

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 1 of 66

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
- [4- Names Released in Charles Mix County Fatal Crash](#)
- [4- Names Released in Aurora County Fatal Crash](#)
- [5- Clark named to University of North Dakota Spring 2025 President's Roll of Honor](#)
- [5- SD News Watch Fact Brief: Does South Dakota set its state minimum wage by the federal standard?](#)
- [6- Groton Jr. Teeners 14U Defeated By Smittys 13/14](#)
- [6- Groton Jr. Teeners 14U Falls To Smittys 13/14](#)
- [7- Back to Doland Ad](#)
- [8- Groton Legion Post 39 Looks To Continue Strong Play Against Badgers 2025](#)
- [9- WELCA Ad](#)
- [10- SD SearchLight: Former state employee sentenced to seven years in prison for stealing \\$1.8 million](#)
- [10- SD SearchLight: Prosecutor, former lawmaker aims for attorney general nomination](#)
- [11- SD SearchLight: South Dakota government, university plan to start in-state 'forever chemical' testing labs](#)
- [12- SD SearchLight: Republicans rewrote the US Senate megabill in its last moments](#)
- [13- SD SearchLight: Trump administration tells states it's freezing \\$6.8 billion for K-12 school programs](#)
- [14- SD SearchLight: US Senate narrowly passes GOP megabill after overnight session, sending it to House](#)
- [20- Weather Pages](#)
- [25- Daily Devotional](#)
- [26- Subscription Form](#)
- [27- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [28- Upcoming Groton Events](#)
- [29- News from the Associated Press](#)

Groton Daily Independent
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Wednesday, July 2

Senior Menu: Cheeseburger on bun, watermelon, tator tots, cucumber salad, 4th of July dessert.
Legion hosts Big Stone City, 4:30 p.m.
Jr. Legion hosts Big Stone City, 6:30 p.m.
U10 R&B hosts Britton, 5:30 p.m. (DH)
T-Ball G&B Scrimmage in Groton, 6 p.m.
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.
Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Sara Circle, 5 p.m.
Groton Chamber Meeting, Noon, City Hall

Thursday, July 3

Senior Menu: Teryaki chicken breast, wild rice, winter blend, pears, whole wheat bread.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 2 of 66

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.

'Alligator Alcatraz'

A new migrant detention center opened yesterday in the Florida Everglades, with President Donald Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) in attendance. Nicknamed "Alligator Alcatraz," the 39-square-mile site located at the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport can house up to 5,000 detainees and is surrounded by swampland filled with alligators and pythons, which officials say serves as a natural security barrier.

The facility, composed of tents and trailers, was built within a week and is projected to cost Florida approximately \$450M annually. FEMA is expected to reimburse a portion of the cost. Officials say it will help alleviate overcrowding and expedite deportations. But environmental groups and Indigenous leaders argue it threatens the Everglades ecosystem and encroaches on sacred tribal land. The site has prompted protests and lawsuits, with critics condemning what they call inhumane treatment of migrants.

Originally planned in the 1960s, the area was once pitched as the largest airport in the US—five times the size of JFK—before the project was scrapped. Its massive runway remains and will now serve as a departure point for deportation flights.

Megabill Returns to the House

The US Senate narrowly passed President Donald Trump's tax and domestic policy bill yesterday. The final tally was 51-50, with Vice President JD Vance casting the tie-breaking vote. The revised, 940-page document heads to the House for consideration.

Three Republicans joined the upper chamber's 47 Democrats to reject the package: Sens. Rand Paul (KY), Thom Tillis (NC), and Susan Collins (ME)—Paul over the added debt (\$3.3T by 2035), and Tillis and Collins over Medicaid cuts (over \$1T by 2035). Out of a record-breaking 45 amendments considered over 27 hours, senators passed a catch-all amendment boosting rural hospitals' funding and phasing out federal subsidies for wind and solar energy.

The bill's passage reignited tensions between Trump and former ally Elon Musk. Musk suggested he will fund primary challengers to the bill's supporters and launch a third party. Trump suggested he would cut subsidies to Tesla and signaled interest in deporting him (Musk was born in South Africa but is a naturalized US citizen).

Malaysia Rejects US Rubbish

Malaysia cracked down yesterday on plastic waste imports, raising concerns about where the US—especially California—will send its growing mounds of trash. The new policy bans plastic waste from countries that don't abide by the Basel Convention, a global treaty regulating hazardous waste. The US signed the pact in 1990 but never ratified it. Last year, the US exported nearly 80 million pounds of plastic to Malaysia, with over 10 million coming from California.

Since China barred imports in 2018 over environmental and health concerns, Malaysia has become a key destination for the world's plastic, whose production has more than doubled to roughly one trillion pounds over the past two decades as recycling systems lag. US recycling rates remain below 10% largely due to contamination and mixed materials that make the process costly. Much of what lands in Malaysia is either burned—releasing toxic pollutants—or dumped into overfilled landfills.

Thailand and Indonesia, which also saw a rise in imports after China's ban, announced similar bans on plastic waste earlier this year.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 3 of 66

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Jury reaches partial verdict in Sean "Diddy" Combs' wide-ranging sex crimes trial, agreeing on four of five counts; jury resumes deliberations today on racketeering conspiracy charge.

Jimmy Swaggart, televangelist and gospel singer who was defrocked amid prostitution scandals, dies at age 90.

University of Pennsylvania agrees to ban transgender women from competing in women's sports, resolving the federal civil rights case.

NBA MVP Shai Gilgeous-Alexander signs four-year, \$285M contract extension with the Oklahoma City Thunder, the highest annual salary in NBA history.

FIFA Club World Cup quarterfinal is set; see latest bracket.

Science & Technology

Web infrastructure firm Cloudflare announces it will block bots and AI crawlers by default, provide an option for per-page-crawl payment; company services about 20% of the open internet.

New imaging analysis reveals how quickly the human brain is aging from a single MRI scan; tool can assess risk of dementia and chronic disease, motivate lifestyle changes to improve brain health.

Engineers develop technique to reconstruct 3D images of hidden objects using reflections from millimeter radiation (the same frequency as Wi-Fi); approach achieved 96% accuracy with common household objects.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close mixed (S&P 500 -0.1%, Dow +1.0%, Nasdaq -0.8%).

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell says the Fed would have likely cut interest rates by now if it weren't for tariffs.

US job openings rose to 7.8 million in May, up from 7.4 million in April and the highest level since November.

Design-software maker Figma files for initial public offering, with plans to trade on the NYSE; comes after Adobe scrapped a \$20B deal to buy the company in 2023 following regulatory hurdles in the UK.

Grammarly, maker of AI-powered writing assistant, acquires email client Superhuman.

Lululemon sues Costco, accusing the retail wholesaler of selling bargain knockoff versions of its popular activewear.

Politics & World Affairs

Democratic socialist Zohran Mamdani officially secures Democratic nomination for New York City's mayoral race, with final tally showing he beat former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo by 12 points.

Thailand court suspends Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra amid ethics probe over leaked phone call with Cambodia's leader; court suggests Shinawatra may have been too deferential when discussing border incident that left one Cambodian soldier dead.

President Donald Trump says Israel has agreed to a 60-day ceasefire plan for Gaza, urges Hamas to accept deal.

German authorities summon Iran's ambassador after Danish citizen was arrested and accused of spying for Iran, scouting Jewish targets in Berlin for possible attacks.

Names Released in Charles Mix County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash

Where: 394th Ave. and 299th Street, four miles south of Wagner, SD

When: 1:45 a.m. Saturday, June 28, 2025

Driver 1: Kristi Selwyn, 44-year-old female from Yankton, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2002 Ford F-150

Seat belt Used: No

Passenger 1a: Dewey Emery Cournoyer, 47-year-old male from Wagner, SD, minor injuries

Seat belt Used: No

Charles Mix County, S.D.- A Yankton woman sustained fatal injuries in a single vehicle crash early Saturday morning, four miles south of Wagner, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates Kristi Selwyn, the driver of a 2002 Ford F-150 was traveling north on 394th Avenue, approaching 299th Street. The driver lost control of the vehicle and over-corrected, causing the vehicle to go into a yaw and overturn, coming to rest in the ditch.

Selwyn was taken to a nearby hospital where she died from her injuries. A passenger in the truck, Dewey Emery Cournoyer, sustained minor injuries.

Names Released in Aurora County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash

Where: 252nd Street and 383rd Avenue, three miles northwest of Plankinton, SD

When: 12:57 p.m. Friday, June 27, 2025

Driver 1: Lewis N. Jones, 33-year-old male from Sioux Falls, SD, minor injuries

Vehicle 1: 2003 Chevrolet

Seat belt Used: Under investigation

Driver 2: Dana Harlin Hansen, 53-year-old male from Mount Vernon, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 2: 2012 Dodge Ram 3500

Seat belt Used: No

Passenger V2: Jacobus Theodorus Breedt, 24-year-old male from Mount Vernon, SD, minor injuries

Seat belt Used: Under investigation

Aurora County, S.D.- A Mount Vernon man sustained fatal injuries in a two vehicle crash early Friday afternoon, three miles northwest of Plankinton, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates Lewis N. Jones, the driver of a 2003 Chevrolet was traveling eastbound on 252nd Street near Plankinton and failed to yield when entering the intersection at 383rd Avenue. The vehicle collided with a northbound Dodge Ram 3500, driven by Dana Harlin Hansen, which caused the Dodge to roll, and both vehicles entered the northeast ditch.

Jones sustained minor injuries. Hansen died at the scene. A passenger in the Dodge, Jacobus Theodorus Breedt, sustained minor injuries.

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

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

Clark named to University of North Dakota Spring 2025 President's Roll of Honor

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (July 1, 2025) – More than 1,600 University of North Dakota (UND) students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the 2025 spring semester President's Roll of Honor. To qualify for the UND President's Roll of Honor, a student must have an overall cumulative grade point average of 3.80 or higher. The student must also have earned a minimum of 30 semester hours and have completed a minimum of 12 hours at the close of the semester, eight of which must be for traditional letter grades. Emily Clark of Groton was named to the President's Honor Roll.



Does South Dakota set its state minimum wage by the federal standard?

By Michael Klinski • 1 Jul 2025

No.

South Dakota is one of 34 states and territories that have a minimum wage higher than the federal rate.

The state's minimum wage of \$11.50 an hour increased from \$11.30 on Jan. 1, 2025, compared to the federal minimum wage of \$7.25. It has not been changed since 2009.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U Defeated By Smittys 13/14

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U could not keep up with Smittys 13/14 6-4 on Tuesday at Groton SD.

Smittys 13/14 got on the board in the top of the first inning after Shoultz was struck by a pitch, driving in a run, and Trayce Schelle induced Dawson Pederson to hit into a fielder's choice, but two runs scored.

Smittys 13/14 added to their early lead in the top of the second inning after Smittys 13/14 scored on a passed ball, and Brody Kaan walked, each scoring one run.

Pederson earned the win for Smittys 13/14. The starting pitcher gave up four hits and four runs (two earned) over five innings, striking out two and walking six. Schelle took the loss for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. The starting pitcher went five innings, allowing six runs (four earned) on five hits, striking out six and walking six.

Sam Crank went 1-for-2 at the plate and led the team with one run batted in. Schelle went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Groton Jr. Teeners 14U in hits. Noah Scepaniak led Groton Jr. Teeners 14U with two walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, tallying six walks for the game. Schelle stole two bases. Groton Jr. Teeners 14U turned one double play in the game.

Owen Backous and Jose Rivera each collected two hits for Smittys 13/14. Pederson led the team with two runs batted in. Backous stole two bases. Smittys 13/14 had patience at the plate, amassing six walks for the game. Smittys 13/14 turned one double play in the game.

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Groton Jr. Teeners 14U Falls To Smittys 13/14

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U lost to Smittys 13/14 7-2 on Tuesday at 620 W Third Ave.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U opened the scoring in the first after Lincoln Shilhanek singled, scoring one run.

Smittys 13/14 jumped into the lead in the top of the second when Mason Arnott singled, scoring two runs, an error scored one run, and Jose Rivera was struck by a pitch, driving in a run.

A ground out by Austin Ryan extended the Smittys 13/14 lead to 6-1 in the top of the third inning.

Sam Bradley earned the win for Smittys 13/14. The hurler gave up one hit and two runs (zero earned) over five innings, striking out nine and walking three. Keegan Kucker took the loss for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. The hurler went three innings, surrendering six runs (two earned) on five hits, striking out three and walking two.

Shilhanek led Groton Jr. Teeners 14U with one run batted in. The right-handed hitter went 1-for-2 on the day.

Arnott and Ryan were a one-two punch in the lineup, as each drove in one run for Smittys 13/14. Dawson Pederson led Smittys 13/14 with two hits in three at bats. Owen Backous and Ryan each stole multiple bases for Smittys 13/14.

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- Wheeling Back to Doland 5K Run/Walk
- Pancake breakfast
- Classic Car and Tractor Show
- Bouncy houses, splash pad, basketball, bean bag tournament
- Storybook Land Theatre
- School tours and class reunions
- Parade
- Dueling Duo Piano Entertainment

For details, find Back to Doland on Facebook or visit <https://sites.google.com/view/backtodoland2025>.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 8 of 66

Groton Legion Post 39 Looks To Continue Strong Play Against Badgers 2025

Groton Legion Post 39 have been playing well lately, going 8-2 in their last 10 games. They'll put that strong play to the test when they play Badgers 2025 on Wednesday at Groton.

Last Time Out:

Groton Legion Post 39 defeated W.I.N. Legion in a tight pitcher's duel, 2-1. Badgers 2025 were defeated by Redfield Post 92, Clay Kiser 18U 5-4.

Player Highlight:

Lincoln Krause has played four positions for Groton Legion Post 39. Krause's primary position is left field. Krause has put together 15 quality at bats this season.

About Groton Legion Post 39:

Groton Legion Post 39 has played well lately, going 8-2 in their last 10 games. They have a 15-4 record overall. Carter Simon's 1.162 OPS leads Groton Legion Post 39. The first baseman has a 0.458 OBP and a 0.704 slugging percentage this season. Nick Morris leads Groton Legion Post 39 with 28 and two-thirds innings pitched. The starting pitcher has a 1.47 ERA this season. Karsten Fliehs leads Groton Legion Post 39 with 125 total fielding chances this season. Fliehs's primary position is catcher.

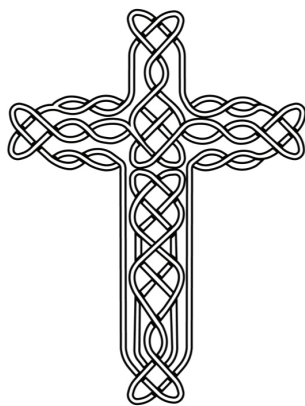
About Badgers 2025:

Badgers 2025 has a record of 1-11 this season. Connor Ohm's 0.760 OPS leads Badgers 2025. The first baseman has a 0.400 OBP and a 0.360 slugging percentage this season. Isaac Brown leads Badgers 2025 with 17 and one-third innings pitched. The starting pitcher has a 3.23 ERA this season. Connor Danielson leads Badgers 2025 with 57 total fielding chances this season. Danielson's primary position is catcher.

Golden Threads

“Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than jewels.

Proverbs 8:10-11



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Ladies Luncheon

Bethesda Lutheran Church, Bristol

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

By Bethesda Women of the ELCA

Silent Auction opens at 10:30

Guest Speaker: Melinda Eikamp,
“Weaving Threads of our Heritage”

Luncheon at Noon

Tickets: \$15.00

Deadline to purchase tickets is Friday, July 11

Kay Espeland 605-492-3507

Jane Goehring 605-290-1420

Or contact any WELCA member





SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Former state employee sentenced to seven years in prison for stealing \$1.8 million

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - JULY 1, 2025 3:48 PM

A former South Dakota Department of Social Services employee was sentenced Tuesday to seven years in prison after earlier being convicted of stealing \$1.78 million in state and federal funds from the department's division of Child Protection Services.

"This jury conviction and sentence confirm that public trust is not for sale," said state Attorney General Marty Jackley in a press release.

Lonna Carroll, age 68, of Algona, Iowa, was sentenced in Hughes County Circuit Court to pay back the entire amount of her theft and serve 13 years in prison, with six years suspended. She'll avoid serving those six years if she complies with all the terms of her sentence. She was convicted in April by a Hughes County Jury on two felony counts of aggravated grand theft.

Carroll's conviction and sentencing are the highest-profile outcomes in a recent wave of white-collar prosecutions in South Dakota state government, which have also spurred reforms and increased scrutiny on departmental financial controls. Other criminal allegations against state employees have included creating fake vehicle titles to avoid excise taxes, the use of foster family food vouchers for a state employee's own expenses, and the alleged forging of a state employee's own medical marijuana card.

During Carroll's trial, Jackley's prosecution team laid out a paper trail illustrating Carroll's scheme, played her recorded confession, and showed a document she signed saying she committed the crimes.

Carroll formerly worked as an administrative assistant for Child Protection Services. Her crimes were discovered by a department employee after Carroll had retired and moved to Iowa.

Carroll's crimes involved submitting fraudulent financial requests on behalf of children no longer in the state's care, depositing the funds into accounts opened under their names, and withdrawing the money in cash for herself. Prosecutors said she did that 215 times between 2010 and 2023, stealing a total of \$1,777,665.73.

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.

Prosecutor, former lawmaker aims for attorney general nomination

BY: JOHN HULT - JULY 1, 2025 5:49 PM

A county prosecutor who served a dozen years in the Legislature aims to fill the seat of state attorney general.

Republican Lance Russell announced his candidacy Tuesday for the seat current Attorney General Marty Jackley will leave behind to run for U.S. House of Representatives in 2026. South Dakota's current U.S. representative, Dusty Johnson, announced a long-rumored 2026 bid for governor on Monday.

Russell, 55, lives in Hot Springs and serves as the state's attorney for Fall River and Oglala Lakota counties. "I am running to work as our next attorney general to ensure safer communities and open government

for all South Dakotans," Russell said in a press release.

Republicans choose their attorney general candidate by a vote of state convention delegates. Russell sought the nomination in 2018 but fell to Jason Ravnsborg in a second ballot, 37% to 63%.

Ravnsborg won the general election. His term was cut short by a legislative impeachment and removal after he struck and killed a man with his vehicle. Then-Gov. Kristi Noem appointed former Pennington County State's Attorney Mark Vargo to serve the remainder of Ravnsborg's term, and Jackley ran uncontested in the 2022 general election to return to the post he'd previously held.

Russell holds a law degree from the University of South Dakota and a master of laws degree in natural resources and environmental law from the University of Denver. In addition to his work as a state's attorney, he has a private practice and serves as a city attorney for several communities in the southern Black Hills.

John is the senior reporter for South Dakota Searchlight. He has more than 15 years experience covering criminal justice, the environment and public affairs in South Dakota, including more than a decade at the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.

South Dakota government, university plan to start in-state 'forever chemical' testing labs

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - JULY 1, 2025 11:20 AM

Hundreds of samples tested in recent years to determine if "forever chemicals" are tainting South Dakota water had to be shipped overnight to out-of-state labs for analysis.

That's about to change.

Demand for laboratories to test samples for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) is growing nationwide, as concerns about the chemicals in drinking water grow. PFAS have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1940s, including in modern products such as nonstick cookware and water-resistant clothing, and don't break down easily in the environment or in the human body. Research indicates PFAS exposure may be linked to negative developmental and reproductive effects, and an increased risk of some cancers.

South Dakota State University in Brookings plans to become an Environmental Protection Agency-certified laboratory to test environmental samples. The state Department of Health plans to start its own testing program and become certified in drinking water testing.

The Brookings-based East Dakota Water Development District pledged to contribute \$53,134 to get the plan started. The district partnered last year with South Dakota Mines, hundreds of miles away in Rapid City, to test for PFAS along the Big Sioux River watershed in the eastern part of the state.

"Driving 15 blocks across town is a lot cheaper and quicker of a delivery system," said Jay Gilbertson, manager at the district.

Chris Schmidt, director of the Water and Environmental Engineering Research Center at SDSU, said the university already has the instrument needed to test for PFAS compounds: a liquid chromatography triple quadrupole mass spectrometer. The machine is used by the chemistry department to test pharmaceuticals and identify other compounds in materials. South Dakota State tested for PFAS compounds previously in Teflon coating on pots and pans, Schmidt said.

The lab will start testing surface water from interested water districts and then use the same method to test bio solids, plant material and animal tissue, Schmidt said.

"Right now, the science is focused on detecting PFAS in the water and how it got there," Schmidt said. "But we have to expand that to understand how it functions in the environment, how it moves through groundwater and through the food chain."

Testing could expand to brain tissue for possible connections to diseases, SDSU assistant professor and coordinator of the Campus Core Mass Spectrometry Facility M. Nurul Islam told the district board members at their June meeting.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 12 of 66

Testing drinking water, Schmidt said, involves different certification. Schmidt said he isn't currently pursuing that certification, since the state is planning to fill that need.

The Health Department is partnering with the state Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to develop a testing laboratory, according to a department spokesperson. The laboratory will start receiving testing samples this year.

The department has spent about \$56,000 so far on the project. The state Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources did not answer South Dakota Searchlight questions about other costs to implement the program.

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

Republicans rewrote the US Senate megabill in its last moments

BY: ASHLEY MURRAY - JULY 1, 2025 6:10 PM

WASHINGTON — The final "big beautiful bill" approved by Senate Republicans Tuesday included some last-minute changes on hot-button issues such as safety net programs and clean energy tax credits.

Senate Republicans had wrangled for weeks to deliver legislative text to satisfy concerns from lawmakers who objected to cutting Medicaid, the federal-state insurance program for low-income families and some individuals with disabilities.

Other sticking points included threats that the health cuts pose to rural hospitals, and tax revisions that hamper clean energy jobs and investment, most of which are in states that elected President Donald Trump to his second term.

The lawmakers debated amendments for more than 24 hours. Even with final changes, now under consideration in the House, three Republicans held out: Susan Collins of Maine, Thom Tillis of North Carolina and Rand Paul of Kentucky. Vice President JD Vance cast the tie breaking vote.

Here are several rewrites that popped up in the bill's final minutes and hours:

Rural hospital fund

Senate Republicans doubled the amount for a rural health "transformation program," or money to compensate rural hospitals for the funds they would lose as a result of the proposed Medicaid cuts.

The latest proposal sets aside \$50 billion, up from \$25 billion, and moves up the distribution timeline to begin in 2026, up from 2028.

Collins had unsuccessfully introduced an amendment to bump the fund to \$50 billion. Despite some support from GOP colleagues, the amendment was blunted by a technical budget point of order.

The Maine Republican still voted "no" Tuesday on the final bill.

SNAP

The lawmakers also made a late change to how and when states would begin to shoulder the responsibility for costs of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

According to the new version, if a state's payment error rate in 2025 multiplied by 1.5 is equal or greater than 20%, then that state would be permitted to wait until 2029, rather than 2028, to begin footing a portion of the bill for food assistance. A state's accuracy rate is the annual measurement of over- or underpayments to recipients.

Nine states would hover in the territory of meeting that threshold, according to the Department of Agriculture's latest error rates published Monday. They are: Alaska, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York and Oregon.

Alaska had the highest payment error rate of all states in both 2023 and 2024. Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski's

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 13 of 66

final decision on the bill was largely unknown until she cast a "yes" vote Tuesday.

A late amendment to strike the language offered by Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota failed 45-55.

Critics say the measure incentivizes states to keep the payment error rates high this year.

Solar energy

GOP senators late Friday added a clean energy excise tax into the bill, taking the industry by surprise. Then it vanished.

The tax that would have been imposed on new solar and wind projects was no longer in the legislation that senators voted on around noon Eastern Tuesday.

Other text loosened a squeeze on tech-neutral tax credits meant to incentivize the installation of energy systems that do not use fossil fuels. Senate Republicans added a year of leeway for new projects to break ground and avoid cutting short two of the tax credits.

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

Trump administration tells states it's freezing \$6.8 billion for K-12 school programs

BY: SHAUNEEN MIRANDA - JULY 1, 2025 5:59 PM

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration has put on hold \$6.8 billion in federal funds for K-12 schools, according to an Education Department notice obtained by States Newsroom.

The agency informed states on Monday that it would be withholding funding for several programs, including before- and after-school programs, migrant education and English-language learning, among other initiatives.

But the agency notified states just a day ahead of July 1 — the date these funds are typically sent out as educators plan for the coming school year.

"The Department remains committed to ensuring taxpayer resources are spent in accordance with the President's priorities and the Department's statutory responsibilities," the Education Department wrote to states.

The notice, which did not provide any timeline, said the funds are under review and "decisions have not yet been made concerning submissions and awards for this upcoming academic year."

The affected programs, according to the Democrats on the Senate Appropriations Committee, include:

Title I-C, on migrant education

Title II-A, on improving the effectiveness of teachers and school leaders

Title III-A, on English language acquisition

Title IV-A, on STEM education, college and career counseling and other activities

Title IV-B, on before- and after-school programs and summer school programs

Grants geared toward adult education and literacy programs

States have been on the lookout for these funds. For instance, just last week, Oklahoma's Department of Education reported that it had yet to get money from the federal government for migrant education, English language acquisition and other programs, according to Oklahoma Voice.

'Winding down' the department

Adding fuel to the fire, Trump is looking to eliminate all these programs as part of his fiscal 2026 budget request. That wish list, according to a department summary, calls for \$12 billion in total spending cuts at the agency.

That proposed \$12 billion cut "reflects an agency that is responsibly winding down," the document notes.

Meanwhile, a coalition of 16 states is also suing the Trump administration over the cancellation earlier

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 14 of 66

this year of roughly \$1 billion in school mental health grants — a different piece of school funding — to try to restore that money.

The lawsuit was filed Monday in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington in Seattle. The states include California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Mexico, New York, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, Washington and Wisconsin.

Uncertainty created

In a Tuesday statement, Washington state U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, the top Democrat on the Senate spending panel, urged the Trump administration to immediately release the frozen funds.

"President Trump himself signed this funding into law — but that isn't stopping him from choking off resources to support before and after school programs, help students learn, support teachers in the classroom, and a lot more," Murray said. "The uncertainty he has created has already forced districts to delay hiring and other initiatives to help students. The only question left now is how much more damage this administration wants to inflict on our public schools."

"Local school districts can't afford to wait out lengthy court proceedings to get the federal funding they're owed — nor can they make up the shortfall, especially not at the drop of a pin," Murray added.

Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, blasted the administration's actions, saying this is "another illegal usurpation of the authority of the Congress" and "directly harms the children in our nation."

"K-12 public school leaders across the country who should have been able to start planning months ago for the summer and the upcoming school year are instead left mired in financial uncertainty," added Weingarten, who leads one of the largest teachers unions in the country.

Approved by Congress

Carissa Moffat Miller, CEO of the Council of Chief State School Officers, said "the administration must make the full extent of title funding available in a timely manner," in a statement shared with States Newsroom on Tuesday.

"These funds were approved by Congress and signed into law by President Trump in March," Miller said. "Schools need these funds to hire key staff and educate students this summer and in the upcoming school year."

In response to a request for comment on the frozen funds, the Education Department referred States Newsroom to the Office of Management and Budget, which is responsible for administering the federal budget and overseeing the performance of departments throughout the federal government.

OMB did not immediately respond to States Newsroom's inquiry.

Shauneen Miranda is a reporter for States Newsroom's Washington bureau. An alumna of the University of Maryland, she previously covered breaking news for Axios.

US Senate narrowly passes GOP megabill after overnight session, sending it to House

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT, ASHLEY MURRAY, SHAUNEEN MIRANDA AND ARIANA FIGUEROA - JULY 1, 2025

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senate Republicans approved their signature tax break and spending cuts package Tuesday with a tie-breaking vote cast by Vice President JD Vance, following days of tense, closed-door negotiations that went until the few last minutes of a marathon amendment voting session.

The 51-50 mostly party-line vote sends the legislation back to the House, where GOP leaders hope to clear the bill for President Donald Trump's signature this week. But frustrations throughout the conference over changes made in the Senate could delay or even block final approval.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 15 of 66

Republican Sens. Susan Collins of Maine, Rand Paul of Kentucky and Thom Tillis of North Carolina voted against approving the legislation over concerns it would not benefit the country's finances or Republican voters.

Changes made in final negotiations were not immediately clear or publicly available.

Majority Leader John Thune said the passage marked "a historic day."

"We're very excited to be a part of something that is going to make America stronger, safer and more prosperous, and it really starts with the agenda that President Trump laid out when he was running last year.

"He talked about modernizing our military, securing our borders, restoring energy dominance in this country, bringing tax relief to working families and low income taxpayers in this country, and doing something about the runaway, spiraling spending and debt," the South Dakota Republican said minutes after the vote.

"So this was an incredible victory for the American people, and we as a team are delighted to be a part of it."

The bill now heads back to the House. The chamber's Committee on Rules is expected to meet Tuesday afternoon, which will be the final stop for the bill before it reaches the House floor.

Thune said he believes Senate Republicans have given the House "a really strong product."

"I think we took what they sent us and strengthened and improved upon it. And so I'm hopeful that now, when it gets sent over there, as they deliberate about how they want to handle it, we'll find the votes that are necessary to pass it and want to put it on the president's desk," he said.

Trump praised the Senate's passage on his Truth Social media platform, saying "Almost all of our Great Republicans in the United States Senate have passed our 'ONE, BIG, BEAUTIFUL BILL.'"

He added: "We can have all of this right now, but only if the House GOP UNITES, ignores its occasional 'GRANDSTANDERS' (You know who you are!), and does the right thing, which is sending this Bill to my desk. We are on schedule — Let's keep it going, and be done before you and your family go on a July 4th vacation."

Several House conservatives have railed against the Senate version, including Reps. Andy Ogles of Tennessee, Ralph Norman of South Carolina and others.

House Speaker Mike Johnson issued a joint statement with House Republican leaders saying the chamber "will work quickly to pass the One Big Beautiful Bill that enacts President Trump's full America First agenda by the Fourth of July. The American people gave us a clear mandate, and after four years of Democrat failure, we intend to deliver without delay."

"Republicans were elected to do exactly what this bill achieves: secure the border, make tax cuts permanent, unleash American energy dominance, restore peace through strength, cut wasteful spending, and return to a government that puts Americans first," the Louisiana Republican said in the statement that included House Majority Leader Steve Scalise of Louisiana, Majority Whip Tom Emmer of Minnesota and conference chair Lisa McClain of Michigan.

Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski, whose support had been unclear until the vote, and Majority Whip John Barrasso, of Wyoming, left the chamber to catch an elevator together just after 9:30 a.m. Eastern.

Asked if the bill was in the hands of the parliamentarian, Murkowski quipped, "I think it's in the hands of the people that operate the coffee machine."

Barrasso said "Yes" when asked if it would pass this morning.

Murkowski: 'difficult and agonizing legislative 24-hour period'

Flooded by reporters after the vote, Murkowski said "we do not have a perfect bill by any stretch of the imagination."

"My hope is that the House is gonna look at this and recognize that we're not there yet, and I would hope that we would be able to actually do what we used to do around here, which is work back and forth in the two bodies to get a measure that's gonna be better for the people in this country and more particularly, for the people in Alaska," she said.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 16 of 66

"This is probably the most difficult and agonizing legislative 24-hour period that I have encountered, and I've been here quite a while, and you all know I've got a few battle scars underneath me," Murkowski added. "But I think I held my head up and made sure that the people of Alaska are not forgotten in this, but I think that there is more that needs to be done, and I'm not done."

"I am gonna take a nap, though," she said.

When asked about Murkowski's decision to vote for the bill, Thune said, "She, as you know, is a very independent thinker and somebody who studies the issues really, really hard and well. And I'm just grateful that at the end of the day, she included what the rest of us did, or at least most of the rest of us did, and that is that this was the right direction for the future of our country."

Democrats react

Senate Democrats walking off the floor seemed somber, a sentiment that Senate Leader Chuck Schumer said also extended to Republicans after the bill's passage.

"On the Republican side, when the bill passed, there was a bit of somberness that I don't think was expected, and that's because they knew deep in their hearts how bad this bill is for them, their states and the Republican Party," Schumer said.

"When people start losing their Medicaid, when they start losing their jobs, when their electric bills go up, when their premiums go up, when kids and parents lose SNAP funding, the people of America will remember this vote," the New York Democrat continued.

Criticism poured in from others as well, including the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, which likened the Senate's bill passage to jumping "off a budget cliff."

"The level of blatant disregard we just witnessed for our nation's fiscal condition and budget process is a failure of responsible governing. These are the very same lawmakers who for years have bemoaned the nation's massive debt, voting to put another \$4 trillion on the credit card," the organization's president Maya MacGuineas said in a statement.

CRFB estimates the Senate version of the bill would add \$600 billion to the national deficit just in 2027.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office released a calculation Sunday showing the bill would add \$3.25 trillion to deficits over 10 years.

Trump weighs in ahead of vote

Trump told reporters on Tuesday morning before leaving for a Florida visit to the "Alligator Alcatraz" immigrant detention site that "it's very complicated stuff" when asked about Senate Republicans' debate over spending cuts.

"We're going to have to see the final version. I don't want to go too crazy with cuts. I don't like cuts. There are certain things that have been cut, which is good. I think we're doing well," Trump said. "We're going to have to see, it's some very complicated stuff. Great enthusiasm as you know. And I think in the end we're going to have it."

The heart of the nearly 1,000-page legislation extends and expands the 2017 tax law to keep individual income tax rates at the same level and makes permanent some tax breaks on business investments and research and development costs.

The bill would also put in motion some of Trump's campaign promises, including no tax on qualifying tips, overtime or car loan interest, but only for a few years.

And it slashes spending on the Medicaid program for low-income people and some people with disabilities as well as shifting significant costs of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, to states for the first time. It also overhauls federal education aid.

It would also bolster spending on border security and defense by hundreds of billions of dollars, including line items for the "golden dome" missile defense system and additional barriers along the southern border.

The measure would provide a substantial funding increase for federal immigration enforcement for detention and removal of people without permanent legal status, aiding the president in carrying out his

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 17 of 66

campaign promise of mass deportations.

The Senate version of the bill also would revive the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act fund, a bipartisan measure championed by Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri. The fund provides money to victims of certain types of cancer and surviving family members in several states affected by the United States atomic bomb testing program and radioactive waste left behind.

Uranium miners would also be eligible under the measure. While reviving the fund has received wide bipartisan approval in the Senate, the House has not shown the same support.

The Senate bill would raise the debt limit by \$5 trillion, a figure designed to get Congress past next year's midterm elections before the country would once again bump up against the borrowing limit.

On to the House

House approval is far from guaranteed.

Johnson can only lose four Republicans if all lawmakers in that chamber attend the vote. Several GOP members have voiced frustration with how the Senate has reworked the legislation, signaling an uphill climb for the bill.

House Ways and Means Chair Jason Smith said as he left the Senate cloakroom just after 9:20 a.m. Eastern that lawmakers are "getting closer to a bill signing on July Fourth."

"If you followed this journey over the last six months, over and over, people said that we could not accomplish a budget (reconciliation bill). We did. They said we would never pass it out of the House. We did. The Senate is going to pass it. The House is going to pass it, and the president's going to sign it into law," the Missouri Republican said.

Three amendments succeed

The Senate had adopted three amendments to the bill following an all-night amendment voting session, known as a vote-a-rama.

Tennessee Republican Sen. Marsha Blackburn was able to remove language from the package that would have blocked state and local governments from regulating artificial intelligence for five years if they wanted access to a \$500 million fund. That vote was 99-1 with only North Carolina's Tillis voting to keep the language in the package.

Blackburn said the change was necessary because lawmakers in Congress have "proven that they cannot legislate on emerging technology."

Senators approved an amendment from Iowa GOP Sen. Joni Ernst by voice vote that would disqualify "anyone making a million dollars or more from being eligible for unemployment income support."

Louisiana Republican Sen. John Kennedy was able to get an amendment adopted by a voice vote that would move up the date when Medicaid administrators must begin checking the Social Security Administration's death master file to determine if a new enrollee is alive before adding them to the health program. It was set to begin on Jan. 1, 2028, but will now begin one year earlier.

Senators rejected dozens of amendments offered by both Democrats and Republicans, some of which deadlocked on 50-50 votes. Maine's Collins and Alaska's Murkowski broke with their party several times to vote with Democrats.

National private school voucher program

Hawaii Democratic Sen. Mazie Hirono tried to eliminate a sweeping private school voucher program that's baked into the reconciliation package, but that vote failed 50-50. Collins, Nebraska Republican Sen. Deb Fischer and Murkowski voted in support.

The original proposal called for \$4 billion a year in tax credits beginning in 2027 for people donating to organizations that provide private and religious school scholarships.

But the parliamentarian last week deemed the program to not comply with the "Byrd Bath," a Senate process named for the late Sen. Robert Byrd, forcing senators to rework the program.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 18 of 66

Details on the finalized version of the program remain unknown as the final bill text has not been released.

Safety funding for Virginia airport across from D.C.

Virginia Democratic Sen. Mark Warner tried to add language to the bill that would have increased safety funding for airports near Washington, D.C., and established a memorial for the victims who died in a crash this January. The vote failed on a tied 50-50 vote, with Collins, Kansas GOP Sen. Jerry Moran and Murkowski voting with Democrats in support.

"Colleagues, we all know that on January 29 of this year, 67 individuals lost their lives when a military helicopter and a passenger jet collided near Reagan National Airport. This tragedy underscores the need for more safety improvements at National Airport," Warner said. "The reconciliation bill increases, actually doubles, the amount of rent that National and Dulles pay the government but doesn't use any of that money to make those airports and the people who use them any safer."

He argued there was "no good rationale for increasing those rents and not using them for aviation safety."

Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz spoke against Warner's amendment, saying the rents for the two airports in Virginia near the nation's capital haven't been updated in decades.

"The federal government originally calculated the rent in 1987 at \$7.5 million dollars, massively below market rates," Cruz said. "This bill increases that to \$15 million, still dramatically below market rates."

Cruz — chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation — said the legislation includes \$12.5 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration to "transform the air traffic control system" and said his panel is looking into the collision in order to prevent something similar from happening again.

Trump budget director's office targeted

Maryland Democratic Sen. Chris Van Hollen also got within one vote of having an amendment adopted when he tried to remove a section from the bill that would increase funding for the White House budget office by \$100 million.

"This is at a time when (Federal Emergency Management Agency) grants to many of our states have been canceled, grants for law enforcement have been frozen, grants for victims of crimes are on hold," Van Hollen said. "That is not efficiency. That is creating chaos and uncertainty. And I ask my colleagues, why in the world would we want to send another \$100 million to OMB?"

Wisconsin Republican Sen. Ron Johnson opposed the efforts, saying "the Office of Management and Budget needs to identify budgeting and accounting efficiencies in the executive branch. They need the resources to do it."

The amendment was not added to the bill following another tied 50-50 vote with Collins, Murkowski and Paul voting with Democrats in favor.

Had GOP leadership wanted either of those proposals added to the package, they could have had Vance break the tie, but they did not.

Collins loses vote on rural hospital fund

Maine's Collins tried to get an amendment added to the legislation that would have increased "funding for the rural health care provider fund to \$50 billion dollars and expand the list of eligible providers to include not only rural hospitals but also community health centers, nursing homes, ambulance services, skilled nursing facilities and others."

Collins said the additional \$25 billion in funding for the fund would be paid for by "a modest increase in the top marginal tax rate, equal to the pre-2017 rate for individuals with income above \$25 million and married couples with income above \$50 million."

Collins' amendment was subject to a Senate procedural limit known as a budget point of order. She was unable to get the votes needed to waive that on a 22-78 vote.

Oregon Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden spoke against Collins' proposal, calling it "flawed," and introduced the budget point of order against her amendment.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 19 of 66

"The danger Senate Republicans are causing for rural hospitals is so great, Republicans have had to create a rural hospital relief fund so they can look like they are fixing the problem they are causing," Wyden said. "It is a Band-Aid on an amputation. It provides just a tiny fraction of the nearly \$1 trillion in cuts the bill makes to Medicaid. It would be much more logical to simply not cut \$1 trillion from Medicaid in the first place."

Collins received a mix of support from Republicans, including West Virginia Shelley Moore Capito, Louisiana's Bill Cassidy, Utah's John Curtis, Nebraska's Fischer, South Carolina's Lindsey Graham, Missouri's Josh Hawley, Ohio's Jon Husted and Bernie Moreno, Mississippi's Cindy Hyde-Smith and Roger Wicker, Louisiana's Kennedy, Kansas's Roger Marshall and Moran, Kentucky's Mitch McConnell, Alaskans Dan Sullivan and Murkowski and Indiana's Todd Young.

Also voting to waive the point of order and move forward with the amendment were Georgia's Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock and Virginia's Warner, all Democrats, and independent Maine Sen. Angus King. South Dakota's votes

FROM SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

Majority Leader John Thune and Sen. Mike Rounds, Republicans from South Dakota, each voted yes on Republicans' signature tax break and spending cuts package, known as the "big, beautiful bill."

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.

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

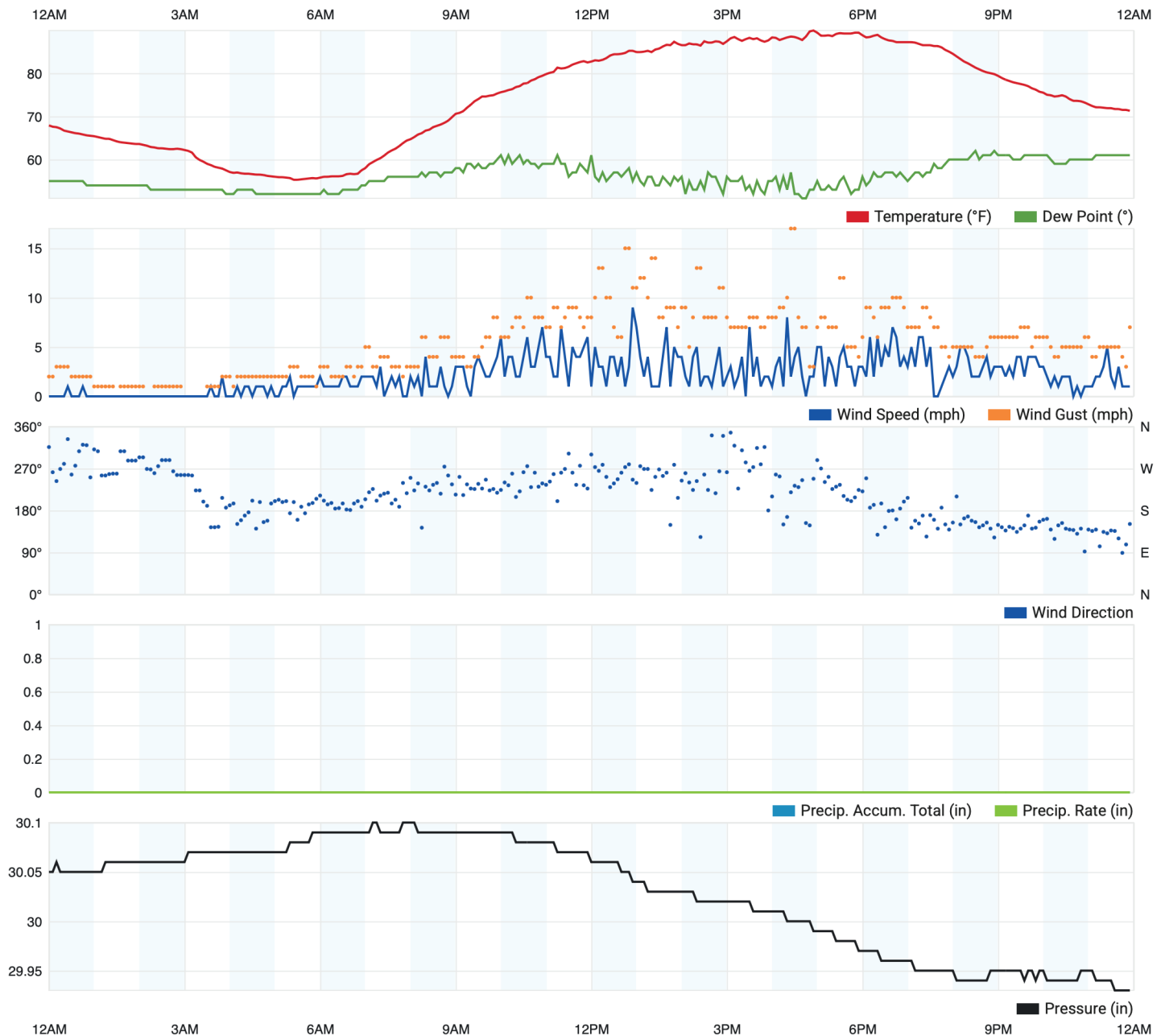
Shauneen Miranda is a reporter for States Newsroom's Washington bureau. An alumna of the University of Maryland, she previously covered breaking news for Axios.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 20 of 66

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 21 of 66

Today



High: 89 °F

Slight Chance
T-storms then
Sunny

Tonight



Low: 65 °F

Mostly Clear

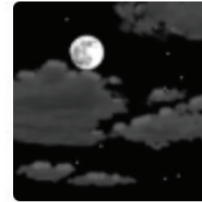
Thursday



High: 93 °F

Hot

Thursday
Night



Low: 74 °F

Partly Cloudy

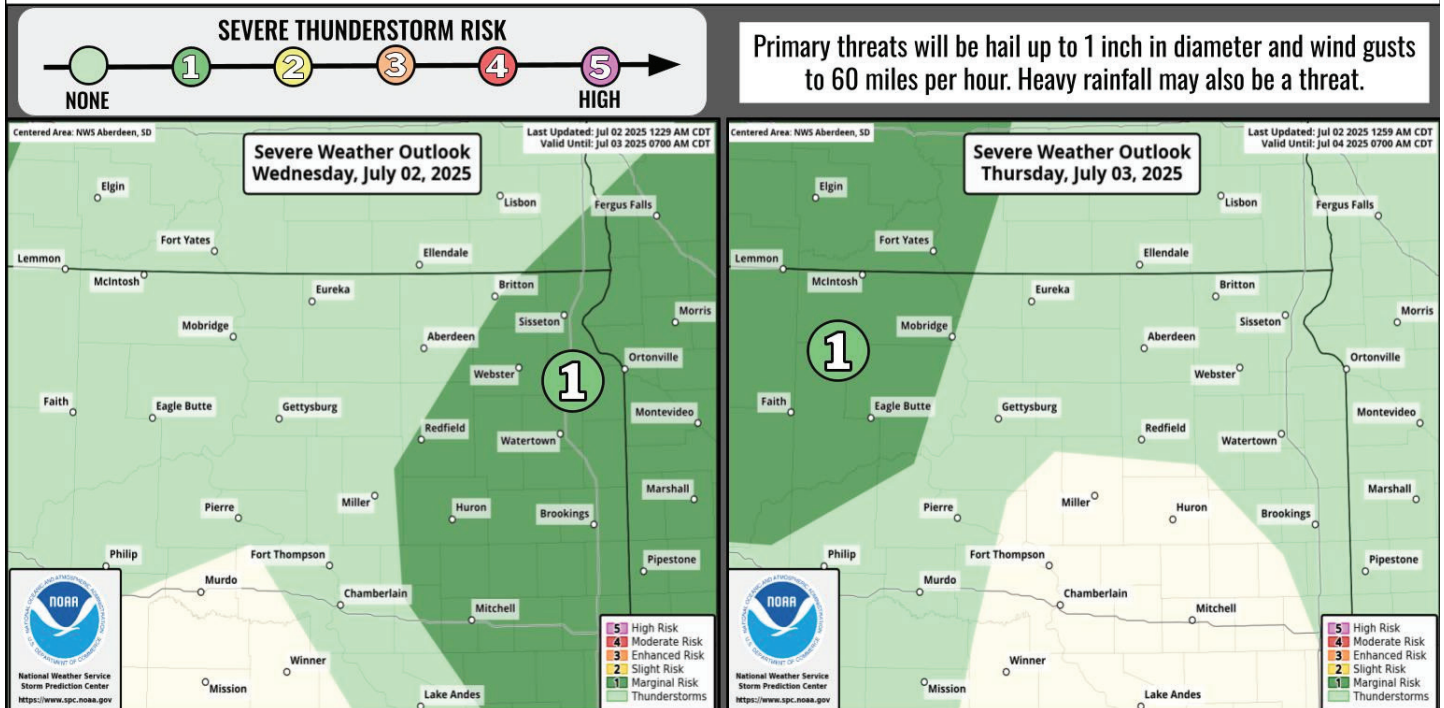
Independence
Day



High: 94 °F

Mostly Sunny
then Chance
T-storms and
Breezy

Risk For Locally Strong Storms Today and Thursday



A Marginal risk (level 1 of 5) for severe storms exists today over eastern portions of the region, although, areal coverage this afternoon is forecast to be isolated at best. On Thursday, the focus shifts westward to include the western Dakotas into parts of north central SD. Main threat on Thursday will be wind gusts around 60 mph, with little threat for large hail.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 22 of 66



Heat Risk for Thursday and Friday

Risk of Heat-Related Impacts

Little to None

- Little to no risk from expected heat.

Minor

- This level of heat affects primarily those individuals extremely sensitive to heat, especially when outdoors without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration.

Moderate

- This level of heat affects most individuals sensitive to heat, especially those without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration.
- Impacts possible in some health systems and in heat-sensitive industries.

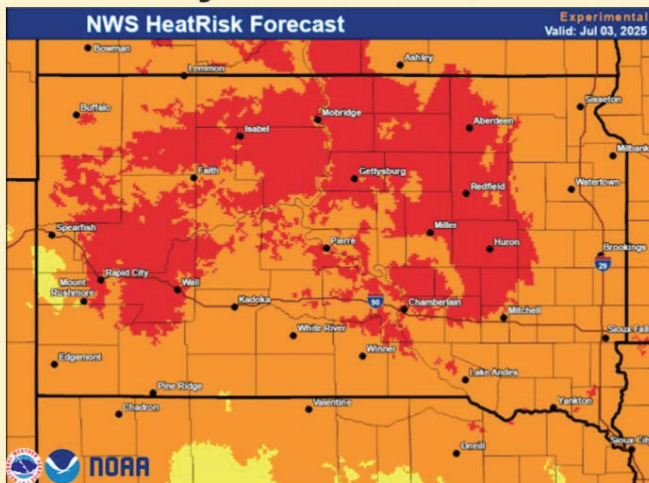
Major

- This level of heat affects anyone without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration.
- Impacts likely in some health systems, heat-sensitive industries and infrastructure.

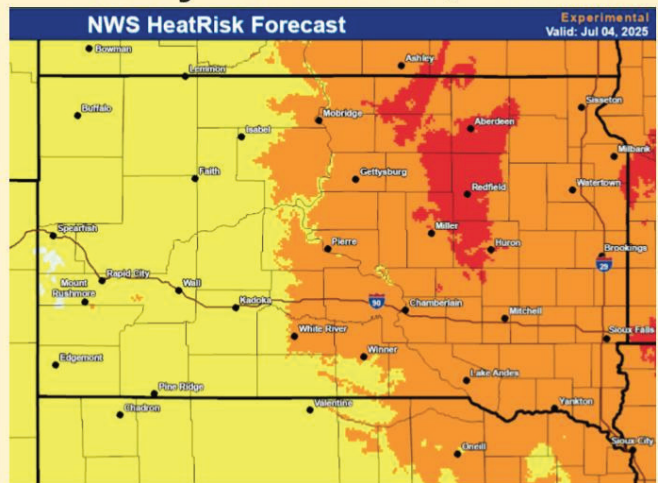
Extreme

- This level of rare and/or long-duration extreme heat with little to no overnight relief affects anyone without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration.
- Impacts likely in most health systems, heat-sensitive industries and infrastructure.

Thursday - moderate to major Heat Risk



Friday - moderate to major Heat Risk



Heat and humidity will be on the increase today, and especially Thursday and Friday. Areas along and west of the James River will see highs in the 90s Thursday and Friday, with heat indices in the upper 90s to around 100 degrees.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 23 of 66

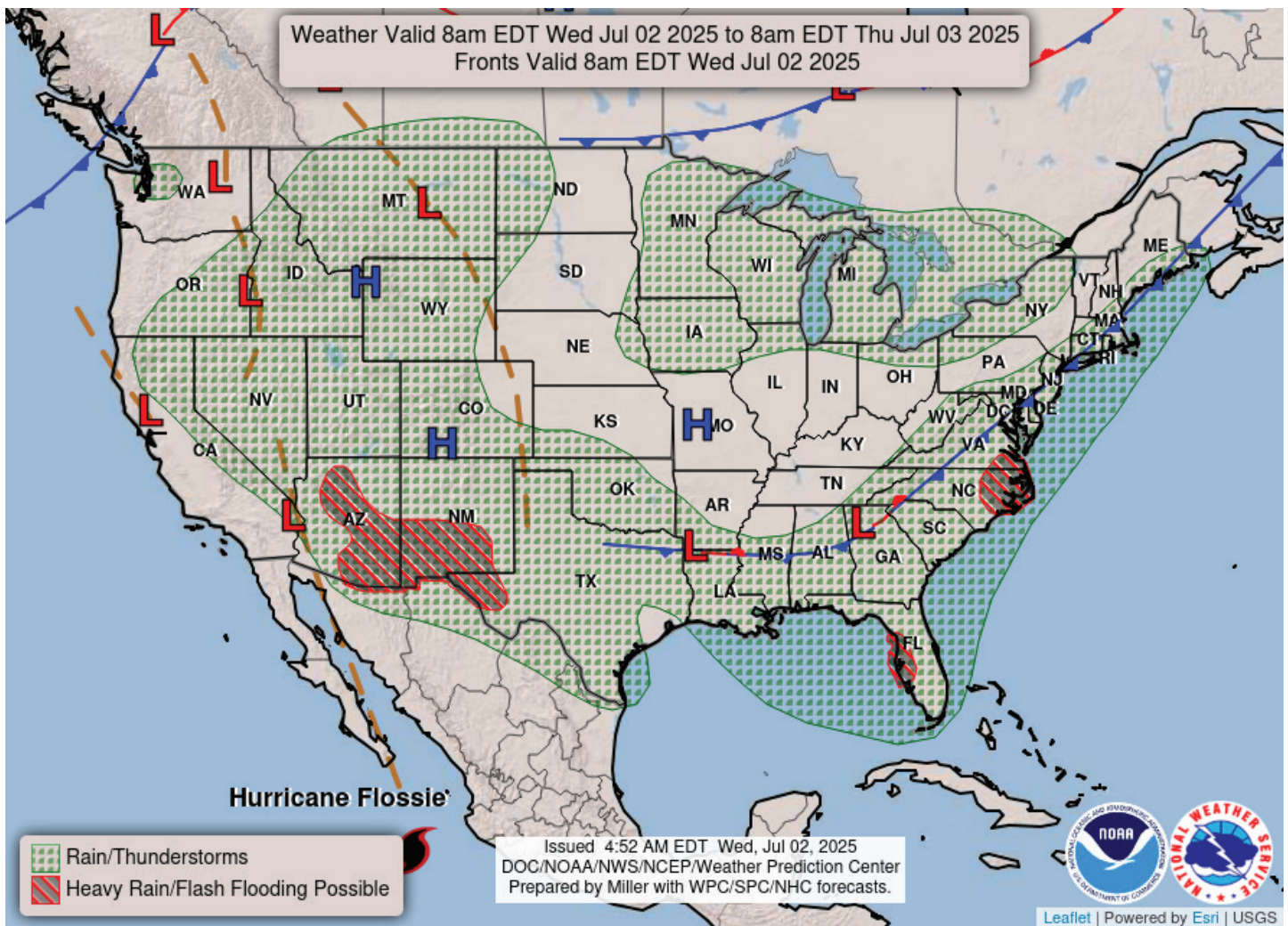
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 90 °F at 4:53 PM
Heat Index: 89 °F at 5:00 AM
Low Temp: 55 °F at 5:29 AM
Wind: 18 mph at 4:21 PM
Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 39 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 101 in 1911
Record Low: 41 in 1995
Average High: 84
Average Low: 59
Average Precip in June.: 3.76
Precip to date in June: 3.31
Average Precip to date: 11.01
Precip Year to Date: 9.36
Sunset Tonight: 9:26:10 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:47:38 am



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 24 of 66

Today in Weather History

July 2, 1921: Barns were destroyed on two farms near Frederick in Brown County. A boy who could not make it to the cellar was killed in the open near a barn. This death is one of the earliest known from a significant, estimated F2 tornado in Brown County.

July 2, 1960: Hail shredded corn flattened grain and hay and pounded soybeans into the ground in a strip extending from Clinton to Montevideo in Minnesota. Leaves and bark were stripped from trees. Hailstones were reported to pile up to a depth of four feet in low spots. One farmer lost 2000 turkeys. Twelve barns demolished, many outbuildings destroyed and several homes damaged by winds. Near Appleton, 45 cars of a moving 174 car freight train derailed by the wind, one hanger destroyed, and two planes were damaged. In Big Stone County alone, the cost to repair power lines and poles estimated to be near 10,000 dollars. Total crop acreage affected was near 64,000 acres. The three counties of Big Stone, Swift, and Chippewa Counties, was designed a disaster area.

July 2, 2005: A line of severe thunderstorms with powerful straight-line winds moved from northeast Wyoming and southeast Montana across northwest South Dakota during the evening. Widespread wind gusts of 60 to 80 mph affected northwestern South Dakota; breaking tree limbs, downing trees, and knocking down snow fences. The high winds capsized a boat on the Belle Fourche Reservoir near Orman Dam. Five people, including an infant, were rescued by emergency personnel with no one injured. The strongest winds were reported north of Newell, near Castle Rock, where gusts estimated at 100 mph damaged a barn roof and ripped a chimney off a house. Hail to the size of quarters was also reported across parts of the area, and combined with the wind, caused some minor damage.

1833: The following is from the "History and Description of New England" published in 1860: "On the 2nd of July, 1833, this town (Holland, Vermont) was visited by a violent tornado, which commenced on Salem Pond in Salem, and passed over this place in a northeasterly direction. It was from half to three-quarters of a mile wide and prostrated and scattered nearly all the trees, fences, and buildings in its course. It crossed the outlet of Norton Pond and passed into Canada, and its path could be traced through the forests nearly to Connecticut River."

1843: An alligator reportedly fell from the sky onto Anson Street in Charleston, SC during a thunderstorm.

1987 - Thunderstorms in Colorado produced hail as large as golf balls northwest of Kiowa, which accumulated to a depth of twelve inches. Hail two and a half inches in diameter was reported at Black Forest. Hail damaged 900 acres of crops south of the town of Wiggins. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Twenty-six cities in the eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. The morning low of 47 degrees at Roanoke, VA, broke the July record set the previous day. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the south central U.S., with 158 reports of large hail and damaging winds through the day. Evening thunderstorms in northeastern Texas produced softball size hail which caused more than five million dollars damage at Allen, and wind gusts to 90 mph at Dallas, which injured eight persons and caused seven million dollars damage. Winnfield LA reported 29.52 inches of rain in six days, for a total of 62.50 inches for the first six months of the year. Midland, TX, reported an all-time record high of 112 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2001: In Michigan, frost and freezing temperatures were observed in some locations with Grant dropping to 29 degrees. Muskegon reported their coldest July temperature on record with 39 degrees. Other daily record lows included: Lansing: 38, Muskegon: 39, Flint: 40, Youngstown, Ohio: 40, and Grand Rapids, Michigan: 43 degrees.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 25 of 66



"There are three sets of alternatives," our professor of ethics once said. "They include 'either/or, neither/nor or both/and.'" We often tend to focus on one of them when we face certain situations, never bothering to consider that the one we have chosen may or may not be the right one. We often make a decision without thinking it through completely or wanting to get it over quickly because we don't see other "alternatives."

But God's Word is very clear when choices are to be made. There are times when one has no options: so it is "neither this nor that. For example, "You shall have no other God except or before me!" It's neither this god nor that god, because, "I am the Lord your God!"

There are also times when it is "both/and." For example, we read, "Do this and you will live." This alternative is a win/win approach to life. When we follow the rules of God, we will live and live well because we are assured of His blessings and the prosperity that comes from being obedient to His laws and commands.

Solomon said, "A man cannot be established through wickedness, but the righteous cannot be moved." Stability in life comes from following God and being obedient to His Word. "In the beginning was the Word," said John. God's Word has been, is and always will be the ultimate test! His truth cannot be negotiated. The one who builds his life and ways on the Word of God will never have to question what is right or wrong, good or bad, honest or deceitful.

Today's Prayer: May we have the courage, conviction, and commitment to follow Your ways, Lord, and enjoy Your blessings now and eternal life with You when we die.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "Wickedness never brings stability, but the godly have deep roots." Proverbs 12:3

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

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 26 of 66

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Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 27 of 66



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.01.25

19 28 31 39 54 5

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$60,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 16 Hrs 5 Mins
16 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.30.25

5 8 18 32 46 4

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,500,000

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 20 Mins 16
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.01.25

1 2 19 30 33 2

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 35 Mins 16
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.28.25

17 20 27 29 30

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$42,000

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 35 Mins 16
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.30.25

4 9 41 42 61 26

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 4 Mins 16
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.30.25

13 28 44 52 55 6

Power Play: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$174,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 4 Mins 16
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 28 of 66

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

Hamas says it's open to a Gaza truce but stops short of accepting a Trump-backed proposal

By FATMA KHALED, SAMY MAGDY and BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Hamas suggested Wednesday that it was open to a ceasefire agreement with Israel, but stopped short of accepting a U.S.-backed proposal announced by President Donald Trump hours earlier, insisting on its longstanding position that any deal bring an end to the war in Gaza.

Trump said Tuesday that Israel had agreed on terms for a 60-day ceasefire in Gaza and urged Hamas to accept the deal before conditions worsen. The U.S. leader has been increasing pressure on the Israeli government and Hamas to broker a ceasefire, and hostage agreement and bring about an end to the war.

Trump said the 60-day period would be used to work toward ending the war — something Israel says it won't accept until Hamas is defeated. He said that a deal might come together as soon as next week.

But Hamas' response, which emphasized its demand that the war end, raised questions about whether the latest offer could materialize into an actual pause in fighting.

Hamas official Taher al-Nunu said that the militant group was "ready and serious regarding reaching an agreement."

He said Hamas was "ready to accept any initiative that clearly leads to the complete end to the war."

A Hamas delegation is expected to meet with Egyptian and Qatari mediators in Cairo on Wednesday to discuss the proposal, according to an Egyptian official. The official spoke on condition of anonymity, because he wasn't authorized to discuss the talks with the media.

Israel and Hamas disagree on how the war should end

Throughout the nearly 21-month-long war, ceasefire talks between Israel and Hamas have repeatedly faltered over whether the war should end as part of any deal.

Hamas has said that it's willing to free the remaining 50 hostages, less than half of whom are said to be alive, in exchange for a complete Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and an end to the war.

Israel says it will only agree to end the war if Hamas surrenders, disarms and exiles itself, something the group refuses to do.

An Israeli official said that the latest proposal calls for a 60-day deal that would include a partial Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and a surge in humanitarian aid to the territory. The mediators and the U.S. would provide assurances about talks to end the war, but Israel isn't committing to that as part of the latest proposal, the official said.

The official wasn't authorized to discuss the details of the proposed deal with the media and spoke on condition of anonymity.

It wasn't clear how many hostages would be freed as part of the agreement, but previous proposals have called for the release of about 10.

Israel has yet to publicly comment on Trump's announcement. On Monday, Trump is set to host Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House, days after Ron Dermer, a senior Netanyahu adviser, held discussions with top U.S. officials about Gaza, Iran and other matters.

Trump issues another warning

On Tuesday, Trump wrote on social media that Israel had "agreed to the necessary conditions to finalize the 60 Day CEASEFIRE, during which time we will work with all parties to end the War."

"I hope, for the good of the Middle East, that Hamas takes this Deal, because it will not get better — IT WILL ONLY GET WORSE," he said.

Trump's warning may find a skeptical audience with Hamas. Even before the expiration of the war's longest ceasefire in March, Trump has repeatedly issued dramatic ultimatums to pressure Hamas to agree to longer pauses in the fighting that would see the release of more hostages and a return of more aid for

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 30 of 66

Gaza's civilians.

Still, Trump views the current moment as a potential turning point in the brutal conflict that has left more than 56,000 dead in the Palestinian territory. The Gaza Health Ministry doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants in its death count, but says that more than half of the dead are women and children.

Since dawn Wednesday, Israeli strikes killed a total of 40 people across the Gaza Strip, the Health Ministry said. Hospital officials said four children and seven women were among the dead.

The Israeli military, which blames Hamas for the civilian casualties because it operates from populated areas, was looking into the reports.

The war began on Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking roughly 250 hostages.

The war has left the coastal Palestinian territory in ruins, with much of the urban landscape flattened in the fighting. More than 90% of Gaza's 2.3 million population has been displaced, often multiple times. And the war has sparked a humanitarian crisis in Gaza, pushing hundreds of thousands of people toward hunger.

Wildfire kills 2 people in Spain as parts of Europe bake in heat wave

By JOSEPH WILSON Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Two people died in Spain in a wildfire that spread quickly before firefighters brought it under control, authorities said, as a European heat wave sent thermometers soaring again on Wednesday.

The blaze broke out in the rural province of Lleida. It created an enormous thick plume of ash and smoke that reached 14,000 meters (45,000 feet) of altitude, making it the largest registered by firefighters in Catalonia, a northeastern region of Spain.

Firefighters said that the fire spread at 28 kph (17 mph) at one point, making it one of the fastest fires registered in Europe, they said.

Catalan regional president Salvador Illa announced the deaths, which occurred late Tuesday, in a social media post around midnight. Firefighters said that the two victims were found near the small village of Cosco in the county of La Segarra near a vehicle. Regional official Nuria Parlón said that the two victims were a farmer and one of his workers. She said that it appears that they were caught by the flames as they were trying to flee the farm.

Two firefighters also needed to be treated at a local hospital for injuries.

Rain played a helping hand

A total of 6,500 hectares (16,000 acres) was burned before firefighters got some help from a rainstorm and established a perimeter. Authorities issued warnings to residents via messages to smartphones and ordered 14,000 people to stay indoors, firefighters said. That order was lifted late Tuesday.

Firefighters said that the rainstorms "quickly changed the situation and helped speed up getting the fire stabilized."

The fire destroyed mostly farmland, but it also incinerated at least three old farmhouses and some other farm buildings.

The fire was declared under control early Wednesday.

"Wildfires today are not like they were before," Illa said. "These are extremely dangerous. From the very first moment, it was considered to be beyond the capacity of extinction. I mean that not even with two or three times the number of firefighters, they have told me, it would have been possible to put out."

The heat wave in parts of Europe has set record high temperatures for June in Spain and Portugal.

More hot weather is expected on Wednesday with temperatures in the Lleida region forecast to reach a high of 39 C (102 F).

"It will be a difficult day due to the high temperatures and until we get past the hottest part of the afternoon we will have to be on our guard," said Illa, the regional president.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 31 of 66

Spain bakes

Spain has been sweltering under its first heat wave of the year since the weekend. It's weather service said that the national average for June of 23.6 C (74 F) was a new record. It was the first time that June was hotter than the average temperatures for both July and August.

Except for Spain's northern Atlantic coast, the country remained under alert for high temperatures and for wildfire risk on Wednesday.

In Spain's southern city of Malaga, the international Red Cross set up a "climate refuge" that is air-conditioned down to the low 20s C (about 70F) to help residents "cope with the heat in comfort and with company, avoiding the isolation and loneliness" that extreme heat can impose as people stay indoors.

The Spanish Red Cross was also providing an "assisted bathing service" to help people with reduced mobility to cool down in waters at the beach.

The European Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts said that it was closely monitoring the abnormally hot temperatures for the continent. Weather experts link the heat wave to climate change.

More than two-thirds of the severest heat waves in Europe registered since 1950 have occurred since 2000, the World Meteorological Organization says.

France's national weather agency kept four departments under red alert on Wednesday after temperatures exceeded 40 C (104 F) in many towns.

Air conditioning strains Italian power grid

Heat alerts were issued for 17 Italian cities Wednesday. The corresponding surge in air conditioning was straining the electric grid and causing periodic blackouts. On Tuesday, parts of Florence's historic center — which is packed with hotels, restaurants and shops — had a blackout following a surge in electricity use, energy company Enel said.

Italy's labor ministry, meanwhile, summoned union representatives to a meeting Wednesday to finalize a protocol on protecting farm, construction and other workers who labor outdoors from heat exposure.

This came after a construction worker died in Bologna this week.

Switzerland protects river

In Switzerland, one of the two reactors at the Beznau nuclear power plant was shut down as part of efforts to prevent excessive warming of the Aare River, so as not to further burden wildlife and the overall ecosystem in already hot weather, operator Axpo said.

Analysis shows Trump's tariffs would cost US employers \$82.3 billion

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An analysis finds that a critical group of U.S. employers would face a direct cost of \$82.3 billion from President Donald Trump's current tariff plans, a sum that could be potentially managed through price hikes, layoffs, hiring freezes or lower profit margins.

The analysis by the JPMorganChase Institute is among the first to measure the direct costs created by the import taxes on businesses with \$10 million to \$1 billion in annual revenue, a category that includes roughly a third of private-sector U.S. workers. These companies are more dependent than other businesses on imports from China, India and Thailand — and the retail and wholesale sectors would be especially vulnerable to the import taxes being levied by the Republican president.

The findings show clear trade-offs from Trump's import taxes, contradicting his claims that foreign manufacturers would absorb the costs of the tariffs instead of U.S. companies that rely on imports. While the tariffs launched under Trump have yet to boost overall inflation, large companies such as Amazon, Costco, Walmart and Williams-Sonoma delayed the potential reckoning by building up their inventories before the taxes could be imposed.

The analysis comes just ahead of the July 9 deadline by Trump to formally set the tariff rates on goods from dozens of countries. Trump imposed that deadline after the financial markets panicked in response to

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 32 of 66

his April tariff announcements, prompting him to instead schedule a 90-day negotiating period when most imports faced a 10% baseline tariff. China, Mexico and Canada face higher rates, and there are separate 50% tariffs on steel and aluminum.

Had the initial April 2 tariffs stayed in place, the companies in the JPMorganChase Institute analysis would have faced additional direct costs of \$187.6 billion. Under the current rates, the \$82.3 billion would be equivalent on average to \$2,080 per employee, or 3.1% of the average annual payroll. Those averages include firms that don't import goods and those that do.

Asked Tuesday how trade talks are faring, Trump said simply: "Everything's going well."

The president has indicated that he will set tariff rates given the logistical challenge of negotiating with so many nations. As the 90-day period comes to a close, only the United Kingdom has signed a trade framework with the Trump administration. India and Vietnam have signaled that they're close to a trade framework.

There is a growing body of evidence suggesting that more inflation could surface. The investment bank Goldman Sachs said in a report that it expects companies to pass along 60% of their tariff costs onto consumers. The Atlanta Federal Reserve has used its survey of businesses' inflation expectations to say that companies could on average pass along roughly half their costs from a 10% tariff or a 25% tariff without reducing consumer demand.

The JPMorganChase Institute findings suggest that the tariffs could cause some domestic manufacturers to strengthen their roles as suppliers of goods. But it noted that companies need to plan for a range of possible outcomes and that wholesalers and retailers already operate on such low profit margins that they might need to spread the tariffs costs to their customers.

The outlook for tariffs remains highly uncertain. Trump had stopped negotiations with Canada, only to restart them after the country dropped its plan to tax digital services. He similarly on Monday threatened more tariffs on Japan unless it buys more rice from the U.S.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a Tuesday interview that the concessions from the trade talks have impressed career officials at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and other agencies.

"People who have been at Treasury, at Commerce, at USTR for 20 years are saying that these are deals like they've never seen before," Bessent said on Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends."

The treasury secretary said the Trump administration plans to discuss the contours of trade deals next week, prioritizing the tax cuts package passed on Tuesday by the Republican majority in the Senate. Trump has set a Friday deadline for passage of the multitrillion-dollar package, the costs of which the president hopes to offset with tariff revenues.

Daughter of assassinated civil rights leader sees painful echoes of political violence in America

By SOPHIE BATES Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — More than 60 years after a white supremacist assassinated civil rights leader Medgar Evers, his daughter still sees the same strain of political violence at work in American society.

"It's painful," said Reena Evers-Everette. "It's very painful."

Evers-Everette was 8 years old when her father, a field secretary for the NAACP, was shot to death in the driveway of his home in Jackson, Mississippi.

A few months after Evers' killing in 1963, President John F. Kennedy was gunned down. The deaths of civil rights leaders Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, and U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy followed later that decade.

Now, experts say the level of political violence in America over the past few years is likely the highest it's been since the 1960s and 1970s. The past year alone has seen the assassination of a Minnesota state lawmaker and her husband, the killing of two Israeli Embassy staffers, and two assassination attempts on then-presidential candidate Donald Trump.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 33 of 66

At a four-day conference celebrating Evers' life just before what would have been his 100th birthday on July 2, his daughter was joined by the daughters of slain civil rights leaders: Kerry Kennedy, the daughter of Robert F. Kennedy, and Bettie Dahmer, the daughter of civil and voting rights activist Vernon Dahmer. The 2025 Democracy in Action Convening, "Medgar Evers at 100: a Legacy of Justice, a Future of Change," was held in Jackson.

"I just was feeling so much pain, and I didn't want anyone else to have to go through that," Kennedy said, recalling that after her father died, she prayed for the man who killed him. "I was saying, 'Please don't — please don't kill the guy that killed him.'"

Two-time Georgia gubernatorial candidate and voting rights activist Stacey Abrams spoke at the event, denouncing efforts by the Trump administration to strip the names of activists from Navy vessels, including possibly Evers.

"They want to take his name off a boat because they don't want us to have a reminder of how far he sailed us forward," Abrams told the conference crowd.

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has undertaken an effort to change the names of ships and military bases that were given by President Joe Biden's Democratic administration, which often honored service members who were women, people of color, or from the LGBTQ+ community.

Abrams drew parallels between acts of radical political violence and the Trump administration's use of military resources against protesters in Los Angeles who were demonstrating against immigration enforcement actions.

"Unfortunately, we cannot decry political violence and then sanction the sending of the Marines and the National Guard to stop protesters and not believe that that conflicting message doesn't communicate itself," Abrams told The Associated Press. "What I want us to remember is that whether it is Medgar Evers or Melissa Hortman, no one who is willing to speak for the people should have their lives cut short because of what they say."

In addition to her father's life and legacy, Evers-Everette wants people to remember the hatred that led to his assassination.

"We have to make sure we know what our history is," she said. "So we don't repeat the crazy, nasty, racist mess."

Paramount to pay \$16 million in settlement with Trump over '60 Minutes' interview

By The Associated Press undefined

In a case seen as a challenge to free speech, Paramount has agreed to pay \$16 million to settle a lawsuit filed by President Donald Trump over the editing of CBS' "60 Minutes" interview with then-Vice President Kamala Harris in October.

Paramount told media outlets the money will go to Trump's future presidential library, not to the president himself. It said the settlement did not involve an apology.

Trump's lawyer said the president had suffered "mental anguish" over the editing of the interview by CBS News, while Paramount and CBS rejected his contention that it was edited to enhance how Harris sounded. They had sought to get Trump's lawsuit dismissed.

There was no immediate word from the White House about the settlement of the case, which Trump filed in Amarillo, Texas.

The case has been closely watched by advocates for press freedom and by journalists within CBS, whose lawyers called Trump's lawsuit "completely without merit" and promised to vigorously fight it after it was filed.

In early February, "60 Minutes" released a full, unedited transcript of the interview.

Under the settlement reached with help of a mediator, Paramount agreed that "60 Minutes" will release transcripts of future interviews of presidential candidates, "subject to redactions as required for legal and

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 34 of 66

national security concerns," CBS News cited the statement as saying.

Trump, who did not agree to be interviewed by "60 Minutes" during the campaign, protested editing where Harris is seen giving two different answers to a question by the show's Bill Whitaker in separate clips aired on "60 Minutes" and "Face the Nation" earlier in the day. CBS said each reply came within Harris' long-winded answer to Whitaker, but was edited to be more succinct.

The president's lawyer, Edward Andrew Paltzik, said that caused confusion and "mental anguish," misleading voters and causing them to pay less attention to Trump and his Truth Social platform.

Paramount and controlling shareholder Shari Redstone were seeking the settlement with Trump, whose administration must approve the company's proposed merger with Skydance Media. CBS News President and CEO Wendy McMahon and "60 Minutes" executive producer Bill Owens, who both opposed a settlement, have resigned in recent weeks.

The Freedom of the Press Foundation, a media advocacy group that says it is a Paramount shareholder, has said that it would file a lawsuit in protest if a settlement was reached.

In December, ABC News settled a defamation lawsuit by Trump over statements made by anchor George Stephanopoulos, agreeing to pay \$15 million toward Trump's presidential library rather than engage in a public fight. Meta reportedly paid \$25 million to settle Trump's lawsuit against the company over its decision to suspend his social media accounts following the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol.

Russia ramps up offensives on 2 fronts in Ukraine as both sides seek an advantage before the fall

By SAMYA KULLAB and YEHOR KONOVALOV Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — An emboldened Russia has ramped up military offensives on two fronts in Ukraine, scattering Kyiv's precious reserve troops and threatening to expand the fighting to a new Ukrainian region as each side seeks an advantage before the fighting season wanes in the autumn.

Moscow aims to maximize its territorial gains before seriously considering a full ceasefire, analysts and military commanders said. Ukraine wants to slow the Russian advance for as long as possible and extract heavy losses.

Kremlin forces are steadily gaining ground in the strategic eastern logistics hub of Pokrovsk, the capture of which would hand them a major battlefield victory and bring them closer to acquiring the entire Donetsk region. The fighting there has also brought combat to the border of the neighboring Dnipropetrovsk region for the first time.

In an effort to prevent Moscow from bolstering those positions in the east, Ukrainian forces are trying to pin down some of Russia's best and most battle-hardened troops hundreds of kilometers away, in the northeast Sumy region.

"The best-case scenario for Ukraine," said Russian-British military historian Sergey Radchenko, "is that they're able to stall or stop the Russian advance" in the Ukrainian industrial heartland known as Donbas, which includes the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Then Ukraine could "use that as the basis for a ceasefire agreement."

"There's a better chance for Russia to come to some kind of terms with Ukraine" in the fall when the Russians "see the extent of their offensive," Radchenko added.

While the battles rage, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is waiting to learn whether the Trump administration will support tougher sanctions against Russia and back a European idea to establish a "re-assurance force" to deter Moscow.

A setback came with the U.S. decision Tuesday to halt some weapons shipments to Ukraine out of concern over America's own depleted stockpiles.

Ukraine faces relentless assaults in Sumy

In the Sumy region, Ukrainian forces face a constant barrage of aerial glide bombs, drones and relentless assaults by small groups of Russian infantrymen. They endure the attacks to prevent Russian forces

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 35 of 66

from being moved to other battlegrounds in the eastern Donetsk region.

Ukrainian forces intensified their own attacks in Sumy in April and even conducted a small offensive into Russia's neighboring Kursk region to prevent up to 60,000 battle-hardened Russian forces from being moved to reinforce positions in the Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions, Ukraine's top army commander, Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyi, said last week.

If those troops had been moved, they could have increased the tempo of Russian attacks across the front line and stretched Ukrainian forces thin.

The strategy did not come without criticism. Commanders who were ordered to execute it complained that it resulted in unnecessary loss of life.

Russian forces have penetrated up to 7 kilometers (4 miles) into the northern Sumy region from different directions along the border.

Ukrainian forces are determined to keep them there to avoid freeing up Russian forces to fight in the east. So far they have succeeded, locking up to 10,000 Russian troops in the Glushkovsky district of the Kursk region alone, where Ukraine maintains a small presence after being mostly forced out by Russian and North Korean troops earlier in the year.

Russia seeks maximum gains in Donetsk

The war's largest battle is being waged in Donetsk as Russia inches toward its stated goal of capturing all of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

Unable to tackle the strategically significant logistical hub of Pokrovsk directly, Russian forces are attempting to encircle the city, a maneuver that requires encroaching on the borders of the Dnipropetrovsk region. Bringing the war to a sixth Ukrainian region would be detrimental for Ukrainian morale and give Russia more leverage in negotiations if its forces manage to carve out a foothold there.

Sabotage groups have crossed the border, only to be eliminated by Ukrainian forces.

But in time, commanders fear that Russia will advance as Ukraine continues to grapple with severe shortages.

Lack of soldiers and supplies across the 1,200-kilometer (745-mile) front line mean that Ukrainian forces must concentrate on holding their positions and conserving resources rather than advancing, said Oleksii Makhrinskyi, deputy commander of the Da Vinci Wolves battalion.

Commanders describe battles so intense under drone-saturated skies that rotating forces in and out of position has become a deadly operation. Ukrainian forces remain in combat positions for several weeks at a time or more, relying on supplies carried in by drones.

The Russians' goal "is just to enter Dnipropetrovsk region, to have a good position politically if the presidents negotiate peace," said Andrii Nazerenko, a commander of the 72nd Brigade, a drone unit in eastern Ukraine, referring to potential talks between Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"They're really close to getting what they want," he said.

All eyes on Trump's next move

Zelenskyy hopes U.S. President Donald Trump will move away from his administration's past ambivalence toward Ukraine and signal his intention to continue American support, a move that could also alter Moscow's calculations.

The two presidents met last week on the sidelines of a NATO summit and discussed a possible weapons package, including Patriot missile systems that Ukraine intends to purchase with European support.

The U.S. Defense Department announcement now calls that into question although it did not specify which weapons were being held back when it disclosed the Pentagon review of American weapons stockpiles Tuesday. The halt of any weapons from the U.S. would be a blow to Ukraine as it struggles to confront Russia's daily aerial barrages.

Zelenskyy also hopes Trump will punish Russia by imposing harsher sanctions on its energy and banking sectors, which bankroll the Kremlin's war effort.

Europe and the U.S. have imposed successive sanctions on Russia since the full-scale invasion in 2022, but Zelenskyy says those measures have not been enough to pierce Moscow's war machine. He has pro-

posed a \$30 per barrel price cap on Russian oil.

EU sanctions envoy David O'Sullivan said Europe needs to maintain the sanctions pressure while also "holding out the prospect that if Russia behaves correctly, we could have some kind of ceasefire and some kind of sense of negotiation, but for the moment Russia doesn't seem to want that."

Kyiv's closest European allies are also awaiting a sign from Trump that he will support a plan to deploy foreign troops in Ukraine to guard against future Russian aggression after a ceasefire agreement. That is likely the best security guarantee Ukraine can hope for in lieu of NATO membership.

Meanwhile on the battlefield, Russian forces appear increasingly confident.

Nazerenko noticed a shift in the morale of advancing Russian infantrymen in recent months. Instead of running away while being assailed by Ukrainian drones, they keep pushing forward.

Nazerenko could not help but ask a Russian prisoner: "You know you will die. Why go?"

Because, the Russian soldier replied: "We will win."

Jury in Diddy's sex trafficking trial to resume deliberations after reaching partial verdict

NEW YORK (AP) — The jury in Sean "Diddy" Combs' sex trafficking trial is set to resume deliberations Wednesday after reaching a yet-to-be-disclosed verdict on all but one of the five charges the hip-hop mogul faces.

U.S. District Judge Arun Subramanian ordered the jury to continue its closed-door discussions for a third day after the panel of eight men and four women said Tuesday that it was unable to reach consensus on the top count: racketeering conspiracy.

The judge agreed with prosecutors and Combs' defense team that less than 13 hours of deliberations was too soon to give up on reaching a verdict on all counts.

The jury's decision on the other charges — two counts of sex trafficking and two counts of transportation to engage in prostitution — remains under wraps for now.

In a note to the court late Tuesday, the jury said "unpersuadable opinions on both sides" among some jurors had prevented the group from reaching a unanimous verdict on the racketeering conspiracy charge.

Racketeering conspiracy is the most complicated charge in the trial and carries a potential maximum sentence of life in prison.

The sex trafficking charge carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in prison and a maximum sentence of life. Transportation to engage in prostitution carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

The disclosure of the jury note about the partial verdict seemed to put defense attorneys and their client in a dour mood even before it was read in open court by the judge.

Eight defense lawyers formed a half-circle behind Combs as the smiles and lighthearted mood that accompanied the arrival of other jury notes over two days seemed absent as the attorneys contemplated the possibility that jurors had reached agreement on counts that carry the heaviest sentencing penalties.

Combs, 55, appeared morose as his lawyers spoke with him. At one point, the hip-hop mogul solemnly read a piece of paper that attorney Marc Agnifilo handed to him.

After the jury came in for instructions and then exited the room, a subdued Combs sat in his chair for a few minutes. As he stood to leave, he faced his relatives and supporters in the audience, blew a kiss and tapped his heart, as he frequently has done at the start and end of each day.

Then he paused before his mother and exchanged a few words, telling her, "Love you" and "I'll be all right."

Marshals then led him from the room.

Earlier in their deliberations the jury asked to review testimony from Cassie, the R&B singer who was Diddy's former longtime girlfriend, as well as from Daniel Phillip, a male stripper Diddy is accused of paying to have sex with Cassie.

Prosecutors say Combs coerced two girlfriends into drug-fueled sex marathons with male sex workers.

Lawyers for the Bad Boy Records founder contend prosecutors are trying to criminalize Combs' swinger lifestyle. They say his conduct, if anything, amounted to domestic violence, not federal felonies.

Combs, who chose not to testify, has pleaded not guilty.

UPenn updates swimming records set by Lia Thomas, settling with feds on transgender athletes case

By COLLIN BINKLEY AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The University of Pennsylvania on Tuesday modified a trio of school records set by transgender swimmer Lia Thomas and said it would apologize to female athletes "disadvantaged" by her participation on the women's swimming team, part of a resolution of a federal civil rights case.

The U.S. Education Department and Penn announced the voluntary agreement of the high-profile case that focused on Thomas, who last competed for the Ivy League school in 2022, when she became the first openly transgender athlete to win an NCAA Division I title.

The department investigated Penn as part of the Trump administration's broader attempt to remove transgender athletes from girls' and women's sports, concluding the university in Philadelphia had violated the rights of female athletes.

Under the agreement, Penn agreed to restore all individual Division I records and titles to female athletes who lost to Thomas and send a personalized apology letter to each of those swimmers, the Education Department said.

By Tuesday afternoon, the Penn website showed other athletes holding the school's top times in Thomas' events. The site was annotated with a note that read, "Competing under eligibility rules in effect at the time, Lia Thomas set program records in the 100, 200 and 500 freestyle during the 2021-22 season."

"While Penn's policies during the 2021-2022 swim season were in accordance with NCAA eligibility rules at the time, we acknowledge that some student-athletes were disadvantaged by these rules," Penn President J. Larry Jameson said. "We recognize this and will apologize to those who experienced a competitive disadvantage or experienced anxiety because of the policies in effect at the time."

As part of the settlement, the university must also announce that it "will not allow males to compete in female athletic programs" and it must adopt "biology-based" definitions of male and female, the department said.

In his statement, Jameson said Penn has always been in compliance with NCAA and Title IX rules as they were interpreted at the time, and that the university has never had its own policies around transgender athlete participation. The school has followed changes to eligibility guidelines as they were issued earlier this year, he said. The NCAA changed its participation policy for transgender athletes in February, limiting competition in women's sports to athletes who were assigned female at birth.

"Our commitment to ensuring a respectful and welcoming environment for all of our students is unwavering," Jameson said. "At the same time, we must comply with federal requirements, including executive orders, and NCAA eligibility rules, so our teams and student-athletes may engage in competitive intercollegiate sports."

Education Secretary Linda McMahon called it a victory for women and girls.

"The Department commends UPenn for rectifying its past harms against women and girls, and we will continue to fight relentlessly to restore Title IX's proper application and enforce it to the fullest extent of the law," McMahon said in a statement.

Former University of Kentucky swimmer Riley Gaines thanked President Donald Trump on social media and wrote of the settlement, "Are pigs flying?" Gaines has said she started her activism against transgender athletes competing in women's sports after sharing a locker room with Thomas at the 2022 NCAA championships.

The Education Department opened its investigation in February and concluded in April that Penn had violated Title IX, a 1972 law forbidding sex discrimination in education. Such findings have almost always

been resolved through voluntary agreements. If Penn had fought the finding, the department could have moved to refer the case to the Justice Department or pursued a separate process to cut the school's federal funding.

In February, the Education Department asked the NCAA and the National Federation of State High School Associations, or NFSHSA, to restore titles, awards and records it says have been "misappropriated by biological males competing in female categories."

The most obvious target at the college level was in women's swimming, where Thomas won the national title in the 500-yard freestyle in 2022.

The NCAA has updated its record books when recruiting and other violations have stripped titles from certain schools, but the organization, like the NFSHSA, has not responded to the federal government's request and did not respond to emails seeking comment Tuesday. It was not clear how either would determine which events had a transgender athlete participating years later.

Bryan Kohberger is due to appear in court to plead guilty in University of Idaho stabbings

By JESSE BEDAYN and GENE JOHNSON Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — More than two years after the stabbing deaths of four University of Idaho students shocked the rural community of Moscow, Idaho, the former criminal justice doctoral student charged in the murders is expected in court Wednesday to plead guilty in a deal to avoid the death penalty.

Bryan Kohberger agreed to the plea deal in the past few days, just weeks before his trial was to begin, after his attorneys tried but failed to have execution stricken as a possible punishment. The deal drew mixed reactions from the victims' families, ranging from support to outrage that Kohberger would live.

"Bryan Kohberger facing a life in prison means he would still get to speak, form relationships, and engage with the world," Aubrie Goncalves, the 18-year-old sister of victim Kaylee Goncalves, wrote in a Facebook post. "Meanwhile, our loved ones have been silenced forever. That reality stings more deeply when it feels like the system is protecting his future more than honoring the victims' pasts."

The small farming community of Moscow, in the northern Idaho panhandle, had not had a homicide in about five years when Kaylee Goncalves, Ethan Chapin, Xana Kernodle and Madison Mogen were found dead at a rental home near campus on Nov. 13, 2022. Autopsies showed the four victims were all likely asleep when they were attacked. Some had defensive wounds and each was stabbed multiple times.

The killings prompted a massive hunt for the perpetrator. That included an elaborate effort to track down a white sedan that was seen on surveillance cameras repeatedly driving by the rental home, using genetic genealogy to identify Kohberger as a possible suspect, and using cellphone data to pinpoint his movements the night of the killings.

At the time, Kohberger was a criminal justice graduate student at Washington State University, about 9 miles (14.5 kilometers) west of the University of Idaho. He was arrested in Pennsylvania, where his parents lived, weeks later. Investigators said they matched his DNA to genetic material recovered from a knife sheath found at the crime scene.

Online shopping records showed that Kohberger had purchased a military-style knife months earlier — as well as a sheath like the one found at the scene.

No motive has emerged for the killings, nor is it clear why the attacker spared two roommates who were in the home. Authorities have said cellphone data and surveillance video show that Kohberger visited the victims' neighborhood at least a dozen times before the killings.

Kohberger is due to appear at 11 a.m. MDT Wednesday before Idaho Fourth Judicial District Judge Steven Hippler in Boise, where the case was moved due to pretrial publicity in northern Idaho. Hippler must approve the plea deal. If Kohberger pleads guilty as expected, he would likely be sentenced in July.

While the Goncalves family opposed the agreement and said they would seek to stop it, they also argued that any such deal should require Kohberger to make a full confession, detail the facts of what happened

and provide the location of the murder weapon.

"We deserve to know when the beginning of the end was," they wrote in a Facebook post.

The family of Chapin — one of three triplets who attended the university together — supports the deal, their spokesperson, Christina Teves, said Tuesday. Attorney Leander James, who represents Mogen's mother and stepfather, declined to give their views but said he would deliver a statement on their behalf after Wednesday's hearing. Mogen's father, Ben Mogen, told CBS News he was relieved by the agreement.

"We can actually put this behind us and not have these future dates and future things that we don't want to have to be at, that we shouldn't have to be at, that have to do with this terrible person," he said. "We get to just think about the rest of lives and have to try and figure out how to do it without Maddie and the rest of the kids."

Myles Turner will join Bucks, who waive Damian Lillard, AP source says, in a free agency surprise

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

Myles Turner is about to become teammates with Giannis Antetokounmpo. Damian Lillard now has the chance to pick his next spot.

And just like that, the first full day of NBA free agency brought big surprises Tuesday.

Turner — the longtime stalwart for the Indiana Pacers — agreed to a four-year deal to join the Milwaukee Bucks, who waived the nine-time All-Star in Lillard to make the acquisition happen, a person with knowledge of the moves told The Associated Press.

Turner is agreeing to a deal that ends with a player option, after spending the entirety of his first 10 seasons with the Pacers, who went to the NBA Finals this past season. And the remaining \$112.6 million owed to Lillard will be paid out over the next five seasons via the NBA's stretch provision, according to the person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because neither move was announced by the clubs involved.

ESPN, which first reported the plan by the Pacers and Bucks, said Turner agreed to a contract worth \$107 million.

In both cases, Achilles tendon injuries played a role in how things unfolded.

Indiana expects to be without star guard Tyrese Haliburton for the entirety of the coming season because he ruptured his Achilles tendon in Game 7 of the NBA Finals against the Oklahoma City Thunder while playing through what was diagnosed as a calf strain. Earlier, Lillard ruptured his Achilles tendon while playing for Milwaukee in Round 1 against Indiana.

Lillard is likely to miss most, if not all, of the coming season. He will be free to sign with anyone he chooses, and teams could simply sign him now, give him a chance to continue his recovery and do so with hope that the seven-time All-NBA selection is fully ready to go by the start of the 2026-27 season.

"This is an opportunity for Damian to stay home to continue his rehabilitation, take time to decide where he wants to play next, while still being paid his entire contract," said Lillard's agent, Aaron Goodwin.

Turner has averaged 14.1 points and 6.8 rebounds in his 10 seasons with the Pacers, who had to make a decision this summer about whether to surpass the luxury tax threshold knowing that Haliburton likely cannot play this coming season.

Lillard, who turns 35 this month, has averaged 25.1 points and 6.7 assists in 900 regular-season games over 13 seasons — the first 11 with Portland, the last two with Milwaukee.

The Bucks lost Brook Lopez to the Los Angeles Clippers when free agency opened Monday.

SGA gets extension

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and the Oklahoma City Thunder have agreed on a record-setting 4-year, \$285 million extension that would give him the highest single-season average salary in NBA history, a person with knowledge of the agreement said Tuesday.

He is coming off a year when he became the fourth player in NBA history to win MVP, Finals MVP and a

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 40 of 66

scoring title and play for a champion in the same season. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar did it once, Michael Jordan then did it four times and Shaquille O'Neal was the last entrant into that fraternity — until this past season, when Gilgeous-Alexander joined the club.

Heat trading Robinson to Pistons

Duncan Robinson, the leading 3-point shooter in Miami Heat history, is headed back to Michigan for the next step of his career.

A person with knowledge of the agreement said the Detroit Pistons will land Robinson on a three-year, \$48 million contract and the Heat will receive wing Simone Fontecchio in what will be a sign-and-trade.

Robinson started his college career at Division III's Williams in Massachusetts, before finishing at Michigan. He was an undrafted success story with the Heat, part of the 2020 and 2023 teams that went to the NBA Finals.

Schröder to Kings

Veteran point guard and German Olympic teamer Dennis Schröder has agreed to join the Sacramento Kings on a three-year deal, the third of which is not fully guaranteed, a person with knowledge of that agreement said Tuesday. ESPN reported the total value of the deal is \$45 million.

Schröder, who is entering his 13th NBA season, is joining his 10th club — and ninth in the last seven years. He spent the first five seasons of his career with Atlanta, then was with Oklahoma City, the Los Angeles Lakers (twice), Boston, Houston, Toronto, Brooklyn, Golden State and Detroit at various times over the past seven seasons.

He has averaged 13.9 points and 4.9 assists in 849 regular-season games.

Tim Hardaway Jr. joining Nuggets

Sharpshooting wing Tim Hardaway Jr. will be signing a one-year contract with the Denver Nuggets, a person familiar with the player's plans said Tuesday.

Hardaway spent last season with Detroit — he averaged 11 points in 77 games as a starter for the Pistons — and Denver becomes his fifth club. He also has been with Dallas, New York and Atlanta.

Poeltl remains with Raptors

Center Jakob Poeltl gets a raise and some job security in a contract extension that keeps him with the Toronto Raptors, a person familiar with that agreement confirmed Tuesday. Poeltl will be finalizing a four-year deal worth about \$26 million per year, or about \$7 million more on average than what he was in line to make this coming season.

Poeltl — a career 63% shooter — is coming off a season in which he averaged career bests of 14.5 points and 9.6 rebounds.

Gordon stays with 76ers

Philadelphia announced Tuesday night that guard Eric Gordon has re-signed with the team. Because it's a veteran minimum contract, there was no need for the 76ers to wait until the offseason moratorium is lifted Sunday to announce the deal.

"Eric is a prolific shot maker whose ability to space the floor will serve our rotation well. He's been a great fit on and off the court with this organization and we're fortunate to have him back," 76ers basketball operations president Daryl Morey said.

Gordon averaged 6.8 points in 39 games for Philadelphia this past season. He is entering his 18th NBA season.

Jury reaches verdict on 4 of 5 counts in Diddy trial but is told to keep deliberating

By MICHAEL R. SISAK, LARRY NEUMEISTER and JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The jury in Sean "Diddy" Combs' sex trafficking trial said Tuesday that it has reached a verdict on four of five counts against the hip-hop mogul. But the partial decision remained under wraps after jurors were told to keep deliberating because they were stuck on the top charge, racketeering conspiracy.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 41 of 66

Prosecutors, Combs' defense team and Judge Arun Subramanian reasoned that after just two days of deliberations, it was too soon to give up on reaching a verdict on all counts. So rather than taking a partial verdict, Subramanian told the jury to continue weighing the remaining charge. Deliberations will continue Wednesday.

The developments came late Tuesday afternoon, when the jury sent a note saying it was unable to reach a unanimous verdict on the racketeering conspiracy charge because there were jurors with "unpersuadable" views on both sides.

But in less than 13 hours of deliberations, the jury did reach a verdict on two counts of sex trafficking and two counts of transportation to engage in prostitution. The latter concerns allegations of arranging to fly the women and sex workers across state lines.

If there is a conviction, the sex trafficking charge carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in prison and a maximum sentence of life. Transportation to engage in prostitution carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

The outstanding charge, racketeering conspiracy, carries a maximum sentence of life in prison.

After hearing about the jury note, Combs, 55, appeared morose as his lawyers spoke with him. At one point, the hip-hop mogul solemnly read a piece of paper that attorney Marc Agnifilo handed to him.

After the jury came in for instructions and then exited the room, a subdued Combs sat in his chair for a few minutes. As he stood to leave, he faced his relatives and supporters in the audience, blew a kiss and tapped his heart, as he frequently has done at the start and end of each day.

Then he paused before his mother and exchanged a few words, telling her, "Love you" and "I'll be all right."

Marshals then led him from the room.

Jurors are weighing charges that Combs used his fame, wealth and violence to force two girlfriends into drug-fueled sex marathons with male sex workers known as "freak-offs" or "hotel nights."

He has pleaded not guilty. His lawyers contend prosecutors are trying to criminalize Combs' swinger lifestyle and that, if anything, his conduct amounted to domestic violence, not federal felonies.

Racketeering conspiracy is the most complicated charge because it requires the jury to decide not only whether Combs ran a "racketeering enterprise," but also whether he was involved in committing such offenses as some or all of various types of offenses, such as kidnapping and arson.

Earlier Tuesday, the jury asked to review critical testimony from one of the prosecution's most important witnesses: the hip-hop mogul's former longtime girlfriend Cassie, the R&B singer born Casandra Ventura.

The panel of eight men and four women asked for Cassie's account of Combs beating, kicking and dragging her at a Los Angeles hotel in 2016 — an assault captured on now-infamous security camera footage.

They also asked to see Cassie's testimony about when she said Combs accused her of taking drugs from him and kicked her off their yacht at the Cannes Film Festival in France in 2013. On their way back to the U.S., she said, he threatened to release explicit videos of her having sex.

In addition, the jury asked for Cassie and stripper Daniel Phillip's testimony about her jumping into his lap at a New York City hotel. Phillip testified that "she was terrified," and he suspected Combs had been slapping and slamming her around an adjacent room.

Phillip testified that he told her she was in real danger. Cassie, he said, "basically tried to convince me that it was OK: 'It's OK. I'm fine, I'll be OK.'"

Tuesday's court session began with the lawyers and judge considering the jury's request late Monday for clarification about what qualifies as drug distribution, an aspect of the racketeering conspiracy charge.

Subramanian ultimately reminded jurors of instructions he'd already given on that part of the case.

On Monday, barely an hour into deliberations, the foreperson sent a note complaining that there was one juror "who we are concerned cannot follow your Honor's instructions."

In response, the judge reminded jurors of their duties to deliberate and follow his instructions on the law.

At the trial, Combs chose not to testify. His lawyers built their arguments for acquittal mostly through lengthy cross-examinations of dozens of prosecution witnesses.

US won't send some weapons pledged to Ukraine following a Pentagon review of military aid

By WILL WEISSERT and MATTHEW LEE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. is halting some shipments of weapons to Ukraine amid concerns that its own stockpiles have declined too much, officials said Tuesday, a setback for the country as it tries to fend off escalating attacks from Russia.

Certain munitions were previously promised to Ukraine under the Biden administration to aid its defenses during the more than three-year-old war. The pause reflects a new set of priorities under President Donald Trump and came after Defense Department officials scrutinized current U.S. stockpiles and raised concerns.

"This decision was made to put America's interests first following a review of our nation's military support and assistance to other countries across the globe," White House spokesperson Anna Kelly said in a statement. "The strength of the United States Armed Forces remains unquestioned — just ask Iran."

That was a reference to Trump recently ordering U.S. missile strikes against nuclear sites in Iran.

Pentagon stocks of some weapons found to be low, official says

The Pentagon review determined that stocks were too low on some weapons previously pledged, so pending shipments of some items won't be sent, according to a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity to provide information that has not yet been made public.

The Defense Department did not provide details on what specific weapons were being held back.

"America's military has never been more ready and more capable," spokesman Sean Parnell said, adding that the major tax cut and spending package moving through Congress "ensures that our weapons and defense systems are modernized to protect against 21st century threats for generations to come."

The halt of some weapons from the U.S. is a blow to Ukraine as Russia has recently launched some of its biggest aerial attacks of the war, in an escalating bombing campaign that has further dashed hopes for a breakthrough in peace efforts championed by Trump. Talks between the sides have ground to a halt.

The U.S. stoppage was first reported by Politico.

To date, the U.S. has provided Ukraine more than \$66 billion worth of weapons and military assistance since Russia invaded its neighbor in February 2022.

Over the course of the war, the U.S. has routinely pressed for allies to provide air defense systems to Ukraine. But many are reluctant to give up the high-tech systems, particularly countries in Eastern Europe that also feel threatened by Russia.

Elbridge Colby, the Defense Department undersecretary for policy, said officials continue "to provide the president with robust options to continue military aid to Ukraine, consistent with his goal of bringing this tragic war to an end."

"At the same time, the department is rigorously examining and adapting its approach to achieving this objective while also preserving U.S. forces' readiness for Administration defense priorities," Colby said in a statement.

Trump met with Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the NATO summit last week and had left open the possibility of sending Kyiv more U.S.-made Patriot air defense missile systems, acknowledging they would help the Ukrainian cause.

"They do want to have the antimissile missiles, OK, as they call them, the Patriots," Trump said then. "And we're going to see if we can make some available. We need them, too. We're supplying them to Israel, and they're very effective, 100% effective. Hard to believe how effective. They do want that more than any other thing."

Trump administration shifts outlook on Ukraine military aid

Those comments hinted at thinking about providing weapons to Ukraine that's begun to change across the administration in recent months.

In testimony before lawmakers in June, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said he has moved quickly to quash wasteful programs and redirect funding to Trump's top objectives.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 43 of 66

Hegseth said a negotiated peace between Russia and Ukraine, which has been promoted for months by Trump, makes America look strong, even though Moscow is the aggressor in the conflict. He also said the defense budget includes hard choices and "reflects the reality that Europe needs to step up more for the defense of its own continent. And President Trump deserves the credit for that."

The defense secretary told lawmakers last month that some U.S. security spending for Ukraine was still in the pipeline, without providing details. But he said such assistance — which has been robust for the past two years — would be reduced.

"This administration takes a very different view of that conflict," Hegseth said. "We believe that a negotiated peaceful settlement is in the best interest of both parties and our nation's interests."

The change comes after Hegseth skipped a meeting last month of an international group to coordinate military aid to Ukraine that the U.S. created three years ago. Hegseth's predecessor, Lloyd Austin, formed the group after Russia attacked Ukraine, and Hegseth's absence was the first time the U.S. defense secretary wasn't in attendance.

Under Austin's leadership, the U.S. served as chair of the group, and he and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff attended monthly meetings, which were both in person and by video.

Hegseth had previously stepped away from a leadership role of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group — turning that over to Germany and the United Kingdom — before abandoning the gathering altogether.

Trump says Israel has agreed on terms for a 60-day ceasefire in Gaza and urges Hamas to accept deal

By AAMER MADHANI and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Tuesday that Israel has agreed on terms for a 60-day ceasefire in Gaza and warned Hamas to accept the deal before conditions worsen.

Trump announced the development as he prepares to host Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for talks at the White House on Monday. The U.S. leader has been increasing pressure on the Israeli government and Hamas to broker a ceasefire and hostage agreement and bring about an end to the war in Gaza.

"My Representatives had a long and productive meeting with the Israelis today on Gaza. Israel has agreed to the necessary conditions to finalize the 60 Day CEASEFIRE, during which time we will work with all parties to end the War," Trump wrote, saying the Qataris and Egyptians would deliver the final proposal.

"I hope, for the good of the Middle East, that Hamas takes this Deal, because it will not get better — IT WILL ONLY GET WORSE," he said.

Trump's promise that it was his best and final offer may find a skeptical audience with Hamas. Even before the expiration of the war's longest ceasefire in March, Trump has repeatedly issued dramatic ultimatums to pressure Hamas to agree to longer pauses in the fighting that would see the release of more hostages and a return of more aid to Gaza's civilian populace.

Still, Trump views the current moment as a potential turning point in the brutal conflict that has left more than 56,000 dead in the Palestinian territory. The Gaza Health Ministry does not differentiate between civilians and combatants in its death count.

Hamas is still capable of landing fatal blows to Israeli forces. But U.S. officials believe that the group's been significantly diminished as its centralized command and control capabilities have deteriorated over the course of the nearly 21-month conflict. Meanwhile, Hamas' chief backer Iran was badly battered last month by 12 days of strikes by Israel and the United States on Tehran's key nuclear facilities..

Israeli Minister for Strategic Affairs Ron Dermer was in Washington on Tuesday for talks with senior administration officials to discuss a potential Gaza ceasefire, Iran and other matters. Dermer was expected to meet with Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and special envoy Steve Witkoff.

Earlier Tuesday, Trump repeated his hope for forging an Israel-Hamas ceasefire deal next week.

Asked if it's time to put pressure on Netanyahu to get a ceasefire deal done, Trump said the Israeli prime minister was ready to come to an agreement.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 44 of 66

"He wants to," Trump said of Netanyahu in an exchange with reporters while visiting a new immigration detention facility in Florida. "I think we'll have a deal next week."

Talks between Israel and Hamas have repeatedly faltered over a major sticking point — whether the war should end as part of any ceasefire agreement. About 50 hostages remain captive in Gaza, with less than half believed to be alive.

Hamas says it is willing to free all the hostages in exchange for a full withdrawal of Israeli troops and an end to the war in Gaza. Israel rejects that offer, saying it will agree to end the war if Hamas surrenders, disarms and goes into exile, something that the group refuses.

The announcement by Trump came as over 150 international charities and humanitarian groups called Tuesday for disbanding a controversial Israeli- and U.S.-backed system to distribute aid in Gaza because of chaos and deadly violence against Palestinians seeking food at its sites.

The joint statement by groups including Oxfam, Save the Children and Amnesty International followed the killings of at least 10 Palestinians who were seeking desperately needed food, witnesses and health officials said. Meanwhile, Israeli airstrikes killed at least 37 in southern Gaza's Khan Younis, according to Nasser Hospital.

"Tents, tents they are hitting with two missiles?" asked Um Seif Abu Leda, whose son was killed in the strikes. Mourners threw flowers on the body bags.

Before Trump's announcement, Israel's defense minister, Israel Katz, had warned that his country would respond forcefully to the firing of a missile the military said originated from Yemen. Sirens sounded across parts of Israel, alerting residents to the attack and the launch of two projectiles from Gaza. All were intercepted by Israeli defense systems.

The missile launch marked the first attack by the Iran-backed Houthi rebels since the end of the 12-day war initiated by Israel with Iran. Katz said Yemen could face the same fate as Tehran.

Nasruddin Amer, deputy head of the Houthi media office, vowed on social media that Yemen will not "stop its support for Gaza ... unless the aggression stops and the siege on Gaza is lifted."

Speaking to his Cabinet, Netanyahu did not elaborate on plans for his visit to Washington next week, except to say he will discuss a trade deal. Iran is also expected to be a main topic of discussion in Washington after Trump brokered a ceasefire between it and Israel.

Takeaways from AP's report on Attorney General Bondi's comments about evidence in Epstein case

By ERIC TUCKER and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Pam Bondi's recent comments about evidence the Justice Department is reviewing from its Jeffrey Epstein sex trafficking investigation has fueled anticipation about the expected release of more files related to the wealthy financier.

But weeks after Bondi's claim about "tens of thousands" of Epstein videos in the government's possession, it remains unclear what she was referring to.

Here's a look at some of the takeaways from an Associated Press report about the Epstein case and Bondi's recent remarks:

Who are Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell?

A New York financier with ties to politicians and other famous and powerful people, Epstein was arrested in 2019 as he arrived in the U.S. from Paris aboard his private jet and charged with sexually abusing dozens of teenage girls during the early 2000s.

The case was brought more than a decade after a secret plea deal with federal prosecutors in Florida disposed of nearly identical allegations.

Weeks after his arrest, Epstein took his own life inside a high-security unit at a New York jail. Since then, Epstein's crimes, high-profile connections and death have made him a subject of public fascination, intense media scrutiny and conspiracy theories.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 45 of 66

Maxwell, Epstein's British socialite girlfriend, was separately charged and later convicted of helping Epstein sexually abuse underage girls. Many of the scores of women who accused Epstein of abusing them have characterized Maxwell as the madam who recruited them.

Maxwell, who laid blame for the abuse on Epstein, was sentenced in 2022 to 20 years in prison.

A hidden camera and reporters at the White House

Bondi first mentioned the videos in April when she was approached in a restaurant by a woman with a hidden camera who asked about the status of the release of the Epstein files. Bondi replied there were tens of thousands of videos "and it's all with little kids so they have to go through every one," referring to the FBI.

Then in May, after conservative activist James O'Keefe — who obtained and later publicized the hidden camera video — alerted the Justice Department press office to the encounter, Bondi appeared at the White House, where she said: "There are tens of thousands of videos of Epstein with children or child porn."

The comments tapped into long-held suspicions and theories that, despite the release over the years of thousands of records documenting his activities, embarrassing and incriminating details about him or other powerful figures remain suppressed by the government. Her statements appeared meant to explain the delay in releasing more files, even though the government would presumably never release footage depicting children.

What the AP found through its reporting

The Associated Press spoke with lawyers and law enforcement officials in criminal and civil cases concerning Epstein and Maxwell who said they had not seen and did not know of a trove of recordings like what Bondi described.

Indictments and detention memos in the cases do not reference sexually suggestive videos, and neither was charged with possession of child sexual abuse material even though that offense would have been easier for prosecutors to prove than the sex trafficking counts they faced.

An AP review of hundreds of court documents in the case found non-specific mentions of the existence of video evidence but no references to tens of thousands of recordings showing Epstein with children or child sex abuse material.

FBI Director Kash Patel, who has refuted conspiracy theories that Epstein was murdered, did not advance the suggestion of thousands of recordings with Epstein during a recent interview on Joe Rogan's podcast.

Though not asked explicitly about Bondi's comments, he dismissed the possibility of incriminating videos involving powerful Epstein friends, saying "If there was a video of some guy or gal committing felonies on an island and I'm in charge, don't you think you'd see it?" Asked whether the narrative "might not be accurate that there's video of these guys doing this," Patel replied, "Exactly."

One potential clue, however, may lie in a little-noticed 2023 court filing — among the documents the AP reviewed — in which Epstein's estate was revealed to have located an unspecified number of videos and photos that it said might contain child sex abuse material. Even that remains shrouded in secrecy with lawyers involved in that civil case saying they are bound by a protective order and cannot discuss it.

The judge ordered representatives of Epstein's estate to review the content before handing anything over to the lawyers and alert the FBI if the estate found anything that could be considered child sexual abuse imagery.

The department declined repeated requests from the AP to speak with officials overseeing the Epstein review.

What are the stakes for Bondi?

Bondi's statements matter because she's already facing intense pressure from conservatives to prove the government has in its possession previously unseen compelling evidence after an earlier document dump she hyped failed to satisfy online sleuths, conspiracy theorists and members of President Donald Trump's base.

During a Fox News Channel interview in February, Bondi said an alleged Epstein "client list" was sitting on her desk for review. The Justice Department after that distributed binders marked "declassified" to far-

right influencers at the White House, but it quickly became clear much of the information had been in the public domain for years. No "client list" was disclosed, and there's no evidence such a document exists.

The flop left conservatives fuming and did little to tamp down conspiracy theories that for years have spiraled around the financier's case thanks to his ties to politicians and other famous and powerful people. Right wing-personality Laura Loomer called on Bondi to resign, branding her a "total liar," while conservative legal group Judicial Watch sued the Justice Department to try to obtain more Epstein records.

Afterward, Bondi said a "source" in the FBI's New York field office informed her that thousands of pages of previously undisclosed documents exist and ordered the bureau to provide the "full and complete Epstein files," including all "records, documents, audio and video recordings, and materials" concerning Epstein and his clients. Employees have logged hours reviewing records to prepare them for release. It's unclear when that might happen.

Televangelist Jimmy Swaggart, whose ministry was toppled by prostitution scandals, dies at 90

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Televangelist Jimmy Swaggart, who became a household name amassing an enormous following and multimillion-dollar ministry only to be undone by his penchant for prostitutes, has died.

Swaggart died decades after his once vast audience dwindled and his name became a punchline on late night television. His death was announced Tuesday on his public Facebook page. A cause wasn't immediately given, though at 90 he had been in poor health, having suffered cardiac arrest last month.

The Louisiana native was best known for being a captivating Pentecostal preacher with a massive following before being caught on camera with a prostitute in New Orleans in 1988, one of a string of successful TV preachers brought down in the 1980s and 1990s by sex scandals. He continued preaching for decades, but with a reduced audience.

Swaggart encapsulated his downfall in a tearful 1988 sermon, in which he wept and apologized but made no reference to his connection to a prostitute.

"I have sinned against you," Swaggart told parishioners nationwide. "I beg you to forgive me."

He announced his resignation from the Assemblies of God later that year, shortly after the church said it was defrocking him for rejecting punishment it had ordered for "moral failure." The church had wanted him to undergo a two-year rehabilitation program, including not preaching for a full year.

Swaggart said at the time that he knew dismissal was inevitable but insisted he had no choice but to separate from the church to save his ministry and Bible college.

From poverty and oil fields to a household name

Swaggart grew up poor, the son of a preacher, in a music-rich family. He excelled at piano and gospel music, playing and singing with talented cousins who took different paths: rock-'n'-roller Jerry Lee Lewis and country singer Mickey Gilley.

In his hometown of Ferriday, Louisiana, Swaggart said he first heard the call of God at age 8. The voice gave him goose bumps and made his hair tingle, he said.

"Everything seemed different after that day in front of the Arcade Theater," he said in a 1985 interview with the Jacksonville Journal-Courier in Illinois. "I felt better inside. Almost like taking a bath."

He preached and worked part time in oil fields until he was 23. He then moved entirely into his ministry: preaching, playing piano and singing gospel songs with the barrelhouse fervor of cousin Lewis at Assemblies of God revivals and camp meetings.

Swaggart started a radio show, a magazine, and then moved into television, with outspoken views.

He called Roman Catholicism "a false religion. It is not the Christian way," and claimed that Jews suffered for thousands of years "because of their rejection of Christ."

"If you don't like what I say, talk to my boss," he once shouted as he strode in front of his congregation at his Family Worship Center in Baton Rouge, where his sermons moved listeners to speak in tongues and

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 47 of 66

stand up as if possessed by the Holy Spirit.

Swaggart's messages stirred thousands of congregants and millions of TV viewers, making him a household name by the late 1980s. Contributors built Jimmy Swaggart Ministries into a business that made an estimated \$142 million in 1986.

His Baton Rouge complex still includes a worship center and broadcasting and recording facilities.

The scandals that led to Swaggart's ruin

Swaggart's downfall came in the late 1980s as other prominent preachers faced similar scandals. Swaggart said publicly that his earnings were hurt in 1987 by the sex scandal surrounding rival televangelist Jim Bakker and a former church secretary at Bakker's PTL ministry organization.

The following year, Swaggart was photographed at a hotel with Debra Murphree, an admitted prostitute who told reporters that the two did not have sex but that the preacher had paid her to pose nude.

She later repeated the claim — and posed nude — for Penthouse magazine.

The surveillance photos that crippled Swaggart's career apparently stemmed from his rivalry with preacher Marvin Gorman, who Swaggart had accused of sexual misdeeds. Gorman hired the photographer who captured Swaggart and Murphree on film. Swaggart later paid Gorman \$1.8 million to settle a lawsuit over the sexual allegations against Gorman.

More trouble came in 1991, when police in California detained Swaggart with another prostitute. The evangelist was charged with driving on the wrong side of the road and driving an unregistered Jaguar. His companion, Rosemary Garcia, said Swaggart became nervous when he saw the police car and weaved when he tried to stuff pornographic magazines under a car seat.

Swaggart was later mocked by the late TV comic Phil Hartman, who impersonated him on NBC's "Saturday Night Live."

Out of the public eye but still in the pulpit

The evangelist largely stayed out of the news in later years but remained in the pulpit at Jimmy Swaggart Ministries, often joined by his son, Donnie, a fellow preacher. His radio station broadcast church services and gospel music to 21 states, and Swaggart's ministry boasted a worldwide audience on the internet.

"My dad was a warrior. My dad was preacher. He didn't want to be anything else except a preacher of the gospel," Donnie Swaggart said in a video message shared on social media Tuesday following his father's death. "That's what he was put on this earth to do."

The preacher caused another brief stir in 2004 with remarks about being "looked at" amorously by a gay man.

"And I'm going to be blunt and plain: If one ever looks at me like that, I'm going to kill him and tell God he died," Jimmy Swaggart said, to laughter from the congregation. He later apologized.

Swaggart made few public appearances outside his church, save for singing "Amazing Grace" at the 2005 funeral of Louisiana Secretary of State Fox McKeithen, a prominent name in state politics for decades.

In 2022, he shared memories at the memorial service for Lewis, his cousin and rock 'n' roll pioneer. The pair had released "The Boys From Ferriday," a gospel album, earlier that year.

Donnie Swaggart said he promised his father that "I will continue the work" — distributing Bibles, sharing the gospel and "proclaiming the message of Christ."

Swaggart is survived by his wife, Frances, son Donnie, daughter-in-law Debbie, grandson Gabriel, daughter Jill, granddaughter Jennifer, son-in-law Clif, son Matt, daughter-in-law Joanna and nine great-grandchildren.

Mystery surrounds the Jeffrey Epstein files after Bondi claims 'tens of thousands' of videos

By ERIC TUCKER and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was a surprising statement from Attorney General Pam Bondi as the Trump administration promises to release more files from its sex trafficking investigation of Jeffrey Epstein: The FBI, she said, was reviewing "tens of thousands of videos" of the wealthy financier "with children or child

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 48 of 66

porn.”

The comment, made to reporters at the White House days after a similar remark to a stranger with a hidden camera, raised the stakes for President Donald Trump’s administration to prove it has in its possession previously unseen compelling evidence. That task is all the more pressing after an earlier document dump that Bondi hyped angered elements of Trump’s base by failing to deliver new bombshells and as administration officials who had promised to unlock supposed secrets of the so-called government “deep state” struggle to fulfill that pledge.

Yet weeks after Bondi’s remarks, it remains unclear what she was referring to.

The Associated Press spoke with lawyers and law enforcement officials in criminal cases of Epstein and socialite former girlfriend Ghislaine Maxwell who said they hadn’t seen and didn’t know of a trove of recordings like what Bondi described. Indictments and detention memos do not reference the existence of videos of Epstein with children, and neither was charged with possession of child sex abuse material even though that offense would have been much easier to prove than the sex trafficking counts they faced.

One potential clue may lie in a little-noticed 2023 court filing — among hundreds of documents reviewed by the AP — in which Epstein’s estate was revealed to have located an unspecified number of videos and photos that it said might contain child sex abuse material. But even that remains shrouded in secrecy with lawyers involved in that civil case saying a protective order prevents them from discussing it.

The filing suggests a discovery of recordings after the criminal cases had concluded, but if that’s what Bondi was referencing, the Justice Department has not said.

The department declined repeated requests from the AP to speak with officials overseeing the Epstein review. Spokespeople did not answer a list of questions about Bondi’s comments, including when and where the recordings were procured, what they depict and whether they were newly discovered as authorities dug through their evidence collection or were known for some time to have been in the government’s possession.

“Outside sources who make assertions about materials included in the DOJ’s review cannot speak to what materials are included in the DOJ’s review,” spokesperson Chad Gilmartin said in a statement.

Bondi has faced pressure after first release fell short of expectations

Epstein’s crimes, high-profile connections and jailhouse suicide have made the case a magnet for conspiracy theorists and online sleuths seeking proof of a coverup. Elon Musk entered the frenzy during his acrimonious fallout with Trump when he said without evidence in a since-deleted social media post that the reason the Epstein files have yet to be released is that the Republican president is featured in them.

During a Fox News Channel interview in February, Bondi suggested an alleged Epstein “client list” was sitting on her desk. The Justice Department after that distributed binders marked “declassified” to far-right influencers at the White House, but it quickly became clear much of the information had long been in the public domain. No “client list” was disclosed, and there’s no evidence such a document exists.

The flop left conservatives fuming and failed to tamp down conspiracy theories that for years have spiraled around Epstein’s case. Right wing-personality Laura Loomer called on Bondi to resign, branding her a “total liar.”

Afterward, Bondi said an FBI “source” informed her of the existence of thousands of pages of previously undisclosed documents and ordered the bureau to provide the “full and complete Epstein files,” including any videos. Employees since then have logged hours reviewing records to prepare them for release. It’s unclear when that might happen.

In April, Bondi was approached in a restaurant by a woman with a hidden camera who asked about the status of the Epstein files release. Bondi replied that there were tens of thousands of videos “and it’s all with little kids,” so she said the FBI had to go through each one.

After conservative activist James O’Keefe, who obtained and later publicized the hidden-camera video, alerted the Justice Department to the encounter, Bondi told reporters at the White House: “There are tens of thousands of videos of Epstein with children or child porn.”

The comments tapped into long-held suspicions that, despite the release over the years of thousands of

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 49 of 66

records documenting Epstein's activities, damaging details about him or other prominent figures remain concealed.

The situation was further muddled by recent comments from FBI Director Kash Patel to podcaster Joe Rogan that did not repeat Bondi's account about tens of thousands of videos.

Though not asked explicitly about Bondi, Patel dismissed the possibility of incriminating videos of powerful Epstein friends, saying, "If there was a video of some guy or gal committing felonies on an island and I'm in charge, don't you think you'd see it?" Asked whether the narrative "might not be accurate that there's video of these guys doing this," he replied, "Exactly."

Epstein took his own life before he could stand trial

Epstein's suicide in August 2019, weeks after his arrest, prevented a trial in New York and cut short the discovery process in which evidence is shared among lawyers.

But even in a subsequent prosecution of Maxwell, in which such evidence would presumably have been relevant given the nature of the accusations against an alleged co-conspirator, salacious videos of Epstein with children never surfaced nor were part of the case, said one of her lawyers.

"We were never provided with any of those materials. I suspect if they existed, we would have seen them, and I've never seen them, so I have no idea what she's talking about," said Jeffrey Pagliuca, who represented Maxwell in a 2021 trial in which she was convicted of luring teenage girls to be molested by Epstein.

To be sure, photographs of nude or seminude girls have long been known to be part of the government's case. Investigators recovered possibly thousands of such pictures while searching his Manhattan mansion, and a videorecorded walk-through by law enforcement of his Palm Beach, Florida, home revealed sexually suggestive photographs displayed inside, court records show.

Accounts from more than one accuser of feeling watched or seeing cameras or surveillance equipment in Epstein's properties have contributed to public expectations of sexual recordings. A 2020 Justice Department Office of Professional Responsibility report on the handling of an earlier Epstein investigation hinted at that possibility, saying police who searched his Palm Beach home in 2005 found computer keyboards, monitors and disconnected surveillance cameras, but the equipment — including video recordings and other electronic items — was missing.

There's no indication prosecutors obtained any missing equipment during the later federal investigation, and the indictment against him included no recording allegations.

An AP review of hundreds of documents in the Maxwell and Epstein criminal cases identified no reference to tens of thousands of videos of Epstein with underage girls.

"I don't recall personally ever having that kind of discussion," said one Epstein lawyer, Marc Fernich, who couldn't rule out such evidence wasn't located later. "It's not something I ever heard about."

In one nonspecific reference to video evidence, prosecutors said in a 2020 filing that they would produce to Maxwell's lawyers thousands of images and videos from Epstein's electronic devices in response to a warrant.

But Pagliuca said his recollection was those videos consisted largely of recordings in which Epstein was "musing" into a recording device — "Epstein talking to Epstein," he said.

A revelation from the Epstein estate

Complicating efforts to assess the Epstein evidence is the volume of accusers, court cases and districts where legal wrangling has occurred, including after Epstein's suicide and Maxwell's conviction.

The cases include 2022 lawsuits in Manhattan's federal court from an accuser identified as Jane Doe 1 and in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where Epstein had a home, alleging that financial services giant JPMorgan Chase failed to heed red flags about him being a "high-risk" customer.

Lawyers issued a subpoena for any video recordings or photos that could bolster their case.

They told a judge months later the Epstein estate had alerted them that it had found content that "might contain child sex abuse imagery" while responding to the subpoena and requested a protocol for handling "videorecorded material and photographs." The judge ordered representatives of Epstein's estate to review

the materials before producing them to lawyers and to alert the FBI to possible child sexual abuse imagery.

Court filings don't detail the evidence or say how many videos or images were found, and it's unclear whether the recordings Bondi referenced were the same ones.

The estate's disclosure was later included by a plaintiffs' lawyer, Jennifer Freeman, in a complaint to the FBI and the Justice Department asserting that investigators had failed over the years to adequately collect potential evidence of child sex abuse material.

Freeman cited Bondi's comments in a new lawsuit on behalf of an Epstein accuser who alleges he assaulted her in 1996. In an interview, Freeman said she had not seen recordings and had no direct knowledge but wanted to understand what Bondi meant.

"I want to know what she's addressing, what is she talking about — I'd like to know that," she said.

Trump tours Florida immigration lockup and jokes about escapees having to run from alligators

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

OCHOPEE, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump on Tuesday toured a new immigration detention center surrounded by alligator-filled swamps in the Florida Everglades, suggesting it could be a model for future lockups nationwide as his administration races to expand the infrastructure necessary for increasing deportations.

Trump said he'd like to see similar facilities in "really, many states" and raised the prospect of also deporting U.S. citizens. He even endorsed having Florida National Guard forces possibly serve as immigration judges to ensure migrants are ejected from the country even faster.

"Pretty soon, this facility will handle the most menacing migrants, some of the most vicious people on the planet," Trump said of the Florida site known as "Alligator Alcatraz."

The president said the moniker is "very appropriate because I looked outside and that's not a place I want to go hiking anytime soon."

"The only way out, really, is deportation," Trump added.

Hundreds of protesters converged outside the site — a remote airstrip with tents and trailers. They waved signs calling for the humane treatment of migrants as well as the protection of the expansive preserve that is home to a few Native American tribes and many endangered animal species.

The administration sees the location as a plus

The White House has delighted in the area's remoteness — about 50 miles (80 kilometers) west of Miami — and the fact that it is teeming with pythons and alligators. It hopes to convey a message to detainees and the rest of the world that repercussions will be severe if the immigration laws of the United States are not followed.

Before arriving, Trump even joked of migrants being held there, "We're going to teach them how to run away from an alligator if they escape prison."

"Don't run in a straight line. Run like this," Trump said, as he moved his hand in a zigzag motion. "And you know what? Your chances go up about 1%." Alligator experts suggest it is better to dash in one direction in the rare situation when the reptile gives chase, according to a website run by the University of Florida.

Trump on his tour walked through medical facilities and other parts of the detention center, then held a lengthy roundtable where Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and assorted state and federal officials heaped him with praise.

Authorities originally suggested it could house up to 5,000 detainees upon completion, but DeSantis said it would actually hold around 3,000, with some starting to arrive Wednesday.

The center was built in eight days over 10 miles (16 kilometers) of Everglades. It features more than 200 security cameras, 28,000-plus feet (8,500 meters) of barbed wire and 400 security personnel.

Trump dismissed concerns about the impact on delicate ecosystems, saying that since the airstrip was already there, authorities wouldn't have to be "dropping dirt."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 51 of 66

"I don't think you've done anything to the Everglades," Trump said. "I think you're just enhancing it." Other, though, are appalled, including Phyllis Andrews, a retired teacher who drove from Naples, Florida, to protest Trump's visit and called migrants "fine people."

"They do not deserve to be incarcerated here," Andrews said.

Some Trump supporters showed up near the detention center as well, including Enrique Tarrio, a former leader of the Proud Boys whom Trump pardoned for his conviction related to the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the U.S. Capitol. He suggested Trump won last year's election because voters wanted "mass deportation" and "retribution."

Part of a larger Trump immigration push

Crackdowns on the U.S.-Mexico border and harsh immigration policies have long been a centerpiece of Trump's political brand. During his first term, Trump denied reports that he floated the idea of building a moat filled with alligators at the southern border.

Trump has more recently suggested that his administration could reopen Alcatraz, the notorious island prison off San Francisco. The White House similarly promoted the political shock value of sending some immigrants awaiting deportation to a detention lockup in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and others to a mega-prison in El Salvador.

His administration has vowed that mass deportations are coming, even if some of those notions are impractical. Transforming Alcatraz from a tourist attraction into a prison would be very costly, and Guantánamo Bay is being used less often than administration officials originally envisioned.

Trump also mused Tuesday about deporting dangerous people born in the United States, like ones who "knife you when you're walking down the street" or who kill people from behind with a baseball bat.

"They're not new to our country. They're old to our country. Many of them were born in our country. I think we ought to get them the hell out of here, too," Trump said. "So maybe that'll be the next job that we'll work on together."

Alluding to his criminal indictments during President Joe Biden's administration, Trump said of the detention facility, "Biden wanted me here," using an expletive to describe his predecessor.

Construction of the Everglades site came together fast

Florida plans to offer up members of the National Guard to be "deputized" and assist immigration judges as a way to loosen another chokepoint in the country's long-overburdened immigration court system. Guard personnel could provide security along the perimeter and entry control points and help staff the site, officials say.

The detention center has an estimated annual cost of \$450 million, but state officials say at least some of that will be covered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency — which is best known for responding to hurricanes and other natural disasters.

During his tour, Trump greeted around 20 FEMA employees and construction workers and bonded with DeSantis, who once bitterly challenged him for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination.

"We have blood that seems to match pretty well," Trump said of Florida's governor. When DeSantis suggested that members of the Guard could ease immigration judges' workloads, Trump offered, "He didn't even have to ask me. He has my approval."

A spokesperson for the Guard said that its members aren't currently tasked with detention or enforcement operations and that doing so would require training from federal authorities.

Encouraging self-deportation?

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, who was also on the tour, said immigrants arriving to the site could still opt to "self-deport" and board flights to their home countries rather than being held in it. She said she hoped "my phone rings off the hook" with other states looking to follow Florida's lead and open similar sites.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainees are generally held for reasons like entering the country illegally or overstaying a visa. They are either waiting for ICE to put them on the next flight or bus ride home, or they're fighting their removal in immigration court.

As of mid-June, ICE detention facilities held more than 56,000 immigrants, the most since 2019.

During his visit, Trump was informed that the sweeping tax cut and spending bill the White House has championed had cleared the Senate, drawing applause. He suggested his being in Florida, rather than helping promote the bill in Washington, underscored how important immigration was as an issue.

"I'm here, and I probably should be there," he said, shortly before flying back to the White House.

Zohran Mamdani wins New York City's Democratic mayoral primary, defeating ex-Gov. Andrew Cuomo

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Zohran Mamdani has won New York City's Democratic mayoral primary, a new vote count confirmed Tuesday, cementing his stunning upset of former Gov. Andrew Cuomo and sending him to the general election.

The Associated Press called the race after the results of the city's ranked choice voting tabulation were released and showed Mamdani trouncing Cuomo by 12 percentage points.

Mamdani said he was humbled by the support he received in the primary and has started turning his attention to November.

"Last Tuesday, Democrats spoke in a clear voice, delivering a mandate for an affordable city, a politics of the future, and a leader unafraid to fight back against rising authoritarianism," he said in a statement.

Mamdani, a 33-year-old democratic socialist and member of the state Assembly since 2021, was virtually unknown when he launched his candidacy centered on a bold slate of populist ideas. But he built an energetic campaign that ran circles around Cuomo as the older, more moderate Democrat tried to come back from the sexual harassment scandal that led to his resignation four years ago.

Mamdani's win had been widely expected since he took a commanding lead and declared victory after the polls closed a week ago, but fell just short of the 50% of the vote needed to avoid another count under the ranked choice voting model. The system allows voters' other preferences to be counted if their top candidate falls out of the running.

He will now face a general election field that includes incumbent Mayor Eric Adams as well as independent candidate Jim Walden and Republican Curtis Sliwa.

The former governor, down but not out

Cuomo conceded defeat on the night of the primary but is contemplating whether to continue mounting a campaign on an independent ballot line.

After the release of Tuesday's vote count, Cuomo spokesperson Rich Azzopardi said: "We'll be continuing conversations with people from all across the city while determining next steps."

"Extremism, division and empty promises are not the answer to this city's problems, and while this was a look at what motivates a slice of our primary electorate, it does not represent the majority," Azzopardi said.

The results of the primary have already sent a shockwave through the political world.

Mamdani's campaign — focused on lowering the cost of living, promising free city buses, free child care, a rent freeze for people living in rent-stabilized apartments, government-run grocery stores and more, all paid for with taxes on the wealthy — claims it has found a new blueprint for Democrats who have at times appeared rudderless during President Donald Trump's climb back to power.

The Democratic establishment has approached Mamdani with caution. Many of its big players applauded his campaign but don't seem ready to throw their full support behind the young progressive, whose past criticisms of law enforcement, use of the word "genocide" to describe the Israeli government's actions in Gaza and "democratic socialist" label amount to landmines for some in the party.

Born in Uganda to Indian parents, Mamdani came to the U.S. at age 7 and became a citizen in 2018. If elected, he would be the city's first Muslim mayor and its first of Indian American decent. He would also be one of its youngest.

Cuomo's campaign centered on his extensive experience, casting himself as the only candidate capable of saving a city he said had spun out of control. He focused heavily on combating antisemitism and leaned

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 53 of 66

on his name recognition and juggernaut fundraising operation rather than mingling with voters. He denied the sexual harassment allegations that ended his tenure as governor, maintaining that the scandal was driven by politics and that voters were ready to move on.

Trump and others are already on the attack

For Republicans, Mamdani has already provided a new angle for attack. Trump and others in the GOP have launched broadsides at him, moving to cast Mamdani as the epitome of leftist excess ahead of consequential elections elsewhere this year and next.

"If I'm a Republican, I want this guy to win," said Grant Reeher, a political science professor at Syracuse University. "Because I want to be able to compare and contrast my campaign as a Republican, in a national election, to the idea of, 'This is where the Democratic party is.'"

Trump, in remarks to reporters on Tuesday, appeared to have taken notice of Mamdani's meteoric rise, saying "He's still has a race to win, and so far he's winning."

Meanwhile, Adams, while still a Democrat, is running in the November election as an independent.

He dropped out of the Democratic primary in April after he was severely wounded by his now-dismissed federal bribery case.

Though he had done little in the way of campaigning since then, he reignited his reelection operation in the days after Mamdani declared victory, calling it a choice between a candidate with a "blue collar" and one with a "silver spoon."

Echoing Cuomo's message, Adams has sought to cast Mamdani as an unqualified radical whose agenda would sow chaos across the city.

"Right now, we should not be doing an experiment when we have real results and expertise to make New Yorkers safe," Adams told reporters Tuesday.

Coco Gauff is out in the first round of Wimbledon with a 7-6 (3), 6-1 loss to Dayana Yastremska

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — Coco Gauff became just the third woman in the Open era to lose in the first round at Wimbledon right after winning the championship at the French Open, eliminated 7-6 (3), 6-1 by unseeded Dayana Yastremska of Ukraine on Tuesday night.

The No. 2-ranked Gauff made mistake after mistake at No. 1 Court, finishing with just six winners and a total of 29 unforced errors that included nine double-faults.

"Dayana started off playing strong," Gauff said. "I couldn't find my footing out there today."

She joined another highly seeded American, No. 3 Jessica Pegula, in bowing out on Day 2 of the tournament. In all, 23 seeds — 13 men and 10 women — already are gone before the first round is even done, tying the most at any Grand Slam tournament since they began seeding 32 players in each singles bracket in 2001.

It was just a little more than three weeks ago that Gauff was celebrating her second Grand Slam title by getting past No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka in the final on the red clay of Roland-Garros.

The quick turnaround might have been an issue, Gauff acknowledged.

"I feel like mentally I was a little bit overwhelmed with everything that came afterwards," said the 21-year-old Gauff, "so I didn't feel like I had enough time to celebrate and also get back into it."

She didn't think it mattered Tuesday that their match location was shifted from Centre Court to Court No. 1 or that she was told about a new start time only about an hour before the contest began.

Even though Gauff's big breakthrough came at the All England Club at age 15 in 2019, when she beat Venus Williams in her opening match and made it all the way to the fourth round, the grass-court tournament has proved to be her least-successful major.

It's the only Slam where Gauff hasn't made at least the semifinals.

Indeed, she has yet to get past the fourth round and now has been sent home in the first round twice

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 54 of 66

in the past three years.

The transition from clay to grass has proven tough for most players, and the last woman to win the French Open and Wimbledon in the same season was Serena Williams a decade ago.

Still, since the Open era began in 1968, only Justine Henin in 2005 and Francesca Schiavone in 2010 went from holding the trophy in Paris to exiting immediately in London.

Gauff was never quite at her best Tuesday against Yastremska, who had lost all three of their previous matchups and currently is ranked 42nd.

A particular problem for Gauff, as it often is, was her serving. She managed to put only 45% of her first serves in play, won 14 of her 32 second-serve points and had all of those double-faults, including a pair in the tiebreaker and another when she got broken to open the second set.

"When I can serve well, and some games I did, it's definitely an added threat," Gauff said. "I didn't serve that well."

Yastremska's best Grand Slam result was making it all the way to the semifinals on the Australian Open's hard courts last year, although she entered this event with a record of only 10-11 in first-round matches at majors.

Gauff, by contrast, was 20-3 at that stage, including a loss to Sofia Kenin at Wimbledon in 2023.

Yastremska's deepest run at Wimbledon was making the fourth round in 2019, although she did get to the final of the junior event in 2016.

"I was really on fire," said Yastremska, who accumulated 16 winners. "Playing against Coco, it is something special."

She recently reached her first tournament final on grass, at a smaller event in Nottingham, which she said gave her confidence heading to the All England Club.

"I love playing on grass. I feel that this year we are kind of friends," Yastremska said with a laugh. "I hope the road will continue for me here."

Musk proposes a new political party, Trump suggests DOGE 'might have to go back and eat Elon'

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

Elon Musk's feud with President Donald Trump — and seemingly any congressional Republicans who support the president's massive tax cuts and spending package — has reignited, with the tech billionaire threatening to launch a new political party, and Trump suggesting Musk could be punished for his opposition.

The dispute has laid bare not only the differences between the Republican president and one of his most vociferous one-time advocates, but also has reignited the possibility that the world's richest man will — along with his billions — reenter the political spending arena.

Here's a look at the latest in the Musk-Trump dispute:

Musk reenters the political fray

Musk — who spent at least \$250 million supporting Trump in the 2024 presidential campaign as the main contributor to America PAC — said in May that he would likely spend "a lot less" on politics in the future. But his recent statements seem to indicate Musk might be rethinking that stance.

On Monday, the tech billionaire and former Department Of Government Efficiency chief lashed out multiple times at Republicans for backing Trump's tax cuts bill, calling the GOP "the PORKY PIG PARTY!!" for including a provision that would raise the nation's debt limit by \$5 trillion and calling the bill "political suicide" for Republicans.

After a post pledging to work toward supporting primary challengers for members of Congress who backed the bill, Musk responded "I will" to a post in which former Michigan Rep. Justin Amash asked for Musk's support of Rep. Thomas Massie. Trump and his aides are already targeting the Kentucky Republican for voting against the measure, launching a new super PAC devoted to defeating him.

Tuesday morning, Musk replied "You're awesome" to an X post from Massie recirculating news coverage

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 55 of 66

of Musk's support of him.

Musk's back and forth with Trump

Musk and Trump's potent political alliance seemed to meet a dramatic end a month ago in an exchange of blistering epithets, with Trump threatening to go after Musk's business interests, and Musk calling for Trump's impeachment.

Much of it has boiled down to Musk's criticism of the tax cuts and spending bill, which he has called a "disgusting abomination." Both the House and Senate versions propose a dramatic rollback of the Biden-era green energy tax breaks for electric vehicles and related technologies.

Musk is the chief executive of Tesla, the nation's largest electric vehicle manufacturer, and SpaceX, which has massive defense contracts.

Overnight, Trump posted on social media that Musk has long known of his opposition "against the EV Mandate," which he called "ridiculous." Saying that, without subsidies, the Tesla CEO "would probably have to close up shop and head back home to South Africa," Trump suggested that "Perhaps we should have DOGE take a good, hard, look at this? BIG MONEY TO BE SAVED!!!"

Trump went further at the White House on Tuesday, responding, "I don't know, I mean, we'll have to take a look," when asked by a reporter if he would consider deporting Musk.

"We might have to put DOGE on Elon," Trump said, of the government-adjacent entity Musk once ran for him, slashing through federal agencies in a broad-based, cost-cutting spree. "You know what DOGE is. DOGE is the monster that might have to go back and eat Elon."

A new political party?

Several times, Musk has suggested that a new political party is needed to encapsulate the viewpoints he argues aren't represented by the GOP.

Overnight Monday, Musk reposted the results of an unscientific poll conducted through his X feed early last month, asking if the U.S. needs a political party "that actually represents the 80% in the middle?"

Monday afternoon, Musk suggested that the "America Party" would be formed if "this insane spending bill passes," saying the U.S. "needs an alternative to the Democrat-Republican uniparty so that the people actually have a VOICE."

Starting a new national party — which would be set head-to-head with existing major parties — has been done before, but recent efforts in that vein have struggled to catch on. Even without such an official effort, Musk's financial backing could be a factor in upcoming races, should he choose to contribute to candidates, either directly or through his PAC.

Senate passes Trump's big tax and spending cuts bill as Vance breaks a 50-50 tie

By LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK and MATT BROWN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans hauled President Donald Trump's big tax breaks and spending cuts bill to passage Tuesday by the narrowest of margins, pushing past opposition from Democrats and their own GOP ranks after a turbulent overnight session.

The outcome capped an unusually tense weekend of work at the Capitol, the president's signature legislative priority teetering on the edge of approval or collapse. In the end that tally was 50-50, with Vice President JD Vance casting the tie-breaking vote.

Three Republican senators — Thom Tillis of North Carolina, Susan Collins of Maine and Rand Paul of Kentucky — joined all Democrats in voting against it.

"In the end we got the job done," Senate Majority Leader John Thune of South Dakota said afterward.

The difficulty for Republicans, who have the majority in Congress, to wrestle the bill to this point is not expected to let up. The package now goes back to the House, where Speaker Mike Johnson of Louisiana had warned senators not to overhaul what his chamber had already approved. But the Senate did make changes, particularly to Medicaid, risking more problems ahead. House GOP leaders scheduled a Wednes-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 56 of 66

day vote and vowed to put it on Trump's desk by his July Fourth deadline, which is Friday.

It's a pivotal moment for the president and his party, as they have been consumed by the now 887-page "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," which was its formal title before Democrats filed an amendment to strip out the name. Republicans are investing their political capital in delivering on their sweep of power in Washington.

Trump acknowledged it's "very complicated stuff" as he departed the White House for Florida.

"I don't want to go too crazy with cuts," he said. "I don't like cuts."

Senators work around the clock

What started as a routine but laborious day of amendment voting, in a process called vote-a-rama, spiraled into an all-night slog as Republican leaders bought time to shore up support.

The droning roll calls in the chamber belied the frenzied action to steady the bill. Grim-faced scenes played out on and off the Senate floor, amid exhaustion.

Thune worked around the clock, desperately reaching for last-minute agreements between those in his party worried the bill's reductions to Medicaid will leave millions more people without care and his most conservative flank, which wanted even steeper cuts to hold down deficits ballooning with the tax cuts.

The GOP leaders had no room to spare. Thune could lose no more than three Republican senators, and two — Tillis, who warned that millions of people will lose access to Medicaid health care, and Paul, who opposes raising the debt limit by \$5 trillion — had already indicated opposition.

Attention quickly turned to two other key senators, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Collins, who also raised concerns about health care cuts, as well as a loose coalition of four conservative GOP senators pushing for even steeper reductions.

Murkowski in particular became the subject of GOP leaders' attention, as they sat beside her for talks. Then all eyes were on Paul after he returned from a visit to Thune's office.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer of New York said Republicans "are in shambles because they know the bill is so unpopular."

An analysis from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office found 11.8 million more Americans would become uninsured by 2034 if the bill became law. The CBO said the package would increase the deficit by nearly \$3.3 trillion over the decade.

Pressure built from all sides. Billionaire Elon Musk said anyone who voted for the package should "hang their head in shame" and warned he would campaign against them. But Trump had also lashed out against the GOP holdouts, including Tillis, who abruptly announced his own decision over the weekend not to seek reelection.

Senators insist on changes

Few Republicans appeared fully satisfied as the final package emerged, in either the House or the Senate.

Collins fought to include \$50 billion for a new rural hospital fund, among the GOP senators worried that the bill's Medicaid provider cuts would be devastating and force them to close.

While her amendment for the fund was rejected, the provision was inserted into the final bill. Still she voted no.

The Maine senator said she's happy the bolstered funding was added, but "my difficulties with the bill go far beyond that."

And Murkowski called the decision-making process "agonizing."

She secured provisions to temporarily spare Alaska and other states from some food stamp cuts, but her efforts to bolster Medicaid reimbursements fell short. She voted yes.

What's in the big bill

All told, the Senate bill includes \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts, according to the latest CBO analysis, making permanent Trump's 2017 rates, which would expire at the end of the year if Congress fails to act, while adding the new ones he campaigned on, including no taxes on tips.

The Senate package would roll back billions of dollars in green energy tax credits, which Democrats warn will wipe out wind and solar investments nationwide. It would impose \$1.2 trillion in cuts, largely to Medicaid and food stamps, by imposing work requirements on able-bodied people, including some parents and

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 57 of 66

older Americans, making sign-up eligibility more stringent and changing federal reimbursements to states. Additionally, the bill would provide a \$350 billion infusion for border and national security, including for deportations, some of it paid for with new fees charged to immigrants.

"The big not so beautiful bill has passed," Paul said.

Democrats fight all day and night

Unable to stop the march toward passage, the Democrats tried to drag out the process, including with a weekend reading of the full bill.

Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, the ranking Democrat on the Appropriations Committee, raised particular concern about the accounting method being used by the Republicans, which says the tax breaks from Trump's first term are now "current policy" and the cost of extending them should not be counted toward deficits.

She said that kind of "magic math" won't fly with Americans trying to balance their own household books.

What's in the latest version of Trump's big bill that passed the Senate

By KEVIN FREKING and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans are getting closer to the finish line in getting their tax and spending cut bill through Congress with a final House vote possible on Wednesday.

At some 887 pages, the legislation is a sprawling collection of tax breaks, spending cuts and other Republican priorities, including new money for national defense and deportations. President Donald Trump has admonished Republicans, who hold majority power in the House and Senate, to skip their holiday vacations and deliver the bill by the Fourth of July.

Democrats are united against the legislation, but are powerless to stop the bill if Republicans are united. The Senate passed the bill, with Vice President JD Vance casting the tie-breaking vote. The House passed an earlier iteration of the bill in May with just one vote to spare. Now, it will take up the Senate-amended measure.

Here's the latest on what's in the bill. There could be changes as GOP lawmakers continue to negotiate.

Tax cuts are the priority

Republicans say the bill is crucial because there would be a massive tax increase after December when tax breaks from Trump's first term expire. The legislation contains about \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts.

The existing tax rates and brackets would become permanent under the bill. It temporarily would add new tax breaks that Trump campaigned on: no taxes on tips, overtime pay, the ability to deduct interest payments for some automotive loans, along with a \$6,000 deduction for older adults who earn no more than \$75,000 a year.

It would boost the \$2,000 child tax credit to \$2,200. Millions of families at lower income levels would not get the full credit.

A cap on state and local deductions, called SALT, would quadruple to \$40,000 for five years. It's a provision important to New York and other high tax states, though the House wanted it to last for 10 years.

There are scores of business-related tax cuts, including allowing businesses to immediately write off 100% of the cost of equipment and research.

The wealthiest households would see a \$12,000 increase from the legislation, which would cost the poorest people \$1,600 a year, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office analysis of the House's version.

Middle-income taxpayers would see a tax break of \$500 to \$1,500, the CBO said.

Money for deportations, a border wall and the Golden Dome

The bill would provide some \$350 billion for Trump's border and national security agenda, including \$46 billion for the U.S.-Mexico border wall and \$45 billion for 100,000 migrant detention facility beds, as he aims to fulfill his promise of the largest mass deportation operation in U.S. history.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 58 of 66

Money would go for hiring 10,000 new Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers, with \$10,000 signing bonuses and a surge of Border Patrol officers, as well. The goal is to deport some 1 million people per year.

The homeland security secretary would have a new \$10 billion fund for grants for states that help with federal immigration enforcement and deportation actions.

To help pay for it, immigrants would face various new fees, including when seeking asylum protections.

For the Pentagon, the bill would provide billions for ship building, munitions systems, and quality of life measures for servicemen and women, as well as \$25 billion for the development of the Golden Dome missile defense system. The Defense Department would have \$1 billion for border security.

How to pay for it? Cuts to Medicaid and other programs

To help partly offset the lost tax revenue and new spending, Republicans aim to cut back on Medicaid and food assistance for the poor.

Republicans argue they are trying to rightsize the safety net programs for the population they were initially designed to serve, mainly pregnant women, the disabled and children, and root out what they describe as waste, fraud and abuse.

The package includes new 80-hour-a-month work requirements for many adults receiving Medicaid and food stamps, including older people up to age 65. Parents of children 14 and older would have to meet the program's work requirements.

There's also a proposed new \$35 co-payment that can be charged to patients using Medicaid services.

More than 71 million people rely on Medicaid, which expanded under Obama's Affordable Care Act, and 40 million use the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Most already work, according to analysts.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that 11.8 million more Americans would become uninsured by 2034 if the bill became law and 3 million more would not qualify for food stamps, also known as SNAP benefits.

Republicans are looking to have states pick up some of the cost for SNAP benefits. Currently, the federal government funds all benefit costs. Under the bill, states beginning in 2028 will be required to contribute a set percentage of those costs if their payment error rate exceeds 6%. Payment errors include both underpayments and overpayments.

But the Senate bill temporarily delays the start date of that cost-sharing for states with the highest SNAP error rates. Alaska has the highest error rate in the nation at nearly 25%, according to Department of Agriculture data. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, had fought for the exception. She was a decisive vote in getting the bill through the Senate.

A 'death sentence' for clean energy?

Republicans are proposing to dramatically roll back tax breaks designed to boost clean energy projects fueled by renewable sources such as energy and wind. The tax breaks were a central component of President Joe Biden's 2022 landmark bill focused on addressing climate change and lowering healthcare costs.

Democratic Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden went so far as to call the GOP provisions a "death sentence for America's wind and solar industries and an inevitable hike in utility bills."

A tax break for people who buy new or used electric vehicles would expire on Sept. 30 of this year, instead of at the end of 2032 under current law.

Meanwhile, a tax credit for the production of critical materials will be expanded to include metallurgical coal used in steelmaking.

Trump savings accounts and so, so much more

A number of extra provisions reflect other GOP priorities.

The House and Senate both have a new children's savings program, called Trump Accounts, with a potential \$1,000 deposit from the Treasury.

The Senate provided \$40 million to establish Trump's long-sought "National Garden of American Heroes."

There's a new excise tax on university endowments. A \$200 tax on gun silencers and short-barreled rifles and shotguns was eliminated. One provision bars money to family planning providers, namely Planned

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 59 of 66

Parenthood, while \$88 million is earmarked for a pandemic response accountability committee.

Another section expands the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, a hard-fought provision from GOP Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri, for those impacted by nuclear development and testing.

Billions would go for the Artemis moon mission and for the exploration of Mars.

Additionally, a provision would increase the nation's debt limit, by \$5 trillion, to allow continued borrowing to pay already accrued bills.

Last-minute changes

The Senate overwhelmingly revolted against a proposal meant to deter states from regulating artificial intelligence. Republican governors across the country asked for the moratorium to be removed and the Senate voted to do so with a resounding 99-1 vote.

A provision was thrown in at the final hours that will provide \$10 billion annually to rural hospitals for five years, or \$50 billion in total. The Senate bill had originally provided \$25 billion for the program, but that number was upped to win over holdout GOP senators and a coalition of House Republicans warning that reduced Medicaid provider taxes would hurt rural hospitals.

The amended bill also stripped out a new tax on wind and solar projects that use a certain percentage of components from China.

What's the final cost?

Altogether, the Congressional Budget Office projects that the bill would increase federal deficits over the next 10 years by nearly \$3.3 trillion from 2025 to 2034.

Or not, depending on how one does the math.

Senate Republicans are proposing a unique strategy of not counting the existing tax breaks as a new cost because those breaks are already "current policy." Republican senators say the Senate Budget Committee chairman has the authority to set the baseline for the preferred approach.

Under the alternative Senate GOP view, the bill would reduce deficits by almost half a trillion dollars over the coming decade, the CBO said.

Democrats say this is "magic math" that obscures the true costs of the tax breaks. Some nonpartisan groups worried about the country's fiscal trajectory are siding with Democrats in that regard. The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget says Senate Republicans are employing an "accounting gimmick that would make Enron executives blush."

The man accused of killing 2 Idaho firefighters had once aspired to be one

By MANUEL VALDES and LINDSEY WASSON Associated Press

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho (AP) — A 20-year-old man's life appeared to have begun to unravel in the months before authorities say he fatally shot two firefighters and severely wounded a third as they responded to a wildfire near Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Wess Roley was living out of his vehicle and his former roommate, T.J. Franks Jr., said he shaved off his long hair and started to "kind of go downhill." The two lived together for about six months in Sandpoint, Idaho, until Roley moved out in January, Franks said Monday.

Roley, who authorities say took his own life after Sunday's shootings, is suspected of killing two battalion chiefs whose firefighting careers in Idaho spanned nearly half a century combined. The deaths of Frank Harwood, 42, with Kootenai County Fire and Rescue, and John Morrison, 52, with the Coeur d'Alene Fire Department, have left their colleagues reeling, resulting in their departments adding law enforcement to every call, no matter how routine.

"I don't know that we're ever going to be able to guarantee people's peace of mind, at least for a while after an incident like this," Kootenai County Fire and Rescue Chief Christopher Way said. "But we are taking every measure we can to ensure safety of our responders."

Roley had set a fire using flint at Canfield Mountain, a popular recreation area, according to authorities.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 60 of 66

The firefighters who rushed to the scene found themselves under fire and took cover behind fire trucks. "There was an interaction with the firefighters," Kootenai County Sheriff Bob Norris said. "It has something to do with his vehicle being parked where it was."

Two helicopters converged on the area, armed with snipers ready to take out the suspect if needed, while the FBI used his cellphone data to track him and the sheriff ordered residents to shelter in place. They eventually found Roley's body in the mountains, his firearm beside him. He had killed himself, the sheriff said.

Roley had once aspired to be a firefighter and had only a handful of minor contacts with area police, Norris said. A motive was still unknown, he said.

He had ties to California and Arizona and was living in Idaho "for the better part of 2024," although it was unclear why he was there, Norris said.

When Roley was living with Franks, his apartment cameras caught Roley throwing gang signs at them, which worried Franks to the point that he called police.

The landlord also called Franks one morning because neighbors reported that Roley's vehicle had been left running for about 12 hours. Franks said Roley was asleep in his room and said he forgot about the vehicle.

Hours after Sunday's shooting, people gathered along Interstate 90 holding American flags to pay their respects as the two fallen firefighters' bodies were taken to the medical examiner's office in Spokane, Washington, about 35 miles (56 kilometers) from Coeur d'Alene.

On Tuesday, a procession of police and fire vehicles accompanied a hearse as onlookers along a quiet street held flags and in some cases saluted as the vehicles got underway. People dotted an overpass, where a fire truck bearing a large U.S. flag stood, as the procession passed on the interstate below.

Gov. Brad Little ordered U.S. and Idaho state flags to be lowered to half-staff to honor the firefighters until the day after their memorial service.

"All our public safety officers, especially our firefighters, bravely confront danger on a daily basis but we have never seen a heinous act of violence like this on our firefighters before," he said in a statement.

Harwood, one of the victims of the shooting, had been with the county fire department for 17 years, Kootenai County Fire and Rescue Chief Christopher Way said during a news conference Monday. Harwood was married and had two children, and he also was a veteran of the Army National Guard.

Morrison, who was also killed, started his career with the Coeur d'Alene Fire Department in 1996 and had also worked as a paramedic.

Coeur d'Alene Fire Department Fire Engineer David Tysdal, 47, sustained gunshot wounds and was in critical condition. Authorities said he had two successful surgeries.

"We still are in shock and are struggling to understand why someone would target unarmed, selfless public servants," Coeur d'Alene Mayor Woody McEvers said.

By Monday afternoon, the fire was "reasonably contained," and responders had "stopped significant forward progress," Way said. The Idaho Department of Lands said it had burned about 26 acres (10.5 hectares).

Ukrainian drone hits a plant deep inside Russia after record Russian drone attacks in June

By ILLIA NOVIKOV and EMMA BURROWS Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — A Ukrainian drone struck a Russian industrial plant some 1,300 kilometers (800 miles) from Ukraine, a local official said Tuesday, after Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy prioritized the weapon's development and Russia pounded Ukraine with a monthly record of drones in June.

Both sides in the more than three-year war following Russia's February 2022 invasion of its neighbor have raced to improve drone technology and enhance their use on the battlefield. They have deployed increasingly sophisticated and deadlier drones, turning the war into a testing ground for the new weaponry.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 61 of 66

Ukraine is under severe strain from a Russian push at places on the roughly 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line, but analysts say its defenses are largely holding firm. With recent direct peace talks delivering no progress on U.S.-led international efforts to halt the fighting, Russia and Ukraine are bulking up their arsenals.

Russia last month launched 5,438 drones at Ukraine, a new monthly record, according to official data collated by The Associated Press.

Ukraine is stepping up drone production

Meanwhile, a Ukrainian drone hit an industrial plant in Izhevsk, about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) east of Moscow, killing three people and injuring 35, Alexander Brechalov, head of the Udmurtia region, said. The plant's workers were evacuated, he said.

The drone struck the Kupol Electromechanical Plant, which produces air defense systems and drones for the Russian military, according to an official with Ukraine's Security Service, the SBU.

At least two direct hits were recorded on the plant's buildings, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly.

Ukraine has for months been using domestically produced long-range drones to strike plants, storage sites and logistical hubs deep inside Russian territory. In May last year, a Ukrainian drone hit an early-warning radar in the Russian city of Orsk, some 1,800 kilometers (1,120 miles) from the Ukrainian border, Kyiv officials claimed.

Zelenskyy said Ukraine's domestic production of drones is about to increase in response to Russia's expanded barrages.

"The priority is drones, interceptor drones and long-range strike drones," he said on Telegram late Monday.

"This is extremely important," he added. "Russia is investing in its unmanned capabilities, Russia is planning to increase the number of drones used in strikes against our state. We are preparing our countermeasures."

Russia's Defense Ministry said that 60 Ukrainian drones were downed overnight over several regions, including 17 over Crimea, 16 over the Rostov region and four over the Saratov region.

At the same time, four Russian Shahed drones struck the southern Ukraine city of Zaporizhzhia during the night, leaving more than 1,600 households without power, according to authorities.

Ukraine's air force said Tuesday that Russia fired 52 Shahed and decoy drones at the country overnight.

US envoy criticizes Russian attacks

U.S. President Donald Trump's special envoy to Ukraine and Russia, retired Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg, rebuked Russia for continuing to strike civilian areas of Ukraine while effectively rejecting a ceasefire and dragging its feet on a peace settlement.

"We urge an immediate ceasefire and a move to trilateral talks to end the war," Kellogg said on the social platform X late Monday. "Russia cannot continue to stall for time while it bombs civilian targets in Ukraine."

Ukraine is developing its own defense industry as uncertainty remains over whether the Trump administration will continue to provide crucial military aid.

Between March and April, the United States allocated no new aid to Ukraine, according to Germany's Kiel Institute, which tracks such support.

Europe continues its support and for the first time since June 2022 surpassed the U.S. in total military aid, totaling 72 billion euros (\$85 billion) compared with 65 billion euros (\$77 billion) from the U.S., the institute said last month.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday held their first direct telephone in almost three years.

The two leaders discussed the Iranian-Israeli war and the American strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities, a statement on the Kremlin's website said. Putin and Macron also talked about a peaceful settlement to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with the Russian president stressing that any agreements should "be comprehensive and long-term" and "based on new territorial realities," the Kremlin statement said.

Macron's office said that the French leader underlined "France's unwavering support for Ukraine's sov-

ereignty and territorial integrity” and “called for a ceasefire to be established as soon as possible” so that peace negotiations can be launched.

The two presidents last held direct talks in September 2022.

As Trump ramps up attacks on the Federal Reserve, Chair Powell refuses to change course

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell on Tuesday stuck to his position that the central bank will keep its key rate on hold while it waits to see how President Donald Trump’s tariffs effect the economy, despite the steady stream of criticism from the White House, which wants lower borrowing costs.

Powell, speaking in Sintra, Portugal, at a conference hosted by the European Central Bank, also said that U.S. inflation is likely to pick up later this summer, though he acknowledged that the timing and magnitude of any price increase from the duties is uncertain. But he said the Fed will keep rates on hold while it evaluates the impact of tariffs on the U.S. economy.

“As long as the economy is in solid shape, we think the prudent thing to do is to wait and see what those effects might be,” Powell said, referring to the sweeping duties Trump has imposed this year.

Powell’s comments underscored the divide between the U.S. central bank’s leader and the Trump administration. Trump has repeatedly urged the Fed to cut its key rate, which he says would save U.S. taxpayers billions of dollars on interest costs on the federal government’s massive debt, and boost the economy. The fight has threatened the Fed’s traditional independence from politics, though since the Supreme Court signaled the president can’t fire the chair, financial markets haven’t responded to Trump’s criticism.

The Fed chair also said that without tariffs, the Fed would probably be cutting its key rate right now. The central bank went “on hold” after it saw how large Trump’s proposed tariffs were, Powell said, and economists began forecasting higher inflation.

At the same time, Powell did not rule out a rate cut at the Fed’s next policy meeting July 29-30.

“I wouldn’t take any meeting off the table or put it directly on the table,” Powell said. Most economists, however, expect the Fed won’t reduce rates until September at the earliest.

On Monday, the president attacked Powell again and extended his criticisms to the entire Fed governing board, which participates in interest-rate decisions.

“The board just sits there and watches, so they are equally to blame,” Trump said. The attack on the board ratchets up pressure on individual Fed officials, such as Governor Chris Waller, who have been mentioned as potential successors to Powell, whose term ends in May 2026.

When asked during a panel discussion with other central bankers what keeps him awake at night, Powell referred to the fact that there are just 10 months left in his term.

“All I want and all anybody at the Fed wants is to deliver an economy that has price stability, maximum employment, financial stability,” he said.

Powell was also asked whether Trump’s attacks make his job harder, and he responded, “I’m very focused on just doing my job.”

The other central bankers onstage, including Christine Lagarde, president of the European Central Bank, Kazuo Ueda, governor of the Bank of Japan, and Andrew Bailey, governor of the Bank of England, joined the audience in applauding Powell’s comment.

“We would do exactly the same thing as Jay Powell has done,” Lagarde said. “The same thing.”

On Monday, Trump posted a note on social media that listed 44 countries in order of the interest rates set by their central banks. The list showed that Switzerland, Cambodia, and Japan have the lowest short-term rates of 0.25% to 0.5%. “Should be here,” Trump wrote on the list, referring to the Fed.

Yet central banks typically lower their rates when their economies are weaker, to boost borrowing and spending and support growth. The Fed cut its short-term rate to nearly zero during the pandemic for that

reason. It rapidly lifted borrowing costs in 2022 and 2023 to combat the worst inflation spike in four decades. Trump has been particularly focused on the idea that Fed rate cuts would sharply reduce the government's borrowing costs.

Yet it's not necessarily the case that a cut would lower other borrowing costs for things such as mortgages, car loans, or business loans. The short-term rate the Fed controls influences other interest rates, but the markets also play a significant role.

As a result, a rate cut by the Fed wouldn't automatically lower the interest rates paid by Treasury securities, particularly longer-term rates such as the yield on the 10-year Treasury, which strongly affects mortgage rates.

In fact, when the Powell Fed first cut its short-term rate last September, the 10-year yield actually rose, lifting mortgage rates and other borrowing costs.

The Fed has kept its key short-term interest rate unchanged this year, at about 4.3%, after cutting it three times in 2024.

At a news conference in June, Powell suggested that the central bank would "learn a great deal more over the summer" about whether President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs would push up inflation or not. The comment suggested the Fed wouldn't consider cutting rates until its September meeting.

Yet a few days later, Fed governors Waller and Michelle Bowman, who were both appointed by Trump, said that it was unlikely the tariffs would lead to persistent inflation. Both also indicated that they would likely support reducing the Fed's rate in July.

So far, inflation has mostly continued to cool, despite the imposition of the duties on nearly all U.S. imports. Consumer prices rose just 2.4% in May compared with a year earlier, not far from the Federal Reserve's 2% target and much lower than a year ago.

Iran assesses the damage and lashes out after Israeli and US strikes damage its nuclear sites

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran is assessing the damage and lashing out over the American and Israeli airstrikes on its nuclear sites, though Tehran kept open the possibility Tuesday of resuming talks with Washington over its atomic program.

The comments by government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani also included another acknowledgment that Fordo, Isfahan and Natanz — key sites within Iran's nuclear program — had been "seriously damaged" by the American strikes. Iran's state-run IRNA news agency quoted Mohajerani as making the remarks at a briefing for journalists.

That acknowledgment comes as Iran's theocracy has slowly begun to admit the scale of the damage wrought by the 12-day war with Israel, which saw Israeli fighter jets decimate the country's air defenses and conduct strikes at will over the Islamic Republic. And keeping the door open to talks with the United States likely shows Tehran wants to avoid further economic pain as another deadline over U.N. sanctions looms.

"No date (for U.S. talks) is announced, and it's not probably very soon, but a decision hasn't been made in this field," Mohajerani said.

Iran offers rising death toll

Israeli airstrikes, which began June 13, decimated the upper ranks of Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard and targeted its arsenal of ballistic missiles. The strikes also hit Iran's nuclear sites, which Israel claimed put Tehran within reach of a nuclear weapon. U.S. intelligence agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency had assessed Iran last had an organized nuclear weapons program in 2003, though Tehran had been enriching uranium up to 60% — a short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90%.

On Monday, Iranian judiciary spokesman Asghar Jahangir offered a sharply increased, government-issued death toll from the war. He said that the Israeli attacks killed 935 "Iranian citizens," including 38 children

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 64 of 66

and 102 women, IRNA reported.

"The enemy aimed to change the country's circumstances by assassinating military commanders and scientists, intending to spread fear and exert pressure," Jahangir added. However, he asserted — like others up to 86-year-old Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei — that Iran had "won" the war.

Iran has a long history of offering lower death counts around unrest over political considerations. The Washington-based Human Rights Activists group, which has provided detailed casualty figures from multiple rounds of unrest in Iran, has put the death toll at 1,190 people killed, including 436 civilians and 435 security force members. The attacks wounded another 4,475 people, the group said.

Activity seen at Iran's Fordo facility

Meanwhile, it appears that Iranian officials now are assessing the damage done by the American strikes conducted on the three nuclear sites on June 22, including those at Fordo, a site built under a mountain about 100 kilometers (60 miles) southwest of Tehran.

Satellite images from Planet Labs PBC analyzed by The Associated Press show Iranian officials at Fordo on Monday likely examining the damage caused by American bunker busters. Trucks could be seen in the images, as well as at least one crane and an excavator at tunnels on the site. That corresponded to images shot Sunday by Maxar Technologies similarly showing the ongoing work.

The tunnels likely had been filled in by Iran before the strikes to protect the facility. The presence of trucks before the attacks has raised questions about whether any enriched uranium or centrifuges had been spirited away before the attack, something repeatedly claimed by Iranian officials. Even before the strikes, the IAEA warned that its inspectors had lost their "continuity of knowledge" regarding the program, meaning material could be at undeclared sites in the country.

Iran hasn't said what work is being done at the sites, though it has said that the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran planned to issue a report about the damage done by the strikes.

Hard-liners lash out

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, whose profile sharply rose during the war, also has kept open the possibility of talks with the U.S.

However, hard-liners within Iran are increasingly criticizing any effort at negotiations or cooperation with the West. Iran's hard-line Kayhan newspaper, in a piece written by its Khamenei-appointed managing editor, Hossein Shariatmadari, mocked any possible talks Tuesday by saying being a "traitor or stupid are two sides of the same coin."

Shariatmadari's newspaper on Saturday also suggested that the IAEA Director-General Rafael Mariano Grossi, should be "tried and executed" if he visited Iran — something that drew immediate criticism from European nations and others.

Court suspends Thailand's prime minister to investigate a leaked phone call

By JINTAMAS SAKSORNCHAI Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's Constitutional Court suspended Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra on Tuesday, pending an ethics investigation over accusations that she was too deferential to a senior Cambodian leader when the two discussed a recent border dispute in a phone call that was leaked.

Paetongtarn has faced growing dissatisfaction over her handling of the dispute, which involved an armed confrontation on May 28, in which one Cambodian soldier was killed. In a call with Cambodian Senate President Hun Sen, she attempted to defuse tensions — but instead set off a string of complaints and public protests by critics who accused her of being too fawning.

Familiar pattern

Paetongtarn's suspension raises the possibility of renewed instability in Thailand, a still fragile democracy that has suffered several similar bouts of uncertainty. At the root of much of that were concerns from the conservative establishment, including the military, that the political dynasty started by Paetongtarn's father,

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 65 of 66

the popular but divisive former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, was growing too powerful.

She is the third member of her family to hold the prime minister's office — and the third to face the possibility of removal before her term ended. Thaksin was removed from office in a 2006 coup and driven into exile, while his sister, former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, was removed by a court order in 2014, followed shortly after by a coup.

This "recurring cycle of political instability" would likely keep repeating unless Thailand goes through a genuine democratic reform that includes limiting power of unelected institutions, said Purawich Watana-sukh, a political science lecturer at Thammasat University in Bangkok.

"Without such foundational reforms, any government, regardless of who leads it, will remain vulnerable to the same forces that have repeatedly disrupted Thailand's democratic development," he said.

Growing discontent

The suspension also comes at a time when the country is facing an economic slowdown and growing discontent with Paetongtarn and her Pheu Thai party, in general, with critics saying her government's performance has been underwhelming.

The judges voted unanimously Tuesday to review the petition accusing her of a breach of the ethics, and voted 7-2 to immediately suspend her from duty as a prime minister until a ruling is given. The court gave Paetongtarn 15 days to give evidence to support her case.

After the court order, Paetongtarn said that she would accept the process and defended her actions.

"I only thought about what to do to avoid troubles, what to do to avoid armed confrontation, for the soldiers not to suffer any loss," she said.

Fallout from leaked call

She also apologized to people upset over the leaked call and left the Government House shortly after.

Suriya Jungrungrangkit, who is a deputy prime minister and a transport minister, will take charge as acting prime minister, said Chousak Sirinil, minister of the prime minister's office.

Earlier Tuesday, before the court suspended Paetongtarn, King Maha Vajiralongkorn had endorsed a Cabinet reshuffle after a major party left the government coalition over the leaked call.

In the reshuffle, Paetongtarn also received the position of culture minister, in addition to prime minister, though it's not clear if she can take the oath to take up that role.

In the call about the border tensions, Paetongtarn could be heard urging Hun Sen — a longtime friend of her father — not to listen to a Thai regional army commander who had publicly criticized Cambodia about the border dispute, and called him "an opponent."

Thousands of conservative, nationalist-leaning protesters rallied in central Bangkok on Saturday to demand Paetongtarn's resignation.

Paetongtarn also faces separate investigations by another agency over the leaked call — a case that could also lead to her removal.

The Constitutional Court last year removed Paetongtarn's predecessor over a breach of ethics. Thailand's courts, especially the Constitutional Court, are viewed as a defender of the royalist establishment, which has used them and nominally independent agencies such as the Election Commission to cripple or sink political opponents.

Political dynasty

Paetongtarn, 38, is the youngest daughter of Thaksin. Her father has remained beloved by many of the Thailand's poor and working classes who long saw him as their champion.

But the family's political fortunes now may be on the wane.

Thaksin alienated many of his supporters with what looked like a self-serving deal with his former conservative opponents. It allowed his return from exile in 2023 and the party he supported to form the new government, while sidelining the progressive Move Forward Party, which finished first in a national election, but was seen by the conservative establishment as a greater threat.

Thaksin has faced several legal challenges since his return. On Tuesday, he attended a court hearing in a case alleging he defamed the monarchy in 2015.

He also is under investigation over the handling of his return to face an eight-year prison term on charges

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 66 of 66

related to corruption and abuse of power. At the time, he was transferred almost immediately to a hospital, and later granted clemency because of his age and health without spending a single night in jail.

The complaints argue he avoided properly serving his sentence and raise the possibility that Thaksin could be forced to serve prison time.

Today in History: July 2, Civil Rights Act signed into law

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, July 2, the 183rd day of 2025. There are 182 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 2, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law a sweeping civil rights bill passed by Congress prohibiting discrimination and segregation based on race, color, sex, religion or national origin.

Also on this date:

In 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution saying that "these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."

In 1881, President James A. Garfield was shot by Charles J. Guiteau (gee-TOH') at the Washington railroad station; Garfield died the following September. (Guiteau was hanged in June 1882.)

In 1917, rioting erupted in East St. Louis, Illinois, as white mobs attacked Black residents; at least 50 and as many as 200 people, most of them Black, are believed to have died in the violence.

In 1937, aviator Amelia Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan disappeared over the Pacific Ocean while attempting to make the first round-the-world flight along the equator.

In 1962, the first Walmart store opened in Rogers, Arkansas.

In 1976, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Gregg v. Georgia*, ruled 7-2 that the death penalty was not inherently cruel or unusual.

In 1979, the Susan B. Anthony dollar coin was released to the public.

In 1986, ruling in a pair of cases, the Supreme Court upheld affirmative action as a remedy for past job discrimination.

In 1990, more than 1,400 Muslim pilgrims were killed in a stampede inside a pedestrian tunnel near Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

In 2002, Steve Fossett became the first person to complete a solo circumnavigation of the world nonstop in a balloon.

In 2018, rescue divers in Thailand found alive 12 boys and their soccer coach, who had been trapped by flooding as they explored a cave more than a week earlier.

In 2020, British socialite Ghislaine Maxwell was arrested in New Hampshire on charges that she had helped lure at least three girls – one as young as 14 – to be sexually abused by the late financier Jeffrey Epstein. (Maxwell would be convicted on five of six counts.)

In 2022, the police chief for the Uvalde, Texas, school district stepped down from his City Council seat amid criticism of his response to the mass shooting at an Uvalde elementary school in which 19 students and two teachers were slain on May 24 of that year.

Today's Birthdays: Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos is 96. Actor Polly Holliday is 88. Racing Hall of Famer Richard Petty is 88. Former White House chief of staff and former New Hampshire governor John H. Sununu is 86. Writer-director-comedian Larry David is 78. Rock musician Roy Bittan (Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band) is 76. Actor Wendy Schaal is 71. Actor-model Jerry Hall is 69. Former baseball player Jose Canseco is 61. Race car driver Sam Hornish Jr. is 46. Former NHL center Joe Thornton is 46. Singer Michelle Branch is 42. Actor Vanessa Lee Chester is 41. Retired figure skater Johnny Weir is 41. Actor-singer Ashley Tisdale is 40. Actor Lindsay Lohan (LOH'-uhn) is 39. Former professional soccer player Alex Morgan is 36. Actor Margot Robbie is 35. Singer-rapper Saweetie is 32. U.S. Olympic swimming gold medalist Ryan Murphy is 30.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 67 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 68 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 69 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 70 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 71 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 72 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 73 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 74 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 75 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 76 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 77 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 78 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 79 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 80 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 81 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 82 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 83 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 84 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 85 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 86 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 87 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 88 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 89 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 90 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 91 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 92 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 93 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 94 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 95 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 96 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 97 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 98 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 99 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 100 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 101 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 102 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 103 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 104 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 105 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 106 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 107 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 108 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 109 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 110 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 111 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 112 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 113 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 114 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 115 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 116 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 117 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 118 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 119 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 120 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 121 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 122 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 123 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 124 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 125 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 126 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 127 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 128 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 129 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 130 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 131 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 132 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 133 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 134 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 135 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 136 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 137 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 138 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 139 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 140 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 141 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 142 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 143 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 144 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 145 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 146 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 147 of 66

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 372 ~ 148 of 66