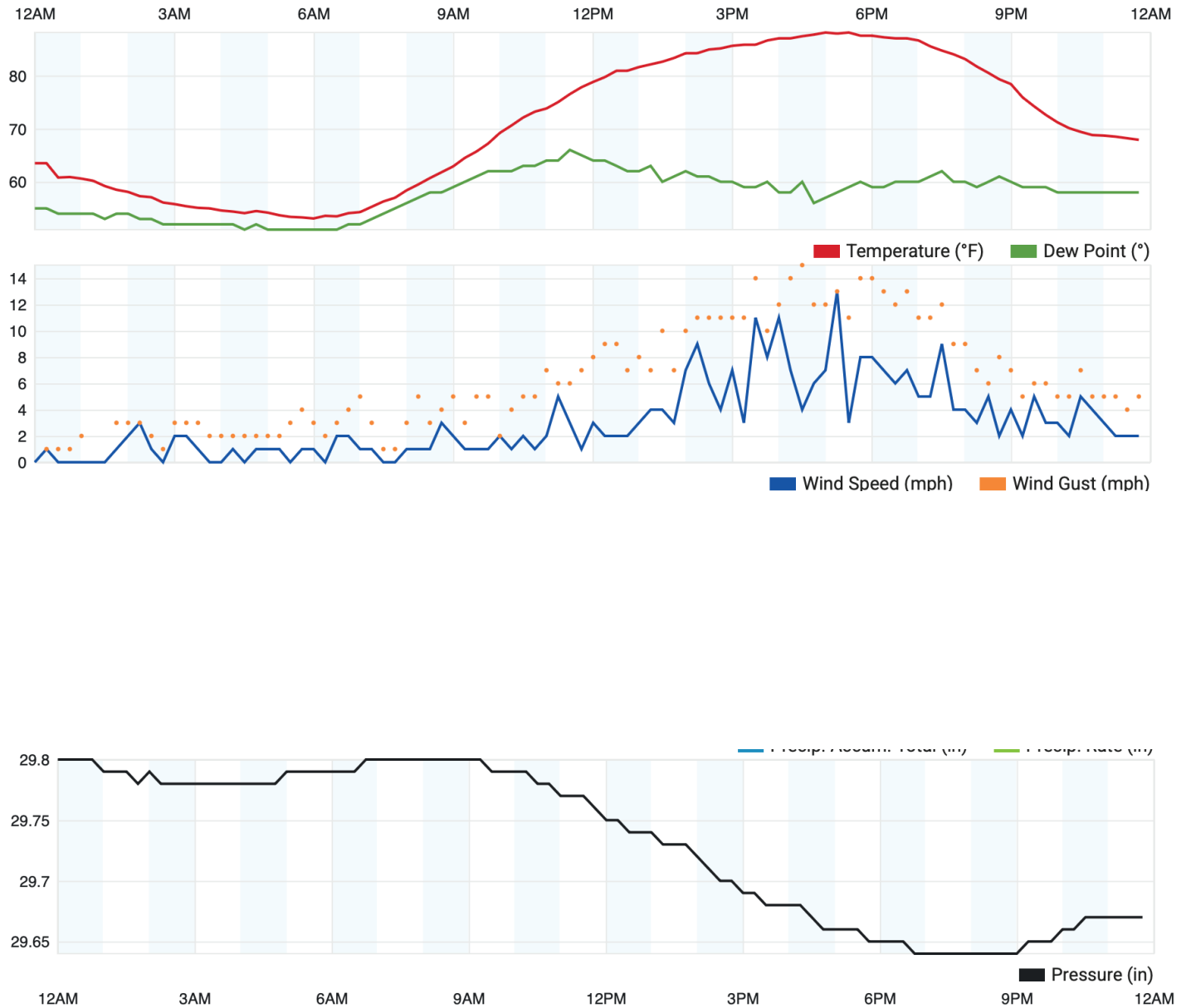
In addition to microorganisms, certain animals also play a vital role in cleaning up pollution. Oysters and mussels act as natural water filters, absorbing heavy metals and microplastics from aquatic ecosystems, improving water quality while also serving as indicators of environmental health. Pollinators like bees and butterflies can accumulate pollutants in their bodies, which help provide insight into contamination levels. Studying these animals helps researchers track the spread of pollutants and develop strategies for mitigating their challenges. The effectiveness of these organisms depends on environmental conditions like temperature, pH, and nutrient availability.

People can advance bioremediation techniques by supporting sustainable cleanup efforts and scientific research. By spreading awareness about these methods and advocating for funding in environmental science, people can help accelerate the adoption of natural pollution cleanup solutions. "The knowledge gained from the research will allow scientists to engineer the organisms and their chemical processes to target specific man-made toxins," Leys says. Advancements in genetic modification and synthetic biology will likely make bioremediation a widely used method in the coming years.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

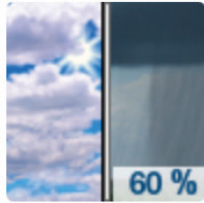




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Today



High: 79 °F

Mostly Cloudy  
then Showers  
Likely and  
Breezy

Tonight



Low: 45 °F

Chance  
T-storms and  
Breezy then  
Mostly Cloudy

Tuesday



High: 73 °F

Mostly Sunny

Tuesday Night



Low: 45 °F

Mostly Clear

Wednesday



High: 75 °F

Partly Sunny

## THREAT ASSESSMENT

### HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

2

WHAT THIS MEANS:  
SCATTERED severe storms  
*possible*

### TIMING

This afternoon into  
this evening

### PRIMARY THREATS



LARGE HAIL



DAMAGING WIND

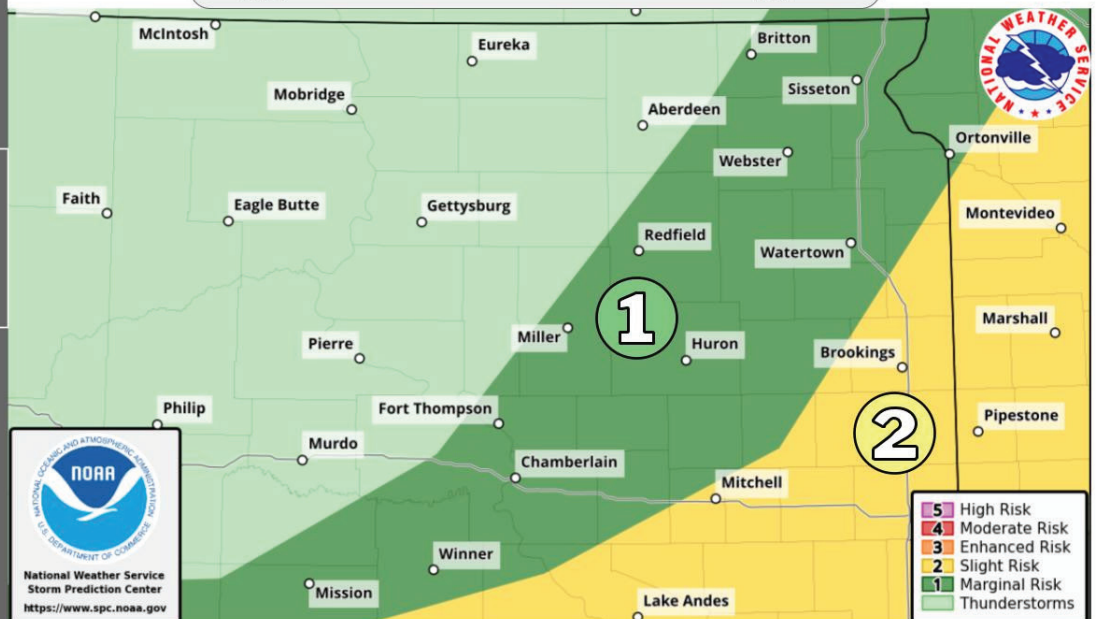
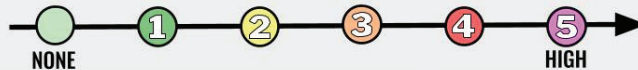
### SECONDARY THREATS



HEAVY  
RAIN

## SEVERE STORMS This Afternoon & Evening

### SEVERE THUNDERSTORM RISK



A few strong to severe thunderstorms will be possible mainly east of a line from Miller to Aberdeen, with hail up to one inch in diameter and wind gusts up to 60 mph.

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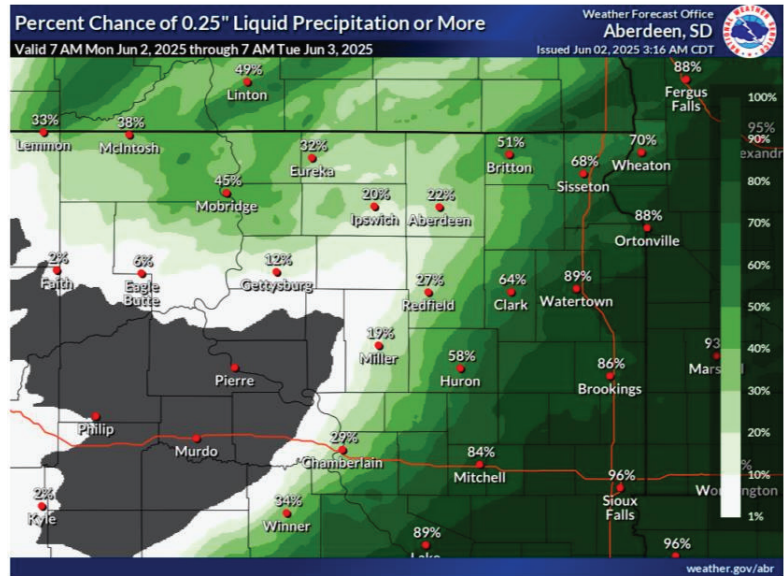
## Timing of Precipitation & Rainfall Amounts

June 2, 2025  
4:17 AM

Heaviest rainfall most likely occurring this afternoon through early this evening.

### Probability of Precipitation Forecast

	6/2							
	Mon							
	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	
Aberdeen	0	5	50	65	50	35	35	
Britton	0	5	50	75	75	55	55	
Chamberlain	0	5	15	30	55	55	50	
Clark	0	5	15	70	75	65	65	
Eagle Butte	30	40	35	30	35	10	10	
Eureka	15	30	60	50	15	15	15	
Gettysburg	10	30	45	30	30	20	20	
McIntosh	55	65	65	50	25	5	5	
Milbank	0	0	25	75	80	80	80	
Miller	0	10	40	60	50	45	45	
Mobridge	30	40	55	35	25	10	10	
Murdo	10	15	10	30	35	30	30	
Pierre	10	15	25	25	35	20	20	
Redfield	0	10	30	65	60	50	50	
Sisseton	0	0	25	75	75	70	70	
Watertown	0	0	15	75	80	80	80	
Webster	0	5	35	75	75	65	65	
Wheaton	0	0	35	80	75	75	75	



- **Brief heavy downpours** will be possible with any thunderstorm this afternoon through early this evening.
- Highest probabilities (60 to 90%) for rainfall amounts of 0.25" or more will be east of a line from Sisseton to Huron.

A cold front will bring showers and thunderstorms over central South Dakota this morning expanding to eastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota this afternoon. Precipitation will come to an end this evening. Highest probabilities (60 to 90%) for rainfall amounts of 0.25" or more will be east of a line from Sisseton to Huron.



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 88 °F at 4:58 PM**

**Low Temp: 53 °F at 5:52 AM**

**Wind: 15 mph at 4:26 PM**

**Precip: : 0.00**

Day length: 15 hours, 31 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 100 in 1917

Record Low: 30 in 1946

Average High: 77

Average Low: 51

Average Precip in June.: 0.21

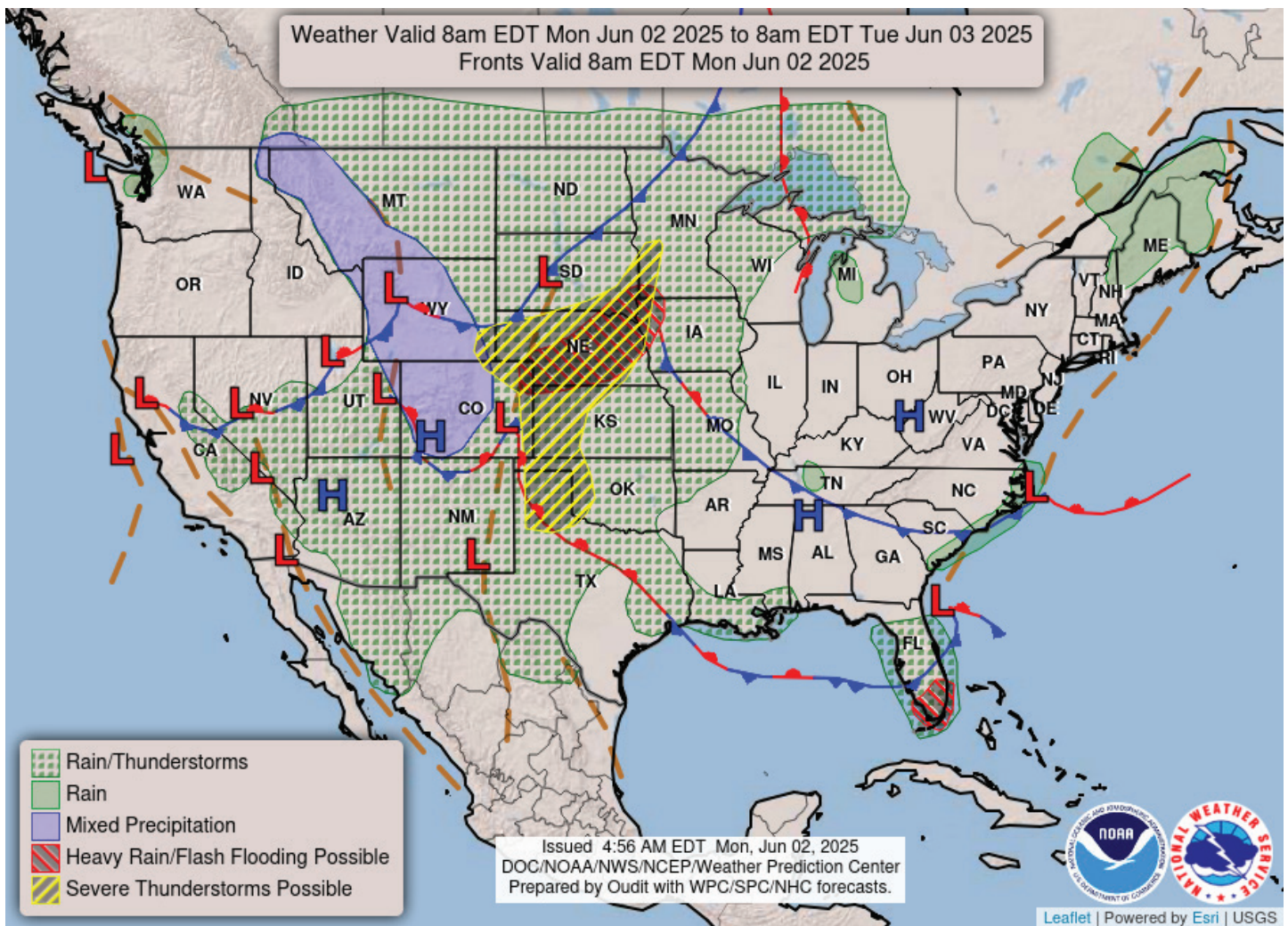
Precip to date in June: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 7.46

Precip Year to Date: 6.05

Sunset Tonight: 9:16:24 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:44:07 am



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## Today in Weather History

June 2nd, 1891: An estimated F3 tornado moved northeast, passing one mile south of Hazel in Hamlin County, where three people were killed in a barn. The farm home was entirely swept away. A horse was seen being carried in the air for 400 yards. The tornado was estimated to be on the ground for about 5 miles.

After touching down, an estimated F2 tornado moved northeast along the eastern edge of Watertown, where a barn was destroyed, and debris was scattered for a half mile. Two homes were leveled 5 miles northeast of Watertown. Near Waverly, one person was injured in the destruction of a flour mill. This tornado was estimated to be on the ground for about 15 miles.

June 2nd, 1964: Some bitter cold temperatures were observed during the early morning hours on the 2nd. Some low temperatures include 27 degrees 12 miles SSW of Harrold; 28 degrees in Andover and 23 N of Highmore; 29 degrees 4 NW of Gann Valley, Redfield, and 2 NW of Stephan; 30 degrees in Castlewood and 1 W of Highmore; 31 degrees in Britton, 1 NW of Faulkton, and Kennebec; and 32 degrees in McLaughlin.

June 2nd, 2008: Several supercell thunderstorms rolled southeast from northwest South Dakota into central South Dakota, bringing large hail, damaging winds, and flash flooding during the late afternoon and evening hours. The large hail, up to baseball size, and high winds killed many birds, pheasants, grouse, and rabbits. Thousands of acres of grassland, cropland, and shelter belts received minor to significant damage in Stanley and Hughes County. The large hail also knocked out many windows and damaged the siding of several buildings and homes in both Stanley and Hughes counties. Many roads and cropland were also affected by flash flooding throughout Hughes and Stanley counties. Very heavy rain of over 3 inches caused flash flooding in many parts of Pierre into the early morning hours. Many roads were reportedly flooded with 1 to 2 feet of water. Several homes in southeast Pierre received sewer backup. Also, several houses on Grey Goose Road received flood damage. A Federal Disaster Declaration was issued for Hughes and Stanley counties, mainly regarding the flooding. Tennis ball hail broke most of the west side windows out of the house near Mission Ridge in Stanley County. Hail up to the size of baseballs fell in Pierre, breaking some windows out of homes and vehicles. Heavy rains of 2 to 4 inches fell across much of Stanley County, causing extensive flash flooding. Seventeen roads also sustained some form of damage from the flooding.

1889 - A great flood on the Potomac River in Washington D.C. took out a span of Long Bridge, and flooded streets near the river. The flood stage reached was not again equalled until 1936. (David Ludlum)

1917 - The temperature at Tribune, KS dipped to 30 degrees to establish a state record for the month of June. (The Weather Channel)

1949 - A tornado northeast of Alfalfa OK circled an area one mile in radius. (The Weather Channel)

1985 - Lightning struck a house, broke a bedroom window, and jumped to a metal frame bed. A man was killed but his wife was unharmed by the lightning. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms spawned seven tornadoes in West Texas and six tornadoes in Illinois. Thunderstorms in Illinois produced wind gusts to 70 mph at McComb and Mattoon. Thunderstorms in southern Texas produced 5.5 inches of rain south of Seguin, and up to eight inches of rain in Washington County. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Severe thunderstorms in Texas and Oklahoma produced hail more than three inches in diameter near Stilwater OK, and softball size hail in Jones County of north central Texas. Baseball size hail and 70 mph winds caused an estimated 100 million dollars damage around Abilene TX. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather across much of the south central U.S. through most of the day and night. Thunderstorms spawned a dozen tornadoes, and there were 123 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 78 mph at Russell KS, and baseball size hail was reported at Denver CO, Cuthbert TX, and in Reeves County TX. Afternoon thunderstorms in southern New England produced wind gusts to 120 mph at Fitchburg, MA, causing five million dollars damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



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"Ill-gotten treasures" bring many ideas, as well as pictures, to our minds. Some pictures remind us of events where we were taken advantage of by one who made no apologies for stealing our "property." Other feelings are the result of a dishonest salesperson who hid the truth from us when we purchased a valuable item.

Usually, there are many numbers involved in large transactions, and unless we know what to look for, it's easy to become a "victim" of dishonesty.

However, when we look at some "valuables" we have collected over time, there may be an item or two we obtained in less than honest methods. They were really "ill-gotten" even though they "belong" to us now.

"Ill-gotten" is a strong phrase that means "treasures gotten as a result of wickedness." We know that "wickedness" is not compatible with the character of God. It stands in complete contradiction to everything God values. It also cost Him the life of His Son.

"Righteousness" on the other hand clearly states what God is: a God who is consistent with His Word and His ways. Our God despises unrighteousness and dishonesty because He is honest and just.

Treasures are a gift from God. And, there is nothing wrong with having treasures – even great treasures. But, when they become the "center of life" or the "reason for living," attaining them is self-destructive. They no longer bring satisfaction because they have no "lasting value" — and the "search" for more treasures continues.

"Righteousness" delivers us from death: physical, spiritual and eternal. Those who live in "righteousness" have no fear of God because their search for "treasures" is found in Him.

Prayer: Father, give us a desire to live for "things" that are eternal and have their source in You and Your love. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "Ill-gotten treasures have no lasting value, but righteousness delivers from death."  
-Proverbs 10:2

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

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## Winning Numbers

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.30.25

2 28 37 38 58 13

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$202,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 27 Mins 59 Secs

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: 16 Hrs 42 Mins 59 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.01.25

28 29 38 39 42 16

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 57 Mins 59 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.31.25

1 25 27 28 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$20,000**

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 16 Hrs 57 Mins 59 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.31.25

34 44 61 64 68 19

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 26 Mins 59 Secs

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: 17 Hrs 27 Mins 0 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

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## Upcoming Groton Events

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



## News from the **AP** Associated Press

### **Thousands evacuated in 3 provinces as Canadian wildfires threaten air quality into some US states**

FLIN FLON, Manitoba (AP) — More than 25,000 residents in three provinces have been evacuated as dozens of wildfires remained active Sunday and diminished air quality in parts of Canada and the U.S., according to officials.

Most of the evacuated residents were from Manitoba, which declared a state of emergency last week. About 17,000 people there were evacuated by Saturday along with 1,300 in Alberta. About 8,000 people in Saskatchewan had been relocated as leaders there warned the number could climb.

Smoke was worsening air quality and reducing visibility in Canada and into some U.S. states along the border.

"Air quality and visibility due to wildfire smoke can fluctuate over short distances and can vary considerably from hour to hour," Saskatchewan's Public Safety Agency warned Sunday. "As smoke levels increase, health risks increase."

Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe said firefighters, emergency crews and aircraft from other provinces and U.S. states, including Alaska, Oregon and Arizona, were being sent to help fight the blazes.

"We are truly grateful, and we stand stronger because of you," Moe said in a post on social media.

He said ongoing hot, dry weather is allowing some fires to grow and threaten communities, and resources to fight the fires and support the evacuees are stretched thin.

"The next four to seven days are absolutely critical until we can find our way to changing weather patterns, and ultimately a soaking rain throughout the north," Moe said at a Saturday news conference.

In Manitoba, more than 5,000 of those evacuated are from Flin Flon, located nearly 645 kilometers (400 miles) northwest of the provincial capital of Winnipeg. In northern Manitoba, fire knocked out power to the community of Cranberry Portage, forcing a mandatory evacuation order Saturday for about 600 residents.

The fire menacing Flin Flon began a week ago near Creighton, Saskatchewan, and quickly jumped the boundary into Manitoba. Crews have struggled to contain it. Water bombers have been intermittently grounded due to heavy smoke and a drone incursion.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service deployed an air tanker to Alberta and said it would send 150 firefighters and equipment to Canada.

In some parts of the U.S., air quality reached "unhealthy" levels Sunday in North Dakota and small swaths of Montana, Minnesota and South Dakota, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's AirNow page.

"We should expect at least a couple more rounds of Canadian smoke to come through the U.S. over the next week," said Bryan Jackson, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in the U.S.

Separately, a fire in the U.S. border state of Idaho burned at least 100 acres (40 hectares) as of Sunday, prompting road closures and some evacuations, according to the Idaho Department of Lands. The agency said in a news release that at least one structure was burned, but did not provide additional details about the damage.

Strong gusty winds of 15 to 20 mph (24 to 32 kph) and steep terrain were making it difficult for firefighters battling the fire, which ignited Saturday.

Evacuation centers have opened across Manitoba for those fleeing the fires, one as far south as Winkler, 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the U.S. border. Winnipeg opened up public buildings for evacuees as it deals with hotels already crammed with other fire refugees, vacationers, business people and convention-goers.

Manitoba's Indigenous leaders said Saturday at a news conference that hotel rooms in the cities where evacuees are arriving are full, and they called on the government to direct hotel owners to give evacuees priority.

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Grand Chief Kyra Wilson said it was one of the largest evacuations in the

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province since the 1990s.

"It's really sad to see our children having to sleep on floors. People are sitting, waiting in hallways, waiting outside, and right now we just need people to come together. People are tired," Wilson said at a news conference.

Canada's wildfire season runs from May through September. Its worst-ever wildfire season was in 2023. It choked much of North America with dangerous smoke for months.

## Conservative Karol Nawrocki wins Poland's presidential election

By VANESSA GERA Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Conservative Karol Nawrocki won Poland's weekend presidential runoff election, according to the final vote count on Monday. Nawrocki won 50.89% of votes in a very tight race against liberal Warsaw Mayor Rafał Trzaskowski, who received 49.11%.

The race had Poland on edge since a first round of voting two weeks earlier, revealing deep divisions in the country along the eastern flank of NATO and the European Union.

An early exit poll released Sunday evening suggested Trzaskowski was headed to victory before updated polling began to reverse the picture a couple of hours later.

The outcome suggests that Poland can be expected to take a more populist and nationalist path under its new leader, who was backed by U.S. President Donald Trump.

Trzaskowski congratulated Nawrocki on Monday, and thanked all those who voted for him. "I fought for us to build a strong, safe, honest, and empathetic Poland together," he wrote on X. "I'm sorry I wasn't able to convince the majority of citizens of my vision for Poland. I'm sorry we didn't win together."

Congratulations from different corners

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was among the leaders offering their congratulations to Nawrocki on Monday morning, an acknowledgment of Poland's key role as a neighbor, ally and hub for Western weapons sent to Kyiv.

He called Poland "a pillar of regional and European security," and said, "by reinforcing one another on our continent, we give greater strength to Europe in global competition and bring the achievement of real and lasting peace closer. I look forward to continued fruitful cooperation with Poland and with President Nawrocki personally."

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who shares Nawrocki's national conservative worldview, hailed Nawrocki's "fantastic victory."

Meanwhile, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen offered measured congratulations, emphasizing continued EU-Poland collaboration rooted in shared democratic values: "We are all stronger together in our community of peace, democracy, and values. So let us work to ensure the security and prosperity of our common home."

The role of a president in Poland

Most day-to-day power in the Polish political system rests with a prime minister chosen by the parliament. However, the president's role is not merely ceremonial. The office holds the power to influence foreign policy and veto legislation.

Nawrocki will succeed Andrzej Duda, a conservative whose second and final term ends on Aug. 6.

Under the Polish constitution, the president serves a five-year term and may be re-elected once.

A headache for Tusk

Prime Minister Donald Tusk came to power in late 2023 with a coalition government that spans a broad ideological divide — so broad that it hasn't been able to fulfill certain of Tusk's electoral promises, such as loosening the restrictive abortion law or passing a civil partnership law for same-sex couples.

But Duda's veto power has been another obstacle. It has prevented Tusk from fulfilling promises to reverse laws that politicized the court system in a way that the European Union declared to be undemocratic.

Now it appears Tusk will have no way to fulfill those promises, which he made both to voters and the EU.

Some observers in Poland have said the unfulfilled promises could make it more difficult for Tusk to con-

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tinue his term until the next parliamentary election scheduled for late 2027, particularly if Law and Justice dangles the prospect of future cooperation with conservatives in his coalition.

A former boxer, historian and political novice

Nawrocki, a 42-year-old amateur boxer and historian, was tapped by the Law and Justice party as part of its push for a fresh start.

The party governed Poland from 2015 to 2023, when it lost power to a centrist coalition led by Tusk. Some political observers predicted the party would never make a comeback, and Nawrocki was chosen as a new face who would not be burned by the scandals of the party's eight years of rule.

The strategy clearly worked.

Nawrocki has most recently been the head of the Institute of National Remembrance, which embraces nationalist historical narratives. He led efforts to topple monuments to the Soviet Red Army in Poland, and Russia responded by putting him on a wanted list, according to Polish media reports.

Nawrocki's supporters describe him as the embodiment of traditional, patriotic values. Those who oppose secular trends, including LGBTQ+ visibility, have embraced him, viewing him as a reflection of the values they grew up with.

Nawrocki's candidacy was clouded by allegations of past connections to criminal figures and his participation in a violent street brawl. He denies the criminal links but was unapologetic about the street fight, saying he had taken part in "noble" fights in his life. The revelations did not seem to hurt his support among right-wing voters, many of whom see the allegations as politically motivated.

The Trump factor

Trump made it clear he wanted Nawrocki as Poland's president.

He welcomed Nawrocki to the White House a month ago. And last week the conservative group CPAC held its first meeting in Poland to give Nawrocki a boost. Kristi Noem, the U.S. Homeland Security Secretary and a prominent Trump ally, strongly praised Nawrocki and urged Poles to vote for him.

The U.S. has about 10,000 troops stationed in Poland and Noem suggested that military ties could deepen with Nawrocki as president.

A common refrain from Nawrocki's supporters is that he will restore "normality," as they believe Trump has done. U.S. flags often appeared at Nawrocki's rallies, and his supporters believed that he offered a better chance for good ties with the Trump administration.

Nawrocki has also echoed some of Trump's language on Ukraine. He promises to continue Poland's support for Ukraine but has been critical of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, accusing him of taking advantage of allies. He has accused Ukrainian refugees of taking advantage of Polish generosity, vowing to prioritize Poles for social services such as health care and schooling.

## Britain is getting a defense boost aimed at sending a message to Moscow, and to Trump

By JILL LAWLESS and PAN PYLAS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The United Kingdom will build new nuclear-powered attack submarines and create an army ready to fight a war in Europe as part of a boost to military spending designed to send a message to Moscow — and Washington.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Britain "cannot ignore the threat that Russia poses" as he pledged to undertake the most sweeping changes to Britain's defenses since the end of the Cold War more than three decades ago.

"We have to recognize the world has changed," Starmer told the BBC. "With greater instability than there has been for many, many years, and greater threats."

What's happening on Monday?

The government is to respond to a strategic defense review commissioned by Starmer and led by George Robertson, a former U.K. defense secretary and NATO secretary general. It's the first such review since 2021, and lands in a world shaken and transformed by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, and

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by the re-election of President Donald Trump last year.

Months after Britain's last major defense review was published in 2021, then-Prime Minister Boris Johnson said with confidence that the era of "fighting big tank battles on European landmass" are over. Three months later, Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine.

Starmer's center-left Labour Party government says it will accept all 62 recommendations made in the review, aiming to help the U.K. confront growing threats on land, air sea and in cyberspace.

Defense Secretary John Healey said the changes would send "a message to Moscow, and transform the country's military following decades of retrenchment, though he said he does not expect the number of soldiers — currently at a historic low — to rise until the early 2030s.

Healey said plans for defense spending to hit 2.5% of national income by 2027 a year are "on track" and that there's "no doubt" it will hit 3% before 2034.

Starmer said the 3% goal is an "ambition," rather than a firm promise, and it's unclear where the cash-strapped Treasury will find the money. The government has already, contentiously, cut international aid spending to reach the 2.5% target.

Starmer said he wouldn't make a firm pledge until he knew "precisely where the money is coming from."

**Deterring Russia**

Even 3% falls short of what some leaders in NATO think is needed to deter Russia from future attacks on its neighbors. NATO chief Mark Rutte says leaders of the 32 member countries will debate a commitment to spend at least 3.5% of GDP on defense when they meet in the Netherlands this month.

Monday's announcements include building "up to 12" nuclear-powered, conventionally armed submarines under the AUKUS partnership with Australia and the United States. The government also says it will invest 15 billion in Britain's nuclear arsenal, which consists of missiles carried on a handful of submarines. Details of those plans are likely to be scarce.

The government will also increase conventional Britain's weapons stockpiles with up to 7,000 U.K.-built long-range weapons.

Starmer said rearming would create a "defense dividend" of well-paid jobs — a contrast to the post-Cold War "peace dividend" that saw Western nations channel money away from defense into other areas.

Like other NATO members, the U.K. has been reassessing its defense spending since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Healey said Russia is "attacking the U.K. daily," with 90,000 cyberattacks from state-linked sources directed at the U.K.'s defense over the last two years. A cyber command to counter such threats is expected to be set up as part of the review.

"This is a message to Moscow," Healey told the BBC.

**Bolstering Europe's defenses**

It's also a message to Trump that Europe is heeding his demand for NATO members to spend more on their own defense.

European countries, led by the U.K. and France, have scrambled to coordinate their defense posture as Trump transforms American foreign policy, seemingly sidelining Europe as he looks to end the war in Ukraine. Trump has long questioned the value of NATO and complained that the U.S. provides security to European countries that don't pull their weight.

James Cartledge, defense spokesman for the main opposition Conservative Party, welcomed more money for defense but was skeptical of the government's 3% pledge,

"All of Labour's strategic defence review promises will be taken with a pinch of salt unless they can show there will actually be enough money to pay for them," he said.

## **South Korea holds a snap presidential election Tuesday. Here's what to know**

By HYUNG-JIN KIM and KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — After months of political turmoil, South Korea will elect a new president



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this week to succeed conservative Yoon Suk Yeol, who was ousted over his brief but shocking imposition of martial law.

Surveys suggested liberal Lee Jae-myung is heavily favored to win Tuesday's snap election, riding on a wave of public disappointment of Yoon's martial law debacle in December. The main conservative candidate, Kim Moon Soo, wants a come-from-behind victory, but observers say his refusal to directly criticize Yoon made it difficult for him to narrow the gap with Lee.

The winner will be sworn in as president on Wednesday without the typical two-month transition period. The new leader faces the urgent tasks of trying to heal the deep domestic divide over Yoon's action as well as focusing on U.S. President Donald Trump's America-first policy and North Korea's advancing nuclear program.

Who is running for the presidency?

Lee, who represents the main liberal Democratic Party, is the favorite to win the elections. In three Gallup Korea surveys released last week, 46% to 49% of respondents picked Lee as their choice for next president, giving him a comfortable lead over Kim with 35% to 37%.

Lee narrowly lost the 2022 election to Yoon, and spearheaded parliament's two votes to overturn Yoon's martial law decree and impeach him, before the Constitutional Court formally dismissed him in April.

Lee's outspoken criticism of South Korea's conservative establishment and calls to punish those involved in Yoon's martial law enactment have caused worries among his opponents that Lee's election would further polarize the country.

Kim, a former labor minister under Yoon, has fought an uphill battle against Lee as his People Power Party struggles to restore public confidence. Kim's opposition to Yoon's impeachment and reluctance to explicitly criticize the disgraced leader drove him away from moderate voters, analysts say.

Three other politicians are running for the presidency, including Lee Jun-seok of the small conservative New Reform Party, who has categorically rejected Kim's request to field a unified candidate between them to prevent a split in conservative votes.

What are main issues?

The election has got ugly, with candidates levelling damaging statements, personal attacks and even sexually offensive language against each other without unveiling clear, long-term visions for South Korea.

During last week's televised debate, Lee Jae-myung labelled Kim as "Yoon Suk Yeol's avatar," while Kim called Lee a "harbinger of monster politics and dictatorship." Lee Jun-seok faced withering public criticism after he used graphic references to women's bodies to criticize Lee Jae-myung's son over his purported sexually explicit online slur targeting a female singer.

Unlike past elections, North Korea's nuclear program hasn't emerged as a hot-button topic, suggesting that most candidates share a view that South Korea has few immediate ways to convince North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons. Dealing with Trump's aggressive tariffs policy hasn't been a divisive issue either.

Kim has instead focused on portraying Lee Jae-myung as a dangerous leader who would likely wield excessive power by putting the judiciary under his control and revising laws to stop his criminal trials. Lee, for his part, has repeatedly questioned Kim's ties with Yoon.

What challenges await the new leader?

South Korea's new president will have little time to negotiate with the United States before July 9, when Trump's 90-day pause on global tariffs expires, potentially exposing South Korean products to 25% tax rates. A U.S. federal court has recently ruled that Trump lacks authority to impose the tariffs, but the White House has appealed, leaving the long-term outcome unclear.

South Korea's outgoing administration was trying to finalize a comprehensive "package" deal with the U.S. by early July to soften the blow to the country's trade-dependent economy.

Lee has accused government officials of rushing negotiations for short-term political gains and said it wouldn't serve national interests to obsess over securing an early agreement with Washington. Kim said he would place a priority on a meeting with Trump as soon as possible to resolve trade issues.

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The next government in Seoul may also struggle to ease security tensions over North Korea's advancing nuclear weapons program, which has been complicated by North Korea's support of Russia's war against Ukraine.

Lee has expressed a willingness to improve ties with North Korea but acknowledged that it would be difficult to hold a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un anytime soon. He said he would support Trump's push to resume nuclear diplomacy with North Korea. Kim Moon Soo has promised to build up South Korea's military capability and win stronger U.S. security support, suggesting he would uphold Yoon's hard-line approach on North Korea.

Can the new government ease the national divide?

The most pressing domestic issue facing the new president will be a starkly divided nation that had seen millions rallying for months to either support or denounce Yoon.

Yoon had labeled Lee's party as "anti-state" forces abusing their legislative majority to block his agenda. He also endorsed unsubstantiated conspiracy theories that the liberals had benefited from election fraud, prompting his supporters to rally in the streets with "Stop the Steal" signs.

Lee has issued a message of unity and vowed not to seek political vengeance against his rivals if elected. But his critics doubt that, suspecting Lee could use investigations of Yoon's martial law decree as a vehicle to suppress his opponents.

Yoon's legal saga is likely to overshadow the early months of Seoul's next government, as the former president continues to stand trial on high-stakes rebellion charges, which carry a possible sentence of death or life in prison.

## **FBI says 8 injured in Colorado attack by man with makeshift flamethrower who yelled 'Free Palestine'**

By COLLEEN SLEVIN and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — A man with a makeshift flamethrower yelled "Free Palestine" and hurled an incendiary device into a group that had assembled to raise attention for Israeli hostages in Gaza, law enforcement officials said Sunday. Eight people were injured, some with burns.

The suspect, Mohamed Sabry Soliman, 45, was booked into the Boulder County jail north of Denver and expected to face charges in connection with the attack the FBI was investigating as a terrorist act. Online records did not immediately show when he would make a court appearance.

The burst of violence at the popular Pearl Street pedestrian mall, a four-block area in downtown Boulder, unfolded against the backdrop of a war between Israel and Hamas that continues to inflame global tensions and has contributed to a spike in antisemitic violence in the United States. The attack happened on the beginning of the Jewish holiday of Shavuot, which is marked with the reading of the Torah and barely a week after a man who also yelled "Free Palestine" was charged with fatally shooting two Israeli embassy staffers outside of a Jewish museum in Washington.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu issued a statement Monday saying he, his wife and the entire nation of Israel were praying for the full recovery of the people wounded in the "vicious terror attack" in Colorado.

"This attack was aimed against peaceful people who wished to express their solidarity with the hostages held by Hamas, simply because they were Jews," Netanyahu said.

Across the U.S., the New York Police Department said it has upped its presence at religious sites throughout the city for Shavuot.

"Sadly, attacks like this are becoming too common across the country," said Mark Michalek, the special agent in charge of the FBI's Denver field office, which encompasses Boulder. "This is an example of how perpetrators of violence continue to threaten communities across the nation."

The eight victims who were wounded range in age from 52 to 88 and the injuries spanned from serious to minor, officials said.

The attack occurred as people with a volunteer group called Run For Their Lives was concluding their

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weekly demonstration to raise visibility for the hostages who remain in Gaza. Video from the scene shows a witness shouting, "He's right there. He's throwing Molotov cocktails," as a police officer with his gun drawn advances on a bare-chested suspect who is holding containers in each hand.

Alex Osante of San Diego said he was having lunch on a restaurant patio across the pedestrian mall when he heard the crash of a bottle breaking on the ground, a "boom" sound followed by people yelling and screaming.

In video of the scene captured by Osante, people could be seen pouring water on a woman lying on the ground who Osante said had caught on fire during the attack. A man, who later identified himself as an Israeli visiting Boulder who decided to join the group that day, ran up to Osante on the video asking for some water to help.

After the initial attack, Osante said the suspect went behind some bushes and then re-emerged and threw a Molotov cocktail but apparently accidentally caught himself on fire as he threw it. The man then took off his shirt and what appeared to be a bulletproof vest before the police arrived. The man dropped to the ground and was arrested without any apparent resistance in the video that Osante filmed.

As people tried to help the woman on the ground, another woman who appeared to be a participant in the event yelled to others out of the camera's view, defending their cause, saying they don't talk about the government but just talk about the hostages.

Lynn Segal, 72, was among about 20 people who gathered Sunday. They had finished their march in front of the courthouse when a "rope of fire" shot in front of her and then "two big flares."

She said the scene quickly turned chaotic as people worked to find water to put out flames and find help.

Segal, who said she is Jewish on her father's side and has supported Palestine for more than 40 years, was concerned that she might be accused of helping the suspect because she was wearing a pro-Palestine shirt.

"There were people who were burning, I wanted to help," she said. "But I didn't want to be associated with the perpetrator."

Authorities did not disclose details about Soliman but said they believe that he acted alone and that no other suspect was being sought. No criminal charges were immediately announced but officials said they would move to hold Soliman accountable. He was also injured and was taken to the hospital to be treated, but authorities didn't elaborate on the nature of his injuries.

FBI leaders immediately declared the attack an act of terrorism and the Justice Department denounced it as a "needless act of violence, which follows recent attacks against Jewish Americans."

"This act of terror is being investigated as an act of ideologically motivated violence based on the early information, the evidence, and witness accounts. We will speak clearly on these incidents when the facts warrant it," FBI Deputy Director Dan Bongino said in a post on X.

Israel's war in Gaza began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting about 250 others. They are still holding 58 hostages, around a third 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 in Hamas-run Gaza, 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, displaced around 90% of the population and left people almost completely reliant on international aid.

The violence comes four years after a shooting rampage at a grocery store in Boulder, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) northwest of Denver, that killed 10 people. The gunman was sentenced to life in prison for murder after a jury rejected his attempt to avoid prison time by pleading not guilty by reason of insanity.

Multiple blocks of the pedestrian mall area were evacuated by police. The scene shortly after the attack was tense, as law enforcement agents with a police dog walked through the streets looking for threats and instructed the public to stay clear of the mall.

## **31 Palestinians are killed heading to a Gaza aid site, witnesses say. Israel denies responsibility**

By MOHAMMAD JAHJOUH and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — At least 31 people were killed and over 170 were wounded Sunday as large crowds were on their way to receive food in the Gaza Strip, health officials and witnesses said. Witnesses said Israeli forces fired toward the crowds just before dawn around a kilometer (about 1,100 yards) from an aid site run by an Israeli-backed foundation.

Israel's military denied its forces fired at civilians near or within the site in the southern city of Rafah. An Israeli military official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with procedure, said troops fired warning shots at several suspects advancing toward them overnight.

The military also released drone footage it said was shot Sunday, apparently in daylight, in the southern city of Khan Younis, showing what it said were armed, masked men firing at civilians trying to collect aid. The Associated Press could not independently verify the video, and it was not clear who was being targeted. " Hamas is doing everything in its power to prevent the successful distribution of food in Gaza," the statement said.

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation — promoted by Israel and the United States — said in a statement it delivered aid "without incident," and released a separate video it said was shot Sunday at the site that appeared to show people collecting aid. The AP was not able to verify the video. The foundation has denied previous accounts of chaos and gunfire around its sites, which are in Israeli military zones where independent media has no access.

It was the deadliest incident yet around the new aid distribution system, which has operated for less than a week.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said in a statement its field hospital in Rafah received 179 casualties including women and children, 21 of them declared dead upon arrival, the majority with gunshot or shrapnel wounds. It was unclear if any of the dead were militants.

"All patients said they had been trying to reach an aid distribution site," the ICRC said, calling it the highest number of "weapon-wounded" people in a single incident since the hospital was set up over a year ago.

The head of the World Food Program, Cindy McCain, told ABC News that staffers on the ground were reporting people killed and called it a "tragedy."

"Aid distribution has become a death trap," the head of the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees, Philippe Lazzarini, said in a statement.

In a separate statement, Israeli military chief of staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir ordered that more aid sites be established — and that troops' ground operation be expanded in unspecified parts of northern and southern Gaza.

A new aid system marred by chaos

Multiple witnesses have said Israeli troops fired on crowds near the foundation's sites. Before Sunday, 17 people were killed while trying to reach them, according to Zaher al-Waheidi, head of the Gaza Health Ministry's records department.

The foundation says private security contractors guarding its sites have not fired on crowds. Israel's military has acknowledged firing warning shots on previous occasions.

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

U.N. agencies and major aid groups have refused to work with the new system, saying it violates humanitarian principles.

'The scene was horrible'

Thousands of people headed toward the distribution site hours before dawn. As they approached, Israeli forces ordered them to disperse and come back later, witnesses said. When the crowds reached the Flag Roundabout, around 1 kilometer 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,



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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. "The scene was horrible," he said.

Most people were shot "in the upper part of their bodies, including the head, neck and chest," said Dr. Marwan al-Hams, a Health Ministry official at Nasser Hospital, where many were transferred from the Red Cross field hospital. A colleague, surgeon Khaled al-Ser, said 150 wounded people had arrived, along with 28 bodies.

The hospital corridors were filled with patients, "but unlike what I have witnessed before, where most of the patients were women and children, today it was mainly men," a spokesperson with medical charity MSF, Nour Alsaqa, said in a statement.

Ibrahim Abu Saoud, another witness, said the military fired from about 300 meters (yards) away. He said he saw many people with gunshot wounds, including a young man who 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 a woman as they headed toward the distribution site. He said his cousin was shot in his chest, and his brother-in-law was among the wounded.

"They opened heavy fire directly toward us," he said.

An 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 carried boxes of aid but most appeared to be empty-handed.

Gaza's Health Ministry said least 31 people were killed and over 170 were wounded.

"This is sinful, enough with the humiliation. They humiliated us for the sake of food," said Ilham Jarghon as fellow Palestinians wept and prayed for the dead.

Later Sunday, Israeli artillery shells struck tents sheltering displaced people in Khan Younis, killing three and wounding at least 30, according to Nasser Hospital. Israel's military said it was looking into it.

The UN says new aid system violates humanitarian principles

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

U.N. agencies and major aid groups say the new system allows Israel to control who receives aid and forces people to relocate to distribution sites, risking yet more mass displacement in the coastal territory.

"It's essentially engineered scarcity," Jonathan Whittall, interim head in Gaza of the U.N. humanitarian office, said last week.

The U.N. system has struggled to bring in aid after Israel slightly eased its nearly three-month blockade of the territory last month. The 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 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 in Hamas-run Gaza, 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, displaced around 90% of the population and left people almost completely reliant on international aid.

The latest efforts at ceasefire talks appeared to stumble Saturday when Hamas said it had sought amendments to a U.S. ceasefire proposal that Israel had approved, and the U.S. envoy called that "unacceptable."

Mediators Qatar and Egypt in a joint statement Sunday said they continued "intensive efforts to bridge the gaps in viewpoints" and hoped for "a swift agreement for a temporary ceasefire lasting 60 days, leading to a permanent ceasefire in the Gaza Strip."

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## 'Lilo & Stitch' passes 'Sinners' to become 2nd highest grossing film of 2025

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

"Lilo & Stich" and "Mission: Impossible—The Final Reckoning" dominated the box office charts again after fueling a record-breaking Memorial Day weekend. Theaters in the U.S. and Canada had several new films to offer this weekend as well, including Sony's family friendly "Karate Kid: Legends" and the A24 horror movie "Bring Her Back." According to studio estimates Sunday, it added up to a robust \$149 million post-holiday weekend that's up over 120% from the same timeframe last year.

Disney's live-action hybrid "Lilo & Stitch" took first place again with \$63 million from 4,410 locations in North America. It was enough to pass "Sinners" to become the second-highest grossing movie of the year with \$280.1 million in domestic ticket sales. Globally, its running total is \$610.8 million. "Sinners," meanwhile, is still going strong in its seventh weekend with another \$5.2 million, bumping it to \$267.1 million domestically and \$350.1 million globally.

The eighth "Mission: Impossible" movie also repeated in second place, with \$27.3 million from 3,861 locations. As with "Lilo & Stitch," that's down 57% from its opening. With \$122.6 million in domestic tickets sold, it's performing in line with the two previous installments. But with a reported production budget of \$400 million, profitability is a ways off. Internationally, it added \$76.1 million (including \$25.2 million from China where it just opened), bringing its global total to \$353.8 million.

"This is the year of longterm playability," said Paul Dergarabedian, Comscore's senior media analyst. "The currency of word of mouth and the strong hold is more important than opening weekend dollars."

Leading the newcomers was Sony's "Karate Kid: Legends," with an estimated \$21 million from 3,809 locations. The movie brings Jackie Chan and Ralph Macchio together to train a new kid, the kung fu prodigy Li Fong ( Ben Wang ). Chan starred in a 2010 reboot of the 1984 original, while Macchio has found a new generation of fans in the series "Cobra Kai," which just concluded a six-season run.

Reviews might have been mixed, but opening weekend audiences gave the PG-13 rated film a strong A- CinemaScore and 4.5 stars on PostTrak. It also only cost a reported \$45 million to produce and has several weeks until a new family-friendly film arrives. "Karate Kid: Legends" opened earlier internationally and has a worldwide total of \$47 million.

Fourth place went "Final Destination: Bloodlines," which earned \$10.8 million in its third weekend. The movie is the highest-grossing in the franchise, not accounting for inflation, with \$229.3 million globally.

The weekend's other big newcomer, "Bring Her Back" rounded out the top five with \$7.1 million from 2,449 screens. Starring Sally Hawkins as a foster mother with some disturbing plans, the film is the sophomore feature of twin filmmakers Danny and Michael Philippou, who made the 2023 horror breakout "Talk to Me." It earned a rare-for-horror B+ CinemaScore and is essentially the only new film in the genre until "28 Years Later" opens on June 20.

A new Wes Anderson movie, "The Phoenician Scheme," also debuted in New York and Los Angeles this weekend, where it made \$270,000. It expands nationwide next weekend.

The summer box office forecast remains promising, though there's a long way to go to get to the \$4 billion target (a pre-pandemic norm that only the "Barbenheimer" summer has surpassed). The month of May is expected to close out with \$973 million – up 75% from May 2024, according to data from Comscore.

Top 10 movies by domestic box office

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

1. "Lilo & Stitch," \$63 million.
2. "Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning," \$27.3 million.
3. "Karate Kid: Legends," 21 million.
4. "Final Destination: Bloodlines," \$10.8 million.
5. "Bring Her Back," \$7.1 million.
6. "Sinners," \$5.2 million.

7. "Thunderbolts," \$4.8 million.
8. "Friendship," \$2.6 million.
9. "The Last Rodeo," \$2.1 million.
10. "j-hope Tour 'HOPE ON THE STAGE' in JAPAN: LIVE VIEWING," \$939,173.

## **Tulsa's new Black mayor proposes \$100M trust to 'repair' impact of 1921 Race Massacre**

By SEAN MURPHY Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Tulsa's new mayor on Sunday proposed a \$100 million private trust as part of a reparations plan to give descendants of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre scholarships and housing help in a city-backed bid to make amends for one of the worst racial attacks in U.S. history.

The plan by Mayor Monroe Nichols, the first Black mayor of Oklahoma's second-largest city, would not provide direct cash payments to descendants or the last two centenarian survivors of the attack that killed as many as 300 Black people. He made the announcement at the Greenwood Cultural Center, located in the once-thriving district of North Tulsa that was destroyed by a white mob.

Nichols said he does not use the term reparations, which he calls politically charged, characterizing his sweeping plan instead as a "road to repair."

"For 104 years, the Tulsa Race Massacre has been a stain on our city's history," Nichols said Sunday after receiving a standing ovation from several hundred people. "The massacre was hidden from history books, only to be followed by the intentional acts of redlining, a highway built to choke off economic vitality and the perpetual underinvestment of local, state and federal governments.

"Now it's time to take the next big steps to restore."

Nichols said the proposal wouldn't require city council approval, although the council would need to authorize the transfer of any city property to the trust, something he said was highly likely.

The private charitable trust would be created with a goal to secure \$105 million in assets, with most of the funding either secured or committed by June 1, 2026. Although details would be developed over the next year by an executive director and a board of managers, the plan calls for the bulk of the funding, \$60 million, to go toward improving buildings and revitalizing the city's north side.

"The Greenwood District at its height was a center of commerce," Nichols said in a telephone interview. "So what was lost was not just something from North Tulsa or the Black community. It actually robbed Tulsa of an economic future that would have rivaled anywhere else in the world."

Nichols' proposal follows an executive order he signed earlier this year recognizing June 1 as Tulsa Race Massacre Observance Day, an official city holiday. Events Sunday in the Greenwood District included a picnic for families, worship services and an evening candlelight vigil.

Nichols also realizes the current national political climate, particularly President Trump's sweeping assault on diversity, equity and inclusion programs, poses challenging political crosswinds.

"The fact that this lines up with a broader national conversation is a tough environment," Nichols admitted, "but it doesn't change the work we have to do."

Jacqueline Weary, is a granddaughter of massacre survivor John R. Emerson, Sr., who owned a hotel and cab company in Greenwood that were destroyed. She acknowledged the political difficulty of giving cash payments to descendants. But at the same time, she wondered how much of her family's wealth was lost in the violence.

"If Greenwood was still there, my grandfather would still have his hotel," said Weary, 65. "It rightfully was our inheritance, and it was literally taken away."

Tulsa is not the first U.S. city to explore reparations. The Chicago suburb of Evanston, Illinois, was the first U.S. city to make reparations available to its Black residents for past discrimination, offering qualifying households \$25,000 for home repairs, down payments on property, and interest or late penalties on property in the city. The funding for the program came from taxes on the sale of recreational marijuana.

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Other communities and organizations that have considered providing reparations range from the state of California to cities including Amherst, Massachusetts; Providence, Rhode Island; Asheville, North Carolina; and Iowa City, Iowa; religious denominations like the Episcopal Church; and prominent colleges like Georgetown University in Washington.

In Tulsa, there are only two living survivors of the Race Massacre, both of whom are 110 years old: Leslie Benningfield Randle and Viola Fletcher. The women, both of whom were in attendance on Sunday, received direct financial compensation from both a Tulsa-based nonprofit and a New York-based philanthropic organization, but have not received any recompense from the city or state.

Damario Solomon-Simmons, an attorney for the survivors and the founder of the Justice for Greenwood Foundation, said earlier this year that any reparations plan should include direct payments to Randle and Fletcher and a victims' compensation fund for outstanding claims.

A lawsuit filed by Solomon-Simmons on behalf of the survivors was rejected by the Oklahoma Supreme Court last year, dampening racial justice advocates' hopes that the city would ever make financial amends.

## **Explosions caused 2 bridges in western Russia to collapse, officials say. 7 people were killed**

By The Associated Press undefined

Explosions caused two bridges to collapse and derailed two trains in western Russia overnight, officials said Sunday, without saying what had caused the blasts. In one of the incidents, seven people were killed and dozens were injured.

The first bridge, in the Bryansk region on the border with Ukraine, collapsed on top of a passenger train on Saturday, causing the casualties. The train's driver was among those killed, state-run Russian Railways said.

Hours later, officials said a second train derailed when the bridge beneath it collapsed in the nearby Kursk region, which also borders Ukraine.

In that collapse, a freight train was thrown off its rails onto the road below as the explosion collapsed the bridge, local acting Gov. Alexander Khinshtein said Sunday. The crash sparked a fire, but there were no casualties, he said.

Russia's Investigative Committee, the country's top criminal investigation agency, said in a statement that explosions had caused the two bridges to collapse, but did not give further details. Several hours later, it edited the statement, which was posted on social media, to remove the words "explosions" but did not provide an explanation.

The committee said that it would be investigating the incidents as potential acts of terrorism.

Rescue workers cleared debris from both sites, while some of those injured were transported to Moscow for treatment. Photos posted by government agencies in Bryansk appeared to show train carriages ripped apart and lying amid fallen concrete from the collapsed bridge. Other footage on social media was apparently taken from inside vehicles on the road that had managed to avoid driving onto the bridge before it collapsed.

Bryansk regional Gov. Alexander Bogomaz announced three days of mourning for the victims, starting Monday.

Damage to railway tracks was also found Sunday by inspectors working on the line elsewhere in the Bryansk region, Moscow Railway said in a statement. It did not say whether the damage was linked to the collapsed bridges.

In the past, some officials have accused pro-Ukrainian saboteurs of attacking Russia's railway infrastructure. The details surrounding such incidents, however, are limited and cannot be independently verified.

Ukraine's military intelligence, known by the Ukrainian abbreviation GUR, said Sunday that a Russian military freight train carrying food and fuel had been blown up on its way to Crimea. It did not claim the attack was carried out by GUR or mention the bridge collapses.

The statement said Moscow's key artery with the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia region and Crimea has



been destroyed.

Russia forces have been pushing into the region of Zaporizhzhia in eastern Ukraine since Moscow's full-scale invasion in February 2022. Russia took Crimea and annexed it in 2014.

## Poland on a knife's edge as exit polls show a near tie in presidential runoff

By VANESSA GERA and DAVID KEYTON Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Exit polls in Poland's presidential runoff Sunday showed the two candidates in a statistical tie with the race still too close to call in the deeply divided nation. The results could set the course for the nation's political future and its relations with the European Union.

A first exit poll showed liberal Warsaw mayor Rafał Trzaskowski with a slight lead over conservative historian Karol Nawrocki, but two hours later an updated "late poll" showed Nawrocki winning 50.7%, more than Trzaskowski with 49.3%.

The polls have a margin of error and it was still not clear who the winner was.

Claims of victory amid uncertainty

Though the final result was still unclear with the two locked in a near dead heat, both men claimed to have won in meetings with their supporters in Warsaw.

"We won," Trzaskowski told his supporters to chants of "Rafał, Rafał."

"This is truly a special moment in Poland's history. I am convinced that it will allow us to move forward and focus on the future," Trzaskowski said. "I will be your president."

Nawrocki, speaking to his supporters at a separate event in Warsaw, said he believed he was on track to win. "We will win and save Poland," he said. "We must win tonight."

The final results were expected Monday.

A divided country

The decisive presidential runoff pitted Trzaskowski, a liberal pro-EU politician, against Nawrocki, a conservative historian backed by the right-wing Law and Justice party and aligned with U.S. conservatives, including President Donald Trump.

The fact that it was so close underlined how deep the social divisions have become in Poland.

The outcome will determine whether Poland takes a more nationalist path or pivots more decisively toward liberal democratic norms. With conservative President Andrzej Duda completing his second and final term, the new president will have significant influence over whether Prime Minister Donald Tusk's centrist government can fulfill its agenda, given the presidential power to veto laws.

"We will not allow Donald Tusk's grip on power to be completed," Nawrocki said.

The runoff follows a tightly contested first round of voting on May 18, in which Trzaskowski won just over 31% and Nawrocki nearly 30%, eliminating 11 other candidates.

Katarzyna Malek, a 29-year-old voter in Warsaw, cast her ballot in the first round for a left-wing candidate but went for Trzaskowski on Sunday, viewing him as more competent and more likely to pursue stronger ties with foreign partners and lower social tensions.

"I hope there will be less division, that maybe there will be more dialogue," she said.

The campaign has highlighted stark ideological divides. Trzaskowski, 53, has promised to restore judicial independence, ease abortion restrictions and promote constructive ties with European partners. Nawrocki, 42, has positioned himself as a defender of traditional Polish values and skeptical of the EU.

Allegations against Nawrocki

Nawrocki's candidacy has been clouded by allegations of past connections to criminal figures and participation in a violent street battle. He denies the criminal links but acknowledges having taken part in "noble" fights. The revelations have not appeared to dent his support among right-wing voters, many of whom see the allegations as politically motivated.

"We managed to unite the entire patriotic camp in Poland, the entire camp of people who want a normal

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Poland, want a Poland without illegal migrants, a safe Poland. We managed to unite all those who want social, community security," Nawrocki said. It was an apparent reference to those who supported far-right candidates in the first round and who supported him on Sunday.

Some of those voting for Nawrocki in Warsaw dismissed the allegations against him, saying he shouldn't be punished for his past and that Trzaskowski has also made mistakes as mayor.

Władysława Wąsowska, an 82-year-old former history teacher, recalled instilling patriotism in her students during the communist era, when Poland was under Moscow's influence.

"I'm a right-wing conservative. I love God, the church and the homeland," she said, explaining that Nawrocki for her is the only patriotic choice now, and accusing Trzaskowski of serving foreign interests.

"He's controlled by Germany," she said. "I want a sovereign, independent, democratic Poland — and a Catholic one."

International echoes

Amid rising security fears over Russia's war in neighboring Ukraine, both candidates support aid to Kyiv, though Nawrocki opposes NATO membership for Ukraine, while Trzaskowski supports it in the future.

Nawrocki's campaign has echoed themes popular on the American right, including an emphasis on traditional values. His supporters feel that Trzaskowski, with his pro-EU views, would hand over control of key Polish affairs to larger European powers like France and Germany.

Many European centrists rooted for Trzaskowski, seeing in him someone who would defend democratic values under pressure from authoritarian forces across the globe.

## Ukraine destroys 40 aircraft deep inside Russia ahead of peace talks in Istanbul

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — A Ukrainian drone attack has destroyed more than 40 Russian planes deep in Russia's territory, Ukraine's Security Service said on Sunday, while Moscow pounded Ukraine with missiles and drones just hours before a new round of direct peace talks in Istanbul.

A military official, who spoke with The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to disclose operational details, said the far-reaching attack took more than a year and a half to execute and was personally supervised by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

In his evening address, Zelenskyy said that 117 drones had been used in the operation. He claimed the operation had been headquartered out of an office next to the local FSB headquarters. The FSB is the Russian intelligence and security service.

The military source said it was an "extremely complex" operation, involving the smuggling of first-person view, or FPV, drones to Russia, where they were then placed in mobile wooden houses.

"Later, drones were hidden under the roofs of these houses while already placed on trucks. At the right moment, the roofs of the houses were remotely opened, and the drones flew to hit Russian bombers," the source said.

Social media footage shared by Russian media appeared to show the drones rising from inside containers while other panels lay discarded on the road. One clip appeared to show men climbing onto a truck in an attempt to halt the drones.

Long-range bombers targeted

The drones hit 41 planes stationed at military airfields on Sunday afternoon, including A-50, Tu-95 and Tu-22M aircraft, the official said. Moscow has previously used Tupolev Tu-95 and Tu-22 long-range bombers to launch missiles at Ukraine, while A-50s are used to coordinate targets and detect air defenses and guided missiles.

The Security Service of Ukraine said that the operation, which it codenamed "Web", had destroyed 34% of Russia's fleet of air missile carriers with damages estimated at \$7 billion. The claim could not be independently verified.

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Russia's Defense Ministry in a statement confirmed the attacks, which damaged aircraft and sparked fires on air bases in the Irkutsk region, more than 4,000 kilometers (2,500 miles) from Ukraine, as well as the Murmansk region in the north, it said. Strikes were also repelled in the Amur region in Russia's Far East and in the western regions of Ivanovo and Ryazan, the ministry said.

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth was briefed on Ukraine's attack Russia during a stop at Nellis Air Force Base and was monitoring the situation. A senior defense official said on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters that the U.S. was not given notification before the attack. The official said it represented a level of sophistication the U.S. had not seen before.

Also on Sunday, Russia's top investigative body said that explosions had caused two bridges to collapse and derailed two trains in western Russia overnight, killing seven in one of the incidents and injuring dozens more. Russian officials, however, did not say what had caused the blasts and the word "explosions" was later removed from an Investigative Committee press release.

## Attack ahead of talks

The drone attack came the same day as Zelenskyy said Ukraine will send a delegation to Istanbul for a new round of direct peace talks with Russia on Monday.

In a statement on Telegram, Zelenskyy said that Defense Minister Rustem Umerov will lead the Ukrainian delegation. "We are doing everything to protect our independence, our state and our people," Zelenskyy said.

Ukrainian officials had previously called on the Kremlin to provide a promised memorandum setting out its position on ending the war before the meeting takes place. Moscow had said it would share its memorandum during the talks.

## Russian strike hits an army unit

Russia on Sunday launched the biggest number of drones — 472 — on Ukraine since the full-scale invasion in February 2022, Ukraine's air force said.

Russian forces also launched seven missiles alongside the barrage of drones, said Yuriy Ignat, head of communications for the air force. Earlier Sunday, Ukraine's army said at least 12 Ukrainian service members were killed and more than 60 were injured in a Russian missile strike on an army training unit.

Ukrainian army commander Mykhailo Drapatyi later Sunday submitted his resignation following the attack. He was a respected commander whose leadership saw Ukraine regain land on the eastern front for the first time since Kyiv's 2022 counteroffensive.

The training unit was located to the rear of the 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) active front line, where Russian reconnaissance and strike drones are able to strike. Ukraine's forces lack troops and take extra precautions to avoid mass gatherings as the skies across the front line are saturated with Russian drones looking for targets.

## PSG fans raise the roof as triumphant players hold aloft Champions League trophy

By JEROME PUGMIRE and ANGELA CHARLTON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Paris Saint-Germain players walked into a wall of noise at their home stadium on Sunday and brandished aloft the Champions League trophy that their fans have waited so long to savor.

Coach Luis Enrique, the architect of PSG's astonishing 5-0 destruction of Inter Milan in Munich on Saturday night, received a huge ovation at Parc des Princes, as did the influential Ousmane Dembélé and his teammates when they came onto the field one by one.

Their faces were shown on a giant screen and, when Dembélé's face was displayed, fans inside the 49,000-capacity stadium broke out into chants of "Dembélé, Ballon d'Or" in the hope he wins the most coveted individual award in world soccer.

But the loudest cheer of the night was for long-serving captain Marquinhos, who walked with club president Nasser Al-Khelaifi alongside him and with the Champions League trophy between them.

Al-Khelaifi and Dembélé were both tossed into the air by PSG's players, who then did a lap of honor

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after the greatest success in the club's 55-year history.

Open-top bus parade

PSG had earlier Sunday put on an open-top bus parade in the French capital for its fans.

The winners of European club soccer's biggest prize arrived in Paris on Sunday afternoon and headed to France's most famous avenue, the Champs-Élysées, which overnight Saturday saw acts of violence and clashes with riot police.

Thousands of police were deployed Sunday to keep order with similar tactics to those used on Saturday night, Paris police chief Laurent Nunez told reporters.

PSG fans waved blue and red as they waited for the team bus to arrive at shortly after 5 p.m. When the parade started, the atmosphere was calm as fans stood behind barriers with riot police in front of them.

Fans roared when Marquinhos brandished the trophy over his head, then passed it down to other players on the bus. Luis Enrique joined in with the fans as they sang one of the club's anthems, and Dembélé blew kisses. The team later met with French President Emmanuel Macron and first lady Brigitte Macron at the Élysée Palace, with players wearing club tracksuits and PSG jerseys.

After leaving the palace, the players arrived at the Parc des Princes, for a concert, light show and presentation of the trophy. Fans sang "Champions d'Europe" (Champions of Europe) as they waited for the ceremony.

Former club stalwarts like winger Jérôme Rothen and right back Bernard Mendy warmed up the crowd. Rothen made a joke about PSG becoming the first French side to win two European trophies — a wry dig at bitter rival Marseille, which from 1993 until Saturday night was the only French club to win the Champions League and reminded PSG about it every year with a slogan saying "À jamais les premiers" (Forever the first).

Only PSG and Marseille, which was also runner-up in 1991, have won the Champions League. Monaco in 2004 and PSG in 2020 reached the final. PSG won the now-defunct European Cup Winners' Cup in 1996 — hence Rothen's reference.

PSG denounces 'isolated acts' of violence

The exuberance on display in most places was overshadowed by the deaths of two people and some 200 injuries during Saturday night's celebrations. A total of 294 arrests had been made overnight and two cars were set alight close to Parc des Princes, which had shown the game live.

The overnight fatalities marred a night of exuberance after PSG clinched its first — and long-awaited — Champions League title. The Eiffel Tower glowed in team colors and fans partied through the night.

PSG denounced the violence. "These isolated acts are contrary to the club's values, and don't at all represent the immense majority of our fans," PSG said in a statement.

Celebrations were largely peaceful but degenerated into violence in some areas.

A 17-year-old boy was stabbed to death in the western city of Dax during a PSG street party after the final, the national police service said. The regional prosecutor said the killing was not apparently linked to the match. In Paris, a man in his 20s was killed in Paris when his scooter was hit by a car during PSG celebrations.

A police officer was hit accidentally by fireworks at a PSG gathering in northwest France and placed in an artificial coma because of grave eye injuries.

A total of 201 people were injured around the capital, four of them seriously, the Paris police said. AP reporters saw tear gas used near the stadium and water cannons used near the Arc de Triomphe to disperse rowdy crowds.

But at the Place de la Bastille, joyous fans climbed onto the base of the famous column, singing, dancing and letting off flares, while those around them joined in.

Nunez blamed the scattered troubles on "thousands of people who came to commit acts of violence" instead of watching the match. He noted similar unrest on the sidelines of prior celebrations in the capital, such as after France's World Cup win in 2018.

Fans flock to trophy parade

France had also paraded down the Champs-Élysées when it won the World Cup for the first time in 1998.



This time it was PSG's turn — at long last — and up to 110,000 people watched.

A wide swath of central Paris was closed to traffic for the exceptional day and security measures also impacted the French Open unfolding nearby.

Buses hoping to pick up fans at Roland-Garros were held up in congested traffic while fans rode past on scooters, honking their horns and waving flags.

Record 24-time men's Grand Slam winner Novak Djokovic made the 10-minute walk from stadium to stadium, and smiled at the crowd when his face was beamed on screen.

But Sunday night belonged to the champions on the field.

## Exercise boosts survival rates in colon cancer patients, study shows

By CARLA K. JOHNSON AP Medical Writer

A three-year exercise program improved survival in colon cancer patients and kept disease at bay, a first-of-its-kind international experiment showed.

With the benefits rivaling some drugs, experts said cancer centers and insurance plans should consider making exercise coaching a new standard of care for colon cancer survivors. Until then, patients can increase their physical activity after treatment, knowing they are doing their part to prevent cancer from coming back.

"It's an extremely exciting study," said Dr. Jeffrey Meyerhardt of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, who wasn't involved in the research. It's the first randomized controlled trial to show a reduction in cancer recurrences and improved survival linked to exercise, Meyerhardt said.

Prior evidence was based on comparing active people with sedentary people, a type of study that can't prove cause and effect. The new study — conducted in Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, Israel and the United States — compared people who were randomly selected for an exercise program with those who instead received an educational booklet.

"This is about as high a quality of evidence as you can get," said Dr. Julie Gralow, chief medical officer of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. "I love this study because it's something I've been promoting but with less strong evidence for a long time."

The findings were featured Sunday at ASCO's annual meeting in Chicago and published by the New England Journal of Medicine. Academic research groups in Canada, Australia and the U.K. funded the work.

Researchers followed 889 patients with treatable colon cancer who had completed chemotherapy. Half were given information promoting fitness and nutrition. The others worked with a coach, meeting every two weeks for a year, then monthly for the next two years.

Coaches helped participants find ways to increase their physical activity. Many people, including Terri Swain-Collins, chose to walk for about 45 minutes several times a week.

"This is something I could do for myself to make me feel better," said Swain-Collins, 62, of Kingston, Ontario. Regular contact with a friendly coach kept her motivated and accountable, she said. "I wouldn't want to go there and say, 'I didn't do anything,' so I was always doing stuff and making sure I got it done."

After eight years, the people in the structured exercise program not only became more active than those in the control group but also had 28% fewer cancers and 37% fewer deaths from any cause. There were more muscle strains and other similar problems in the exercise group.

"When we saw the results, we were just astounded," said study co-author Dr. Christopher Booth, a cancer doctor at Kingston Health Sciences Centre in Kingston, Ontario.

Exercise programs can be offered for several thousand dollars per patient, Booth said, "a remarkably affordable intervention that will make people feel better, have fewer cancer recurrences and help them live longer."

Researchers collected blood from participants and will look for clues tying exercise to cancer prevention, whether through insulin processing or building up the immune system or something else.

Swain-Collins' coaching program ended, but she is still exercising. She listens to music while she walks

in the countryside near her home.

That kind of behavior change can be achieved when people believe in the benefits, when they find ways to make it fun and when there's a social component, said paper co-author Kerry Courneya, who studies exercise and cancer at the University of Alberta. The new evidence will give cancer patients a reason to stay motivated.

"Now we can say definitively exercise causes improvements in survival," Courneya said.

## **Can Trump fix the national debt? Republican senators, many investors and even Elon Musk have doubts**

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump faces the challenge of convincing Republican senators, global investors, voters and even Elon Musk that he won't bury the federal government in debt with his multitrillion-dollar tax breaks package.

The response so far from financial markets has been skeptical as Trump seems unable to trim deficits as promised.

"All of this rhetoric about cutting trillions of dollars of spending has come to nothing — and the tax bill codifies that," said Michael Strain, director of economic policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute, a right-leaning think tank. "There is a level of concern about the competence of Congress and this administration and that makes adding a whole bunch of money to the deficit riskier."

The White House has viciously lashed out at anyone who has voiced concern about the debt snowballing under Trump, even though it did exactly that in his first term after his 2017 tax cuts.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt opened her briefing Thursday by saying she wanted "to debunk some false claims" about his tax cuts.

Leavitt said the "blatantly wrong claim that the 'One, Big, Beautiful Bill' increases the deficit is based on the Congressional Budget Office and other scorekeepers who use shoddy assumptions and have historically been terrible at forecasting across Democrat and Republican administrations alike."

House Speaker Mike Johnson piled onto Congress' number crunchers on Sunday, telling NBC's "Meet the Press," "The CBO sometimes gets projections correct, but they're always off, every single time, when they project economic growth. They always underestimate the growth that will be brought about by tax cuts and reduction in regulations."

But Trump himself has suggested that the lack of sufficient spending cuts to offset his tax reductions came out of the need to hold the Republican congressional coalition together.

"We have to get a lot of votes," Trump said last week. "We can't be cutting."

That has left the administration betting on the hope that economic growth can do the trick, a belief that few outside of Trump's orbit think is viable.

Most economists consider the non-partisan CBO to be the foundational standard for assessing policies, though it does not produce cost estimates for actions taken by the executive branch such as Trump's unilateral tariffs.

Tech billionaire Musk, who was until recently part of Trump's inner sanctum as the leader of the Department of Government Efficiency, told CBS News: "I was disappointed to see the massive spending bill, frankly, which increases the budget deficit, not just decreases it, and undermines the work that the DOGE team is doing."

Federal debt keeps rising

The tax and spending cuts that passed the House last month would add more than \$5 trillion to the national debt in the coming decade if all of them are allowed to continue, according to the Committee for a Responsible Financial Budget, a fiscal watchdog group.

To make the bill's price tag appear lower, various parts of the legislation are set to expire. This same tactic was used with Trump's 2017 tax cuts and it set up this year's dilemma, in which many of the tax cuts in that earlier package will sunset next year unless Congress renews them.

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But the debt is a much bigger problem now than it was eight years ago. Investors are demanding the government pay a higher premium to keep borrowing as the total debt has crossed \$36.1 trillion. The interest rate on a 10-year Treasury Note is around 4.5%, up dramatically from the roughly 2.5% rate being charged when the 2017 tax cuts became law.

The White House Council of Economic Advisers argues that its policies will unleash so much rapid growth that the annual budget deficits will shrink in size relative to the overall economy, putting the U.S. government on a fiscally sustainable path.

The council argues the economy would expand over the next four years at an annual average of about 3.2%, instead of the Congressional Budget Office's expected 1.9%, and as many as 7.4 million jobs would be created or saved.

Council chair Stephen Miran told reporters that when the growth being forecast by the White House is coupled with expected revenues from tariffs, the expected budget deficits will fall. The tax cuts will increase the supply of money for investment, the supply of workers and the supply of domestically produced goods — all of which, by Miran's logic, would cause faster growth without creating new inflationary pressures.

"I do want to assure everyone that the deficit is a very significant concern for this administration," Miran said.

White House budget director Russell Vought told reporters the idea that the bill is "in any way harmful to debt and deficits is fundamentally untrue."

Economists doubt Trump's plan can spark enough growth to reduce deficits

Most outside economists expect additional debt would keep interest rates higher and slow overall economic growth as the cost of borrowing for homes, cars, businesses and even college educations would increase.

"This just adds to the problem future policymakers are going to face," said Brendan Duke, a former Biden administration aide now at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a liberal think tank. Duke said that with the tax cuts in the bill set to expire in 2028, lawmakers would be "dealing with Social Security, Medicare and expiring tax cuts at the same time."

Kent Smetters, faculty director of the Penn Wharton Budget Model, said the growth projections from Trump's economic team are "a work of fiction." He said the bill would lead some workers to choose to work fewer hours in order to qualify for Medicaid.

"I don't know of any serious forecaster that has meaningfully raised their growth forecast because of this legislation," said Harvard University professor Jason Furman, who was the Council of Economic Advisers chair under the Obama administration. "These are mostly not growth- and competitiveness-oriented tax cuts. And, in fact, the higher long-term interest rates will go the other way and hurt growth."

The White House's inability so far to calm deficit concerns is stirring up political blowback for Trump as the tax and spending cuts approved by the House now move to the Senate. Republican Sens. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin and Rand Paul of Kentucky have both expressed concerns about the likely deficit increases, with Paul saying Sunday there are enough GOP senators to stall the bill until deficits are addressed.

"I think there are four of us at this point" who would oppose the legislation "if the bill, at least, is not modified in a good direction," Paul said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

"The GOP will own the debt once they vote for this," Paul said.

Four Republican holdouts would be enough to halt the bill in the Senate, where the party holds a three-seat majority.

Trump banking on tariff revenues to help

The White House is also banking that tariff revenues will help cover the additional deficits, even though recent court rulings cast doubt on the legitimacy of Trump declaring an economic emergency to impose sweeping taxes on imports.

When Trump announced his near-universal tariffs in April, he specifically said his policies would generate enough new revenues to start paying down the national debt. His comments dovetailed with remarks by aides, including Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, that yearly budget deficits could be more than halved.

"It's our turn to prosper and in so doing, use trillions and trillions of dollars to reduce our taxes and pay down our national debt, and it'll all happen very quickly," Trump said two months ago as he talked up his

import taxes and encouraged lawmakers to pass the separate tax and spending cuts.

The Trump administration is correct that growth can help reduce deficit pressures, but it's not enough on its own to accomplish the task, according to new research by economists Douglas Elmendorf, Glenn Hubbard and Zachary Liscow.

Ernie Tedeschi, director of economics at the Budget Lab at Yale University, said additional "growth doesn't even get us close to where we need to be."

The government would need \$10 trillion of deficit reduction over the next 10 years just to stabilize the debt, Tedeschi said. And even though the White House says the tax cuts would add to growth, most of the cost goes to preserve existing tax breaks, so that's unlikely to boost the economy meaningfully.

"It's treading water," Tedeschi said.

## **3 patients are killed in a fire at a hospital in Germany. Another patient is detained**

BERLIN (AP) — Three patients were killed and many people were injured in a fire that broke out overnight at a hospital in the German city of Hamburg, authorities said Sunday. Another patient was detained on suspicion of starting the blaze.

Firefighters were alerted to the fire at the hospital, the Marienkrankenhaus, shortly after midnight. It broke out in a room in the geriatric ward, on the ground floor of the building, and spread to the facade of the floor above. Smoke spread across the building's four floors, German news agency dpa reported.

The three people who died were men aged 84, 85 and 87, police said in a statement. Another 34 people were injured, one of whom was in a life-threatening condition.

A section of the hospital had to be evacuated. Injured patients were treated mostly at the hospital itself, though two were taken to nearby clinics. The fire was extinguished within about 20 minutes.

Firefighters said they found several patients at the windows calling for help. People were rescued using ladders and through the building itself.

Later Sunday, police said witness interviews suggested that a 72-year-old patient may have set the fire. He was detained at the hospital on suspicion of arson.

Investigators are looking into whether mental illness was a factor, police said.

## **Saudi Arabia stops 269,678 Muslims without Hajj permits from entering Mecca**

By BARAA ANWER Associated Press

MECCA, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi Arabia stopped more than 269,000 people without permits for the annual Hajj pilgrimage from entering Mecca, officials said Sunday, as authorities crack down on illegal journeys into the city.

The government blames overcrowding at the Hajj on unauthorized participants. It also says they made up large numbers of those who died in last year's searing summer heat.

The number of expulsions highlights the scale of unauthorized pilgrimages — as well as the demand to perform the Hajj. There are currently 1.4 million Muslims in Mecca officially, with more expected to arrive in the days to come.

There are fines of up to \$5,000 and other punitive measures, like deportation, for anyone performing the Hajj without a permit. The policy includes citizens and those with Saudi residency.

At a press conference in Mecca, officials said they had stopped 269,678 people without permits from entering the city. According to the rules, only those with permits are allowed to perform the pilgrimage, even if they live in the city year-round.

Officials have also imposed penalties on more than 23,000 Saudi residents for violating Hajj regulations and revoked the licenses of 400 Hajj companies.



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Lt. Gen. Mohammed Al-Omari told the media: "The pilgrim is in our sight, and anyone who disobeys is in our hands."

The Hajj is the annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca and involves a series of religious rituals. It's a once-in-a-lifetime obligation for every Muslim who can afford it and is physically able to do it.

But it has been marred in recent years by concerns about extreme temperatures, with pilgrims performing their rituals outdoors in peak daylight hours.

Historically, deaths are not uncommon at the Hajj, which has seen at times over 2 million people travel to Saudi Arabia for a five-day pilgrimage. It has also seen fatal stampedes and other accidents.

Saudi Arabia's Civil Defense said Sunday that drones were being used for the first time at the Hajj. These can be used for surveillance and monitoring, as well as extinguishing fires.

## **Being a devout Catholic at a secular college can be challenging. Some call it a blessing.**

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO Associated Press

PRINCETON, N.J. (AP) — While other students might be in class or socializing at lunch, a group of young Catholics attends Mass every weekday at noon at the Princeton University Chapel.

They sing Gregorian chants in Latin, pray and receive Communion at a side chapel — inside the huge, nondenominational Princeton Chapel — that young, devoted Catholics see as a sacred refuge in a mostly liberal and secular Ivy League environment.

"I feel that people's faith is so strong here," student Logan Nelson said of the dedicated Catholic space where he attends daily Mass. "It feels like a home — even more so than my own house."

A tight-knit Catholic campus ministry at a historic chapel

The Gothic university chapel was built in 1928. At the time, Princeton says, its capacity to seat more than 2,000 people was second in size only to King's College Chapel at Cambridge University.

Today, the chapel hosts interfaith services, concerts and weddings throughout the academic year and is known by the university as "the bridge between town and gown."

On May 8, Catholic students were worshipping as usual at daily Mass in the side chapel when the service was interrupted by news alerts on their phones. In the Vatican, white smoke billowed from the Sistine Chapel, indicating that a new leader of their faith had been elected.

The Rev. Zachary Swantek, Princeton's Catholic chaplain, told the group to gather at the Catholic Ministry office. Together, they watched on TV as the election of the first U.S.-born pope was announced.

"It was electric," Nelson said, adding there was "uproar" in the room when Chicago-born Cardinal Robert Prevost became the 267th pontiff. "It was so cool to see an American pope."

Like other members of the Catholic ministry, he is hopeful that Pope Leo XIV will help bring a revival for Catholicism in America.

"I feel that there's a resurgence of Catholicism today," said Nelson, who was religiously unaffiliated until last year when he converted to Catholicism. "You see people who are passionate about their faith. There's a new wave coming, and we're going to have more converts like me, who are coming from the 'nones.'"

Across much of the world, the number of people who are nonbelievers or unaffiliated with any organized religion has dramatically increased over the years. The people known as "nones" — atheists, agnostics, or nothing in particular — comprise 30% or more of the adult population in the U.S., according to a survey by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Princeton's Office of Religious Life says it supports members of the school community "of any religious identity or of none."

Being a devoted Catholic on a mostly secular campus can be challenging; Swantek says he's never felt "more needed as a priest."

He is proud of the tight-knit, welcoming Catholic community that he leads, and how they've helped recent converts come into the faith.

A U.S.-born pope becomes a sign of hope for American Catholics

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News of the first U.S.-born pope was welcomed by Catholics across the ideological spectrum in Pope Leo XIV's homeland.

"Something that did bring me a lot of hope is Pope Leo has a missionary background," said Ace Acuna, a Princeton alumni. He recently attended a Mass at the chapel before beginning a nearly five-week Catholic pilgrimage from Indianapolis to Los Angeles.

"In a world where in some places it might look like faith is on the decline, a church that's willing to go out to the margins and evangelize and be on mission, that's going to be so important," Acuna said.

When he was an undergrad at Princeton, Acuna said the chapel became crucial to his college life.

On his way to class every morning, he'd pass by the chapel for a silent prayer. He'd return for the noon Mass and again at the end of the day for one last prayer.

"Princeton is a very busy place and there's a lot of noise both externally but also internally because we're so busy and we're always worried about the next thing," he said. "Sometimes you just want silence, and you just want a place where you can lay down your burdens."

At the close of one recent Mass, David Kim and his girlfriend Savannah Nichols continued to pray near the altar, holding hands, kneeling or prostrating on the floor in a sign of reverence.

Kim, a recent graduate of the Princeton Theological Seminary, converted to Catholicism last year and has been serving as an altar server at the Princeton University chapel. He called the chapel's side altar "an island of Christian life in an unbelieving world."

Princeton University has always had a vibrant religious community and a religiously diverse one, said Eric Gregory, a professor of religion there.

"In a way it's either so secular or even post-secular that it's not threatened by the Christian presence on campus," he said. "Religious students in our campus are not cloistered from campus. They're also in sports teams, clubs and the newspaper. They're integrated."

Catholics students in Leo's home state cheer his election

Catholics at the the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign were elated by his election — and reinvigorated in practicing their faith.

"Being able to live out my faith in this extremely secular campus is such a blessing to me," said student Daniel Vanisko, a lifelong Catholic, later adding in an email that the pope's election "really helps me to draw closer to my faith, seeing that someone that grew up in the same state as me, is the successor of Peter in the Church."

Cavan Morber, a rising junior, said attending UIUC "gives me chance to be challenged in my beliefs, think critically about what I believe, and share my faith with others."

Asked in an email exchange about the pope's election, Morber replied: "What a time to be alive!"

"I am hopeful for how he will be able to unite the Church in a time of a lot of division among Catholics and everyone around the world," Morber added.

## Road accident in northern Nigeria kills 22 athletes returning from a sports festival

By DYEPKAZAH SHIBAYAN Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — A bus veered off a bridge in Nigeria's northern state of Kano, killing at least 22 athletes returning home from a sports festival and leaving several other passengers injured, the state's governor said.

The cause of the accident, which happened on Saturday, was not immediately known. The athletes had taken part in the Nigerian National Sports Festival in the southern state of Ogun over the last week.

The driver appeared to lose control of the bus and the vehicle, with over 30 passengers, plunged off the Chiromawa Bridge on the Kano-Zaria expressway, according to Abba Kabir Yusuf, the governor of Kano.

Survivors of the crash were taken to a local hospital for treatment.

Yusuf said the athletes, who were accompanied by their coaches and sporting officials, were representing Kano at the sports festival, a major multi-sports event that bringing together athletes from the country's

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35 states every two years.

The governor declared Monday a day of mourning for the state. The families of the victims are to receive 1 million naira (about \$630) and food supplies as support, Kano's deputy governor, Aminu Gwarzo, said.

Road accidents are frequent in Africa's most populous country, in part due to poor road conditions and lax enforcement of traffic laws.

In March, at least six people died near Nigeria's capital of Abuja after a trailer crashed into parked vehicles and burst into flames.

## **Today in History: June 2, Queen Elizabeth II crowned**

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, June 2, the 153rd day of 2025. There are 212 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On June 2, 1953, Queen Elizabeth II was crowned at age 27 at a ceremony in London's Westminster Abbey, 16 months after the death of her father, King George VI.

Also on this date:

In 1886, 49-year-old President Grover Cleveland became the first president to get married in the White House, wedding 21-year-old Frances Folsom.

In 1924, Congress passed, and President Calvin Coolidge signed, the Indian Citizenship Act, a measure guaranteeing full American citizenship for all Native Americans born within U.S. territorial limits.

In 1941, baseball's "Iron Horse," Lou Gehrig, died in New York of the degenerative disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease; he was 37.

In 1966, U.S. space probe Surveyor 1 landed on the moon and began transmitting detailed photographs of the lunar surface.

In 1997, Timothy McVeigh was convicted of murder by a federal jury in the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, which killed 168 people. (McVeigh would be sentenced to death and was executed in 2001.)

In 1999, South Africans went to the polls in their second post-apartheid election, giving the African National Congress a decisive victory; retiring President Nelson Mandela was succeeded by Thabo Mbeki.

In 2012, ousted Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was sentenced to life in prison after a court convicted him on charges of complicity in the killing of protesters during the 2011 uprising that forced him from power (Mubarak was later acquitted and freed in March 2017; he died in February 2020).

In 2016, autopsy results revealed that musician Prince died of an accidental overdose of fentanyl, a powerful opioid painkiller.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Stacy Keach is 84. Filmmaker Lasse Hallström is 79. Actor Jerry Mathers is 77. Actor Joanna Gleason is 75. NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman is 73. Actor Dennis Haysbert is 71. Comedian Dana Carvey is 70. TV personality-producer Andy Cohen is 57. Actor-comedian Wayne Brady is 53. Actor Wentworth Miller is 53. Actor Zachary Quinto is 48. Actor Justin Long is 47. Actor Morena Baccarin is 46. Olympic soccer gold medalist Abby Wambach is 45. Actor-rapper Awkwafina is 37.