

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 1 of 79

1- Upcoming Events

2- We the People Column: We Cannot Trust Parchment Barriers Against the Encroaching Spirit of Power

4- Day of Play held Saturday

10- Powerful Pitching Performance From TC Schuster Carries Groton Jr. Teeners 14U Past W.I.N. Jr. Teeners

10- Groton Legion Post 39 Roll Past W.I.N.

11- Pitching Impressive As Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion Beat W.I.N.

11- Sixth-Inning Burst Enough To Lead Northville Merchants Past Groton Locke Electric

12- Jr. Legion Box Scores

13- Amateur Box Score

14- Groton Locke Electric To Play Hitmen Amateurs

15- Names Released in Sully County Fatal Crash

16- SD SearchLight: Republicans in Congress axed the 'green new scam,' but it's a red state boon

20- Sunday Extras

38- Gov. Rhoden's Weekly Column

39- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column

40- Rep. Dusty Johnson's Weekly Column

41- Rev. Snyder's Column

43- South Dakota Average Gas Prices

44- Drought Monitor

45- EarthTalk - Endangered Species Act

46- Weather Pages

50- Daily Devotional

51- Subscription Form

52- Lottery Numbers

53- Upcoming Groton Events

54- News from the Associated Press

Sunday, June 8

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

Emmanuel Lutheran worship with communion, 9 a.m.

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

Amateurs host Faulkton, 4 p.m.

Legion at Chamberlain, 1 p.m. (DH)

U12 ALL at Sisseton Tournament

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

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

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

Groton Daily Independent

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Dear Lord,
on this Pentecost
Sunday, fill our
hearts with Your Holy
Spirit. Guide us with
Your wisdom and
love, and empower
us to live out our
faith boldly.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.



Monday, June 9

Senior Menu: Hamburger gravy over mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, apricots, whole wheat bread.

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

Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.

School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

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

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

U12 B&W at Milbank, 5:30 p.m. (DH); U10 W&R hosts Columbia, 5:30 p.m. (DH); U8 R&B hosts Columbia, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

T-Ball G at Warner, 6 p.m., B at Warner, 7 p.m.

We the People

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



By David Adler

We Cannot Trust Parchment Barriers Against the Encroaching Spirit of Power

The ongoing efforts of federal judges to contain President Donald Trump's usurpation of congressional authority reflects an enduring theme: the fundamental conflict between power and law underlies the entire scope of political history. For as long as men and women have sought to shape and limit executive power through regulations and laws, the weakness of the cause has been repeatedly exposed. The conflict was brought into sharp relief on November 13, 1608, in a dramatic confrontation between King James I and Sir Edward Coke, Chief Justice of the King's Bench and patron saint to America's founders for championing constitutionalism and the rule of law.

On that day, Lord Coke asserted the supremacy of the law. King James I was offended by Coke's contention and declared that because all judges were but "his shadows and ministers," he could take any case he chose, remove it from the jurisdiction of the courts and decide it in his royal person. Lord Coke replied that "the King in his own person cannot adjudge any case," and added that cases should be determined by courts of justice, "according to the law and custom of England."

James I, according to Coke, "was greatly offended." James said, "this means that I shall be under the law, which it is treason to affirm." Coke's assertion of the supremacy of law was wholly inconsistent with the King's pretensions to absolute power and James nearly banished Coke to the Tower of London, where he would have perished and would not have achieved the historical influence that he wielded in the minds of our nation's founders.

The answer to the soaring claims of unbridled executive authority, delegates to the Constitutional Convention believed, lay in the enumeration of powers, fortified by the separation of powers and checks and balances. James Madison, in Federalist No. 48, recognized the vulnerability of this enterprise to constitutional corruption. Simply to provide in the Constitution that each branch should wield its own powers would be "to trust to parchment barriers against the encroaching spirit of power." Reliance on officials' adherence to written words—the text of the Constitution—would be inadequate as a means of restraining governmental agents from "overleaping their boundaries." More was required. Checks and balances, constructed on the principle, as he pointed out in Federalist 51, that "ambition should counteract ambition," implied that those in positions of power would jealously guard their constitutional turf and defend it from usurpation by those in other branches. The interest of the man, Madison, explained, would fit the interest of the place, creating a symbiotic relationship that, in theory, would be strong enough to maintain the enumeration of powers.

The founders' working assumption explains the willingness of the judiciary, thus far, to restrain President Trump's acts of usurpation through issuance of temporary injunctions, for if judges acquiesced in his aim to be the chief interpreter of the laws and the Constitution, they would be complicit in the surrender of the rule of law and handmaiden to tyranny.

But this assumption seems not to apply to a feckless Congress that has acquiesced in the face of Trump's aggrandizement of its chief constitutional powers—appropriations, lawmaking and appointments, among

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 3 of 79

others. How to explain this abdication of powers and duties among members of Congress? Madison assumed that "ambition" meant ambition to excel, that is, achievement of success, significance, stature and legacy through exceptional policymaking and lawmaking, not ambition to make a career which, sadly, seems to be the preoccupation of many members. Careerism renders members vulnerable to partisan political jabs, attacks and means of coercion, including those unleashed by an authoritarian who intimidates and threatens members with primary opponents. It must also be emphasized that when party leadership is subordinate to the president, as the GOP is now, Congress will be weak. In this case, party allegiance blurs and even obliterates the separation of powers and checks and balances. And then there is the desire of members to ascend to the presidency, which compromises the performance of their duties and responsibilities. In many cases, we should conclude, the difference in behavior between judges and congressmen just might be found in backbone, the courage to carry out one's oath of office and the willingness to do the right thing which, in our time, is the constitutional thing.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 4 of 79

Day of Play held Saturday



Groton Junior Legion pitcher Alex Abeln throws past a W.I.N. player during Saturday's Day of Play event. Abeln threw 13 strike outs during the Saturday game, only allowing two hits during the entirety of the game. Groton won against W.I.N. 3-0. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Nick Morris throws a pitch in the first inning of the Legion game against W.I.N. on Saturday afternoon. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Senior Groton Legion players Carter Simon, Nick Morris, Korbin Kucker, Brevin Fliehs and Teylor Diegel were honored before the start of the Legion game against W.I.N. on Saturday. The players were joined by their parents on the field. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 5 of 79



Groton U8 softball player Kayleigh Raba throws the ball to Liv Huber in the pitching position after tagging the base to get one of the Britton players out during the first of two games Saturday morning's game. (Photo by

Elizabeth Varin)



W.I.N. player Jacob Schmitt jumps over a hit made by Logan Fischbach during the top of the first inning of Saturday afternoon's game against Groton. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

Groton U10 Gold's Rowan Hanson snags a ball heading between second and third base during the team's scrimmage against the other Groton U10 softball team on Saturday morning. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 6 of 79



Groton U10 Gold's Haley Erickson throws a pitch during Saturday's scrimmage between the U10 Gold and U10 Black softball teams.

(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton U8 softball players race around the bases, celebrating their first win against Britton on Saturday morning.

(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton U10 Gold's KayLynn Furman hits the ball during a scrimmage between two Groton teams on Saturday morning.

(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Groton U10's Quinton Ronning throws a strike to finish out the top of the fourth inning of the team's game against Webster on Saturday. Groton Baseball Coordinator Matt Locke stands behind him to determine whether the pitches are strikes or balls.

(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 7 of 79



Kason Oswald as Junior Legion catcher. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



Braydon Kroll stretches for his pitch in Junior Legion action. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 8 of 79



Hayden Hubbart a double threat as pitcher and batter during Saturday's U-12 matchup against Britton. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 9 of 79



Groton Junior Legion stand after introductions prior to the start of Saturday afternoon's game playing W.I.N. at the all "Day of Play!" (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



Isaiah Scepaniak is up to bat while TC Schuster leads off at first. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

Powerful Pitching Performance From TC Schuster Carries Groton Jr. Teeners 14U Past W.I.N. Jr. Teeners

By GameChanger Media

TC Schuster was dominant on the mound, as the starting pitcher rang up 17 strikeouts in Groton Jr. Teeners 14U's 11-1 victory over W.I.N. Jr. Teeners on Saturday. Schuster gave up two hits and one run over six innings while walking one.

Schuster collected three hits in four at bats in the win. Schuster doubled in the third inning, singled in the first inning, and singled in the sixth inning.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U got on the board in the bottom of the third inning after Schuster doubled, scoring two runs, Reign Mansfield induced Jordan Schwan to hit into a fielder's choice, but one run scored, and Lincoln Shilhanek singled, scoring two runs.

Mansfield took the loss for W.I.N. Jr. Teeners. The starter went four innings, allowing six runs (five earned) on five hits, striking out five and walking one.

Shilhanek drove the middle of the lineup, leading Groton Jr. Teeners 14U with five runs batted in. The first baseman went 2-for-4 on the day. Keegan Kucker collected two hits for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U in three at bats. Schuster, Zach Fliehs, Schwan, and Kucker each stole multiple bases for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. Groton Jr. Teeners 14U stole 13 bases in the game. Groton Jr. Teeners 14U didn't commit a single error in the field. Kucker had the most chances in the field with 17.

Mansfield and Lux Heine each collected one hit for W.I.N. Jr. Teeners.

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Groton Legion Post 39 Roll Past W.I.N.

By GameChanger Media

Groton Legion Post 39 won big over W.I.N. 7-1 on Saturday at Groton.

Groton Legion Post 39 opened the scoring in the first after an error scored one run.

Groton Legion Post 39 added to their early lead in the bottom of the second inning when Korbin Kucker doubled, scoring one run, and Brevin Fliehs singled, scoring two runs.

Nick Morris earned the win for Groton Legion Post 39. The pitcher surrendered seven hits and one run (zero earned) over six and two-thirds innings, striking out six and walking one. Logan Fischbach took the loss for W.I.N.. The hurler went five innings, surrendering five runs (four earned) on six hits, striking out eight and walking three.

Groton Legion Post 39 piled up 10 hits in the game. Teylor Diegel, Fliehs, and Kucker each collected two hits for Groton Legion Post 39. Fliehs and Kucker were a one-two punch in the lineup, as each drove in two runs for Groton Legion Post 39. Groton Legion Post 39 ran wild on the base paths, tallying five stolen bases for the game.

Lincoln Kroll, W.I.N.'s number eight hitter, led the team with two hits in three at-bats.

Groton Legion Post 39 will travel to Chamberlain for their next game on Sunday.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 11 of 79

Pitching Impressive As Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion Beat W.I.N.

By GameChanger Media

Both teams were strong on the mound on Saturday, but Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion defeated W.I.N. 3-0. Alex Abeln started the game for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion and recorded 21 outs.

Abeln struck out 13 batters on the day. The starting pitcher also allowed three hits and zero runs over seven innings while walking one.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion got on the board in the bottom of the third inning after Abeln singled down the right field line, W.I.N. committed an error, and T.C Schuster doubled to left field, each scoring one run.

Braydon Kroll took the loss for W.I.N.. The starting pitcher went five innings, giving up three runs (zero earned) on four hits, striking out five and walking none.

Kason Oswald, Schuster, Abeln, and Nick Groeblichhoff each collected one hit for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Schuster and Abeln each drove in one run for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion.

Drew Bakeburg, Kroll, and Lincoln Kroll each collected one hit for W.I.N..

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion will travel to Sisseton for their next game on Monday.

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Sixth-Inning Burst Enough To Lead Northville Merchants Past Groton Locke Electric

By GameChanger Media

Northville Merchants scored six runs in the sixth inning, which helped them defeat Groton Locke Electric 9-2 on Saturday at Groton.

Northville Merchants got on the board in the first inning after Greg Heyne singled, scoring one run.

Groton Locke Electric jumped back into the lead in the bottom of the first inning after Spencer Locke singled to center field, and Bj Richter singled to center field, each scoring one run.

Groton Locke Electric committed an error, which helped Northville Merchants tie the game at two in the top of the third.

Northville Merchants flipped the game on its head in the top of the sixth, scoring six runs on two hits to take the lead, 8-2. The biggest blow in the inning was a double by Drew Bareburg that drove in three.

Richter pitched three and one-third innings in relief for Groton Locke Electric. The right-handed pitcher surrendered one hit and one run (zero earned) while, striking out two and walking four. Alex Morris stepped on the hill first for Groton Locke Electric. The pitcher gave up one hit and one run over two-thirds of an inning, striking out none and walking one. Bryan Weber led things off on the mound for Northville Merchants. The hurler gave up five hits and two runs over four and two-thirds innings, striking out two and walking three.

Bradin Althoff and Locke each collected two hits for Groton Locke Electric. Richter and Locke each drove in one run for Groton Locke Electric. Groton Locke Electric turned one double play in the game.

Bareburg led Northville Merchants with three runs batted in from the number eight spot in the lineup. The shortstop went 1-for-4 on the day. Heyne went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Northville Merchants in hits. Dawson Ward paced Northville Merchants with four walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, tallying 15 walks for the game. Northville Merchants turned two double plays in the game.

Groton Locke Electric play at home on Sunday against Faulkton in their next game.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 12 of 79

W.I.N. 0 - 3 Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion

📍 Home 📅 Saturday June 07, 2025

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
W..N	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6
GRTN	0	0	3	0	0	0	X	3	4	1

BATTING

W.I.N.	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
D Bakeburg #2 (SS)	3	0	1	0	0	2
C Mansfield #9 (C)	3	0	0	0	0	1
A Mikkel... #23 (3B)	3	0	0	0	0	2
L Fischb... #11 (CF)	3	0	0	0	0	1
B Halvorson (2B)	2	0	0	0	0	1
L Kroll (1B)	2	0	1	0	1	0
M Heinz (LF)	3	0	0	0	0	2
B Kroll (P)	3	0	1	0	0	1
J Schmitt (RF)	3	0	0	0	0	3
Totals	25	0	3	0	1	13

2B: D Bakeburg, **TB:** B Kroll, L Kroll, D Bakeburg 2,
HBP: B Halvorson, **LOB:** 6

PITCHING

W.I.N.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
B Kroll	5.0	4	3	0	0	5	0
L Kroll	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Totals	6.0	4	3	0	0	8	0

L: B Kroll, **P-S:** B Kroll 95-60, L Kroll 14-9, **HBP:** B Kroll 2, **BF:** B Kroll 25, L Kroll 3

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
L Krause #2 (CF)	3	0	0	0	0	0
A Abeln #5 (P)	3	1	1	1	0	0
N Groebl... #13 (1B)	3	1	1	0	0	0
T Schuster #3 (SS)	1	0	1	1	0	0
I Scean... #20 (3B)	3	0	0	0	0	2
J Schwan #11 (LF)	3	0	0	0	0	3
J Bisbee #15 (2B)	3	0	0	0	0	1
K Oswald #12 (C)	3	0	1	0	0	2
T McGa... #22 (RF)	2	1	0	0	0	0
B Fliehs #19	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	26	3	4	2	0	8

2B: T Schuster, **TB:** T Schuster 2, A Abeln, N
Groeblinghoff, K Oswald, **HBP:** T Schuster 2, **LOB:** 7

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	IP	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
A Abeln #5	7.0	3	0	1	13	0
Totals	7.0	3	0	1	13	0

W: A Abeln, **P-S:** A Abeln 93-63, **HBP:** A Abeln, **BF:** A
Abeln 27

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 13 of 79

Northville Merchants 9 - 2 Groton Locke Electric

📍 Home 📅 Saturday June 07, 2025

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
NRTH	1	0	1	0	0	6	1	9	6	1
GRTN	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	2

BATTING

Northville Merchants	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
K Stahl #2 (C)	2	1	0	0	3	0
E Beyers #34 (3B)	5	1	1	0	0	0
J Maxfie... #13 (DH)	4	2	1	0	1	0
G Heyne #11 (2B)	3	1	2	1	2	0
D Ward #20 (1B)	1	1	0	0	4	1
X Kadlec #3 (CF)	2	1	0	2	3	0
L Little #18 (LF)	2	0	0	0	0	1
C Mansfield (SS)	1	2	0	1	2	0
D Bareburg #2 (SS)	4	0	1	3	0	2
M Heinz #25 (RF)	4	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	28	9	6	7	15	4

2B: D Bareburg, **TB:** E Beyers, M Heinz, G Heyne 2, J Maxfield, D Bareburg 2, **SB:** C Mansfield, K Stahl, **LOB:** 13

PITCHING

Northville Merchants	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
B Weber #8	4.2	5	2	2	3	2
J Maxfi... #13	2.1	0	0	0	2	0
Totals	7.0	5	2	2	3	4

P-S: B Weber 64-41, J Maxfield 25-18, **BF:** B Weber 21, J Maxfield 7

Groton Locke Electric	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
B Althoff #27 (1B)	3	1	2	0	0	0
A Jones #7 (CF)	3	0	0	0	0	1
S Locke #15 (3B)	3	1	2	1	0	0
T Sieber #24 (SS)	2	0	0	0	1	0
A Suther #20	2	0	0	0	0	1
N Morri... #17 (3B)	1	0	0	0	0	0
B Richter #19 (3B)	2	0	1	1	0	0
K Flieds Legi... #10	1	0	0	0	0	0
R Groebli... #0 (2B)	3	0	0	0	0	1
W Locke #38 (C)	1	0	0	0	1	0
J Erdm... #00 (CF)	1	0	0	0	0	1
A Severs... #33 (LF)	1	0	0	0	1	0
C Larson #17 (RF)	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	25	2	5	2	3	4

3B: B Althoff, **TB:** S Locke 2, B Althoff 4, B Richter, **SB:** B Althoff, **LOB:** 5

Groton Locke Electric	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
A Morris #13	0.2	1	1	1	0	0
B Richter #19	3.1	1	1	4	2	0
W Locke #38	1.2	2	6	8	2	0
A Jones #7	1.1	2	1	2	0	0
Totals	7.0	6	9	15	4	0

P-S: A Morris 21-12, A Jones 34-14, B Richter 69-36, W Locke 61-26, **BF:** A Morris 4, A Jones 8, B Richter 17, W Locke 14

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 14 of 79

Groton Locke Electric To Play Hitmen Amateurs

By GameChanger Media

Groton Locke Electric will play Hitmen Amateurs today at Groton for a 4 p.m. game.

Last Time Out:

Groton Locke Electric fell to Northville Merchants 9-2 at Groton. Hitmen Amateurs were defeated by Northville 8-2 at Northville.

Player Highlight:

Austin Jones hits and pitches for Groton Locke Electric. Jones primarily plays center field on the field. Jones has put together one quality at bat this season.

About Groton Locke Electric:

Groton Locke Electric has zero wins against one loss this season. Bradin Althoff's 2.000 OPS leads Groton Locke Electric. The first baseman has a 0.667 OBP and a 1.333 slugging percentage this season. Bj Richter leads Groton Locke Electric with three and one-third innings pitched. The righty has a 0.00 ERA this season. Ryan Groeblichhoff leads Groton Locke Electric with five total fielding chances this season. Groeblichhoff's primary position is right field.

About Hitmen Amateurs:

Hitmen Amateurs has zero wins against one loss this season. Rafael Clemente's 0.833 OPS leads Hitmen Amateurs. Clemente has a 0.500 OBP and a 0.333 slugging percentage this season. Cade Schick leads Hitmen Amateurs with 11 total fielding chances this season. Schick's primary position is catcher.

Names Released in Sully County Fatal Crash

What: Three vehicle fatal crash

Where: US Highway 83, mile marker 161, one mile south of Agar, SD

When: 9:54 a.m., Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Driver 1: 16-year-old male from Pierre, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2017 Dodge Ram 1500

Seat belt Used: No

Driver 2: Philip Marcus Rush, 37-year-old male from Gettysburg, SD, no injuries

Vehicle 2: 2021 Peterbilt 379

Seat belt Used: Yes

Driver 3: Jason Neely, 50-year-old male from Luck, WI, no injuries

Vehicle 3: 2017 Volvo Tractor

Seat belt Used: Yes

Sully County, S.D.- A Pierre, SD teen died Wednesday morning in a three-vehicle crash on US Highway 83, one mile south of Agar, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2017 Dodge Ram 1500 was traveling northbound on US Highway 83 and crossed over into the southbound lanes. An approaching Peterbilt semi in the southbound lane driven by Philip M. Rush, pulled off the roadway onto the shoulder but was struck by the Dodge on the rear trailer tires, causing the Dodge to spin in the southbound lane. A second semi, driven by Jason Neely, also in the southbound lanes, turned into the west ditch but also collided with the Dodge, which came to rest in the middle of the roadway.

The driver of the Dodge was pronounced deceased at the scene. The drivers of the Peterbilt and Volvo semis were not injured.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. All information released so far is only preliminary.

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



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Republicans in Congress axed the 'green new scam,' but it's a red state boon

BY: ASHLEY MURRAY - JUNE 7, 2025 11:45 AM

WASHINGTON — Clean energy manufacturers and advocates say they're perplexed how the repeal of tax credits in President Donald Trump's "one big beautiful bill" will keep their domestic production lines humming across the United States, particularly in states that elected him to the Oval Office.

While some Republicans have labeled the billions in tax credits a "green new scam," statistics reviewed by States Newsroom show the jobs and benefits would boost predominantly GOP-leaning states and congressional districts. Now the industry is already slowing amid Trump's back-and-forth tariff policy and mixed messaging on energy and manufacturing.

Trump vowed in early April to "supercharge our domestic industrial base."

"Jobs and factories will come roaring back to our country, and you see it happening already," he told a crowd in the White House Rose Garden while unveiling his new trade policy.

But as a way to pay for the \$3.9 trillion price tag of extending and expanding the 2017 corporate and individual tax cuts, U.S. House Republicans found billions of dollars in savings by slashing over a dozen clean energy tax credits enacted in the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act under President Joe Biden.

Critics say the mega-bill, which passed the GOP-led House on May 22 in a 215-214 vote, would effectively strip away the Advanced Manufacturing and Production Credit and other incentives.

They have bolstered the production of batteries and solar components in numerous states — top among them North Carolina, Georgia, Michigan, South Carolina, Indiana, Tennessee, Texas, Nevada, Illinois and Oklahoma, according to the Clean Investment Monitor, a joint project by the Rhodium Group and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research.

U.S. senators are now negotiating the massive budget reconciliation legislation.

Kevin Doffling, CEO and founder of Project Vanguard, an organization that connects veterans to clean energy jobs, warned pulling the plug on the clean energy tax credits will stifle progress the U.S. has made against other countries, namely China.

"We're just going to see a huge pullback from investments inside of advanced manufacturing here in the U.S., and then we'll go source it from other places, instead of doing it here," Doffling said on a May 28 press call pressing for senators to protect the tax credits.

Doffling's organization works in several states, including Arizona, Colorado, Indiana, Minnesota, Washington and Utah.

Moving away from fossil fuels

The suite of tax credits enacted under the IRA incentivized homeowners, car buyers, energy producers and manufacturers to invest in types of energy beyond fossil fuels, with the aim of a reduction in the effects of climate change.

For example, the IRA's Advanced Manufacturing and Production Credit is awarded per unit produced and sold, and in some cases the capacity of energy output.

Battery cell manufacturers can earn up to \$35 per battery cell multiplied by potential kilowatt hours. In the case of solar, the credit offers producers 7 cents per solar module multiplied by wattage output. For mining operations extracting critical minerals, such as lithium, companies can receive a 10% tax break on the costs of production.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 17 of 79

Most credits phase out by 2032 under the Biden-era law, except those for critical mineral mining, which continue.

A group of House Republicans, who have dubbed the tax credits the “green new scam” — echoing Trump’s rhetoric — pushed to accelerate the expiration in the final version of the mega-bill, even for critical mineral mining and production. The federal government classifies critical minerals as crucial to national security.

The House-passed bill also severely tightens language around foreign components, titled “foreign entities of concern,” making the credit practically unusable as many parts of the clean energy manufacturing supply chain are global, industry professionals say.

The legislation also repeals “transferability,” which allows companies with little or no tax liability to sell the credits.

For example, a critical mineral mining company would not turn a profit during an initial phase and could sell the credits to offset the cost of operations.

Schneider Electric, a global corporation with a U.S. base in Massachusetts, has facilitated 18 transfer deals worth \$1.7 billion in tax credits for U.S. companies since 2023. In a statement, Schneider said the deals “reflect growing market interest in flexible financing mechanisms that directly fund renewable projects.”

Silfab Solar, which recently built a solar cell manufacturing and module assembly plant in Fort Mill, South Carolina, announced in mid-May the sale of \$110 million in Advanced Manufacturing and Production Credits to help fund its expansion. The company already runs a solar manufacturing site in Burlington, Washington.

Investment soared

Spurred by the Advanced Manufacturing and Production Credit, known as 45X, actual investment in clean energy manufacturing since August 2022 reached \$115 billion in April, up from \$21 billion over the same length of time prior to the IRA, the Clean Investment Monitor found.

Of the 380 clean technology production facilities announced since the third quarter of 2022, 161 are now operational, according to CIM data.

The credit spurred a “sea change” in U.S. clean energy manufacturing, said Mike Williams, senior fellow at the liberal Center for American Progress and former deputy director of the BlueGreen Alliance, which advocates for the joining of labor and environmental organizations.

Despite solar technology’s roots in the U.S., the nation “didn’t even have a toe” in solar manufacturing, Williams said. Other countries, most notably Germany and then China, have dominated the industry.

“But after the Inflation Reduction Act passed, all of a sudden we see panel manufacturing, we see parts and components manufacturing, absolutely exploding. Plants have announced and started construction in Georgia, in Oklahoma,” Williams said in an interview with States Newsroom.

Active manufacturing of solar components, advanced batteries and wind turbines and vessels is concentrated in rural areas. Most are located in states that went red in the 2024 presidential election, according to the Clean Power America Association’s May 2025 State of Clean Energy Manufacturing in America report.

The renewable energy policy group estimated the industry supports 122,000 full-time manufacturing jobs across the U.S.

Active solar manufacturing sites and expansions are clustered in Texas, Ohio and Alabama, according to data from the association. Should major project announcements in Georgia pull through, the state would surpass Alabama for third place.

Advanced battery manufacturing spans 38 states, with the largest concentrations in California, Michigan and North Carolina.

But various parts of the battery production process stretch throughout the country — for example, battery cell production in Nevada and Tennessee and module production in Utah. Other supporting hardware is made in South Carolina, Arizona and Texas.

Lithium, a critical mineral for battery production, is currently mined in Nevada and California. And investors are eyeing other spots in the U.S., namely Alaska, to mine and produce graphite, another critical mineral.

China largely dominates the world’s critical mineral supply chain, according to U.S. Geological Survey

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 18 of 79

data for 2024.

When accounting for the full suite of clean energy tax credits that were enacted in 2022 — including residential, electric vehicles and clean electricity credits — just over 312,900 new jobs are linked to the industry, the bulk in Republican-led congressional districts, according to the advocacy group Climate Power's 2024 report on clean energy employment.

Troy Van Beek, CEO and founder of the Iowa-based solar company Ideal Energy, said his business weathered the pandemic and has been able to add jobs, but is now facing uncertainty again.

"We're getting our feet under us and really starting to operate. I went from 20-some jobs to over 60 jobs, and those are good-paying jobs for people and their families. So we need that stability in the industry," said Van Beek, who spoke on the call with Doffling.

"What troubles me is the rocking of the boat to such a degree that we can't get anything done, and that's been very difficult to deal with," he said.

Industry slowdown

The industry has seen a pullback since January and the beginning of the Trump presidency.

Six announced projects representing \$6.9 billion in investment were canceled in the first quarter of 2025, according to the Clean Investment Monitor's latest State of U.S. Clean Energy Supply Chains report. While investment in clean energy overall continues to grow, the beginning of 2025 shows a slowdown from where the industry was a year ago.

Van Beek, whose solar company provides construction and installation among others services, said recent talks to strike a deal with a solar manufacturer collapsed after threats to the tax credits.

"We had worked an entire year on putting together (a deal) with one of the leading manufacturers in the world that has U.S. manufacturing to actually have joint ventures and work with them on projects," Van Beek said. "And when this came up, that deal came to a screeching halt."

Van Beek did not name the company on the call and did not respond to a request for a follow-up interview.

Several companies declined States Newsroom's requests for comment while senators negotiate the bill.

Spencer Pederson of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association said the unpredictability is interrupting how operators are planning for the coming years.

"Whether large or small, just the business certainty and the ability to plan out your business is disrupted when you have any type of tax mechanism that is abruptly halted when you're doing business planning at five- or 10-year intervals," said Pederson, the association's senior vice president of public affairs.

Too expensive, Republicans say

Some House Republicans, led by Rep. Jen Kiggans of Virginia, urged party colleagues to protect the clean energy tax credits — for example by removing the "overly prescriptive" restrictions on foreign entities of concern and keeping in place transferability of tax credits.

Kiggans wrote to House Republican tax writers in mid-May that "the last thing any of us want is to provoke an energy crisis or cause higher energy bills for working families."

Her co-signers included Don Bacon of Nebraska, Mark Amodei of Nevada, Rob Bresnahan of Pennsylvania, Juan Ciscomani of Arizona, Gabe Evans and Jeff Hurd of Colorado, Dave Joyce of Ohio and Dan Newhouse of Washington, who all eventually voted for the final bill.

Far-right House members won on not only shortening the lifespan of the credits, but also on keeping the restrictive foreign entity language and on repealing a company's ability to transfer credits.

The right-leaning National Taxpayers Union hailed the "commonsense changes" championed by the far-right House Freedom Caucus, under the leadership of Maryland Rep. Andy Harris.

The organization, which favors cutting government spending and lowering taxes, pointed to the cost. According to the Penn Wharton Budget Model, the credits as of 2022 were valued at roughly \$384.9 billion over ten years.

"The longer these subsidies remain in law, the more expensive they will become and the harder it will

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 19 of 79

be for Congress to remove them. Now it's up to the Senate to support the Green New Deal Rollbacks," Thomas Aiello, NTU's senior director of government affairs, wrote in the days following the House vote.

Hope in the Senate?

But representatives from multinational corporations to mid-size businesses and sizable trade associations are now looking to the U.S. Senate to restore measures that they say created a boom time for investment, production and new energy on the grid.

Jeannie Salo, chief public policy officer at Schneider Electric, said in a statement to States Newsroom that "The Senate should restore and extend the timelines for key energy and manufacturing credits and their transferability to ensure the nation continues to attract key investments and projects that will power the U.S. economy and help make energy more affordable."

Pederson said the restrictions on foreign components and company ties are "particularly restrictive coming out of the House."

"So we're hoping to work with the Senate Finance Committee and some of the members of the Senate who have indicated some willingness to make the foreign entity of concern language a little bit more workable," Pederson said.

Doffling believes senators have a "longer term vision" of the nation's energy strategy than House members who face reelection every two years.

"They see what's happening not just in their district, but in the entire state that they represent," Doffling said.

The House bill just sets the U.S. "further behind," he added. "This bill is all about going backwards in time and hoping for the best."

"I wish they could look at the numbers and understand the economic impacts it's gonna have. ... But somehow we're talking about the fact of hamstringing a whole entire industry itself over verbiage of the word 'clean.'"

Ashley Murray covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include domestic policy and appropriations.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 20 of 79



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

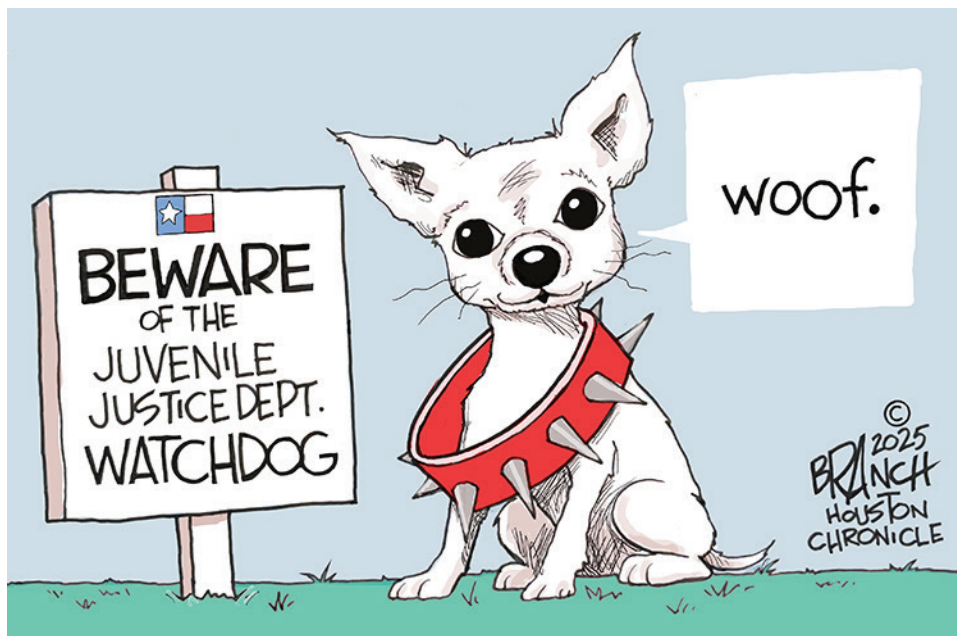


Detail from *The Return of the Prodigal Son*
by Rembrandt (1636)

And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

LUKE 15:20

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BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. Where did Jesus ride a colt as people strewed branches along His path? *Derbe, Jericho, Jerusalem, Joppa*

3. Who promised God if He gave her a baby boy no razor would ever touch his head? *Rachel, Hannah, Lois, Jezebel*

4. What was the river that the Israelites crossed when they entered Canaan? *Pison, River of Fire, Jordan, Tigris*

5. From 1 Kings 20, which city's walls fell on 27,000 men? *Jericho, Samaria, Sodom, Aphek*

6. Who sold his birthright to his brother? *Cain, Esau, Judas, Isaiah*

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Jerusalem, 3) Hannah, 4) Jordan, 5) Aphek, 6) Esau

Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at www.patreon.com/triviaguy. FREE TRIAL!

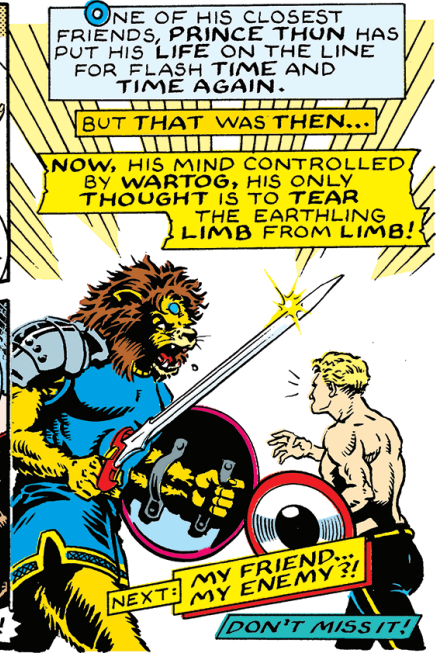
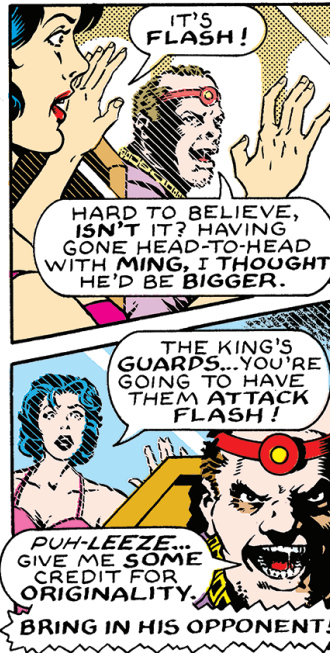
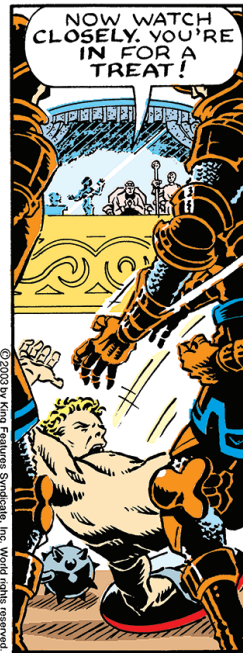
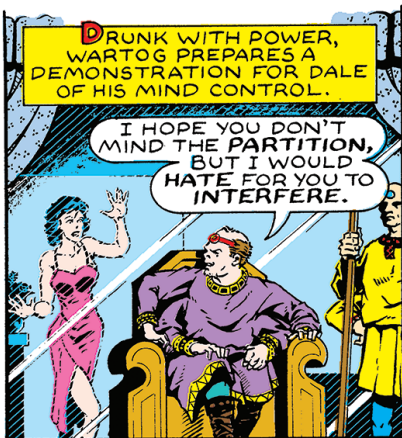
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 22 of 79

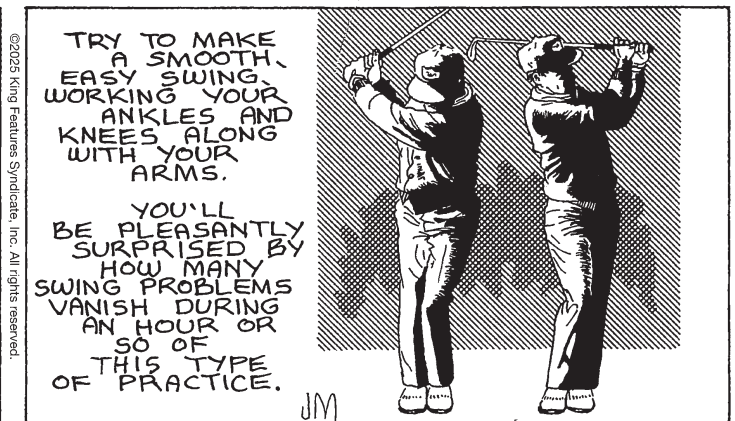
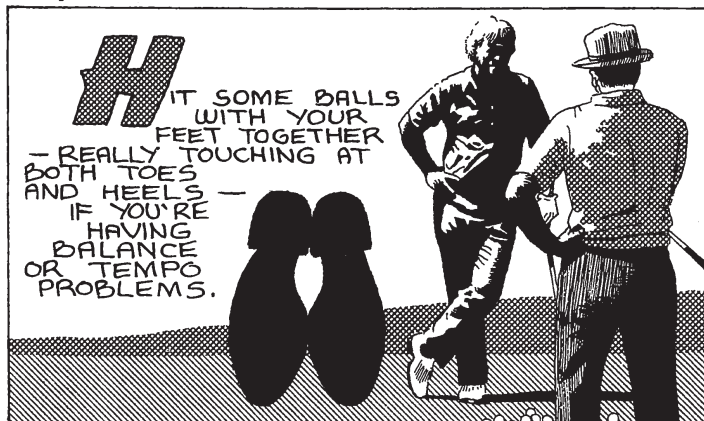


FLASH GORDON

BY JIM KEEFE 5-25



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Sudden and Dramatic Weight Loss Causes Concern in Woman

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 75-year-old woman with a weight problem. My weight used to fluctuate from 130-160 pounds. Then I started to notice that I was losing weight slowly but surely on my regular diet. My doctor did not have an answer. Soon I got down to 95 pounds. My family urges me to eat more than I feel comfortable with. I weigh 104 pounds today.

Do you have any idea what could be causing this dramatic weight loss? I still struggle with keeping my weight up to 105 pounds! My height is 5 feet, 4 inches tall, and I really am quite "bony." Thank you for any help you can give me. -- A.S.

ANSWER: When we see dramatic weight loss like yours (greater than 5% to 10% is generally considered important, and yours is greater than 30%), we think about a few important categories. Of course, some of these aren't appropriate for you, but I want to give you an idea of what goes through a doctor's head when we see a person with this much weight loss:

Unfortunately, cancer tends to leap to our minds, even though it's not the most common cause. A full-body scan isn't usually indicated or helpful. Instead, a careful and focused history and physical exam will often give clues as to whether cancer is likely.

In addition, doctors want to make sure that the person is up-to-date with their age-appropriate screenings, which include breast and colon cancer screenings in a 75-year-old woman. In a person with a history of smoking, I always consider lung cancer and will usually order at least an X-ray.

A condition that is commonly forgotten when thinking about weight loss is the inability to absorb food properly, and celiac disease is the most common disease to cause this. Diarrhea is common but not always present with this condition.

People can lose calories through their kidneys as well, and diabetes is by far the most likely cause of this, although there are rare other causes. Excess urination is universal in uncontrolled diabetes but can be minimized by the patient.

Endocrine disorders, especially hyperthyroidism, often cause weight loss. Mental health issues, especially depression, are very commonly associated with weight loss. Anorexia nervosa is uncommon but not impossible in older adults.

Any serious disease -- heart, lung, liver and others -- can also cause serious weight loss. Some medications can cause unexpected weight loss as well.

Chronic infections are another important cause of unexplained weight loss. Tuberculosis, HIV and viral hepatitis are the most common, but there are many uncommon and rare infections.

As adults get older, some degree of weight loss is expected, but it is the degree and speed of the weight loss that needs to be considered when deciding whether this is a serious medical issue. Since it sounds like your weight loss has come on quickly, this is more concerning but a bit less so since it seems like it has stabilized. Still, were you my patient, I'd recommend a more thorough evaluation than it sounds like you've had.

I learned a valuable lesson after I made a home visit to give a patient a thorough medical evaluation about her continued weight loss. I found that she had inadequate food at home and was too embarrassed to tell me.

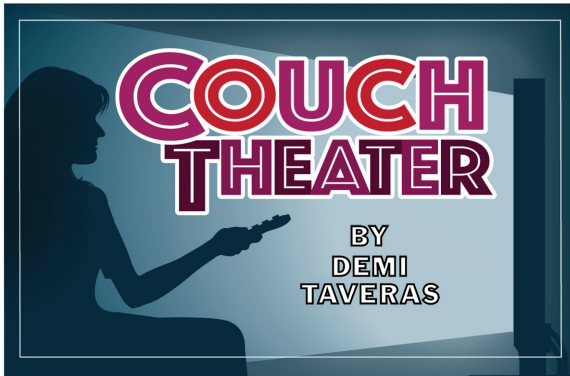
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 24 of 79



"The 78th Annual Tony Awards" (TV-PG) -- Cynthia Erivo, who stunned everyone with her moving performance as Elphaba in "Wicked" (2024), is this year's host of the annual Tony Awards! Held at the legendary Radio City Music Hall in New York City, the ceremony can now be streamed if you missed the live broadcast on CBS. "Buena Vista Social Club," "Death Becomes Her," and "Maybe Happy Ending" lead with the most nominations (10 for each) and are, of course, included in the ceremony's performances. Meanwhile, George Clooney landed a nomination for his work in "Good Night, and Good Luck." Audra McDonald, who recently received Patti LuPone's deepest apologies due to LuPone's controversial statements, is nominated for her work as Rose in "Gypsy." (Paramount+)



Julianne Moore, left, and Sydney Sweeney star in "Echo Valley." (Courtesy of Apple TV+)

"Deep Cover" (R) -- Bryce Dallas Howard ("Argylle") leads this ridiculously hilarious action comedy, co-starring Orlando Bloom ("The Cut") and Nick Mohammed ("Ted Lasso"). The trio plays a group of aspiring actors who've landed at an improv club for the time being. Although their acting careers remain stagnant, a detective approaches them with a dire need for their help. A criminal gang in London runs rampant, and the detective is convinced that these three humble improvisers can pull off the undercover mission of infiltrating the gang. Premiering June 12, this film reunites several "Game of Thrones" and "House of the Dragon" actors such as Ian McShane, Paddy Considine and Sonoya Mizuno. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Echo Valley" (R) -- The drama is intense with this next release on June 13, a thriller film led by the incredible duo of Julianne Moore and Sydney Sweeney. Following mother Kate (Moore) and daughter Claire (Sweeney), the film kicks off when Claire shows up at her mother's farm in Pennsylvania frightened and covered in her boyfriend's blood. Wanting to be there for her child, Kate tries to help Claire recover from a situation that resulted in an accidental death. But as time passes, their secret is threatened to be exposed, and Kate must decide how far she's willing to go to protect her kin. (Apple TV+)

"Love Island USA: Season 7" (TV-MA) -- It's time to grab your pink suitcase, throw on your favorite swimsuit, and get your bevvies ready for another chaotic season of "Love Island USA." Ariana Madix is back to host her second season of the reality show, where 10 singles enter a villa in Fiji to find the loves of their lives (or lots of clout). Since the show's premiere on June 3, episodes release basically every day until mid-July, with a reunion episode following the finale about a month later in August. Time will tell if this season brings as much drama as last year's season with Leah Kateb and Andrea Carmona, but we'll definitely be rooting for a few of the Florida locals - Chelley from Orlando, Nicolas from Jacksonville, and Yulissa from Miami! (Peacock)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 25 of 79



1. Who wrote and released "We've Got Tonight"?
2. Which group performs in costumes such as cowboy, soldier, construction worker, police officer and Indian chief?
3. Baron von Richthofen was immortalized in which Royal Guardsmen songs?
4. Which group released "Cloud Nine"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Guess mine is not the first heart broken, My eyes are not the first to cry."

Answers

1. Bob Seger and the Silver Bullet Band in 1978. Because it was his mother's favorite song, Seger always includes it in

live concerts in memory of her.

2. The Village People. The group's "Y.M.C.A." was designated a "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant" song and was added to the National Recording Registry in 2020. It was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame that same year.

3. "Snoopy vs. the Red Baron" in 1966 and "Snoopy's Christmas" in 1967. Von Richthofen, aka the Red Baron, was a German Air Force flying ace during World War 1.

4. The Temptations, in 1968.

5. "Hopelessly Devoted to You," by Olivia Newton-John, in 1978, in the film "Grease." The song received an Oscar nomination for Best Original Song and topped charts in numerous countries around the globe.

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GRIN and BEAR IT *Wagner*



"I'll do the talking, Roscoe!"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 26 of 79

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Club is longer. 2. Tree trunk is thinner. 3. Vest neckline is different. 4. Cap is larger. 5. Cloud is lower. 6. Leaves are missing from tree.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 27 of 79



* J.D. of Massachusetts writes: "Mix 1/2 cup vinegar and a chamomile tea bag in a pan of medium hot water. Let cool slightly and soak feet for up to 10 minutes. Follow up with foot powder or deodorant."

* Cucumber is a speedy diuretic. Try snacking on slices of it for a cool treat. Or deseed slices and slip a few in your glass of cold water.

* If you keep a couple of crackers in your sugar jar, they will keep the sugar from caking.

* "When we go to the doctor with our youngest, we bring a few crayons. She will lie down on the exam table paper, and we draw her outline. Then she can fill in her face and other details. This usually calms her while she is waiting. The doctor even has used the outline to talk about her body to her." -- E.S. in Georgia

* Boost your metabolism by drinking green tea hot or cold. Try it over ice with honey and a sprig of mint.

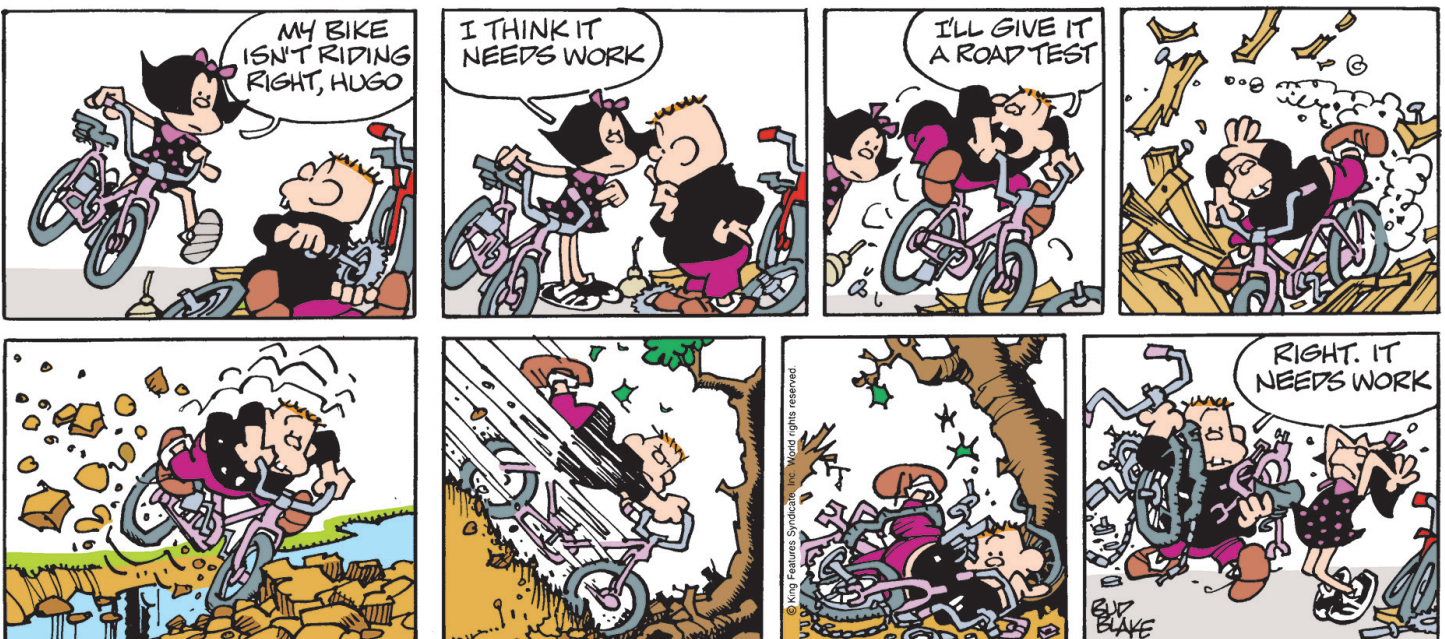
* "In older houses, you might have a problem with cracking drywall when trying to hang pictures. You can solve this by placing a bit of clear tape over the spot where you are going to drive in a nail. It goes right in. If your are nailing into wood, you can drag your nail through some soap (bar soap is fine) before striking and it does the same thing, keep the wood from splitting." -- P.K. in New Jersey

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

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 **TIGER**

by **BUD BLAKE**



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 28 of 79

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Bog
6 Sidesteps
12 Net defender
13 Swiss metropolis
14 "The Joy Luck Club" author
15 Porter
16 Cuban money
17 Despot
19 Mormon church, for short
20 "Shoo!"
22 Hot tub
24 Egyptian cobra
27 Curved molding
29 Ethereal
32 2002 Aerosmith single
35 Lamb alias
36 Salt formula
37 "Mayday!"
38 "Ain't — Sweet" (classic song)
40 Memorandum
42 Halloween mo.
44 "Star Wars" actor
El-Masry
46 Bulletproof garment
50 Enter

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11
12							13					
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50			51				52	53				
54							55					
56							57					

- 52 Asian capital
54 Expired
55 Roast hosts
56 Off the hook
57 Indulgent
nana, e.g.
- 9 Captures again
10 Tube spot
11 Chumps
12 Hiatus
18 Pop rocker
Gwen
21 Lettuce variety
23 Shriver of tennis
24 Mature
25 Part of RSVP
26 Immaculate
28 Accompanied
30 Classic car
31 Cen. parts
33 — -di-dah
- 34 Last (Abbr.)
39 Devour
41 Kick out
42 Folklore monster
43 Cajole
45 Abolitionist
Lucretia
47 "En garde" weapon
48 Crystal gazer
49 Poetic contraction
51 — de plume
53 I love (Lat.)

DOWN

- 1 Not all
2 Methods
3 Choir members
4 Ms. Farrow
5 Military headquarters
6 Taj Mahal city
7 Swerves
8 Finale

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 29 of 79

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

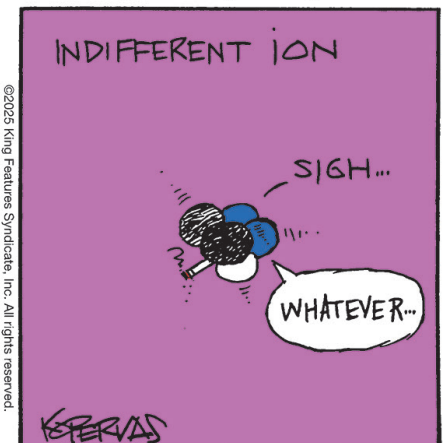
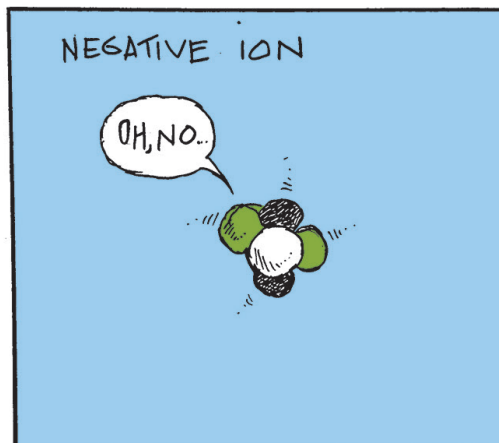
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A	M	Y	T	A	N		R	E	D	C	A	P
P	E	S	O		T	S	A	R		L	D	S
			S	C	A	T		S	P	A		
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G	I	R	L	S	O	F	S	U	M	M	E	R
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O	C	T		A	M	I	R		V	E	S	T
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R	A	N	O	U	T		E	M	C	E	E	S
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Olive



Out on a Limb

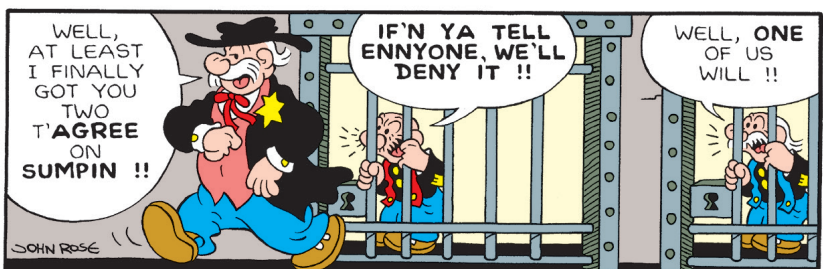
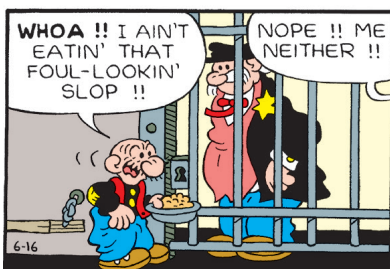
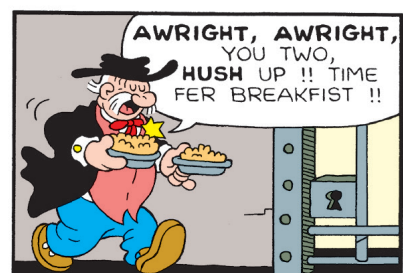
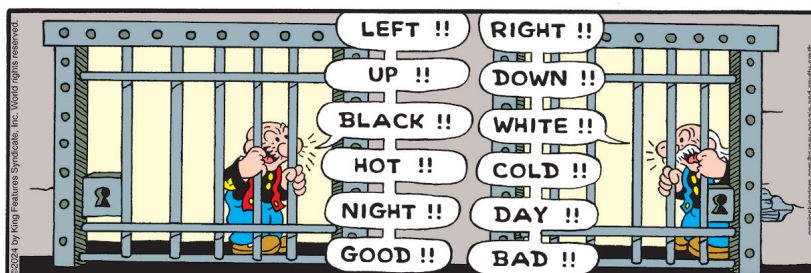
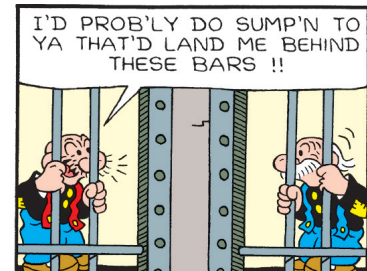
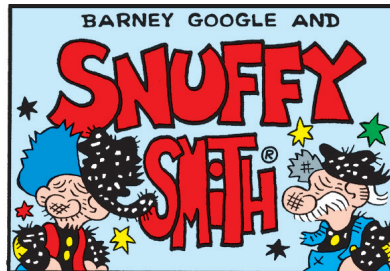
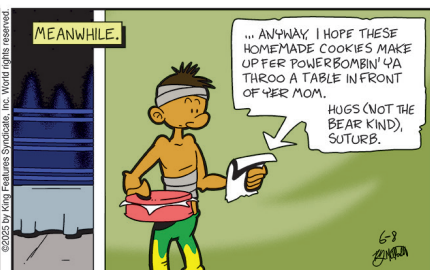
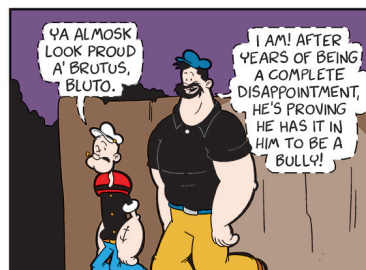
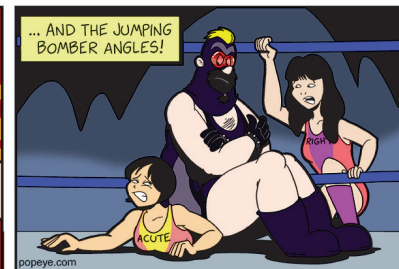
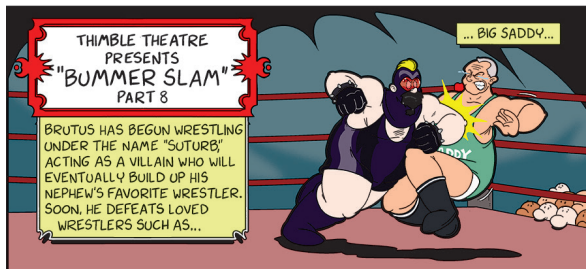
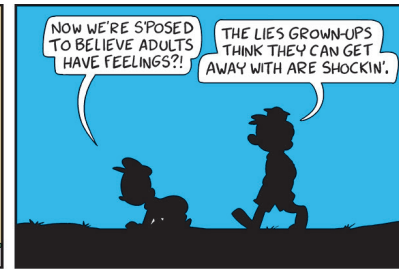
by Gary Kopervas



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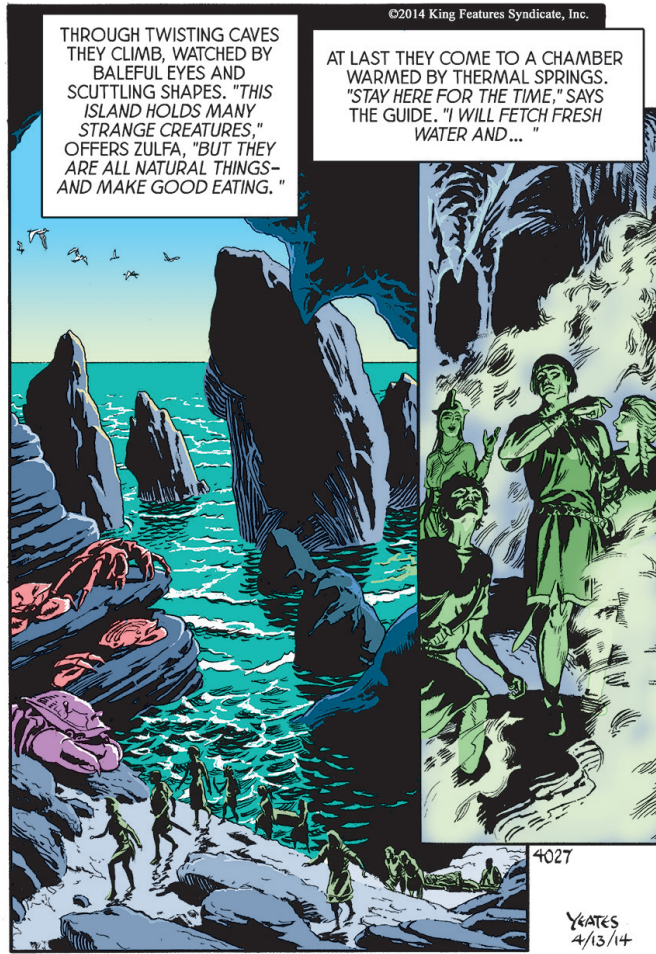
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 30 of 79

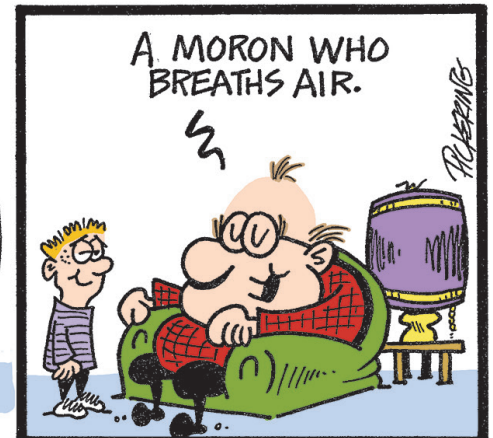
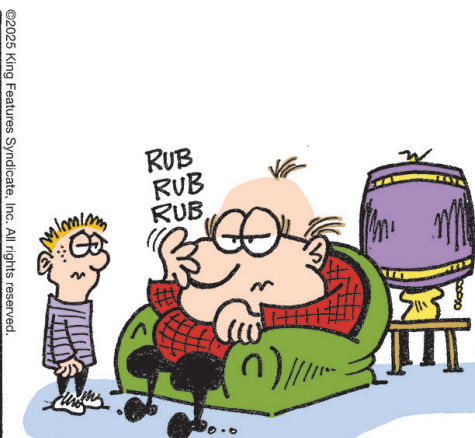
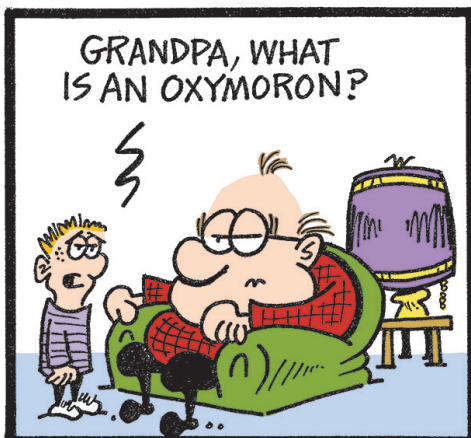


Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 31 of 79



The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 32 of 79

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Summer heat safety

Before we know it, we'll need to move into hot weather mode and take steps to stay healthy and safe in the heat.

For me, most important is keeping the house cool, since that's where I spend most of my time. The air conditioning will be set at 76 to 78 degrees, depending on the humidity.

Very soon I'll need to put up the insulated sun-blocking blackout drapes on the sunny side of the living room where the afternoon heat can bake the outside wall. Each morning I'll close those drapes before the sun moves around to that side of the house.

Next on my daily list will be to fill my water bottles -- a half-dozen 8-ounce bottles that I can periodically grab during the day. With the little bottles, it's easy to keep track of how much hydration I'm getting.

But we can't always stay home. If you have to go out in the heat, wear light, loose clothing and a hat with a wide brim.

Ask your doctor to clarify what your water intake should be during the summer.

Keep an eye on the weather news so you'll know what to expect.

Ask your town if they've set up any cooling centers, or head to the library or mall during the hottest part of the day.

Keep track of how you feel in the summer heat. If you have weakness, nausea, dizziness or headache, it could be heat exhaustion or even lead to heat stroke. Get help -- don't delay.

If you're afraid to run the air conditioner for fear it will increase your electric bill, see if you can get some financial help from LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) at 866-674-6327. Churches and town halls are other possible sources of assistance.

For more tips on how to stay safe in the summer heat, see www.ready.gov/heat.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 33 of 79

1. What relief pitcher, known for his blazing fastball, thick glasses and intimidating wildness, was a member of the New York Yankees' 1958 World Series championship team?

2. Ron Howard directed what 2013 biographical film that depicted the 1976 Formula 1 season rivalry between drivers Niki Lauda and James Hunt?

3. Businessman Y. Charles "Chet" Soda was a founding partner and the first general manager of what original American Football League franchise?

4. In the 1990s and 2000s, what baked goods did Oswego State Lakers hockey fans traditionally throw on the ice after the team scored against the rival the SUNY Plattsburgh Cardinals?

5. Marathon runner Rebecca Cheptegei, who died from injuries sustained in a violent attack in September 2024, weeks earlier competed for what country in the Paris Summer Olympics?

6. Between brothers Charles and Ed O'Bannon, who scored more points for the UCLA Bruins in their 89-78 win over Arkansas in the 1995 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament championship game?

7. What member of the Super Bowl XX champion Chicago Bears was ejected from a 2001 Chicago Cubs game after he criticized the home plate umpire over the Wrigley Field public address system?



by Ryan A. Berenz

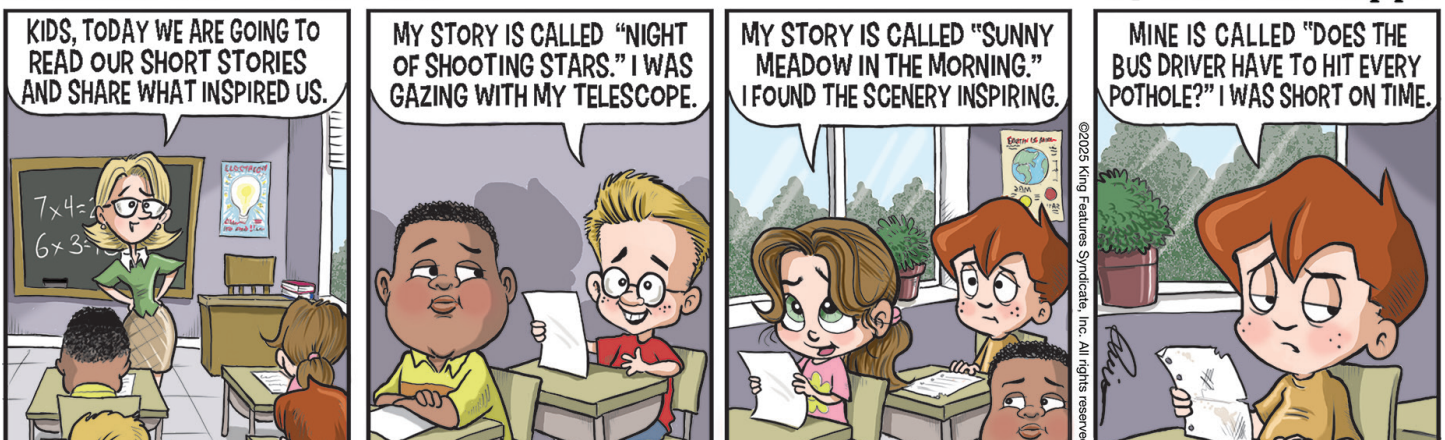
Answers

1. Ryne Duren.
2. "Rush."
3. The Oakland Raiders.
4. Bagels.
5. Uganda.
6. Ed, with 30 points (Charles scored 11).
7. Steve McMichael.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Rattlesnakes are a risk for pets, but not the only one

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I moved from a suburb to the mountains a couple of months ago, and while my dogs are thrilled to have several acres to run free on, I'm terrified that they will be bitten by rattlesnakes. A neighbor said that they are plentiful out here. How can I prevent this, and what do I do if they get bitten? -- Larry in Tennessee

DEAR LARRY: While there is always a risk of a dog getting injured by something out in the countryside, it's important not to let fear get the best of you. Instead, focus on prevention. Here are some of the things you can do to minimize their overall risk of injury -- from snakes and other potential risks.

-- Train your dogs to come when you call them; if your property is big enough that they run out of sight, train them to respond to a whistle, which carries much farther.

-- Rattlesnakes (and other snakes) hang out in messy debris piles, wood stacks and crevices with overhangs. They stay out of sight (they're much more afraid of you and your dogs) unless they are threatened. Clear debris piles off of your property, and stack your firewood on a raised platform, at least 5 feet from your home's foundation.

-- If your dogs consistently run to one location on your property, follow them and find out what's so interesting. An animal lair or deer run can be very interesting to dogs, but the same location can attract bigger predators.

-- Consider fencing in a half-acre or acre behind your house and keep your dogs within the fence; you'll be able to monitor them better and control the space, so critters don't come in.

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

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 35 of 79

Strange BUT TRUE

Jewish Karnofsky family, who employed him in the family business. In their honor, he decided to wear a Star of David for the rest of his life.

* From 1869 until her death in 1906, Susan B. Anthony petitioned Congress annually for a women's suffrage amendment.

* Students, take note: Studies have found that comfortable clothing can have a strong effect on academic performance, with a correlation between formal/uncomfortable clothing worn during exams and lower than expected grades.

* The wood frog can hold its urine for up to eight months.

* Piet Mondrian's abstract masterpiece "New York City I" hung upside down in a museum for 77 years before experts finally noticed the error. However, they opted to keep it in that position for fear of damaging the piece.

* The TV series "30 Rock" was known for its fast-paced writing. In 2014, one reporter calculated that there was an average of 7.44 jokes per minute.

* In 1998, a Georgia student was suspended for wearing a Pepsi shirt to "Coke in Education Day."

* Tobacco use kills more people than the total number killed by AIDS, alcohol, motor vehicles, homicide, illegal drugs and suicide combined.

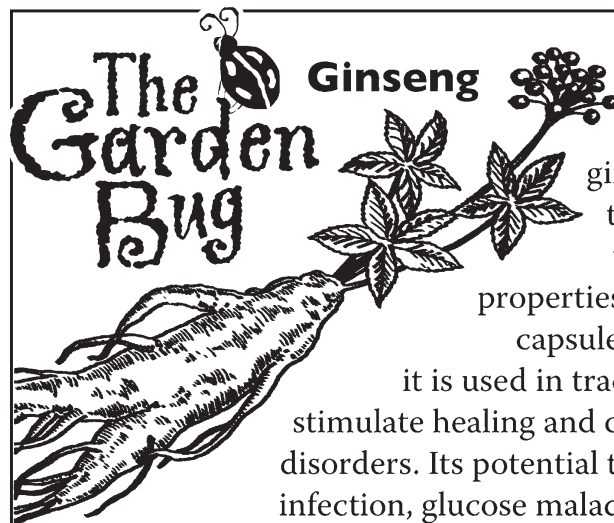
Thought for the Day: "Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy and change ordinary opportunities into blessings." -- William Arthur Ward

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* The longest road in the United Arab Emirates is the Sheikh Zayed Road. It stretches more than 300 miles, from Abu Dhabi through Dubai, and is home to Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world.

* Americans spend more than a year of their lives flipping channels.

* Jazz musician Louis Armstrong wore a Star of David necklace even though he wasn't Jewish. Armstrong grew up in severe poverty but found a loving second home with the



The root of this plant contains ginsenosides, thought to be responsible for the herb's medicinal properties. Made into tablets, capsules, extracts and teas, it is used in traditional medicine to stimulate healing and control various body disorders. Its potential to treat chronic lung infection, glucose maladies and Alzheimer's is being studied. - Brenda Weaver

Source: The National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine



by Freddy Groves

Getting community care is easier now

Remember when you wanted to go to a civilian doctor but getting VA approval for community care was such a hassle as you waited for it all to be signed off?

The 2019 MISSION Act, letting veterans seek civilian care while the Department of Veterans Affairs paid for it, was well intentioned, but like so many things, the steps were a burden. No more.

As of now, we have the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, and the VA has just crossed that final approval signature off the list of requirements.

There are still rules, yes, but they're more manageable. To qualify to have the VA pay for your civilian care, one of the following must be true:

- Your state doesn't have a full-service VA facility. That means Alaska, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

- Distance is a problem. It takes more than 30 minutes to drive to an appointment for primary or mental health care, or 60 minutes for specialty care at the VA.

- Time is a problem. The VA can't see you within 20 days for appointments for primary or mental health care or noninstitutional extended care, or within 28 days for specialty care.

- The care you need isn't available at the VA.

- You meet the distance and location provisions outlined in the former Veterans Choice Program. Grandfathered (previously qualified) veterans live 40 miles from care where there was a full-time primary care physician available and are still at the same address.

- It's in the best interest of the veteran to get that civilian care.

If you want care from a community provider, ask your VA primary care provider for a referral to get things started.

If you ever applied to see a civilian doctor and the VA turned you down, you can appeal that decision with the Clinical Appeals process. Contact the patient advocate at the VA health care facility near you.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 37 of 79

Wishing Well®

5	3	7	6	5	6	3	6	2	3	7	8	7
A	S	A	A	N	R	E	E	B	E	D	B	V
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3	4	3	6	8	6	8	5	4	5	8	5	5
T	A	H	E	G	R	H	I	Y	N	T	G	S

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

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1. AD SLOGANS: Which retail chain urges consumers to "Expect More. Pay Less"?
2. MATH: What is an obelus?
3. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was the last to own slaves?
4. LITERATURE: Author Ian Fleming's Jamaican estate has the same name as which James Bond movie?
5. TELEVISION: How many seasons of "Wheel of Fortune" did Pat Sajak host?
6. SCIENCE: What are cordyceps?
7. MOVIES: Which actor/comedian/filmmaker made his film debut in the movie "Donnie Darko"?
8. ACRONYMS: What does the acronym BBC stand for?
9. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the only bird that can fly backward?
10. FOOD & DRINK: What is a mirepoix?

Answers

1. Target.
2. The division sign.
3. Ulysses Grant.
4. "GoldenEye."
5. 41.
6. A type of fungus or mushroom.
7. Seth Rogen.
8. British Broadcasting Corp.
9. Hummingbird.
10. A recipe base of onion, celery and carrots.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 38 of 79

South Dakota Governor



Larry Rhoden



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

605: A Little Slice of Paradise

My family has ranched the same area of western South Dakota for generations. My hometown of Union Center is a very small community. In town, you'll find Cammack Ranch Supply, a store that is a big economic driver for our community. It used to be owned by my good friend, Gary Cammack – he sold it to his son, Reed Cammack.

Gary and his wife Amy own some land about 20 miles away south of White Owl in the two rivers country where the Cheyenne and Belle Fourche rivers meet. Their property is a little slice of heaven. It actually adjoins the land that my mother grew up on, but there's a pretty drastic change in the terrain between her old land and theirs.

After church about a week ago, my wife Sandy and I went to spend the day on their property. I was amazed by the incredible beauty just 20 miles down the road!

They have a stock dam with docks for boating and paddleboarding, beautiful rolling hills, rock formations, and old trees. They had areas on their property that had never been grazed because the country was too rugged to have access to water. So, he found a way to pipe water to those remote areas.

I was impressed by an old stone building, which was built partially into the ground by the original homesteaders. They've restored that building and made it beautiful.

I've said many times on my Open for Opportunity tour that I've been amazed at all the businesses in South Dakota that I never knew about. Imagine my wonder to see such unexpected natural beauty just a couple miles from where my mom grew up!

If my friend Gary had never bought that land and invited us to join him, we would have never experienced this little slice of South Dakota. The overall opportunity of our state would have been just a little bit less. We'd be capitalizing just a bit less on our abundant natural beauty. And my wife and I wouldn't have had such a great weekend.

So open the door in front of you, even if it's a door that nobody else saw, even if it might be locked – at least check the lock. You might create your own little slice of paradise. You might launch an opportunity that nobody else saw. You might change lives, your community, or even our state.

Every year on June 5, we celebrate "Forever 605 Day" across South Dakota. It's an opportunity to celebrate our single area code: 605. And it's a great chance to look at what unites us.

From the Big Sioux to the Cheyenne River, from the Black Hills to the prairie lakes – we have a beautiful, diverse state united by shared values and special people. I spent another day about a week ago in the southeast corner of our state – it was entirely different than anywhere else in South Dakota, but no less beautiful.

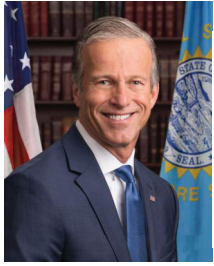
The idea behind "Forever 605" is bigger than a state; it's a state of mind. It's a pledge to be both a brave wanderer and a passionate steward of the 605 state. Forever 605 means celebrating our natural beauty and protecting it for our future generations.

Whether you live in Sioux Falls or Union Center, you probably have a 605 area code. You're a South Dakotan. And you are just as much a part of creating opportunities for our next generation as the rest of us.

Our state is pretty special. I will keep doing my part as Governor to keep our state Open for Opportunity – not just for my generation, and not just the next generation – but for those who come after us, as well. Happy "Forever 605 Day!"

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 39 of 79



JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

Keeping Our Foot on the Gas

Since President Trump and Republicans took control of Washington in January, we've been hard at work delivering on our promises to the American people. In the Senate, we're working hard to get all of President Trump's team in place, pass important legislation, and rein in burdensome regulations and wasteful spending. We're five months in and have no plans to slow down – we have a job to do.

The Senate got right to work in January to get President Trump's team in place. President Trump had 21 Cabinet officials confirmed earlier than any incoming administration since George W. Bush's in 2001. So far, we've confirmed more than 70 civilian nominees, including a number of ambassadors who are carrying out the president's foreign policy in postings around the globe.

The Senate has also been busy passing legislation this year. In January, we sent the Laken Riley Act to the president's desk. This bill requires law enforcement to detain an illegal immigrant who steals, assaults a law enforcement officer, or kills or seriously injures another person. We also passed the HALT Fentanyl Act, which would ensure law enforcement has an important tool to prosecute those who bring deadly fentanyl and fentanyl analogues into our country and peddle them in our communities. And last month, President Trump signed the TAKE IT DOWN Act into law to combat nonconsensual, explicit images being shared online.

The Senate has also been working to repeal burdensome Biden-era regulations. We've passed 18 resolutions repealing regulations that would have raised costs, destroyed jobs, and reduced choice for the American people. That includes blocking the Biden natural gas tax, eliminating burdensome new appliance standards, and blocking the California electric vehicle mandate that would have driven up prices and reduced consumer choice nationwide.

We've made considerable progress in just a few months, and we are keeping our foot on the gas as we work to codify some of the Trump administration's spending cuts. The administration has worked to identify wasteful spending, and now Congress will take up its role to save taxpayer dollars.

This month, the Senate is also working to advance President Trump's agenda through a reconciliation bill that makes America stronger and more prosperous. This bill would prevent a multitrillion dollar tax hike on working families and small businesses. It would invest in border security and deporting illegal immigrants. It would strengthen our military by making a down payment on the weapons and resources that our men and women in uniform need to keep America safe. And it would leverage our natural resources for a reliable and affordable supply of energy.

When the American people elected President Trump and Republican majorities last year, they expected us to deliver. We have wasted no time in scoring wins for the American people, and we won't stop now.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 40 of 79



Providing Clarity

BIG News

Earlier this week, the Department of Justice arrested two Chinese nationals for smuggling an agroterrorism weapon, funded by the Chinese Communist Party, into the United States. I've been sounding the alarm for years that the Chinese Communist Party seeks to undermine America's food supply and national security – this weapon could have devastated both. If these individuals are found guilty, they must be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

As a member of the Select Committee on China, I have seen and heard many ways China is undermining U.S. interests. We've been working in Congress to identify and address these concerns to protect America from the malign influence of the Chinese Communist Party..

BIG Idea

Blockchain technology will transform and empower every industry, much sooner than most people realize. The House Agriculture Committee held a hearing on my bill, the Digital Asset Market Clarity (CLARITY) Act. The United States has the potential to be a leader in this space and the CLARITY Act establishes a much-needed regulatory framework to foster investment and innovation. My bill will give digital asset markets the clarity they need to thrive, protect consumers, and foster innovation..

BIG Update

Attendees at this year's Boys State in Aberdeen had some great questions for me when I visited with them earlier this week. We discussed the deficit, the threat of China's growing influence in the U.S., how to get involved in government, and the importance of volunteering.

I was able to thank nine more Vietnam-era veterans while in Aberdeen during a Vietnam veteran pinning ceremony this week. These veterans didn't get the welcome home they deserved, and I was honored to thank them for their service to the United States.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 41 of 79



Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

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Just Me And My Coffee

It was one of those days that don't often come my way. I was out sitting on the porch with my 1st cup of coffee for the day.

Today was special. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, her daughter and granddaughter went to St. Augustine for spring break. They would be gone for about three days.

In the meantime, I was here but not alone; I did have my cup of coffee. What more could anyone ask for?

What would the world be like without a nice, fresh, hot cup of coffee in the morning? I don't know, I've never had such a day.

I had no agenda for the day. I finished my latest book and sent it to the publisher. I was also caught up on my radio ministry and syndicated weekly newspaper column.

Everything was up to date, and I had nothing on my schedule.

I don't know anybody who can do "nothing" as well as me. And I say that unanimously.

Unlike The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, who has no idea what doing nothing is. As long as I have known her, there has never been a day she has done nothing.

She usually does something in her craft room when she has nothing to do. Even when she is sleeping, I think she dreams about doing something. Believe me, I have never asked. Some things are better not to know.

The one area where I outshine The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is my talent for doing nothing. When I don't have a project, I grab a cup of coffee, go to the porch, and think about nothing. Staring into space has become my hobby.

While drinking my coffee that day, I noticed a large lizard climbing up the screen on our porch. I watched it for a little while, then it stopped, looked at me with a quizzical look which said, "Who are you?"

I just stared and suddenly stuck out my tongue, and the lizard disappeared faster than anything I'd ever seen. I now have another productive use for my tongue.

Sure, there were a lot of things I could be doing. I could sit in my office all day and work on future projects down the road. I could work in my library, getting caught up on reading. There were 1,001 things I could be doing instead of sitting on the porch doing nothing but drinking coffee.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 42 of 79

I can't remember the last time I didn't have to do anything. But I wasn't going to spend any time trying to remember. I was going to spend all my time doing nothing. I will have nothing to show for doing nothing. And I like that.

When younger, I thought it was terrible not to be busy all the time, and I fulfilled that expectation to a great degree.

I thought if you weren't doing something, you were being lazy. But looking back, I ask myself, "What's wrong with being lazy?"

I'm in my 70s, but I don't have to live like I was back in the 70s.

Sitting on the porch in my rocking chair I felt so wonderful not doing anything.

If I were The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, I'd sit here thinking of things to do once my coffee cup was empty.

I must confess that she is excellent at doing anything and everything. She far outshines me in that department. But, on the other hand, I far outshine her in doing nothing.

After sitting there for a while, I began to think of what I could do for the rest of the day, and the list began to grow.

Suddenly, I said, "You're not going to do anything today. This is your to do nothing day."

I often don't listen to myself, but this was the best time to start. If I have nothing to do, then at the end of the day, I have done nothing; I have at least succeeded in my day's expectation. What kind of reward comes with that? (An Apple Fritter?)

One great thing about doing nothing is that you don't have to stress about doing nothing at the end of the day. I usually try to figure out what more I could've done that day. What a waste of time.

I took another sip of coffee, sat back, took a deep breath, and appreciated my state, which has no governor, so I don't have to respond to anybody. Oh, how I love doing nothing.

Giving my brain a day off is usually a good thing. At my age, I need to respect my brain's activity and slow it down as much as possible.

I was beginning to feel a little guilty. Is this OK with God? Is God OK with me doing nothing for a day?

While pondering this, I read a verse of Scripture. "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his" (Hebrews 4:9-10).

Sometimes, I think I need to work to impress God. In this regard, my activity is more important than stopping everything and simply resting in God's grace and mercy.

As I finished my coffee, I thought about what it would be like for me to simply enter into God's rest.

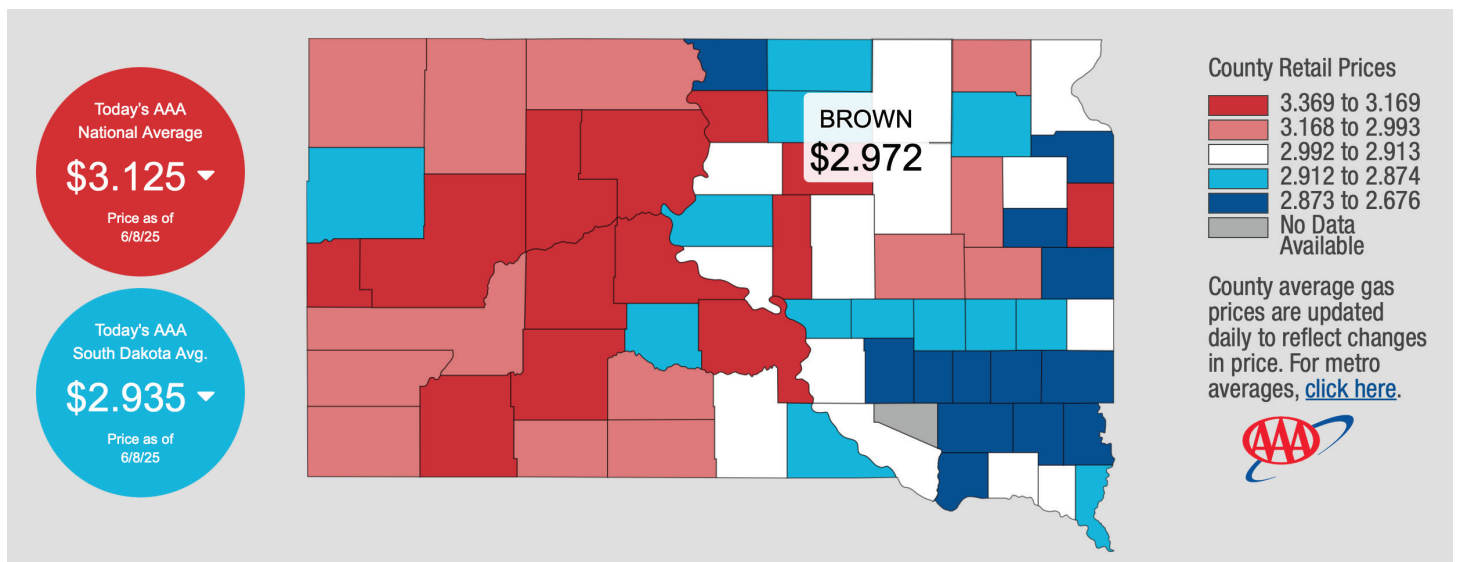
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 43 of 79

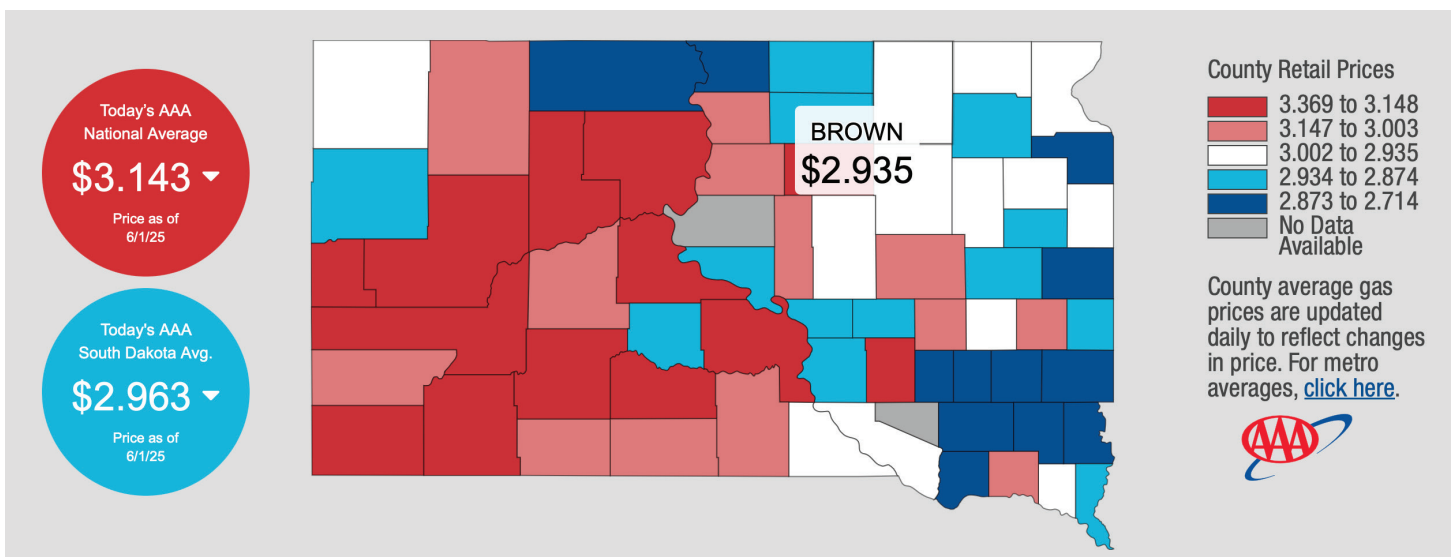
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$2.935	\$3.132	\$3.614	\$3.161
Yesterday Avg.	\$2.944	\$3.141	\$3.621	\$3.166
Week Ago Avg.	\$2.963	\$3.155	\$3.650	\$3.189
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.060	\$3.242	\$3.687	\$3.214
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.266	\$3.454	\$3.889	\$3.418

This Week



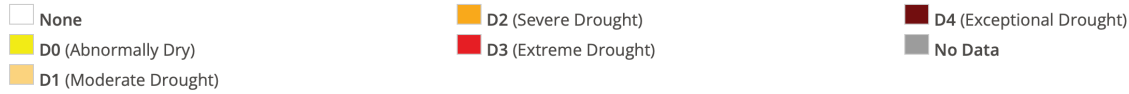
Last Week



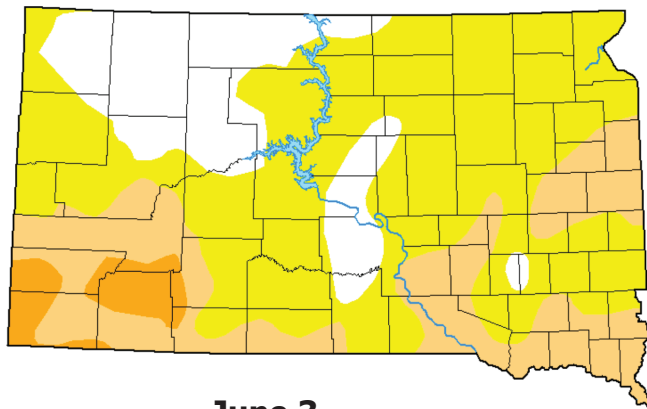
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 44 of 79

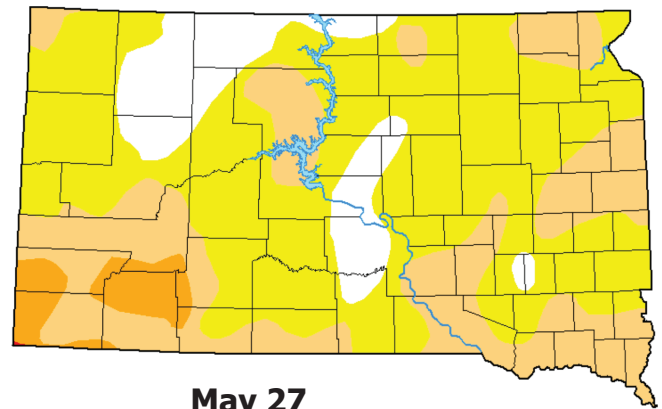
Drought Classification



Drought Monitor



June 3



May 27

From May 20 to June 2, two-week precipitation amounts ranged from 2 to 4 inches, locally more, across much of Kansas, Nebraska, and northeastern Colorado. This precipitation accompanied by cooler-than-normal temperature during the latter half of May led to improving drought for the Central Great Plains. The southern half of Kansas is now drought-free. On June 2, precipitation (more than 0.5 inch) overspread southern Colorado where a 1-category improvement was made. Additional precipitation this past week along with consideration of SPIs dating back 6 to 12 months and the NDMC drought blends supported the removal of severe (D2) to extreme (D3) drought across southeastern Wyoming. Despite only light precipitation this past week, a 1-category improvement was made to much of the Dakotas to be more consistent with SPIs at various time scales, soil moisture, and the NDMC drought blends. For the Northern Great Plains, the drought impact was changed to long-term only given the recent wetness and the drought signal is strongest at 9 to 12 months.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 45 of 79

EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Does Trump have the political capital needed to gut or overturn the Endangered Species Act?

-- Alice Magritte, New Orleans, LA

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) has been one of America's strongest environmental laws since it first passed in 1973. It's credited with saving hundreds of species from extinction. Some species include the bald eagle and the gray wolf. But recently, the Trump administration has made several moves that critics say would weaken the ESA, particularly when it comes to defining what counts as "critical habitat."

Under new rules announced in April 2025, federal agencies would no longer be required to protect areas that endangered species might potentially need to survive, only areas where they already live. This ignores that many species need room to migrate, adapt or recover. According to Drew Caputo, vice president of litigation at Earthjustice, "This is a recipe for extinction. Wildlife can't survive if we don't protect the places they need to live."

So, does Trump actually have the political muscle to make these changes stick? In short, sort of—but it's complicated. The administration does have backing from some Republican lawmakers and lobbyists tied to agriculture, oil and development industries. These groups claim the ESA is outdated and too restrictive, and that it interferes with land use and economic growth. But there's also a lot of resistance. Environmental organizations like Earthjustice, the Center for Biological Diversity and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) are all filing lawsuits challenging the legality of the new rule. Polls show that the majority of Americans support strong protections for endangered wildlife as well.

Plus, the ESA is hard to fully overturn. It would take an act of Congress to repeal it, and that's unlikely to happen anytime soon given the current split in Congress. Instead, what we're seeing is more like a slow chipping away of protections, done through administrative rules that can be changed again by future presidents. Still, those changes can last for years and seriously affect vulnerable species in the meantime.

For people who care about wildlife, there are things you can do. Support conservation groups taking legal action. Call your representatives and ask them to strengthen wildlife laws. And stay informed—some of these policy changes happen quietly, without much media coverage. The more people speak out, the harder it is to roll back decades of environmental progress.



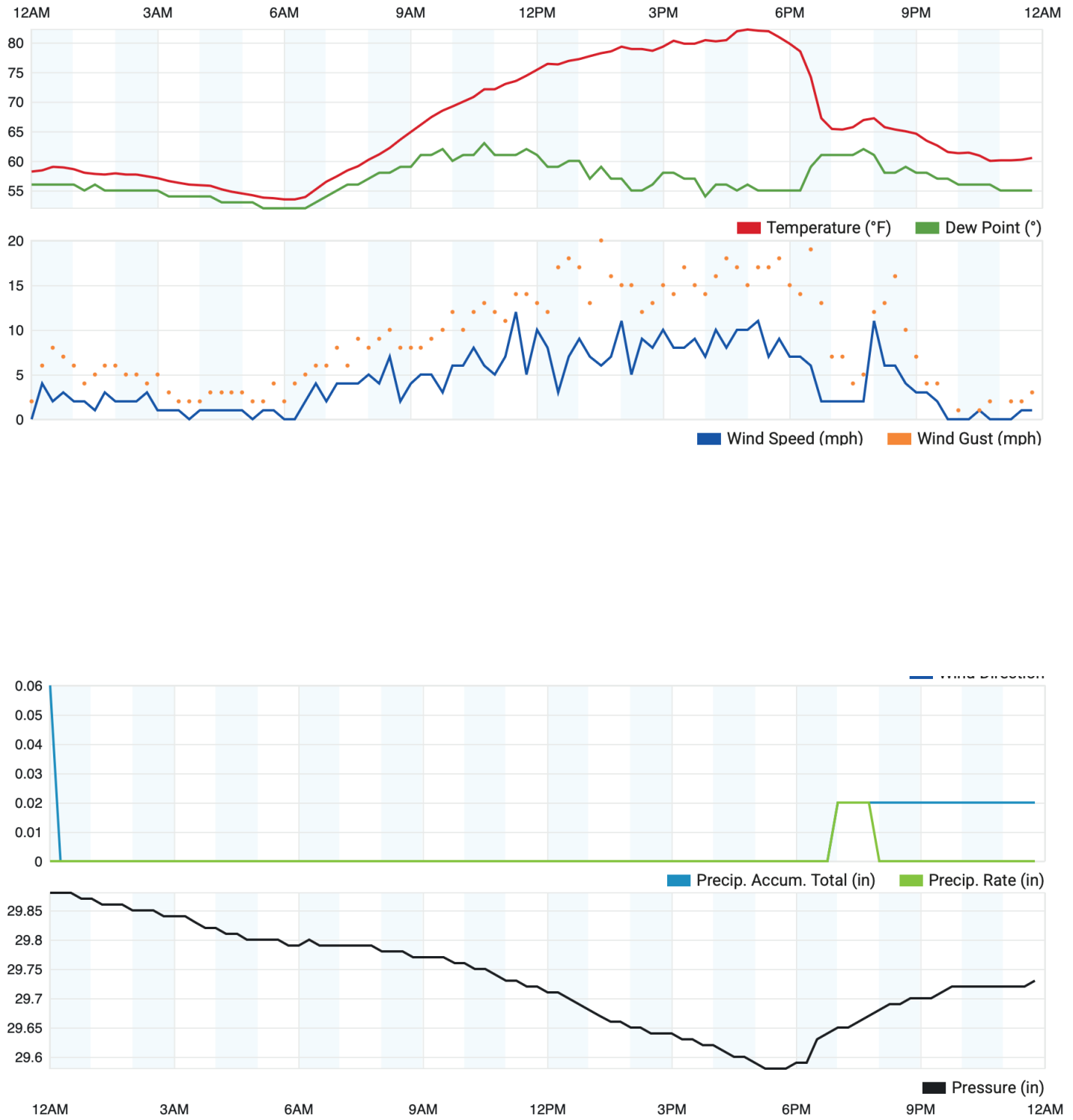
Trump is considering slashing federal rules that protect North Atlantic right whales from the leading causes of their decline: deadly ship strikes and entanglement in commercial fishing gear. Credit: Center for

Biological Diversity.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 46 of 79

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 47 of 79

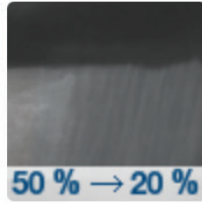
Today



High: 68 °F

Breezy. Areas
Smoke then
Mostly Cloudy

Tonight



Low: 49 °F

Chance
Showers and
Breezy then
Slight Chance
Showers

Monday



High: 71 °F

Mostly Cloudy

Monday Night



Low: 46 °F

Mostly Clear

Tuesday



High: 87 °F

Sunny



Wind & Precipitation Forecast

June 8, 2025
3:48 AM

High Temperatures Today in the 60s and low 70s

Maximum Wind Gust Forecast (mph)

	6/8 Sun																		6/9 Mon
	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm	11pm	12am	Maximum
Aberdeen	25	30	33	36	37	37	37	38	37	36	36	33	32	29	29	29	29	28	38
Britton	25	30	32	36	37	36	36	36	37	37	36	33	32	31	30	29	29	29	37
Chamberlain	21	25	29	33	38	39	40	40	41	39	39	38	33	30	24	22	21	21	41
Clark	24	29	32	35	36	37	38	38	38	38	37	36	32	30	29	28	29	28	38
Eagle Butte	31	35	38	40	43	43	43	41	41	41	40	40	38	36	31	28	26	25	43
Eureka	30	37	40	43	44	44	44	44	44	43	43	41	38	36	33	33	32	31	44
Gettysburg	29	35	37	39	40	41	41	40	39	38	38	37	35	32	29	25	25	25	41
McIntosh	31	37	43	44	45	45	45	45	44	44	44	40	38	35	30	30	26	26	45
Milbank	24	29	30	31	32	35	35	35	35	35	35	32	29	28	26	25	26	25	35
Miller	25	32	35	36	38	39	39	39	38	36	36	35	32	29	25	24	24	25	39
Mobridge	28	32	37	39	39	39	39	38	38	38	38	37	35	33	30	26	26	26	39
Murdo	25	31	33	35	37	40	41	40	41	39	40	39	37	35	30	26	26	25	41
Pierre	23	29	33	35	38	39	39	38	38	37	37	36	35	32	26	23	22	20	39
Redfield	25	30	33	36	37	38	38	38	38	38	36	36	32	29	25	24	26	28	38
Sisseton	26	31	33	35	35	36	36	36	37	37	37	35	32	30	29	30	29	29	37
Watertown	23	29	31	33	35	35	36	37	37	37	36	35	31	29	28	28	28	29	37
Webster	25	30	33	35	37	37	38	38	38	38	37	35	32	31	31	30	30	31	38
Wheaton	23	28	29	31	32	32	33	33	33	33	35	31	29	28	28	26	26	26	35

Key Messages:

- Increasing west-northwest winds today.
- Gusts will exceed 35 mph.
- There is a 40-70 percent chance for showers tonight for the James Valley and east.



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Cooler temperatures and strong west-northwest winds with gusts of 30 to 45 mph are expected today. Additionally, there will be occasional reductions in visibility this morning due to smoke from Canadian wildfires. There is a 40-70% chance of showers and weak thunderstorms, mainly later this afternoon and overnight.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 48 of 79

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 82 °F at 4:58 PM

Low Temp: 53 °F at 6:04 AM

Wind: 21 mph at 5:01 PM'

Precip: : 0.002

Day length: 15 hours, 38 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 98 in 2000

Record Low: 32 in 1938

Average High: 78

Average Low: 53

Average Precip in June.: 0.90

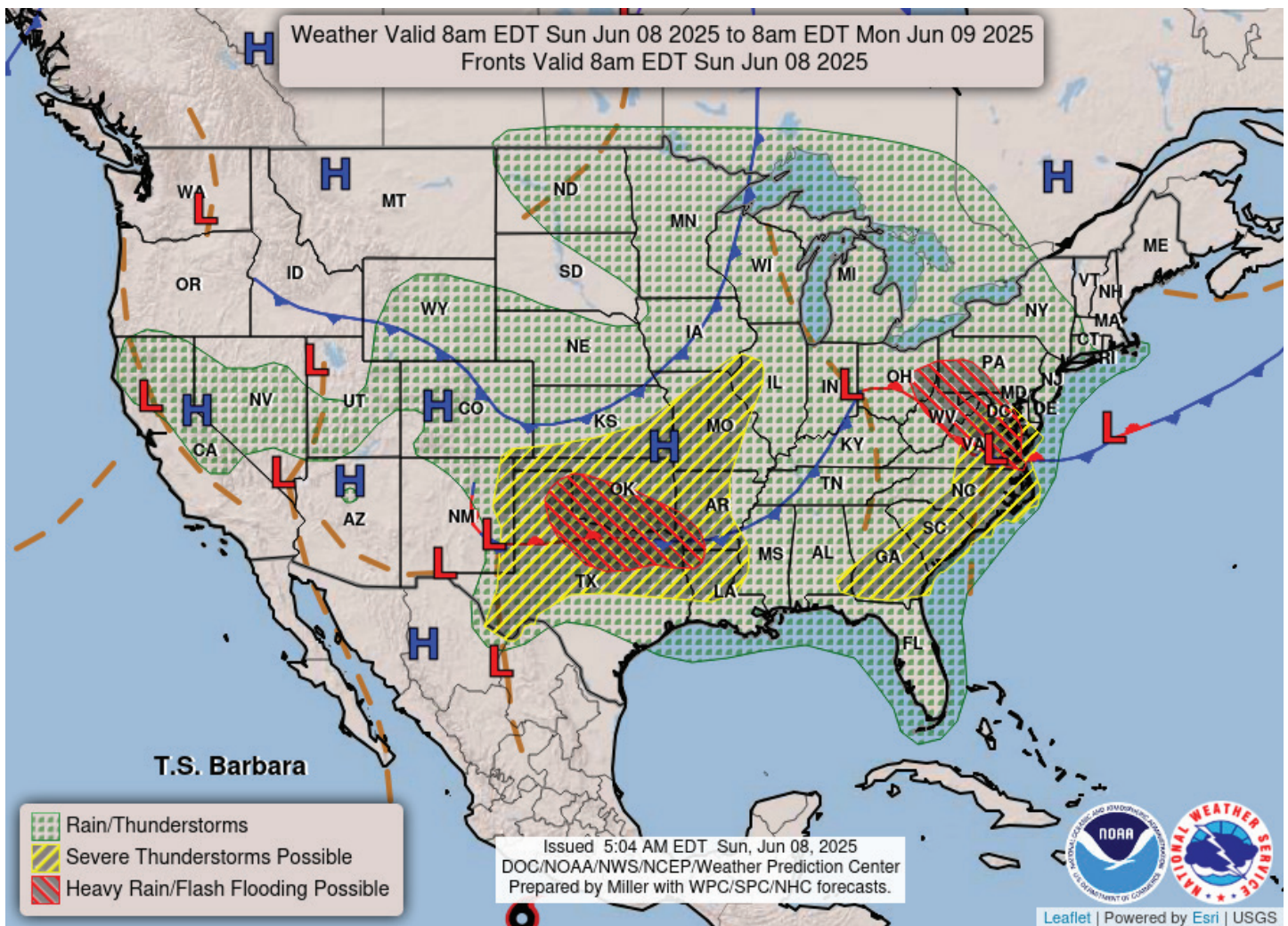
Precip to date in June: 0.38

Average Precip to date: 8.15

Precip Year to Date: 6.43

Sunset Tonight: 9:20:51 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:42:03 am



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 49 of 79

Today in Weather History

June 8th, 2004: Over eight inches of rain fell near Okreek in rural Todd County, causing nearly \$200,000 in damage to local roads. Lightning destroyed the Okreek Community Center.

1953 - The worst tornado of record for the state of Michigan killed 116 persons. Flint MI was hardest hit. The tornado, half a mile in width, destroyed 200 homes on Coldwater Road killing entire families. (The Weather Channel)

1966 - A tornado ripped right through the heart of the capitol city of Topeka KS killing sixteen persons and causing 100 million dollars damage. The tornado, which struck during the evening, cut a swath of near total destruction eight miles long and four blocks wide. It was the most destructive tornado of record up until that time. (David Ludlum)

1974 - Severe thunderstorms spawned at least twenty-three tornadoes in Oklahoma during the afternoon and evening hours. One of the tornadoes struck the town Drumright killing sixteen persons and injuring 150 others. A tornado struck the National Weather Service office in Oklahoma City, and two tornadoes hit the city of Tulsa. Thunderstorms in Tulsa also produced as much as ten inches of rain. Total damage from the storms was around thirty million dollars. It was the worst natural disaster of record for Tulsa. (Storm Data)

1987 - Thunderstorms in the northeastern U.S. produced large hail and damaging winds in Vermont injuring two persons. Thunderstorms in Ohio produced wind gusts to 75 mph near Akron, and deluged Pittsfield with two inches of rain in thirty minutes. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Overnight thunderstorms in Iowa produced 5.20 inches of rain at Coon Rapids. Thunderstorms in the Florida Keys drenched Tavernier with 7.16 inches of rain in 24 hours. Eleven cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather over the Central Gulf Coast Region during the day and evening. Severe thunderstorms spawned 17 tornadoes, including one which injured ten persons and caused a million dollars damage at Orange Beach, AL. Thunderstorm winds gusting to 90 mph killed three persons and injured four others at Mobile AL. Thunderstorms also deluged Walnut Hill and Avalon Beach, FL, with eight inches of rain. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 50 of 79



Solomon makes no apology when he writes: "The blessing of the Lord, it makes one rich."

That is the literal translation of the verse: "The blessing of the Lord brings wealth."

When he wrote that powerful statement, he made it abundantly clear that our resources — no matter how abundant they may be — are "limited" by God.

It is the Lord who is faithful and who has the final word on riches, who gets them and when they will get them.

No matter how hard we try, how many hours we work, what we do or the skills we possess, we — in and of ourselves — cannot produce wealth.

All the wealth in the world cannot make one "rich."

If God does not add His blessing to whatever we have, we are, in His sight, poor.

On the other hand, one may have none of this world's goods, yet be rich.

How can this be? Rich but not rich? Poor and yet rich?

It certainly seems to be contradictory.

But it isn't. Rich is in the eye of the beholder.

Throughout his Proverbs, Solomon warns us that if we get the "riches" of this world through methods that are dishonest or deceitful, unfair and unjust, many problems will come with them.

These problems may range from psychological to physical, legal to financial, personal to interpersonal or relationship issues.

Godly living, God-honoring work, and God-centered practices bring joy and satisfaction, peace and true prosperity with them to those who live for the Lord and live righteous lives.

God's riches come with God's blessings.

And, His blessings are readily available, worry-free, come without guilt or fear of being exposed and shamed from having harmed others.

Prayer: Father, may all that we do bring blessings, honor, and glory to Your name. May we seek Your "riches."

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "The blessing of the Lord brings wealth, without painful toil for it." Proverbs 10:22

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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 51 of 79

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 52 of 79



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.06.25

16 40 54 56 57 3

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$243,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.07.25

1 17 19 36 43 3

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.07.25

2 4 28 34 45 2

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 12 Mins 53 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.07.25

14 15 17 24 29

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$24,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.07.25

6 7 16 22 28 17

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.07.25

31 36 43 48 62 25

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$54,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 53 of 79

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

South Dakota is on track to spend \$2 billion on prisons in the next decade

By SARAH RAZA Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Two years after approving a tough-on-crime sentencing law, South Dakota is scrambling to deal with the price tag for that legislation: Housing thousands of additional inmates could require up to \$2 billion to build new prisons in the next decade.

That's a lot of money for a state with one of the lowest populations in the U.S., but a consultant said it's needed to keep pace with an anticipated 34% surge of new inmates in the next decade as a result of South Dakota's tough criminal justice laws. And while officials are grumbling about the cost, they don't seem concerned with the laws that are driving the need even as national crime rates are dropping.

"Crime has been falling everywhere in the country, with historic drops in crime in the last year or two," said Bob Libal, senior campaign strategist at the criminal justice nonprofit The Sentencing Project. "It's a particularly unusual time to be investing \$2 billion in prisons."

Some Democratic-led states have worked to close prisons and enact changes to lower inmate populations, but that's a tough sell in Republican-majority states such as South Dakota that believe in a tough-on-crime approach, even if that leads to more inmates.

The South Dakota State Penitentiary

For now, state lawmakers have set aside a \$600 million fund to replace the overcrowded 144-year-old South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls, making it one of the most expensive taxpayer-funded projects in South Dakota history.

But South Dakota will likely need more prisons. Phoenix-based Arrington Watkins Architects, which the state hired as a consultant, has said South Dakota will need 3,300 additional beds in coming years, bringing the cost to \$2 billion.

Driving up costs is the need for facilities with different security levels to accommodate the inmate population.

Concerns about South Dakota's prisons first arose four years ago, when the state was flush with COVID-19 relief funds. Lawmakers wanted to replace the penitentiary, but they couldn't agree on where to put the prison and how big it should be.

A task force of state lawmakers assembled by Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden is expected to decide that in a plan for prison facilities this July. Many lawmakers have questioned the proposed cost, but few have called for criminal justice changes that would make such a large prison unnecessary.

"One thing I'm trying to do as the chairman of this task force is keep us very focused on our mission," said Lieutenant Gov. Tony Venhuizen. "There are people who want to talk about policies in the prisons or the administration or the criminal justice system more broadly, and that would be a much larger project than the fairly narrow scope that we have."

South Dakota's laws mean more people are in prison

South Dakota's incarceration rate of 370 per 100,000 people is an outlier in the Upper Midwest. Neighbors Minnesota and North Dakota have rates of under 250 per 100,000 people, according to the Sentencing Project, a criminal justice advocacy nonprofit.

Nearly half of South Dakota's projected inmate population growth can be attributed to a law approved in 2023 that requires some violent offenders to serve the full-length of their sentences before parole, according to a report by Arrington Watkins.

When South Dakota inmates are paroled, about 40% are ordered to return to prison, the majority of those due to technical violations such as failing a drug test or missing a meeting with a parole officer. Those returning inmates made up nearly half of prison admissions in 2024.

Sioux Falls criminal justice attorney Ryan Kolbeck blamed the high number of parolees returning in part

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 55 of 79

on the lack of services in prison for people with drug addictions.

"People are being sent to the penitentiary but there's no programs there for them. There's no way it's going to help them become better people," he said. "Essentially we're going to put them out there and house them for a little bit, leave them on parole and expect them to do well."

South Dakota also has the second-greatest disparity of Native Americans in its prisons. While Native Americans make up one-tenth of South Dakota's population, they make up 35% of those in state prisons, according to Prison Policy Initiative, a nonprofit public policy group.

Though legislators in the state capital, Pierre, have been talking about prison overcrowding for years, they're reluctant to dial back on tough-on-crime laws. For example, it took repeated efforts over six years before South Dakota reduced a controlled substance ingestion law to a misdemeanor from a felony for the first offense, aligning with all other states.

"It was a huge, Herculean task to get ingestion to be a misdemeanor," Kolbeck said.

Former penitentiary warden Darin Young said the state needs to upgrade its prisons, but he also thinks it should spend up to \$300 million on addiction and mental illness treatment.

"Until we fix the reasons why people come to prison and address that issue, the numbers are not going to stop," he said.

Without policy changes, the new prisons are sure to fill up, criminal justice experts agreed.

"We might be good for a few years, now that we've got more capacity, but in a couple years it'll be full again," Kolbeck said. "Under our policies, you're going to reach capacity again soon."

Travel ban may shut door for Afghan family to bring niece to US for a better life

By JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press

IRMO, S.C. (AP) — Mohammad Sharafoddin, his wife and young son walked at times for 36 hours in a row over mountain passes as they left Afghanistan as refugees to end up less than a decade later talking about their journey on a plush love seat in the family's three-bedroom suburban American home.

He and his wife dreamed of bringing her niece to the United States to share in that bounty. Maybe she could study to become a doctor and then decide her own path.

But that door slams shut on Monday as America put in place a travel ban for people from Afghanistan and a dozen other countries.

"It's kind of shock for us when we hear about Afghanistan, especially right now for ladies who are affected more than others with the new government," Mohammad Sharafoddin said, referring to the country's Taliban rulers. "We didn't think about this travel ban."

Since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in August 2021 as the Western forces were in the final phase of their withdrawal from the country, they have barred education for women and girls beyond sixth grade, most employment and many public spaces. Last August, the Taliban introduced laws that ban women's voices and bare faces outside the home.

President Donald Trump signed the travel ban Wednesday. It is similar to one in place during his first administration but covers more countries. Along with Afghanistan, travel to the U.S. is banned from Myanmar, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

Trump said visitors who overstay visas, like the man charged in an attack that injured dozens of demonstrators in Boulder, Colorado, earlier this month, are a danger to the country. The suspect in the attack is from Egypt, which isn't included in the ban.

The countries chosen for the ban have deficient screening of their citizens, often refuse to take them back and have a high percentage of people who stay in the U.S. after their visas expire, Trump said.

The ban makes exceptions for people from Afghanistan on Special Immigrant Visas who generally worked most closely with the U.S. government during the two-decade war there.

Thousands of refugees came from Afghanistan

Afghanistan was also one of the largest sources of resettled refugees, with about 14,000 arrivals in a

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 56 of 79

12-month period through September 2024. Trump suspended refugee resettlement on his first day in office.

It is a path Sharafoddin took with his wife and son out of Afghanistan walking on those mountain roads in the dark then through Pakistan, Iran and into Turkey. He worked in a factory for years in Turkey, listening to YouTube videos on headphones to learn English before he was resettled in Irmo, South Carolina, a suburb of Columbia.

His son is now 11, and he and his wife had a daughter in the U.S. who is now 3. There is a job at a jewelry maker that allows him to afford a two-story, three-bedroom house. Food was laid out on two tables Saturday for a celebration of the Muslim Eid al-Adha holiday.

Sharafoddin's wife, Nuriya, said she is learning English and driving — two things she couldn't do in Afghanistan under Taliban rule.

"I'm very happy to be here now, because my son is very good at school and my daughter also. I think after 18 years they are going to work, and my daughter is going to be able to go to college," she said.

The family wants to help a niece

It is a life she wanted for her niece too. The couple show videos from their cellphones of her drawing and painting. When the Taliban returned to power in 2021, their niece could no longer study. So they started to plan to get her to the U.S. at least to further her education.

Nuriya Sharafoddin doesn't know if her niece has heard the news from America yet. She hasn't had the heart to call and tell her.

"I'm not ready to call her. This is not good news. This is very sad news because she is worried and wants to come," Nuriya Sharafoddin said.

While the couple spoke, Jim Ray came by. He has helped a number of refugee families settle in Columbia and helped the Sharafoddins navigate questions in their second language.

Ray said Afghans in Columbia know the return of the Taliban changed how the U.S. deals with their native country.

But while the ban allows spouses, children or parents to travel to America, other family members aren't included. Many Afghans know their extended families are starving or suffering, and suddenly a path to help is closed, Ray said.

"We'll have to wait and see how the travel ban and the specifics of it actually play out," Ray said. "This kind of thing that they're experiencing where family cannot be reunited is actually where it hurts the most."

The Taliban criticize the travel ban

The Taliban have criticized Trump for the ban, with their top leader Hibatullah Akhundzada saying the U.S. was now the oppressor of the world.

"Citizens from 12 countries are barred from entering their land — and Afghans are not allowed either," he said on a recording shared on social media. "Why? Because they claim the Afghan government has no control over its people and that people are leaving the country. So, oppressor! Is this what you call friendship with humanity?"

Russia continues to accuse Ukraine of delaying planned exchange of dead fighters

By The Associated Press undefined

Russian officials said Sunday that Moscow is still awaiting official confirmation from Kyiv that a planned exchange of 6,000 bodies of soldiers killed in action will take place, reiterating allegations that Ukraine had postponed the swap.

Russian state media quoted Lt. Gen. Alexander Zorin, a representative of the Russian negotiating group, as saying that Russia delivered the first batch of 1,212 bodies of Ukrainian Armed Forces soldiers to the exchange site at the border and is waiting for confirmation from the Ukrainian side, but that there are "signals" that the process of transferring the bodies will be postponed until next week.

Russia and Ukraine each accused the other on Saturday of endangering plans to swap 6,000 bodies of soldiers killed in action, which was agreed upon during direct talks in Istanbul on Monday that otherwise

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 57 of 79

made no progress toward ending the war.

Vladimir Medinsky, a Putin aide who led the Russian delegation, said that Kyiv called a last-minute halt to an imminent swap. In a Telegram post on Saturday, Medinsky said that refrigerated trucks carrying more than 1,200 bodies of Ukrainian troops from Russia had already reached the agreed exchange site at the border when the news came.

In response, Ukraine said Russia was playing “dirty games” and manipulating facts.

According to the main Ukrainian authority dealing with such swaps, no date had been set for repatriating the bodies. In a statement on Saturday, the agency also accused Russia of submitting lists of prisoners of war for repatriation that didn’t correspond to agreements reached on Monday.

It wasn’t immediately possible to reconcile the conflicting claims.

In other developments, one person was killed and another seriously wounded in Russian aerial strikes on the eastern Ukrainian Kharkiv region. These strikes came after Russian attacks targeting the regional capital, also called Kharkiv, killed at least four people and wounded more than two dozen others on Saturday.

Russia fired a total of 49 exploding drones and decoys and three missiles overnight, Ukraine’s air force said Sunday. Forty drones were shot down or electronically jammed.

Meanwhile, Russia’s defense ministry said that its forces shot down 61 Ukrainian drones overnight, including near the capital.

Two people were wounded when a Ukrainian drone attack sparked a fire at a chemical plant in the Tula region.

Italians vote on citizenship and job protections amid low awareness and turnout concerns

By GIADA ZAMPANO Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italians vote over two days starting Sunday on referendums that would make it easier for children born in Italy to foreigners to obtain citizenship, and on providing more job protections. But apparent low public awareness risks rendering the vote invalid if turnout is not high enough.

Campaigners for the change in the citizenship law say it will help second-generation Italians born in the country to non-European Union parents better integrate into a culture they already see as theirs.

Italian singer Ghali, who was born in Milan to Tunisian parents, urged people to vote in an online post, noting that the referendum risks failure if at least 50% plus one of eligible voters don’t turn out.

“I was born here, I always lived here, but I only received citizenship at the age of 18,” Ghali said, urging a yes vote to reduce the residency requirement from 10 to five years.

The new rules, if passed, could affect about 2.5 million foreign nationals who still struggle to be recognized as citizens.

The measures were proposed by Italy’s main union and left-wing opposition parties. Premier Giorgia Meloni has said she would show up at the polls but not cast a ballot — an action widely criticized by the left as antidemocratic, since it will not help reach the necessary threshold to make the vote valid.

“While some members of her ruling coalition have openly called for abstention, Meloni has opted for a more subtle approach,” said analyst Wolfango Piccoli of the Teneo consultancy based in London. “It’s yet another example of her trademark fence-sitting.”

Rights at stake

Supporters say this reform would bring Italy’s citizenship law in line with many other European countries, promoting greater social integration for long-term residents. It would also allow faster access to civil and political rights, such as the right to vote, eligibility for public employment and freedom of movement within the EU.

“The real drama is that neither people who will vote ‘yes’ nor those who intend to vote ‘no’ or abstain have an idea of what (an) ordeal children born from foreigners have to face in this country to obtain a residence permit,” said Selam Tesfaye, an activist and campaigner with the Milan-based human rights group “Il Cantiere.”

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 58 of 79

"Foreigners are also victims of blackmail, as they can't speak up against poor working conditions, exploitation and discrimination, due to the precariousness of the permit of stay," she added.

Activists and opposition parties also denounced the lack of public debate on the measures, accusing the governing center-right coalition of trying to dampen interest in sensitive issues that directly impact immigrants and workers.

In May, Italy's AGCOM communications authority lodged a complaint against RAI state television and other broadcasters for a lack of adequate and balanced coverage.

"This referendum is really about dignity and the right to belong, which is key for many people who were born here and spent most of their adult life contributing to Italian society. For them, a lack of citizenship is like an invisible wall," said Michelle Ngonmo, a cultural entrepreneur and advocate for diversity in the fashion industry, who has lived most of her life in Italy after moving as a child from Cameroon.

"You are good enough to work and pay taxes, but not to be fully recognized as Italian. This becomes a handicap for young generations, particularly in the creative field, creating frustration, exclusion and a big waste of potential," she said.

The four other referendums aim to roll back labor reforms, making it harder to fire some workers and increase compensation for those laid off by small businesses, reversing a previous law passed by a center-left government a decade ago. One of the questions on the ballot also addresses the urgent issue of security at work, restoring joint liability to both contractors and subcontractors for workplace injuries.

Many expected to abstain from voting

Opinion polls published in mid-May showed that only 46% of Italians were aware of the issues driving the referendums. Turnout projections were even weaker for a vote scheduled for the first weekend of Italy's school holidays, at around 35% of around 50 million electors, well below the required quorum.

"Many believe that the referendum institution should be reviewed in light of the high levels of abstention (that) emerged in recent elections and the turnout threshold should be lowered," said Lorenzo Pregliasco, political analyst and pollster at YouTrend.

Some analysts note however that the center-left opposition could claim a victory even if the referendum fails on condition that the turnout surpasses the 12.3 million voters who backed the winning center-right coalition in the 2022 general election.

Trump deploys California National Guard to LA to quell protests despite the governor's objections

By MICHELLE L. PRICE, ERIC THAYER and MORGAN LEE Associated Press

PARAMOUNT, Calif. (AP) — President Donald Trump is deploying 2,000 California National Guard troops to Los Angeles over the objections of Gov. Gavin Newsom after a second day of clashes between hundreds of protesters and federal immigration authorities in riot gear.

Confrontations broke out on Saturday near a Home Depot in the heavily Latino city of Paramount, south of Los Angeles, where federal agents were staging at a Department of Homeland Security office nearby. Agents unleashed tear gas, flash-bang explosives and pepper balls, and protesters hurled rocks and cement at Border Patrol vehicles. Smoke wafted from small piles of burning refuse in the streets.

Tensions were high after a series of sweeps by immigration authorities the previous day, including in LA's fashion district and at a Home Depot, as the weeklong tally of immigrant arrests in the city climbed past 100. A prominent union leader was arrested while protesting and accused of impeding law enforcement.

The White House announced that Trump would deploy the Guard to "address the lawlessness that has been allowed to fester." It wasn't clear when the troops would arrive.

Newsom, a Democrat, said in a post on the social platform X that it was "purposefully inflammatory and will only escalate tensions." He later said the federal government wants a spectacle and urged people not to give them one by becoming violent.

In a signal of the administration's aggressive approach, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth threatened to

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 59 of 79

deploy the U.S. military.

"If violence continues, active-duty Marines at Camp Pendleton will also be mobilized — they are on high alert," Hegseth said on X.

Trump's order came after clashes in Paramount and neighboring Compton, where a car was set on fire. Protests continued into the evening in Paramount, with several hundred demonstrators gathered near a doughnut shop, and authorities holding up barbed wire to keep the crowd back.

Crowds also gathered again outside federal buildings in downtown Los Angeles, including a detention center, where local police declared an unlawful assembly and began to arrest people.

Standoff in Paramount

Earlier in Paramount, immigration officers faced off with demonstrators at the entrance to a business park, across from the back of a Home Depot. They set off fireworks and pulled shopping carts into the street, broke up cinder blocks and pelted a procession of Border Patrol vans as they departed and careened down a boulevard.

U.S. Attorney Bill Essayli said federal agents made more arrests of people with deportation orders on Saturday, but none at the Home Depot. The Department of Homeland Security has a building next door and agents were staging there as they prepared to carry out operations, he said on Fox11 Los Angeles. He didn't say how many people were arrested Saturday or where.

Paramount Mayor Peggy Lemons told multiple news outlets that community members showed up in response because people are fearful about activity by immigration agents.

"When you handle things the way that this appears to be handled, it's not a surprise that chaos would follow," Lemons said.

Some demonstrators jeered at officers while recording the events on smartphones.

"ICE out of Paramount. We see you for what you are," a woman said through a megaphone. "You are not welcome here."

More than a dozen people were arrested and accused of impeding immigration agents, Essayli posted on X, including the names and mug shots of some of those arrested. He didn't say where they were protesting.

Trump calls up the Guard

Trump federalized part of California's National Guard under what is known as Title 10 authority, which places him, not the governor, atop the chain of command, according to Newsom's office.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a statement that the work the immigration authorities were doing when met with protests is "essential to halting and reversing the invasion of illegal criminals into the United States. In the wake of this violence, California's feckless Democrat leaders have completely abdicated their responsibility to protect their citizens."

The president's move came shortly after he issued a threat on his social media network saying that if Newsom and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass did not "do their jobs," then "the Federal Government will step in and solve the problem, RIOTS & LOOTERS, the way it should be solved!!!"

Trump signed the order shortly before he went to attend a UFC fight in New Jersey, where he sat ring-side with boxer Mike Tyson.

Newsom said in his statement that local authorities "are able to access law enforcement assistance at a moment's notice," and "there is currently no unmet need."

The California Highway Patrol said Newsom directed it to deploy additional officers to "maintain public safety."

Speaking on ABC7, Bass said that "we certainly want to make the opportunities available for people to exercise their First Amendment rights, but the minute that things turn to violence ... that is not acceptable and people are going to be held accountable."

She said she had spoken with members of the Trump administration and insisted that she and Newsom were in control and there was no need for the National Guard to be deployed.

In 2020, Trump asked governors of several states to deploy their National Guard troops to Washington, D.C., to quell protests after George Floyd was killed by Minneapolis police. Many agreed and sent troops.

Trump also threatened at the time to invoke the Insurrection Act for those protests — an intervention

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 60 of 79

rarely seen in modern American history. But then-Defense Secretary Mark Esper pushed back, saying the law should be invoked "only in the most urgent and dire of situations."

Trump did not invoke the act during his first term, and he did not do so Saturday, according to Leavitt and Newsom.

Arrests in Los Angeles

Protests kicked off a day earlier in Los Angeles after federal authorities arrested 44 people for violating immigration law Friday.

DHS later said recent ICE operations in Los Angeles resulted in the arrest of 118 immigrants, including five people linked to criminal organizations and people with prior criminal histories.

David Huerta, regional president of the Service Employees International Union, was also arrested Friday while protesting. The Justice Department confirmed that he was being held Saturday at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Los Angeles ahead of a scheduled Monday court appearance.

Democratic Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer called for his immediate release, warning of a "disturbing pattern of arresting and detaining American citizens for exercising their right to free speech."

Palestinians say at least 4 killed by Israeli fire near aid site. Israel says it fired warning shots

By WAFAA SHURAF and KAREEM CHEHAYEB Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Palestinian health officials and witnesses say at least four people were killed and others were wounded by Israeli fire around a kilometer (half-mile) from an aid distribution point in the Gaza Strip run by an Israeli and U.S.-backed group. Israel's military said it fired warning shots at people who approached its forces.

The bodies were brought to Nasser Hospital in Gaza's southern city of Khan Younis, which confirmed the toll. Palestinian witnesses said Israeli forces had fired on them at a roundabout in the nearby city of Rafah as they went to get food from a site run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation.

The Israeli military said it fired warning shots at people it said were suspects who had advanced toward its forces and ignored warnings to turn away. It said the shooting occurred in an area in southern Gaza that is considered an active combat zone at night.

The GHF did not immediately respond to requests for comment. It says there has been no violence at the sites themselves. But it closed them temporarily last week to discuss safety measures with the Israeli military and has warned people to stay on designated access routes.

In a separate development, the Israeli military accused a spokesperson for Gaza's Civil Defense of being an active Hamas member, according to documents it said were recovered during operations inside Gaza.

The Associated Press was not able to independently verify the documents, which purport to show that Mahmoud Bassal joined Hamas in 2005. Bassal did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The Civil Defense are first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government and often are first to arrive at the scenes of Israeli strikes.

Deadly shootings near new aid hubs

The past two weeks have seen frequent shootings near the new hubs where thousands of desperate Palestinians are being directed to collect food. Witnesses say nearby Israeli troops have opened fire, and more than 80 people have been killed, according to Gaza hospital officials. Israel's military has said it fired warning shots or, in some instances, near individuals approaching its forces.

Witnesses said Sunday's shooting occurred at around 6 a.m., when they were told the site would open. Many had headed toward it early to try and get desperately needed food before the crowds.

Adham Dahman, 30, who was at Nasser Hospital with a bandage on his chin, said a tank had fired toward them. "We didn't know how to escape," he said. "This is trap for us, not aid."

Zahed Ben Hassan, another witness, said someone next to him was shot in the head. He said that he and others pulled the body from the scene and managed to flee to the hospital.

"They said it was a safe area from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. ... So why did they start shooting at us?" he said.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 61 of 79

"There was light out, and they have their cameras and can clearly see us."

The military had announced on Friday that the sites would be open during those hours, and that the area would be a closed military zone from 6 p.m. until 6 a.m.

Risk of famine

The hubs are set up inside Israeli military zones — where independent media have no access — and are run by GHF, a new group of mainly American contractors. Israel wants it to replace a system coordinated by the United Nations and international aid groups.

Israel and the United States accuse the militant Hamas group of stealing aid, while the U.N. denies there is any systematic diversion. The U.N. says the new system is unable to meet mounting needs and allows Israel to use aid as a weapon by determining who can receive it and forcing people to relocate to where the aid sites are positioned.

The U.N. system has meanwhile struggled to deliver aid — even after Israel eased its complete blockade of Gaza last month. U.N. officials say their efforts are hindered by Israeli military restrictions, the breakdown of law and order, and widespread looting.

Experts warned earlier this year that Gaza was at critical risk of famine if Israel did not lift its blockade and halt its military campaign, which Israeli officials have said will continue until all the hostages are returned and Hamas is defeated or disarmed and sent into exile.

Hamas has said it will only release the remaining hostages in return for Palestinian prisoners, a lasting ceasefire and an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. Talks mediated by the U.S., Egypt and Qatar have been deadlocked for months.

Hamas started the war with its massive attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, when Palestinians militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took another 251 people hostage. They are still holding 55 hostages, fewer than half of them alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefire agreements or other deals.

Israel has recovered dozens of bodies, including three in recent days, and rescued eight living hostages over the course of the war.

Israel's military campaign has killed over 54,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. It has said women and children make up most of the dead but does not say how many civilians or combatants were killed. Israel says it has killed over 20,000 militants, without providing evidence.

The war has destroyed vast areas of Gaza and displaced around 90% of its population. The territory's roughly 2 million Palestinians are almost completely reliant on international aid because nearly all of Gaza's food production capabilities have been destroyed.

Trump attends UFC championship fight in New Jersey, taking a break from Musk feud for cage fights

By DAN GELSTON AP Sports Writer

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — President Donald Trump walked out to a thunderous standing ovation just ahead of the start of the UFC pay-per-view card at the Prudential Center on Saturday night, putting his public feud with tech billionaire Elon Musk on hold to instead watch the fierce battles inside the cage.

Trump was accompanied by UFC President Dana White and the pair headed to their cageside seats for UFC 316 to Kid Rock's "American Bad Ass." Trump and White did the same for UFC's card last November at Madison Square Garden, only then they were joined by Musk.

Trump shook hands with fans and supporters — a heavyweight lineup that included retired boxing great Mike Tyson — on his way to the cage. Trump was joined by his daughter Ivanka Trump and her husband, Jared Kushner, along with son Eric Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

Trump shook hands with the UFC broadcast team that included Joe Rogan. Rogan hosted Trump on his podcast for hours in the final stages of the campaign last year.

UFC fans went wild for Trump and held mobile devices in their outstretched arms to snap pictures of him. Trump is a longtime UFC enthusiast and frequent attendee of major fights.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 62 of 79

Trump arrived in time for the start of a card set to include two championship fights. Julianna Peña and Merab Dvalishvili were scheduled to each defend their 135-pound championships.

UFC fighter Kevin Holland choked out Vicente Luque to win the first fight with Trump in the building. He scaled the cage and shook hands with Trump. He briefly chatted with Trump and White before he returned for his post-fight interview.

Trump has been close to White for more than two decades.

White hosted a 2001 UFC battle at Trump Taj Mahal, a former casino-hotel in Atlantic City, and Trump has frequently attended UFC matches since — including during his 2024 campaign. Trump has turned up at fights recently with famous entourages, including White, musician Kid Rock and former Fox News Channel host Tucker Carlson.

Trump and White's alliance has yielded dividends for both parties. White stumped for Trump at Republican conventions while men who soak up fight nights threw their support behind Trump in the elections.

Sovereignty beats Journalism to win the Belmont Stakes at Saratoga

By SPENCER RIPCHIK Associated Press

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. (AP) — Sovereignty outran Journalism on Saturday in a Kentucky Derby rematch in the 157th Belmont Stakes at Saratoga Race Course, the race once again showcasing the best in horse racing.

Like last year, it featured the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winners. However, unlike last year and for the first time since 2018, one of those two won to secure two of the three legs of the Triple Crown.

"I think they are three really good horses," Sovereignty trainer Bill Mott said. "I'm glad (Sovereignty) was able to come back and have a race like he did in the Derby."

It was the second Belmont win for Mott. He spends most of his summer tending to his horses at Saratoga, so winning the Belmont at Saratoga was extra special.

"This is home," Mott said. "It's the race we were pointing for after the Derby, and fortunately it worked out very well... The horse was good. Junior rode him well."

It was the second Belmont at Saratoga, with renovations being made to its usual home at Belmont Park on Long Island.

Rodriguez, who made his Triple Crown debut, burst out and led the field of eight in the 1 1/4-mile race until the top of the stretch when Journalism made a surge. Followed closely behind was Sovereignty, with jockey Junior Alvarado aboard. He caught Journalism almost instantly and ran away with it.

The 5-2 second favorite finished in 2:00.69, beating Preakness winner Journalism by three lengths.

"He broke very well again today like he's been doing," Alvarado said. "He put himself in a good spot. I was a little shocked how close, but at the same time, I'm happy with how easily he was doing everything. As a jockey, I was very happy where he was."

Journalism ended up in second again, and Baeza was third — the same 1-2-3 as the Kentucky Derby. Journalism, the only horse to run in all three legs, entered the gate at the Belmont as the 2-1 favorite, with Baeza the third favorite at 7-2.

Sovereignty paid \$7 to win, \$3.20 to place and \$2.30 to show. Journalism returned \$3.20 and \$2.30, and Baeza paid \$2.60.

Sovereignty led off the first leg of the Triple Crown by winning the Derby in early May. The colt also edged Journalism in that race.

After the Derby win, the Godolphin-owned 3-year-old opted out of the Preakness to focus on the Belmont, forfeiting a shot at history to win the Triple Crown. The Triple Crown hasn't been won since 2018, when Bob Baffert's Justify won the 105th Belmont Stakes to secure the third jewel.

Despite winning both legs of the Triple Crown that Sovereignty entered, Mott and Godolphin's Michael Banahan didn't regret not running him in the Preakness Stakes.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 63 of 79

"I think if you leave the races out of it, it's what was the right thing to do for the horse," Banahan said. "That's what we talked about — what was the right thing for the horse to do going forward?"

One of the reasons Mott and Godolphin skipped the Preakness was that they didn't want to exhaust the horse and wanted a long future for the three-year-old. There are a couple of stakes races later in the summer for three-year-olds, but the main one is at the end of the year, the Travers Stakes.

The Travers, at the end of the Saratoga meet, could be another loaded field and potentially another rematch between Journalism and Sovereignty.

"I'd love to come back and take a crack at the Travers in August," Mott said. "It's a race I've never won, but I think it's a very important race for a three-year-old like Sovereignty. I think if he's healthy, everybody would probably be in agreement that's the race we would point to."

Video shows dolphin calf birth and first breath at Chicago zoo.

Mom's friend helped

CHICAGO (AP) — A bottlenose dolphin at a Chicago zoo gave birth to a calf early Saturday morning with the help of a fellow mom, in a successful birth recorded on video by zoo staff.

The dolphin calf was born at Brookfield Zoo Chicago early Saturday morning as a team of veterinarians monitored and cheered on the mom, a 38-year-old bottlenose dolphin named Allie.

"Push, push, push," one observer can be heard shouting in video released by the zoo Saturday, as Allie swims around the tank, the calf's little tail fins poking out below her own.

Then the calf wriggles free and instinctively darts to the surface of the pool for its first breath. Also in the tank was an experienced mother dolphin named Tapeko, 43, who stayed close to Allie through her more than one hour of labor. In the video, she can be seen following the calf as it heads to the surface, and staying with it as it takes that first breath.

It is natural for dolphins to look out for each other during a birth, zoo staff said.

"That's very common both in free-ranging settings but also in aquaria," said Brookfield Zoo Chicago Senior Veterinarian Dr. Jennifer Langan in a video statement. "It provides the mom extra protection and a little bit of extra help to help get the calf to the surface to help it breath in those couple minutes where she's still having really strong contractions."

In a written statement, zoo officials said early signs indicate that the calf is in good health. They estimate it weighs around 35 pounds (16 kilograms) and stretches nearly four feet in length (115-120 centimeters). That is about the weight and length of an adult golden retriever dog.

The zoo's Seven Seas exhibit will be closed as the calf bonds with its mother and acclimates with other dolphins in its group.

As part of that bonding, the calf has already learned to slipstream, or draft alongside its mother so that it doesn't have to work as hard to move. Veterinarians will monitor progress in nursing, swimming and other milestones particularly closely over the next 30 days.

The calf will eventually take a paternity test to see which of the male dolphins at the zoo is its father. Zoo officials say they will name the calf later this summer.

Israel retrieves the body of a Thai hostage as 95 people are reported killed in Gaza

By SAM MEDNICK and MOHAMMAD JAHJOUH Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israel said Saturday it retrieved the body of a Thai hostage abducted into the Gaza Strip during the Hamas-led attack that sparked the war, as Israel's military continued its offensive, killing at least 95 people in the past 24 hours, according to Gaza's health ministry.

Nattapong Pinta had come to Israel to work in agriculture. Israel's government said he was seized from Kibbutz Nir Oz and killed early in the war, which began on Oct. 7, 2023.

Thailand's foreign ministry said the bodies of two other citizens were yet to be retrieved. Thais were

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 64 of 79

the largest group of foreigners held captive. Many lived on the outskirts of southern Israeli kibbutzim and towns, the first places overrun in the attack. Forty-six Thais have been killed during the war, according to the foreign ministry.

Israel's defense minister said Pinta's body was retrieved from the Rafah area in southern Gaza. The army said he was seized by the Mujahideen Brigades, the small armed group that also took two Israeli-American hostages, Judih Weinstein and Gad Haggai, whose bodies were retrieved on Thursday.

Israel's military later said it killed the head of the Mujahideen Brigades, As'ad Aby Sharaiya, in Gaza City on Saturday.

Fifty-five hostages remain in Gaza. Israel says more than half are dead. Families rallied again Saturday evening in Israel, calling for a ceasefire deal to bring everyone home.

Hamas issued an unusual warning about another hostage, Matan Zangauker, saying Israel's military had surrounded the area where he's held and that any harm that came to him during a rescue attempt would be Israel's responsibility. Israel's military didn't immediately comment.

"The decision to expand the (military) ground maneuver is at the cost of Matan's life and the lives of all the hostages," Zangauker's mother, Einav, told the rally in Tel Aviv.

Israel continues its military offensive

A strike in Gaza City killed six members of a family, including two children, according to the Shifa and al-Ahli hospitals. Israel's military said the strike targeted the Mujahideen Brigades leader.

"This is the real destruction," a man said as he carried the body of a small boy from the scene.

Four Israeli strikes hit the Muwasi area in southern Gaza between Rafah and Khan Younis. In northern Gaza, a strike hit an apartment, killing seven people including a mother and five children. Their bodies were taken to Shifa hospital.

"Stand up, my love," one weeping woman said, touching the shrouded bodies.

Israel said it was responding to Hamas' "barbaric attacks" and dismantling its capabilities. It said it takes all feasible precautions to mitigate civilian harm.

Reports say some of the dead tried to get food aid

Staff at Nasser hospital, which received the bodies of six people over the past 24 hours, said they were killed while on their way to get food aid. Much of Gaza's population of over 2 million relies on aid after widespread destruction of agriculture as well as a recent Israeli blockade. Experts have warned of famine.

Israel's army has warned that the aid distribution area is an active combat zone during nighttime hours. It said several suspects attempted to approach troops operating in the Tel al-Sultan area overnight "in a manner that posed a threat." The army said troops called out, then fired warning shots as the suspects advanced.

An army official who couldn't be named in line with military procedures said the shots were fired about a kilometer (half-mile) from the distribution site.

Over the past two weeks, shootings have occurred frequently near the new hubs where thousands of desperate Palestinians are being directed to collect food. Witnesses say nearby Israeli troops have opened fire, and more than 80 people have been killed, according to Gaza hospital officials. Israel's military has said it fired warning shots or, in some instances, at individuals approaching.

The hubs are run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, a new group of mainly American contractors. Israel wants it to replace a system coordinated by the United Nations and aid groups.

A GHF spokesperson, speaking on condition of anonymity in accordance with the group's rules, said it didn't feed Gaza residents on Saturday and blamed Hamas threats. There was no immediate Hamas response.

Israel accuses Hamas of siphoning off aid under the U.N.-led system. The U.N. and aid groups deny there's significant diversion of aid to militants and say the new system — which they have rejected — allows Israel to use food as a weapon, violates humanitarian principles and won't be effective.

The U.N. says it has been unable to distribute much aid under its system because of Israeli military restrictions on movements and insecurity.

Separately, Palestinians lined up at a soup kitchen in Gaza City for handouts on the second day of Eid

al-Adha.

"I have been standing here for more than an hour and a half. I feel I have a sunstroke, and I am in need," said Farida al-Sayed, who said she had six people to feed. "I only had lentils, and I ran out of them."

Death tolls since the war began

Hamas-led militants killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the Oct. 7 attack and abducted 251 hostages. Most were released in ceasefire agreements or other deals. Israeli forces have rescued eight living hostages and recovered dozens of bodies.

Israel's military campaign has killed more than 54,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's health ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants. The offensive has destroyed large parts of Hamas-run Gaza and displaced around 90% of its population of roughly 2 million Palestinians.

Recaptured Arkansas prison escapee known as the 'Devil in the Ozarks' sent to SuperMax prison

By JACK BROOK and JEFF MARTIN Associated Press/Report for America

Convicted killer and recaptured prison escapee Grant Hardin, known as the "Devil in the Ozarks," has been transferred to the Varner SuperMax prison southeast of Little Rock, Arkansas prison authorities announced Saturday.

After a nearly two-week search in the rugged mountains of northern Arkansas, authorities recaptured Hardin on Friday 1.5 miles (2.4 kilometers) northwest of the prison from which he escaped. Hardin briefly attempted to run from officers when he saw them approach, but he was quickly tackled to the ground, said Rand Champion, a spokesperson for the Arkansas prison system.

Authorities tried to track Hardin using drones, bloodhounds and a helicopter, but high water from heavy rains during the search raised the water level in creeks and streams around the prison. That likely limited his abilities — and also those of the searchers -- to move through the rugged terrain, Champion said.

"The direction he went, specifically around Moccasin Creek, saw high water due to the abundance of rain the last few weeks, which more than likely limited his options to get around the area," Champion said. "Search teams had looked through this area before, but the high water previously limited their ability to fully investigate."

Residents of the nearby town of Calico Rock, like Roger Simons, said they were surprised to learn that Hardin had stayed so close to the prison.

"None of us really thought he was still in the area," said Simons, a local bartender. "We thought he was long gone — that's what I would have bet my money on."

Hardin had been held at the Calico Rock prison since 2017 after pleading guilty to first-degree murder in a fatal shooting. He escaped by impersonating a corrections officer "in dress and manner," according to a court document.

A prison officer in one of the guard towers opened a secure gate, allowing him to walk out of the facility. Authorities say they are investigating why Hardin's identity was not checked before he was allowed to leave.

Benton County Prosecutor Bryan Sexton, who oversaw Hardin's convictions for murder and rape, said he had been in close contact with law enforcement officials who were "consistent" with their belief that Hardin remained in the northern Arkansas region.

Hardin is a former police chief in the small town of Gateway near the Arkansas-Missouri border whose notoriety led to a TV documentary called "Devil in the Ozarks." Sexton said his escape had significantly disrupted the lives of trial witnesses and Hardin's victims, whom he kept updated on the pursuit for the fugitive.

"Every one of them to a person informed me that they had to make changes in their lives because they had had concerns for their safety," Sexton said.

After Hardin's recapture, "they could get closure in their lives and secondly go back to their normal lives, which had been disrupted the whole time he was out," Sexton said.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 66 of 79

Cheryl Tillman, the sister of a man shot by Hardin in 2017, told The Associated Press that Hardin's capture was a "big sigh of relief" for her whole family.

"We don't have to walk around, turning around all the time, thinking somebody's on our back," Tillman said, emphasizing her appreciation for the officers who helped capture Hardin.

Sexton said he was more assured now that Hardin was being sent to a more secure facility.

The Varner Unit, established in 1987, has the capacity to house 1,714 inmates. It is the site where former President Bill Clinton's gubernatorial chief of staff, a death penalty opponent, faced charges for trying to smuggle a knife and tattoo needles into death row.

Within Varner, a special "supermax" unit houses the most high-risk prisoners such as a man who fatally shot a soldier at a military recruiting station and death row inmates such as convicted child rapist and murderer Zachary Holly. Damien Wayne Echols of the West Memphis Three was also incarcerated there prior to his release.

"By reputation, Varner is the most secure prison in the Arkansas system," Sexton said. "I think that all things considering, putting him (Hardin) in the most secure facility we can is probably a wise thing to do."

Trump says Elon Musk could face 'serious consequences' if he backs Democratic candidates

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and BILL BARROW Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) — President Donald Trump is not backing off his battle with Elon Musk, saying Saturday that he has no desire to repair their relationship and warning that his former ally and campaign benefactor could face "serious consequences" if he tries to help Democrats in upcoming elections.

Trump told NBC's Kristen Welker in a phone interview that he has no plans to make up with Musk. Asked specifically if he thought his relationship with the mega-billionaire CEO of Tesla and SpaceX is over, Trump responded, "I would assume so, yeah."

"I'm too busy doing other things," Trump continued. "You know, I won an election in a landslide. I gave him a lot of breaks, long before this happened, I gave him breaks in my first administration, and saved his life in my first administration, I have no intention of speaking to him."

The president also issued a warning amid chatter that Musk could back Democratic lawmakers and candidates in the 2026 midterm elections.

"If he does, he'll have to pay the consequences for that," Trump told NBC, though he declined to share what those consequences would be. Musk's businesses have many lucrative federal contracts.

The president's latest comments suggest Musk is moving from close ally to a potential new target for Trump, who has aggressively wielded the powers of his office to crack down on critics and punish perceived enemies. As a major government contractor, Musk's businesses could be particularly vulnerable to retribution. Trump has already threatened to cut Musk's contracts, calling it an easy way to save money.

The dramatic rupture between the president and the world's richest man began this week with Musk's public criticism of Trump's "big beautiful bill" pending on Capitol Hill. Musk has warned that the bill will increase the federal deficit and called it a "disgusting abomination."

Trump criticized Musk in the Oval Office, and before long, he and Musk began trading bitterly personal attacks on social media, sending the White House and GOP congressional leaders scrambling to assess the fallout.

As the back-and-forth intensified, Musk suggested Trump should be impeached and claimed without evidence that the government was concealing information about the president's association with infamous pedophile Jeffrey Epstein. Musk appeared by Saturday morning to have deleted his posts about Epstein.

Vice President JD Vance in an interview tried to downplay the feud. He said Musk was making a "huge mistake" going after Trump, but called him an "emotional guy" getting frustrated.

"I hope that eventually Elon comes back into the fold. Maybe that's not possible now because he's gone so nuclear," Vance said.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 67 of 79

Vance called Musk an "incredible entrepreneur," and said that Musk's Department of Government Efficiency, which sought to cut government spending and laid off or pushed out thousands of workers, was "really good."

Vance made the comments in an interview with "manosphere" comedian Theo Von, who last month joked about snorting drugs off a mixed-race baby and the sexuality of men in the U.S. Navy when he opened for Trump at a military base in Qatar.

The Vance interview was taped Thursday as Musk's posts were unfurling on X, the social media network the billionaire owns.

During the interview, Von showed the vice president Musk's claim that Trump's administration hasn't released all the records related to Epstein because Trump is mentioned in them.

Vance responded to that, saying, "Absolutely not. Donald Trump didn't do anything wrong with Jeffrey Epstein."

"This stuff is just not helpful," Vance said in response to another post shared by Musk calling for Trump to be impeached and replaced with Vance.

"It's totally insane. The president is doing a good job."

Vance also defended the bill that has drawn Musk's ire, and said its central goal was not to cut spending but to extend the 2017 tax cuts approved in Trump's first term.

The bill would slash spending and taxes but also leave some 10.9 million more people without health insurance and spike deficits by \$2.4 trillion over the decade, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

"It's a good bill," Vance said. "It's not a perfect bill."

The interview was taped in Nashville at a restaurant owned by musician Kid Rock, a Trump ally.

Salmonella outbreak tied to eggs sickens dozens across 7 states

The Associated Press undefined

A salmonella outbreak linked to a large egg recall has made dozens of people sick in seven states in the West and Midwest, federal health officials said Saturday.

The August Egg Company recalled about 1.7 million brown organic and brown cage-free egg varieties distributed to grocery stores between February and May because of the potential for salmonella, according to a posted announcement Friday on the Food and Drug Administration's website.

At least 79 people in seven states have gotten a strain of salmonella that was linked to the eggs, and 21 people have been hospitalized, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

The recall covers Arizona, California, Illinois, Indiana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, Washington and Wyoming. A list of brands and plant codes or Julian dates can be found on the FDA and CDC websites.

Symptoms of salmonella poisoning include diarrhea, fever, severe vomiting, dehydration and stomach cramps. Most people who get sick recover within a week.

Infections can be severe in young children, older adults and people with weakened immune systems, who may require hospitalization.

The CDC advises people to throw away recalled eggs or return them to the store where they were purchased. Consumers should also wash and disinfect any surfaces that came in contact with the eggs.

Kilmar Abrego Garcia is back in the US, charged with human smuggling as attorneys vow ongoing fight

By BEN FINLEY Associated Press

To hear the Trump administration tell it, Kilmar Abrego Garcia smuggled thousands of people across the country who were living in the U.S. illegally, including members of the violent MS-13 gang, long before his mistaken deportation to El Salvador. In allegations made public nearly three months after his removal, U.S. officials say Abrego Garcia abused the women he transported, while a co-conspirator alleged he

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 68 of 79

participated in a gang-related killing in his native El Salvador.

Abrego Garcia's wife and lawyers offer a much different story. They say the now 29-year-old had as a teenager fled local gangs that terrorized his family in El Salvador for a life in Maryland. He found work in construction, got married and was raising three children with disabilities before he was mistakenly deported in March.

The fight became a political flashpoint in the administration's stepped-up immigration enforcement. Now it returns to the U.S. court system, where Abrego Garcia appeared Friday after being returned from El Salvador. He faces new charges related to a large human smuggling operation and is in federal custody in Tennessee.

Speaking to NBC's Kristen Welken in a phone interview Saturday President Donald Trump said it was not his decision to bring Abrego Garcia back. "The Department of Justice decided to do it that way, and that's fine," he said. "There are two ways you could have done it, and they decided to do it that way." Trump said it should "be a very easy case."

In announcing Abrego Garcia's return Attorney General Pam Bondi called him "a smuggler of humans and children and women" in announcing the unsealing of a grand jury indictment. His lawyers say a jury won't believe the "preposterous" allegations.

Sen. Chris Van Hollen, who visited Abrego Garcia in El Salvador, said his return to the U.S. was long overdue.

"As I have repeatedly said, this is not about the man, it's about his constitutional rights – and the rights of all," the Maryland Democrat said in a statement. "The Administration will now have to make its case in the court of law, as it should have all along."

Gang threats in El Salvador

Abrego Garcia grew up in El Salvador's capital city, San Salvador, according to court documents filed in U.S. immigration court in 2019. His father was a former police officer. His mother, Cecilia, sold pupusas, flat tortilla pouches that hold steaming blends of cheese, beans or pork.

The entire family, including his two sisters and brother, ran the business from home, court records state.

"Everyone in the town knew to get their pupusas from 'Pupuseria Cecilia,'" his lawyers wrote.

A local gang, Barrio 18, began extorting the family for "rent money" and threatened to kill his brother Cesar — or force him into their gang — if they weren't paid, court documents state. The family complied but eventually sent Cesar to the U.S.

Barrio 18 similarly targeted Abrego Garcia, court records state. When he was 12, the gang threatened to take him away until his father paid them.

The family moved but the gang threatened to rape and kill Abrego Garcia's sisters, court records state. The family closed the business, moved again, and eventually sent Abrego Garcia to the U.S.

The family never went to the authorities because of rampant police corruption, according to court filings. The gang continued to harass the family in Guatemala, which borders El Salvador.

Life in the U.S.

Abrego Garcia fled to the U.S. illegally around 2011, the year he turned 16, according to documents in his immigration case. He joined Cesar, now a U.S. citizen, in Maryland and found construction work.

About five years later, Abrego Garcia met Jennifer Vasquez Sura, a U.S. citizen, the records say. In 2018, after she learned she was pregnant, he moved in with her and her two children. They lived in Prince George's County, just outside Washington.

In March 2019, Abrego Garcia went to a Home Depot seeking work as a laborer when he and three other men were detained by local police, court records say. They were suspected of being in MS-13 based on tattoos and clothing.

A criminal informant told police that Abrego Garcia was in MS-13, court records state but Prince George's County Police did not charge the men. The department said this year it had no further interactions with Abrego Garcia or "any new intelligence" on him. Abrego Garcia has denied being in MS-13.

Although they did not charge him, local police turned Abrego Garcia over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement. He told a U.S. immigration judge that he would seek asylum and asked to be released be-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 69 of 79

cause Vasquez Sura was pregnant, according to his immigration case.

The Department of Homeland Security alleged Abrego Garcia was a gang member based on the county police's information, according to the case. The immigration judge kept Abrego Garcia in jail as his case continued, the records show.

Abrego Garcia later married Vasquez Sura in a Maryland detention center, according to court filings. She gave birth while he was still in jail.

In October 2019, an immigration judge denied Abrego Garcia's asylum request but granted him protection from being deported back to El Salvador because of a "well-founded fear" of gang persecution, according to his case. He was released; ICE did not appeal.

Abrego Garcia checked in with ICE yearly while Homeland Security issued him a work permit, his attorneys said in court filings. He joined a union and was employed full time as a sheet metal apprentice.

In 2021, Vasquez Sura filed a temporary protection order against Abrego Garcia, stating he punched, scratched and ripped off her shirt during an argument. The case was dismissed weeks later, according to court records.

Vasquez Sura said in a statement, after the document's release by the Trump administration, that the couple had worked things out "privately as a family, including by going to counseling."

"After surviving domestic violence in a previous relationship, I acted out of caution after a disagreement with Kilmar," she stated.

She added that "Kilmar has always been a loving partner and father, and I will continue to stand by him."

A traffic stop in Tennessee

In 2022, according to a report released by the Trump administration, Abrego Garcia was stopped by the Tennessee Highway Patrol for speeding. The vehicle had eight other people and no luggage, prompting an officer to suspect him of human trafficking, the report stated.

Abrego Garcia said he was driving them from Texas to Maryland for construction work, the report stated. No citations were issued.

Abrego Garcia's wife said in a statement in April that he sometimes transported groups of workers between job sites, "so it's entirely plausible he would have been pulled over while driving with others in the vehicle. He was not charged with any crime or cited for any wrongdoing."

The Tennessee Highway Patrol released video body camera footage this May of the 2022 traffic stop. It shows a calm and friendly exchange between officers and Abrego Garcia as well as the officers discussing among themselves their suspicions of human trafficking before sending him on his way. One of the officers said: "He's hauling these people for money." Another said he had \$1,400 in an envelope.

An attorney for Abrego Garcia, Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg, said in a statement after the release that he saw no evidence of a crime in the footage.

Mistaken deportation and new charges

Abrego Garcia was deported to El Salvador in March despite the U.S. immigration judge's order. For nearly three months, his attorneys have fought for his return in a federal court in Maryland. The Trump administration described the mistaken removal as "an administrative error" but insisted he was in MS-13.

His abrupt release from El Salvador closes one chapter and opens another in the months-long standoff.

The charges he faces stem from the 2022 vehicle stop in Tennessee but the human smuggling indictment lays out a string of allegations that date back to 2016 but are only being disclosed now.

A co-conspirator also alleged that Abrego Garcia participated in the killing of a gang member's mother in El Salvador, prosecutors wrote in papers urging the judge to keep him behind bars while he awaits trial. The indictment does not charge him in connection with that allegation.

"This is what American justice looks like," Attorney General Pam Bondi said in announcing Abrego Garcia's return and the unsealing of a grand jury indictment.

Speaking to NBC's Kristen Welker in a telephone interview President Donald Trump said it was not his decision to bring Abrego Garcia back.

Abrego Garcia's attorney disagreed. "There's no way a jury is going to see the evidence and agree that this sheet metal worker is the leader of an international MS-13 smuggling conspiracy," attorney Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg said.

David Attenborough's 'Ocean' is a brutal, beautiful wake-up call from the sea

By ANNIKA HAMMERSCHLAG Associated Press

NICE, France (AP) — An ominous chain unspools through the water. Then comes chaos. A churning cloud of mud erupts as a net plows the seafloor, wrenching rays, fish and a squid from their home in a violent swirl of destruction. This is industrial bottom trawling. It's not CGI. It's real. And it's legal.

"Ocean With David Attenborough" is a brutal reminder of how little we see and how much is at stake. The film is both a sweeping celebration of marine life and a stark exposé of the forces pushing the ocean toward collapse.

The British naturalist and broadcaster, now 99, anchors the film with a deeply personal reflection: "After living for nearly a hundred years on this planet, I now understand that the most important place on Earth is not on land, but at sea."

The film traces Attenborough's lifetime — an era of unprecedented ocean discovery — through the lush beauty of coral reefs, kelp forests and deep-sea wanderers, captured in breathtaking, revelatory ways.

But this is not the Attenborough film we grew up with. As the environment unravels, so too has the tone of his storytelling. "Ocean" is more urgent, more unflinching. Never-before-seen footage of mass coral bleaching, dwindling fish stocks and industrial-scale exploitation reveals just how vulnerable the sea has become. The film's power lies not only in what it shows, but in how rarely such destruction is witnessed.

"I think we've got to the point where we've changed so much of the natural world that it's almost remiss if you don't show it," co-director Colin Butfield said. "Nobody's ever professionally filmed bottom trawling before. And yet it's happening practically everywhere."

The practice is not only legal, he adds, but often subsidized.

"For too long, everything in the ocean has been invisible," Butfield said. "Most people picture fishing as small boats heading out from a local harbor. They're not picturing factories at sea scraping the seabed."

In one harrowing scene, mounds of unwanted catch are dumped back into the sea already dead. About 10 million tons (9 million metric tonnes) of marine life are caught and discarded each year as bycatch. In some bottom trawl fisheries, discards make up more than half the haul.

Still, "Ocean" is no eulogy. Its final act offers a stirring glimpse of what recovery can look like: kelp forests rebounding under protection, vast marine reserves teeming with life and the world's largest albatross colony thriving in Hawaii's Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. These aren't fantasies; they're evidence of what the ocean can become again, if given the chance.

Timed to World Oceans Day and the U.N. Ocean Conference in Nice, the film arrives amid a growing global push to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030 — a goal endorsed by more than 190 countries. But today, just 2.7% of the ocean is effectively protected from harmful industrial activity.

The film's message is clear: The laws of today are failing the seas. So-called "protected" areas often aren't. And banning destructive practices like bottom trawling is not just feasible — it's imperative.

As always, Attenborough is a voice of moral clarity. "This could be the moment of change," he says. "Ocean" gives us the reason to believe — and the evidence to demand — that it must be.

"Ocean" premieres Saturday on National Geographic in the U.S. and streams globally on Disney+ and Hulu beginning Sunday.

Russian attacks on eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv kill 4, wound more than two dozen

By SAMYA KULLAB and VOLODYMYR YURCHUK Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian attacks targeting the eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv killed at least four people and wounded more than two dozen others on Saturday, officials said, as hopes for peace dimmed further.

The first wave on Ukraine's second-largest city was a large Russian drone-and-missile attack in the early

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 71 of 79

hours. It killed at least three people and wounded 21 others, according to local officials. In the afternoon, Russia dropped aerial bombs on the city center, killing at least one person and wounding five more, Kharkiv's mayor said.

The warring sides also accused each other of trying to sabotage a planned prisoner exchange, nearly a week after Kyiv embarrassed the Kremlin with a surprising drone attack on military airfields deep inside Russia.

Saturday's barrage — the latest in near daily widescale attacks on Ukraine — included aerial glide bombs that have become part of a fierce Russian onslaught in the all-out war, which began on Feb. 24, 2022.

Kharkiv residents describe fiery trap

As firefighters and emergency workers bustled around attack sites in Kharkiv, residents described the strikes that damaged their homes and nearly took their lives on Saturday morning.

Alina Belous said that she had tried to extinguish flames with buckets of water to rescue a young girl trapped inside a burning building who had called out for help.

"We were trying to put it out ourselves with our buckets, together with our neighbors. Then the rescuers arrived and started helping us put out the fire, but there was smoke and they worried that we couldn't stay there. When the ceiling started falling off, they took us out," she said.

Local resident Vadym Ihnachenko said that he thought at first that it was a neighboring building going up in flames.

"But when we saw sparks coming from the top, we realized it was our building," he said.

'More pressure on Moscow is required'

Ukraine's air force said that Russia struck with 215 missiles and drones overnight, and Ukrainian air defenses shot down 87 drones and seven missiles.

Several other areas in Ukraine were also hit, including the regions of Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Odesa, and the city of Ternopil, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said in an X post.

"To put an end to Russia's killing and destruction, more pressure on Moscow is required, as are more steps to strengthen Ukraine," he said.

The Russian Defense Ministry on Saturday said that its forces carried out a nighttime strike on Ukrainian military targets, including ammunition depots, drone assembly workshops, and weaponry repair stations. There was no comment from Moscow on the reports of casualties in Kharkiv.

Kharkiv's mayor, Ihor Terekhov, said that the strikes also damaged 18 apartment buildings and 13 private homes. Terekhov said that it was "the most powerful attack" on the city since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion.

Children among the wounded

Kharkiv's regional governor, Oleh Syniehubov, said the morning's attacks saw two districts in the city struck with three missiles, five aerial glide bombs and 48 drones. Among the wounded were two children, a baby boy and a 14-year-old girl, he added.

Six people are believed to be trapped under the rubble of an industrial facility in Kharkiv's Kyiv district, The Kharkiv prosecutor's office said in a statement on Telegram. Contact with those trapped was lost and rescue attempts have been ongoing since early afternoon, it said, without naming the facility.

On Saturday afternoon, Russian aerial bombs struck Kharkiv again, killing at least one person and wounding five others, the mayor said.

The morning strikes also wounded two people in the Dnipropetrovsk province further south, according to local Gov. Serhii Lysak.

Meanwhile, Russia's defense ministry said that its forces shot down 36 Ukrainian drones overnight, over the country's south and west, including near the capital. Drone debris wounded two civilians in the suburbs of Moscow, local Gov. Andrei Vorobyov reported.

No breakthrough on a peace deal

On Friday, Russia struck six Ukrainian territories, killing at least six people and wounding about 80. Among the dead were three emergency responders in Kyiv, one person in Lutsk and two people in Chernihiv.

A U.S.-led diplomatic push for a settlement has brought two rounds of direct peace talks between del-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 72 of 79

negotiations from Russia and Ukraine, though the negotiations delivered no significant breakthroughs. But both sides remain far apart on their terms for an end to the fighting.

Prisoner swap called into question

Later on Saturday, Russia and Ukraine each accused the other of endangering plans to swap 6,000 bodies of soldiers killed in action, agreed upon during direct talks in Istanbul on Monday that otherwise made no progress towards ending the war.

Vladimir Medinsky, a Putin aide who led the Russian delegation, said that Kyiv called a last-minute halt to an imminent swap. In a Telegram post, Medinsky said that refrigerated trucks carrying more than 1,200 bodies of Ukrainian troops from Russia had already reached the agreed exchange site at the border when the news came.

In response, Ukraine said Russia was playing “dirty games” and manipulating facts. According to the main Ukrainian authority dealing with such swaps, no date had been set for repatriating the bodies. In a statement Saturday, the agency also accused Russia of submitting lists of prisoners of war for repatriation that didn’t correspond to agreements reached on Monday.

It wasn’t immediately possible to reconcile the conflicting claims.

New video of airfield drone attack

Ukraine’s Security Service on Saturday released a video said to show its audacious attack on Russian air fields Sunday in which Kyiv said that 41 Russian military aircraft was destroyed.

The video shows the flight path of one explosive-laden first person view, or FPV, drone — from takeoff from the roof of a modular building to the Belaya air field — where it appears to strike a Russian strategic bomber. Other aircraft are seen engulfed in flames, apparently from previous hits in Ukraine’s “Operation Spiderweb.”

A previous round of negotiations in Istanbul, the first time Russian and Ukrainian negotiators sat at the same table since the early weeks of the full-scale invasion, led to 1,000 prisoners on both sides being exchanged.

Israel backs an anti-Hamas armed group known for looting aid in Gaza. Here’s what we know

By JULIA FRANKEL, SAM MEDNICK, SAMY MAGDY and LEE KEATH Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel is supporting armed groups of Palestinians in Gaza in what it says is a move to counter Hamas. But officials from the U.N. and aid organizations say the military is allowing them to loot food and other supplies from their trucks.

One self-styled militia, which calls itself the Popular Forces, led by Yasser Abu Shabab, says it is guarding newly created, Israeli-backed food distribution centers in southern Gaza. Aid workers say it has a long history of looting U.N. trucks.

Gaza’s armed groups have ties to powerful clans or extended families and often operate as criminal gangs. Aid workers allege Israel’s backing of the groups is part of a wider effort to control all aid operations in the strip.

Israel denies allowing looters to operate in areas it controls.

Here’s what we know about anti-Hamas armed groups in Gaza:

Who are these groups?

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a social media video Thursday that Israel had “activated” clans in Gaza to oppose Hamas.

He didn’t elaborate how Israel is supporting them or what role Israel wants them to play. Netanyahu’s comments were in response to a political opponent accusing him of arming “crime families” in Gaza.

Clans, tribes and extended families have strong influence in Gaza, where their leaders often help mediate disputes. Some have long been armed to protect their group’s interests, and some have morphed into gangs involved in smuggling drugs or running protection rackets.

After seizing power in 2007, Hamas clamped down on Gaza’s gangs -- sometimes with brute force and

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 73 of 79

sometimes by steering perks their way.

But with Hamas' weakening power after 20 months of war with Israel, gangs have regained freedom to act. The leadership of a number of clans — including the clan from which the Abu Shabab group's members hail — have issued statements denouncing looting and cooperation with Israel.

A self-proclaimed 'nationalist force'

Besides the Abu Shabab group, it is not known how many armed groups Israel is supporting.

The Abu Shabab group went public in early May, declaring itself a "nationalist force." It said it was protecting aid, including around the food distribution hubs run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, a mainly American private contractor that Israel intends to replace the U.N.-led aid network. Aid workers and Palestinians who know the group estimate it has several hundred fighters.

The Abu Shabab group's media office told The Associated Press it was collaborating with GHF "to ensure that the food and medicine reaches its beneficiaries." It said it was not involved in distribution, but that its fighters secured the surroundings of distribution centers run by GHF inside military-controlled zones in the Rafah area.

A spokesperson with GHF said it had "no collaboration" with Abu Shabab.

"We do have local Palestinian workers we are very proud of, but none is armed, and they do not belong to Abu Shabab's organization," the spokesperson said, speaking on condition of anonymity in accordance with the group's rules.

Before the war, Yasser Abu Shabab was involved in smuggling cigarettes and drugs from Egypt and Israel into Gaza through crossings and tunnels, according to two members of his extended family, one of whom was once part of his group. Hamas arrested Abu Shabab but freed him from prison along with most other inmates when the war began in October 2023, they said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

Abu Shabab's media office said he was summoned by police before the war but wasn't officially accused or tried. It also said claims the group was involved in attacking aid trucks were "exaggerated," saying its fighters "took the minimum amount of food and water necessary."

Aid workers say it is notorious for looting

The head of the association in Gaza that provides trucks and drivers for aid groups said their members' vehicles have been attacked many times by Abu Shabab's fighters.

Nahed Sheheiber said the group has been active in Israeli-controlled eastern parts of Rafah and Khan Younis, targeting trucks as they enter Gaza from the Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel. Troops nearby "did nothing" to stop attacks, he said.

Sheheiber said that when Hamas policemen have tried to confront gangs or guard truck convoys, they were attacked by Israeli troops.

One driver, Issam Abu Awda, told the AP he was attacked by Abu Shabab fighters last July. The fighters stopped his truck, blindfolded and handcuffed him and his assistant, then loaded the supplies off the vehicle, he said. Abu Awda said nearby Israeli troops didn't intervene.

These kinds of attacks are still happening and highlight "a disturbing pattern," according to Jonathan Whittall, from the U.N. humanitarian coordinator, OCHA.

"Those who have blocked and violently ransacked aid trucks seem to have been protected" by Israeli forces, said Whittall, head of OCHA's office for the occupied Palestinian territories. And, he added, they have now become the "protectors of the goods being distributed through Israel's new militarized hubs," referring to the GHF-run sites.

The Israeli military did not reply when asked for comment on allegations it has allowed armed groups to loot trucks. But the Israeli prime minister's office called the accusations "fake news," saying, "Israel didn't allow looters to operate in Israeli controlled areas."

Israel often accuses Hamas of stealing from trucks.

What does all this have to do with aid?

Muhammad Shehada, a political analyst from Gaza who is a visiting fellow at the European Council on

Foreign Relations, said he doesn't believe Israel's support for armed groups is aimed at directly fighting Hamas. So far there has been no attempt to deploy the groups against the militants.

Instead, he said, Israel is using the gangs and the looting to present GHF "as the only alternative to provide food to Palestinians," since its supplies get in while the U.N.'s don't.

Israel wants the GHF to replace the U.N.-led aid system because it claims Hamas has been siphoning off large amounts of supplies. The U.N. denies that significant amounts have been taken by Hamas. Israel has also said it aims to move all Palestinians in Gaza to a "sterile zone" in the south, around the food hubs, while it fights Hamas elsewhere.

The U.N. and aid groups have rejected that as using food as a tool for forced displacement. The Abu Shabab group has issued videos online urging Palestinians to move to tent camps in Rafah.

Israel barred all food and other supplies from entering Gaza for 2 ½ months, pending the start of GHF — a blockade that has brought the population to the brink of famine. GHF started distributing food boxes on May 26 at three hubs guarded by private contractors inside Israeli military zones.

Israel has let in some trucks of aid for the U.N. to distribute. But the U.N. says it has been able to get little of it into the hands of Palestinians because of Israeli military restrictions, including requiring its trucks to use roads where looters are known to operate.

"It's Israel's way of telling the U.N., if you want to try to bring aid into Gaza, good luck with this," said Shehada. "We will force you to go through a road where everything you brought will be looted."

Ex-police chief and convicted killer who escaped from an Arkansas prison has been captured

By JEFF MARTIN and SAFIYAH RIDDLE Associated Press

A former police chief and convicted killer known as the "Devil in the Ozarks" was captured by law enforcement 1.5 miles (2.4 kilometers) northwest of the prison he escaped from following a massive, nearly two-week-long manhunt in the rugged mountains of northern Arkansas, authorities announced Friday.

Grant Hardin, a former police chief in the small town of Gateway near the Arkansas-Missouri border, was serving lengthy sentences for murder and rape. Eventually, his notoriety led to a TV documentary, "Devil in the Ozarks."

Hardin briefly attempted to run from officers when he saw them approach Friday afternoon, but he was quickly tackled to the ground, said Rand Champion, a spokesperson for the Arkansas prison system.

"He'd been on the run for a week and a half and probably didn't have any energy left in him," he added.

Hardin's identity was confirmed through fingerprinting, the Izard County Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post.

There's no indication that Hardin was injured, though he will be checked for dehydration and other medical problems.

Now, investigators are "chomping at the bit and really ready to talk to him," said Champion, who used his cellphone to capture an image of Hardin being led away by officers. Hardin said nothing during those moments.

The escape, search and eventual capture

Hardin had been held at the Calico Rock prison since 2017 after pleading guilty to first-degree murder in a fatal shooting. In order to escape, he impersonated a corrections officer "in dress and manner," according to a court document. A prison officer in one of the guard towers opened a secure gate, allowing him to walk out of the facility.

Champion said that someone should have checked Hardin's identity before he was allowed to leave, describing the lack of verification as a "lapse" that's being investigated.

Searchers had been using bloodhounds, officers on horseback, drones and helicopters in their hunt for Hardin since he escaped on May 25.

Shortly after the escape, a bloodhound found — then quickly lost — Hardin's scent when heavy rains blew through the area, Champion said. The bloodhound tracked Hardin's path for less than a quarter of

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 75 of 79

a mile, after which could have gone in any direction.

"That was one of the most frustrating things, that they were able to track him but then they lost him because of the rain," Champion said.

An elite and highly trained U.S. Border Patrol team had recently joined the search, federal authorities announced this week. The Border Patrol Tactical Team provided "advanced search capabilities and operational support," U.S. Customs and Border Protection said.

Its members are experienced in navigating complex terrain, the agency said earlier this week. The team tracked Hardin through the region known for its rocky and rugged landscape, thick forests and an extensive cave network.

U.S. Customs and Border Patrol shared photos on Facebook of Hardin shirtless and covered in mud, laying face down with his hands tied behind his back on Friday. The post said that Hardin was "turned over to Arkansas State Police unharmed" by the federal agency.

A spokesperson for the agency didn't respond to a phone call and emailed request for comment regarding the post on Friday night.

Hardin's criminal convictions

Hardin pleaded guilty in 2017 to first-degree murder for the killing of James Appleton, 59. Appleton worked for the Gateway water department when he was shot in the head Feb. 23, 2017, near Garfield. Police found Appleton's body inside a car. Hardin was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Hardin's DNA was also matched to the 1997 rape of a teacher at an elementary school in Rogers, north of Fayetteville. He was sentenced to 50 years for that crime.

Cheryl Tillman, Appleton's sister, was with her mother and sister at a flea market in Ozark, Missouri, when law enforcement called to tell her Hardin had been captured. Tillman is also the mayor of Gateway, the 450-person town where Hardin was briefly police chief.

Tillman told The Associated Press that Hardin's capture was a "big sigh of relief" for her whole family.

"We don't have to walk around, turning around all the time, thinking somebody's on our back," Tillman said, emphasizing her appreciation for the officers who helped capture Hardin.

A problematic past in law enforcement

Though Hardin was police chief in Gateway for just four months, he had served as an officer in multiple communities around northwest Arkansas, his police records show.

In his first job as a police officer 35 years ago in Fayetteville, Hardin struggled almost immediately, his supervisors said. He was dismissed by Fayetteville police, but kept getting hired for other law enforcement jobs in northwest Arkansas over the years.

Hardin worked about six months at the Huntsville Police Department before resigning, but records do not give a reason for his resignation.

He later worked at the Eureka Springs Police Department from 1993 to 1996. Former Chief Earl Hyatt said Hardin resigned because Hyatt was going to fire him over incidents that included the use of excessive force.

"He did not need to be a police officer at all," Hyatt told television station KNWA.

By the time he was the police chief in Gateway in 2016, "he was out chasing cars for no reason," Tillman recalled in the documentary "Devil in the Ozarks."

The 911 presidency: Trump flexes emergency powers in his second term

By BYRON TAU, SEUNG MIN KIM and CHRIS MEGERIAN The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Call it the 911 presidency.

Despite insisting that the United States is rebounding from calamity under his watch, President Donald Trump is harnessing emergency powers unlike any of his predecessors.

Whether it's leveling punishing tariffs, deploying troops to the border or sidelining environmental regulations, Trump has relied on rules and laws intended only for use in extraordinary circumstances like war

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 76 of 79

and invasion.

An analysis by The Associated Press shows that 30 of Trump's 150 executive orders have cited some kind of emergency power or authority, a rate that far outpaces his recent predecessors.

The result is a redefinition of how presidents can wield power. Instead of responding to an unforeseen crisis, Trump is using emergency powers to supplant Congress' authority and advance his agenda.

"What's notable about Trump is the enormous scale and extent, which is greater than under any modern president," said Ilya Somin, who is representing five U.S. businesses who sued the administration, claiming they were harmed by Trump's so-called "Liberation Day" tariffs.

Because Congress has the power to set trade policy under the Constitution, the businesses convinced a federal trade court that Trump overstepped his authority by claiming an economic emergency to impose the tariffs. An appeals court has paused that ruling while the judges review it.

Growing concerns over actions

The legal battle is a reminder of the potential risks of Trump's strategy. Judges traditionally have given presidents wide latitude to exercise emergency powers that were created by Congress. However, there's growing concern that Trump is pressing the limits when the U.S. is not facing the kinds of threats such actions are meant to address.

"The temptation is clear," said Elizabeth Goitein, senior director of the Brennan Center's Liberty and National Security Program and an expert in emergency powers. "What's remarkable is how little abuse there was before, but we're in a different era now."

Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb., who has drafted legislation that would allow Congress to reassert tariff authority, said he believed the courts would ultimately rule against Trump in his efforts to single-handedly shape trade policy.

"It's the Constitution. James Madison wrote it that way, and it was very explicit," Bacon said of Congress' power over trade. "And I get the emergency powers, but I think it's being abused. When you're trying to do tariff policy for 80 countries, that's policy, not emergency action."

The White House pushed back on such concerns, saying Trump is justified in aggressively using his authority.

"President Trump is rightfully enlisting his emergency powers to quickly rectify four years of failure and fix the many catastrophes he inherited from Joe Biden — wide open borders, wars in Ukraine and Gaza, radical climate regulations, historic inflation, and economic and national security threats posed by trade deficits," White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said.

Trump frequently cites 1977 law to justify actions

Of all the emergency powers, Trump has most frequently cited the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, or IEEPA, to justify slapping tariffs on imports.

The law, enacted in 1977, was intended to limit some of the expansive authority that had been granted to the presidency decades earlier. It is only supposed to be used when the country faces "an unusual and extraordinary threat" from abroad "to the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States."

In analyzing executive orders issued since 2001, the AP found that Trump has invoked the law 21 times in presidential orders and memoranda. President George W. Bush, grappling with the aftermath of the most devastating terror attack on U.S. soil, invoked the law just 14 times in his first term. Likewise, Barack Obama invoked the act only 21 times during his first term, when the U.S. economy faced the worst economic collapse since the Great Depression.

The Trump administration has also deployed an 18th century law, the Alien Enemies Act, to justify deporting Venezuelan migrants to other countries, including El Salvador. Trump's decision to invoke the law relies on allegations that the Venezuelan government coordinates with the Tren de Aragua gang, but intelligence officials did not reach that conclusion.

Congress has ceded its power to the presidency

Congress has granted emergency powers to the presidency over the years, acknowledging that the executive branch can act more swiftly than lawmakers if there is a crisis. There are 150 legal powers — including waiving a wide variety of actions that Congress has broadly prohibited — that can only be accessed after

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 77 of 79

declaring an emergency. In an emergency, for example, an administration can suspend environmental regulations, approve new drugs or therapeutics, take over the transportation system, or even override bans on testing biological or chemical weapons on human subjects, according to a list compiled by the Brennan Center for Justice.

Democrats and Republicans have pushed the boundaries over the years. For example, in an attempt to cancel federal student loan debt, Joe Biden used a post-Sept. 11 law that empowered education secretaries to reduce or eliminate such obligations during a national emergency. The U.S. Supreme Court eventually rejected his effort, forcing Biden to find different avenues to chip away at his goals.

Before that, Bush pursued warrantless domestic wiretapping and Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the detention of Japanese-Americans on the West Coast in camps for the duration of World War II.

Trump, in his first term, sparked a major fight with Capitol Hill when he issued a national emergency to compel construction of a border wall. Though Congress voted to nullify his emergency declaration, lawmakers could not muster up enough Republican support to overcome Trump's eventual veto.

"Presidents are using these emergency powers not to respond quickly to unanticipated challenges," said John Yoo, who as a Justice Department official under George W. Bush helped expand the use of presidential authorities. "Presidents are using it to step into a political gap because Congress chooses not to act."

Trump, Yoo said, "has just elevated it to another level."

Trump's allies support his moves

Conservative legal allies of the president also said Trump's actions are justified, and Vice President JD Vance predicted the administration would prevail in the court fight over tariff policy.

"We believe — and we're right — that we are in an emergency," Vance said last week in an interview with Newsmax.

"You have seen foreign governments, sometimes our adversaries, threaten the American people with the loss of critical supplies," Vance said. "I'm not talking about toys, plastic toys. I'm talking about pharmaceutical ingredients. I'm talking about the critical pieces of the manufacturing supply chain."

Vance continued, "These governments are threatening to cut us off from that stuff, that is by definition, a national emergency."

Republican and Democratic lawmakers have tried to rein in a president's emergency powers. Two years ago, a bipartisan group of lawmakers in the House and Senate introduced legislation that would have ended a presidentially-declared emergency after 30 days unless Congress votes to keep it in place. It failed to advance.

Similar legislation hasn't been introduced since Trump's return to office. Right now, it effectively works in the reverse, with Congress required to vote to end an emergency.

"He has proved to be so lawless and reckless in so many ways. Congress has a responsibility to make sure there's oversight and safeguards," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., who cosponsored an emergency powers reform bill in the previous session of Congress. He argued that, historically, leaders relying on emergency declarations has been a "path toward autocracy and suppression."

The Taliban leader slams Trump's travel ban on Afghans and calls the US an 'oppressor'

The Associated Press undefined

The top Taliban leader on Saturday slammed President Donald Trump's travel ban on Afghans, calling the United States an oppressor, as Afghanistan's rulers seek greater engagement with the international community.

The comments from Hibatullah Akhundzada marked the first public reaction from the Taliban since the Trump administration this week moved to bar citizens from 12 countries, including Afghanistan, from entering the U.S.

Trump's executive order largely applies to Afghans hoping to resettle in the U.S. permanently, as well as those hoping to go to America temporarily, including for university studies.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 78 of 79

Since returning to power in Afghanistan in 2021, the Taliban have imposed harsh measures, banned women from public places and education for women and girls beyond the sixth grade. And though they have so far failed to gain recognition as the country's official government, the Taliban have diplomatic relations with several countries, including China and Russia.

A message from the leader

Akhundzada released his message on the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Adha, also known as the "Feast of Sacrifice," from the southern city of Kandahar, where he has set up base but is rarely seen in public.

In a 45-minute audio recording shared by Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid on X, Akhundzada denounced the Trump administration for imposing "restrictions on people."

"Citizens from 12 countries are barred from entering their land — and Afghans are not allowed either," he said. "Why? Because they claim the Afghan government has no control over its people and that people are leaving the country. So, oppressor! Is this what you call friendship with humanity?"

He blamed the U.S. for the deaths of Palestinian women and children in Gaza, linking this allegation to the travel ban. "You are committing acts that are beyond tolerance," he added.

The Trump administration says the measure is meant to protect U.S. citizens from "aliens who intend to commit terrorist attacks, threaten our national security, espouse hateful ideology, or otherwise exploit the immigration laws for malevolent purposes."

It argues that Afghanistan lacks a competent central authority for issuing passports or civil documents and lacks appropriate screening and vetting measures. It also says Afghans who visit the U.S. have a high visa overstay rate.

Trump also suspended a core refugee program in January, all but ending support for Afghans who had allied with the U.S. and leaving tens of thousands of them stranded.

The Taliban offer amnesty

Also on Saturday, the Taliban prime minister said that all Afghans who fled the country after the collapse of the former Western-backed government are free to return home, promising they would be safe.

"Afghans who have left the country should return to their homeland," Mohammad Hassan Akhund said. "Nobody will harm them."

"Come back to your ancestral land and live in an atmosphere of peace," the Taliban prime minister said in a message on X and instructed officials to ensure returning refugees were given shelter and support.

He also used the occasion to criticize the media for making what he said were "false judgements" about Afghanistan's Taliban rulers and their policies.

"We must not allow the torch of the Islamic system to be extinguished," he said. "The media should avoid false judgments and should not minimize the accomplishments of the system. While challenges exist, we must remain vigilant."

The return of the Taliban rule

The Taliban swept into the capital of Kabul and seized most of Afghanistan in a blitz in mid-August 2021 as the U.S. and NATO forces were in the last weeks of their pullout from the country after 20 years of war.

The offensive prompted a mass exodus, with tens of thousands of Afghans thronging the airport in chaotic scenes, hoping for a flight out on the U.S. military airlift. People also fled across the border, to neighboring Iran and Pakistan.

Among those escaping the new Taliban rulers were also former government officials, journalists, activists, those who had helped the U.S. during its campaign against the Taliban.

Separately, Afghans in neighboring Pakistan who are awaiting resettlement are also dealing with a deportation drive by the Islamabad government to get them out of the country. Almost a million have left Pakistan since October 2023 to avoid arrest and expulsion.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 08, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 348 ~ 79 of 79

Today in History: June 8

Trump indicted on classified document charges

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, June 8, the 159th day of 2025. There are 206 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On June 8, 2023, Donald Trump was indicted by a grand jury in Miami on 37 felony counts related to the alleged mishandling of classified documents that had been moved to Mar-a-Lago, Trump's Florida home. (The case against Trump was abandoned following Trump's November 2024 presidential election victory.)

Also on this date:

In 1789, in an address to the U.S. House of Representatives, James Madison proposed amending the Constitution to include a Bill of Rights.

In 1949, George Orwell's novel "1984" was first published.

In 1966, a merger was announced between the National and American Football Leagues, to take effect in 1970.

In 1967, during the Six-Day War, 34 American crew members were killed when Israel attacked the USS Liberty, a Navy intelligence-gathering ship in the Mediterranean Sea. (Israel later said the Liberty had been mistaken for an Egyptian vessel.)

In 1968, U.S. authorities announced the capture in London of James Earl Ray, the suspected assassin of civil rights leader the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In 1978, a jury in Clark County, Nevada, ruled the so-called "Mormon Will," purportedly written by the late billionaire Howard Hughes, was a forgery.

In 1995, U.S. Marines rescued Capt. Scott O'Grady, whose F-16C fighter jet had been shot down by Bosnian Serbs on June 2.

In 2009, North Korea's highest court sentenced American journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee to 12 years' hard labor for trespassing and "hostile acts." (The women were pardoned in early August 2009 after a trip to Pyongyang by former President Bill Clinton.)

In 2017, former FBI Director James Comey, testifying before Congress, asserted that President Donald Trump fired him to interfere with Comey's investigation of Russia's ties to the Trump campaign.

In 2021, Ratko Mladić, the military chief known as the "Butcher of Bosnia" for orchestrating genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in the Balkan nation's 1992-95 war, lost his final legal battle when U.N. judges rejected his appeal and affirmed his life sentence.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Nancy Sinatra is 85. Musician Boz Scaggs is 81. Pianist Emanuel Ax is 76. Actor Sonia Braga is 75. Actor Kathy Baker is 75. Singer Bonnie Tyler is 73. Computer scientist Tim Berners-Lee is 70. Actor Griffin Dunne is 70. "Dilbert" creator Scott Adams is 68. Actor-director Keenen Ivory Wayans is 67. Singer Mick Hucknall (Simply Red) is 65. Musician Nick Rhodes (Duran Duran) is 63. Actor Julianna Margulies is 59. Former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, a Democrat from Arizona, is 55. Tennis Hall of Famer Lindsay Davenport is 49. TV personality-host Maria Menounos is 47. Country singer-songwriter Sturgill Simpson is 47. Guitarist-songwriter Derek Trucks is 46. Tennis Hall of Famer Kim Clijsters is 42. U.S. Olympic track gold medalist Athing Mu-Nikolayev is 23.