

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 1 of 63

[1- Upcoming Events](#)
[2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
[4- Alex Abeln Drives In 5 To Lead Groton Post 39](#)
[Jr. Legion Past Smittys 16U 2025 Aberdeen](#)
[6- Girls Golf Awards](#)
[7- Crows Nest Comes Down!](#)
[8- Expanded 'Move Over' Law Takes Effect July 1 to Increase Roadside Safety](#)
[9- SD SearchLight: Trump says 'complete and total' ceasefire agreed to by Iran and Israel](#)
[10- SD SearchLight: Governor commits funding to revive training program for inmates](#)
[11- SD SearchLight: Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem briefs governors after US strikes on Iran](#)
[12- SD SearchLight: US Senate mega-bill drops requirement states help pay for SNAP program](#)
[15- SD SearchLight: 'Like we don't exist': One year after the flood, a sense of abandonment lingers in McCook Lake](#)
[18- Weather Pages](#)
[23- Daily Devotional](#)
[24- Subscription Form](#)
[25- Lottery Numbers](#)
[26- Upcoming Groton Events](#)
[27- News from the Associated Press](#)

Tuesday, June 24

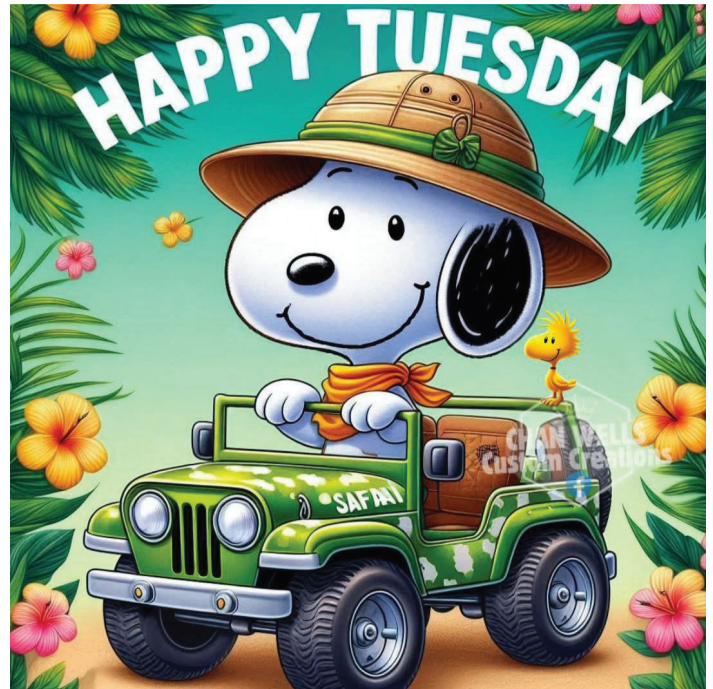
Senior Menu: Pork roast, mashed potatoes with gravy, glazed carrots, cinnamon apple sauce, whole wheat bread.

Jr. Legion hosts Miller, 5:30 p.m. (DH)
U10 B&W hosts Claremont, 6:30 p.m.
U8 B&W hosts Claremont, 5:30 p.m.
Softball: U14 hosts Warner, 6 p.m. (DH)
T-Ball: Gold hosts Claremont, 5:30 p.m.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, June 25

Senior Menu: BBQ Pork Riblet on bun, potato salad, green beans, oranges with vanilla pudding.
Amateurs at Aberdeen, 6 p.m.
Legion hosts Webster, 5:30 p.m. (DH)
Jr. Teeners vs. W.I.N. at Northville, 5:30 p.m. (DH)
U12 W&R at Aberdeen, 5:30 p.m. (DH)
U10 W&R at Aberdeen, 5:30 p.m. (DH)
U8 W&R at Aberdeen, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

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



Softball: U8 B vs. U8G, 5:30 p.m.; U10B vs. U8G, 5:30 p.m. (DH); U12 hosts Redfield 2, 6:30 p.m. (DH)
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

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

Thursday, June 26

Senior Menu: Kielbasa with Mac n cheese, winter blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.
Jr. Legion hosts Britton, 5:30 p.m. (DH)
Jr. Teeners at Aberdeen 13U, 5:30 p.m. (DH)
Softball: U8G at Claremont, 5:30 p.m.; U14 hosts Redfield 1, 5 p.m. (DH)
T-Ball: Black at Columbia, 5 p.m.

Friday, June 27

Senior Menu: Oven fried chicken, sweet potato, corn, cherry fluff, dinner roll.
Legion at Lake Norden, 6 p.m.

Saturday, June 28

Jr. Legion hosts Clear Lake, 3 p.m.
Jr. Teeners host Clear Lake, 1 p.m.
Groton U10 Tourney

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 2 of 63

1440

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

Israel-Iran Ceasefire

President Donald Trump yesterday announced a phased ceasefire deal between Iran and Israel, reportedly brokered with the help of Qatar. Iran is expected to pause fighting first, followed by Israel 12 hours later, with the conflict ending as soon as tomorrow. The ceasefire was expected to go into effect around midnight ET. An Iranian official confirmed Tehran's agreement to the ceasefire as long as Israel stops its airstrikes, while Israel has not publicly acknowledged it as of this writing.

Trump's announcement on Truth Social came after Iran launched missiles at the US Al Udeid military base in Qatar in response to the US bombing of three Iranian nuclear facilities over the weekend. Roughly 10,000 troops are stationed at Al Udeid, the largest American military installation in the Middle East. Trump said Iran had provided advance warning of the missile strike, signaling a willingness to de-escalate. Nearly all of the missiles were intercepted, and no casualties were reported.

Earlier in the day, Israel struck the entrance to Iran's Evin prison, which houses political dissidents.

Camera Captures Cosmos

The Vera C. Rubin Observatory in Chile released its first images this week, offering a detailed look into the distant universe. Funded by the US, the telescope features the world's largest digital camera and an almost 28-foot-wide mirror, enabling it to capture enormous amounts of light and spot objects billions of light-years away with remarkable clarity.

Highlights include a composite of 678 exposures taken over seven hours, revealing new details in the Trifid and Lagoon nebulae—star-forming regions thousands of light-years from Earth—and a panoramic view of the Virgo Cluster. In 10 hours of observations, Rubin identified 2,104 previously unknown asteroids, including seven near-Earth objects, none of which pose a threat. There are an estimated 25,000 near-Earth asteroids large enough to destroy a city, fewer than half of which have been found.

Later this year, Rubin will launch a mission to scan the southern sky nightly for the next decade. The project is expected to shed light on dark matter, map the Milky Way, and create an inventory of our solar system.

NYC Mayoral Primary

New York City voters head to the polls today for municipal primaries, including the mayoral race. Eleven candidates are running for the Democratic nomination—that winner is historically favored to win the general election.

The pack is led by former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who returned to politics following sexual harassment allegations and ran a centrist campaign focused on public safety. He is expected to pull over 35% of the vote. New York Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani has closed in on Cuomo's lead, with the 33-year-old democratic socialist calling for universal child care, free bus rides, and a rent freeze on rent-stabilized apartments (roughly 44% of NYC rentals). One recent poll found Mamdani likely to win the nomination through the city's ranked-choice voting system.

The winner will face the Republican and independent candidates, including incumbent Mayor Eric Adams, who skipped the Democratic primary and is running as an independent amid a since-dropped corruption investigation. Cuomo and Mamdani could also appear on the November ballot through additional party lines.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 3 of 63

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Dolly Parton sets six-concert mini-residency in Las Vegas Dec. 4-13; Parton's last full concert series was in 2016.

Maroon 5 announces new album and 23-date US arena tour.

Prosecutors in the Dominican Republic seek five-year prison sentence for Tampa Bay Rays star Wander Franco, who is on trial for sexual abuse of a minor; a verdict is expected Thursday.

Indiana Pacers star Tyrese Haliburton tore an Achilles tendon in Game 7 of the NBA Finals, could miss entire 2025-26 season.

New York Jets owner Woody Johnson buys 43% stake in English Premier League's Crystal Palace for \$254M.

Science & Technology

Study reveals rare genetic mutation that delays the onset of Alzheimer's works by tamping down inflammation in the brain; findings may lead to new treatments for the disease.

Engineered E. coli bacteria turns plastic waste into acetaminophen, the key ingredient in painkillers like Tylenol; molecule is currently made from fossil fuels via chemical reaction discovered in 1872.

The physical structure of food, including whether cells are intact or have been broken apart, influences what types of hormones are released in the gut; study sheds light on natural production of insulin, GLP-1, and more.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher (S&P 500 +1.0%, Dow +1.0%, Nasdaq +1.0%) as oil prices drop over 7% amid US entry into Israel-Iran conflict.

Compass sues Zillow for allegedly violating federal antitrust laws to maintain dominance over digital home listings.

US existing home sales rise 0.8% month over month in May; median home price of \$422,800 is up 1.3% from a year ago.

Tesla shares rise 8% a day after launching autonomous robotaxis in Austin.

Hims & Hers Health shares drop nearly 35% after Novo Nordisk ends partnership over telehealth provider's sales of Wegovy copycats ... and Novo Nordisk shares drop over 5% following disappointing weight-loss trial results.

Legal AI startup Harvey raises \$300M at \$5B valuation.

FTC greenlights Omnicom's \$13.5B acquisition of rival Interpublic but bars ad boycotts based on political content; decision enables creation of world's largest ad agency.

Politics & World Affairs

Supreme Court ruling allows Homeland Security to deport migrants with criminal convictions to countries where they have no previous connection, putting a hold on lower court ruling after eight migrants were deported to South Sudan in May.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul (D) directs state's public electric authority to build first major zero-emissions nuclear power plant in the US in over 15 years.

French police detain 12 suspects after 145 people—many of them young women—report being jabbed with needles at country's annual music festival.

Alex Abeln Drives In 5 To Lead Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion Past Smittys 16U 2025 Aberdeen

By GameChanger Media

Alex Abeln drove in five runs on three hits to lead Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion past Smittys 16U 2025 Aberdeen 17-3 on Monday. Abeln singled in the second scoring two, singled in the third scoring one, singled in the fifth scoring one, and walked in the sixth scoring one.

Smittys 16U 2025 Aberdeen got on the board in the top of the second inning after Chris LaCroix grounded into a fielder's choice, and Kaylor Swenson singled to center field, each scoring one run.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion took the lead, 4-2, in the bottom of the second thanks to singles by Ethan Kroll, Lincoln Krause, and Abeln.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion scored six runs on six hits in the bottom of the third inning. Ryder Schelle drew a walk, scoring one run, Krause singled, scoring two runs, Abeln singled, scoring one run, Nick Groeblichhoff singled, scoring one run, and T.C Schuster singled, scoring one run.

Kason Oswald earned the win for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. The hurler surrendered one hit and one run over three innings, striking out three and walking two. Dylan Stahl took the loss for Smittys 16U 2025 Aberdeen. The hurler went two innings, surrendering eight runs on six hits, striking out one and walking three. Abeln started on the mound for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. The pitcher surrendered two hits and two runs over two innings, striking out three and walking five. Braeden Fliehs tossed one inning of scoreless ball for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion in relief. The hurler gave up zero hits, striking out two and walking one.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion accumulated 17 hits in the game. Schuster led Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion with five hits in five at bats. Krause, Groeblichhoff, and Kroll each collected multiple hits for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion worked the count all day, collecting seven walks.

Stahl, Cash Bahr, and Swenson each collected one hit for Smittys 16U 2025 Aberdeen. Stahl, Swenson, and LaCroix each drove in one run for Smittys 16U 2025 Aberdeen. Smittys 16U 2025 Aberdeen had patience at the plate, tallying eight walks for the game. Brody Beitelspacher and Trevor Nipp led the team with two bases on balls each. Smittys 16U 2025 Aberdeen were sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Swenson had the most chances in the field with seven.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion welcome Britton U17 Teeners on Thursday for their next game.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 5 of 63

Smittys 16U 2025 Aberdeen 3 - 17 Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion

📍 Home 📅 Monday June 23, 2025

	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	H	E
SMTT	0	2	0	0	1	0	3	3	0
GRTN	0	4	6	0	3	4	17	17	2

BATTING

Smittys 16U 2025 Aberdeen	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
K Swenson (C)	4	0	1	1	0	1
B Beitels... #8 (CF)	2	0	0	0	2	1
J Opp #4 (2B)	3	0	0	0	1	2
C Bahr #7 (SS)	3	1	1	0	1	2
T Nipp #16 (LF)	0	1	0	0	2	0
N Circle... #21 (1B)	1	1	0	0	1	0
D Stahl #3 (P)	2	0	1	1	0	0
I Torbert #6 (3B)	2	0	0	0	1	1
C LaCroix (RF)	3	0	0	1	0	1
M Borns #10 (P)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	20	3	3	3	8	8

TB: D Stahl, C Bahr, K Swenson, **SAC:** D Stahl, **HBP:** T Nipp, N Circle Eagle, **SB:** B Beitelspacher, **LOB:** 10

PITCHING

Smittys 16U 2025 Aberdeen	IP	ER	BB	SO	HR		
D Stahl #3	2.0	6	8	8	3	1	0
T Nipp #16	1.0	4	2	2	0	2	0
I Torbert #6	1.1	5	3	3	0	2	0
C LaCroix	0.2	0	3	3	2	2	0
M Borns #10	0.1	2	1	0	2	0	0
Totals	5.1	17	17	16	7	7	0

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
L Krause #2 (C)	4	3	3	3	0	0
A Abeln #5 (P)	4	3	3	5	1	0
N Groebl... #13 (1B)	5	1	3	2	0	0
T Schuster #3 (SS)	5	2	5	2	0	0
E Kroll #14 (2B)	4	2	3	3	1	0
J Schwan #11 (CF)	3	1	0	0	1	2
R Schelle #8 (3B)	2	1	0	1	1	2
I Scepta... #20 (3B)	0	0	0	0	0	0
X Ellene... #21 (RF)	0	1	0	0	1	0
K Oswald #12 (P)	2	0	0	0	0	2
B Fliehs #19 (P)	0	1	0	0	1	0
T McGan... #22 (LF)	2	2	0	0	1	1
Totals	31	17	17	16	7	7

2B: T Schuster, **3B:** L Krause, **TB:** A Abeln 3, T Schuster 6, E Kroll 3, N Groeblinghoff 3, L Krause 5, **SAC:** R Schelle, **HBP:** T McGannon, L Krause, **SB:** E Kroll, **LOB:** 6

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	IP	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	
A Abeln #5	2.0	2	2	2	5	3	0
K Oswald #12	3.0	1	1	1	2	3	0
B Fliehs #19	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	0
Totals	6.0	3	3	3	8	8	0

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 6 of 63



Girls Golf Awards

2025 Most Improved Girls Golfer
Rylie Rose

2025 Top Medalist Girls Golfer
Carlee Johnson

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 7 of 63

Crows Nest Comes Down!

The crows nest at the football field has come down as preparations are being made for a new one to be built. Superintendent Joe Schwan captured some shots as it was being taken apart.



Expanded 'Move Over' Law Takes Effect July 1 to Increase Roadside Safety

PIERRE, S.D. – A newly updated 'Move Over' law goes into effect across South Dakota on July 1, expanding protections for authorized vehicles occupying the shoulder of the highway with amber, yellow, or blue warning lights. The goal is simple: keep more people safe on our roadways.

The expanded law now requires drivers to take action when approaching any vehicle displaying flashing amber, yellow, or blue lights—not just law enforcement or emergency responders. This includes tow trucks, highway maintenance vehicles, utility crews, and Department of Transportation equipment using proper hazard lighting while on the shoulder.

"These are real people—moms, dads, sons, and daughters—working hard or handling emergencies at the roadside," said South Dakota Highway Patrol Superintendent Colonel Casey Collins.

What Drivers Must Do:

On Multi-Lane Highways:

Drivers must move into the lane farthest away from the stopped vehicle, when it's safe to do so, and pass with caution.

On Two-Lane Roads:

Drivers are required to slow down at least 300 feet in advance, and reduce speed:
to 20 mph below the posted limit, or
to 5 mph if the speed limit is 20 mph or less.

Consequences for Violating the Law:

Violations are a Class 2 misdemeanor, carrying a minimum fine of \$270.

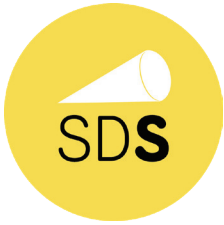
If a crash occurs because of a violation, the offense becomes a Class 1 misdemeanor, which comes with steeper penalties.

"The bottom line is this: If you see flashing lights, slow down, move over, and give extra space," said Colonel Collins. "Whether it's a trooper conducting a stop, a worker fixing a guardrail, or a DOT vehicle on the shoulder, they all deserve to go home safely."

You can read South Dakota's Move Over law here: <https://tinyurl.com/5n8zftxv>

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

#



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Trump says 'complete and total' ceasefire agreed to by Iran and Israel

BY: JACOB FISCHLER - JUNE 23, 2025 4:55 PM

Israel and Iran reached a truce in their 12-day-old war Monday, President Donald Trump said on social media.

The ceasefire will go into effect at midnight Eastern, he said.

"It has been fully agreed by and between Israel and Iran that there will be a Complete and Total CEASE-FIRE ... for 12 hours, at which point the War will be considered, ENDED!" Trump wrote. "Officially, Iran will start the CEASEFIRE and, upon the 12th Hour, Israel will start the CEASEFIRE and, upon the 24th Hour, an Official END to THE 12 DAY WAR will be saluted by the World. During each CEASEFIRE, the other side will remain PEACEFUL and RESPECTFUL.

"On the assumption that everything works as it should, which it will, I would like to congratulate both Countries, Israel and Iran, on having the Stamina, Courage, and Intelligence to end, what should be called, 'THE 12 DAY WAR,'" he continued. "This is a War that could have gone on for years, and destroyed the entire Middle East, but it didn't, and never will!"

Neither Israel nor Iran immediately confirmed the agreement to cease hostilities, but Iran Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi tweeted about three hours after Trump's post that the country's military had stopped fighting.

"The military operations of our powerful Armed Forces to punish Israel for its aggression continued until the very last minute, at 4am," he wrote. "Together with all Iranians, I thank our brave Armed Forces who remain ready to defend our dear country until their last drop of blood, and who responded to any attack by the enemy until the very last minute."

There was no confirmation from Israel by late Monday Eastern time.

Trump's announcement came just hours after Iran fired missiles at a U.S. military base in Qatar in retaliation for weekend strikes on nuclear facilities. The missiles were shot down without causing any casualties, Trump wrote.

Iran alerted U.S. leaders before the strike, Trump said, in an apparent effort to minimize casualties — a signal of de-escalation that Trump appeared ready to accept.

"Iran has officially responded to our Obliteration of their Nuclear Facilities with a very weak response, which we expected, and have very effectively countered," Trump wrote Monday afternoon. "There have been 14 missiles fired — 13 were knocked down, and 1 was 'set free,' because it was headed in a non-threatening direction. I am pleased to report that NO Americans were harmed, and hardly any damage was done.

"Most importantly, they've gotten it all out of their 'system,' and there will, hopefully, be no further HATE. I want to thank Iran for giving us early notice, which made it possible for no lives to be lost, and nobody to be injured. Perhaps Iran can now proceed to Peace and Harmony in the Region, and I will enthusiastically encourage Israel to do the same."

U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson said Iran's counterattack had been anticipated.

"This is the retaliation that was expected," the Louisiana Republican told reporters in the Capitol, in a video posted to social media by CNN. "So far, so good. No casualties."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 10 of 63

No briefings in advance for Dems

Despite Trump's description of the "obliteration" of Iranian nuclear facilities, it was unclear Monday how damaged the country's nuclear program was following the U.S. bombing of three major nuclear enrichment facilities on Saturday, U.S. House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries said at a Monday press conference.

The New York Democrat said he had not been briefed by the administration ahead of the operation, receiving only a "courtesy call" from the White House that strikes were imminent.

A classified briefing with the so-called Gang of Eight — the Republican and Democratic floor leaders and top members of the Intelligence Committee in each chamber of Congress — is scheduled for Tuesday, he said.

"We've seen no evidence to justify (the administration's) offensive strike in Iran, and we also don't even know how effective the strike has been," Jeffries said. "There's zero evidence that I've seen that the nuclear program was completely and totally obliterated, as Donald Trump has claimed, no evidence that has been presented to Congress to suggest that that has occurred. Let's see what happens at the classified briefing tomorrow."

Jeffries strongly opposed Trump's intervention in the war between Iran and Israel without first gaining support of Congress.

But he sidestepped questions about whether the decision was an impeachable offense or if he would support a bipartisan resolution to restrain the president's power to wage war in Iran.

"The use of military force which is offensive in nature must be approved by the House and the Senate," he said. "That's according to the Constitution. It's not optional, Donald."

War powers resolution

Jeffries said he had "not taken a look at" the resolution sponsored by Kentucky Republican Thomas Massie and California Democrat Ro Khanna. Due to rules changes under the House GOP majority, consideration of the resolution cannot be forced immediately, he said.

Massie said Monday the resolution had 57 cosponsors in the House.

Johnson said he would not support the resolution.

"I don't think it's an appropriate time for a war powers resolution," Johnson said. "And I don't think it's necessary."

New York Democrat Alexandria Ocasio Cortez and other members of Jeffries' caucus have suggested impeaching Trump over his use of military force without approval from Congress.

Asked if Democrats would pursue impeachment if they win back the majority in the 2026 mid-term elections, Jeffries indicated that would not be his first step.

"A tool that's on the table right now is to continue to demand that the administration present itself before the United States Congress and make a case to the American people as to why this extraordinary step has been taken," he said. "That's step one. Step two is for the war powers resolution to be debated on the House floor, as should have occurred already, and then we'll see where we're at thereafter."

Jacob covers federal policy and helps direct national coverage as deputy Washington bureau chief for States Newsroom. Based in Oregon, he focuses on Western issues. His coverage areas include climate, energy development, public lands and infrastructure.

Governor commits funding to revive training program for inmates

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - JUNE 23, 2025 7:18 PM

South Dakota Gov. Larry Rhoden is giving new life to a training program for inmates that was shelved recently.

"Being Open for Opportunity means investing in people and believing in second chances," Rhoden said in a statement Monday, referencing a slogan he often uses to promote economic development.

The program will bring on-site instruction to the state penitentiary so inmates can earn a certificate to work on diesel heavy equipment.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 11 of 63

Last August, the Department of Corrections and Southeast Technical College got approval from the state Board of Technical Education to expand the college's diesel program to the penitentiary.

Officials later decided to shelve the initiative due to a lack of funding and concerns over how it would fit into the still-developing plans for construction of a new men's prison at an undetermined site.

Rhoden announced Monday that he will provide \$1.5 million for the training program from the Future Fund, a pot of economic development money under the exclusive control of the governor.

Corrections Secretary Kellie Wasko praised the program's reinstatement.

"Education is one of the best ways to support rehabilitation and reduce recidivism," Wasko said in a statement. "These programs give people purpose, build skills, and strengthen families and communities across South Dakota."

The diesel training program will fill a void left by Metal Craft Industries, a privately operated prison shop that employed inmates at market wages. The company said it was pushed out of the prison system last year by administrators. Wasko has said the company left voluntarily to avoid adhering to newer, stricter security protocols.

The Future Fund, which Rhoden is tapping to provide money for the training program, is supported by a surcharge on employer payroll taxes. State law says the fund is for "purposes related to research and economic development for the state."

Some of former Gov. Kristi Noem's uses of the fund were controversial. That included money to build a state-owned shooting range that the Legislature refused to fund, a workforce recruitment ad campaign starring Noem, a "Governor's Cup" rodeo that included Noem carrying in the American flag on horseback, and a fireworks display at Mount Rushmore.

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

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem briefs governors after US strikes on Iran

BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA - JUNE 23, 2025 3:01 PM

WASHINGTON — U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem over the weekend briefed state governors regarding public safety measures following President Donald Trump's decision to bomb nuclear sites in Iran.

On Monday, Iran launched retaliatory strikes toward a U.S. military base in Qatar, according to Iran's state media and The Associated Press.

"Secretary Noem has spoken with Governors nationwide, as well as state and local law enforcement to ensure our partners at every level of government have the information they need to keep their communities safe," DHS spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement to States Newsroom. "It is our duty to keep the nation safe and informed, especially during times of conflict."

Noem was the governor of South Dakota before Trump nominated her to lead DHS.

DHS did not confirm when the meeting took place, but the United States on Saturday bombed three nuclear sites in Iran.

The conflict comes after Israel this month conducted coordinated attacks on Iran's military and nuclear infrastructure and killed senior military officials and nuclear scientists to prevent Iran from becoming closer to building an atomic weapon, according to the AP.

In response, Iran has launched missile and drone attacks in Israel.

Trump has repeatedly vowed that Iran must not have access to nuclear weapons, but his National Intelligence Director Tulsi Gabbard told Congress in March that Iran was not building nuclear weapons since the program was suspended in 2003.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 12 of 63

Gabbard over the weekend told CNN that her testimony from March was taken out of context and that she agrees with Trump's decision to bomb Iran.

Governors take precautions

In response to the bombings over the weekend, governors said they have taken precautionary measures for not only a physical attack but cyber as well.

Maryland's Democratic Gov. Wes Moore wrote on social media that he was in close contact with the Maryland Military Department "to ensure Marylanders at home and abroad are protected."

"As someone who has worn the uniform of this country and deployed overseas alongside some of America's greatest warriors and patriots, I know the profound sacrifices our soldiers and their families make every day," he said.

Nebraska Republican Gov. Jim Pillen, on social media, thanked Noem for briefing the governors and praised the president for his "leadership and decisiveness yesterday to devastate the Iranian nuclear program and the threat it posed to American national security." Pillen added that there were currently no threats to Nebraska.

North Carolina's Democratic Gov. Josh Stein wrote on social media that the meeting with Noem focused on public safety.

"Public safety officials in North Carolina are working in close coordination with local, state, and federal partners to remain vigilant against any retaliatory threat, whether physical or cyber," he said.

Arizona's Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs and Georgia's Republican Gov. Brian Kemp also wrote on social media that potential retaliatory attacks from Iran were discussed at the meeting.

"We are coordinating with law enforcement on all levels as we closely monitor any possible threats," Kemp said.

Massachusetts Democratic Gov. Maura Healey wrote on social media that there are no threats to her state, but that her administration is continuing to "coordinate with state, local and federal partners to closely monitor the situation."

Following the meeting, Missouri's Republican Gov. Mike Kehoe encouraged his residents to report any suspicious activity to local law enforcement.

"The Missouri Information Analysis Center (MIAC) has already notified every law enforcement agency in the state of this heightened sense of awareness as well as all state trained Terrorism Liaison Officers," he said.

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

US Senate mega-bill drops requirement states help pay for SNAP program

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT - JUNE 23, 2025 3:50 PM

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senate Democrats have succeeded in eliminating more than a dozen policy changes from Republicans' "big, beautiful bill" after successfully arguing before the chamber's parliamentarian that the elements didn't comply with the strict rules that go along with writing a budget reconciliation bill.

Removed is language that would have transferred some of the cost of running the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to state governments, potentially leaving states on the hook for billions in added spending on the food aid program for lower-income people.

Democrats also fended off a proposal to eliminate funding for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which fields complaints on banking and other financial institutions, and another that sought to bar federal district court judges from issuing nationwide injunctions.

Among the contested items that remained, Missouri Republican Sen. Josh Hawley announced in a social media post that his years-long effort to reauthorize the Radiation Exposure Compensation Fund, or RECA,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 13 of 63

passed what's known on Capitol Hill as the "Byrd bath" test.

"Terrific news for Missouri, radiation survivors, and MAHA: RECA has passed the 'Byrd bath' – Democrats did not strip it – and will be in the final bill," Hawley wrote, referring to the Trump administration's Make America Healthy Again slogan. "Huge step forward #MAHA."

Democrats to continue challenges

Budget Committee ranking member Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., has cheered many of the parliamentarian's rulings, though Republican committee chairs say they'll look for ways to rewrite the various proposals.

"Today, we were advised by the Senate Parliamentarian that several more provisions in this Big Beautiful Betrayal of a bill will be subject to the Byrd Rule — and Democrats plan to challenge every part of this bill that hurts working families and violates this process," Merkley wrote in a statement released Saturday night. "Republicans' relentless attack on middle class families in order to fund tax breaks for billionaires is a slap in the face to working families everywhere, and Democrats are fighting back."

The changes could create several issues for Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., and eventually for Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., who need nearly every GOP lawmaker in Congress to vote for the sweeping tax and spending cuts package in order for it to become law.

The House voted 215-214 to approve its version of the bill in May, but since the Senate is making substantial changes, the House will have to vote on the measure again before it can go to President Donald Trump for his signature. GOP leaders hope to complete all that before the Fourth of July.

Republicans are using reconciliation, instead of moving the bill through the regular legislative process, to avoid needing Democratic votes to get past the Senate's 60-vote legislative filibuster.

But the lower threshold for passing a reconciliation bill comes with several requirements, including that all of the proposals in the package have an impact on spending or revenues that's not "merely incidental."

The Senate parliamentarian, the chamber's official scorekeeper who holds a detailed understanding of the rules and procedures, examines each of those policies and hears from both Republicans and Democrats before issuing the rulings.

The Byrd bath began last week behind closed doors and will continue for at least several more days. Once it concludes, Senate GOP leaders can move the bill to the floor, where members of both parties can call for votes on as many amendments as they want.

SNAP program

Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee Chairman John Boozman, R-Ark., released a written statement defending his committee's bill after the parliamentarian ruled several provisions must go to comply with the rules.

"To rein in federal spending and protect taxpayer dollars the committee is pursuing meaningful reforms to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to improve efficiency, accountability and integrity," Boozman wrote. "We are continuing to examine options that comply with Senate rules to achieve savings through budget reconciliation to ensure SNAP serves those who truly need it while being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars."

The parliamentarian ruled the committee erred in including language that would have shifted some of the cost of the SNAP program to state governments if they didn't meet an efficiency benchmark before 2028.

A proposal to eliminate SNAP eligibility for "immigrants who are not citizens or lawful permanent residents, with certain exceptions," was also determined not to comply with the rules, according to a press release from Merkley.

Minnesota Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar, ranking member on the committee, wrote the parliamentarian's ruling "made clear that Senate Republicans cannot use their partisan budget to shift major nutrition assistance costs to the states that would have inevitably led to major cuts.

"While Republicans' proposed cuts to SNAP will still be devastating to families, farmers, and independent grocers across the country, we will keep fighting to protect families in need. Instead of a rushed partisan

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 14 of 63

process, Republicans should work with us to lower costs for Americans and pass a bipartisan Farm Bill that works for all farmers and rural America."

Consumer financial agency victory for Dems

The Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee's proposal to eliminate funding for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which Congress established in the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, also doesn't comply with the rules, under the parliamentarian's ruling.

Massachusetts Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren, ranking member on the panel, wrote in a statement that the GOP's proposal for the CFPB represented "a reckless, dangerous attack on consumers and would lead to more Americans being tricked and trapped by giant financial institutions and put the stability of our entire financial system at risk—all to hand out tax breaks to billionaires."

But committee Chairman Tim Scott, R-S.C., wrote in a separate statement that he remains "committed to advancing legislation that cuts waste and duplication in our federal government and saves taxpayer dollars."

Scott listed provisions that he said will remain.

"As it stands now, the Banking Committee's reconciliation provisions will delay the implementation of Section 1071 of Dodd-Frank, which reduces CFPB spending and protects the privacy and data of small business owners; rescind unused funds earmarked for green initiatives to give HUD discretion in funding critical housing programs; and save taxpayer dollars by eliminating an unnecessary reserve fund at the SEC," Scott wrote. "My colleagues and I remain committed to cutting wasteful spending at the CFPB and will continue working with the Senate parliamentarian on the Committee's provisions."

Judges and injunctions

The parliamentarian told lawmakers that various elements of the Judiciary Committee's bill don't comply with the rules, including an attempt to block federal district court judges from issuing nationwide preliminary injunctions or temporary restraining orders.

The issue has become a thorn in Trump's side during the past few months as he's watched the courts block several of his executive orders and other unilateral administration actions.

The Judiciary Committee's reconciliation bill cannot block the Department of Justice from awarding Byrne JAG and COPS grants to "sanctuary cities." The bill also can't send funding to local and state governments for the purpose of "apprehending aliens who are unlawfully present in the United States."

Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, did not respond to a request for comment, but a committee spokesperson wrote in an email to States Newsroom that "Democrats are clinging to their radical open borders legacy by fighting to keep criminal migrants in the United States."

"Republicans are committed to enforcing the rule of law, and will continue using all available avenues to secure our borders, clean up the mess left by the Biden-Harris administration's disastrous policies and ensure courts operate according to lawful and constitutional standards."

Illinois Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin, ranking member on the committee, issued a statement calling the bill's policies "an attempted power grab by our Republican colleagues that we would not stand for."

"Here's what Senate Republicans attempted to sneak into their so-called Big, Beautiful Bill: a provision intended to limit the ability of individuals and organizations to challenge lawless Trump Administration executive actions by putting those potential plaintiffs on the hook for millions of dollars; and a provision conditioning grant eligibility on a state or locality's compliance with federal immigration policies," Durbin wrote.

Artificial intelligence and states

The parliamentarian didn't, however, remove all of the proposals contested by Democrats.

Language that would prevent local and state governments from regulating artificial intelligence for the next decade if those jurisdictions want to receive money from a \$500 million fund does meet the reconciliation requirements and can remain in the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation's bill.

But that doesn't mean the provision will stay in the bill moving forward, since several GOP lawmakers have expressed concern about potentially tying the hands of local and state governments when it comes to AI.

Georgia Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene wrote in a social media post after she voted for the House's bill that she had no idea about the AI provision. That chamber's package barred state and local AI regulation for a decade without tying it to any funding stream.

"We have no idea what AI will be capable of in the next 10 years and giving it free rein and tying states hands is potentially dangerous," Greene wrote. "This needs to be stripped out in the Senate."

"When the OBBB comes back to the House for approval after Senate changes, I will not vote for it with this in it."

Jennifer covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include congressional policy, politics and legal challenges with a focus on health care, unemployment, housing and aid to families.

'Like we don't exist': One year after the flood, a sense of abandonment lingers in McCook Lake

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - JUNE 23, 2025 7:53 AM

MCCOOK LAKE — Morgan and Malcom Speichinger still live in a house that was damaged in a flood one year ago, because they have no better option.

"If we could afford to move, we would," Morgan said.

Three days of rain last June 20-22 in southeast South Dakota surpassed 17 inches in some locations. Local and state authorities implemented a half-century-old diversion plan to handle record-high water that was flowing down the Big Sioux River toward Sioux City. They built a temporary levee across Interstate 29 that tied in with permanent levees to divert water into McCook Lake.

The water was supposed to flow through the lake and drain toward the nearby Missouri River. Instead, on the night of June 23, it overwhelmed the lake and inundated many of the homes around it. Many residents said the flood surge came suddenly, after they'd received little to no warning.

The water carved deep ravines into the land, undercutting trees and power lines. The Speichingers' home was one of more than 100 near the lake that were damaged. Twenty homes were destroyed.

While the family received the maximum \$42,500 of assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, they estimate they've spent about \$100,000, and work on the home remains.

"We got a Bobcat and did what we could," Malcom said, referring to a popular brand of skid-steer loader. "But our yard's still a trench. It's not that safe for the kids."

Their mortgage lender granted a six-month forbearance after the flood, but they've had to make payments since then on a house that was barely habitable.

"There was a stretch where we met with a bankruptcy lawyer," Morgan said. "We didn't think we'd make it. If FEMA hadn't come through, we would've walked away like our neighbors did."

Three nearby homes were either abandoned or demolished.

In interviews with flood victims and volunteers, a picture emerges one year after the flood: a community still deeply wounded, still struggling with limited resources, and still lacking the kind of assistance that many assumed would follow such a large-scale disaster.

Renae Hansen of the local Izaak Walton League helped lead local recovery efforts.

"When a flood like that happens, you expect some official to show up with a megaphone and a plan," Hansen said. "Instead, it was us — neighbors helping neighbors. We did it because nobody else was."

The sense of abandonment still runs deep. The feeling began the night of the flood, after then-Gov. Kristi Noem conducted a press conference that afternoon and did not advise McCook Lake residents to evacuate. She said they should protect their personal property, "because we do anticipate that they will take in water."

"That's what we're preparing for," Noem said. "If we don't, then that's wonderful that they don't have an impact, but they could see water flowing into McCook Lake."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 16 of 63

After the press conference, Noem flew to a political fundraiser in Tennessee, which is where she was when the flood surge hit McCook Lake and sent people fleeing. During the aftermath, Noem refused to deploy the National Guard to help clean up the area, after she'd sent Guard troops multiple times to help Texas secure its border with Mexico.

Noem later resigned to become secretary of the federal Department of Homeland Security, which includes oversight of FEMA. New Gov. Larry Rhoden recently visited North Sioux City as part of his "Open for Opportunity Tour."

"Our new governor went to a business in town and called it a success story," Hansen said. "He didn't come to see the disaster zone. It's like we don't exist. We were sacrificed to protect those businesses."

Like the Speichingers, Hansen said the maximum \$42,500 of help from FEMA is hardly enough to replace a foundation, much less an entire home.

"There are families paying mortgages on homes that no longer exist," Hansen said. "One woman had moved in 11 months before the flood. Her last furniture delivery was two weeks before the water came. It's all gone."

Hansen said some neighbors are walking away from their mortgages, renting a new place, and choosing a damaged credit score over paying for a destroyed home.

Multiple residents worked with a lawyer and sent the state a notice of a potential lawsuit, alleging an unconstitutional taking of private property for protection of other areas, but no lawsuit has been filed so far.

'Every time it rains, you wonder'

Kathy Roberts, who owns a home on Penrose Drive, calls herself one of the "lucky ones." With a partner who had construction experience and support from friends, she has nearly finished rebuilding.

"But I'm still having nightmares," said Roberts, who works in mental health. "And I know my neighbors are, too. There's PTSD all over this community. Every time it rains, you wonder."

Malcom Speichinger can attest to that.

"I've had dreams where the house floods again. It's hard not to go there."

He's certain the area will have severe flooding again.

"And we're still not ready for it," he said.

New government, new plan

In the wake of the disaster, residents petitioned to overhaul the North Sioux City government. Voters replaced the eight-member alderman system with a new mayor-commission format. That allowed voters to elect an entirely new commission and mayor in one election. And in April, a new mayor and commissioners were sworn in.

"There's some hope there now," Hansen said. "We've already seen more engagement from the new commission. But the fact that it took a total government reset to get basic attention should tell you how bad things got."

At the heart of residents' frustration lies the emergency flood plan last updated in 1976 — one that sent floodwaters into the McCook Lake neighborhood intentionally, in an effort to divert it from the more heavily populated areas of North Sioux City and Dakota Dunes.

And so, two months into his term, North Sioux City Mayor Chris Bogenrief said implementing a new mitigation plan is at the top of his agenda.

Bogenrief said the county and the Army Corps of Engineers envision a diversion farther upstream on the Big Sioux River. But he said that effort is still in the early study stages and could take a decade or more to materialize.

"We don't feel like we can wait that long," he said. "People are trying to rebuild."

So, the city commissioned Stockwell Engineers to explore three short-term plans.

"We're applying for hazard mitigation grants from FEMA to help cover the cost," Bogenrief said. "But one way or another, we can't sit around and wait."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 17 of 63

McCook Lake is an oxbow — a horseshoe-shaped former segment of the Missouri River that became a lake when the river cut a new, straighter path. The first two short-term concepts would use a new channel and culvert system to better route water into McCook Lake and out through one end or the other of the lake. The third would reroute floodwaters to the west prior to reaching McCook Lake, and into undeveloped Goodenough and Mud lakes before draining into the Missouri River.

Bogenrief said the cost estimate for implementing a short-term plan is up to \$20 million. The design cost of the projects is about \$1.7 million, he said, with North Sioux City expected to cover about 10% and FEMA covering the rest.

The state has drafted a \$15.4 million plan to help communities recover from the 2024 flooding. The plan would utilize federal Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds to rebuild infrastructure in areas hardest hit.

The plan proposes spending more than \$12 million on infrastructure projects like road repairs, stormwater systems, and improvements to McCook Lake. The rest is for future planning and administration.

The plan says the unmet recovery need in the state still totals more than \$63 million. That includes \$3.1 million categorized as owner-occupied damage, with the rest dealing with infrastructure.

Bogenrief hopes the city can free up local money to start a homeowner recovery fund as those infrastructure dollars come in.

Many residents lacked flood insurance, Bogenrief said, because FEMA did not classify the area as a floodplain.

"The only way it floods is if the emergency flood plan is executed and the interstate is shut down, which is what happened," he said.

A lake full of everything

The state Department of Game, Fish and Parks awarded a \$1 million contract to Three Oaks Inc. to remove debris and sediment from the lake, said the department's Kip Rounds. The department is tasked with managing the lake cleanup effort because it manages the waters of the state.

Using an excavator on a floating barge, the company is three weeks into a project scheduled to finish by Aug. 1. Rounds said the contractor is nearly halfway though removing an estimated 20,000 cubic yards of sediment.

McCook Lake Association President Dirk Lohry said there's other work to do. He said local residents hope to raise \$250,000 to extend Three Oaks' work, but that campaign hasn't launched. A funding request to extend the contract with state money failed during the recent legislative session.

Lake resident Kathy Roberts said the road to healing is a long one, but she sees one clear takeaway.

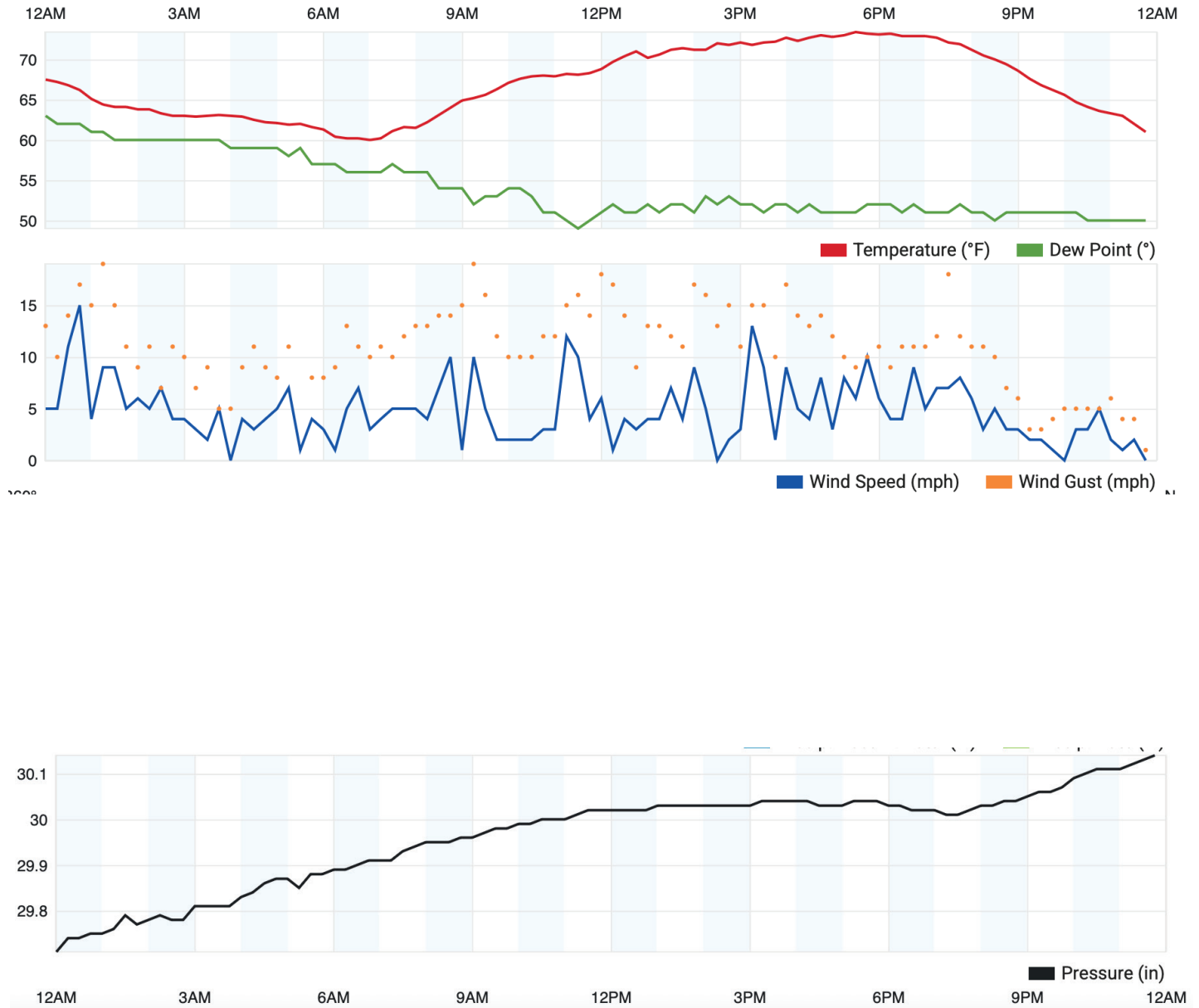
"This flood taught me how important your neighbors are," she said. "When the worst happens, it's not FEMA or the state that shows up — it's the person living next door."

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

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 18 of 63

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Broton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 19 of 63

Today



High: 80 °F

Sunny

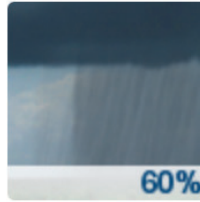
Tonight



Low: 59 °F

Partly Cloudy
then Chance
T-storms

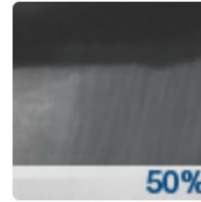
Wednesday



High: 70 °F

Showers
Likely

Wednesday
Night



Low: 59 °F

Chance
Showers

Thursday



High: 75 °F

Slight Chance
Showers

THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

1

WHAT THIS MEANS:
Isolated severe storms
possible

over central & southern SD

TIMING

after midnight

PRIMARY THREATS



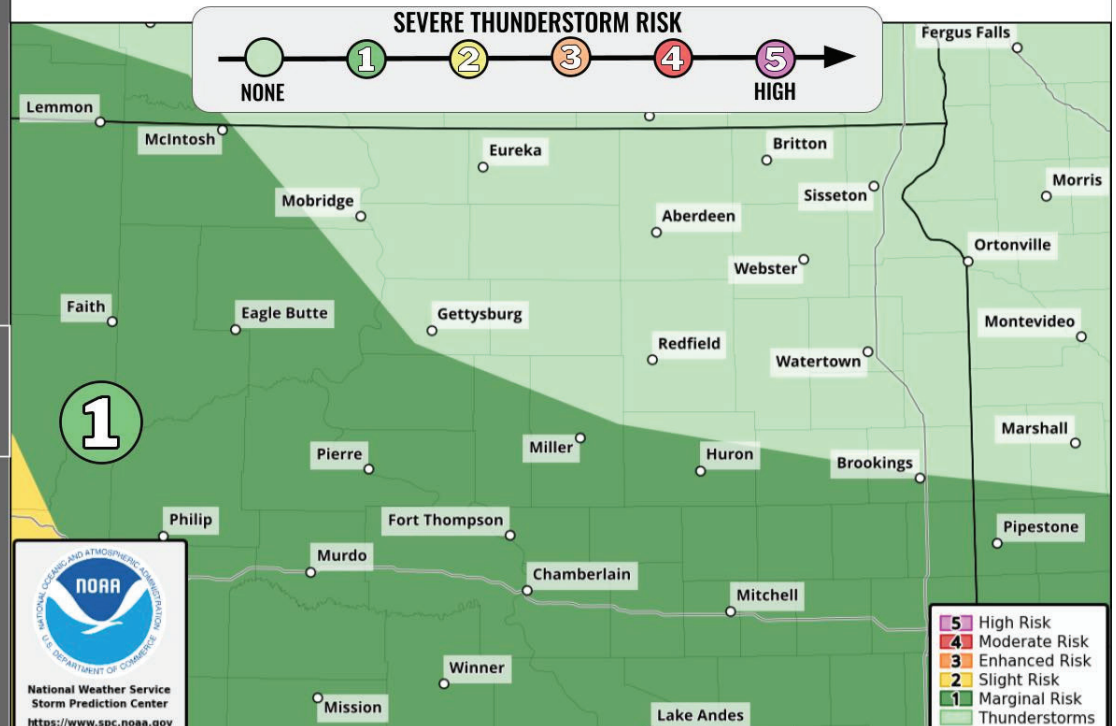
DAMAGING
WIND



LARGE HAIL

Get your up to date
forecast at weather.gov/abr

SEVERE STORMS Possible Overnight Tonight



There is a marginal risk of severe weather (risk level 1 out of 5) overnight tonight over mainly central and southern South Dakota, with general thunderstorms possible over northeastern South Dakota and western Minnesota. The strongest storms that develop overnight will be capable of producing winds around 60 mph or large hail around the size of quarters.

Broton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 20 of 63

THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

1

WHAT THIS MEANS:
Isolated severe storms
possible

TIMING

Daybreak-3pm over e
SD & w MN, then Wed
Night over central SD

PRIMARY THREATS



LARGE HAIL



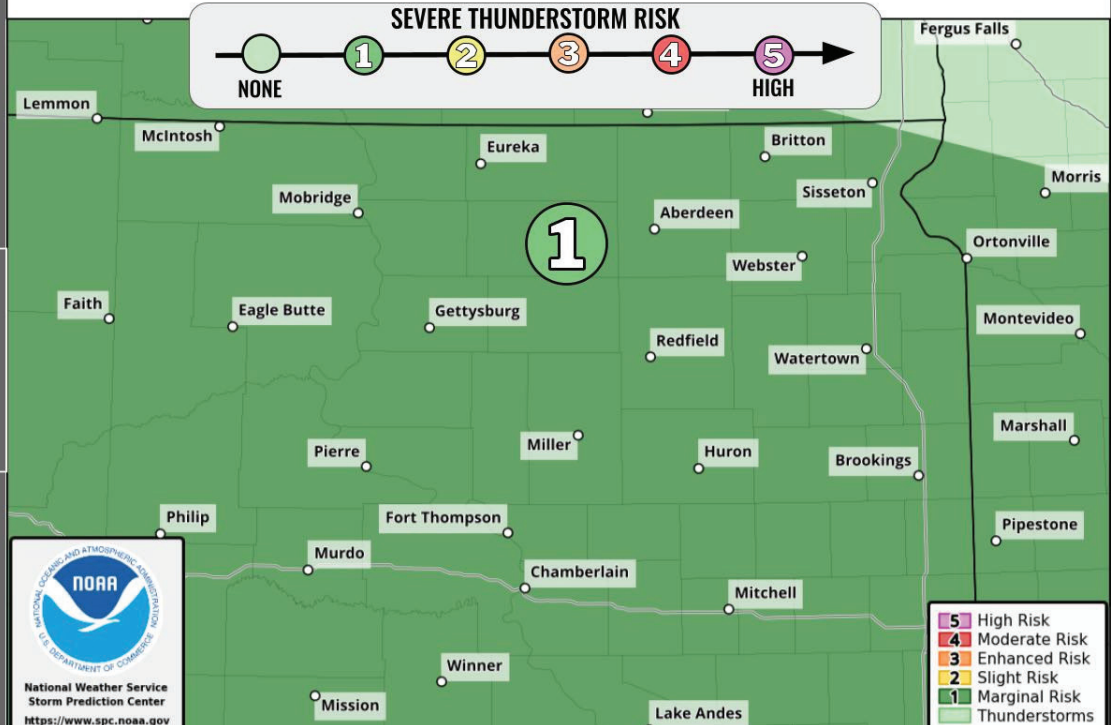
DAMAGING
WIND



HEAVY RAIN

Get your up to date
forecast at weather.gov/abr

SEVERE STORMS Possible Wednesday & Wednesday Night



There will be a couple of rounds of shower and thunderstorm activity Wednesday. The first will be from daybreak until late morning or mid afternoon across eastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota. The second round of thunderstorms is expected Wednesday night over mainly central South Dakota. The strongest storms that develop overnight will be capable of producing winds around 60 mph or large hail around the size of quarters.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 21 of 63

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 74 °F at 5:24 PM

Low Temp: 60 °F at 7:04 AM

Wind: 23 mph at 12:32 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 43 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 108 in 1988

Record Low: 39 in 2017

Average High: 82

Average Low: 57

Average Precip in June.: 2.96

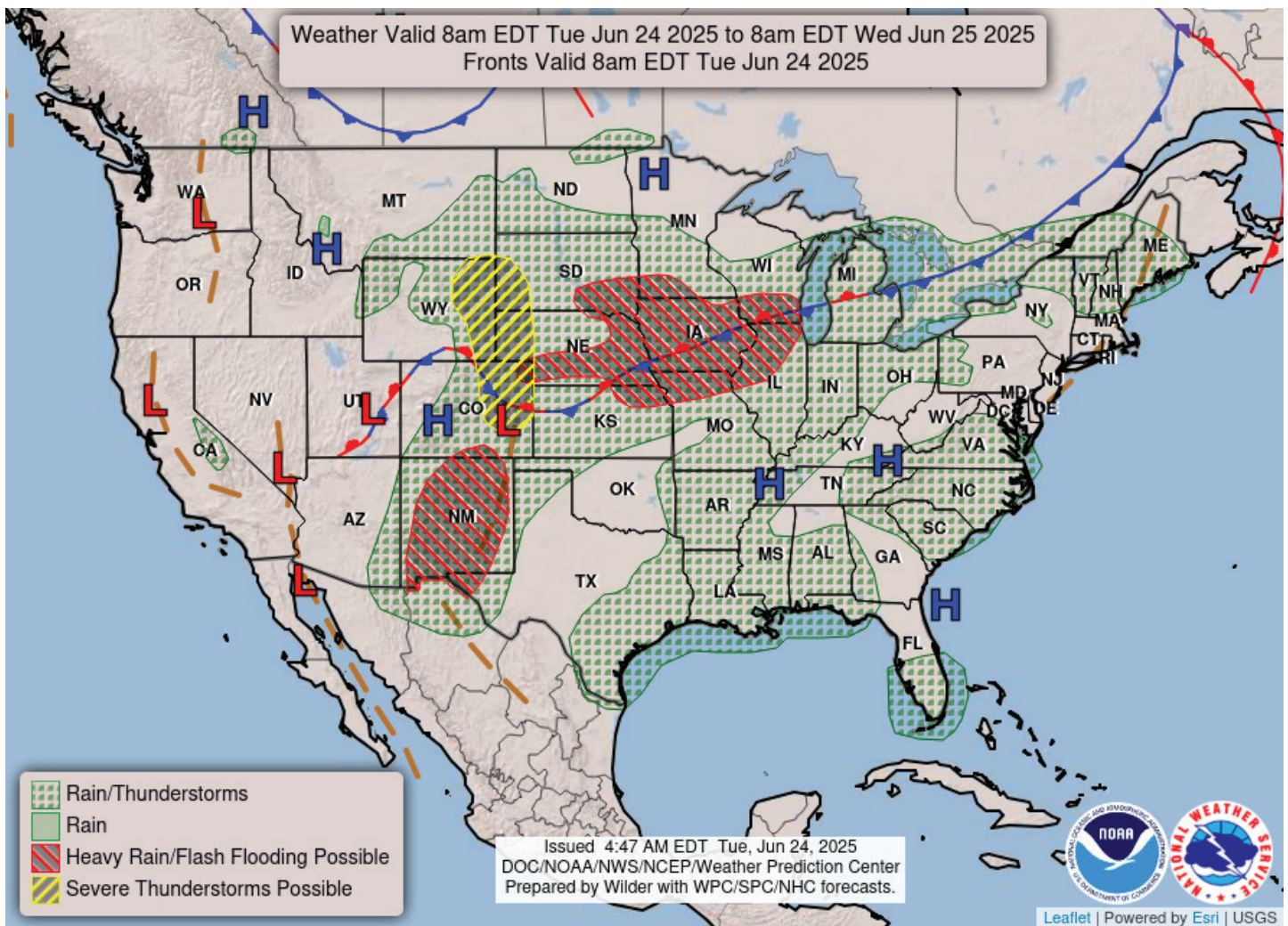
Precip to date in June: 2.72

Average Precip to date: 10.21

Precip Year to Date: 8.77

Sunset Tonight: 9:26:51 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:43:27 am



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 22 of 63

Today in Weather History

June 24th, 1902: Powerful winds occurred over portions of Hand and Stanley to Turner and Lincoln Counties during the evening hours. Heavy losses occurred to barns and farm outbuildings, trees, and windmills. One person was killed, and several were injured. A peak wind gust of 67 mph was recorded in Pierre.

June 24th, 2003: An F4 tornado destroyed or heavily damaged all buildings, other structures, and vehicles in the small town of Manchester in Kingsbury County. The tornado stripped many homes to the foundation. Of the six residents, four were injured and transported to hospitals. The tornado damaged crops, trees, and power lines south of Manchester before reaching the town. The tornado also heavily damaged several farms north of Manchester, including two farms on which several buildings, including the houses, were destroyed. Throughout the path, the tornado was observed to have multiple vortices. The tornado was seen and videotaped by numerous storm chasers and researchers. Researchers also deployed weather sensors around the town of Manchester. One of these sensors recorded a 100-millibar pressure drop as the tornado passed.

1816 - The cold weather of early June finally gave way to several days of 90 degree heat in Massachusetts, including a reading of 99 degrees at Salem. (David Ludlum)

1924 - Six men at a rock quarry south of Winston-Salem, NC, sought shelter from a thunderstorm. The structure chosen contained a quantity of dynamite. Lightning struck a near-by tree causing the dynamite to explode. The men were killed instantly. (The Weather Channel)

1951 - Twelve inches of hail broke windows and roofs, and dented automobiles, causing more than fourteen million dollars damage. The storm plowed 200 miles from Kingman County KS into Missouri, with the Wichita area hardest hit. It was the most disastrous hailstorm of record for the state of Kansas. (David Ludlum)

1952 - Thunderstorms produced a swath of hail 60 miles long and 3.5 miles wide through parts of Hand, Beadle, Kingsbury, Miner and Jerauld counties in South Dakota. Poultry and livestock were killed, and many persons were injured. Hail ten inches in circumference was reported at Huron SD. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms spawned six tornadoes in eastern Colorado. Baseball size hail was reported near Yoder, CO, and thunderstorm winds gusting to 92 mph derailed a train near Pratt, KS. The town of Gould, OK, was soaked with nearly an inch and a half of rain in just ten minutes. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Forty-three cities reported record high temperatures for the date. Valentine NE reported an all-time record high of 110 degrees, and highs of 102 degrees at Casper, WY, 103 degrees at Reno, NV, and 106 degrees at Winnemucca, NV, were records for the month of June. Highs of 98 degrees at Logan, UT, and 109 degrees at Rapid City, SD, equalled June records. Lightning killed twenty-one cows near Conway, SC. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing along a warm front produced severe weather from Colorado and New Mexico to Kansas and Nebraska. Thunderstorms spawned seven tornadoes, and produced wind gusts to 80 mph at Wood River, NE, and hail three inches in diameter at Wheeler, KS. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 23 of 63



"Sticks and stones can break my bones, but names will never hurt me!"

That little phrase has been used by many parents and teachers to comfort children who have been harassed. Words used to describe another person are important because they form the foundation of one's reputation. And, like it or not, everyone has a reputation.

Age is almost irrelevant when we talk about another person. Opinions are formed, decisions made, and often opportunities or limitations are placed on another individual because of what is said about them. Never mind "who said what," an opinion is formed. Even first impressions or a few words shared about another person can last a lifetime. What is said and heard about someone can build them up or tear them down.

If the words are praiseworthy, they can bring honor to that person. If they are mean-spirited, they may result in a life of torment to the one defamed. Words stick and sometimes shatter hopes and dreams. What we do and what others say about what we do is critical!

"A person is praised because of their wise choices, and one with a warped mind is despised," wrote Solomon. This "warning" reminds us that we are responsible for what others believe about us based on our behavior.

"Prudence" describes the choices we make and are observed by others. If our choices are "honorable," we will be praised. Otherwise, our reputation for having a "warped mind," or being a person "with a crooked heart" will come to light.

What a challenge this presents to Christians. We must walk our talk!

Prayer: Lord, You, as well as everyone else, observe everything we do. May we live honorably, righteously, and always in agreement with Your teachings!

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "A person is praised because of their wise choices, and one with a warped mind is despised."

Proverbs 12:8

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

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 24 of 63

The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.2% Sales Tax

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

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

Groton Daily Independent www.397news.com Subscription Form

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

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

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

E-mail _____

Password _____

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

paypal.me/paperpaul

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



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.20.25

26 49 58 61 63 9

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$326,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 16 Mins 52 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.23.25

16 18 26 40 46 7

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,350,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 31 Mins 52 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.23.25

13 22 23 26 47 13

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 46 Mins 52 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.21.25

9 13 15 29 34

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$36,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 46 Mins 52 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.23.25

4 7 12 20 55 12

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 15 Mins 52 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.23.25

5 25 42 44 65 20

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$140,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 15 Mins 52 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 26 of 63

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
09/6-7/25 Fly in/Drive in at Groton Municipal Airport
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
11/30/2025 Snow Queen Contest, 4 p.m.
12/06/2025 Olive Grove Holiday Party and Silent Live Auction Fundraiser

News from the **AP** Associated Press

South Dakota eager for Trump's statue garden near Mount Rushmore despite local opposition

By SARAH RAZA Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Officials in South Dakota are pushing hard to build President Donald Trump's proposed National Garden of American Heroes in the Black Hills near Mount Rushmore, but the effort has sparked a backlash from Indigenous groups who see the area as sacred.

A mining company has offered to donate 40 acres (16 hectares) less than a mile from Mount Rushmore, where massive sculptures of four of the nation's most prominent presidents are carved out of granite.

"The Black Hills mark the perfect location to achieve your vision for the National Garden of American Heroes," Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden wrote in a letter to Trump. "Together, we will make this project happen in a way that honors America's heroes, takes advantage of South Dakota's natural beauty, and incorporates the most iconic monument to our greatest leaders: Mount Rushmore National Memorial."

But the Black Hills have long been the subject of disputes between South Dakota and its tribes. The 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie recognized that the Black Hills belong to the Sioux people, but the U.S. government seized the land less than a decade later to mine for gold. A 1980 Supreme Court decision found that the U.S. violated the treaty, but the tribes refused the \$1.3 billion in compensation they were offered and maintained their rights to the land.

Indigenous groups also oppose drilling project

The mining company, Pete Lien & Sons, also has had conflicts with Indigenous groups in the area, most recently because of an exploratory drilling project for graphite near the sacred Lakota site of Pe' Sla. The company also is working with theme park designer Storyland Studios to build an attraction in the Black Hills opposed by some Indigenous groups.

"It's absurd for Storyland Studios and Gov. Rhoden to claim they care about preserving history while they watch Lien & Sons attempt to destroy Pe' Sla, and do nothing," said Taylor Gunhammer, an organizer with the Indigenous advocacy group NDN Collective.

"They are the ones erasing and paving over history, not preserving it," Gunhammer said.

Rhoden's press secretary, Josie Harms, wrote in a statement that the garden "will have no disruption to either state or tribal land" because the tract of land is owned by Chuck Lien, owner of Lien & Sons, and his family.

Pete Lien & Sons did not respond to multiple requests from The Associated Press for comment.

Trump's garden to feature 250 statues of historical figures

Trump signed an executive order earlier this year to build the garden, to feature 250 life-size statues of historical figures in honor of the country's 250th birthday on July 4, 2026. Applications for sculptors are due in early July, though the administration no longer seeks to have it completed by next summer.

The U.S. House has approved \$40 million for the project, which is being overseen by the Department of Interior and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Senate hasn't yet approved the funding.

Trump first announced the project in his first term in a July 3, 2020, speech at Mount Rushmore at a time during the Black Lives Matter movement when some protesters were tearing down statues depicting Confederate generals and others.

"Angry mobs are trying to tear down statues of our Founders, deface our most sacred memorials, and unleash a wave of violent crime in our cities," Trump said in that speech. "But no, the American people are strong and proud, and they will not allow our country, and all of its values, history, and culture, to be taken from them."

In a 2021 executive order, Trump called for statues depicting a range of prominent figures, from the likes of Amelia Earhart, Muhammad Ali and Steve Jobs to more controversial ones like Christopher Columbus and

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 28 of 63

President Andrew Jackson. No site was selected, however, and the garden was never funded by Congress. The Department of Interior said the revived garden project is still in the "planning and discussion phase" and declined to say which sites it is considering.

It's unclear if any other states are seeking to host the statue garden.

As governor, Noem offered land for the garden

When Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem was the state's governor, she offered the mining company's 40 acres of land in the Black Hills. Her successor, Rhoden, doubled down on that offer in his letter, emphasizing the site would be "in sight of Mount Rushmore."

South Dakota Republican U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson also wrote a letter to Trump, and said he will "keep advocating for this iconic landmark to make its home in the Black Hills" in a social media post.

Darren Thompson, director of media relations for the Indigenous nonprofit Sacred Defense Fund, called for more discussions with Indigenous groups in the Black Hills.

"It's a very touchy and sensitive subject that I think requires input by the local Indigenous people who have claim to the land and cultural ties to the land," Thompson said.

Tribe asked to allow search for civil rights activist at Wounded Knee

By CARSON WALKER/South Dakota News Watch South Dakota News Watch

The Oglala Sioux Tribal Council will be asked to approve a search for the remains of a Black civil rights activist who disappeared during the 1973 Wounded Knee standoff. He is likely buried on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Perry Ray Robinson Jr. was 35 years old when he left his home in Bogue Chitto, Alabama, in April 1973 to answer a call for help from the American Indian Movement. For 71 days, AIM members and supporters occupied the village and exchanged gunfire with federal agents gathered around its perimeter. Robinson never returned, was later declared dead without his body being found, and no one was ever charged.

His name came to light after two men were indicted in 2003 on charges they killed Canadian Annie Mae Aquash in December 1975 in South Dakota's badlands.

Arlo Looking Cloud was arrested in Denver. A federal jury in Rapid City convicted him in 2004 of murder. He was sentenced to life in federal prison, but that was later reduced to 20 years because of his cooperation and acceptance of responsibility. He was released in 2019.

The other man, John Graham, fought extradition from his native Canada. A state jury in Rapid City convicted him of murder in 2010 and he is serving a life prison sentence at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls.

Hulu documentary about Aquash

Justin Baker, 40, who lives in Mission on South Dakota's Rosebud Indian Reservation, started the latest effort to search for Robinson's body.

He has been following the Aquash and Robinson cases since Looking Cloud and Graham were indicted. That included reading media accounts and documents released as part of a Freedom of Information Act request. Baker said he also spent considerable time with Leonard Crow Dog, a Sicangu Lakota medicine man and AIM's spiritual leader who died in 2021.

Baker said he was prompted to action after watching a recent documentary about Aquash on the streaming service Hulu entitled "Vow of Silence: The Assassination of Annie Mae."

Witnesses testified that Aquash, who also responded to AIM's request for help and rose to prominence in the organization, was killed because she was suspected of being an informant.

"I started thinking, 'Why can't they do something for this man, Ray Robinson?'" Baker said.

He called Paul DeMain of Hayward, Wisconsin, the former editor of the News From Indian Country newspaper who extensively investigated the Aquash and Robinson cases.

Among the people DeMain put Baker in touch with was Robinson's widow, Cheryl Buswell-Robinson, and their son, Deeter Robinson.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 29 of 63

"I asked Deeter, I said, 'What would you like me to tell people?' And he said what it was like growing up without a dad, not having somebody at my sporting events, not having a man's guidance, not having a father to lean on, and it caused a lot of hardships in my life," Baker said of the conversation.

"This is somebody's family that was destroyed and is still hurting 52 years later, and there are still people remaining silent."

Concerns about 1890 massacre site

DeMain had already done extensive work trying to identify Robinson's likely resting place. Baker took up the cause using tribal channels.

"I wanted to create a grassroots effort because I think everything else has been tried already," he said.

Baker presented a resolution to and received unanimous support for it in May from the Sicangu Lakota Treaty Council. That group in the Great Sioux Nation advocates for Native treaty rights and inherent sovereignty. The document's purpose was to start building support for a culturally sensitive search for Robinson's remains on the Pine Ridge reservation.

Baker then went to the Oglala Sioux Tribe's land committee on Pine Ridge, which rejected the request for a search, saying it could unearth remains or artifacts from the 1890 Wounded Knee massacre.

Baker said the search would only involve a cadaver dog or ground-penetrating radar that would not disrupt the land. And the area already has been disturbed, he said.

"Wherever Ray is laying was already disturbed through the form of buildings, construction within the downtown Wounded Knee area, or it was disturbed in 1973 from digging bunkers," Baker said.

Baker has drawn up a resolution he plans to present to the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council, which includes the Sicangu Lakota Treaty Council resolution and letters of support from elders, descendants of the 1890 massacre and others.

The document, viewed by South Dakota News Watch, calls for all Lakota tribes, in collaboration with Buswell-Robinson and cultural experts, to create a working group to oversee a non-invasive search for the remains of Robinson. The effort would include historic preservation officers, spiritual leaders and elders, the Robinson family, Indigenous archaeologists and forensic scientists and independent advisers.

"This resolution does not seek the removal or exhumation of any remains but seeks only to locate, document and honor the possible resting place of Perry Ray Robinson Jr.," it states.

The document also calls for transparency and respect of those who died in 1890 and might have been killed on the site in 1973.

"We're asking to search the ground that already has been disturbed and is a long way from the burial of the 1890 massacre victims," Buswell-Robinson said.

Tribal leaders did not respond to a request for comment.

Widow hopes for Robinson's return

Besides a son, who has children, the Robinsons have two adult daughters in Detroit, Desiree Marks and Tamara Fant, who have their own children and grandchildren.

"I'm 80 and doing fine. I'd like to get Ray back here before I'm dead," Buswell-Robinson said. "I'm excited about it because Justin (Baker) is so excited."

"He's been wonderful to follow and has a strategy."

Buswell-Robinson said that because she's in Detroit, she doesn't have the connections or know the local structures or politics like Baker does. Based on her recollections and letters she wrote in the years after her husband's disappearance, she believes he probably was killed because he naively thought he could turn an unorganized situation into a focused demonstration.

His nonviolent approach probably was not well received at what was a violent situation, Buswell-Robinson said. And it's possible AIM members suspected he was a federal informant, which he was not, she said.

FBI documents include references to fresh graves

Two American Indians were confirmed to have died during the 1973 siege, and rumors of other deaths persist. FBI documents that are now public suggest the possibility of other people buried at Wounded Knee during the occupation.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 30 of 63

A May 1973 memo says the FBI talked to a man who reported grave sites just outside of Wounded Knee. Another, a few days later, states that an Interior Department official "observed several fresh graves" at Wounded Knee. One of the graves belonged to one of the two Native Americans killed, the memo states.

There's no mention of Ray Robinson in the FBI correspondence, but two documents reveal the presence of two Black people toward the end of the standoff.

A May 5, 1973, transcript of an interview with a man who claimed to be at Wounded Knee the week prior stated "he heard that one black man and one black woman had recently arrived."

A May 21, 1973, FBI memo reported that a Native woman who left the village a month earlier counted 200 Indians, 11 whites and two Blacks. Buswell-Robinson said those two were most likely Ray Robinson and a woman from Alabama who went with him.

She returned after the standoff. He didn't.

This story was originally published by South Dakota News Watch and distributed through a partnership with The Associated Press.

Firefighters battle a wildfire burning out of control on the Greek island of Chios

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Hundreds of firefighters backed up by aircraft were battling a wildfire burning out of control for the third day on the eastern Aegean island of Chios Tuesday, with authorities issuing multiple evacuation orders.

Towering walls of flames tore through forest and agricultural land on the island, where authorities have declared a state of emergency and have sent firefighting reinforcements from Athens, the northern city of Thessaloniki and the nearby island of Lesbos.

By Tuesday morning, the fire department said 444 firefighters with 85 vehicles were tackling the blaze on scattered fronts. Eleven helicopters and two water-dropping planes were providing air support.

Emergency services have issued evacuation orders for villages and settlements in the area since Sunday, when fires broke out near the island's main town. The fire department has sent an arson investigation team to Chios to examine the cause of the blaze.

"We are faced with simultaneous fires in multiple, geographically unconnected parts of the island — a pattern that cannot be considered coincidental," Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Minister Giannis Kefalogiannis said Monday from Chios. Authorities, he said, were "very seriously examining the possibility of an organized criminal act, in other words arson."

The minister said police forces on the island had been reinforced, while military patrols had been doubled.

"Whoever thinks that they can play with the lives of citizens and cause chaos with premeditated actions will be led to court," Kefalogiannis said. "Arson is a serious crime and will be dealt with as such."

Wildfires are frequent in Greece during its hot, dry summers. In 2018, a massive fire swept through the seaside town of Mati, east of Athens, trapping people in their homes and on roads as they tried to flee. More than 100 died, including some who drowned trying to swim away from the flames.

Israel says Iran launched more missiles after ceasefire starts. Iranian military denies that

By SAM MEDNICK, JON GAMBRELL and MELANIE LIDMAN Associated Press

BEERSHEBA, Israel (AP) — A tentative truce faltered Tuesday when Israel vowed to retaliate after saying Iran launched missiles into its airspace more than two hours after the ceasefire was supposed to take effect.

Iran's military denied firing on Israel, state media reported — but explosions boomed and sirens sounded across northern Israel midmorning. Earlier, both Israel and Iran had accepted the ceasefire plan to end their 12-day war.

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz called the missiles a violation of the ceasefire and instructed Israel's

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 31 of 63

military to resume "the intense operations to attack Tehran and to destroy targets of the regime and terror infrastructure."

The shaky agreement was announced early Tuesday morning by U.S. President Donald Trump after Tehran launched a limited retaliatory missile attack on a U.S. military base in Qatar on Monday.

Between Trump's post and the start of the ceasefire, Israel launched a blitz of airstrikes targeting sites across Iran before dawn and Iran replied with an onslaught of missiles that killed at least four people in Israel.

An Israeli military official who spoke on the condition of anonymity in line with military regulations said Iran launched two missiles at Israel hours into the tenuous ceasefire. Both missiles were intercepted, the official said.

"Tehran will tremble," Israeli Finance Minister Betzalel Smotrich wrote on X after the missiles were launched.

Netanyahu accepts ceasefire as Iranian state TV says fighting has stopped

The midmorning barrage of missiles came after regional leaders, including in Saudi Arabia and Egypt, welcomed Trump's announcement of the ceasefire.

"THE CEASEFIRE IS NOW IN EFFECT. PLEASE DO NOT VIOLATE IT! DONALD J. TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES!" he wrote on his social media platform Tuesday morning.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel had agreed to a bilateral ceasefire with Iran in coordination with Trump, pledging to respond to any subsequent violation. He said he had told Israel's security cabinet that the country had achieved all of its war goals, including removing the threat of Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programs. Israel also damaged Iran's military leadership and several government sites and achieved control over Tehran's skies, Netanyahu said.

Iranian officials did not comment either after Trump announced the ceasefire or Israel claimed it had intercepted additional missiles hours after it supposedly went into effect. Hours earlier, Iran's top diplomat had said the country was prepared to halt airstrikes.

"As of now, there is NO 'agreement' on any ceasefire or cessation of military operations," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi wrote in a post on X. "However, provided that the Israeli regime stops its illegal aggression against the Iranian people no later than 4 am Tehran time, we have no intention to continue our response afterwards."

Araghchi added: "The final decision on the cessation of our military operations will be made later."

Iranian missiles kill 4 in Israel as hostilities expand

The shaky ceasefire followed a day of hostilities spreading further across the region.

Iran launched a limited missile attack Monday on a U.S. military base in Qatar, retaliating for earlier American bombing of its nuclear sites. The U.S. was warned by Iran in advance, and there were no casualties. Israel's military said Iran launched 20 missiles toward Israel before the ceasefire began on Tuesday morning. Police said they damaged at least three densely packed residential buildings in the city of Beersheba.

First responders said they retrieved four bodies from one building and were searching for more. Earlier, the Fire and Rescue service said five bodies were found before revising the number downward.

At least 20 people were injured.

Outside, the shells of burned out cars littered the streets. Broken glass and rubble covered the area. Hundreds of emergency workers gathered to search for anyone else trapped in the buildings.

Police said some people were injured even while inside their apartments' reinforced safe rooms, which are meant to withstand rockets and shrapnel but not direct hits from ballistic missiles.

Bases hit in Iraq

Drones attacked military bases in Iraq overnight, including some housing U.S. troops, the Iraqi army and a US military official said Tuesday.

No casualties were reported and no group claimed responsibility for the attacks in Iraq. Some Iran-backed Iraqi militias had previously threatened to target U.S. bases if the U.S. attacked Iran.

Iraqi army spokesperson Sabah Al-Naaman in a statement called the attacks a "treacherous and cow-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 32 of 63

ardly act of aggression” and said they had damaged radar systems at Camp Taji, north of Baghdad, and at Imam Ali Base in Dhi Qar province. Iraqi forces shot down drones at other locations, he said.

A senior U.S. military official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment publicly, said U.S. forces had shot down drones attacking Ain al-Assad in the desert in western Iraq and at a base next to the Baghdad airport, while another one crashed.

Trump says ceasefire is in effect

Trump promised last night’s ceasefire would bring an “official end” to what he at the time coined the “12 Day War” ahead of Israel’s promise to resume operations on Tuesday.

Trump had communicated directly with Netanyahu to secure the ceasefire, according to a senior White House official who insisted on anonymity to discuss the Monday talks. Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and special envoy Steve Witkoff communicated with the Iranians through direct and indirect channels.

The White House has maintained that the Saturday bombing helped get the Israelis to agree to the ceasefire and that the Qatari government helped to broker the deal.

It’s unclear what role Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran’s leader, played in the talks. He said earlier on social media that he would not surrender.

Attacks force temporary closure of Israel’s skies

Israel’s Airports Authority said Iran’s barrage forced them to close the country’s airspace to emergency flights for several hours.

Some flights were forced to circle over the Mediterranean Sea, according to Israeli media.

Israel’s airports have been closed since the war with Iran began, but a handful of emergency flights started arriving and departing over the past few days.

By early Tuesday, Qatar Airways resumed its flights after Qatar shut down its airspace over the Iranian attack on Al Udeid Air Base. Flight-tracking data showed commercial aircraft again flying in Qatari airspace, signaling Doha believed the threat on the energy-rich nation had passed.

Conflict has killed hundreds

In Israel, at least 28 people have been killed and more than 1,000 wounded in the war. Israeli strikes on Iran have killed at least 974 people and wounded 3,458 others, according to the Washington-based group Human Rights Activists.

The group, which has provided detailed casualty figures from Iranian unrest such as the protests surrounding the death of Mahsa Amini in 2022, said of those killed, it identified 387 civilians and 268 security force personnel.

The U.S. has evacuated some 250 American citizens and their immediate family members from Israel by government, military and charter flights that began over the weekend, a State Department official said.

There are roughly 700,000 American citizens, most of them dual U.S.-Israeli citizens, believed to be in Israel.

Dutch authorities investigate possible sabotage against rail network as NATO summit opens

By MOLLY QUELL Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Dutch authorities were investigating possible sabotage against the rail network on Tuesday after a power outage left the country’s main airport with limited train services as a two-day summit of NATO leaders was opening in the Netherlands.

Caretaker Justice Minister David van Weel told the NATO Public Forum that investigators were considering the possibility that fire in some 30 rail cables may have been set intentionally.

“It could be an activist group. It could be another state. It could be anything,” Van Weel said at a round-table gathering.

The damage disrupted rail services and no trains were running between Schiphol Airport and the country’s capital, Amsterdam.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 33 of 63

According to service operator ProRail, a power failure occurred early Tuesday morning in cables near the airport. An investigation revealed "considerable damage" had been done by a fire according to a statement.

Trains were running south, in the direction of The Hague, where world leaders are gathering for the start of a two-day NATO summit. Leaders arriving for the summit were not taking trains: They will be whisked in motorcades along closed-down roads from the airport to hotels and the summit venue.

ProRail said it expects normal service to be returned by early evening.

Temporary barricades and metal mesh fences surrounding the World Forum summit venue are just a fraction of the major military and police operation called Orange Shield set up to ensure the safety of the alliance's 32 leaders.

In what they are calling the biggest security operation ever staged in the Netherlands, authorities are locking down parts of the city, closing off roads and shutting down airspace.

About 27,000 police officers — about half of the country's entire force — will be on duty around the summit along with more than 10,000 defense personnel.

On Monday, pro-Russian hackers launched a series of denial-of-service attacks on several municipalities and organizations linked to the NATO summit.

The National Cybersecurity Center said in a statement that many of the attacks were claimed by a pro-Russian hackers' group known as NoName057(16) "and appear to have a pro-Russian ideological motive," but did not elaborate.

France's high-speed rail network was the target of sabotage last July, attacked by arsonists ahead of the opening ceremony in Paris of the Olympic Games. Targeting remote locations far from the capital, the apparently coordinated attacks sought to cut off rail routes into the capital from all directions. Fires were predominantly set in pipes containing critical signaling cables for the system known as the TGV.

Israeli forces fire on people waiting for aid in Gaza, killing 25, witnesses and hospitals say

By WAFAA SHURAF and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli forces and drones opened fire toward hundreds of people waiting for aid trucks in central Gaza early Tuesday, killing at least 25 people, Palestinian witnesses and hospitals said.

Responding to an Associated Press inquiry, the military said it was reviewing reports of casualties from Israeli fire after a group of people approached troops in an area adjunct to the east-west Netzarim corridor, which bisects Gaza.

The Awda hospital in the urban Nuseirat refugee camp, which received the victims, said the Palestinians were waiting for the trucks on the Salah al-Din Road south of Wadi Gaza.

Witnesses told The Associated Press that Israeli forces opened fire as people were advancing eastward to be close to the approaching trucks.

"It was a massacre," said Ahmed Halawa. He said tanks and drones fired at people, "even as we were fleeing. Many people were either martyred or wounded."

Hossam Abu Shahada, another eyewitness, said drones were flying over the area, watching the crowds first, then there was gunfire from tanks and drones as people were moving eastward. He described a "chaotic and bloody" scene as people were attempting to escape.

He said he saw at least three people lying on the ground motionless and many others wounded as he fled the site.

The Awda hospital said another 146 Palestinians were wounded. Among them were 62 in critical condition, who were transferred to other hospitals in central Gaza, it said.

In the central town of Deir al-Balah, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital said it received the bodies of six people who were killed in the same incident.

Palestinian witnesses and health officials say Israeli forces have repeatedly opened fire on crowds seeking desperately needed food, killing hundreds of people in recent weeks. The military says it has fired

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 34 of 63

warning shots at people it said approached its forces in a suspicious manner.

The deaths were the latest in Israel-Hamas war in Gaza which killed about 56,000 Palestinians, according to the strip's health ministry.

The ministry doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants but say more than a half of the dead were women and children.

Israel launched its campaign in Gaza after Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack on southern Israel, in which militants killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took another 251 hostages.

Most of the hostages were released by ceasefire agreements.

World shares rally after Trump announces what appears to be a shaky Israeli-Iran ceasefire

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Stocks rallied and oil prices fell on Tuesday after U.S. President Donald Trump announced what appears to be a shaky ceasefire in the Israel-Iran war.

A tentative truce proposed by Trump remained uncertain after Israel said Iran had launched missiles into its airspace less than three hours after the ceasefire went into effect. It vowed to retaliate.

Still, investors took heart after Trump said Israel and Iran had agreed to a "complete and total ceasefire" soon after Iran launched limited missile attacks Monday on a U.S. military base in Qatar, retaliating for the American bombing of its nuclear sites over the weekend.

The future for the S&P 500 gained 0.8% while that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 0.6%.

"The Middle East may still be smoldering, but as far as markets are concerned, the fire alarm has been shut off," Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management said in a commentary.

In early European trading, Germany's DAX leaped 1.8% to 23,679.64, while the CAC 40 in Paris added 1.2% to 7,631.07. Britain's FTSE 100 was up 0.4% at 8,789.91.

In Asia, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 rose 1.1% to 38,790.56 and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong gained 2.1% to 24,177.07.

The Shanghai Composite index climbed 1.2% to 3,420.57.

In South Korea, the Kospi jumped 3% to 3,103.64, while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 1% to 8,555.50.

Taiwan's Taix rose 2.1% and India's Sensex was up 0.6%. In Bangkok, the SET surged 2.5%.

Oil prices fell further, after tumbling on Monday as fears subsided of an Iranian blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway for shipping crude.

The price of oil initially jumped 6% after trading began Sunday night, a signal of rising worries as investors got their first chance to react to the U.S. bombings. But it quickly shed all those gains, with U.S. benchmark crude falling 7.2%. It dropped further early Tuesday, giving up 2.4% to \$66.85 per barrel. It had briefly topped \$78.

Brent crude, the international standard, shed 2.4% early Tuesday to \$68.83.

U.S. stocks rallied on Monday despite the United States' bunker-busting entry into its war with Israel.

The S&P 500 climbed 1% and the Dow industrials gained 0.9%. The Nasdaq composite index advanced 0.9%.

Iran's retaliation for the U.S. attacks appeared not to target the flow of oil. The fear throughout the Israel-Iran war has been that it could squeeze supplies, pumping up prices for crude, gasoline and other products.

Back in the U.S., Treasury yields eased after a top Federal Reserve official said she would support cutting rates at the Fed's next meeting, as long as "inflation pressures remain contained."

Investors will be watching for Fed. Chair Jerome Powell's comments to the U.S. Congress later Tuesday, analysts said.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury held steady at 4.33% from 4.38% late Friday. The two-year Treasury yield, which more closely tracks expectations for the Fed, dropped to 3.83% from 3.90%.

The Federal Reserve has been hesitant to cut interest rates this year because it's waiting to see how

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 35 of 63

much higher tariffs imposed by Trump will hurt the U.S. economy and raise inflation.

Inflation has remained relatively tame recently, but higher oil and gasoline prices would push it higher. That could keep the Fed on hold because cuts to rates can fan inflation while they also give the economy a boost.

On Wall Street, Elon Musk's Tesla was the single strongest force pushing the S&P 500 higher after jumping 8.2%. The electric-vehicle company began a test run on Sunday of a small squad of self-driving cabs in Austin, Texas. It's something that Musk has long been touting and integral to Tesla's stock price being as high as it is.

Hims & Hers Health tumbled 34.6% after Novo Nordisk said it will no longer work with the company to sell its popular Wegovy obesity drug. Novo Nordisk's stock that trades in the United States fell 5.5%.

In currency dealings early Tuesday, the U.S. dollar fell to 145.44 Japanese yen from 146.15 yen late Monday. The euro rose to \$1.1604 from \$1.1578.

World leaders gather for historic NATO summit with unity on the line

By MOLLY QUELL and LORNE COOK Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — World leaders were gathering in the Netherlands on Tuesday for the start of a historic two-day NATO summit that could unite the world's biggest security organization around a new defense spending pledge or widen divisions among the 32 allies.

The allies are expected to endorse a goal of spending 5% of their gross domestic product on their security, to be able to fulfil the alliance's plans for defending against outside attack.

U.S. President Donald Trump's first appearance at NATO since returning to the White House was supposed to center on how the U.S. secured the historic military spending pledge from others in the security alliance — effectively bending it to its will.

But in the spotlight instead now is Trump's decision to strike three nuclear enrichment facilities in Iran that the administration says eroded Tehran's nuclear ambitions, as well as the president's sudden announcement that Israel and Iran had reached a "complete and total ceasefire."

Past NATO summits have focused almost entirely on the war in Ukraine, now in its fourth year. NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte insisted that it remains a vital topic.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy arrived in The Hague for a series of meetings, despite his absence from a leaders' meeting aiming to seal the agreement to boost military spending.

It's a big change since the summit in Washington last year, when the military alliance's weighty communique included a vow to supply long-term security assistance to Ukraine, and a commitment to back the country "on its irreversible path" to NATO membership.

In a joint tribute on the eve of this year's summit, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said they backed U.S. peace efforts that should preserve Ukraine's sovereignty and European security.

"For as long as the current trajectory lasts, Russia will find in France and Germany an unshakeable determination. What is at stake will determine European stability for the decades to come," they wrote in the Financial Times newspaper.

"We will ensure that Ukraine emerges from this war prosperous, robust and secure, and will never live again under the fear of Russian aggression," the two leaders wrote.

Ahead of the official program, Zelenskyy is scheduled to meet with Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof. Later in the day, Zelenskyy will address the Dutch parliament.

Iranian missile barrage strikes Israel after deadline Trump announced for ceasefire passes

By DAVID RISING, JON GAMBRELL and MELANIE LIDMAN Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump announced that Israel and Iran had agreed to a “complete and total ceasefire” soon after Iran launched a limited missile attack Monday on a U.S. military base in Qatar, retaliating for the American bombing of its nuclear sites. But the status of a possible ceasefire remained tentative after an Iranian missile barrage struck Israel after a first deadline for the proposal.

The Iranian barrages sent Israelis hurrying into bomb shelters as the sun rose, killing at least four people and injuring eight others, Israel’s Magen David Adom rescue services said. Israel has yet to acknowledge Trump’s proposal, which gives Israel more time to potentially strike back though Iran on its state television announced an overall ceasefire had begun at 7:30 a.m. local time.

In Beersheba, first responders said they retrieved four bodies from one building and were searching for more. The streets around the impact site were littered with glass and debris, windows were blown out of buildings as anxious neighbors stood outside their damaged houses. Three people were rescued from nearby buildings.

The direct hit in the largest city in southern Israel came just days after the city’s hospital sustained significant damage in a missile strike.

The Israeli military said people could leave bomb shelters but cautioned the public to stay close to shelter for the coming hours.

Trump’s announcement that Israel and Iran had agreed to a “complete and total ceasefire” came soon after Iran launched a limited missile attack Monday on a U.S. military base in Qatar, retaliating for the American bombing of its nuclear sites. Israel has not acknowledged the Trump ceasefire announcement.

Trump’s announcement on Truth Social said the ceasefire beginning about midnight Washington time would bring an “Official END” to the war.

Writing over an hour after the first phase of the tentative ceasefire, which called for Iran to halt its attacks, Trump added: “THE CEASEFIRE IS NOW IN EFFECT. PLEASE DO NOT VIOLATE IT! DONALD J. TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES!”

Israel doesn’t confirm ceasefire but appears to pause strikes

Israel did not immediately acknowledge any ceasefire, but there were no reports of Israeli strikes in Iran after 4 a.m. in Tehran. Heavy Israeli strikes continued in Iranian cities until shortly before that time. Israel in other conflicts has stepped up its strikes just before ceasefires took effect.

“As of now, there is NO ‘agreement’ on any ceasefire or cessation of military operations,” Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi wrote in a post on X. “However, provided that the Israeli regime stops its illegal aggression against the Iranian people no later than 4 am Tehran time, we have no intention to continue our response afterwards.”

His message was posted at 4:16 a.m. Tehran time. Araghchi added: “The final decision on the cessation of our military operations will be made later.”

The Israeli military declined to comment on Trump’s ceasefire statement and the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

Trump describes conflict as ‘12 Day War’

Trump gave the conflict between Israel and Iran a name: the “12 Day War.” That recalls the 1967 Mid-east war, known by some as the “Six Day War,” in which Israel fought a group of Arab countries including Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

Trump’s reference carries emotional weight for the Arab world, particularly Palestinians. In the 1967 war, Israel captured the West Bank and east Jerusalem from Jordan, the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, and the Golan Heights from Syria. Though Israel later gave the Sinai back to Egypt, it still holds the other territories.

Trump communicated directly with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to secure the ceasefire,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 37 of 63

according to a senior White House official who insisted on anonymity to discuss the Monday talks. Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and special envoy Steve Witkoff communicated with the Iranians through direct and indirect channels.

The White House has maintained that the Saturday bombing helped get the Israelis to agree to the ceasefire and that the Qatari government helped to broker the deal.

It's unclear what role Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's leader, played in the talks. He said earlier on social media that he would not surrender.

Iran's attack against US implied willingness to de-escalate

Iran attacked a U.S. base in Qatar on Monday, but appeared to indicate it was prepared to reduce tensions. The U.S. was warned by Iran in advance, and there were no casualties, said Trump, who dismissed the attack as a "very weak response."

Qatar condemned the attack on Al Udeid Air Base as "a flagrant violation" of its sovereignty, airspace and international law. Qatar said it intercepted all but one missile, though it was not clear if that missile caused any damage.

Iran said the volley matched the number of bombs dropped by the United States on Iranian nuclear sites over the weekend. Iran also said it targeted the base because it was outside of populated areas.

Qatar Maj. Gen. Shayeq Al Hajri said 19 missiles were fired at the base that is home to the Combined Air Operations Center, which provides command and control of air power across the region, as well as the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, the largest such wing in the world. Trump said 14 missiles were fired, 13 were knocked down and one was "set free" because it posed no threat.

Iran announced the attack on state television, with a caption calling it "a mighty and successful response" to "America's aggression."

Earlier reports that a missile was launched at a base housing American forces in Iraq were a false alarm, a senior U.S. military official said. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment publicly, said debris from a malfunctioning Iranian missile targeting Israel had triggered an alert of an impending attack on the Ain al-Assad base.

By early Tuesday, Qatar Airways resumed its flights after Qatar shut down its airspace over the Iranian attack on Al Udeid Air Base. Flight-tracking data showed commercial aircraft again flying in Qatari airspace, signaling Doha believed the threat on the energy-rich nation had passed.

The Israel Airport Authority said that the barrages from Iran forced them to close the country's skies for several hours to all passenger planes that were expected to land and depart, including emergency flights.

Some flights were forced to circle over the Mediterranean Sea, according to Israeli media.

Israel's airports have been closed since the war with Iran began, but a handful of emergency flights had started arriving and departing over the past few days.

Israel and Iran trade attacks

Israel and Iran traded barrages early Tuesday morning.

Iran struck Israel with missiles and drones while Israel said it attacked "regime targets and government repression bodies in the heart of Tehran."

In Tehran, Israel hit the headquarters of the military force that suppressed recent protests and blew open a gate at Evin prison, which is known for holding political activists.

Iranian state television aired footage it said was shot inside Evin, with prisoners under control. However, the Washington-based Abdorrahman Boroumand Center for Human Rights in Iran said many families of detainees "have expressed deep concern about the safety and condition of their loved ones" in the prison.

The Israeli military also confirmed it struck roads around Iran's Fordo enrichment facility to obstruct access to the site. The underground site was one of those hit in Sunday's attack by the United States. The Israeli military did not elaborate.

In Vienna, the head of the United Nations nuclear watchdog said he expected there to be heavy damage at the Fordo facility following Sunday's U.S. airstrike there with sophisticated bunker-buster bombs.

Several Iranian officials, including Atomic Energy Organization of Iran spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 38 of 63

have claimed Iran removed nuclear material from targeted sites ahead of time.

Trump floats regime change

Israeli officials insisted they did not seek the overthrow of Iran's government, their archenemy since the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

But the latest strikes unfolded only hours after Trump himself mentioned the possibility of regime change a day after inserting America into the war with its stealth-bomber strike on three Iranian nuclear sites.

"If the current Iranian Regime is unable to MAKE IRAN GREAT AGAIN, why wouldn't there be a Regime change???" he asked on his Truth Social website. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt later described Trump as "simply raising a question."

Before the news of a ceasefire, an Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss high-level internal deliberations, said Israel aimed to wind down the war in the coming days, but that it would depend on the Iranians.

Israel's preferred outcome is for Iran to agree to a ceasefire and reenter negotiations with the U.S. over its nuclear program, the official said. But Israel is prepared for the possibility of an extended low-intensity war of attrition or period of "quiet for quiet," in which it would closely monitor Iran's activities and strike if it identifies new threats.

Conflict has killed hundreds

In Israel, at least 24 people have been killed and more than 1,000 wounded in the war. Israeli strikes on Iran have killed at least 974 people and wounded 3,458 others, according to the Washington-based group Human Rights Activists.

The group, which has provided detailed casualty figures from Iranian unrest such as the protests surrounding the death of Mahsa Amini in 2022, said of those killed, it identified 387 civilians and 268 security force personnel.

The U.S. has evacuated some 250 American citizens and their immediate family members from Israel by government, military and charter flights that began over the weekend, a State Department official said.

There are roughly 700,000 American citizens, most of them dual U.S.-Israeli citizens, believed to be in Israel.

Trump holds out Israel-Iran ceasefire deal as validation for his gamble of US airstrikes

By AAMER MADHANI, JOSH BOAK and CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Monday said the "12 day war" between Israel and Iran was set to end in a ceasefire, holding out the expected deal as validation for his strategic gamble of ordering U.S. airstrikes on Iranian nuclear sites.

"It has been fully agreed by and between Israel and Iran that there will be a Complete and Total CEASE-FIRE," Trump posted on social media.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Iran would stop its attacks if Israel would. It's unclear what role Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's leader, played in the talks. He had said on social media earlier Monday that Iran would not surrender. Israel has not publicly confirmed that it has agreed to end hostilities.

"As of now, there is NO 'agreement' on any ceasefire or cessation of military operations," Araghchi posted on X. "However, provided that the Israeli regime stops its illegal aggression against the Iranian people no later than 4 am Tehran time, we have no intention to continue our response afterwards."

A ceasefire, if it culminates as Trump laid out, would be welcome news for the region and the world. But the situation in the Middle East remains far from stable and it's unclear how longer-term dynamics might be affected. The Israeli and U.S. bombing of Iran certainly has slowed Iran's ability to enrich nuclear material but it might also have steeled Tehran's resolve to breakout toward a bomb.

Trump's announcement comes as he prepared to depart on Tuesday for the NATO summit in the Netherlands, where he will likely make the case that his mix of aggression and diplomacy has succeeded.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 39 of 63

Never shy to suggest he deserves the Nobel Peace Prize, Trump went so far as to give the conflict between Israel and Iran the name of the "12 day war," a title that seemed to reference the 1967 "Six Day War" in which Israel fought a group of Arab countries including Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

Later, Trump in another social media posting said that "Israel & Iran came to me, almost simultaneously, and said, 'PEACE!'"

"They have so much to gain, and yet, so much to lose if they stray from the road of RIGHTEOUSNESS & TRUTH," Trump added. "The future for Israel & Iran is UNLIMITED, & filled with great PROMISE. GOD BLESS YOU BOTH!"

As Trump described it, the ceasefire would start with Iran and then be joined by Israel 12 hours later, with the president writing that the respective sides would "remain PEACEFUL and RESPECTFUL." The phased-in ceasefire was set to begin Tuesday morning in Israel and Iran and culminate within 24 hours.

But Iran launched another attack on Israel after 4 a.m. local time in Tehran, the time Iran's foreign minister said Iran would cease its attacks if Israel ended their airstrikes.

"This is a War that could have gone on for years, and destroyed the entire Middle East, but it didn't, and never will!" Trump said.

The White House reposted Trump's announcement with a photo of the president holding a red hat that said "Trump was right about everything" in all capital letters.

A senior White House official said Trump communicated directly with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to secure the ceasefire. The official, who insisted on anonymity to discuss the Monday talks, said Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and special envoy Steve Witkoff. communicated with the Iranians through direct and indirect channels.

The official said the Qatari government played an important role in brokering the coming ceasefire. Trump spoke to Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, to thank him for helping land the agreement. The Gulf emirate has been chief interlocutor in the on-and-off ceasefire and hostage negotiations between Israel and Hamas in their ongoing war in Gaza.

The exact terms of the ceasefire other than the timeline provided by the Trump administration remained to be seen.

On Sunday, the Trump administration had insisted that Iran abandon its program to enrich uranium for possible use in nuclear weapons as a condition of any lasting peace. While the bombings of the Fordo, Natanz and Isfahan facilities were a powerful show of force, it remained uncertain just how much nuclear material Iran still possessed and what its ambitions would be going forward.

Vance said in a TV interview just as the ceasefire was announced that the world would look back at the war between Israel and Iran — and the U.S. bombing of Iran's nuclear facilities — as "an important reset moment for the entire region."

Appearing on Fox News Channel's "Special Report," the vice president said the Trump administration hoped that the Iranians had learned an important lesson: If they want to build a nuclear weapon in the future, he said, "they're going to have to deal with a very, very powerful American military again."

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt posted on the social media site X an Associated Press headline of the news and wrote that Trump "has accomplished what no other president in history could ever imagine — the obliteration of the Iranian Regime's nuclear program, and an unprecedented ceasefire between Israel and Iran."

The ceasefire announcement came after Iran attempted to retaliate for the U.S. assault with a Monday missile strike aimed at a major U.S. military installation in the Gulf nation of Qatar. Trump separately thanked Iran on social media for giving the U.S. and allies "early notice" of the retaliation.

The president expressed hope that Tehran — with its reprisal for the U.S. bombardment of three key Iranian nuclear facilities — had "gotten it all out of their 'system'" and that the moment would lead to a de-escalation in the Israel-Iran war.

The Iranian attack on U.S. forces at Qatar's Al Udeid Air Base marked Tehran's first act of direct retaliation against the U.S. since Trump ordered strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 40 of 63

Trump said Iran launched 14 missiles at the base, a sprawling facility that hosts the forward headquarters of the U.S. military's Central Command and was a major staging ground during the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The president said 13 of the Iranian missiles "were knocked down" by U.S. air defense systems while one was "set free" because it was headed in a nonthreatening direction."

Russian attacks on Ukraine kill 14 civilians as Zelenskyy travels to UK

By JUSTIN SPIKE Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian drones and missiles killed at least 14 civilians and injured several dozen others in Ukraine in overnight attacks, local officials said Monday, with nine deaths reported in the capital, Kyiv, where an apartment building partially collapsed.

The attacks came as Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy began a visit to the United Kingdom, where he met privately with King Charles III.

Russia fired 352 drones and decoys overnight, as well as 11 ballistic missiles and five cruise missiles, Ukraine's air force said. Air defenses intercepted or jammed 339 drones and 15 missiles before they could reach their targets, a statement said.

A Russian ballistic missile strike destroyed a high school later in the day in Ukraine's southern Odesa region, killing two staff, authorities said. No children were on the premises due to the summer vacation, said Zelenskyy, who described the strike as "absolutely insane."

The strikes came nearly a week after a Russian attack killed 28 people in Kyiv, 23 of them in a residential building that collapsed after a direct missile hit. Russia has also hit civilian areas with long-range strikes in an apparent attempt to weaken Ukrainian morale.

'Coalition of murderers'

Russian forces have been trying to drive deeper into Ukraine as part of a summer push along the roughly 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line, though the Institute for the Study of War said progress has failed to make significant gains.

"Russian forces are largely relying on poorly trained infantry to make gains in the face of Ukraine's drone-based defense," the Washington-based think tank said late Sunday.

Zelenskyy said preliminary data indicated that Russian forces used North Korean missiles in the Kyiv strike. He described Russia, North Korea and Iran, which has provided drones to Russia, as a "coalition of murderers."

Zelenskyy said Ukraine's defense and new ways to pressure Russia would be the main topics in his visit to the United Kingdom. Zelenskyy met privately with King Charles III and stayed for lunch, Buckingham Palace said. He later met with Prime Minister Keir Starmer ahead of this week's NATO summit in The Hague.

Drones hit hospitals and residential areas

Drones and missiles hit residential areas, hospitals and sports infrastructure in numerous districts across Kyiv, emergency services said.

The most severe damage was in Shevchenkivskyi district, where a section of a five-story apartment building collapsed.

Nine people were killed in the district, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said. Ten others, including a pregnant woman, were rescued from a nearby high-rise that also sustained heavy damage. Dozens of vehicles were burned or mangled by flying debris.

Oleksii Pozychaniuk, 29, who lives in the building next to the one struck, said he heard the whistle of the rocket approaching and "froze in terror" before feeling the impact.

"Windows burst out, glass was flying everywhere," he said. "We barely made it downstairs with my child. Everything here was on fire."

Klitschko said rescue workers were searching for survivors.

The Russian attack also damaged the entrance to the Sviatoshyn subway station in Kyiv, slightly injur-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 41 of 63

ing two people, said Timur Tkachenko, the head of Kyiv's military administration. He said more than 30 people were injured across the city.

Underground subway stations have served as shelters for those seeking protection from aerial attacks. During almost nightly strikes, stations across Kyiv are often filled with people waiting out the danger.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot said the latest strikes demonstrated Russia's "unlimited cruelty" by deliberately aiming at civilian targets, and promised more European sanctions on Moscow.

Long process to identify returned remains

Elsewhere in Ukraine, a drone attack killed two people and wounded 10 more in the Chernihiv region late Sunday, authorities said. Three children were among the wounded, according to the regional administration head, Viacheslav Chaus.

Another person was killed and eight wounded overnight in the city of Bila Tserkva, around 85 kilometers (53 miles) southwest of the capital.

Meanwhile, Russia's Defense Ministry said its air defenses shot down 23 Ukrainian drones overnight into Monday.

Ukraine will take at least a year to identify the thousands of soldiers' bodies repatriated by Russia and establish whether Moscow has mistakenly included more of its servicemen, Ukrainian Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said.

Zelenskyy said Friday that Russia had included at least 20 of its own dead soldiers in recent exchanges with Ukraine, describing it as a result of Moscow's disorganization in carrying out large swaps of wounded POWs and remains.

At least five of the bodies can be proven to be Russian, Klymenko told a press conference, with tests being conducted on others. Journalists were shown uniforms and items including cigarettes belonging to what Ukraine said were the five Russians.

NATO leaders gather Tuesday for what could be a historic summit, or one marred by divisions

By LORNE COOK Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump and his NATO counterparts are due to gather Tuesday for a summit that could unite the world's biggest security organization around a new defense spending pledge or widen divisions among the 32 allies.

Just a week ago, things had seemed rosy. NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte was optimistic the European members and Canada would commit to invest at least as much of their economic growth on defense as the United States does for the first time.

Then Spain rejected the new NATO target for each country to spend 5% of its gross domestic product on defense needs, calling it "unreasonable." Trump also insists on that figure. The alliance operates on a consensus that requires the backing of all 32 members.

The following day, Trump said the U.S. should not have to respect the goal.

"I don't think we should, but I think they should," he said. Trump lashed out at Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez's government, saying: "NATO is going to have to deal with Spain. Spain's been a very low payer." He also criticized Canada as "a low payer."

Spain was the lowest spender in the alliance last year, directing less than 2% of its GDP on defense expenditure, while Canada was spending 1.45%, according to NATO figures.

Then Trump ordered the bombing of nuclear installations in Iran. In 2003, the U.S.-led war on Iraq deeply divided NATO, as France and Germany led opposition to the attack, while Britain and Spain joined the coalition.

European allies and Canada also want Ukraine to be at the top of the summit agenda, but they are wary that Trump might not want President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to steal the limelight.

A short summit, decades of mutual security

The two-day summit in The Hague involves an informal dinner Tuesday and one working session Wednesday.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 42 of 63

day morning. A very short summit statement has been drafted to ensure the meeting is not derailed by fights over details and wording.

Indeed, much about this NATO summit is brief, even though ripples could be felt for years.

Founded in 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was formed by 12 nations to counter the threat to security in Europe posed by the Soviet Union during the Cold War, notably via a strong U.S. presence on the continent.

Dealing with Moscow is in its DNA. Keeping the peace outside the Euro-Atlantic area is not.

NATO's ranks have grown to 32 countries since the Washington Treaty was signed 75 years ago. Sweden joined last year, worried by an increasingly aggressive Russia.

NATO's collective security guarantee — Article 5 of the treaty — underpins its credibility.

It's a political commitment by all countries to come to the aid of any member whose sovereignty or territory might be under attack. Trump has suggested he is committed to that pledge, but he has also sowed doubt about his intentions. He has said the U.S. intends to remain a member of the alliance.

A civilian runs NATO, but the U.S. and its military hold power

The United States is NATO's most powerful member. It spends much more on defense than any other ally and far outweighs its partners in terms of military muscle. Washington has traditionally driven the agenda but has stepped back under Trump.

The U.S. nuclear arsenal provides strategic deterrence against would-be adversaries.

NATO's day-to-day work is led by Rutte, a former Dutch prime minister.

As its top civilian official, he chairs almost weekly meetings of ambassadors in the North Atlantic Council at its Brussels headquarters. He chairs other "NACs" at ministerial and leader levels. Rutte runs NATO headquarters, trying to foster consensus and to speak on behalf of all members.

NATO's military headquarters is based nearby in Mons, Belgium. It is always run by a top U.S. officer.

Ukraine's role at the summit is unclear

With Trump demanding greater defense spending, it's unclear what role Ukraine will play at the summit. Zelenskyy has been invited, but it's unclear whether he will have a seat at NATO's table, although he may take part in Tuesday's dinner. Russia's war in Ukraine usually dominates such meetings.

More broadly, NATO itself is not arming Ukraine. As an organization, it possesses no weapons of any kind. Collectively, it provides only non-lethal support — fuel, combat rations, medical supplies, body armor, and equipment to counter drones or mines.

But individually, members do send arms. European allies provided 60% of the military support that Ukraine received in 2024. NATO coordinates those weapons deliveries via a hub on the Polish border and helps organize training for Ukrainian troops.

NATO's troop plans

A key part of the commitment for allies to defend one another is to deter Russia, or any other adversary, from attacking in the first place. Finland and Sweden joined NATO recently because of this concern.

Under NATO's new military plans, 300,000 military personnel would be deployed within 30 days to counter any attack, whether it be on land, at sea, by air or in cyberspace. But experts doubt whether the allies could muster the troop numbers.

It's not just about troop and equipment numbers. An adversary would be less likely to challenge NATO if it thought the allies would use the forces it controls. Trump's threats against U.S. allies — including imposing tariffs on them — has weakened that deterrence.

The U.S. is carrying the biggest military burden

Due to high U.S. defense spending over many years, the American armed forces have more personnel and superior weapons but also significant transportation and logistics assets.

Other allies are starting to spend more, though. After years of cuts, NATO members committed to ramp up their national defense budgets in 2014 when Russia illegally annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula.

After Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the NATO allies agreed to make 2% of GDP the minimum spending level. Last year, 22 countries were expected to hit that target, up from only three a

decade ago.

In The Hague, the allies were expected to up the ante to 3.5%, plus a further 1.5% for things like improving roads, bridges, ports and airfields or preparing societies to deal with future conflicts. Whether they will now remains an open question.

Last body found after boat capsizes on Lake Tahoe in sudden storm, bringing death toll to 8

By BROOKE HESS-HOMEIER and OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ Associated Press

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif. (AP) — The body of the last person missing from a boat that capsized on Lake Tahoe in California during a sudden and powerful weekend thunderstorm was found Monday, bringing the death toll to eight.

Ten people were on board the 27-foot (8-meter) gold Chris-Craft vessel when it flipped Saturday afternoon near D.L. Bliss State Park on the lake's southwest edge as the storm whipped up high waves, U.S. Coast Guard officials said.

Two people were rescued immediately and taken to a hospital in unknown condition. Six bodies were recovered later Saturday and a seventh body was found Sunday evening, according to the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office. Divers searched a section of Lake Tahoe and found the last body Monday afternoon.

The names of the victims won't be released until family members are notified, Sgt. Kyle Parker said.

Drowning and other accidental deaths have occurred in recent years on the lake, but boating accidents with numerous fatalities are rare. The South Lake Tahoe Police Department told KCRA-TV in 2022 there are an average of six deaths on the lake each summer, though there were a record 15 fatalities in 2021. The department couldn't immediately provide updated numbers.

The intensity of the thunderstorm surprised even forecasters, who had predicted some rain but nothing like the squall that lashed the southern part of the lake around 3 p.m., said meteorologist Matthew Chyba with the National Weather Service office in Reno, Nevada. Winds topped 35 mph (56 kph) and waves swelled up more than 8 feet (2.5 meters).

"We weren't expecting it to be so strong," Chyba said.

He said temperatures in the area were far below normal for this time of year, which could have contributed to the unstable air mass.

Eight-foot waves on Tahoe is "pretty significant," Chyba said. "They were really rocking the lake."

Lake Tahoe is a popular summer recreation destination for boaters, kayakers and paddleboarders. The pristine lake with very cold water straddles California and Nevada and is one of the deepest in the country, second only to Oregon's Crater Lake.

Officials haven't shared any details about the group on the boat that capsized, or said whether the vessel was rented or owned.

Saturday's storm cleared out within about two hours.

Brittany Glick was on a rented pontoon boat with seven others celebrating a friend's bachelorette party Saturday when the wind began picking up and the waves started getting bigger. The day had started sunny but suddenly the temperature dropped and there was almost no visibility, Glick said Monday.

"It felt like we were in a tsunami that was starting. I have never experienced anything like that," she said.

As the boat returned to the dock after about an hour of navigating increasingly choppy waters, soaking the passengers, it started to hail.

"We were shaken up seeing all the boats flipped," Glick said. "And being drenched in that water, we were so cold. We were shaking uncontrollably. Our feet were numb, and our toes were turning blue. That was probably one of the scariest moments I've had in my 30 years. The storm came in so quick. It was terrifying."

Video obtained by KCRA-TV showed moored boats at a nearby marina crashing into one another amid strong gusts.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 44 of 63

Early-season heat dome brings highest temperatures in years to parts of Eastern US

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — An intense and nearly historic weather pattern is cooking much of America under a dangerous heat dome this week with triple-digit temperatures in places that haven't been so hot in more than a decade.

The heat wave is especially threatening because it's hitting cities like Boston, New York and Philadelphia early in the summer when people haven't gotten their bodies adapted to the broiling conditions, several meteorologists said. The dome of high pressure that's parking over the eastern United States is trapping hot air from the Southwest that already made an uncomfortable stop in the Midwest.

A key measurement of the strength of the high pressure broke a record Monday and was the third-highest reading for any date, making for a "near historic" heat wave, said private meteorologist Ryan Maue, a former National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration chief scientist. The worst of the heat was likely to peak for Northeastern cities on Tuesday, forecasters said.

"Like an air fryer, it's going to be hot," Maue said. "This is a three-day stretch of dangerous heat that will test the mettle of city dwellers who are most vulnerable to oppressive heat waves."

A heat dome occurs when a large area of high pressure in the upper atmosphere acts as a reservoir, trapping heat and humidity. A heat wave is the persistence of heat, usually three days or more, with unusually hot temperatures.

Where the heat will be worst

Nearly three-quarters of the country's population — 245 million people — will swelter with 90 degrees Fahrenheit (about 32 Celsius) or higher temperatures on Monday, and 33 million people, almost 10% of the country, will feel blistering 100-degree heat (about 38 Celsius) on Tuesday, Maue said. The government's heat health website showed the highest level of heat risk in swaths from Chicago to Pittsburgh and North Carolina to New York.

Those triple-digit air temperatures — with the feels-like index even worse because of humidity — are possible in places where it's unusual. New York hasn't seen 100 degrees since 2011 and Philadelphia, which is forecast to have consecutive triple-digit days, hasn't reached that mark since 2012, said Climate Central chief meteorologist Bernadette Woods Placky.

In downtown Baltimore, temperatures climbed into the high 90s by early Monday afternoon, bringing dozens of people to cool off at St. Vincent de Paul's resource center. A few blocks away, the city's historic Broadway Market food hall closed early when the building's air conditioning broke.

The heat forced the cancellation of events in west Baltimore, said Eric Davis Sr., who spends most of his days working at a baseball field there.

"You can't have kids getting heat stroke," he said. "It's just too hot today."

NOAA meteorologist David Roth said it takes time to acclimate to summer heat and this heat dome could be a shock for some.

"You're talking about some places that could be 40 degrees warmer than last week. So that's a big deal," he said.

Climate change is making Earth warmer

The heat is part of Earth's long-term warming. Summers in the United States are 2.4 degrees (1.3 degrees Celsius) hotter than 50 years ago, according to NOAA data. Human-caused climate change has made this heat wave three times more likely than without the burning of coal, oil and gas, the climate science non-profit Climate Central calculated, using computer simulations comparing the current weather to a fictional world without the industrial greenhouse gases.

A key question is how much humidity will add to the discomfort and danger of the heat.

Maue is forecasting dry air which may be a degree or two or three hotter than predicted by NOAA, but more comfortable. Other meteorologists expected worse: Sticky, humid and even more dangerous.

"The 'big deal' will be with the humidity being provided with the wet late spring conditions," said Uni-

versity of Oklahoma meteorology professor Jason Furtado. "The area of high pressure will allow for a lot of evaporation to occur from the wet grounds locally and regionally, which will increase the heat indices quite a bit."

Woods Placky said to expect dew points, a key measure of humidity, in the 70s. That's downright tropical, with some places approaching a dew point of 80 — a level Woods Placky said feels like "you're in a swimming pool" and "the atmosphere is absorbing you."

If this heat were later in the summer, it might not be as dangerous because the human body can adjust to the seasonably warmer temperatures, but this one is coming within days of the solstice, Woods Placky and others said.

"It will be a shock to the system," she said.

Mick Ralphs, founding member of Bad Company and Mott the Hoople, dies at 81

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

Mick Ralphs, a guitarist, singer, songwriter and founding member of the classic British rock bands Bad Company and Mott the Hoople, has died.

A statement posted to Bad Company's official website Monday announced Ralphs' death at age 81. Ralphs had a stroke days after what would be his final performance with the band at London's O2 Arena in 2016, and had been bedridden ever since, the statement said. No further details on the circumstances of his death were provided.

Ralphs is set to become a member of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame as a member of Bad Company in November.

"Our Mick has passed, my heart just hit the ground," Bad Company singer Paul Rodgers said in a statement. "He has left us with exceptional songs and memories. He was my friend, my songwriting partner, an amazing and versatile guitarist who had the greatest sense of humour."

Ralphs wrote the 1970's song "Ready for Love" for Mott the Hoople, later revamped for Bad Company's 1974 debut album, which also included the Ralphs-penned hit "Can't Get Enough." He co-wrote Bad Company's 1975 classic "Feel Like Makin' Love" with Rodgers.

Born in Stoke Lacy, Herefordshire, England, Ralphs began playing blues guitar as a teenager, and in his early 20s in 1966, he co-founded the Doc Thomas Group. In 1969, the band would become Mott the Hoople, a name taken from the title and title character of a 1966 novel by Willard Manus.

The group's self-titled first album, recorded in a week, won a cult following, but the two that followed were critical and financial flops. They finally found popular success and became glam-rock giants with the 1972 David Bowie-penned-and-produced song "All the Young Dudes." But Ralphs felt creatively cramped in the band led by singer-songwriter Ian Hunter and left in 1973.

He would soon form Bad Company with Rodgers, a singer who had left his own band, Free.

The two had intended only to write songs together, and possibly to make a one-off album as a project. But when Free drummer Simon Kirke asked to sit in, they realized they were nearly a proper group already and went seeking a bassist. They found him in former King Crimson member Boz Burrell.

"We didn't actually plan to have a band," Ralphs said in a 2015 interview with Gibson Guitars. "It was all kind of accidental I suppose. Lucky, really."

Kirke said in a statement Monday that Ralphs was "a dear friend, a wonderful songwriter, and an exceptional guitarist. We will miss him deeply."

Bad Company found immediate success. its albums were full of radio-ready anthems, and its live sound was perfectly suited to the 1970s height of arena rock.

Their self-titled debut album went to No. 1 on Billboard's album chart. And Ralphs' "Can't Get Enough" — often mistakenly called "Can't Get Enough of Your Love" because of its chorus lyrics — would be their biggest hit single, peaking at No. 5 on the Billboard Hot 100.

"We actually did the whole thing in one take live," Ralphs said in the Gibson interview. "It wasn't perfect,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 46 of 63

but we just said, 'Yeah, that's great, it's going to capture the moment.' That's what I like to do in recording. It doesn't have to be perfect as long as it captures the moment. That's what it's all about."

Bad Company's 1975 follow-up, "Straight Shooter," was also a hit, going to No. 3 on album charts in both the Billboard Hot 100 in the U.S. and the UK Albums Chart.

Its opening track, "Good Lovin' Gone Bad," written by Ralphs, was a modest hit, and the song that followed it, "Feel Like Makin' Love," was a big one that would remain in rotation on classic rock radio for decades.

The band's statement says Ralphs is survived by "the love of his life," his wife Susie Chavasse, along with two children, three step-children and "beloved bandmates" Rodgers and Kirke.

"Our last conversation a few days ago we shared a laugh," Rodgers said. "But it won't be our last."

Federal Reserve's Bowman says rate cut should be on table in July

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve governor Michelle Bowman on Monday said the central bank should consider cutting its key interest rate as soon as its next meeting in July, underscoring deep divisions among Fed officials as they endure sharp criticism from the White House.

Bowman said that President Donald Trump's tariffs have so far not caused the jump in inflation that many economists feared, and any upcoming increase in prices would likely be just a one-time rise.

"It is likely that the impact of tariffs on inflation may take longer, be more delayed, and have a smaller effect than initially expected," Bowman said in a speech Monday in Prague. "Should inflation pressures remain contained, I would support lowering the policy rate as soon as our next meeting," which is scheduled for July 29-30.

Bowman, who was appointed to the Fed's board of governors by Donald Trump in 2018, is the second high-profile official to express support for a potential July cut in as many days. On Friday, Christopher Waller, also a Trump appointee to the Fed's board, said in a television interview that the Fed should consider cutting borrowing costs next month.

The blunt calls for rate cuts by Waller and Bowman differ from Fed Chair Jerome Powell's suggestion in a news conference last week that the central bank would monitor the economy over the summer and see how inflation responded to tariffs before deciding whether to reduce borrowing costs.

The comments arrive as Trump has repeatedly criticized Powell for not cutting rates, calling the Fed chair a "numbskull" and a "fool" for not doing so, raising concerns about the Fed's independence from politics. The president claims Fed cuts would reduce the government's borrowing costs, though the rates the government pays are mostly set by market forces, not the Fed.

Bowman appeared particularly dismissive toward the threat of tariffs, which many economists say could slow growth, particularly if companies absorb the cost of the duties rather than passing them on to consumers. Doing so would cut their profit margins, which would reduce their ability to hire and invest in new business.

"Small and one-off price increases this year should translate only into a small drag on real activity," Bowman said. "I also expect that less restrictive regulations, lower business taxes, and a more friendly business environment will likely boost supply and largely offset any negative effects on economic activity and prices."

When the Fed lowers the short-term interest rate it controls, it often reduces borrowing costs for mortgages, auto loans, and business loans. Yet sometimes financial markets keep longer-term rates higher: The Fed cut its rate a full percentage point last year, to about 4.3%, but mortgage rates only declined slightly.

On Friday, Waller told CNBC that with inflation remaining tame and the economy potentially slowing, the Fed should consider a rate cut next month. He pointed to rising unemployment among recent college graduates as a sign of possible weakening in the economy, and said it was better to cut before the labor market noticeably worsened.

"I'm all in favor of saying maybe we should start thinking about cutting the policy rate at the next meeting, because we don't want to wait until the job market tanks before we start cutting," Waller said.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 47 of 63

Still, at last week's Fed meeting, seven of the 19 officials who participate in the central bank's interest-rate decisions supported keeping rates unchanged for the rest of this year, and two penciled in just one cut.

Inflation has steadily cooled this year despite widespread concerns among economists that Trump's tariffs would boost prices. The consumer price index ticked up just 0.1% from April to May, the government said last week, a sign that price pressures are muted. Prices for some goods rose last month, but the cost for many services such as air fares and hotels fell, offsetting any tariff impact.

Compared with a year ago, prices rose 2.4% in May, up from 2.3% in April.

Trump has slapped a 10% duty on all imports, along with an additional 30% levy on goods from China, 50% on steel and aluminum, and 25% on autos.

Still, many economists say it is likely that tariffs could push inflation higher in the coming months. Fed Chair Jerome Powell suggested at a news conference last week that the central bank wants to closely monitor how inflation evolves over the next few months before deciding whether to cut rates.

Also Friday, Mary Daly, president of the Fed's San Francisco branch, said on CNBC that she looked "more to the fall" as an appropriate time to cut rates.

Stocks rally and oil tumbles as Wall Street hopes for a limited retaliation after US strikes on Iran

By STAN CHOE, ELAINE KURTENBACH and BERNARD CONDON AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks rallied, and the price of oil tumbled Monday on hopes that Iran will not disrupt the global flow of crude, something that would hurt economies worldwide but also its own, following the United States' bunker-busting entry into its war with Israel.

The S&P 500 climbed 1%, coming off a week where stock prices had jumped up and down on worries about the conflict potentially escalating. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 374 points, or 0.9%, and the Nasdaq composite gained 0.9%.

The price of oil initially jumped 6% after trading began Sunday night, a signal of rising worries as investors got their first chance to react to the U.S. bombings. But it quickly erased all those gains and swung to a sharp loss as the focus shifted from what the U.S. military did to how Iran would react.

By late Monday, the price of a barrel of benchmark U.S. oil had dropped 7.2% to settle at \$68.51 after briefly topping \$78. That brought it nearly all the way back to where it was before the fighting began over a week ago, when it was sitting just above \$68.

The losses accelerated sharply after Iran announced a missile attack on Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, which the U.S. military uses. Iran said it matched the number of bombs dropped by the United States on Iranian nuclear sites this past weekend, which could be a signal of a desire to deescalate the conflict.

Perhaps most importantly for financial markets, Iran's retaliation did not seem to target the flow of oil. The fear throughout the Israel-Iran war has been that it could squeeze the world's supply of oil, which would pump up prices for it, gasoline and other products refined from crude.

Iran is a major producer of crude, and it could also try to block the Strait of Hormuz off its coast, through which 20% of the world's daily oil needs passes on ships.

Several analysts said Iran would likely not close the waterway because Iran itself uses the strait to move its own crude, mostly to China, and it needs the revenue made from such sales of oil.

"It's a scorched earth possibility, a Sherman-burning-Atlanta move," said Tom Kloza, chief market analyst at Turner Mason & Co. "It's not probable."

Neil Newman, managing director of Atris Advisory Japan, said hope remains that the Israel-Iran war could be a short conflict, with the thinking being "the one big hit by the Americans will be effective and then we'll get back to sort of business as usual, in which case there is no need for an immediate, panicky type of reaction."

Of course, not everyone is sure about Iran's next move.

Andy Lipow, a Houston analyst covering oil markets for 45 years, said countries are not always rational actors and that he wouldn't be surprised if Tehran lashed out for political or emotional reasons.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 48 of 63

"If the Strait of Hormuz was completely shut down, oil prices would rise to \$120 to \$130 a barrel," said Lipow.

"It would mean higher prices for all those goods transported by truck, and it would be more difficult for the Fed to lower interest rates."

The Federal Reserve has been hesitant to cut interest rates this year because it's waiting to see how much President Donald Trump's tariffs will hurt the economy and raise inflation.

Inflation has remained relatively tame recently, but a rise in oil and gasoline prices would put upward pressure on it. That in turn could keep the Fed on hold because cuts to rates can fan inflation higher, along with giving the economy a boost.

In the bond market, Treasury yields eased after Fed Gov. Michelle Bowman said she would support cutting rates at the Fed's next meeting in just a month, as long as "inflation pressures remain contained."

The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 4.33% from 4.38% late Friday. The two-year Treasury yield, which more closely tracks expectations for the Fed, dropped to 3.84% from 3.90%.

On Wall Street, Elon Musk's Tesla was the single strongest force pushing the S&P 500 higher after jumping 8.2%. The electric-vehicle company began a test run on Sunday of a small squad of self-driving cabs in Austin, Texas. It's something that Musk has long been touting and integral to Tesla's stock price being as high as it is.

Hims & Hers Health tumbled 34.6% after Novo Nordisk said it will no longer work with the company to sell its popular Wegovy obesity drug. Novo Nordisk's stock that trades in the United States fell 5.5%.

All told, the S&P 500 rose 57.33 points to 6,025.17. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 374.96 to 42,581.78, and the Nasdaq composite gained 183.56 to 19,630.97.

In stock markets abroad, indexes fell modestly across Europe after finishing mixed in Asia. France's CAC 40 sank 0.7%, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.7% for two of the world's bigger moves.

Jury sees more sex videos as prosecutors wind down case against Sean 'Diddy' Combs

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — On the verge of resting their sex trafficking case against Sean "Diddy" Combs, federal prosecutors on Monday showed jurors more videos of the drug-fueled sex marathons at the center of allegations that could put the hip-hop mogul behind bars for life.

The clips, totaling about 20 minutes of footage of so-called "freak-offs" or "hotel nights," bookended a prosecution case that began seven weeks ago with jurors seeing security camera footage of Combs brutally beating his former longtime girlfriend Cassie at a Los Angeles hotel in 2016.

Prosecutors are set to rest their case on Tuesday once Combs' lawyers finish cross-examining the final government witness — Joseph Cerciello, a Homeland Security Investigations agent whose testimony included spending hours reading aloud text message exchanges, some of which involved Combs or other people in his orbit.

As they questioned Cerciello, Combs' lawyers played excerpts from the videos, which were shown only to the jury and the parties — not reporters or public observers of the trial — because of their graphic nature.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Maurene Comey sometimes referred to the mostly 1- or 2-minute clips filmed by Combs as "explicit" videos, a signal for jurors to put on headsets that enabled them to hear and view the recordings without them being seen or heard by spectators in the Manhattan courtroom.

Prosecutors have cited the drug-fueled multiday events as evidence of sex trafficking and racketeering conspiracy, saying Combs relied on employees, associates and his business accounts to fly male sex workers to Miami, Los Angeles, Las Vegas and New York, where his staff set up hotel rooms for the encounters and cleaned up afterward.

Combs, 55, has pleaded not guilty. He's been active in his defense, writing notes to his attorneys and sometimes influencing when they stop questioning witnesses.

Last week, prosecutors showed jurors about 2 minutes of footage from 2012 and 2014 involving Cassie,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 49 of 63

a male sex worker and Combs. Cassie, an R&B singer whose real name is Casandra Ventura, earlier testified that she participated in hundreds of the "freak-off" events. She and Combs were in a relationship from 2007 until 2018.

Cassie sued Combs in 2023, alleging years of abuse. He settled within hours, and dozens of similar lawsuits followed.

The Associated Press doesn't generally identify people who say they are victims of sexual abuse unless they come forward publicly, as Cassie has done.

Defense lawyers last week showed the jury about 18 minutes of video clips from the sex performances involving Cassie after a lawyer said in opening statements that the videos prove sexual activity was consensual and not evidence of a crime.

On Monday, prosecutors aired nearly 20 minutes of recordings from 2021 and 2022 of a single mother who was identified only by the pseudonym "Jane," male sex workers and Combs. Jane testified earlier in the trial for six days that she was romantically involved with Combs from 2021 until his September arrest at a New York hotel.

Cerciello, the federal agent, testified that dozens of the recordings from late 2021 until last August lasted many hours. Comey finished questioning Cerciello in the early afternoon on Monday. After a cross-examination by the defense, the prosecution was expected to rest.

Closing arguments were tentatively scheduled for Thursday after what was expected to be a brief defense presentation.

A pastor says God and a heroic security team prevented a mass shooting at his Detroit-area church

By ED WHITE and HOLLY RAMER Associated Press

WAYNE, Mich. (AP) — A pastor said Monday that the "hand of God" prevented a mass shooting at his Detroit-area church when an armed man was struck by a pickup truck and fatally shot by security staff before he could enter and attack more than 100 people.

On Monday, a day after the thwarted attack, the leader of CrossPointe Community Church in Wayne praised the actions of the security team, which has been in place for more than 10 years. Pastor Bobby Kelly said he had met the gunman three times in the past.

"I can't say for sure what was in his heart or in his mind because he's never threatened me in any way," Kelly told The Associated Press. "This young man was definitely struggling mentally. He thought he was hearing from God. We had some conversations about that."

Children from the church's vacation Bible school were leading Sunday's worship and were finishing a song when the congregation heard gunfire outside. Kelly, who was poised to start his sermon, initially thought the noise was coming from a construction crew.

A member of the security team rushed in and told everyone to get out. A livestream video shows people carrying children or directing them to get down and move away.

Kelly said a church member arriving late had spotted Brian Browning driving recklessly and called out to the gunman as he exited his car wearing a tactical vest and carrying a rifle and a handgun. The church member struck him with his pickup truck.

Browning, 31, began firing as he approached the church, striking one person in the leg. At least two staff members shot him, Wayne police Chief Ryan Strong said.

"He is a hero," Kelly said of the pickup driver. "I think that was the Lord leading him to do that. He hit this individual with his car, drove right on the grass because he was shooting at the building at the time. And that certainly helped the team to be able to respond."

Browning did not have any previous contacts with police but may have been suffering a mental health crisis, police said.

The "heroic actions of the church's staff members" saved many lives, Strong said Sunday night.

Wayne is about 25 miles (40 kilometers) west of Detroit. Police found additional rifles, handguns and a

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 50 of 63

large amount of ammunition during a search of Browning's house nearby in Romulus.

Browning's mother occasionally attended the church services but was not there on Sunday. The pastor said he spoke to her after the shooting.

"To console her, to let her know that she shouldn't feel guilty about his actions ... and that we still are there for her as well," Kelly said. "She is a grieving mom right now because of this tragedy."

Dustin Fuoco was managing the church audio equipment. When the congregation dashed for the doors — "instant panic" — he anxiously looked for his wife and son and found them safe outside in a wooded area.

"It sounded like a jackhammer," Fuoco said of the shots. "Twenty seconds later, we ended up hearing that same round of 10 shots. And that's when the realization sunk in that this was a shooter."

The pastor said the church had a security team even before he arrived in 2016, introduced by the previous church leadership in response to shootings that had happened elsewhere.

"Most people would never even know if they came to our church," Kelly said. "Some that are armed and some that are not. But they are trained."

He had intended to preach about God's "hand of deliverance" and His ability to protect. In drawing up the church calendar, Kelly had planned to have two outdoor services in June but months ago decided only on one.

"We weren't outside yesterday when we would have been," he said. "We were definitely protected by the hand of God, there is no question about it."

As Trump floats regime change in Iran, past US attempts to remake the Middle East may offer warnings

By JOSEPH KRAUSS and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — As President Donald Trump floats the idea of "regime change" in Tehran, previous U.S. attempts to remake the Middle East by force over the decades offer stark warnings about the possibility of a deepening involvement in the Iran-Israeli conflict.

"If the current Iranian Regime is unable to MAKE IRAN GREAT AGAIN, why wouldn't there be a Regime change???" Trump posted on his social media site over the weekend. The came after the U.S. bombed Iran's nuclear sites but before that country retaliated by firing its own missiles at a U.S. base in Qatar.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt on Monday insisted that Trump, who spent years railing against "forever wars" and pushing an "America first" world view, had not committed a political about-face.

"The president's posture and our military posture has not changed," she said, suggesting that a more aggressive approach might be necessary if Iran "refuses to give up their nuclear program or engage in talks."

Leavitt also suggested that a new government in Iran could come about after its people stage a revolt — not necessarily requiring direct U.S. intervention.

"If they refuse to engage in diplomacy moving forward, why shouldn't the Iranian people rise up," she asked.

That's a perilous path that other U.S. administrations have taken. And it's a long way from Trump's past dismissal of "stupid, endless wars," and his scoffing at the idea of nation-building championed by his Republican predecessors — including in Afghanistan and Iraq, where the U.S. helped overthrow governments.

Some lessons learned from previous conflicts:

Initial success is often fleeting

U.S. special forces and Afghan allies drove the Taliban from power and chased Osama bin Laden into Pakistan within months of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. American tanks rolled into Baghdad weeks after the 2003 invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

But then, both wars went on for years.

The Taliban waged a tenacious, two-decade insurgency and swept back into power as the U.S. beat a chaotic retreat in 2021. The overthrow of Saddam plunged Iraq into chaos, with Sunni insurgents and Shiite militias battling each other and U.S. forces.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 51 of 63

Israel has so far largely succeeded in taking out Iran's air defenses and ballistic missiles and the U.S. strikes on three sites with missiles and 30,000-pound (13,600-kilogram) bunker-buster bombs has wrecked its nuclear program, Trump says. But that still potentially leaves hundreds of thousands in the military, the Revolutionary Guard and forces known as the Basij, who played a key role in quashing waves of anti-government protests in recent years.

Ground forces are key — but don't guarantee success

Airstrikes have never been enough on their own.

Take, for example, Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi. His forces withstood a seven-month NATO air campaign in 2011 before rebels fighting city by city eventually cornered and killed him.

There are currently no insurgent groups in Iran capable of taking on the Revolutionary Guard, and it's hard to imagine Israeli or U.S. forces launching a ground invasion of a mountainous country of some 80 million people that is about four times as big as Iraq.

A split in Iran's own security forces would furnish a ready-made insurgency, but it would also likely tip the country into civil war.

There's also the question of how ordinary Iranians would respond.

Protests in recent years show that many Iranians believe their government is corrupt and repressive, and would welcome its demise. But the last time a foreign power attacked Iran — the Iraqi invasion of 1980 — people rallied around the flag.

At the moment, many appear to be lying low or leaving the capital.

Be wary of exiled opposition groups

Some of the biggest cheerleaders for the U.S. invasion of Iraq were exiled opposition figures, many of whom had left the country decades before. When they returned, essentially on the back of U.S. tanks, they were marginalized by local armed groups more loyal to Iran.

There are several large Iranian opposition groups based abroad. But they are not united and it's unclear how much support any of them has inside the country.

The closest thing to a unifying opposition figure is Reza Pahlavi, the son of the shah who was overthrown in the 1979 Islamic Revolution that brought the theocracy to power. But many Iranians have bitter memories of repression under the shah, and others might reject Pahlavi over his outreach to Israel, especially if he tries to ride to power on the back of a foreign invasion.

Chaos is practically guaranteed

In Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya — and in Syria and Yemen after their 2011 uprisings — a familiar pattern emerged when governments were overthrown or seriously weakened.

Armed groups emerged with competing agendas. Neighboring countries backed local proxies. Weapons flowed in and large numbers of civilians fled. The fighting in some places boiled over into full-blown civil war, and ever more violent extremist groups sprouted from the chaos.

When it was all over, Saddam had been replaced by a corrupt and often dysfunctional government at least as friendly to Iran as it was to the United States. Gadhafi was replaced by myriad militias, many allied with foreign powers. The Taliban were replaced by the Taliban.

Europe scrambles to revive diplomacy after the US strikes Iran's nuclear sites

By JILL LAWLESS and ELLA JOYNER Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — European nations worked to keep diplomatic efforts to curb the Israel-Iran war alive as the two countries traded strikes following the United States' weekend attack on Iran's nuclear program, followed by a retaliatory Iranian missile strike Monday on a U.S. base in Qatar.

Calls for Tehran to enter talks with Washington appeared to fall on deaf ears as it reached out to ally Russia for support instead.

The crisis topped the agenda for European Union foreign ministers meeting Monday in Brussels, where

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 52 of 63

diplomats agonized about the potential for Iranian retaliation to spark a wider war and global economic instability.

Iran launched missile attacks Monday on a U.S. military base in Qatar. Qatar condemned the attack on Al Udeid Air Base, and said it successfully intercepted the short- and medium-range ballistic missiles.

Before that attack, EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said "the concerns of retaliation and this war escalating are huge."

Kallas said any attempt by Iran to close the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for global shipping, would be "extremely dangerous and not good for anybody."

Europe seeks more talks

Along with the EU, the "E3" of Britain, France and Germany have led efforts to find a diplomatic solution, holding a tense seven-hour meeting in Geneva on Friday with Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. A day after those talks ended with a vague promise to "meet again in the future," U.S. bombers struck three Iranian nuclear and military sites.

No further E3 talks with Iran are currently planned, a European diplomatic official said on condition of anonymity to discuss the negotiations.

Still, U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy urged Iran to meet the E3 again, and to open negotiations with the United States. Planned U.S.-Iran talks in Oman were scuttled after Israel began attacking Iran's nuclear facilities on June 13. Iran has since ruled out negotiating while it is under attack.

"Take the off-ramp, dial this thing down and negotiate with the United States immediately and seriously," said Lammy, who spoke to both Araghchi and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Sunday.

German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul said Europe had a role to play, but that "a real precondition for a settlement to the conflict is that Iran be ready to negotiate directly with the U.S."

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani told reporters in Brussels that he was proposing a meeting between the United States and Iran in Rome.

Iran's envoy visits Russia

It was Moscow that Iran reached out to Monday, though, sending Araghchi to meet President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin. Putin condemned the United States' "unprovoked aggression" against Iran and said Russia would help the Iranian people.

Putin said he saw the visit as a chance to explore "how we can get out of today's situation." Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia had offered to mediate.

European diplomatic efforts were complicated by a lack of foreknowledge of the Trump administration's moves. Some countries had no advance notice of the strikes. Britain was notified, but only shortly before bombs fell.

Another hurdle was Trump's post on social media late Sunday musing about the potential for "regime change" in Iran, despite U.S. officials' insistence that Washington is not seeking to change the government in Tehran.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot stressed Monday that "we reject all attempts to organize a change of regime by force."

"It would be illusory and dangerous to think that such a change can be provoked through force and bombs," he said.

Iran insists its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only, and U.S. intelligence agencies have assessed that Tehran is not actively pursuing a bomb. However, Trump and Israeli leaders have argued that Iran could quickly assemble a nuclear weapon, making it an imminent threat.

Mixed emotions among US allies

The U.S. strikes have brought mixed emotions in European capitals. Amid alarm at the potential for a wider war and calls for de-escalation, some American allies expressed relief that Iran's nuclear program had been set back.

"We can't pretend that the prevention of Iran getting nuclear weapons isn't a good thing for this country. But we're prioritizing diplomacy as the way forward," said Tom Wells, a spokesman for British leader Starmer. "The prime minister's priority is getting parties back around the table to negotiate a lasting settlement."

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, whose country is a particularly staunch ally of Israel, said he saw “no reason to criticize what Israel began a week ago, and also no reason to criticize what America did last weekend.”

He acknowledged “it is not without risk, but leaving things the way they were was also not an option.”

Merz said he was “somewhat optimistic” that the conflict would not widen. He said Iran’s response so far has been far short “of what we had to fear,” and that Iran’s regional proxies had shown “relatively little” reaction so far.

But he cautioned that “it doesn’t have to stay that way.”

GOP tax bill would ease regulations on gun silencers and some rifles and shotguns

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The massive tax and spending cuts package that President Donald Trump wants on his desk by July 4 would loosen regulations on gun silencers and certain types of rifles and shotguns, advancing a longtime priority of the gun industry as Republican leaders in the House and Senate try to win enough votes to pass the bill.

The guns provision was first requested in the House by Georgia Rep. Andrew Clyde, a Republican gun store owner who had initially opposed the larger tax package. The House bill would remove silencers — called “suppressors” by the gun industry — from a 1930s law that regulates firearms that are considered the most dangerous, eliminating a \$200 tax while removing a layer of background checks.

The Senate kept the provision on silencers in its version of the bill and expanded upon it, adding short-barreled, or sawed-off, rifles and shotguns.

Republicans who have long supported the changes, along with the gun industry, say the tax infringes on Second Amendment rights. They say silencers are mostly used by hunters and target shooters for sport.

“Burdensome regulations and unconstitutional taxes shouldn’t stand in the way of protecting American gun owners’ hearing,” said Clyde, who owns two gun stores in Georgia and often wears a pin shaped like an assault rifle on his suit lapel.

Democrats are fighting to stop the provision, which was unveiled days after two Minnesota state legislators were shot in their homes, as the bill speeds through the Senate. They argue that loosening regulations on silencers could make it easier for criminals and active shooters to conceal their weapons.

“Parents don’t want silencers on their streets, police don’t want silencers on their streets,” said Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

The gun language has broad support among Republicans and has received little attention as House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., and Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., work to settle differences within the party on cuts to Medicaid and energy tax credits, among other issues. But it is just one of hundreds of policy and spending items included to entice members to vote for the legislation that could have broad implications if the bill is enacted within weeks, as Trump wants.

Inclusion of the provision is also a sharp turn from the climate in Washington just three years ago when Democrats, like Republicans now, controlled Congress and the White House and pushed through bipartisan gun legislation. The bill increased background checks for some buyers under the age of 21, made it easier to take firearms from potentially dangerous people and sent millions of dollars to mental health services in schools.

Passed in the summer of 2022, just weeks after the shooting of 19 children and two adults at a school in Uvalde, Texas, it was the most significant legislative response to gun violence in decades.

Three years later, as they try to take advantage of their consolidated power in Washington, Republicans are packing as many of their longtime priorities as possible, including the gun legislation, into the massive, wide-ranging bill that Trump has called “beautiful.”

“I’m glad the Senate is joining the House to stand up for the Second Amendment and our Constitution, and I will continue to fight for these priorities as the Senate works to pass President Trump’s One Big

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 54 of 63

Beautiful Bill,” said Texas Sen. John Cornyn, who was one of the lead negotiators on the bipartisan gun bill in 2022 but is now facing a primary challenge from the right in his bid for reelection next year.

If the gun provisions remain in the larger legislation and it is passed, silencers and the short-barrel rifles and shotguns would lose an extra layer of regulation that they are subject to under the National Firearms Act, passed in the 1930s in response to concerns about mafia violence. They would still be subject to the same regulations that apply to most other guns — and that includes possible loopholes that allow some gun buyers to avoid background checks when guns are sold privately or online.

Larry Keane of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, who supports the legislation, says changes are aimed at helping target shooters and hunters protect their hearing. He argues that the use of silencers in violent crimes is rare. “All it’s ever intended to do is to reduce the report of the firearm to hearing safe levels,” Keane says.

Speaking on the floor before the bill passed the House, Rep. Clyde said the bill restores Second Amendment rights from “over 90 years of draconian taxes.” Clyde said Johnson included his legislation in the larger bill “with the purest of motive.”

“Who asked for it? I asked,” said Clyde, who ultimately voted for the bill after the gun silencer provision was added.

Clyde was responding to Rep. Maxwell Frost, a 28-year-old Florida Democrat, who went to the floor and demanded to know who was responsible for the gun provision. Frost, who was a gun-control activist before being elected to Congress, called himself a member of the “mass shooting generation” and said the bill would help “gun manufacturers make more money off the death of children and our people.”

Among other concerns, control advocates say less regulation for silencers could make it harder for law enforcement to stop an active shooter.

“There’s a reason silencers have been regulated for nearly a century: They make it much harder for law enforcement and bystanders to react quickly to gunshots,” said John Feinblatt, president of Everytown for Gun Safety.

Schumer and other Democrats are trying to convince the Senate parliamentarian to drop the language as she reviews the bill for policy provisions that aren’t budget-related.

“Senate Democrats will fight this provision at the parliamentary level and every other level with everything we’ve got,” Schumer said earlier this month.

The number of abortions kept rising in 2024 because of telehealth prescriptions, report finds

By GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

The number of abortions in the U.S. rose again in 2024, with women continuing to find ways to get them despite bans and restrictions in many states, according to a report out Monday.

The latest report from the WeCount project of the Society of Family Planning, which supports abortion access, was released a day before the third anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling that overturned Roe v. Wade and ended nearly 50 years of legal abortion nationally for most of pregnancy.

Currently, 12 states are enforcing bans on abortion at all stages of pregnancy, with limited exceptions, and four have bans that kick in at or about six weeks into pregnancy — often before women realize they are pregnant.

While the total number of abortions has risen gradually over those three years, the number has dropped to near zero in some states, while abortions using pills obtained through telehealth appointments have become more common in nearly all states.

Pills are used in the majority of abortions and are also prescribed in person.

The overall number of abortions has risen, but it is below historic highs

The latest survey, released Monday, tallied about 1.1 million abortions nationally last year, or about 95,000 a month. That is up from about 88,000 monthly in 2023 and 80,000 a month between April and December of 2022. WeCount began after Roe was overturned, and the 2022 numbers don’t include January through

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 55 of 63

March, when abortions are traditionally at their highest.

The number is still well below the historic peak in the U.S. of nearly 1.6 million a year in the late 1990s. The Society of Family Planning relies primarily on surveys of abortion providers and uses estimates.

Pills prescribed by telehealth now account for one-fourth of US abortions

WeCount found that in the months before the Dobbs ruling was handed down, about 1 in 20 abortions was accessed by telehealth.

But during the last three months of 2024, it was up to 1 in 4.

The biggest jump over that time came in the middle of 2023, when laws in some Democratic-controlled states took effect with provisions intended to protect medical professionals who use telehealth to prescribe pills to patients in states where abortion is banned or where there are laws restricting telehealth abortion.

WeCount found that about half of the telehealth abortions last year were facilitated by the shield laws. The number of telehealth abortions also grew for those in states without bans.

WeCount is the only nationwide public source of information about the pills prescribed to women in states with bans. One key caveat is that it is not clear how many of the prescriptions result in abortion. Some women may change their minds, access in-person abortion or be seeking pills to save for future use.

The WeCount data could help explain data from a separate survey from the Guttmacher Institute, which found the number of people crossing state lines for abortion declined last year.

Anti-abortion efforts are focused on pills

Anti-abortion efforts are zeroing in on pills, along with barring federal funds for Planned Parenthood and undoing ballot measures that provided for abortion access.

Three states have sued to try to get courts to limit telehealth prescriptions of mifepristone, one of the two drugs usually used in combination for medication abortions. President Donald Trump's administration last month told a judge it does not believe the states have legal standing to make that case.

The U.S. Supreme Court last year found that anti-abortion doctors and their organizations didn't have standing, either.

Meanwhile, officials in Louisiana are using criminal laws, and there is an effort in Texas to use civil penalties against a New York doctor accused of prescribing abortion pills to women in their states. Louisiana lawmakers have also sent the governor a bill to further restrict access to the pills.

SBA Pro-Life America President Marjorie Dannenfelser said on a call with reporters Monday that it's a priority for her group to keep pushing U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and other officials to investigate the safety of abortion pills — and to require that they be dispensed only in person.

Dutch government says pro-Russian hackers target municipalities linked to this week's NATO summit

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Pro-Russian hackers launched a series of denial-of-service attacks Monday on several municipalities and organizations linked to a NATO summit this week in the Netherlands, the Dutch government announced.

The National Cybersecurity Center said in a statement that many of the attacks were claimed by a pro-Russian hackers' group known as NoName057(16) "and appear to have a pro-Russian ideological motive." It did not elaborate.

The cybersecurity center said it was investigating the attacks that flood a site with data in order to overwhelm it and knock it offline, and was in contact with "national and international partners."

Raoul Rozestraten, a spokesman for the municipality in The Hague, the Dutch city hosting the summit Tuesday and Wednesday, said the attacks hit municipalities around the country.

"We noticed more traffic on the website of some of our service providers," he told The Associated Press. "As of now, everything in The Hague is working normally."

The government had launched a major security operation, named "Orange Shield," around the NATO summit.

London's secret tunnels that helped inspire James Bond will open to the public, complete with a bar

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — There is a history-rich part of London that few people have seen, where the city braced for the Blitz, James Bond's creator got inspiration and secret Cold War messages passed between Washington and Moscow.

It's a network of tunnels 100 feet (30 meters) below the streets that was secret for decades — but could be the city's next big tourist destination. Local authorities have approved plans to fill the 90,000 square-foot (8,400 square-meter) site with an intelligence museum, an interactive World War II memorial and one of the world's deepest underground bars.

"It's an amazing space, an amazing city," said Angus Murray, chief executive of The London Tunnels, as subway trains rattled overhead. "And I think it tells a wonderful story."

A vast bomb shelter

The tunnels lie directly below London Underground's Central Line in the city's Holborn area. Work to dig them began in secret in 1940, when Britain feared invasion by Nazi Germany. They were designed to shelter up to 8,000 people in a pair of parallel tunnels 16½ feet (5 meters) wide and 1,300 feet (400 meters) long.

The tunnels were never used for that purpose; by the time they were finished in 1942 the worst of the Blitz was over, and Underground bosses had opened up subway stations as air raid shelters for Londoners.

Instead, the tunnels became a government communications center and a base for the Special Operations Executive, a clandestine unit that sent agents — many of them women — on perilous sabotage missions in Nazi-occupied territory under orders from Prime Minister Winston Churchill to "set Europe ablaze."

A naval officer named Ian Fleming was a liaison officer to the SOE, and the subterranean HQ may have provided inspiration for the world of secret agent 007 that he went on to create.

"This truly is the Q Branch of James Bond," said Murray, referring to the thrillers' fictional MI6 quartermaster and gadget-maker.

After the war, more tunnels were added to the complex and the site became a secure telephone exchange. From the mid-1950s it was a terminus of the first trans-Atlantic undersea telephone cable. After the Cuban Missile Crisis brought the world to the brink of nuclear war in 1962, a "red telephone" hotline between the Pentagon and the Kremlin was established and ran through here.

Up to 200 people worked underground, bound to secrecy but with the compensation of an onsite canteen and bar. For a time, the site also housed a bunker to be used by the government in the event of nuclear war.

By the 1980s, technology had moved on and British Telecom moved out. The tunnels lay largely forgotten until BT sold them in 2023 to Murray's private equity-backed group.

Plans include a memorial to the more than 40,000 civilians killed by German bombing in the war, cultural exhibitions and a nightspot that Murray boasts will be "the deepest bar in the world in a city."

Secret wartime history

It also will house Britain's Military Intelligence Museum, which is currently tucked away on a military base north of London with limited public access. Museum bosses have agreed to move a collection covering more than 300 years of history to the tunnels, bringing a much higher profile for a story they believe needs to be told.

"It's not targeted at people who already have an interest in military topics," said the chair of the museum's board of trustees, who gave only his first name, Alistair, because of the museum's connection to Britain's armed forces.

"A heavy theme that will run through the new museum is that there are skills and tools that military intelligence has developed over years and centuries ... and the fundamental one is, how do you tell truth from lies?" he said. "That's a very big theme of now."

The museum also will flesh out the secret story of the Special Operations Executive. The museum's collection contains agent messages, supplies, weapons and sabotage equipment from the SOE's wartime adventures.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 57 of 63

"Most of the people that worked in SOE never talked about it, either at the time or afterwards, and many of the records have disappeared," Alistair said. "So a lot is known about SOE, but we don't know everything, and the chances are we will never know everything."

A unique attraction

For now, the tunnel entrance is through an unmarked door in an alley, and walking the cool, dim corridors brings the thrill of discovering a hidden corner of history. Within the thick steel and concrete walls are chunky old generators and telecoms equipment, a staff canteen with its kitchen still intact, and the bar, its 1960s orange and brown décor giving off retro "Austin Powers" vibes

Here and there are graffiti tags and a few items left by urban explorers who snuck in over the years, including a set of bowling pins with ball, and — incongruously — a bear costume.

London Tunnels aims to open in 2028, and to attract up to 4.2 million tourists a year. That may sound ambitious, but Murray says the site's mix of "history and heritage and novelty" makes it a unique draw.

"If you go home and say, 'I went to this really cool tunnel today,' then we're halfway there," he said. "If what's inside of it is even better, you're going to go 'Oh that's fantastic.'"

Game 7: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scores 29 points and Thunder beat Pacers 103-91 for NBA title

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Shai Gilgeous-Alexander walked off the court for the final time this season, collapsed into the arms of coach Mark Daigneault and finally smiled.

It was over.

The climb is complete. The rebuild is done. The Oklahoma City Thunder are champions.

The best team all season was the best team at the end, bringing the NBA title to Oklahoma City for the first time. Gilgeous-Alexander finished off his MVP season with 29 points and 12 assists, and the Thunder beat the Indiana Pacers — who lost Tyrese Haliburton to a serious leg injury in the opening minutes — 103-91 in Game 7 of the NBA Finals on Sunday night.

"It doesn't feel real," said Gilgeous-Alexander, the Finals MVP. "So many hours. So many moments. So many emotions. So many nights of disbelief. So many nights of belief. It's crazy to know that we're all here, but this group worked for it. This group put in the hours and we deserve this."

Jalen Williams scored 20 points and Chet Holmgren had 18 for the Thunder, who finished off a season for the ages. Oklahoma City won 84 games between the regular season and the playoffs, tying the 1996-97 Chicago Bulls for third most in any season.

Only Golden State (88 in 2016-17) and the Bulls (87 in 1995-96) won more.

It's the second championship for the franchise. The Seattle SuperSonics won the NBA title in 1979; the team was moved to Oklahoma City in 2008. There's nothing in the rafters in Oklahoma City to commemorate that title.

In October, a championship banner is finally coming. A Thunder banner.

"They behave like champions. They compete like champions," Daigneault said. "They root for each other's success, which is rare in professional sports. I've said it many times and now I'm going to say it one more time. They are an uncommon team and now they're champions."

The Pacers led 48-47 at the half even after losing Haliburton to what his father said was an Achilles tendon injury about seven minutes into the game. But they were outscored 34-20 in the third quarter as the Thunder built a 13-point lead and began to run away.

"Deflated, but proud of everything we've accomplished," Pacers guard TJ McConnell said.

Bennedict Mathurin had 24 points and 13 rebounds for Indiana, which still is waiting for its first NBA title. The Pacers — who were 10-15 after 25 games and were bidding to be the first team in NBA history to turn that bad of a start into a championship — had leads of 1-0 and 2-1 in the series, but they simply didn't have enough in the end.

Home teams improved to 16-4 in NBA Finals Game 7s. And the Thunder became the seventh champion

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 58 of 63

in the last seven seasons, a run of parity like none other in NBA history.

Pacers forward Pascal Siakam was part of the Toronto team that won in 2019, Thunder guard Alex Caruso was part of the Los Angeles Lakers team that won in the pandemic "bubble" in 2020, Milwaukee won in 2021, Golden State in 2022, Pacers forward Thomas Bryant and Denver prevailed in 2023, and Boston won last year's title.

And now, the Thunder get their turn. The youngest team to win a title in nearly a half-century has reached the NBA mountaintop.

The Thunder are the ninth franchise to win a title in NBA Commissioner Adam Silver's 12 seasons. His predecessor, David Stern, saw eight franchises win titles in his 30 seasons as commissioner.

"It really hurts on the one hand," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "On the other hand, this team has given all of Pacer Nation something to be very proud of."

The largest digital camera ever built has released its first shots of the universe

By ADITHI RAMAKRISHNAN AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The largest digital camera ever built released its first shots of the universe Monday — including colorful nebulae, stars and galaxies.

The Vera C. Rubin Observatory, located on a mountaintop in Chile, was built to take a deeper look at the night sky, covering hidden corners. Funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation and U.S. Department of Energy, it will survey the southern sky for the next 10 years.

The observatory's first look features the vibrant Trifid and Lagoon nebulae located thousands of light-years from Earth. A light-year is nearly 6 trillion miles. A gaggle of galaxies known as the Virgo Cluster were also captured, including two bright blue spirals.

The observatory hopes to image 20 billion galaxies and discover new asteroids and other celestial objects.

The effort is named after astronomer Vera Rubin, who offered the first tantalizing evidence that a mysterious force called dark matter might be lurking in the universe. Researchers hope the observatory's discerning camera may yield clues about this elusive entity along with another called dark energy.

Crushing it. What do you do with 4,000 hailstones that you collect while chasing storms

By SETH BORENSTEIN, BRITTANY PETERSON and CAROLYN KASTER Associated Press

LEVELLAND, Texas (AP) — Dozens of researchers are chasing, driving and running into storms to collect fresh hail, getting their car bodies and their own bodies dented in the name of science. They hope these hailstones will reveal secrets about storms, damage and maybe the air itself.

But what do you do with nearly 4,000 melting iceballs?

A lot.

Researchers in the first-of-its-kind Project ICECHIP to study hail are measuring the hailstones, weighing them, slicing them, crushing them, chilling them, driving them across several states, seeing what's inside of them and in some cases — which frankly is more about fun and curiosity — eating them.

The whole idea is to be "learning information about what the hailstone was doing when it was in the storm," said Northern Illinois University meteorology professor Victor Gensini, one of the team's lead scientists.

Calipers and crushers

It's pushing midnight on a Friday in a Texas Walmart parking lot, and at least 10 vans full of students and full-time scientists are gathering after several hours of rigorous storm chasing. Hailstones are in coolers in most of these vehicles, and now it's time to put them to the test.

Researchers use calipers to measure the width, in millimeters, of the hailstones, which are then weighed. So far after more than 13 storms, the biggest they found is 139 millimeters (5.5 inches), the size of a DVD.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 59 of 63

But on this night they are smaller than golf balls.

Once the measurements are recorded in a laptop, the fun starts in the back of a van with a shark-festooned beach blanket protecting the floor.

The hail is put on a vertical device's white holder. Jake Sorber, a meteorologist at the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, squeezes a hand grip about a foot above it and another white block comes crashing down, crushing the ice to smithereens. In the front of the van, Ian Giammanco, another IBHS meteorologist, records how much force it took to cause the destruction.

"That tells us about its strength," Giammanco said.

Different teams do this over and over, with the debris littering vans. It's all about trying to get good statistics on how strong the typical hailstone is. On this night, Gaimmanco and colleagues are finding the day's hail is unusually soft. It's surprising, but there's a good theory on what's happening.

"In hailstones we have layers. So we start off with an embryo, and then you've got different growth layers," said Central Michigan University scientist John Allen. "That white growth is what's called dry growth. So basically it's so cold that it's like super cold liquid water freezing on surface. ... All the gas gets trapped inside. So there's lots of air bubbles. They tend to make a weak stone."

But don't get used to it. Less cold air from climate change could conceivably mean harder hail in the future, but more research is needed to see if that's the case, Giammanco said.

"Damage from a hailstone is not just dependent on how fast and the exact amount of energy it has. It's how strong are these hailstones," Giammanco said. "So a really soft one is not actually going to damage your roof very much, especially an asphalt shingle roof. But a really strong one may crack and tear that asphalt shingle pretty easily."

How to collect a pristine hailstone

Mostly researchers grab hail to test after it falls, wearing gloves so as not to warm or taint the ice balls too much.

But to collect pristine hail and get it cold as soon as possible, there's SUMHO, a Super Mobile Hail Observatory. It's a chest-high metal funnel that catches hail and slides it directly down into a cooler. No contamination, no warming.

Most of these pristine hailstones go directly to a cold lab in Colorado, where they are sliced with a hot wire band saw. The different layers — like a tree's rings — will help scientists learn about the short but rapid growth of the ice in the storm, Gensini said.

Scientists will also figure out what's in the hail besides water. Past research has found fungi, bacteria, peat moss and microplastics, all of which helps researchers know a bit more about what's in the air that we don't see.

After weeks of collecting these ice balls, Central Michigan student Sam Baron sampled the fruit of his labors.

"It tastes like an ice cube," Baron said. "It's like the good ice that they serve at restaurants."

6 reported dead and 2 missing after a boat capsizes on Lake Tahoe in California

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif. (AP) — Six people were confirmed dead and two others were missing after a boat capsized on Lake Tahoe in California during a powerful weekend thunderstorm that whipped up high waves, officials said.

The U.S. Coast Guard and the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office responded Saturday afternoon to D.L. Bliss State Park following reports of 10 people in the water, officials said. Two people were rescued and taken to a hospital.

Winds of about 30 knots and swells of up to 8 feet (2.5 meters) were reported around the time the 27-foot (8-meter) gold Chris-Craft vessel flipped over near the lake's southwest edge, Coast Guard officials said.

Rescue workers and divers searched the area Saturday evening and resumed their search Sunday morn-

ing before the Coast Guard suspended its search.

Video obtained by KCRA-TV showed moored boats at a nearby marina crashing into one another amid strong gusts. The extent of the damage wasn't immediately known Sunday.

Golden State Warriors help transform lives of incarcerated men through coaching program

By JANIE McCAULEY AP Sports Writer

VACAVILLE, Calif. (AP) — One day last fall, Ray Woodfork found himself being challenged to a fight by a fellow inmate half his age on the grounds of Solano State Prison.

Woodfork would have been tempted not so long ago. The Golden State Warriors have helped turn him toward a different way of thinking.

This time, the once-aspiring college basketball player, who was serving as referee for the prison football league that day, immediately made it clear he had no interest in an altercation. Woodfork said he chose to walk away and return to his dorm.

He acknowledges had he fought there's no way he would now be part of a peer mentoring program or have a chance for the governor to review his case.

And Woodfork certainly wouldn't be a certified basketball coach either if adrenaline and anger had won out.

"I was just like, 'That's not who I am, that's not what I'm about,' and I walked away," Woodfork recalled. "It's hard to do, because the flesh wants to do that."

The incident happened before Week 5 of a six-week program run by youth coaches from the Warriors Basketball Academy as part of the Twinning Project that is teaching incarcerated men at Solano coaching skills and showing them there is the chance for meaningful transformation.

Woodfork successfully utilized a skill learned in the program: palms down.

With palms facing down, it allows someone to move forward and focus on the next moment or play, forgetting whatever trigger might be right in front of them or something that already happened.

Woodfork began writing rap lyrics about his experience with the Twinning Project, which started in the UK by pairing professional soccer teams like Arsenal and West Ham United of the Premier League with prisons to contribute in the rehabilitation process. U.S. clubs such as D.C. United, Angel City FC and Miami FC have become involved — and other NBA teams are showing interest.

"Golden State will be a hard act to follow," Twinning Project CEO Hilton Freund said.

"With my palms down, I calm down, next move is on them."

Several months later, Woodfork grabbed a mic and began rapping those very words in celebration as his 15 basketball teammates danced alongside him and hugged one another.

It's graduation day.

That means a stroll in front of the group to receive a certificate and Warriors jersey with each man's last name on back. The hope is these graduates will now use their skills to teach other incarcerated men not only how to coach but to be positive influences.

When Warriors academy coach Ben Clarfield circles up the group at midcourt to give the men and instructors a chance to provide feedback, there is a common theme.

The Twinning Project has provided these men a sense of self-worth and purpose, a break from the isolation of prison. Many of the participants expressed feeling loved and seen — often for the first time in years.

This has been about grace and forgiveness, inclusion and acceptance. Oftentimes, those ideas have had to be learned or re-learned — and the Twinning Project played a crucial role in that process.

"It reintroduced me to my love of basketball, that people on the outside haven't given up on us," former Fresno State student Jonquel Brooks said. "It's wanting to coach but not knowing how to coach, then now being given the tools to have the opportunity."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 61 of 63

Jeff Addiego, vice president of Warriors Basketball Academy, and his staff have also been changed by the outreach. They beamed and fought tears at the same time, overjoyed to see these men finding meaning in their new roles.

The way this program works, the Warriors players and coaches aren't participating as some of the European professionals are, though former Golden State big man Festus Ezeli has been a regular visitor.

"We've gotten to know each and every one of these guys. If one of these guys was anywhere else I would give him a hug the first time I saw him," Addiego said.

"It's amazing. We don't pry or ask them anything it, but what they've been willing to share with us, it's powerful stuff."

Woodfork's mentor, Viet Kim Le, took part in the second coaching cohort. He has observed the commitment by Woodfork to show remorse for his crime and better himself while serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole for murder.

"His beliefs have changed," Le said, "so he looks at life through a different lens."

"I don't react, I respond, I take a breath and I move on."

Spanning four hours each Tuesday, some of these men felt like actual basketball players again. They stepped into a changing area in the Solano gym and traded their prison blues for jerseys featuring the Warriors logo on front and Twinning Project on back before making their way to the court for drills like shooting, dribbling and defense. There was also mental training to find strategies for every situation they might encounter in prison or, for some perhaps eventually, life on the outside.

They backpedaled with extra self-confidence, they high-fived, dishing out good-natured trash talk here and there, but more than anything they cheered each other on — through every great shot or errant pass.

Many might never have mixed otherwise.

Community-building is a big part of it.

Freund launched his charitable foundation in 2018, and he and his wife attended the Feb. 11 graduation of the second group of 16 men at Solano receiving coaching certificates. He is thrilled the Warriors became involved.

Freund references a study from the University of Oxford published last year showing the program's "wholistic benefit" for the incarcerated leading to "better behavior, less propensity for violence, improved relationships amongst themselves and improved relationships with their prison officers."

"Making coaches out of convicts, we're taking over cities ... coaching with a passion, that's how we set the tone."

The palms-down approach is about having the power to choose a response. That message and other learning tools came from mental skills coach Graham Betchart, who works regularly with the UConn men's basketball team.

On his first drive to Solano, Betchart came up with the rhyme "let it go, give it back, next play I attack." He had no idea Woodfork would soon begin turning those words into rap.

"Inspiring to the world," Betchart said, "and it comes in a way that I've never seen anybody deliver it the way that he does. ... And everything he's saying is PG-13 but it's delivered in a way that's so powerful you don't even realize that you'd want your 9-year-old kid listening to this."

"I let it go and get it back, the next play, you know I'm going to attack."

Woodfork was arrested at age 20 for killing a man during an attempted robbery. He had expected to start playing college games in a summer tournament mere days later.

"So I was right there, right there," Woodfork shared.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 62 of 63

Now he is hopeful his hard work will be considered by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

A former gang member both outside and inside prison who once had dreams of playing in the NBA, Woodfork has trained to be a peer mentor — a program requiring he have five “clean” years without trouble in order to participate.

The Warriors’ program has filled a major void.

“That’s an understatement,” Woodfork said, “due to the fact my aspirations were to play in the NBA one day, as a kid that was my end all, be all, that was my identity. Basketball was everything.”

“It’s deeper than the game and that name on your shirt, it’s the Twinning Project, where real men put in work.”

It brings Addiego and the others to tears at times witnessing the progress — like Woodfork deciding not to fight that day.

“I talked myself off the ledge by speaking out loud about what happened,” said Woodfork, now working as a drug and alcohol counselor.

“This is an opportunity to show the world I’m not the person I was. It doesn’t define me. I feel like I’ve outgrown prison, I feel like a fish swimming upstream, a salmon.”

Today in History: June 24

Sally Ride completes historic space shuttle mission

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Tuesday, June 24, the 175th day of 2025. There are 190 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On June 24, 1983, the space shuttle Challenger — carrying America’s first woman in space, Sally Ride — coasted to a safe landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

Also on this date:

In 1509, Henry VIII was crowned king of England; his wife, Catherine of Aragon, was crowned queen consort.

In 1939, the Southeast Asian country of Siam changed its name to Thailand. (It reverted to Siam in 1945, then became Thailand once again in 1949.)

In 1948, Communist forces cut off all land and water routes between West Germany and West Berlin, prompting the Western allies to organize the Berlin Airlift.

In 1957, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Roth v. United States*, ruled in a 6-3 decision that obscene materials were not protected by the First Amendment.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon concluded a summit with the visiting leader of the Soviet Union, Leonid Brezhnev, who hailed the talks in an address on American television.

In 1992, the Supreme Court, in a 5-4 decision, strengthened its 30-year ban on officially sponsored worship in public schools, prohibiting prayer as a part of graduation ceremonies.

In 2010, in the first round of the Wimbledon Championships, American John Isner won the longest professional tennis match in history, defeating Nicolas Mahut of France 6-4, 3-6, 6-7, 7-6, 70-68; the match was played over the course of three days and lasted a total of 11 hours, 5 minutes.

In 2015, a federal judge formally sentenced Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev to death for the 2013 terror attacks. (A federal appeals court later threw out the sentence; the Supreme Court reinstated it.)

In 2018, women in Saudi Arabia were allowed behind the wheel for the first time as the world’s last remaining ban on female drivers was formally lifted.

In 2021, a 12-story condominium building collapsed in Surfside, Florida, killing 98 people.

In 2022, in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 to remove constitutional protections for abortion that had been in place since 1973’s *Roe v. Wade*.

Today’s Birthdays: Author Anita Desai is 88. Cinematographer Vittorio Storaro is 85. Actor Michele Lee

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 364 ~ 63 of 63

is 83. Actor-director Georg Stanford Brown is 82. Musician Mick Fleetwood is 78. Actor Peter Weller is 78. Golf Hall of Famer Juli Inkster is 65. Actor Iain Glen is 64. Musician Curt Smith (Tears for Fears) is 64. Mexican President Claudia Scheinbaum is 63. Singer Hope Sandoval (Mazzy Star) is 59. Actor Sherry Stringfield ("ER") is 58. Actor-producer Mindy Kaling is 46. Actor Minka Kelly is 45. Singer Solange Knowles is 39. Soccer player Lionel Messi is 38. Actor Beanie Feldstein is 32. Actor Harris Dickinson is 29.