

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 1 of 62

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
- [4- City Council Agenda](#)
- [5- Brown County Commission Agenda](#)
- [6- Minnehaha County Fatal Crash](#)
- [7- Department of Health Reports First Measles Case in South Dakota](#)
- [8- Groton Post 39 Fall After Strong Showing By Aberdeen Smittys](#)
- [9- SD SearchLight: State employee charged with forging own medical marijuana card](#)
- [10- SD SearchLight: A museum takes students on flights to the stars, but future trips are in question](#)
- [13- SD SearchLight: Amid national outbreak, South Dakota reports its first measles case of the year](#)
- [14- SD SearchLight: Judge preserves work permits, deportation protections for 5,000 Venezuelans](#)
- [15- Weather Pages](#)
- [19- Daily Devotional](#)
- [20- Subscription Form](#)
- [21- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [22- Upcoming Groton Events](#)
- [23- News from the Associated Press](#)

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.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 2 of 62

1440

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

Charges in Colorado Attack

A suspect arrested following a Sunday attack in Boulder, Colorado, will face federal hate crime charges, officials announced yesterday. The attack—carried out with Molotov cocktails and a makeshift flamethrower—left 12 people injured. The suspect was also charged with multiple counts of attempted first-degree murder after deliberation and attempted first-degree murder with extreme indifference.

Mohamed Sabry Soliman, 45, allegedly targeted a local “Run for Their Lives” event, a weekly demonstration held in cities around the world to advocate for the release of Israeli hostages still held by Hamas in Gaza. According to accounts, he threw two homemade firebombs into the crowd before approaching with a weed sprayer filled with flammable gas. Officials said Soliman, living in the US illegally on an expired visa since early 2023, confessed to deliberately targeting the event in support of Palestinians in Gaza.

The attack comes about two weeks after two Israeli Embassy aides were shot and killed following an event in DC.

South Korea Snap Election

South Korea will hold a snap presidential election today, following the ousting of President Yoon Suk Yeol after his brief martial law declaration in December. Yoon’s decree, which suspended parliament and targeted opposition lawmakers, led to a standoff at the National Assembly, mass protests, and his removal from office in April.

More than 44 million people are eligible to vote, with the main contenders being liberal Lee Jae-myung, a former human rights lawyer and leader of the Democratic Party, and conservative Kim Moon-soo of the ruling People Power Party. Lee, who narrowly lost to Yoon in 2022, currently leads in polls, boosted by his role in resisting the martial law order and advocating stronger democratic safeguards. Top priorities include restoring public trust in a divided country, managing relations with North Korea and China, and navigating US tariffs, which could impact South Korean exports with rates up to 25% if a temporary pause expires July 9.

The winner will take office immediately, skipping the usual transition period, and serve a single five-year term.

Saharan Dust Storm

A cloud of Saharan dust—roughly the size of the continental US—is expected to reach the US Gulf Coast midweek after traveling more than 5,000 miles across the Atlantic from North Africa.

The event is considered the biggest of its kind this year and marks the start of the annual dust plume season, a natural phenomenon in which wind and tropical waves blow dry, dusty air from the Sahara Desert westward across the Atlantic Ocean between April and October. The massive dust cloud, known as the Saharan Air Layer, hangs between 5,000 and 20,000 feet above the Earth’s surface and can suppress storm and hurricane formation by making the air less moist.

The dust has reached the Caribbean and Puerto Rico so far. It is expected to thin by the time it reaches Florida, Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi, though affected areas will see reduced visibility, hazy orange or reddish skies, and diminished air quality. The plume’s US arrival is expected to last into the weekend.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 3 of 62

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Novak Djokovic reaches French Open quarterfinals for a record-breaking 19th time ... and American Coco Gauff reaches French Open quarters for fifth consecutive year.

Comedian Marc Maron's pioneering podcast "WTF" to end this fall after 16 years and nearly 2,000 episodes.

Harvey Weinstein won't testify at his retrial on rape and sexual assault charges as closing arguments begin today.

John Brenkus, longtime host of Emmy-winning show "Sport Science," dies at age 54 after battle with depression.

Science & Technology

Brain implant startup Paradromics completes its first human demonstration, inserting and removing the device into an epileptic patient; company is viewed as a potential competitor to Neuralink.

Neuralink raises \$650M, investment round includes Founders Fund and Sequoia Capital.

New simulation suggests the Milky Way has only a 50% chance of eventually colliding with the Andromeda Galaxy in roughly 10 billion years, potentially prevented by the pull of the Large Magellanic Cloud.

Undergraduate student discovers fungus that produces compounds with effects similar to synthetic.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher (S&P 500 +0.4%, Dow +0.1%, Nasdaq +0.7%); steel stocks, including Cleveland-Cliffs (+23%) and Steel Dynamics (+10%), rally after President Donald Trump announces doubling of tariffs on steel imports.

Google to spend \$500M over next decade to overhaul its compliance systems to settle shareholder antitrust lawsuit.

French drugmaker Sanofi to buy US-based Blueprint Medicines for up to \$9.5B to boost position in rare immunology diseases.

Office demolitions and conversions this year exceed new construction for first time in 25 years, per new data.

Politics & World Affairs

Russia and Ukraine meet for hourlong peace talks in Istanbul, agree to exchange more prisoners of war and return the bodies of 12,000 dead soldiers; no progress reached in proposed ceasefire.

Italy's Mount Etna (Europe's tallest volcano) erupts, with the pyroclastic flow—made up of ash, rock, and gas—likely caused by the collapse of material from the side of a southeast crater.

Populist-nationalist Karol Nawrocki wins Poland's presidential election, narrowly defeating pro-EU Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski; will take office Aug. 6.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 4 of 62

Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

June 3, 2025 – 7:00pm

City Hall – 120 North Main Street

(IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CALL IN TO THIS MEETING, PLEASE MAKE PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS TO DO SO BY
CALLING CITY HALL 605-397-8422)

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
3. Approval of Frohling Sixth Addition Plat
4. Department Reports
5. Update City Maps
6. Authorization to Purchase Used Dump Truck
7. Electric Metering System
8. Approval of Special Event Liquor License – Groton Amateur Baseball
9. Authorization to Surplus 2017 Ford Interceptor SUV
10. Budget & SD FIT Investment Discussion
11. Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
12. Minutes
13. Bills
14. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
15. Adjournment

Broton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 5 of 62

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

June 3, 2025, 8:45 A.M.

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

1. Call To Order - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Opportunity for Public Comment
 - ❖ *Public comment will be limited to 10 minutes or at Boards Discretion. Presentations will be limited to 3 minutes.*
4. Lynn Heupel, County Auditor
 - a. Software Purchase Discussion
5. Karly Winter, State's Attorney & Kelsi Vinger, State's Attorney Grant Coordinator
 - a. Aberdeen Area Community Foundation Grant
6. Consent Calendar
 - a. Approval of General Meeting Minutes for May 27, 2025
 - b. Claims/Payroll
 - c. HR Report
 - d. Operating Transfers
 - e. Lease Agreements
 - f. Claim Assignments
7. Other Business
8. Executive Session (if requested per SDCL 1-25-2)
9. Adjourn

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

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

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

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

Minnehaha County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash

Where: I-90 at mile marker 394, 2 miles west of Sioux Falls, SD

When: 9:06 a.m., Monday, June 2, 2025

Driver 1: 50-year-old male from Flandreau, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2012 Dodge Grand Caravan

Seat Belt Used: No

Driver 2: Male, minor injuries

Vehicle 2: 2015 Ford F-350 road construction vehicle

Seat Belt Used: Yes

Minnehaha County, S.D.- A Flandreau, South Dakota man died following a two- vehicle crash Monday morning near Sioux Falls.

Names of the those involved have not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a Ford F-350 road construction vehicle was stopped on I-90 westbound in the right-hand lane directing traffic into the left lane. The Ford was equipped with a working warning sign and arrow. The driver of a Dodge Grand Caravan struck the back of the Ford, sending it into the median where it caught fire. The Dodge came to rest on the westbound shoulder.

The driver of the Dodge Grand Caravan died from his injuries. The driver of the Ford F-350 was transported to a local hospital with minor injuries.

All information released is preliminary.

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

Department of Health Reports First Measles Case in South Dakota

PIERRE, SD – The South Dakota Department of Health is reporting the first measles case of 2025 in a South Dakota resident. An adult in Meade County developed a measles infection after traveling internationally. The measles patient visited several public locations, and persons who were in the same settings are asked to self-monitor for measles symptoms for 21 days.

Community members may have been exposed to measles during the following times and locations:

Rapid City Medical Center Urgent Care waiting room (2820 Mt Rushmore Road, Rapid City, SD)

May 28, 2025, from 7:15 am to 10 am MT

Monument Health Sturgis Urgent Care waiting room (2140 Junction Ave, Sturgis, SD)

May 29, 2025, from 9:45 am to 3 pm MT

Measles symptoms appear in two stages. In the first stage, the individual may have a runny nose, cough, and a slight fever. The eyes may become reddened and sensitive to light while the fever consistently rises each day. The second stage begins on the third to seventh day of symptoms and consists of a temperature of 103-105°F, and a red blotchy rash lasting for four to seven days. The rash usually begins on the face and then spreads down to the trunk and out to the arms and legs.

"Measles is a highly contagious viral disease and spreads through the air from an infected person," said Dr. Joshua Clayton, state epidemiologist. "Individuals who lack immunity from vaccination or past infection are at high risk of measles infection if they have contact with an infected person."

The measles vaccine offers the best protection against infection and avoids the risks that come with infection. The following people are considered immune to measles:

Born before 1957;

Received 1 dose of measles vaccine (MMR) for an adult;

Received 2 doses of measles vaccine (MMR) for a child or an adult at higher risk of infection;

Presence of measles antibodies shown by a lab test; and

Previous measles infection shown by a lab test.

Measles vaccine (MMR) is typically given at 12-15 months of age. The second dose of MMR is given at 4-6 years of age. The vaccine is highly effective at preventing measles infection, and two MMR doses usually produce lifelong immunity. If you are planning to travel internationally with children, MMR vaccines can be given to children starting at six months of age.

Learn more about measles on the Department of Health website where information can be found in the form of fact sheets, frequently asked questions, and a webinar for healthcare providers.

At the heart of the Department of Health's mission is a simple goal: to protect and improve the health of all South Dakotans. The department is entrusted with the vital task of promoting wellness, preventing disease, and ensuring access to quality healthcare for all South Dakotans.

Groton Post 39 Fall After Strong Showing By Aberdeen Smittys

By GameChanger Media

Groton Legion Post 39 couldn't keep up with Aberdeen Smittys and fell 17-7 on Monday.

Groton Legion Post 39 got on the board in the top of the first inning after Aberdeen Smittys committed an error, and Gavin Englund doubled down the left field line, each scoring one run.

Groton Legion Post 39 added one run in the third. Korbin Kucker scored after tagging up, making the score 3-0.

Aberdeen Smittys flipped the game on its head in the bottom of the fourth, scoring seven runs on five hits to take the lead, 8-3. The biggest blow in the inning was an error that drove in two.

Aberdeen Smittys scored six runs on three hits in the bottom of the eighth inning. Karson Borge was struck by a pitch, driving in a run, an error scored one run, Jehiel Aviles singled, scoring one run, and Joe Cogley doubled, scoring three runs.

Joran Foss earned the win for Aberdeen Smittys. The pitcher gave up four hits and three runs (one earned) over four innings, striking out seven and walking three. Englund pitched four innings in relief for Groton Legion Post 39. The reliever gave up 10 hits and nine runs (eight earned) while, striking out one and walking four. Jarrett Erdmann took the loss for Groton Legion Post 39. The starter went three and one-third innings, allowing eight runs (three earned) on three hits, striking out three and walking four.

Nick Morris led Groton Legion Post 39 with three runs batted in. The outfielder went 2-for-5 on the day. Morris, Englund, and Kucker each collected two hits for Groton Legion Post 39. Groton Legion Post 39 had a strong eye at the plate, piling up six walks for the game. Karsten Fliehs and Teylor Diegel led the team with two free passes each.

Aberdeen Smittys piled up 13 hits in the game. Cogley provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Aberdeen Smittys with five runs batted in. The number three hitter went 2-for-5 on the day. Aviles went 3-for-3 at the plate to lead Aberdeen Smittys in hits. Lance Siefken and Foss each collected multiple hits for Aberdeen Smittys. Aberdeen Smittys had patience at the plate, tallying eight walks for the game. Jaxon Ladner and Aviles led the team with two free passes each.

Next up for Groton Legion Post 39 is a game at Watertown on Thursday.

Copyright © 2025 GameChanger, Inc. All rights reserved. Any reuse or republication of this story must include the preceding attribution and is subject to the Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc. Terms of Use, License Agreement, and Privacy Policy.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

State employee charged with forging own medical marijuana card

New allegations push recent run of state employee criminal charges to six cases

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - JUNE 2, 2025 12:37 PM

Another former South Dakota state employee has been charged with allegedly committing a crime related to their job — the sixth such case since last summer.

Alexandra Feiner, 24, of Pierre, is charged with three felonies and one misdemeanor for allegedly forging and approving her own medical marijuana card recertification without a doctor's approval and avoiding the renewal fee. The standard fee is \$75 annually.

South Dakota voters legalized medical marijuana by citizen initiative in 2020. The program is overseen by the state Health Department. Cardholders must meet requirements certified by a medical provider, such as suffering a debilitating illness, before they can be issued a card.

"The defendant is charged with using her position of trust as a Department of Health employee for her own personal benefit," said Attorney General Marty Jackley. "This type of conduct reflects poorly on those state government employees who work hard for South Dakotans."

According to a news release Monday from the Attorney General's Office, Feiner's criminal activity occurred between March 2024 and March of this year.

The Attorney General's Office was tipped off about the case by a Pierre resident and former state Department of Health employee, according to court documents. Feiner worked with medical cannabis cards in the state Department of Health and was able to create and issue them. She legally obtained a medical cannabis card in 2023 but allegedly reissued the card to herself in 2024 without a medical provider certification.

Feiner turned over her card to law enforcement, according to court documents. She is no longer an employee of the state, according to Open SD, the state government financial transparency website, and her initial court appearance hasn't been scheduled.

Feiner faces up to nine total years in prison if convicted of the three felony charges, including forgery; offering a false or forged instrument for filing, registering or recording; and possession of a forged instrument. She faces up to one year in county jail if convicted of the misdemeanor charge of falsification of public records by a public officer or employee.

The Feiner case is among six criminal prosecutions Jackley has filed against former state employees since last year for allegations related to their work for state government.

One former employee, Lonna Carroll, used her position at the Department of Social Services to steal nearly \$1.8 million over the course of 13 years. A jury found Carroll guilty of grand theft, and she's scheduled to be sentenced in July. Other criminal allegations against former state employees included creating



A marijuana plant at the Dakota Herb grow operation near Tea, South Dakota. (John Hult/

South Dakota Searchlight)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 10 of 62

fake vehicle titles to avoid excise taxes, falsifying food service inspections, and the personal use of foster family food vouchers.

In response to the run of prosecutions, Jackley supported a package of four bills passed during the recent legislative session that will expand the investigatory authority of the state auditor; strengthen the Board of Internal Controls; institute mandatory reporting requirements for state employees and penalties for failing to report; and establish protections for whistleblowers.

Gov. Larry Rhoden signed an executive order in April mandating the creation of a "secure standard reporting mechanism" for employees. The portal will deliver whistleblower reports of malfeasance to the state's auditor and attorney general.

Lawmakers also passed legislation this year strengthening the ability of the Legislature's Government Operations and Audit Committee to conduct investigations and issue orders known as subpoenas requiring people to testify or supply information.

Last year, then-Gov. Kristi Noem added an extra internal control officer position to the executive branch and ordered state employees to undergo annual training aimed at preventing criminal activity.

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

A museum takes students on flights to the stars, but future trips are in question

The federal agency that helps make such enrichment possible could be destroyed in a frenzy of Trump administration cost-cutting

BY: ANYA KAMENETZ, THE HECHINGER REPORT - JUNE 2, 2025 7:00 AM

HAYTI — "Are we actually in space?"

The kindergartners of South Dakota's Hamlin County are, in fact, in space. To be specific, they are on planet Earth, near the geographic center of North America, sitting crisscross applesauce inside an 11-foot-high inflatable planetarium set up in their school gym.

The darkness is velvety. Childish whispers skitter around the dome like mice. The kids are returning from a short mission to Jupiter, piloted by Kristine Heinen, a young museum educator with a ponytail who knows how to make her voice BIG AND EXCITED and then inviting and quiet to hold little ones' attention.

"Now we're over China!" Heinen says.

"My friend went to China!" a girl calls out.

"The other side is nighttime and this side's bright," expounds a boy with a crew cut. "The sun shines here so it can't shine over there."

The school is in eastern South Dakota, 34 miles northeast of the settlement where Laura Ingalls Wilder grew up and attended a one-room schoolhouse. The sprawling Hamlin Education Center is a modern-day analogue, serving an entire district in one building, with just under 900 students, pre-K through 12. Notable graduates include U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, the former governor of South Dakota.

The center is roughly equidistant from four tiny towns, surrounded by open fields where cornstalks shine in the sun; 95% of students arrive by bus, from up to 20 miles away. Over a third of them qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, said Dustin Blaha, the elementary school's principal.

Blaha said that most of these children have never been to the South Dakota Discovery Center, a hands-on science museum three hours west in the state capital. But thanks to a federal agency called the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a part of the museum can come to them.

The IMLS was established in 1996, combining previously separate programs. The small agency became the largest source of federal funding for museums and libraries, last year awarding \$266.7 million in pro-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 11 of 62

gram grants, research and policy development across all 50 states. IMLS awarded the South Dakota Discovery Center about \$45,000 in 2023 to upgrade this traveling planetarium.

But students around the state may be waiting a long time for the next upgrade.

President Donald Trump signed an executive order in mid-March calling for the agency to be "eliminated to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law." Mass firings followed.

On May 1, the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., issued a temporary restraining order to block the agency's dismantling, followed on May 6 by a second federal judge finding the dismantling of this and two other agencies unconstitutional. On May 20, the American Library Association reported that employees are returning to work and some grants have been restored.

But the administration is continuing its legal battle to all but shutter the IMLS. The latest post on the agency's Instagram account is captioned,

"The era of using your taxpayer dollars to fund DEI grants is OVER," holding up for criticism grants that were aimed at addressing systemic racism in museums, equitable library practices, and diverse staff development. The IMLS and the Department of Government Efficiency did not respond to requests for comment.

A veteran of the agency who asked to remain anonymous because of fear of reprisal said they first saw DOGE staffers meeting with leadership on March 28. "On the 31st, we were put on administrative leave. We had about two hours to turn in your key cards, your ID, get everything off your laptop you're ever going to need. We were locked out of our computer systems by 3:30 and told to get out of the building." A skeleton crew was hastily rehired the next day.

The ex-staffer points out that the Institute of Museum and Library Services spends, or spent, just 7% of its budget on its 70 staff, passing the rest along as grants. "We are not a bloated agency." They have two kids at home, one with special needs and are married to another federal employee whose job is also at risk; but they are almost as worried about their grantees as themselves.

"After 20 years, I didn't even get to put an out-of-office response up. Is someone emailing me right now and getting nothing, because all of a sudden their grant just ended? I hate that," the former IMLS employee said.

Almost all grants awarded required a one-to-one cost share out of the local institution's budget, the staffer said. Plus, typically the grantees pay for activities first and then apply to get reimbursed. "We're leaving these often small rural museums and libraries on the hook."

Anne Lewis, executive director of the South Dakota Discovery Center, said that organizations like hers would be "wobbly" without federal funding and would have to scale back on ambitious programs like the planetarium upgrade.

"The new system has much better interaction and control," said Heinen, the museum educator. An earlier version had a static point of view, but upgraded visual effects mean that "now we have spaceship mode," she said. "We can travel to destinations including planets, and go in a full 360-degree mode around galaxies."

With a flick of the touchscreen menu, she can also display the constellations of a dozen different cultures including Lakota, a significant benefit especially when she visits tribal schools.

It's a lean operation: Heinen drove solo nearly 200 miles from Pierre to Watertown the evening before and spent the night at an Econo Lodge. From there, it was another 20-some miles to Hayti, where she



Hamlin Elementary students line up for their turn visiting a traveling planetarium sponsored by the South Dakota Discovery Center. (Anya Kamenetz

for The Hechinger Report)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 12 of 62

arrived at 7:30 in the morning, set up the dome herself, and ran 30-minute programs all day.

The whole elementary school, about 500 kids in total, saw the planetarium, with each show customized to the children's interest and grade level; and she also conducted a parent engagement program in the afternoon. Heinen said she never tires of being a "Santa Claus" for science. "As soon as they see me, they know something fun is going to happen."

During this visit, the fan favorites were Jupiter, Mars and the sun. "It was cool when we went to Mars," said Nash Christensen, 6. "And the volcano on that one moon, and the big hurricane on Jupiter. I think Jupiter is a dangerous place to live."

Grant recipients of the Institute of Museum and Library Services say the support from the federal government has been critical to running their programs. For example, the Boston Children's Museum, the second-oldest children's museum in the country, has used federal grant money to improve school readiness. One of the outcomes was a new exhibit in the museum, "Countdown to Kindergarten," that mimics a kindergarten classroom, complete with a school bus you can sit in out front.

"It's helpful not only for the kids, but some of our caregivers who came from other countries and may not have gone to a school like this," said Melissa Higgins, the museum's vice president of programs and exhibits.

At the Madison Children's Museum in Wisconsin, federal funds paid for a multistate partnership that provides climate education for young children and their families. In Fort Lauderdale, Florida, a grant covered five "STEMobiles," which offer hands-on science activities for children ages 3-5 in low-income parts of Broward County. The Philadelphia School District won a two-year planning grant to try to improve its pipeline of school librarians; they were down to only a handful for a district of 200,000 students.

But the greatest impact may come in rural, often deep-red areas.

"Rural communities have particularly unique challenges," said Lewis at the South Dakota Discovery Center. "There's 800,000 people in the state, and they're dispersed. We don't have a concentration of funders and donors who can help support these enrichment activities."

She said the teachers she serves are "passionate, committed and, like every other place in the world, underfunded." If not for institutions like hers, students would probably go without this kind of hands-on science experience, she said.

Blaha, the elementary school principal, concurred. "The planetarium brings excitement and expertise that we don't typically have in a community like this," he said.

For now, the excitement is coming to an end. The class has "landed" on a green lawn, under a deep blue sky. Heinen announces "It's time to leave." She's met with a chorus of, "Noo!"

"You guys, we were in here for a full 30 minutes."

"It felt like 10!"

"It felt like a second!"

Tonight, many of them will be able to look up at the dark sky over the prairie and show their parents Jupiter, Ursa Major and Mars.

Anya Kamenetz is a journalist, the author of "The Stolen Year: How Covid Changed Children's Lives, And Where We Go Now," and a senior adviser to the Aspen Institute's This Is Planet Ed initiative.

Amid national outbreak, South Dakota reports its first measles case of the year

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - JUNE 2, 2025 5:38 PM

As a national outbreak of measles continues, South Dakota has detected its first case of the year.

The state Department of Health said Monday in a news release that the infected person is a Meade County adult who "visited several public locations."

The department said people may have been exposed to measles in the Rapid City Medical Center Urgent Care waiting room from 7:15 a.m. to 10 a.m. Mountain time on May 28 and the Monument Health Sturgis Urgent Care waiting room from 9:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mountain time on May 29.

People who were in those settings should self-monitor for measles symptoms for 21 days, the department said.

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that spreads through the air from an infected person. People who lack immunity from vaccination or past infection are at high risk of measles infection if they have contact with an infected person.

Measles symptoms appear in two stages. In the first stage, the individual may have a runny nose, cough and a slight fever. The eyes may become reddened and sensitive to light while the fever consistently rises each day. The second stage begins on the third to seventh day of symptoms and consists of a temperature of 103-105 degrees Fahrenheit, and a red blotchy rash lasting for four to seven days. The rash usually begins on the face and then spreads down to the trunk and out to the arms and legs.

The department said the measles vaccine "offers the best protection against infection and avoids the risks that come with infection." The department said the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine "is highly effective at preventing measles infection, and two MMR doses usually produce lifelong immunity."

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a measles vaccination rate of 95% is needed to prevent outbreaks, given the highly contagious nature of the virus.

Vaccination rates have been falling in South Dakota, where incoming kindergarteners are required to be up to date on the MMR vaccine unless they have a medical or religious exemption. Ten years ago, six South Dakota counties had less than 95% of kindergarteners vaccinated for measles, with the lowest being 80%. Now, more than 40 counties in the state are below 95%, with 12 below 80% and five below 70%.

The South Dakota measles case comes amid the most severe U.S. measles outbreak in decades. According to the CDC, there had been more than 1,000 measles cases detected this year across 33 states prior to the detection in South Dakota.

Last year, South Dakota reported its first measles case in nine years.

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



A nurse readies an MMR vaccine at Sanford Children's Hospital in Sioux Falls. (Joshua Haiar/South Dakota Searchlight)

Judge preserves work permits, deportation protections for 5,000 Venezuelans

BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA - JUNE 2, 2025 3:05 PM

WASHINGTON — A federal judge in California has blocked the Trump administration from invalidating work permits and other documents that granted legal status to 5,000 Venezuelans, a subset class of the nearly 350,000 whose temporary legal protections the U.S. Supreme Court last month allowed to be terminated.

The Saturday order from U.S. District Judge Edward Chen will, for now, allow the work permits and deportation protections for that subgroup to last until October 2026, or until the entire case, which challenges the end of temporary protected status for Venezuelans and Haitians, is decided.

Those 5,000 Venezuelans were granted extended protections by immigration officials before the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on May 19 that allowed the Trump administration to move forward with revoking protections.

During a hearing last week, Chen said he was considering an order to preserve work permits for that small group of 5,000 Venezuelans. All 350,000 previously held temporary protected status, or TPS, which allows immigrants to live in the United States for a set period because their home country is deemed too dangerous for return.

Chen, who was appointed by former President Barack Obama to a seat in the Northern District of California, acknowledged that last month's Supreme Court decision created a small group of Venezuelans who had gotten work permits approved until October 2026 — before the high court's order moved up the date their TPS status expired, which was April 7.

Chen in March blocked the Trump administration from ending temporary protections for the group of all 350,000 Venezuelans. Last month's Supreme Court order means that those Venezuelans will be able to continue to challenge in court the end of their work permits and the possibility of removal, but they no longer have protections from deportation.

The case is also before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, which will hear oral arguments in July.

Ariana covers the nation's capital for States Newsroom. Her areas of coverage include politics and policy, lobbying, elections and campaign finance.



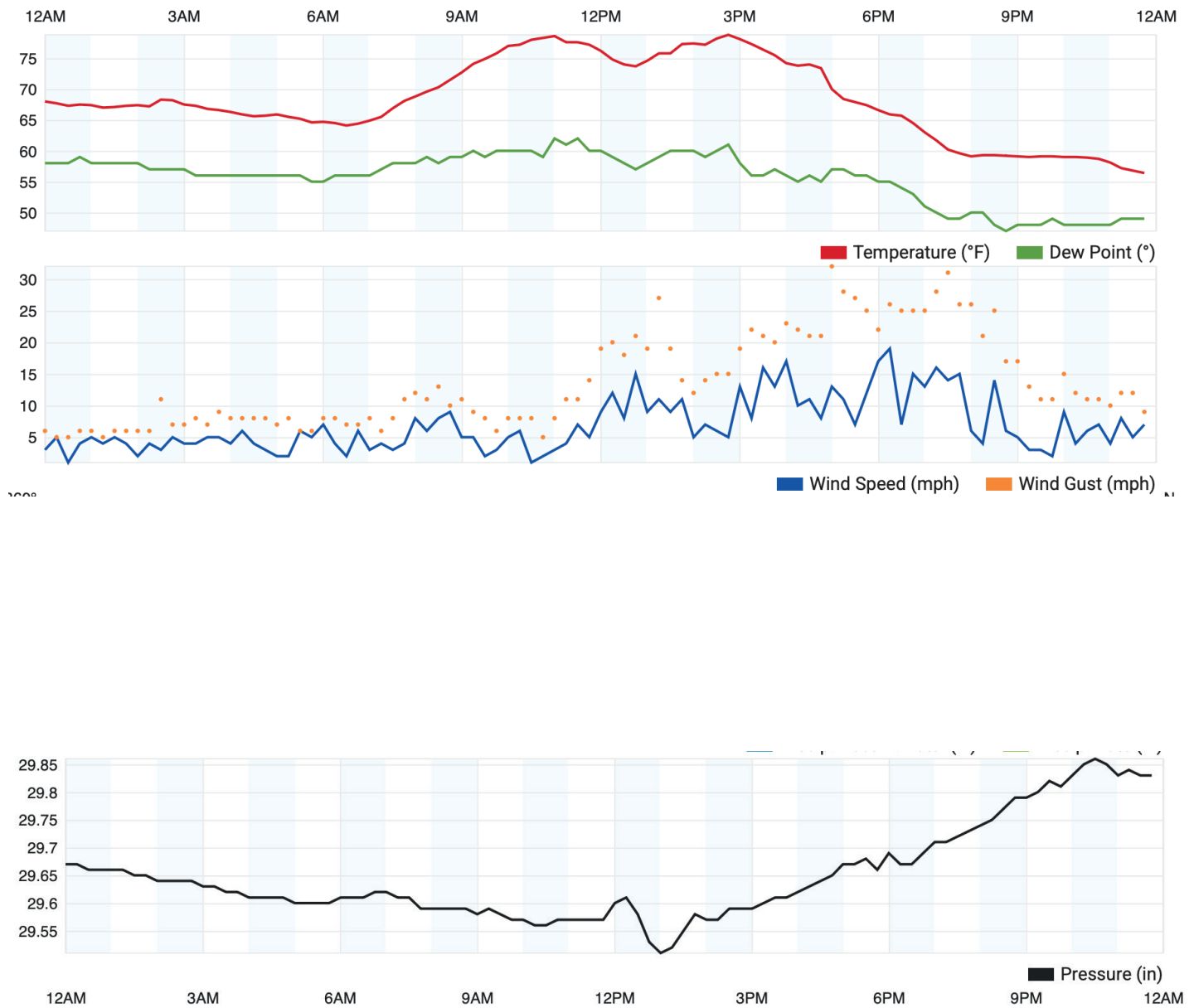
The U.S. Supreme Court, on Oct. 9, 2024. (Photo

by Jane Norman/States Newsroom)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 15 of 62

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 16 of 62

Today



High: 73 °F

Decreasing
Clouds

Tonight



Low: 45 °F

Mostly Clear

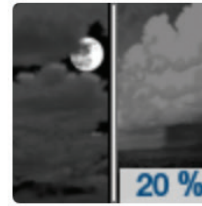
Wednesday



High: 75 °F

Increasing
Clouds

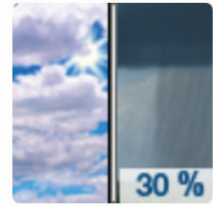
Wednesday
Night



Low: 46 °F

Mostly Cloudy
then Slight
Chance
Showers

Thursday



High: 73 °F

Mostly Cloudy
then Chance
Showers

3 Day Outlook

Today



69 to 74°

North to northwest winds 10 to 20 mph with gusts 25 to 30 mph.

Wednesday



70s

West to southwest winds 5 to 10 mph.

A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms west of the Missouri River.

Thursday



65 to 75°

Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms from the afternoon through Thursday night.



NWS Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/abr

Highs through Thursday will be in the upper 60s and 70s. Expect dry weather through Wednesday morning. There is a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms Wednesday afternoon, and a 40 percent chance of showers and a few thunderstorms Thursday afternoon through Thursday night.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 17 of 62

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 80 °F at 10:52 AM

Low Temp: 57 °F at 11:18 PM

Wind: 32 mph at 4:54 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 33 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 100 in 1933

Record Low: 34 in 1964

Average High: 77

Average Low: 52

Average Precip in June.: 0.32

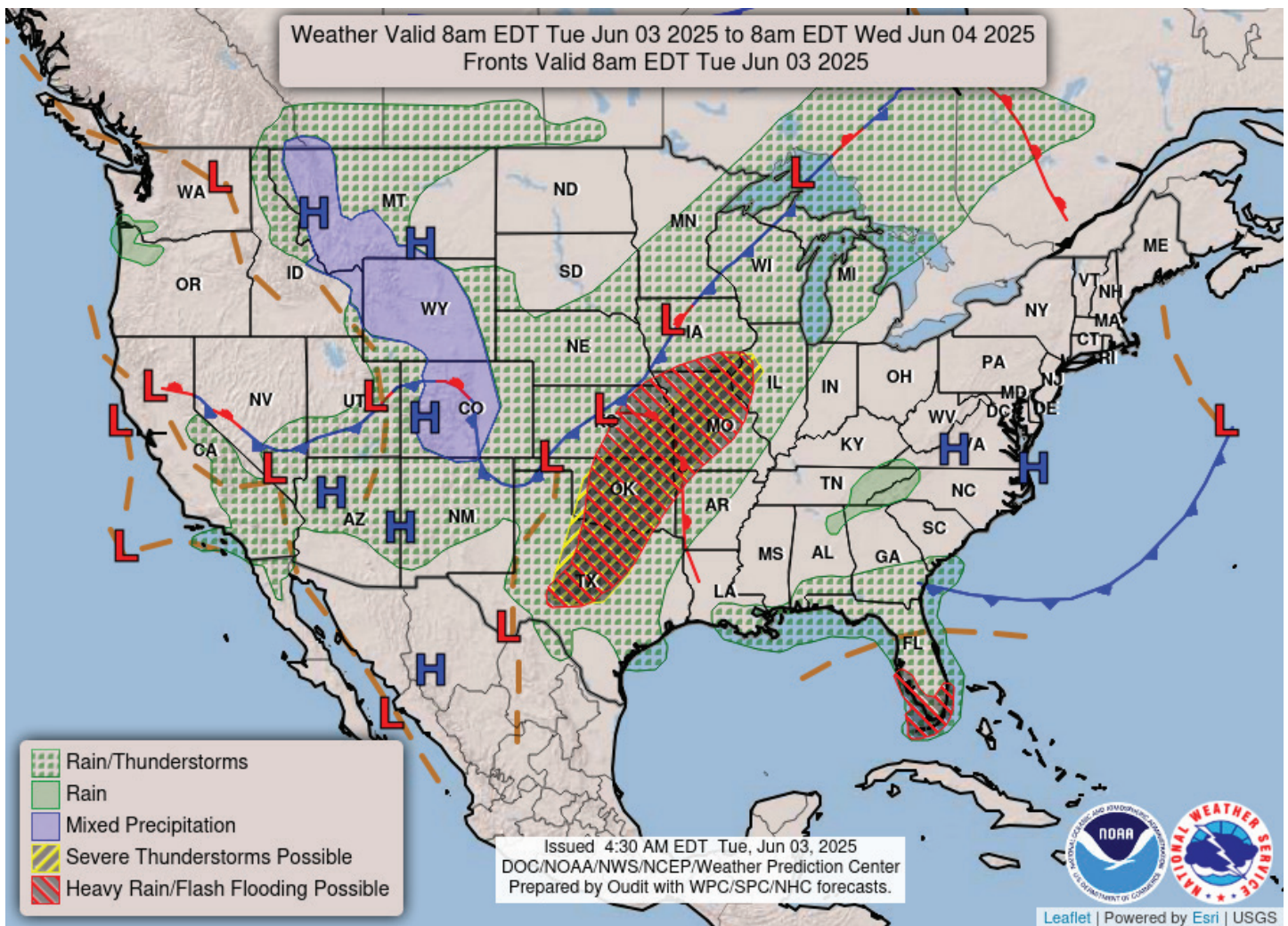
Precip to date in June: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 7.57

Precip Year to Date: 6.05

Sunset Tonight: 9:17:13 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:43:40 am



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 18 of 62

Today in Weather History

June 3, 1898: A violent windstorm passed over Aberdeen between 1 AM and 2 AM. Damage was confined to awnings, roofs of buildings, and plate glass windows.

June 3, 1933: This estimated F2 tornado moved ENE from 6 miles southwest of Wilmot, passing 3 miles south of town and dissipating at Big Stone Lake. A child was killed in a barn. Roof, barn, and church debris was scattered for miles, and over a dozen farms were heavily damaged. This tornado was estimated to be on the ground for about 15 miles.

June 3, 1975: Severe thunderstorms erupted across central sections of South Dakota. During the evening hours, the storms stretched from the southern border to the North Dakota state line and were packing high winds and large hail. In several areas, including Mobridge, hail as large as baseballs did damage to crops, homes, and vehicles and in some regions piled up to two feet deep. Strong thunderstorm winds also uprooted trees and damaged numerous farm buildings. Multiple funnels and small tornadoes were observed, including three in Charles Mix County.

June 3, 1997: Heavy rains of 2 to 4 inches through the early morning hours resulted in the flooding of some roads, fields, and creeks across parts of Jones and Lyman counties. In particular, the KOA campgrounds near Presho were heavily flooded. The KOA office and home had three and a half feet of water in them. Also, several homes near or in Presho received water and were heavily damaged. The Medicine and Stoney Butte creeks set record highs.

1921 - A cloudburst near Pikes Peak CO killed 120 people. Pueblo CO was flooded by a twenty-five foot crest of the Arkansas River, killing 70 persons. Fourteen inches of rain was reported at Boggs Flat, where a hard surface road through nearly level country was washed out to a depth of seven feet. (The Weather Channel)

1959 - Thunderstorms in northwestern Kansas produced up to eighteen inches of hail near Salden during the early evening. Crops were completely destroyed, and total damage from the storm was about half a million dollars. Hail fell for a record eighty-five minutes. The temperature dropped from near 80 degrees prior to the storm to 38 degrees at the height of the storm. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Six days of flooding in South Texas culminated with five to six inch rains from Bexar County to Bandera County, and five to nine inches rains in Gonzalez and Wilson Counties. Total crop damage was estimated at 500 million dollars. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Early morning thunderstorms in southern Texas produced wind gusts to 86 mph at Port Isabel, and wind gusts to 83 mph at South Padre Island. Unseasonably hot weather prevailed from the Southern Plateau Region to the Northern High Plains. Fourteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing over the Southern Plains Region during the afternoon hours produced severe weather into the night. Thunderstorms spawned eleven tornadoes, and there were 169 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 80 mph at Newcastle, OK, and Wilson, OK. Softball size hail was reported at Monahans, Childress and Groesbeck TX. Monahans TX reported six million dollars damage. Five inches of rain deluged Geronimo OK. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 19 of 62



"Why" is a question that most of us try to avoid.

It usually makes us focus on what we are doing, demands careful thinking, choice responses, and clear reasoning.

It makes us refine our thoughts to give us the assurance that what we are doing or thinking is right.

Solomon makes a profound statement when he says: "Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out."

It is normal to want to feel "secure" as we go about life.

"Secure" implies that we are able to face life as it comes, knowing that God is present in our lives and will provide whatever we need.

Being "secure" eliminates fear and the anxiety that accompany it.

And, if we want that feeling of security that only comes from God, Solomon says that we must "walk in integrity"—or live without compromise or corruption.

For some, that sounds impossible. We think about our past attempts to honor God in all things. We want to be an example to others as Jesus was: a witness of God's grace, a helper to those in need, a friend to the lonely, and an encourager to the sick and suffering.

But we allow things to get in our way and we "fall short" of who God wants us to be—and who we, in fact, want to be.

And therein lies the secret: it's all about what we desire.

If our innermost desire is to bring all of our life into harmony with God's Word, His will, and His ways...

And if we consciously submit our lives to Him and live for Him—He will give us His security. We have ****nothing to fear**** if our deepest desire is to know Him and make Him known.

Prayer: Father, the world makes many promises it cannot keep.

But we have Your Word that never fails. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out." Proverbs 10:9

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

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 20 of 62

The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.2% Sales Tax

- ☐ Black & White \$48.99/year
- ☐ Colored \$79.88/year
- ☐ Colored \$42.60/6 months
- ☐ E-Weekly* \$31.95/year

* The E-Weekly is a PDF file emailed to you each week. It does not grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

Groton Daily Independent www.397news.com Subscription Form

This option will grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

- ☐ 1 Month \$15.98
- ☐ 3 Months \$26.63
- ☐ 6 Months \$31.95
- ☐ 9 Months \$42.60
- ☐ 12 Months \$53.25

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

The following will be used for your log-in information.

E-mail _____

Password _____

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

paypal.me/paperpaul

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



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.30.25

2 28 37 38 58 13

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$202,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 25 Mins 0 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.02.25

5 7 20 28 35 3

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$37,320,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 40 Mins 1 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.02.25

1 10 22 29 40 15

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 55 Mins 1 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.31.25

1 25 27 28 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$20,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 55 Mins 1 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.02.25

4 25 43 44 63 4

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 24 Mins 0 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.02.25

1 7 44 57 61 21

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$30,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 24 Mins 0 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 22 of 62

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

World shares are mixed after modest gains put Wall St close to records

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

Asian shares were mostly higher Tuesday while European benchmarks gave up early gains.

The futures for the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.5%.

Markets in China advanced despite a report showing manufacturing activity slowed in May, even after China and the U.S. paused tariff hikes to allow time for talks.

In early European trading, Germany's DAX was nearly unchanged at 23,950.36, while the CAC 40 in Paris shed 0.4% to 7,709.40. Britain's FTSE 100 slipped 0.2% to 8,757.97.

Adding to uncertainty in a region already enduring war in Ukraine, Poland elected Karol Nawrocki, a conservative historian and staunch nationalist, Monday as its next president in a closely watched vote that signaled a resurgence of right-wing populism in the heart of Europe.

The survey of Chinese purchasing managers, or PMI, by the financial media group Caixin showed factory output, new export orders, purchasing activity and staffing all declined last month. Incoming new work contracted at the quickest pace in over two-and-a-half years. the report said.

The situation is "a body blow to the backbone of China's economy: small and mid-sized exporters now caught in a brutal vice grip between faltering global demand and a Washington-led tariff regime that's more carrot-and-stick diplomacy than ceasefire," Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management said in a commentary.

However, as is often the case, investors shrugged off the bad news with the assumption that it might raise the likelihood of more market support from Beijing.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng jumped 1.5% to 23,512.49, while the Shanghai Composite index rose 0.4% to 3,361.98.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 edged 0.1% lower to 37,446.81.

South Korean markets were closed for a snap presidential election triggered by the ouster of Yoon Suk Yeol, a conservative who now faces an explosive trial on rebellion charges over his short-lived imposition of martial law in December.

In Australia, the S&P/ASX 200 climbed 0.6% to 8,466.70. In Taiwan, the Taiex gained 0.6%, while India's Sensex lost 0.5%.

Beijing and Washington dialed back trade friction slightly as the U.S. extended exemptions for tariffs on some Chinese goods, including solar manufacturing equipment, that U.S. industries rely on for their own production.

The U.S. Trade Representative extended those exemptions, which were due to expire on May 31, by three months through Aug. 31.

The U.S. side said President Donald Trump was expecting to speak with Chinese leader Xi Jinping this week. A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said Tuesday that they had no information on that.

Just a few weeks ago, the United States and China agreed to pause many tariff hikes that had threatened to drag the U.S. economy into a recession.

On Monday, U.S. stock indexes drifted closer to their records following a stellar May, Wall Street's best month since 2023.

The S&P 500 rose 0.4% and the Dow industrials added 0.1%. The Nasdaq composite climbed 0.7%.

Trump has been warning that U.S. businesses and households could feel some pain as he tries to use tariffs to bring more manufacturing jobs back to the country, and their on-and-off rollout has created lots of uncertainty.

In other dealings early Tuesday, the yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 4.42% from 4.44% late Monday.

Worries remain over how much debt the U.S. government will pile on due to plans to cut taxes and increase the deficit.

U.S. benchmark crude oil was up 27 cents at \$62.79 per barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, picked up 18 cents to \$64.81 per barrel.

The U.S. dollar rose to 142.90 Japanese yen from 142.71 yen. The euro slipped to \$1.1414 from \$1.1443.

Far-right lawmaker Wilders pulls his party out of ruling Dutch coalition in dispute over migration

By MIKE CORDER Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Far-right lawmaker Geert Wilders pulled his party out of the ruling four-party Dutch coalition Tuesday in dispute over a crackdown on migration, sparking a political crisis and possibly the end of the 11-month-old government of Prime Minister Dick Schoof.

Wilders announced his decision in a message on X after a brief meeting in parliament of leaders of the four parties that make up the fractious administration.

The government meltdown comes just three weeks before the Netherlands is scheduled to host a summit of NATO leaders in The Hague and amid global instability.

It was unclear what would happen next. The government could attempt to remain in power as a minority administration or call new elections for later this year. Schoof called an emergency Cabinet meeting for early afternoon.

Wilders blames inaction on migration.

Wilders told reporters that he was withdrawing his support for the coalition and pulling his ministers out of the Cabinet over its failure to act on his desire for a clampdown on migration.

"I signed up for the toughest asylum policy and not the downfall of the Netherlands," said Wilders, whose Party for Freedom is still riding high in Dutch opinion polls, though the gap with the center-left opposition is negligible.

Prime minister appealed for leaders to act responsibly.

Dilan Yesilgöz, leader of the right-wing People's Party for Freedom and Democracy, said before the meeting that Schoof urged the leaders to act responsibly.

"The prime minister who appealed to us this morning said that we are facing enormous international challenges, we have a war on our continent, an economic crisis may be coming our way," Yesilgöz told reporters in parliament.

But just minutes later, the meeting was over and so was Wilders' involvement in the government.

"I'm shocked," Yesilgöz said, calling Wilders' decision "super-irresponsible."

After years in opposition, Wilders' party won the last election on pledges to slash migration. He has grown increasingly frustrated at what he sees as the slow pace of the coalition's efforts to implement his plans.

Last week, Wilders demanded coalition partners sign on to a 10-point plan that aims to radically slash migration, including using the army to guard land borders and turning away all asylum-seekers. He said at the time that if immigration policy is not toughened up, his party "is out of the Cabinet."

He made good on that pledge Tuesday.

Wilders' decision comes days after conservative Karol Nawrocki was announced the winner of Poland's weekend presidential runoff election, a victory that suggests that Poland will likely take a more populist and nationalist path under its new president, who was backed by U.S. President Donald Trump.

It is not the first time Wilders has turned his back on power. He pledged his support to a minority government led by former Prime Minister Mark Rutte in 2010, but walked away less than two years later after a dispute about government austerity measures.

"You know that if you work with Wilders in a coalition ... it won't go well," Rob Jetten, leader of the opposition D66 party, told Dutch broadcaster NOS.

Other coalition leaders look to uncertain political future.

Caroline van der Plas, leader of the pro-agriculture populist Farmers Citizens Movement that is part of the coalition, said she was angry at Wilders' decision.

"He is not putting the Netherlands first, he is putting Geert Wilders first," she told Dutch broadcaster NOS.

Nicolien van Vroonhoven, leader of the New Social Contract party that has taken a battering in polls since joining the coalition and the departure of its talismanic leader Pieter Omtzigt, said the government could continue without Wilders, saying a minority Cabinet "is definitely an option."

How a new planetarium show helped scientists unlock a cosmic secret

By ADITHI RAMAKRISHNAN AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Scientists have unlocked one of the solar system's many secrets from an unexpected source: a planetarium show opening to the public on Monday.

At the American Museum of Natural History last fall, experts were hard at work preparing "Encounters in the Milky Way," a deep dive into our home galaxy shaped by the movements of stars and other celestial objects.

They were fine-tuning a scene featuring what's known as the Oort Cloud, a region far beyond Pluto filled with icy relics from the solar system's formation. Comets can hurtle toward Earth from the cloud, but scientists have never glimpsed its true shape.

One evening while watching the Oort Cloud scene, scientists noticed something strange projected onto the planetarium's dome.

"Why is there a spiral there?" said the museum's Jackie Faherty.

The inner section of the Oort Cloud, made of billions of comets, resembled a bar with two waving arms, similar to the shape of our Milky Way galaxy.

Scientists had long thought the Oort Cloud was shaped like a sphere or flattened shell, warped by the push and pull of other planets and the Milky Way itself. The planetarium show hinted that a more complex shape could lie inside.

The museum contacted the researcher who provided the Oort Cloud data for the show, who was also surprised to see the spiral.

"It's kind of a freak accident that it actually happened," said David Nesvorny with the Southwest Research Institute.

Realizing they'd stumbled on something new, the researchers published their findings earlier this year in *The Astrophysical Journal*.

The spiral is "a striking shift in our understanding of the outer solar system," planetary scientist Andre Izidoro with Rice University, who was not involved with the study, said in an email.

The discovery, relying on data on how celestial objects move and using simulations, will be difficult to confirm with observations. But knowing more about the orbits of distant comets could give scientists some clues, Izidoro said.

While putting together the planetarium show, the museum's experts weren't expecting a window into the universe's inner workings. The show, narrated by actor Pedro Pascal, features many vivid scenes that may capture audiences more than the Oort Cloud, said the museum's Jon Parker — including an ongoing merge of the Sagittarius mini galaxy with the Milky Way.

No matter how striking and beautiful the visuals of the show, the museum was committed to making it scientifically accurate. That's what created the perfect conditions to stumble upon something new, said the museum's Carter Emmart.

"You just never know what you're going to find," Emmart said.

Gaza officials say Israeli forces killed 27 heading to aid site. Israel says it fired near suspects

By MOHAMMAD JAHJOUH, SAMY MAGDY and FATMA KHALED Associated Press

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Palestinian health officials and witnesses say Israeli forces fired on people as they headed toward an aid distribution site on Tuesday, killing at least 27, in the third such incident in three

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 26 of 62

days. The army said it fired "near a few individual suspects" who left the designated route, approached its forces and ignored warning shots.

The near-daily shootings have come after an Israeli and U.S.-backed foundation established aid distribution points inside Israeli military zones, a system it says is designed to circumvent Hamas. The United Nations has rejected the new system, saying it doesn't address Gaza's mounting hunger crisis and allows Israel to use aid as a weapon.

The Israeli military said it was looking into reports of casualties on Tuesday. It previously said it fired warning shots at suspects who approached its forces early Sunday and Monday, when health officials and witnesses said 34 people were killed. The military denies opening fire on civilians or blocking them from reaching the aid sites.

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which operates the sites, says there has been no violence in or around them. On Tuesday, it acknowledged that the Israeli military was investigating whether civilians were wounded "after moving beyond the designated safe corridor and into a closed military zone," in an area that was "well beyond our secure distribution site."

'Either way we will die'

The shootings all occurred at the Flag Roundabout, around a kilometer (1,000 yards) from one of the GHF's distribution sites in the now mostly uninhabited southern city of Rafah. The entire area is an Israeli military zone where journalists have no access outside of army-approved embeds.

At least 27 people were killed early Tuesday, according to Zaher al-Waheidi, the head of the Gaza Health Ministry's records department.

Hisham Mhanna, a spokesperson for the International Committee of the Red Cross, said its field hospital in Rafah received 184 wounded people, 19 of whom were declared dead on arrival and eight more who later died of their wounds. The 27 dead were transferred to Nasser Hospital in the city of Khan Younis.

There were three children and two women among the dead, according to Mohammed Saqr, head of nursing at Nasser Hospital. Hospital director Atef al-Hout said most of the patients had gunshot wounds.

Yasser Abu Lubda, a 50-year-old displaced Palestinian from Rafah, said the shooting started around 4 a.m. in the city's Flag Roundabout area, around one kilometer (1,000 yards) away from the aid distribution hub. He said he saw several people killed or wounded.

Neima al-Aaraj, a woman from Khan Younis, gave a similar account.

"There were many martyrs and wounded," she said, saying the shooting by Israeli forces was "indiscriminate."

She said she managed to reach the hub but returned empty-handed. "There was no aid there," she said. "After the martyrs and wounded, I won't return," she said. "Either way we will die."

Rasha al-Nahal, another witness, said "there was gunfire from all directions." She said she counted more than a dozen dead and several wounded along the road. She said she also found no aid when she arrived at the distribution hub, and that Israeli forces "fired at us as we were returning."

An Associated Press reporter who arrived at the Red Cross field hospital at around 6 a.m. saw wounded people being transferred to other hospitals by ambulance.

Outside, people were passing by on their way back from the aid hub, mostly empty-handed, while empty flour bags stained with blood lay on the ground.

3 Israeli soldiers killed in northern Gaza

The Israeli military meanwhile said Tuesday that three of its soldiers were killed in the Gaza Strip, in what appeared to be the deadliest attack on Israel's forces since it ended a ceasefire with Hamas in March.

The military said the three soldiers, all in their early 20s, fell during combat in northern Gaza on Monday, without providing details. Israeli media reported that they were killed in an explosion in the Jabaliya area.

Israel ended the ceasefire in March after Hamas refused to change the agreement to release more hostages sooner. Israeli strikes have killed thousands of Palestinians since then, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took 251 people hostage in the Oct.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 27 of 62

7, 2023, attack into Israel that ignited the war. They are still holding 58 hostages, a third of them believed to be alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefire agreements or other deals.

Israel's military campaign has killed over 54,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which does not say how many of the dead were civilians or combatants. The ministry is led by medical professionals but reports to the Hamas-run government. Its toll is seen as generally reliable by U.N. agencies and independent experts, though Israel has challenged its numbers.

Israel says it has killed around 20,000 militants, without providing evidence.

Around 860 Israeli soldiers have been killed since the Oct. 7 attack, including more than 400 during the fighting inside Gaza.

Boulder suspect planned to kill group he called 'Zionist,' but appeared to have second thoughts

By COLLEEN SLEVIN and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — A man in Boulder disguised as a gardener who wounded 12 people in an attack on a group holding their weekly demonstration for the release of Israeli hostages in Gaza had planned to kill them all but appeared to have second thoughts, according to authorities.

Mohamed Sabry Soliman had 18 Molotov cocktails but threw just two during Sunday's attack in which he yelled "Free Palestine," police said. He didn't carry out his full plan "because he got scared and had never hurt anyone before," police wrote in an affidavit.

The two incendiary devices he did throw into the group of about 20 people were enough to wound more than half of them, and authorities said he expressed no regrets about the attack.

The 45-year-old Soliman — whose first name also was spelled Mohammed in some court documents — planned the attack for more than a year and specifically targeted what he described as a "Zionist group," authorities said in court papers charging him with a federal hate crime.

"When he was interviewed about the attack, he said he wanted them all to die, he had no regrets and he would go back and do it again," Acting U.S. Attorney J. Bishop Grewell for the District of Colorado said during a news conference Monday.

Federal and state prosecutors filed separate criminal cases against Soliman, charging him with a hate crime and attempted murder, respectively. He faces additional state charges related to the incendiary devices, and more charges are possible in federal court, where the Justice Department will seek a grand jury indictment.

Soliman is being held on a \$10 million, cash-only bond, prosecutors said. His next court hearing is set for Thursday.

An FBI affidavit says Soliman told the police he was driven by a desire "to kill all Zionist people," a reference to the movement to establish and protect a Jewish state in Israel.

Soliman's attorney, public defender Kathryn Herold, declined to comment after the hearing.

Soliman was living in the U.S. illegally after entering the country in August 2022 on a B2 visa that expired in February 2023, Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a post on the social platform X.

The burst of violence at the popular Pearl Street pedestrian mall in downtown Boulder unfolded against the backdrop of the Israel-Hamas war, which 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 and barely a week after a man who also yelled "Free Palestine" was charged with fatally shooting two Israeli Embassy staffers outside a Jewish museum in Washington.

Six victims hospitalized

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

Six of the injured were taken to hospitals, and four have since been released, said Miri Kornfeld, a Denver-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 28 of 62

based organizer connected to the group. She said the clothing of one of those who remains hospitalized caught on fire.

Members of the volunteer group called Run For Their Lives were holding their weekly demonstration when the attack happened. Video from the scene captured by witness Alex Osante of San Diego shows people pouring water on a woman lying on the ground who Osante said had caught fire during the attack.

Molotov cocktails found

Osante said that after the suspect threw the two incendiary devices, apparently catching himself on fire as he threw the second, he took off his shirt and what appeared to be a bulletproof vest before police arrived. The man dropped to the ground and was arrested without any apparent resistance in the video Osante filmed.

The Molotov cocktails were made up of glass wine carafe bottles or jars with clear liquid and red rags hanging out of the them, the FBI said.

"He stated that he had been planning the attack for a year and was waiting until after his daughter graduated to conduct the attack," the affidavit says.

He had gas in a backpack sprayer but told investigators he didn't spray it on anyone but himself "because he had planned on dying."

Soliman also told investigators he took a concealed carry class and tried to buy a gun but was denied because he is not a legal U.S. citizen.

Suspect hospitalized after attack

Authorities said they believe Soliman acted alone. He was also injured and taken to a hospital. Authorities did not elaborate on the nature of his injuries, but a booking photo showed him with a large bandage over one ear.

Soliman, who was born in Egypt, moved three years ago to Colorado Springs, where he lived with his wife and five kids, according to state court documents. He previously spent 17 years living in Kuwait.

McLaughlin said Soliman filed for asylum in September 2022 and was granted a work authorization in March 2023 that had expired. DHS did not respond to requests for additional information.

Ukraine's drone attack on Russian warplanes was a serious blow to the Kremlin's strategic arsenal

By The Associated Press undefined

A surprise Ukrainian drone attack that targeted several Russian air bases hosting nuclear-capable strategic bombers was unprecedented in its scope and sophistication and for the first time reached as far as Siberia in a heavy blow to the Russian military.

Ukraine said over 40 bombers, or about a third of Russia's strategic bomber fleet, were damaged or destroyed Sunday, although Moscow said only several planes were struck. The conflicting claims couldn't be independently verified and video of the assault posted on social media showed only a couple of bombers hit.

But the bold attack demonstrated Ukraine's capability to hit high-value targets anywhere in Russia, dealing a humiliating blow to the Kremlin and inflicting significant losses to Moscow's war machine.

While some Russian military bloggers compared it to another infamous Sunday surprise attack — that of Japan's strike on the U.S. base at Pearl Harbor in 1941 — others rejected the analogy, arguing the actual damage was far less significant than Ukraine claimed.

A look at what warplanes were reported hit:

Russia's bomber assets

For decades, long-range bombers have been part of the Soviet and Russian nuclear triad that also includes land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles and atomic-powered submarines carrying ICBMs. The strategic bombers have flown regular patrols around the globe showcasing Moscow's nuclear might.

During the 3-year-old war in Ukraine, Russia has used the heavy planes to launch waves of cruise missile strikes across the country.

The Tupolev Tu-95, which was code named Bear by NATO, is a four-engine turboprop plane designed

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 29 of 62

in the 1950s to rival the U.S. B-52 bomber. The aircraft has an intercontinental range and carries eight long-range cruise missiles that can be equipped with conventional or nuclear warheads.

Before Sunday, Russia was estimated to have a fleet of about 60 such aircraft.

The Tupolev Tu-22M is a twin-engine supersonic bomber designed in the 1970s that was code named Backfire by NATO. It has a shorter range compared with the Tu-95, but during U.S.-Soviet arms control talks in the 1970s, Washington insisted on counting them as part of the Soviet strategic nuclear arsenal because of their capability to reach the U.S. if refueled in flight.

The latest version of the plane, the Tu-22M3, carries Kh-22 cruise missiles that fly at more than three times the speed of sound. It dates to the 1970s, when it was designed by the Soviet Union to strike U.S. aircraft carriers. It packs a big punch, thanks to its supersonic speed and ability to carry 630 kilograms (nearly 1,400 pounds) of explosives, but its outdated guidance system could make it highly inaccurate against ground targets, raising the possibility of collateral damage.

Some Tu-22Ms were lost in previous Ukrainian attacks, and Russia was estimated to have between 50 and 60 Tu-22M3s in service before Sunday's drone strike.

The production of the Tu-95 and the Tu-22M ended after the 1991 collapse of the USSR, meaning that any lost can't be replaced.

Russia also has another type of strategic nuclear-capable bomber, the supersonic Tu-160. Fewer than 20 of them are in service, and Russia has just begun production of its modernized version equipped with new engines and avionics.

Russia lost a significant part of its heavy bomber fleet in the attack "with no immediate ability to replace it," said Douglas Barrie of the International Institute of Strategic Studies, noting that Moscow's announced plan to develop the next generation strategic bomber is still in its early phase.

"Ironically this might give impetus to that program, because if you want to keep your bomber fleet up to size, then you're going to have to do something at some point," he said.

The A-50, which Ukrainian officials also said was hit in the strikes, is an early warning and control aircraft similar to the U.S. AWACS planes used to coordinate aerial attacks. Only a few such planes are in service with the Russian military, and any loss badly dents Russia's military capability.

Relocating bombers and impromptu protection

Repeated Ukrainian strikes on the Engels air base, the main base for Russian nuclear-capable strategic bombers near the Volga River city of Saratov, prompted Moscow to relocate the bombers to other bases farther from the conflict.

One of them was Olenya on the Arctic Kola Peninsula, from where Tu-95s have flown multiple missions to launch cruise missiles at Ukraine. Several bombers at Olenya apparently were hit by the Ukrainian drones Sunday, according to analysts studying satellite images before and after the strike.

Other drones targeted the Belaya air base in the Irkutsk region in eastern Siberia, destroying a few Tu-22M bombers, according to analysts.

Ukraine said 41 aircraft — Tu-95s, Tu-22Ms and A-50s — were damaged or destroyed in the attack that it said was in the works for 18 months in which swarms of drones popped out of containers carried on trucks that were parked near four air bases.

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth was briefed on the attack, which represented a level of sophistication that Washington had not seen before, a senior defense official said on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters.

The Russian Defense Ministry said the attack set several warplanes ablaze at air bases in the Irkutsk region and the Murmansk region in the north, but the fires were extinguished.

It said Ukraine also tried to strike two air bases in western Russia, as well as another one in the Amur region of Russia's Far East, but those attacks were repelled.

The drone strikes produced an outcry from Russian military bloggers, who criticized the Defense Ministry for failing to learn from previous strikes and protect the bombers. Building shelters or hangars for such large planes is a daunting task, and the military has tried some impromptu solutions that were criticized

as window dressing.

Satellite images have shown Tu-95s at various air bases covered by layers of old tires — a measure of dubious efficiency that has drawn mockery on social media.

South Koreans vote for new president in wake of Yoon's ouster over martial law

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

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Millions of South Koreans are voting Tuesday for a new president in a snap election triggered by the ouster of Yoon Suk Yeol, a conservative who now faces an explosive trial on rebellion charges over his short-lived imposition of martial law in December.

Pre-election surveys suggested Yoon's liberal archrival, Lee Jae-myung, appeared headed for an easy win, riding on deep public frustration over the conservatives in the wake of Yoon's martial law debacle.

The main conservative candidate, Kim Moon Soo, has struggled to win over moderate, swing voters as his People Power Party remains in a quagmire of internal feuding over how to view Yoon's actions.

This election serves as another defining moment in the country's resilient democracy, but observers worry a domestic divide worsened after Yoon's martial law stunt is far from over and could pose a big political burden on the new president.

The past six months saw large crowds of people rallying in the streets to either denounce or support Yoon, while a leadership vacuum caused by Yoon's impeachment and ensuing formal dismissal rattled the country's high-level diplomatic activities and financial markets.

The winning candidate will immediately be sworn in as president Wednesday for a single, full term of five years without the typical two-month transition period. The new president will face major challenges including a slowing economy, President Donald Trump's America-first policies and North Korea's evolving nuclear threats.

Voting began at 6 a.m. at 14,295 polling stations nationwide that will close at 8 p.m. Observers say the winner could emerge as early as midnight.

As of 4 p.m., more than 16 million people had cast their ballots. Combined with the 15 million who voted during last week's two-day early voting period, voter turnout stood at 71.5%. South Korea has 44.4 million eligible voters.

Final pitches made by rival candidates

In a Facebook posting on Tuesday, Lee, whose Democratic Party led the legislative effort to oust Yoon, called for voters to "deliver a stern and resolute judgement" against the conservatives over martial law.

In one of his final campaign speeches Monday, Lee argued that a win by Kim would mean the "the return of the rebellion forces, the destruction of democracy and the deprivation of people's human rights." He also promised to revitalize the economy, reduce inequality and ease national divisions. He urged the people to vote for him,

Kim, a former labor minister under Yoon, warned that a Lee win would allow him to wield excessive power, launch political retaliation against opponents and legislate laws to protect him from various legal troubles, as his party already controls parliament.

Lee "is now trying to seize all power in South Korea and establish a Hitler-like dictatorship," Kim told a rally in the southeastern city of Busan.

Lee's positions would impact nation's direction

Lee, who served as governor of Gyeonggi province and mayor of Seongnam city, has been a highly divisive figure in South Korean politics for years.

As a former child laborer known for his inspirational rags-to-riches story, Lee came to fame through biting criticism of the country's conservative establishment and calls to build a more assertive South Korea in foreign policy. That rhetoric has given him an image as someone who can institute sweeping reforms and fix the country's deep-seated economic inequality and corruption.

His critics view him as a dangerous populist who relies on a political division and backpedals on promises

too easily.

On foreign policy, Lee has not made any contentious remarks recently and has steadfastly vowed to pursue pragmatic diplomacy. He has called South Korea's alliance with the U.S. the foundation of its foreign policy and promised to solidify a trilateral Seoul-Washington-Tokyo partnership, a stance that is not much different than the position held by South Korea's conservatives.

Experts say there aren't many diplomatic options for South Korea as it tries to address Trump's tariff hikes and calls for South Korea to pay more for the cost of the U.S. military presence, as well as North Korea's headlong pursuit of nuclear weapons. Experts say that has made both Lee and Kim avoid unveiling ambitious foreign policy goals.

Lee's government still could become engaged in "a little bit of friction" with the Trump administration, while Kim's government, which prioritize relations with Washington, will likely offer more concessions to the U.S., said Chung Jin-young, a former dean of the Graduate School of Pan-Pacific International Studies at South Korea's Kyung Hee University.

Chung predicted Lee won't be able to pursue overly drastic steps on foreign policy and security, given the country's foreign exchange and financial markets are very vulnerable to such changes.

Lee has preached patience over Trump's tariff policy, arguing it would be a mistake to rush negotiations in pursuit of an early agreement with Washington. Kim has said he would meet Trump as soon as possible.

On Monday, South Korean trade officials held an emergency meeting to discuss a response to Trump's announcement that the U.S. will raise tariffs on steel and aluminum products to 50% beginning June 4. South Korea's central bank last week sharply lowered its 2025 growth outlook to 0.8%, citing the potential impact of Trump's tariff hikes and weak domestic demand worsened by the political turmoil of past months.

Prospects for improved North Korea relations are unclear

Relations with North Korea remain badly strained since 2019, with the North focused on expanding its nuclear arsenal while refusing dialogues with South Korea and the U.S.

Since his second term began in January, Trump has repeatedly expressed his intent to resume diplomacy with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, but Kim has so far ignored the offer while making Russia his priority in foreign policy.

Lee, who wants warmer ties with North Korea, recently acknowledged it would be "very difficult" to realize a summit with Kim Jong Un anytime soon. Lee said he would support Trump's push to restart talks with Kim Jong Un, which he believed would eventually allow South Korea to be involved in some projects in North Korea.

Foreign policy strategists for Lee understand there isn't much South Korea can do to bring about a denuclearization of North Korea, said Paik Wooyeal, a professor at Seoul's Yonsei University.

He said Lee also doesn't share the Korean nationalistic zeal held by ex-liberal President Moon Jae-in, who met Kim Jong Un three times during his 2017-22 term.

Nawrocki's win turns Poland toward nationalism and casts doubt on Tusk's centrist government

By VANESSA GERA Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Conservative Karol Nawrocki's victory in Poland's weekend presidential runoff has set the country on a more nationalist course — and cast doubt on the viability of the centrist government of Prime Minister Donald Tusk after the defeat of his liberal ally.

Nawrocki, who was supported by U.S. President Donald Trump, won 50.89% of votes in a very tight race against Warsaw Mayor Rafał Trzaskowski, who received 49.11%, according to the final results of Sunday's runoff published Monday morning.

By evening, Tusk said he would ask parliament to hold a vote of confidence in his coalition government, a fragile multiparty alliance that includes left-wingers, centrists and agrarian conservatives.

Tusk's government exists separately from the presidency, but the president holds power to veto laws,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 32 of 62

and Nawrocki's win will make it extremely difficult for Tusk to press his pro-European agenda. The race revealed deep divisions in the country along the eastern flank of NATO and the European Union.

The result leaves Tusk politically wounded, and there are questions about whether his coalition can survive to the end of its term in late 2027. There were already calls on Monday from political opponents for him to step down.

Tusk said in a video posted to social media that there's a lot of work for the government to do, and its first test would be the vote of confidence held in "the near future." If Tusk survives the confidence vote, it would show he still has a mandate to govern.

He also said he was prepared to work with Nawrocki if the willingness is there.

"I want everyone to see — including our opponents, at home and abroad — that we are ready for this situation, that we understand the gravity of the moment, and that we do not intend to back down, not even a step," he said.

Nawrocki thanks his voters

In his first public comments since his win was announced, Nawrocki thanked those who voted for him and said he would work for the causes that matter to them.

"We want to live in a safe country with a strong economy, one that cares for the most vulnerable. A country that matters in international, European, and transatlantic relations. A country that cherishes its centuries-old traditions and respects its history," he wrote on social media.

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.

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

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

Trzaskowski conceded defeat and congratulated Nawrocki. "I fought for us to build a strong, safe, honest, and empathetic Poland together," he wrote on social media. "I'm sorry I wasn't able to convince the majority of citizens of my vision for Poland."

Congratulations from Trump, Zelenskyy, Orbán

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was among the leaders offering congratulations to Nawrocki, 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."

Trump exulted Nawrocki's victory. "Congratulations Poland, you picked a WINNER!" he said on his social media platform Truth Social.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio also congratulated Nawrocki, saying in a statement, "The Polish people have spoken and support a stronger military and securing their borders. Poland is a model Ally and a key contributor to strengthening the NATO Alliance and its sovereign integrity against today's challenges and those ahead."

Nawrocki supports Ukraine in its fight against Russia's full-scale invasion, but he's more critical of Zelenskyy than Polish leaders to date, and he opposes NATO membership for Kyiv.

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

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen offered measured congratulations: "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."

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 Tusk's centrist coalition. Some political observers predicted it would never make a comeback, and Nawrocki was chosen as a new face

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 33 of 62

who would not be burned by the scandals of the party's rule.

The election outcome vindicated party leader Jarosław Kaczyński's strategy, but on Monday many were also blaming the increasingly unpopular Tusk and Trzaskowski.

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 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 various "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 had 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, praised Nawrocki and urged Poles to vote for him.

The United States 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 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.

What we know about the man charged in the attack in Boulder, Colorado

By COLLEEN SLEVIN and OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — A man armed with a makeshift flamethrower and other incendiary devices launched a fiery attack on demonstrators in Colorado who were calling for the release of Israeli hostages in Gaza. Twelve people were injured and the FBI described the violence as a "targeted terror attack."

The suspect, identified by the FBI as 45-year-old Mohamed Sabry Soliman, yelled "Free Palestine" during the attack Sunday, according to Mark Michalek, the special agent in charge of the FBI's Denver field office. Authorities believe Soliman acted alone.

He has been charged with multiple state counts and a federal hate crime.

How did the attack unfold?

Authorities said the attacker targeted volunteers with Run for Their Lives, which organizes running and walking events to call for the immediate release of Israelis being held in Gaza. The hostages were captured by militants during an incursion into southern Israel in 2023 that precipitated the latest Israel-Hamas war.

The group gathered Sunday at the Pearl Street pedestrian mall, a four-block area in downtown Boulder frequented by tourists and students. Witnesses said the suspect first used the flame thrower, then threw two Molotov cocktails into the crowd. Soliman was arrested at the scene.

Video from the scene shows a shirtless Soliman shouting at onlookers while holding two clear bottles containing a transparent liquid. Another video shows a witness shouting: "He's right there. He's throwing Molotov cocktails," as a police officer with his gun drawn advanced on the suspect.

Boulder County District Attorney Michael Dougherty told reporters Monday that authorities uncovered 16 unused Molotov cocktails.

One witness, Alex Osante, said Soliman appeared to catch himself on fire during the attack. A booking

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 34 of 62

photo shows him with a bandage over one of his ears. Police said he was taken to the hospital after he was arrested but haven't described his injuries.

What was his motive?

Witnesses said Soliman yelled "Free Palestine" as he launched the attack. An FBI affidavit said he confessed to the attack.

He told investigators "he wanted to kill all Zionist people and wished they were all dead," that he specifically targeted the Run for Their Lives group and that he had researched and planned the attack for more than a year, according to the affidavit.

"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.

The Israel-Hamas war has inflamed global tensions and contributed to a spike in antisemitic violence in the United States. A week earlier, two Israeli Embassy staffers were shot to death in Washington, D.C., by a man who yelled "I did it for Palestine, I did it for Gaza" as he was led away by police.

What charges does Soliman face?

Soliman participated in a brief court hearing Monday afternoon via video from the Boulder County jail.

He is charged federally with commission of a hate crime, which carries a sentence of life in prison when the charge includes attempted murder. Colorado state charges include 16 counts of attempted first-degree murder, two counts of using an incendiary device and 16 counts of attempted use of an incendiary device.

A judge set a \$10 million cash-only bond on the state charges.

Additional charges are possible in federal court. The Justice Department plans to seek a grand jury indictment.

Who is Soliman?

Soliman was born in Egypt and he moved three years ago to Colorado Springs, where he lived with his wife and five children, according to state court documents. He previously spent 17 years living in Kuwait.

The Department of Homeland Security said Soliman filed for asylum in September 2022 and has been living in the U.S. illegally since his visa expired in February 2023.

Soliman worked as an Uber driver and had passed the company's eligibility requirements, which include a criminal background check, according to a spokesperson for Uber.

An online resume under Suliman's name says he was employed by a Denver-area health care company working in accounting and inventory control, with prior employers listed as companies in Egypt. Soliman listed Al-Azhar University, a historic center for Islamic and Arabic learning located in Cairo, on the resume.

Who was injured?

The people injured in the Pearl Street attack range in age from 52 to 88. Their injuries — some serious and some minor — were consistent with reports of people being set on fire, Redfearn said.

Authorities initially said there were eight victims, but said four others later were identified.

Photos from the scene showed a burning woman lying on the ground in a fetal position and a man helping to put out the flames using a jug of water.

"The immense wave of positive messages we've received is another signal of the health and strong spirits of our community," Rabbi Yisroel and Leah Wilhelm, directors of the Rohr Chabad House at the University of Colorado said in a statement. "We encourage everyone to respond energetically to this attack by celebrating Shavuot joyously, by attending the reading of the Ten Commandments, and by recommitting to the heritage and traditions we hold so dear."

North Dakota's historic sites will finally have toilets that flush

By JACK DURA Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Lawrence Welk didn't have a flush toilet where he grew up, but visitors to his childhood home in rural North Dakota now do.

The bandleader's childhood family home marks the latest step in the State Historical Society of North

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 35 of 62

Dakota's nearly completed goal of installing flush toilets at its dozen most popular, staffed sites. The most recent success, with the final three planned to be completed soon, came before the unveiling of a statue of Welk at a site that draws fans who recall "The Lawrence Welk Show," which ran on TV for decades starting in the 1950s.

The North Dakota group's goal of replacing pit toilets with flush units may seem like a humble aspiration to some, but it's an important milestone, said Chris Dorfschmidt, a historic sites manager.

"A lot of our sites are kind of in the middle of nowhere. As I like to put it, history didn't happen where it's convenient," he said. "Because of that, if you've driven all the way out there, and that's the best we can do to kind of accommodate you, it's not the most pleasant experience."

North Dakota has 60 state historic sites — everything from museums and an underground nuclear launch facility to plaques mounted on boulders in fields.

"All of our sites, they really do help share a story of us as a state," Dorfschmidt said.

Two other facilities are slated to be finished by June 30: at Whitestone Hill, the site of a deadly 1863 attack by U.S. troops against Native Americans; and Fort Buford, a military fort near the Missouri-Yellowstone river confluence.

The Historical Society also is eyeing the Chateau de Mores for flush toilets. The wealthy Marquis de Mores built the 26-room home in 1883 near Medora, a present-day tourist town in the state's scenic Badlands where a young President Theodore Roosevelt once roamed.

Less-visited sites that aren't staffed likely won't receive a restroom upgrade, which costs about \$150,000 each.

At the Welk Homestead, about 50 miles (80.5 kilometers) southeast of Bismarck, workers matched the color scheme of the restroom to the house and farm buildings, including interior colors.

"We made it to fit into the site and harmonize with the site and just be a pleasant part of the experience," Historic Sites Manager Rob Hanna said.

Suspect posed as a gardener in Boulder attack and planned to kill all in group he called 'Zionist'

By COLLEEN SLEVIN and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — A man posing as a gardener to get close to a group in Boulder holding their weekly demonstration for the release of Israeli hostages in Gaza planned to kill them all with Molotov cocktails, authorities said Monday.

But he had second thoughts and only threw two out of the 18 incendiary devices he had into the group of about 20 people, yelling "Free Palestine" and accidentally burning himself, police said. Twelve people were injured in the Sunday attack. He had gas in a backpack sprayer but told investigators he didn't spray it on anyone but himself "because he had planned on dying."

"He said he had to do it, he should do it, and he would not forgive himself if he did not do it," police wrote in an affidavit. He didn't carry out his full plan "because he got scared and had never hurt anyone before."

Mohamed Sabry Soliman, 45, planned the attack for more than a year and specifically targeted what he described as a "Zionist group," authorities said in court papers charging him with a federal hate crime. The suspect's first name also was spelled Mohammed in some court documents.

"When he was interviewed about the attack, he said he wanted them all to die, he had no regrets and he would go back and do it again," Acting U.S. Attorney J. Bishop Grewell for the District of Colorado said during a press conference Monday.

Federal and state prosecutors filed separate criminal cases against Soliman, charging him with a hate crime and attempted murder, respectively. He faces additional state charges related to the incendiary devices, and more charges are possible in federal court, where the Justice Department will seek a grand jury indictment.

During a state court hearing Monday, Soliman appeared briefly via a video link from the Boulder County

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 36 of 62

Jail wearing an orange jumpsuit. Another court hearing is set for Thursday. Soliman is being held on a \$10 million, cash-only bond, prosecutors said.

An FBI affidavit says Soliman confessed to the attack after being taken into custody Sunday and told the police he was driven by a desire "to kill all Zionist people," a reference to the movement to establish and protect a Jewish state in Israel.

Soliman's attorney, public defender Kathryn Herold, declined to comment after the hearing.

Soliman was living in the U.S. illegally after entering the country in August 2022 on a B2 visa that expired in February 2023, Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a post on the social platform X.

The burst of violence at the popular Pearl Street pedestrian mall in downtown Boulder unfolded against the backdrop of the Israel-Hamas war 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 and barely a week after a man who also yelled "Free Palestine" was charged with fatally shooting two Israeli embassy staffers outside a Jewish museum in Washington.

Six victims hospitalized

The victims who were wounded range in age from 52 to 88, and the injuries spanned from serious to minor, officials said. All four of the latest victims had what police described as minor injuries.

Six of the injured were taken to hospitals, and four have since been released, said Miri Kornfeld, a Denver-based organizer connected to the group. She said the clothing of one of those who remains hospitalized caught on fire.

The volunteer group called Run For Their Lives was concluding their weekly demonstration when video from the scene shows a witness shouting, "He's right there. He's throwing Molotov cocktails." A police officer with his gun drawn advances on a bare-chested suspect who is holding containers in each hand.

Witness Alex Osante of San Diego said he was across the pedestrian mall when he heard the crash of a bottle breaking and a "boom" 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.

Molotov cocktails found

Soliman said he dressed up like gardener with an orange vest in order to get as close to the group as possible, police wrote.

Osante said that after the suspect threw the two incendiary devices, apparently catching himself on fire as he threw the second, he 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 Osante filmed.

District Attorney Michael Dougherty said 16 unused Molotov cocktails were recovered by law enforcement. The devices were made up of glass wine carafe bottles or jars with clear liquid and red rags hanging out of the them, the FBI said.

Soliman told investigators he constructed the devices after doing research on YouTube and buying the ingredients.

"He stated that he had been planning the attack for a year and was waiting until after his daughter graduated to conduct the attack," the affidavit says.

Soliman also told investigators he took a concealed carry class and tried to buy a gun but was denied because he is not a legal U.S. citizen.

Suspect hospitalized after attack

Authorities said they believe Soliman acted alone. He was also injured and taken to a hospital. Authorities did not elaborate on the nature of his injuries, but a booking photo showed him with a large bandage over one ear.

In video and photos shot right after the attack by a woman at the gathering, Soliman can be seen pacing without his shirt on with what appears to be burns down one of his arms. He and a small group of

people around him are screaming at each other, with some witnesses filming him.

Soliman, who was born in Egypt, moved to Colorado Springs three years ago, where he lived with his wife and five kids, according to state court documents. He previously spent 17 years living in Kuwait.

McLaughlin said Soliman filed for asylum in September 2022 and was granted a work authorization in March 2023 that had expired. DHS did not immediately respond to requests for additional information.

Shameka Pruiett knew Soliman and his wife as kindly neighbors with three young kids and two teenagers who'd play with Pruiett's kids.

Another neighbor, Kierra Johnson, said she could often hear shouting at night from his apartment and once called police because of the screaming and yelling.

On Sunday, Pruiett saw law enforcement vehicles waiting on the street throughout the day until the evening, when they spoke through a megaphone telling anyone in Soliman's home to come out. Nobody came out and it did not appear anyone was inside, said Pruiett.

Israeli forces open fire a kilometer away from Gaza aid site, killing 3, health officials say

By MOHAMMAD JAHJOUH, WAFAA SHURAFU and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip opened fire early Monday as people headed toward an aid distribution site a kilometer away, killing at least three and wounding dozens, health officials and a witness said. The military said it fired warning shots at "suspects" who approached its forces.

The shooting occurred at the same location where witnesses say Israeli forces fired a day earlier on crowds heading toward the aid hub in southern Gaza run by the Israeli and U.S.-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation.

The Israeli military said it fired warning shots on Monday toward "several suspects who advanced toward the troops and posed a threat to them," around a kilometer (1,000 yards) away from the aid distribution site at a time when it was closed. The army denied it was preventing people from reaching the site.

The United Nations and major aid groups have rejected the foundation's new system for aid distribution. They say it violates humanitarian principles and cannot meet mounting needs in the territory of roughly 2 million people, where experts have warned of famine because of an Israeli blockade that was only slightly eased last month.

In a separate incident Monday, an Israeli strike on a residential building in northern Gaza killed 14 people, according to health officials. The Shifa and al-Ahli hospitals confirmed the toll from the strike in the built-up Jabaliya refugee camp, saying five women and seven children were among those killed.

The military said it had struck "terror targets" across northern Gaza, without elaborating. Israel says it only targets militants and tries to avoid harming civilians. It blames civilian deaths on Hamas because the militant group is entrenched in populated areas.

Also Monday, the Palestinian Authority said a 14-year-old boy was shot and killed by Israeli forces in the West Bank in the Palestinian village of Sinjil. In a statement, the Israeli military said troops in the Sinjil area had opened fire and "neutralized" someone who threw two bottles containing a dangerous substance at them.

Shooting in southern Gaza

A Red Cross field hospital received 50 wounded people, including two declared dead on arrival, after the shooting in southern Gaza, according to Hisham Mhanna, a Red Cross spokesperson. He said most had gunfire and shrapnel wounds. Nasser Hospital in the city of Khan Younis said it received a third body.

Moataz al-Feirani, 21, who was being treated at Nasser Hospital, said he was shot in his leg as he walked with a crowd of thousands toward the aid distribution site. He said Israeli forces opened fire as they neared the Flag Roundabout at around 5:30 a.m.

"We had nothing, and they (military) were watching us," he said, adding that drones were filming them.

On Sunday, at least 31 people were killed and over 170 wounded at the Flag Roundabout as large crowds headed toward the aid site, according to local health officials, aid groups and several eyewitnesses. The

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 38 of 62

witnesses said Israeli forces opened fire on the crowds at around 3 a.m. after ordering them to disperse and come back when the distribution site opens.

Israel's military on Sunday denied its forces fired at civilians near the aid site in the now mostly uninhabited southern city of Rafah, a military zone off limits to independent media. 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 Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which has denied previous accounts of chaos and gunfire around its sites, said it had delivered aid on both days without incident.

On Sunday night, the foundation issued a statement, saying aid recipients must stay on the designated route to reach the hub Monday, and that Israeli troops are positioned along the way to ensure their security. "Leaving the road is extremely dangerous," the statement said.

'Risking their lives for food'

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was "appalled by the reports of Palestinians killed and injured while seeking aid in Gaza" on Sunday. "It is unacceptable that Palestinians are risking their lives for food."

He called for an independent investigation into what happened.

Israel and the United States say they helped establish the new aid system to circumvent Hamas, which they accuse of siphoning off assistance.

U.N. agencies deny there is any systemic diversion of aid and say the new system violates humanitarian principles by allowing Israel to control who receives aid and by forcing Palestinians to travel long distances to receive it.

Palestinians must pass close to Israeli forces and cross military lines to reach the GHF hubs, in contrast to the U.N. aid network, which delivers aid to where Palestinians are located.

No end in sight to Israel-Hamas war

The Israel-Hamas war began when Palestinian militants stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting 251. Hamas is still holding 58 hostages, around a third of them believed to be alive.

Israel's military campaign has killed over 54,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many of the dead were civilians or combatants. The ministry is led by medical professionals but reports to the Hamas-run government. Its toll is seen as generally reliable by U.N. agencies and independent experts, though Israel has challenged its numbers.

Israel says it has killed around 20,000 militants, without providing evidence.

Hamas has said it will only release the remaining hostages in return for more Palestinian prisoners, a lasting ceasefire and an Israeli pullout.

Israel has vowed to continue the war until all the hostages are returned, and Hamas is defeated or disarmed and sent into exile. It has said it will maintain control of Gaza indefinitely and facilitate what it refers to as the voluntary emigration of much of its population.

Palestinians and most of the international community have rejected the resettlement plans, viewing them as forcible expulsion.

Top Trump officials visit prolific Alaska oil field amid push to expand drilling

By BECKY BOHRER and MARK THIESSEN Associated Press

DEADHORSE, Alaska (AP) — President Donald Trump wants to double the amount of oil coursing through Alaska's vast pipeline system and build a massive natural gas project as its "big, beautiful twin," a top administration official said Monday while touring a prolific oil field near the Arctic Ocean.

The remarks by U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright came as he and two other Trump Cabinet members — Interior Secretary Doug Burgum and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin — visited Prudhoe Bay as part of a multiday trip aimed at highlighting Trump's push to expand oil and gas drilling,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 39 of 62

mining and logging in the state that drew criticism from environmentalists.

During the trip, Burgum's agency announced plans to repeal Biden-era restrictions on future leasing and industrial development in portions of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska that are designated as special for their wildlife, subsistence or other values.

The petroleum reserve is west of Prudhoe Bay and Deadhorse, the industrial encampment near the starting point of the trans-Alaska pipeline system. The pipeline, which runs for 800 miles (nearly 1,300 kilometers), has been Alaska's economic lifeline for nearly 50 years.

Government and industry representatives from several Asian countries, including Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines, were joining a portion of the U.S. officials' trip, as Trump has focused renewed attention on the gas project proposal, which in its current iteration would provide gas to Alaska residents and ship liquefied natural gas overseas. Matsuo Takehiko, vice minister for International Affairs at Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, was among those at Prudhoe Bay on Monday.

For years, state leaders have dreamed of such a project but cost concerns, shifts in direction, competition and questions about economic feasibility have hindered progress. U.S. tariff talks with Asian countries have been seen as possible leverage for the Trump administration to secure investments in the proposed gas project.

Oil and natural gas are in significant demand worldwide, Wright told a group of officials and pipeline employees in safety hats and vests who gathered near the oil pipeline on a blustery day with 13-degree Fahrenheit (-10 Celsius) windchills. The pipeline stretched out over the snow-covered landscape.

"You have the big two right here," he said. "Let's double oil production, build the big, beautiful twin, and we will help energize the world and we will strengthen our country and strengthen our families."

Oil flow through the trans-Alaska pipeline peaked at about 2 million barrels in the late 1980s. In 2011 — a year in which an average of about 583,000 barrels of oil a day flowed through the pipeline, then-Gov. Sean Parnell, a Republican, set a goal of boosting that number to 1 million barrels a day within a decade. It's never come close in the years since: last year, throughput averaged about 465,000 barrels a day.

Those joining the Trump officials Monday included U.S. Sen. Dan Sullivan and Gov. Mike Dunleavy, both Republicans, who also took part in meetings Sunday in Anchorage and Utqiagvik.

In Utqiagvik, an Arctic community that experiences 24 hours of daylight this time of year, many Alaska Native leaders support Trump's push for more drilling in the petroleum reserve and to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil development. They lauded the visit after lamenting that they felt ignored by former President Joe Biden's administration.

Alaska political leaders have long complained about perceived federal overreach by the U.S. government, which oversees about 60% of lands in Alaska. Sullivan, Dunleavy and Alaska's senior U.S. senator, Lisa Murkowski, often complained that Biden's team was too restrictive in its approach to many resource development issues.

Murkowski, an at-times vocal critic of Trump, joined for Sunday's meeting in Anchorage, where she said Alaska leaders "want to partner with you. We want to be that equal at the table instead of an afterthought."

Environmentalists criticized Interior's planned rollback of restrictions in portions of the petroleum reserve. While Sullivan called the repeal a top priority, saying Congress intended to have development in the petroleum reserve, environmentalists maintain that the law balances allowances for oil drilling with a need to provide protections for sensitive areas and decried Interior's plans as wrong-headed.

Erik Grafe, an attorney with Earthjustice, called the Trump administration's intense focus on oil and gas troubling, particularly in a state experiencing the real-time impacts of climate change. He called the continued pursuit of fossil fuel development "very frustrating and heartbreaking to see."

The Interior Department said it will accept public comment on the planned repeal.

The three Trump officials also plan to speak at Dunleavy's annual energy conference Tuesday in Anchorage.

Ukraine and Russia agree to swap dead and wounded troops but report no progress toward ending war

By MEHMET GUZEL Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — Representatives of Russia and Ukraine met Monday for their second round of direct peace talks in just over two weeks, but aside from agreeing to swap thousands of their dead and seriously wounded troops, they made no progress toward ending the 3-year-old war, officials said.

The talks unfolded a day after a string of stunning long-range attacks by both sides, with Ukraine launching a devastating drone assault on Russian air bases and Russia hurling its largest drone attack of the war against Ukraine.

At the negotiating table, Russia presented a memorandum setting out the Kremlin's terms for ending hostilities, the Ukrainian delegation said.

Defense Minister Rustem Umerov, who led the Ukrainian delegation, told reporters that Kyiv officials would need a week to review the document and decide on a response. Ukraine proposed further talks on a date between June 20 and June 30, he said.

After the talks, Russian state news agencies Tass and RIA Novosti published the text of the Russian memorandum, which suggested that Ukraine withdraw its forces from the four regions that Russia annexed in September 2022 but never fully captured as a condition for a ceasefire.

As an alternate way of reaching a truce, the memorandum presses Ukraine to halt its mobilization efforts and freeze Western arms deliveries, conditions were suggested earlier by Russian President Vladimir Putin. The document also suggests that Ukraine stop any redeployment of forces and ban any military presence of third countries on its soil as conditions for halting hostilities.

The Russian document further proposes that Ukraine end martial law and hold elections, after which the two countries could sign a comprehensive peace treaty that would see Ukraine declare its neutral status, abandon its bid to join NATO, set limits on the size of its armed forces and recognize Russian as the country's official language on par with Ukrainian.

Ukraine and the West have previously rejected all those demands from Moscow.

In other steps, the delegations agreed to swap 6,000 bodies of soldiers killed in action and to set up a commission to exchange seriously wounded troops.

Kyiv officials said their surprise drone attack Sunday damaged or destroyed more than 40 warplanes at air bases deep inside Russia, including the remote Arctic, Siberian and Far East regions more than 7,000 kilometers (4,300 miles) from Ukraine.

The complex and unprecedented raid, which struck simultaneously in three time zones, took over a year and a half to prepare and was "a major slap in the face for Russia's military power," said Vasyl Maliuk, the head of the Ukrainian security service, who led its planning.

Zelenskyy called it a "brilliant operation" that would go down in history. The effort destroyed or heavily damaged nearly a third of Moscow's strategic bomber fleet, according to Ukrainian officials.

Russia on Sunday fired the biggest number of drones — 472 — at Ukraine since its full-scale invasion in 2022, Ukraine's air force said, in an apparent effort to overwhelm air defenses. That was part of a recently escalating campaign of strikes in civilian areas of Ukraine.

Hopes low for peace prospects

U.S.-led efforts to push the two sides into accepting a ceasefire have so far failed. Ukraine accepted the proposed truce, but the Kremlin effectively rejected it. Recent comments by senior officials in both countries indicate they remain far apart on the key conditions for stopping the war.

The previous talks on May 16 in the same Turkish city were the first direct peace negotiations since the early weeks of Moscow's 2022 invasion. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the fact that the two sides met again Monday was an achievement in itself amid the fierce fighting.

"The fact that the meeting took place despite yesterday's incident is an important success in itself," he said in a televised speech.

Zelenskyy said during a trip to Lithuania on Monday that a new release of prisoners of war was being

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 41 of 62

prepared after the Istanbul meeting. The May 16 talks also led to a swap of prisoners, with 1,000 on both sides being exchanged.

During the talks, Zelenskyy said, the Ukrainian delegation handed over a list of nearly 400 abducted children. Russia responded by proposing to "work on up to 10 children."

"That's their idea of addressing humanitarian issues," Zelenskyy said Monday during an online briefing with journalists.

The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant in 2023 for Putin and the country's commissioner for children's rights, Maria Lvova-Belova, accusing them of abducting children from Ukraine.

The head of the Russian delegation, Vladimir Medinsky, an aide to Putin, said Kyiv had made a "show" out of the topic and that children would be returned if their parents or guardians could be located.

Zelenskyy also told journalists that the Russian side said it was ready for a two- to three-day ceasefire to collect bodies from the battlefield, not a full ceasefire.

"I think they're idiots, because the whole point of a ceasefire is to prevent people from being killed in the first place. So you can see their mindset — it's just a brief pause in the war for them," he added.

The relentless fighting has frustrated U.S. President Donald Trump's goal of bringing about a quick end to the war. A week ago, he expressed impatience with Putin as Moscow pounded Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities with drones and missiles for a third straight night. Trump said on social media that Putin "has gone absolutely CRAZY!"

Ukraine upbeat after strikes on air bases

Ukraine was triumphant after targeting the distant Russian air bases. The official Russian response was muted, with the attack getting little coverage on state-controlled television. The Russia-1 television channel on Sunday evening spent a little over a minute on it with a brief Defense Ministry statement read out before images shifted to Russian drone strikes on Ukrainian positions.

Zelenskyy said the setbacks for the Kremlin would help force it to the negotiating table, even as it pursues a summer offensive on the battlefield.

"Russia must feel what its losses mean. That is what will push it toward diplomacy," he said Monday in Vilnius, Lithuania, meeting with leaders from the Nordic nations and countries on NATO's eastern flank.

Ukraine has occasionally struck air bases hosting Russia's nuclear-capable strategic bombers since early in the war, prompting Moscow to redeploy most of them to the regions farther from the front line.

Because Sunday's drones were launched from trucks close to the bases in five Russian regions, military defenses had virtually no time to prepare for them.

Many Russian military bloggers chided the military for its failure to build protective shields for the bombers despite previous attacks, but the large size of the planes makes that challenging.

The attacks were "a big blow to Russian strategic air power" and exposed significant vulnerabilities in Moscow's military capabilities, said Phillips O'Brien, a professor of strategic studies at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

Edward Lucas, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Center for European Policy Analysis, called it "the most audacious attack of the war" and "a military and strategic game-changer."

"Battered, beleaguered, tired and outnumbered, Ukrainians have, at minimal cost, in complete secrecy, and over vast distances, destroyed or damaged dozens, perhaps more, of Russia's strategic bombers," he said.

Front-line fighting and shelling grinds on

Fierce fighting has continued along the roughly 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line, and both sides have hit each other's territory with deep strikes.

Russian forces shelled Ukraine's southern Kherson region, killing three people and wounding 19 others, including two children, regional officials said Monday.

Also, a missile strike and shelling around the southern city of Zaporizhzhia killed five people and wounded nine others, officials said.

The Latest: Trump's pledge to fix national debt faces skepticism from some Republicans

By The Associated Press undefined

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-break package.

Financial markets have remained skeptical, as the deficit continues to grow despite Trump's promises to curb spending.

Here's the latest:

Trump implores New Jersey voters to back governor candidate Jack Ciattarelli in primary

The president announced his endorsement for Ciattarelli last month but held a telephone rally for the candidate Monday ahead of the start early in-person voting on Tuesday. The phone call lasted about 10 minutes, with the president saying that voters will decide whether the state remains a "high tax, high crime sanctuary state."

"New Jersey is ready to pop out of that blue horror show and really get in there and vote for somebody that's going to make things happen," the president said.

Ciattarelli said his first executive order if elected would be ending any sanctuary policies for immigrants in the country illegally. Currently, the state attorney general has directed local law enforcement not to assist federal agents in civil immigration matters.

Ciattarelli is running against former radio talk host Bill Spadea, state Sen. Jon Bramnick, former Englewood Cliffs Mayor Mario Kranjac and a southern New Jersey contractor named Justin Barbera.

Trump and Senate budget hawks talk privately over increasing cuts in GOP tax bill

Sen. Ron Johnson, a Wisconsin Republican, said he'd spoken with Trump recently about the bill after his promise that at least four senators were willing to hold the bill unless steeper cuts to the deficit were made.

"My main sticking point is the debt ceiling. If they strip the debt ceiling off, there's a lot of things I would vote for," said Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky. Paul said that he told Trump this would be the first time in recent history that Republicans would "own" the debt ceiling if an increase of the nation's debt limit was included in the GOP's sweeping tax and spending package.

"My target for the next fiscal year (is) \$6.5 trillion," said Sen. Rick Scott of Florida. Senators, Scott said, must "go line by line through the budget" to achieve "pre-pandemic levels of spending." Scott added that he'd recently conveyed this to Trump.

Harvard lawyers ask judge to rule whether health research grants were lawfully ended

Attorneys representing the Ivy League institution filed a motion for summary judgement in its lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Massachusetts U.S. District Court on Monday, asserting that the Trump administration's freeze of billions of dollars in grants "flagrantly violates the First Amendment multiple times over."

"The Government's across-the-board freeze and terminations are unreasonable and unreasoned," the motion filed by Harvard reads, going on to say that the Trump administration asserts antisemitism concerns "as the basis for its actions but fails to explain how the termination of funding for research to treat cancer, support veterans, and improve national security addresses antisemitism."

Harvard attorneys said the institution has been at the forefront of health research for 400 years.

"All told, the tradeoff put to Harvard was clear: Allow the Government to micromanage your viewpoints and your academic institution or jeopardize your ability to pursue medical breakthroughs, scientific discoveries, and innovative solutions," attorneys wrote.

GOP senators are waiting on Trump before launching Russian sanctions package

Sen. Markwayne Mullin says Congress is ready to slap sanctions on Russia to push an end to the Ukraine war — as soon as Trump says so.

"We are prepared to move forward as soon as they feel like it's the timing's right," the Oklahoma Re-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 43 of 62

publican said.

He said, "We don't want to get in front of the White House. We want to work with them."

Trump ally Sen. Lindsey Graham has been overseas working to build momentum for the sanctions on Putin's regime. Senate Majority Leader John Thune said earlier that the White House is still working toward a deal to end the war.

Trump is talking to GOP senators about Medicaid cuts and taxes in the big bill

GOP Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri says Trump told him in a call he "wants to make sure" the Senate doesn't cut Medicaid benefits.

The Missouri Republican has been working to strip steep health care cuts in the House bill, beyond work requirements for some aid recipients.

Hawley said Trump told him the senators could instead raise revenue by closing the so-called carried interest tax loophole used by wealthy filers.

DeChambeau golfs on the White House lawn

U.S. Open champion Bryson DeChambeau was getting in some golf practice on a famous green Monday at the South Lawn of the White House, according to a video posted by a White House aide.

DeChambeau, who golfed on Sunday with President Donald Trump at his club in Virginia, returned to the White House with the president Sunday and appeared to stick around Monday, when he used the putting green on the South Lawn.

The putting green was first installed in 1954 during President Dwight Eisenhower's administration. It was removed in 1971, later restored in a different location by former President George H.W. Bush and moved to its current spot under President Bill Clinton.

White House makes public Trump's new official picture

His stare is intent. His coiffure has been swept to his right side. The lighting is dramatic with a mix of shadows that depart from the brighter photographs of his predecessors. An American flag pin gleams in his lapel.

On the Monday social media post announcing the portrait, the White House used a flame emoji to describe the picture. The posting on X featured a video of a suited man hanging the framed picture on the wall to the soundtrack of an Austin Powers-like jazz riff as people walked by, giving the picture a look of stillness and permanence.

Trump meets Senate GOP leader at White House

Trump and Senate Majority Leader John Thune met at the White House at a critical moment Monday as senators returned to begin negotiations over the president's big tax breaks and spending cuts package.

Thune said that GOP senators are "on track" to have the package approved by their July 4 deadline.

But Thune also acknowledged the long road ahead as senators grind through private talks over changes to put its own stamp on the House-passed bill.

More white South Africans arrive in the US under new refugee program

Nine people, including families, arrived late last week, said Jaco Kleynhans, head of international liaison at the Solidarity Movement, a group representing members of South Africa's white Afrikaner minority. An initial group of 59 white South Africans arrived in Virginia on last month.

The program announced in February fast-tracks the resettlement of white South Africans after the Trump administration indefinitely suspended other refugee programs.

The administration said it is offering refugee status to white South Africans it alleges are being persecuted by their Black-led government and are victims of racially motivated violence. The South African government has denied the allegations and said they are a mischaracterization of the country.

RFK Jr. says autism 'destroys' families. Here's what those families want you to know

Emery Eversoll and her mother shared a good laugh when Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said that some autistic children will never write poems. The 16-year-old's bedroom is full of notebooks featuring her verses. Sometimes, she quietly recites poetry to get through an outburst of anger.

Still, this Kansas family is optimistic about Kennedy's plans to launch a broad-based study of what causes

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 44 of 62

autism.

Kennedy has said the developmental disorder “destroys families.” He said children with autism “will never pay taxes, they’ll never hold a job, they’ll never play baseball, they’ll never write a poem, they’ll never go out on a date. Many of them will never use a toilet unassisted.”

For some people with autism, his comments were an overdue recognition of the day-to-day difficulties for families with autistic loved ones. To others, Kennedy deeply misrepresented the realities of their disability.

Another federal judge freezes Trump’s push for wartime deportations

U.S. District Judge John Holcomb, who was appointed in 2019 by Trump, ruled that the administration is not providing due process rights to people it accuses of belonging to a Venezuelan gang against which Trump invoked an 18th century wartime law.

Holcomb temporarily halted removals of people in central California targeted under Trump’s invocation of the Alien Enemies Act of 1798. He joins judges in New York, Texas, Colorado and Pennsylvania in temporarily freezing deportations under the act.

Holcomb did find that Trump’s invocation of the act was proper. That’s in contrast to some other judges who ruled it cannot be used against a gang.

Trump says ‘horrific’ Colorado attack ‘WILL NOT BE TOLERATED’ in US

Trump says the “horrific” attack in Boulder, Colorado, “WILL NOT BE TOLERATED in the United States of America” and suggested it was the fault of his predecessor’s immigration policies.

In a post on his social media site, Trump wrote, that the suspect in the attack, Mohamed Sabry Soliman, “came in through Biden’s ridiculous Open Border Policy” – even though the details surrounding Soliman aren’t entirely clear.

Soliman was living in the U.S. illegally after having entered the country in August 2022 on a B2 visa that expired in February 2023, Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a post on X. B2 is generally a non-immigrant, temporary tourist visa.

McLaughlin said Soliman filed for asylum in September 2022 and was granted a work authorization in March 2023 that had expired.

Trump and Xi set to talk this week about trade challenges

Trump is “likely” to talk this week with Chinese President Xi Jinping, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt says.

The two leaders are slated to talk as trade tensions have intensified after both nations agreed in May to reduce tariffs for a 90-day negotiation period. But the U.S. is displeased with problems over China exporting critical minerals, while China is frustrated by U.S. efforts to limit their access to advanced computer chips.

Leavitt told reporters that the White House would provide a readout of the call between Trump and Xi.

Pennsylvania senators mostly agree during forum on bipartisanship, and politely disagree

Pennsylvania’s two U.S. senators, Democrat John Fetterman and Republican David McCormick sat on Monday for 30 minutes to take questions from Shannon Bream, anchor of Fox News Sunday, at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute in Boston as part of an effort to promote bipartisanship.

They found it easy to agree on certain questions, such as foreign policy, and politely disagreed on others, including President Trump’s tax breaks, spending cuts and border security bill.

Fetterman says he won’t support cuts to Medicaid and food aid. McCormick stresses the need for tax relief, spending cuts and border security. But he also says they agree that the federal government shouldn’t take benefits away from vulnerable people.

Fetterman and McCormick have struck up a friendship following McCormick’s victory last November over longtime Democratic Sen. Bob Casey, Fetterman’s mentor in the Senate. Fetterman has had something of a warm embrace from Republicans over his ideological split with Democrats on Israel and border policy.

On foreign policy, both men are strong backers of Israel in its war against Hamas and preventing a nuclear-armed Iran, even if it means Israel striking Iran’s nuclear facilities to destroy them.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 45 of 62

Trump's lawyers file emergency appeals weekly to Supreme Court

Trump administration lawyers have filed emergency appeals with the nation's highest court a little less than once a week on average since Trump began his second term.

The court is not being asked to render a final decision but rather to set the rules of the road while the case makes it way through the courts.

The justices have issued orders in 11 cases so far, and the Trump administration has won more than it has lost.

Among the administration's victories was an order allowing it to enforce the Republican president's ban of on transgender military service members. Among its losses was a prohibition on using an 18th century wartime law called the Alien Enemies Act to deport Venezuelans alleged to be gang members to a notorious prison in El Salvador.

Trump officials visit Alaska to discuss a gas pipeline and oil drilling

The Trump administration is sending three Cabinet members to Alaska this week as it pursues oil drilling in the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and reinvigorating a natural gas project that's languished for years.

The visit by Department of Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, Energy Secretary Chris Wright and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin comes after Trump signed an executive order earlier this year aimed at boosting oil and gas drilling, mining and logging in Alaska.

The three officials are appearing at an energy conference convened by Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy and at events with industry representatives and Alaska Native leaders who support drilling.

Trump lashes out at Leonard Leo and Federalist Society

Trump has lashed out at Leonard Leo, the conservative legal activist who has worked to dramatically reshape the country's courts.

Trump is blaming Leo and the group he used to head for encouraging him to appoint judges who are now blocking his agenda. Leo is the former longtime leader of the conservative Federalist Society, who, during Trump's first term, helped the president transform the federal judiciary and closely advised him on his Supreme Court picks.

He is widely credited as an architect of the conservative majority responsible for overturning Roe v. Wade.

Can Trump fix the US debt?

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.

The tax and spending cuts that passed the House last month would add \$5.1 trillion to the national debt in the coming decade if they are allowed to continue. That's according to the Committee for a Responsible Financial Budget, a fiscal watchdog group.

Spike in steel tariffs could imperil Trump promise of lower grocery prices

President Donald Trump's doubling of tariffs on foreign steel and aluminum could hit Americans in an unexpected place: grocery aisles.

The announcement Friday of a staggering 50% levy on those imports stoked fear that big-ticket purchases from cars to washing machines to houses could see major price increases. But those metals are so ubiquitous in packaging, they're likely to pack a punch across consumer products from soup to nuts.

"Rising grocery prices would be part of the ripple effects," says Usha Haley, an expert on trade and professor at Wichita State University, who added that the tariffs could raise costs across industries and further strain ties with allies "without aiding a long-term U.S. manufacturing revival."

Trump's return to the White House has come with an unrivaled barrage of tariffs, with levies threatened, added and, often, taken away, in such a whiplash-inducing frenzy it's hard to keep up. He insisted the latest tariff hike was necessary to "even further secure the steel industry in the U.S."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 46 of 62

Trump withdrawing the nomination of Musk associate to lead NASA

Trump says he is withdrawing the nomination of tech billionaire Jared Isaacman, an associate of Trump adviser Elon Musk, to lead NASA, saying he reached the decision after a "thorough review" of Isaacman's "prior associations."

It was unclear what Trump meant and the White House did not respond to an emailed request for an explanation.

"After a thorough review of prior associations, I am hereby withdrawing the nomination of Jared Isaacman to head NASA," Trump wrote late Saturday on his social media site. "I will soon announce a new Nominee who will be Mission aligned, and put America First in Space."

Sean 'Diddy' Combs' ex-aide says she was 'brainwashed' when she sent loving texts years after rape

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A former personal assistant who accuses Sean "Diddy" Combs of rape testified Monday that she continued sending the hip-hop mogul loving messages for years after her job ended in 2017 because she was "brainwashed."

The woman, testifying under the pseudonym "Mia," pushed back at defense lawyer Brian Steel's suggestions that she fabricated her claims to cash in on "the #MeToo money grab against Sean Combs."

Mia was on the witness stand for her third and final day at Combs' federal sex trafficking and racketeering trial in Manhattan, which is in its fourth week of testimony.

Combs, 55, has pleaded not guilty. His lawyers concede he could be violent, but he denies using threats or his music industry clout to commit abuse.

Steel had Mia read aloud numerous text messages she sent Combs. In one from 2019, she told Combs that he'd rescued her in a nightmare in which she was trapped in an elevator with R. Kelly, the singer who has since been convicted of sex trafficking.

"And the person who sexually assaulted you came to your rescue?" Steel asked incredulously. He rephrased, asking if she really dreamed of being saved by a man "who terrorized you and caused you PTSD?" Prosecutors objected and the judge sustained it.

It was one of many objections during a combative and often meandering cross-examination that stood in contrast to the defense's gentler treatment of other prosecution witnesses. Several times, the judge interrupted Steel, instructing him to move along or rephrase complicated questions.

In an Aug. 29, 2020, message to Combs, Mia recalled happy highlights from her eight years working for him — such as drinking champagne at the Eiffel Tower at 4 a.m. and rejecting Rolling Stones front man Mick Jagger's offer to take her home — saying she remembered only "the good times."

In the same message, Mia mentioned once feeling "bamboozled" by a woman. Steel asked why she didn't say Combs had bamboozled her as well.

"Because I was still brainwashed," Mia answered.

Asked to explain, Mia said that in an environment where "the highs were really high and the lows were really low," she developed "huge confusion in trusting my instincts."

When Steel suggested her assault claims were made up, Mia responded: "I have never lied in this courtroom and I never will lie in this courtroom. Everything I said is true."

She said she felt a moral obligation to speak out after others came forward against Combs, telling jurors: "It's been a long process. I'm untangling things. I'm in therapy."

Mia alleges Combs forcibly kissed her and molested her at his 40th birthday party, and raped her months later in a guest room at his Los Angeles home. She testified last week that the assaults were "random, sporadic, so oddly spaced out" she didn't think they'd happen again.

For a long time, Mia said, she kept the assaults to herself — staying quiet even after her friend, Combs' former longtime girlfriend Cassie, sued Combs in November 2023 alleging sexual abuse. The lawsuit, settled within hours for \$20 million, touched off Combs' criminal investigation.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 47 of 62

Mia followed Cassie as the second of three key prosecution witnesses. The third, using the pseudonym "Jane," will testify later this week.

Mia said she didn't feel comfortable telling Cassie, the R&B singer whose legal name is Casandra Ventura, that she was also victimized. She said she didn't tell prosecutors when she first met with them in January 2024, waiting about six months to do so.

"Just because you find out something doesn't mean you immediately snap out of it. I was still deeply ashamed and I wanted to die with this," Mia testified.

Steel suggested Mia only told prosecutors after she obtained legal counsel, accusing the witness of trying to lay the groundwork for a lawsuit against Combs.

But Judge Arun Subramanian shut down Steel's attempts to ask Mia if she chose her attorney because of that lawyer's success getting hefty judgments for writer E. Jean Carroll in sex abuse-related lawsuits against President Donald Trump.

Prosecutors warned that Steel's treatment of Mia in the closely watched Combs case could deter victims from testifying in other, unrelated cases.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Maurene Comey accused Steel of yelling at and humiliating Mia, and argued that picking apart her social media posts was excessive and irrelevant.

"We are crossing the threshold into prejudice and harassing this witness," Comey told Subramanian after jurors left the courtroom for a break.

Subramanian said he hadn't heard any yelling or sarcasm in Steel's questions but cautioned the lawyer not to overdo it with questions about Mia's social media posts.

Britain gets a defense boost aimed at sending a message to Russia, and to Trump

By JILL LAWLESS and PAN PYLAS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The United Kingdom will build new nuclear-powered attack submarines, get its army ready to fight a war in Europe and become "a battle-ready, armor-clad nation," Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Monday, part of a boost to military spending designed to send a message to Moscow — and Washington.

Starmer said Britain "cannot ignore the threat that Russia poses" as he pledged to undertake the most sweeping changes to British defenses since the collapse of the Soviet Union more than three decades ago.

"The threat we face is more serious, more immediate and more unpredictable than at any time since the Cold War," Starmer told workers and journalists at a navy shipyard in Scotland.

A new era of threats

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

The government announced military plans in response 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 war in Ukraine, and by the reelection of President Donald Trump last year.

Months after Britain's last major defense review was published, 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 in the review, aiming to help the U.K. confront growing threats on land, air sea and in cyberspace.

Submarines and weapons

The measures include increasing production of submarines and weapons and "learning the lessons of Ukraine," which has rapidly developed its drone technology to counter Moscow's forces and even hit targets deep inside Russia.

The government said the U.K. will invest in innovation and establish a cyber command to counter "daily"

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 48 of 62

Russia-linked attacks on Britain's defenses.

Other measures include:

- Building "up to 12" nuclear-powered, conventionally armed submarines under the AUKUS partnership with Australia and the U.S
- Investing 15 billion pounds (\$20.3 billion) in Britain's nuclear arsenal, which consists of missiles carried on a handful of submarines
- Increasing Britain's conventional weapons stockpiles with six new munitions factories and up to 7,000 U.K.-built long-range weapons
- Developing new airborne and land drones as well as a "hybrid Navy" of autonomous vessels and crewed ships
- Committing 1 billion pounds for U.K. air defenses
- A home guard to protect critical national infrastructure as part of a "whole-of-society approach" to defense. It was quickly branded a "Dad's Army," after the World War II-set sitcom

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

Deterring Russia comes at a cost

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 two-century low of about 74,000 — 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.

But 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.

James Cartlidge, defense spokesman for the main opposition Conservative Party, said "a defense review without the funding is an empty wish list."

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.

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.

Starmer said his government would make "Britain's biggest contribution to NATO since its creation."

"We will never fight alone," he said. "Our defense policy will always be NATO-first."

Matthew Savill, director of military sciences at defense think tank RUSI, said the review set out "a vision ... of what the armed forces should look like in future" but lacked key details.

"This is a statement of intent," he said. "It's not a road map."

Supreme Court rejects 2 gun rights cases, but assault weapons ban issue may be back soon

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A split Supreme Court on Monday rejected a pair of gun rights cases, though one conservative justice predicted the court would soon consider whether assault weapons bans are constitutional.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 49 of 62

The majority did not explain its reasoning in turning down the cases over high-capacity magazines and state bans on guns like the AR-15, popular weapons that have also been used in mass shootings.

But three conservative justices on the nine-member court publicly noted their disagreement, and a fourth said he is skeptical that assault-weapons bans are constitutional.

Justices Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch said they would have taken a case challenging Maryland's ban, and Justice Clarence Thomas wrote separately to say the law likely runs afoul of the Second Amendment.

"I would not wait to decide whether the government can ban the most popular rifle in America," Thomas wrote. "That question is of critical importance to tens of millions of law-abiding AR-15 owners throughout the country."

Justice Brett Kavanaugh agreed with the decision to pass on the case now but indicated that he is skeptical such bans are constitutional and that he expects the court will address the issue "in the next term or two."

The Maryland law was passed after the 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut that killed 20 children and six adults. The shooter was armed with an AR-15, one of the firearms commonly referred to as an assault weapon.

Several states have similar measures, and congressional Democrats have also supported the concept. The challengers had argued that people have a constitutional right to own the firearms like the AR-15, which most gun owners use legally.

The case comes nearly three years after the high court handed down a landmark ruling that expanded Second Amendment rights and spawned challenges to firearm laws around the country.

Ten states and the District of Columbia have similar laws, covering major cities like New York and Los Angeles. Congress allowed a national assault weapons ban to expire in 2004.

The gun control group Everytown Law applauded the high court's action, saying the measures make communities safer. "We will fight to ensure the courts continue to uphold these life-saving laws," said Janet Carter, managing director of Second Amendment litigation.

More than twice as many people died in mass shootings in which large-capacity magazines and assault weapons were used between 2015 and 2022, the group said.

Attorneys for Maryland argued the guns aren't protected by the Constitution because they're similar to military-grade weapons. The law bans dozens of firearms — including the AR-15, the AK-47 and the Barrett .50-caliber sniper rifle — and puts a 10-round limit on gun magazines.

The gun rights group Second Amendment Foundation said it has seven other cases challenging the bans and plans to continue to "aggressively litigate" them. "Millions of Americans continue to be disenfranchised from exercising their complete Second Amendment rights by virtue of these categorical bans," Executive Director Adam Kraut said.

The high court also rebuffed a bid to overturn state bans on high-capacity gun magazines in a case out of Rhode Island. Thomas, Alito and Gorsuch said they would have heard the case. More than a dozen states have similar laws limiting the amount of ammunition a magazine can hold.

Thomas and Kavanaugh have previously expressed skepticism about assault weapon bans.

As an appeals court judge in 2011, Kavanaugh wrote a dissent saying that a similar measure in Washington, D.C., was unconstitutional. Thomas, meanwhile, dissented in 2015 when the Supreme Court declined to hear a challenge to a municipal ban on AR-15-style weapons, writing that the "overwhelming majority" of people who owned the weapons used them for lawful purposes like self-defense.

The high court in 2022 handed down a ruling that expanded gun rights and told lower-court judges they should no longer consider factors like public safety in deciding whether firearm laws are constitutional. Instead, they should focus on whether a law fits into the nation's historic tradition of gun ownership, the court said.

That led to a flurry of challenges to gun laws around the country, multiple restrictions struck down, and confusion among lower-court judges over what gun laws can stay on the books.

Since then, the Supreme Court has overturned a ban on rapid-fire gun accessories called bump stocks but upheld a law barring people under domestic-violence restraining orders from having guns and regula-

tions on nearly untraceable ghost guns.

RFK Jr. says autism 'destroys' families. Here's what those families want you to know

By AMANDA SEITZ Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Emery Eversoll and her mother shared a good laugh when Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said that some autistic children will never write poems.

The 16-year-old's bedroom is full of notebooks featuring her verses. Sometimes, she quietly recites poetry to get through an outburst of anger. Her mother began suspecting she may have autism, in part, because she had memorized every word from a favorite book by age 2.

Still, this Kansas family is optimistic about Kennedy's plans to launch a broad-based study of what causes autism, the complex developmental disorder that impacts the brain and causes delays in language or learning, social withdrawal and an unusual need for routine. Kennedy has vowed to identify some of the causes of autism, which has been studied for decades, by September.

Kennedy has said autism "destroys families." He said children with autism "will never pay taxes, they'll never hold a job, they'll never play baseball, they'll never write a poem, they'll never go out on a date. Many of them will never use a toilet unassisted."

His comments and his plan to swiftly study its causes, have splintered a community of millions of people living with autism. For some, they were an overdue recognition of the day-to-day difficulties for families with autistic loved ones. To others, Kennedy deeply misrepresented the realities of their disability, provoking concern about his ability to handle a sweeping assessment of the disorder.

Some worry, too, that Kennedy has spent years suggesting that vaccines might cause autism, despite decades of scientific research showing no such link.

Ohio father Scott Copeland, himself autistic and a parent to two autistic children, doesn't trust that Kennedy will conduct a legitimate study.

"It'd be like standing up and saying you're going to have the cure for cancer in six months," said Copeland, who's 56. "Angry isn't a sufficient word."

Life with autism can be a daily struggle

While announcing plans to study the causes of autism, Kennedy described a grim life for those who cope with it.

For Kelly Van Den Berghe, Kennedy's comments reflect a painful reality for her son. The Massachusetts mom of five has an 18-year-old son, Daniel, who has profound autism.

Daniel cannot speak, although a tablet helps him communicate. He frequently punches himself so hard he's at risk for fracture or concussion. About a decade ago, doctors recommended he enter a full-time residential facility for his safety. It took years for his mother to agree to that, and, even now, tears well up in her eyes as she talks about that decision.

"My child, I do truly believe, that if he were able to tell us, he would not want autism because this has not affected him in a positive way," Van Den Berghe said. "So, for me, having someone finally recognize my son and his population is amazing."

The Eversolls viewed Kennedy's comments that way, too. Emery Eversoll struggles with fits of anger. Loud noises can bug her. And clothes can feel weird, especially jeans or socks, which often need to be worn inside out.

"It is hard if your child has any kind of thing that they have to work through or deal with that's extra," said Jessica Eversoll. "Just like if your child had lost their hand, it's still the same child, but they're going to have struggles navigating the world around them."

Eileen Lamb knows those struggles well. She was diagnosed with autism after she started noticing signs a decade ago that her first son, Charlie, may have autism.

Days in Austin, Texas, can be daunting with Charlie, younger brother Jude, a 9-year-old who also has autism, and a 2-year-old sister, Billie.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 51 of 62

At 12, Charlie still requires constant supervision, especially with his habit of eating non-food items; last year he swallowed a screw. At night, she monitors Charlie with a video camera, a motion detector and a tent-like safety bed to make sure that he does not bang his head or try to eat the walls. On a blog, Eileen Lamb shares therapy tips, family wins — like taking all three kids to a little league soccer game — and mourns some of the milestones that Charlie has missed.

Lamb said it's unlikely Charlie will ever play baseball or go on a date — as Kennedy said last month when describing autism — but she also doesn't only view her child's limitations.

"I see where he was going with his comments," said Lamb, who is also the director of social media at the national organization Autism Speaks. "But I also think that's not how you measure the value of our children's lives. The language we use matters."

Copeland, the Ohio father, also believes his 21-year-old son fit Kennedy's description of autism. His son is non-verbal, lives at home and requires around-the-clock care because he doesn't sense danger.

Kennedy's comments, however, made it clear to Copeland that he's had little experience with the disorder. "I don't appreciate people presenting themselves as experts when they don't know a damn thing about something," he said.

The quest to determine autism's cause has proven elusive. Kennedy has described autism as a "preventable disease."

That's rattled families that see a clear-cut answer for the cause of autism: genetics. Scientists, too, have concluded that genetics play a significant factor.

Ashley Seliqini, a 40-year-old mom and speech pathologist living in Greensboro, North Carolina, can clearly see the connections in her family. She and her 5-year-old daughter have both been diagnosed with the disorder. Both sometimes lose their ability to speak. Her daughter, too, gets overwhelmed by loud noises.

"You see it run in families," Seliqini said. "Sometimes the parents are not aware that they are autistic. After their child gets diagnosed they go, 'Oh, my goodness, I'm autistic, too.'"

Doctors and medical experts have attributed the rise in autism cases — about 1 in 31 U.S. kids are now diagnosed with it — to increased awareness, especially around milder forms of the disorder.

Kennedy has flatly rejected that explanation.

Both he and President Donald Trump have suggested that vaccines could be to blame for rising rates of autism, despite longstanding research that says otherwise. The National Institutes of Health has identified other environmental risk factors such as prenatal exposure to pesticides or air pollution, extreme prematurity or parents who conceive at an older age.

Last week, Kennedy said in an interview with CNN that the health department would start awarding grants to a team of 15 scientists who will study autism, although he has provided no details about who will lead the studies.

Eileen Lamb hopes that the studies do not look into vaccines because researchers have already firmly concluded there is no link. Instead, she'd like to see a focus on ways to support families like hers.

"It's not just about what's the cause but how do we help," she said.

For Van Den Berghe, Kennedy's study may hold answers she's wrestled with since Daniel was diagnosed many years ago. She's aware that research has found no link between vaccines and autism, but she's still not convinced. Daniel's severe reaction to the shots all those years ago is the only thing she can point to as a cause; no one else in her family has been diagnosed with autism.

"Why did this happen to him?" she said. "I've been searching for years and years and years."

Milky Way's chance of colliding with galaxy billions of years from now? New study puts odds at 50-50

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — It turns out that looming collision between our Milky Way and Andromeda galaxies might not happen after all.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 52 of 62

Astronomers reported Monday that the probability of the two spiral galaxies colliding is less than previously thought, with a 50-50 chance within the next 10 billion years. That's essentially a coin flip, but still better odds than previous estimates and farther out in time.

"As it stands, proclamations of the impending demise of our galaxy seem greatly exaggerated," the Finnish-led team wrote in a study appearing in *Nature Astronomy*.

While good news for the Milky Way galaxy, the latest forecast may be moot for humanity.

"We likely won't live to see the benefit," lead author Till Sawala of the University of Helsinki said in an email.

Already more than 4.5 billion years old, the sun is on course to run out of energy and die in another 5 billion years or so, but not before becoming so big it will engulf Mercury, Venus and possibly Earth. Even if it doesn't swallow Earth, the home planet will be left a burnt ball, its oceans long since boiled away.

Sawala's international team relied on the latest observations by NASA's Hubble Space Telescope and the European Space Agency's Gaia star-surveying spacecraft to simulate the possible scenarios facing the Milky Way and next-door neighbor Andromeda. Both already collided with other galaxies in their ancient past and, according to many, seemed destined for a head-on crash.

Past theories put a collision between the two — resulting in a new elliptical galaxy dubbed Milkomeda — as probable if not inevitable. Some predictions had that happening within 5 billion years, if not sooner.

For this new study, the scientists relied on updated galaxy measurements to factor in the gravitational pull on the Milky Way's movement through the universe. They found that the effects of the neighboring Triangulum galaxy increased the likelihood of a merger between the Milky Way and Andromeda, while the Large Magellanic Cloud decreased those chances.

Despite lingering uncertainty over the position, motion and mass of all these galaxies, the scientists ended up with 50-50 odds of a collision within the next 10 billion years.

"The fate of our Milky Way galaxy is a subject of broad interest — not just to astronomers," said Raja GuhaThakurta of the University of California, Santa Cruz, who was not involved in the study,

A full-on collision, he noted, would transform our home galaxy from a disk of stars seen as a milky band of diffuse light across the sky into a milky blob. A harmless flyby of the two galaxies could leave this stellar disk largely undisturbed, thus preserving our galaxy's name.

More work is needed before the Milky Way's fate can be predicted with accuracy, according to the researchers. Further insight should help scientists better understand what's happening among galaxies even deeper in the cosmos.

While our galaxy's fate remains highly uncertain, the sun's future is "pretty much sealed," according to Sawala. "Of course, there is also a very significant chance that humanity will bring an end to itself still much before that, without any need for astrophysical help."

China says US moves on computer chips and student visas 'seriously violate' tariffs truce

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — China criticized the U.S. on Monday over moves it alleged harmed Chinese interests, including issuing AI chip export control guidelines, stopping the sale of chip design software to China, and planning to revoke Chinese student visas.

"These practices seriously violate the consensus," the Commerce Ministry said in a statement, referring to a China-U.S. joint statement in which the United States and China agreed to slash their massive recent tariffs, restarting stalled trade between the world's two biggest economies.

But last month's de-escalation in President Donald Trump's trade wars did nothing to resolve underlying differences between Beijing and Washington and Monday's statement showed how easily such agreements can lead to further turbulence.

The deal lasts 90 days, creating time for U.S. and Chinese negotiators to reach a more substantive agreement. But the pause also leaves tariffs higher than before Trump started ramping them up last month.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 53 of 62

And businesses and investors must contend with uncertainty about whether the truce will last.

U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said the U.S. agreed to drop the 145% tax Trump imposed last month to 30%. China agreed to lower its tariff rate on U.S. goods to 10% from 125%.

The Commerce Ministry said China held up its end of the deal, canceling or suspending tariffs and non-tariff measures taken against the U.S. "reciprocal tariffs" following the agreement.

"The United States has unilaterally provoked new economic and trade frictions, exacerbating the uncertainty and instability of bilateral economic and trade relations," while China has stood by its commitments, the statement said.

It also threatened unspecified retaliation, saying China will "continue to take resolute and forceful measures to safeguard its legitimate rights and interests."

Trump stirred further controversy Friday, saying he will no longer be nice with China on trade, declaring in a social media post that the country had broken an agreement with the United States.

Hours later, Trump said in the Oval Office that he will speak with Chinese President Xi Jinping and "hopefully we'll work that out," while still insisting China had violated the agreement.

"The bad news is that China, perhaps not surprisingly to some, HAS TOTALLY VIOLATED ITS AGREEMENT WITH US," Trump posted. "So much for being Mr. NICE GUY!"

In response to recent comments by Trump, the Commerce Ministry said of the U.S.: "Instead of reflecting on itself, it has turned the tables and unreasonably accused China of violating the consensus, which is seriously contrary to the facts."

U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said that the Chinese were "just slow rolling the deal" from Geneva.

Appearing on Fox News on Sunday, Lutnick said the U.S. was "taking certain actions to show them what it feels like on the other side of that equation," adding that Trump would "work it out" with Xi.

The Trump administration also stepped up the clash with China in other ways last week, announcing that it would start revoking visas for Chinese students studying in the U.S.

U.S. campuses host more than 275,000 students from China.

Both countries are in a race to develop advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, with Washington seeking to curb China's access to the most advanced computer chips. China is also seeking to displace the U.S. as the leading power in the Asia-Pacific, including through gaining control over close U.S. partner and leading tech giant Taiwan.

Another sign of Syria's rebuilding: The Damascus stock exchange opens again

By GHAITH ALSAYED Associated Press

DAMASCUS (AP) — Trading resumed on the Damascus Securities Exchange on Monday after a six-month closure, as Syria's new leaders attempt to shore up the country's battered economy and begin rebuilding after nearly 14 years of civil war.

The stock exchange had closed during the chaotic days leading up to the ouster of former President Bashar Assad in a lightning rebel offensive.

Syrian Finance Minister Mohammed Yisr Barnieh, who attended the reopening, said it signals that the country's economy is beginning to recover and that the stock exchange "will operate as a private company and serve as a genuine hub for Syria's economic development, with a strong focus on digital," state-run news agency SANA reported.

He said the country's new leaders plan to "facilitate business operations and open doors to promising investment opportunities."

The move to reopen comes as international restrictions on Syria's financial systems begin to ease. The United States and Europe both last month announced the lifting of a wide raft of sanctions that had been slapped on Syria under the Assad dynasty's rule.

Last week, Syria inked a power deal worth \$7 billion with a consortium of Qatari, Turkish and U.S. com-

panies for development of a 5,000-megawatt energy project to revitalize much of Syria's war-battered electricity grid.

The consortium led by Qatar's UCC Concession Investments — along with Power International USA and Turkey's Kalyon GES Enerji Yatirimlari, Cengiz Enerji — will develop four combined-cycle gas turbines with a total generating capacity estimated at approximately 4,000 megawatts and a 1,000-megawatt solar power plant.

UN, Iran and Egypt meet to discuss Iran's nuclear program as enrichment continues

By LEE KEATH and MELANIE LIDMAN Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Iranian, Egyptian and U.N. leaders met in Cairo on Monday to discuss Iran's nuclear program after the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency in a confidential report said Iran is further increasing its stockpile of uranium enriched to near weapons-grade levels.

The report emerged amid U.S.-Iran talks aimed at attempting to limit Iran's nuclear program in exchange for lifting some of the crushing economic sanctions that the U.S. has imposed on the Islamic Republic, which have strained relations for almost 50 years.

Rafael Mariano Grossi, director-general of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, said the agency compiled its report, seen by The Associated Press over the weekend, because Iranian's uranium enrichment is an ongoing concern for the IAEA's board of governors.

Grossi said they hoped the report would provide "an incentive for a peaceful solution and a diplomatic solution."

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi met with Grossi as well as Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi and Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty.

IAEA expresses 'serious concern'

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

The IAEA report said that Iran, as of May 17, had amassed 408.6 kilograms (900.8 pounds) of uranium enriched up to 60%. That is an increase of almost 50% since the IAEA's last report in February. The 60% enriched material is a short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90%.

Iran's leadership has said it believes the IAEA report is politically motivated by Grossi's hopes of becoming the next U.N. secretary-general.

Grossi is attempting to attract the votes of several members of the U.N. Security Council with the report, the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, Mohammad Eslami, told the official IRNA news agency late Sunday.

"He basically has chosen a political attitude, and this political attitude has led the environment to be more political rather than technical," Eslami said.

Iranian deputy foreign minister Kazem Gharibabadi rejected many of the report's findings. Gharibabadi noted on Sunday that out of the IAEA's 682 inspections of 32 states, 493 were carried out in Iran alone.

"So long as a country's nuclear activities are under the IAEA's monitoring, there is no cause for concern," he said. "The Islamic Republic of Iran is neither pursuing nuclear weapons nor does it possess any undeclared nuclear materials or activities."

Questions about US transparency

Iran is concerned that the U.S. hasn't provided enough transparency about what Iran can gain from the talks, Esmail Baghaei, Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson, said on Monday.

"It must be crystal clear to us that how the unfair sanctions against the Iranian nation will be removed," Baghaei said.

Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi, who is mediating in the U.S.-Iran talks, visited Tehran on Saturday to present Washington's latest proposal for ongoing discussions. The fifth round of talks between the U.S.

and Iran concluded in Rome last week with "some but not conclusive progress," al-Busaidi said at the time. Araghchi said Monday that Iran will reply to the U.S. approach soon, but there will be no agreement unless Iran's right to enrichment is respected.

"If the purpose of the talks is to attain trust that Islamic Republic of Iran will never go after nuclear weapons, I think an agreement is fully achievable," Araghchi said. "But if there are unreasonable and unreal purposes, if the aim is depriving Iran from having peaceful activities, we will never accept any agreement."

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.

Attack leads to increased security elsewhere

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 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.

Suspect reemerged after initial attack before being arrested

After the initial attack, Osante said the suspect went behind some bushes and then reemerged and

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 56 of 62

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 the Palestinian cause for more than 40 years, was concerned that she might be accused of helping the suspect because she was wearing a pro-Palestinian 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 say they believe the suspect acted alone

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.

What cases are left on the Supreme Court's emergency docket? Here's a look

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The sequence of events is familiar: A lower court judge blocks a part of President Donald Trump's agenda, an appellate panel refuses to put the order on hold while the case continues and the Justice Department turns to the Supreme Court.

Trump administration lawyers have filed emergency appeals with the nation's highest court a little less than once a week on average since Trump began his second term.

The court is not being asked to render a final decision but rather to set the rules of the road while the case makes its way through the courts.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 57 of 62

The justices have issued orders in 11 cases so far, and the Trump administration has won more than it has lost.

Among the administration's victories was an order allowing it to enforce the Republican president's ban of on transgender military service members. Among its losses was a prohibition on using an 18th century wartime law called the Alien Enemies Act to deport Venezuelans alleged to be gang members to a notorious prison in El Salvador.

The most recent emergency filing arrived May 27.

A judge rebuked the administration over deportations to South Sudan

The Trump administration's latest appeal asks the high court to halt an order by U.S. District Judge Brian Murphy in Boston. The White House violated his earlier order, Murphy found, with a deportation flight bound for the African nation carrying people from other countries who had been convicted of crimes in the U.S.

Those immigrants must get a real chance to raise any fears that being sent there could put them in danger, Murphy wrote.

Trump's top Supreme Court lawyer, Solicitor General D. John Sauer, asked for an immediate high court order that would allow the third-country deportations to resume.

Murphy has stalled efforts to carry out deportations of migrants who can't be returned to their home countries, Sauer wrote. Finding countries willing to take them is "a delicate diplomatic endeavor" and the court requirements are a major setback, he said.

Lawyers for the deported men have until Wednesday to respond.

A watchdog group is trying to bring transparency to DOGE

The Department of Government Efficiency, overseen by billionaire Trump adviser Elon Musk until his departure on Friday, is resisting a lawsuit calling for it to publicly disclose information about its operations.

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington argues in a lawsuit that DOGE, which has been central to Trump's push to remake the government, is a federal agency and must be subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

CREW claims that DOGE "wields shockingly broad power" with no transparency about its actions. The administration says DOGE is just a presidential advisory body that is exempt from FOIA disclosures.

U.S. District Judge Christopher Cooper had found that its role is likely more than just advisory, especially in helping to shutter the U.S. Agency for International Development and cut billions of dollars in government contracts.

The administration appealed Cooper's orders requiring documents be turned over and acting Administrator Amy Gleason to answer questions under oath.

Last week, Chief Justice John Roberts agreed to temporarily pause the orders pending additional word from the Supreme Court.

A judge blocked DOGE's access to Social Security systems over privacy concerns

Social Security has personal data on nearly everyone in the country, including school records, bank details, salary information and medical and mental health records for disability recipients, according to court documents.

The Trump administration says DOGE needs access to Social Security's systems as part of its mission to target waste in the federal government.

But U.S. District Judge Ellen Hollander in Maryland restricted the team's access to Social Security under federal privacy laws, saying DOGE's efforts at the agency amounted to a "fishing expedition" based on "little more than suspicion" of fraud.

The judge is disrupting DOGE's work and interfering with decisions that belong to the executive branch, not courts, Sauer wrote in asking the high court to block Hollander's order in the suit filed by labor unions and retirees.

The justices could act anytime.

Trump wants to change citizenship rules in place for more than 125 years

Several judges quickly blocked an executive order Trump signed his first day in office that would deny

citizenship to children who are born to people who are in the country illegally or temporarily.

The administration appealed three court orders that prohibit the changes from taking effect anywhere in the country.

Earlier in May, the justices took the rare step of hearing arguments in an emergency appeal. It's unclear how the case will come out, but the court seemed intent on keeping the changes on hold while looking for a way to scale back nationwide court orders.

One possibility advanced by some justices was to find a different legal mechanism, perhaps a class action, to accomplish essentially the same thing as the nationwide injunctions blocking Trump's citizenship order.

Nationwide injunctions have emerged as an important check on Trump's efforts to remake the government and a source of mounting frustration to the Republican president and his allies.

Judges have issued 40 nationwide injunctions since Trump began his second term in January, Sauer told the court during the arguments.

The court could act anytime, but almost certainly no later than early summer.

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."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 59 of 62

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.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 60 of 62

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.

After talks with Zelenskyy and Macron, US senators warn: Putin 'is preparing for more war'

By THOMAS ADAMSON The Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin is stalling at the peace table while preparing a new military offensive in Ukraine, two senior U.S. senators warned Sunday, arguing that the next two weeks could shape the future of a war that has already smashed cities, displaced millions and redrawn Europe's security map.

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham and Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal spoke to The Associated Press in Paris after meeting President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and touring neighborhoods shattered by what they called the worst Russian bombardments since the full-scale invasion began.

In Paris for talks with French President Emmanuel Macron — who they say is "100% aligned" with them on the war — the senators warned the window to prevent a renewed assault is closing.

A sweeping U.S. sanctions bill could be the West's last chance to choke off the Kremlin's war economy, they said — adding that they hope their firsthand findings will shift momentum in Washington and help bring a skeptical President Donald Trump on board.

"What I learned on this trip was he's preparing for more war," Graham said of Putin. Blumenthal called the sanctions proposed in legislation "bone-crushing" and said it would place Russia's economy "on a trade island."

"It is crunch time for Putin and for the world because Russia is mounting a new offensive," he said.

At the heart of their push is a bipartisan sanctions bill, backed by nearly the entire U.S. Senate but still facing uncertain odds in Washington. It would impose 500% tariffs on countries that continue buying Russian oil, gas, uranium and other exports — targeting nations like China and India that account for roughly 70% of Russia's energy trade and bankroll much of its war effort.

Graham called it "the most draconian bill I've ever seen in my life in the Senate."

"The world has a lot of cards to play against Putin," he said. "We're going to hit China and India for propping up his war machine."

Peace talks or stalling tactic?

With peace talks yielding little and Trump's approach to Ukraine highly uncertain, Graham and Blumenthal have stepped into the breach — blunt emissaries on a lonely mission. Political opposites moving in lockstep, they're crossing Europe, and the aisle, with the moral urgency of two men trying to forestall another Russian offensive before it's too late.

Peace talks are scheduled to resume Monday in Istanbul. But Ukrainian officials say Moscow has yet to

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 61 of 62

submit a serious proposal — a delay both senators described as deliberate and dangerous.

"Putin is playing President Trump," Blumenthal said. "He's taking him for a sucker." The senator said Putin "is, in effect, stalling and stonewalling, prolonging the conversation so that he can mount this offensive and take control of more territory on the ground."

Graham added: "We saw credible evidence of a summer or early fall invasion, a new offensive by Putin. ... He's preparing for more war."

Trump has yet to endorse the sanctions bill, telling reporters Friday: "I don't know. I'll have to see it." Graham said the legislation was drafted in consultation with Trump's advisers.

Graham backed the president's diplomatic instincts but said, "By trying to engage Putin — by being friendly and enticing — it's become painfully clear he's not interested in ending this war."

Blumenthal hoped the bipartisan support for Ukraine at least in the Senate — and the personal testimonies they plan to bring home to Congress and the Oval Office— may help shift the conversation.

"He needs to see and hear that message as well from us, from the American people," he said of Putin.

A moral reckoning

In Kyiv, the senators said, the war's human toll was impossible to ignore. Graham pointed to what Ukrainian officials and Yale researchers estimate are nearly 20,000 children forcibly deported to Russia — calling their return a matter of justice, not diplomacy.

Blumenthal described standing at mass grave sites in Bucha, where civilians were executed with shots to the head. The destruction, he said, and the stories of those who survived, made clear the stakes of delay. "Putin is a thug. He's a murderer."

Both said that failing to act now could pull the U.S. deeper into conflict later. If Putin isn't stopped in Ukraine, Blumenthal said, NATO treaty obligations could one day compel American troops into battle.

They see resolve in Europe

After a one-hour meeting with Macron in Paris, both Graham, of South Carolina, and Blumenthal, of Connecticut, said they left convinced Europe was ready to toughen its stance.

"This visit has been a breakthrough moment because President Macron has shown moral clarity in his conversations with us," Blumenthal said. "Today, he is 100% aligned with that message that we are taking back to Washington."

Blumenthal pointed to the rare bipartisan unity behind the sanctions bill. "There are very few causes that will take 41 Republicans and 41 Democrats and put them on record on a single piece of legislation," he said. "The cause of Ukraine is doing it."

Ahead, Ukrainian military leaders are set to brief Congress and a sanctions vote could follow.

"President Trump said we'll know in two weeks whether he's being strung along," Graham said. "There will be more evidence of that from Russia on Monday."

Today in History: June 3, the Zoot Suit Riots begin in Los Angeles

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Tuesday, June 3, the 154th day of 2025. There are 211 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On June 3, 1943, an altercation between U.S. Navy sailors and young Mexican Americans on the streets of Los Angeles led to several days of clashes known as the Zoot Suit Riots, during which white mobs attacked Mexican Americans across the city, injuring more than 150.

Also on this date:

In 1844, the last confirmed specimens of the great auk were killed on Eldey island, near Iceland.

In 1888, the poem "Casey at the Bat" by Ernest Lawrence Thayer was first published in the San Francisco Daily Examiner.

In 1935, the French liner SS Normandie set a record on its maiden voyage, arriving in New York after crossing the Atlantic in just four days.

In 1937, Edward, The Duke of Windsor, who had abdicated the British throne, married Wallis Simpson in a private ceremony in Monts, France.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 343 ~ 62 of 62

In 1965, during the Gemini 4, spaceflight, astronaut Edward H. White became the first American to “walk” in space.

In 1989, Chinese army troops entered Beijing’s Tiananmen Square to begin a crackdown on student-led pro-democracy demonstrations.

In 2016, former heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali, whose athletic feats and activism placed him among the most revered athletes of all time, died in Scottsdale, Arizona, at age 74.

In 2017, elite rock climber Alex Honnold became the first to climb solo to the top of the massive granite wall known as El Capitan in Yosemite National Park without ropes or safety gear.

Today’s Birthdays: Former Cuban President Raúl Castro is 94. Basketball Hall of Famer Billy Cunningham is 82. Golf Hall of Famer Hale Irwin is 80. Singer Suzi Quatro is 75. Singer Deniece Williams is 75. Former first lady Jill Biden is 74. Olympic gymnastics gold medalist Peter Vidmar is 64. Musician Kerry King (Slayer) is 61. Broadcast journalist Anderson Cooper is 58. Tennis player Rafael Nadal is 39.