

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 1 of 44

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
- [4- Prairie Doc: "Motion is Lotion; the Importance of Movement"](#)
- [5- WELCA Ad](#)
- [6- Names Released in Pennington County Fatal Crash](#)
- [7- Weekly Vikings Roundup](#)
- [8- SD SearchLight: Mobile legal aid clinic, the 'Justice Bus,' launches in SD](#)
- [9- EarthTalk - The Pope](#)
- [10- Weather Pages](#)
- [16- Daily Devotional](#)
- [17- Subscription Form](#)
- [18- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [19- Upcoming Groton Events](#)
- [20- News from the Associated Press](#)

Monday, July 7

Senior Menu: Goulash, corn, baked apples, breadstick.

Legion at Webster 5:30 p.m. (DH)

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

U10 B&W at Clark, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

Softball: U12 hosts Milbank, 6 p.m. (DH); U8B at Mellette, 6 p.m. (DH)

T-Ball: Gold practice, 6 p.m.

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

Tuesday, July 8

Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes with gravy, normandy blend, oranges, whole wheat bread.

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

U10 W&R at Claremont, 6:30 p.m.

U8 W&R at Claremont, 6 p.m.

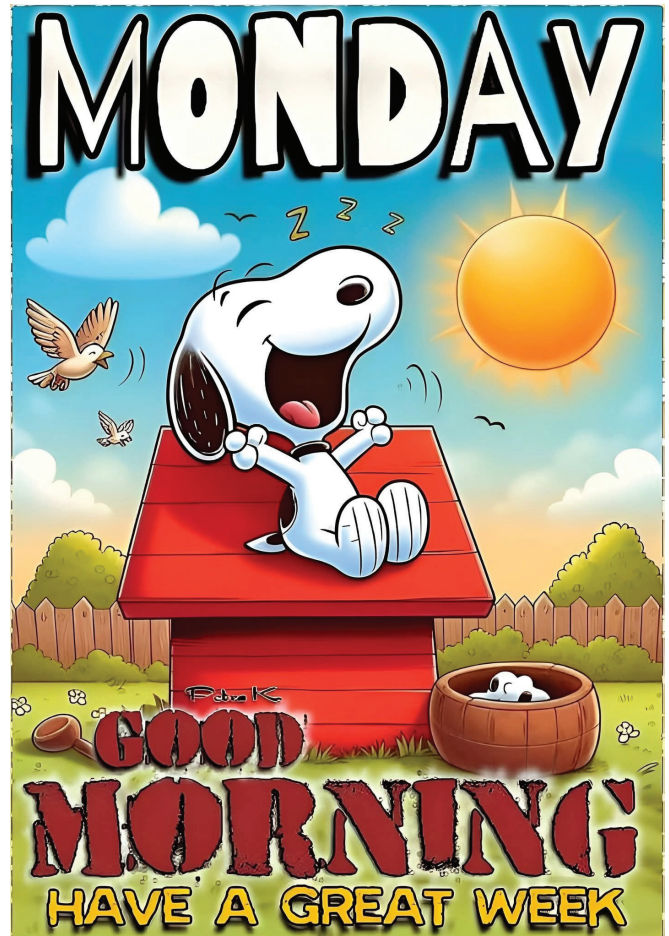
Softball: U14 hosts Redfield, 5 p.m. (DH)

T-Ball: Gold at Claremont, 5 p.m.; Black hosts Andover, 6 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, 6 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.



Wednesday, July 9

Senior Menu: Hot pork sandwich, creamy noodles, peas and carrots, pineapple.

Legion hosts Lisbon, 6 p.m.

Softball: U8B at Redfield, 5:30 p.m.; U8G at Warner, 5:30 p.m.; U10B at Redfield, 5:30 p.m.; U10G at Warner, 5:30 p.m.; U12 at Redfield 6:30 p.m. (DH)

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

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

Legion Auxiliary Salad Buffet and Dessert Bar, 11 a.m.

Thursday, July 10

Senior Menu: Chicken cordon bleu hot dish, California blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.

Legion at Clark Tourney

Jr. Teeners hosts Watertown 13U, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

Softball: U8G hosts Mellette, 6 p.m. (DH)

T-Ball G&B Scrimmage, 6 p.m.

Groton Lions Club Meeting, 6 p.m., 104 N Main

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

© 2025 Groton Daily Independent

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 2 of 44

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.

Central Texas Floods

At least 80 people, including 28 children, have died from historic flash flooding in central Texas over the weekend. At least 10 girls and one counselor are still missing from Camp Mystic, a Christian, all-girls summer camp.

Camp Mystic is located in an area along the Guadalupe River known as "flash flood alley" due to the soil's inability to absorb water quickly. The century-old camp was hosting roughly 750 children when a storm began dropping several inches of rain per hour late Thursday night. River waters, fueled by moisture in the air, rose 26 feet within 45 minutes shortly before daybreak Friday—the equivalent of months' worth of rain. Over 850 people were rescued within the first 36 hours of the search, including residents of other camps and people living in nearby localities.

It is unclear why camp residents were not evacuated or whether they had received advance notice.

Musk Launches Party

Billionaire Elon Musk said Saturday he has formed a political party, the America Party, to challenge the dominant two-party system in the US. It is not clear who will lead the party, which has not been registered with the Federal Election Commission as of this writing.

Musk's announcement comes after President Donald Trump signed his sweeping domestic policy bill into law Friday—a longstanding point of contention between the two former allies. Musk had publicly taken issue with the bill over its projected addition of at least \$3.3T to the nation's ballooning \$36.2T debt. The bill notably does not include subsidies for electric vehicles like those produced by Musk-owned Tesla. Musk says the America Party will target two to three Senate seats and eight to 10 House seats, enough to serve as a caucus in contentious bills moving forward.

Musk was the single-largest political donor in the 2024 presidential election cycle, contributing over \$290M to Trump and other Republican candidates.

'Prince of Darkness' Bids Farewell

More than 45,000 people turned out in Birmingham, England, over the weekend to watch legendary rocker Ozzy Osbourne appear for a final time with his band Black Sabbath. The 76-year-old Osbourne, who publicly revealed a Parkinson's diagnosis in 2020, spent much of the show performing from a large throne adorned with a bat and skulls.

Considered pioneers of early heavy metal music, Osbourne helped launch Black Sabbath in 1968, releasing eight studio albums as its lead vocalist. Known for outrageous stunts—he infamously once bit off the head of a dead bat (he later said he thought it was fake)—Osbourne was fired from the band over substance abuse issues in 1979. He subsequently launched a successful solo music career, and eventually became a pop culture mainstay with the 2002 debut of the reality show "Meet the Osbournes."

The Saturday show was preceded by hours of tribute performances from Metallica, Guns N' Roses, and others.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 3 of 44

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Mexico tops Team USA 2-1 to win their second straight Concacaf Gold Cup and 10th overall.
Liverpool and Portugal soccer star Diogo Jota dies at 28 along with his brother in single-car crash in Spain.
Joey Chestnut eats 70.5 hot dogs and buns to win his 17th Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest; Miki Sudo eats 33 to win her 11th women's title.
"Jurassic World Rebirth" hauls in \$318M at the global box office in its opening weekend as "Lilo & Stitch" crosses \$972M in its seven-week run.
Julian McMahon, actor known for starring roles in "Nip/Tuck" and "Fantastic Four," dies of cancer at 56.

Science & Technology

Astronomers detect the third interstellar object ever observed; the roughly 20-mile-wide comet will pass around 150 million miles from Earth, travel past the sun, and eventually exit the solar system.
Neanderthals crushed and boiled bones in "fat factories" to access bone marrow and other nutrients as early as 125,000 years ago, evidence suggests.
Researchers discover microbe with one of the smallest genomes known to date; findings raise questions around what constitutes life in single-celled organisms.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher Thursday (S&P 500 +0.8%, Dow +0.8%, Nasdaq +1.0%) after report showing the US added 147,000 nonfarm jobs last month, beating expectations; unemployment rate dropped from 4.2% in May to 4.1% in June.
President Donald Trump says 12 countries will receive letters today notifying them of tariffs going into effect tomorrow unless they accept "take it or leave it" deals; will name countries today.
Eight OPEC+ countries, including Saudi Arabia and Russia, agree to increase oil production next month by 548,000 barrels per day in virtual meeting Saturday.

Politics & World Affairs

Tropical Storm Chantal makes landfall in northeastern South Carolina, with maximum sustained winds of up to 50 miles per hour and warnings of potential flash flooding across the two Carolinas.
Israel sends delegation to Qatar after Hamas says it is ready to negotiate US-proposed 60-day ceasefire; Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu meets with President Donald Trump today in Washington, DC.
Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei makes first public appearance since 12-day war with Israel.
US deports eight men convicted of violent crimes to South Sudan, most of whom are citizens of other countries in Asia and Latin America; the move ends weeks of a legal saga, which saw the men held at a US military base in Djibouti.

"Motion is Lotion; the Importance of Movement"

Orthopedic medicine is truly a team sport; we have the opportunity to collaborate with nonsurgical professionals, including physical therapists, occupational therapists, athletic trainers, among others, to deliver comprehensive musculoskeletal care. While there are proven surgical options to help our patients where indicated, in many cases, patients are able to achieve pain relief and improved function with nonsurgical treatment options. Much of orthopedic surgical training is appropriately dedicated to the planning and execution of surgery, but it is also important to understand and recognize patients who present with conditions readily addressed without surgery and the accompanying risks of invasive procedures. It is also important to advocate the idea of prevention.



A phrase that is often loosely spoken within our clinic is, "Motion is Lotion." What does this mean? This is a simple phrase to express the importance of movement and activity, whether that be independent exercise, supervised or specialized therapy, or simply taking a walk outside. With inactivity, we naturally are at risk for muscle loss, obesity, and the many adverse health conditions associated with obesity. It is important to consider exercise and its many health benefits. More specifically, resistance training and cardiovascular exercise have been shown to have robust benefits to our overall physical and mental health and function.

The National Institute of Health has been studying the effect of strength training for more than 40 years, demonstrating beneficial results in adults including maintained muscle mass, maintenance and improvement of mobility, and increasing healthy years lived. Not all resistance training is the same, however, the effects on improved function largely are the same. Resistance training promotes muscle strength and growth, simultaneously improving our overall cardiovascular health. Studies have demonstrated that our muscle mass peaks around the age of 35. Naturally, muscle volume and performance decline slowly until we reach the age of approximately 65 where muscle volume loss proceeds faster. However, this decline in muscle volume and strength is substantially slowed by resistance training. Dr. Fielding with Tufts University, an NIH-supported scientist, has studied resistance training at a molecular level. His research has suggested that the best recipe for improving physical function and avoiding disability is a combination of walking and resistance training, whether resistance be against gravity or moving weight. The list of research-proven benefits of resistance training is quite impressive. In addition to improved muscle mass and cardiovascular health, resistance training offers improved metabolism and promotes weight loss of adipose tissue, increased bone density potentially preventing fractures associated with aging and fragility, improved balance and coordination, and natural release of anti-inflammatory mediators. Outside of bone and muscle anatomy, being active and exercising has been proven to reduce stress, improve our mood and cognitive performance, boost our energy and libido, as well as provide a mean of self-confidence.

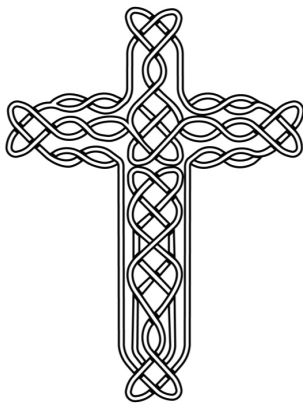
Now understanding the many benefits of physical activity, where do we start? If you are looking for some help, reach out to your physician, a personal trainer, or other trained professionals such as a physical therapist or athletic trainer for guidance. The health benefits will not be immediately realized, but you will eventually notice an improvement in your mood, and perhaps many years from now, also an improvement in your overall physical health. "Motion is lotion." Let's get out and move!

Anthony P. Fiegen, MD is a fellowship-trained orthopedic sports medicine physician specialized in treating conditions of the shoulder, hip, and knee at the Orthopedic Institute. In addition to a comprehensive sports medicine practice and joint preservation, he also performs joint replacement of the shoulder, hip, and knee. Dr. Fiegen grew up in Madison, SD. He attended South Dakota State University competing for the Jackrabbits' men's basketball team from 2009-2013. Prior to joining Orthopedic Institute in 2024, Dr. Fiegen completed orthopedic surgery residency at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. He then went on to complete a sports medicine fellowship at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC, where he served as a team physician for the ACC Wake Forest football, men's basketball, and baseball teams. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Threads. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB or streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB), providing health information based on science, built on trust.

Golden Threads

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

Proverbs 8:10-11



designed by freepik.com

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



Names Released in Pennington County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash

Where: Interstate 90, mile marker 109, one mile west of Wall, SD

When: 8:39 a.m., Wednesday, July 2, 2025

Driver 1: Ramon Ray Two Bulls, 41-year-old male from Box Elder, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2014 GMC Yukon

Seat belt Used: Yes

Passenger 1a: Marcus Drew Two Bulls, 38-year-old male from Rapid City, SD, serious, non-life-threatening injuries

Seat belt Used: Yes

Pennington County, S.D.- One man died and another was seriously injured Wednesday morning in a single vehicle crash one mile west of Wall, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates Ramon Ray Two Bulls, the driver of a 2014 GMC Yukon was traveling eastbound on Interstate 90 when the vehicle left its lane and entered the median. The vehicle struck a median crossing and became airborne, then overturned.

The driver sustained fatal injuries. Marcus Drew Two Bulls, a passenger in the vehicle, received serious, non-life-threatening 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.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 7 of 44



As the 2025 NFL season draws closer, the Minnesota Vikings find themselves in a rare position: built to win now, yet still developing key young talent across the roster. With training camp on the horizon and a deep, competitive team in place, I'll be breaking down each position group over the next seven weeks to get a clearer picture of who's locked in, who's on the bubble, and who could surprise us this summer. We'll start at quarterback and work our way through the entire roster, ending with the secondary just before the first preseason game kicks off. This week we're focusing on the offensive line, which has undergone significant changes over the past few seasons. What used to be the team's biggest weakness is now one of its

biggest strengths – at least on paper.

Starting Five

Christian Darrisaw – The most important spot on the offensive line is left tackle, and the Vikings have one of the best in Christian Darrisaw. The 26-year-old recently signed a massive extension as he enters his fifth NFL season. When healthy, he plays at an All-Pro level, but staying on the field has been an issue. Darrisaw tore his ACL and MCL last October, ending his 2024 season early, though he has been participating in offseason practices in a limited capacity.

Brian O'Neill – Opposite Darrisaw is Brian O'Neill. Entering his 8th season, the 30-year-old right tackle is still playing at a high level, evidenced by the fact that he made the Pro Bowl last season. He only has two years left on his deal, and his cap hits are huge (\$26 million this year and \$23 million next year), so I expect the Vikings to extend him to lower his cap hit and ensure he stays in Minnesota for many more years.

Ryan Kelly – For years, the Vikings have used smaller, athletic centers to anchor the offensive line. That all changed this offseason when the Vikings signed Ryan Kelly away from the Indianapolis Colts. Kelly is older (32 years old) and has dealt with injuries during his career, but the four-time Pro Bowler is certainly an upgrade at the center position.

Will Fries – Widely considered to be the best available guard in free agency this offseason, the Vikings brought in Fries to take over the right guard spot. Similar to Ryan Kelly, Fries suffered an injury while playing for the Colts last season. However, when healthy, he is a massive upgrade for the Vikings' offensive line.

Donovan Jackson – After upgrading two of the three interior offensive line positions in free agency, the Vikings spent their first-round pick on Donovan Jackson to complete the interior revamp. Not only will Jackson be an upgrade at left guard, but he can also play left tackle if needed, like he did for the 2024 national champion Ohio State Buckeyes.

Rounding Out the Depth Chart

Blake Brandel – The starting left guard in 2024, Brandel now moves to a backup role. He wasn't the weak link on the interior last season, so if he needs to fill in this season, I don't expect we'll see any huge drop-off in production.

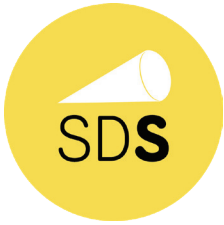
Michael Jurgens – Entering his sophomore season, Jurgens will likely make the 53-man roster due to his position versatility, since he's able to play either guard spot as well as center.

Walter Rouse – Another player entering his sophomore season, Rouse will likely make the roster as a backup tackle.

Justin Skule – The Vikings signed Skule in free agency to be the team's primary backup tackle. He is entering his 6th season in the NFL, and has seen action in 66 games in his career, including 17 starts.

On the Bubble

In 2024, the Vikings had nine offensive linemen on their opening day roster. These players are likely competing for a spot on the Vikings' practice squad: Logan Brown, Henry Byrd, Zeke Correll, Joe Huber, Marcellus Johnson, Vershon Lee, and Leroy Watson IV.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Mobile legal aid clinic, the 'Justice Bus,' launches in SD

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - JULY 6, 2025 11:23 AM

A nonprofit providing legal aid to low-income South Dakotans launched the state's first mobile legal aid office this year, aiming to increase accessibility across the state.

Swaths of western South Dakota are considered legal deserts, where barriers such as poverty, lack of transportation and internet access, combined with a lack of attorneys, make it difficult for people to access legal help.

The new effort helps immediately address the problem while work continues on longer-term solutions, such as the state rural lawyer recruitment and retention program.

Dakota Plains Legal Services used a \$125,000 state grant to launch its Justice Bus program. The bus is used to connect South Dakotans with legal aid for civil cases, such as custody, abuse and neglect, or protection orders.

The money came from the Commission on Equal Access to Our Courts, which awards grants funded by a \$25 filing fee applied to some court documents.

An inability to access civil legal aid has consequences for South Dakotans, said Jana Gray, director of development and special projects for Dakota Plains.

"They might not be able to gain custody of their children, get a protection order or they might just give up," Gray said.

The bus has stopped in Pierre, Winner, Gregory and other rural towns in western South Dakota. Gray said the organization plans to attend tribal powwows, known as wacipis in Dakota, Lakota and Nakota, and other community events this summer.

So far, the nonprofit has collected five applications for legal aid at community stops this year. That's promising, Gray said.

People can fill out applications and receive legal aid on the spot, inside the outfitted vehicle. Gray hopes to regularly schedule visits to communities in the future and provide clinics on specific, prevalent legal issues in a community.

The Justice Bus will be at Eagle Butte's Hometown Days on July 17, according to the Dakota Plains Legal Services calendar.

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.



The Justice Bus launched in 2025 to help provide legal aid to South Dakotans living in legal deserts.

(Courtesy of Unified Judicial System)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 9 of 44

EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Where does Pope Leo stand on climate change and other environmental issues? And what kind of legacy did Pope Francis leave on climate/environment? – Jane W., Cary, NC

On April 21, 2025, Pope Francis, known for his inclusivity to various communities worldwide, passed away after decades of serving as Pope of the Catholic church. Pope Leo XIV was inducted shortly thereafter, and with Pope Francis's tremendous legacy of activism aiding the environment, there are questions and fears whether Pope Leo will be able to uphold the values of his predecessor.

One of Pope Francis's passions was the impact of climate on marginalized communities, and the harshness of consumerism that maintained these inadequacies. In one of his speeches to the General Audience of April 22, 2015 in Saint Peter's Square, he stated: "May the relationship between man and nature not be driven by greed, to manipulate and exploit, but may the divine harmony between beings and creation be conserved in the logic of respect and care." Shortly thereafter, his activism on climate issues and the environment was evidently showcased through his creation of *Laudato si* on May 24, 2015, which detailed the horrors of global warming and criticized humanity's materialism over planetary wellbeing.

Furthermore, he used *Laudato si* to negotiate with other world leaders during the United Nations meeting in 2015, leading to the Paris agreement. "He's been one of the strongest voices, pushing to get things done," John Kerry, a former U.S. climate envoy, told *Time*. The work further led to the creation of an organization called *Laudato Si' Movement* to activate Catholics and non-believers around the globe to take action on various environmental issues.

Despite this activism, Indigenous peoples, specifically those in Amazonian and South America, remained harshly affected by global warming. In response to this devastation, Pope Francis released "Querida Amazonia" (Dear Amazon), a plea for the world to join together to save and respect the Amazon rainforest. "...the forest is not a resource to be exploited; it is a being, or various beings, with which we have to relate," he wrote. In partial response to Pope Francis's forest advocacy, the U.N. Environment Programme founded the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative, which serves to lobby local governments in South America for environmental protection and Indigenous rights.

With the past legacy of Pope Francis, many speculate whether Pope Leo will uphold the same values. A study from the College of Cardinals Report shows that he is heading in the right direction, with the report claiming he is following Pope Leo's policies. In 2024 remarks at a global seminar in Rome, he called for the church to move "from words to action," claiming that humanity's "dominion over nature" should not be "tyrannical" but instead a "relationship of reciprocity" with the environment. While not as confrontational as Pope Francis, Pope Leo still aims to implement the same policies.



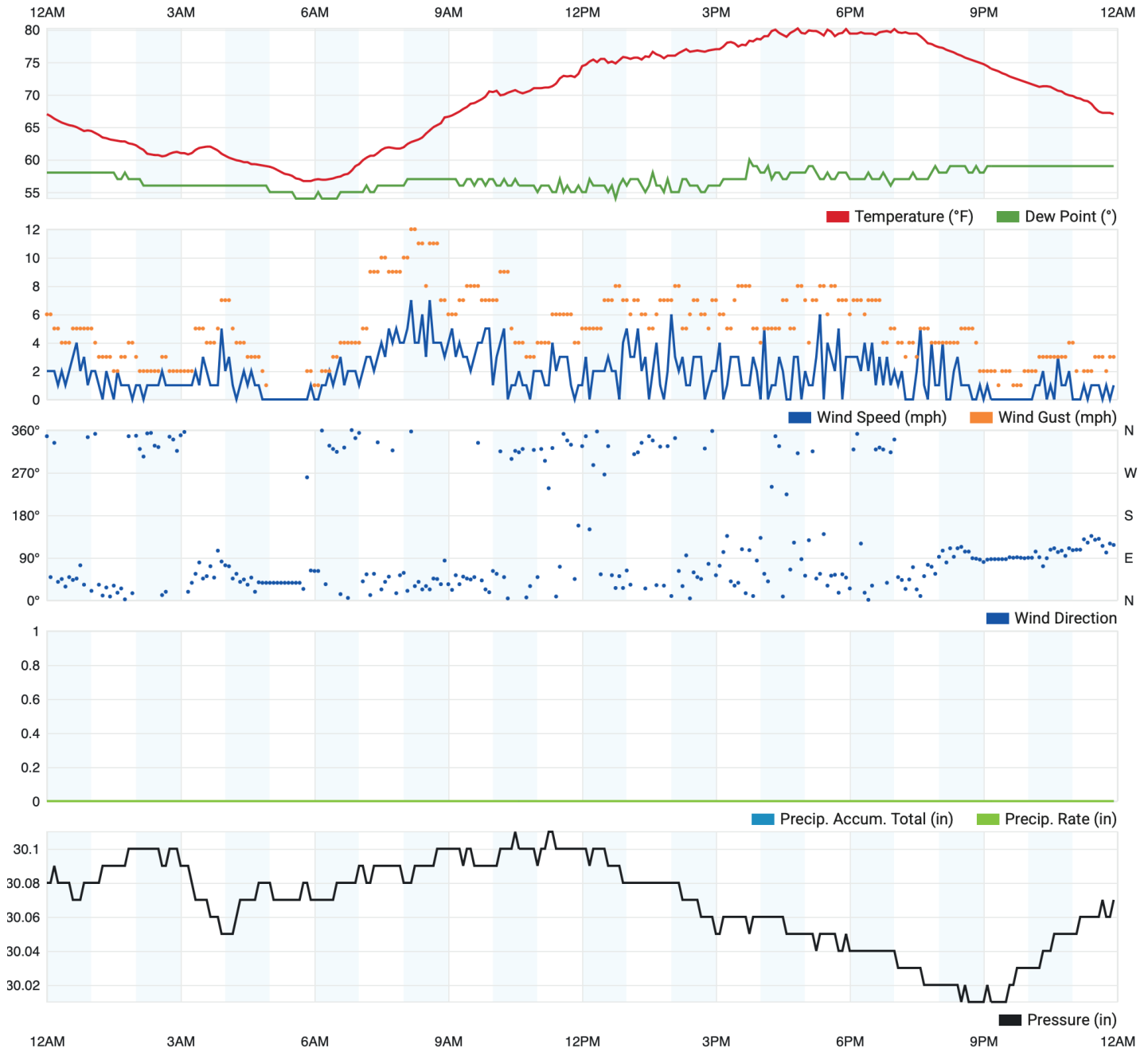
Environmentalists are hopeful that Pope Leo will carry on and expand the sustainability initiatives started by Pope Francis. Credit: By U.S. Department of State, Public Domain.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 10 of 44

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

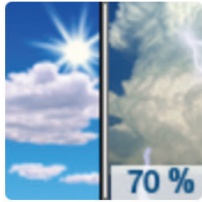
July 6, 2025



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 11 of 44

Today



High: 82 °F

Mostly Sunny
then Severe
Thunderstorms

Tonight



Low: 59 °F

Severe
Thunderstorms
then Partly
Cloudy

Tuesday



High: 83 °F

Sunny

Tuesday Night



Low: 59 °F

Mostly Clear

Wednesday



High: 90 °F

Hot

THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

2

WHAT THIS MEANS:
Scattered Severe Storms
possible

TIMING

This afternoon

PRIMARY THREATS



LARGE HAIL
(1.00-2.00in)



DAMAGING
WIND
(60-70mph)

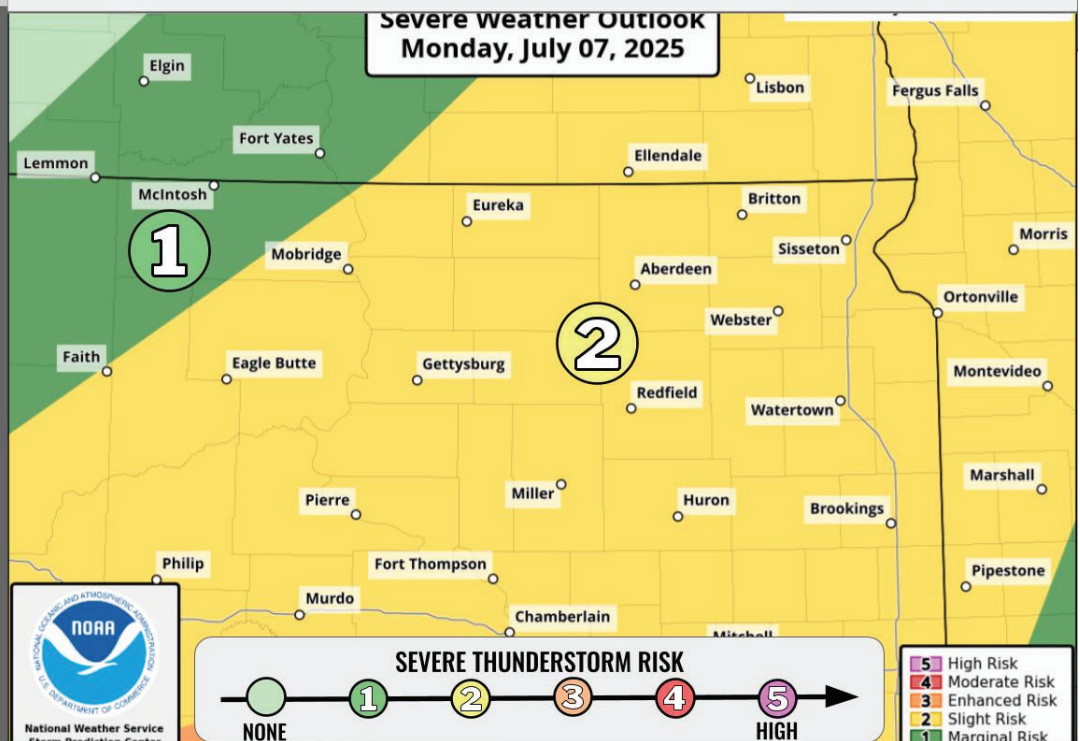
SECONDARY THREATS



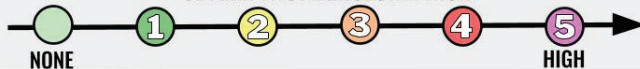
HEAVY RAIN

SEVERE STORMS Possible Today

Severe weather Outlook
Monday, July 07, 2025



SEVERE THUNDERSTORM RISK



By early this afternoon, strong to severe thunderstorms may be developing over portions of central and north central South Dakota. Storms that develop should move toward northeast South Dakota during the middle of the afternoon, before heading into west central Minnesota by early this evening. Large hail and damaging thunderstorm winds will be the main threats, with hail-size potentially up to 2 inches in diameter, and damaging wind gusts of 60-70 miles per hour being possible.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 12 of 44

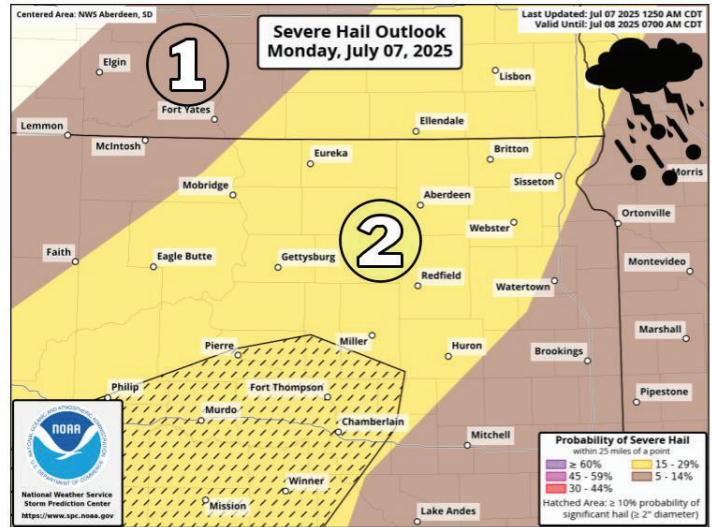
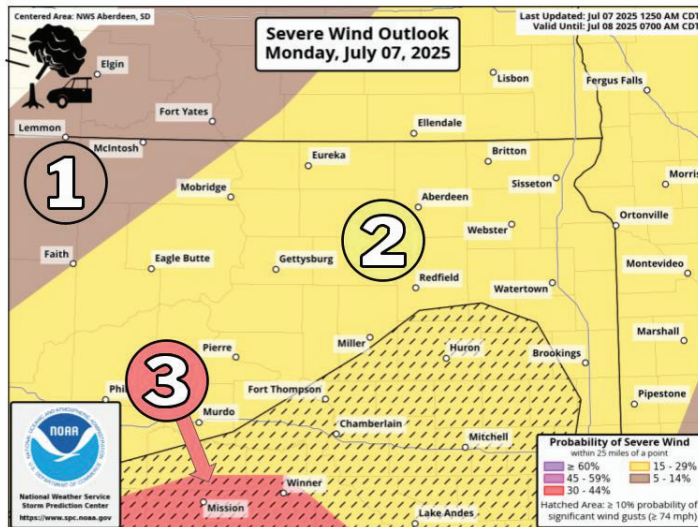


Specific Hazards This Afternoon

July 7, 2025
4:02 AM

Wind and hail will be the primary threats.

- **Strong to Severe winds** (60-70 mph) across central and northeast SD and west central MN expected this afternoon.
- **Large Hail** (diameter of 1-2") is also possible.



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD



General Timing And Coverage Of Storms Today

July 7, 2025
4:07 AM

Model Estimated Timing and Locations of Thunderstorms (CDT)

11 AM - 12 PM

Showers and thunderstorms forecast to be developing/gaining strength over central and north-central SD by mid-day.



05Z RAP Model Run

2 PM - 3 PM

Scattered to numerous thunderstorms forecast to be heading toward northeast SD, including Aberdeen and several other areas.



05Z RAP Model Run

5 PM - 6 PM

Potential evolution into a line of thunderstorms heading for east central SD and west central MN late this afternoon.



05Z RAP Model Run

Make sure to have multiple ways to receive weather warnings!

These are model simulated snapshots of potential timing/location. Actual timing/location of storms may vary.



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 13 of 44



Heat Index Forecast Wednesday And Thursday

July 7, 2025
4:15 AM

- ➔ Highest Heat Index values of 95F to 100+F over central and north central South Dakota.
- ➔ Night-time heat index values may not drop below 70F degrees for some locations Wednesday night

	Maximum Heat Index Forecast (°F)															
	7/9								7/10							
	Wed								Thu							
	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm
Aberdeen	66	63	66	79	88	91	91	83	74	71	71	84	90	92	90	78
Britton	64	62	67	78	85	88	87	77	71	70	72	82	87	89	87	75
Chamberlain	72	68	69	86	96	101	100	89	77	73	72	86	94	97	96	83
Clark	65	62	67	75	83	85	85	77	73	70	71	77	84	86	85	76
Eagle Butte	70	67	68	79	91	93	89	78	72	69	68	77	85	88	84	75
Eureka	66	63	66	78	88	92	92	82	71	67	69	79	87	87	86	76
Gettysburg	68	65	67	78	90	94	94	82	70	67	68	78	87	89	86	75
McIntosh	70	67	68	82	92	93	90	79	71	68	68	78	86	87	84	74
Milbank	65	62	66	75	83	86	86	76	71	68	71	82	87	90	90	78
Miller	68	65	67	83	92	94	94	84	74	70	70	84	90	92	90	78
Mobridge	69	67	70	83	91	93	92	83	71	68	69	79	87	88	87	77
Murdo	71	68	69	84	94	97	96	85	73	68	68	78	88	90	89	79
Pierre	72	69	71	86	97	101	101	88	75	70	71	84	93	94	93	84
Redfield	68	64	66	82	90	93	92	83	75	70	71	84	91	92	91	82
Sisseton	66	63	67	78	84	86	86	76	71	70	72	83	88	89	88	78
Watertown	65	62	66	76	84	86	86	78	72	69	71	77	86	88	87	77
Webster	65	62	67	76	83	85	85	77	73	71	70	78	86	87	85	76
Wheaton	65	62	65	76	82	84	84	76	71	70	71	81	86	88	87	78

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 14 of 44

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 90 °F at 5:00 PM

High Heat Index: 80 °F at 4:15 PM

Low Temp: 55 °F at 5:30 AM

Wind: 18 mph at 9:59 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 35 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 106 in 1936

Record Low: 43 in 1922

Average High: 85

Average Low: 59

Average Precip in July.: 0.82

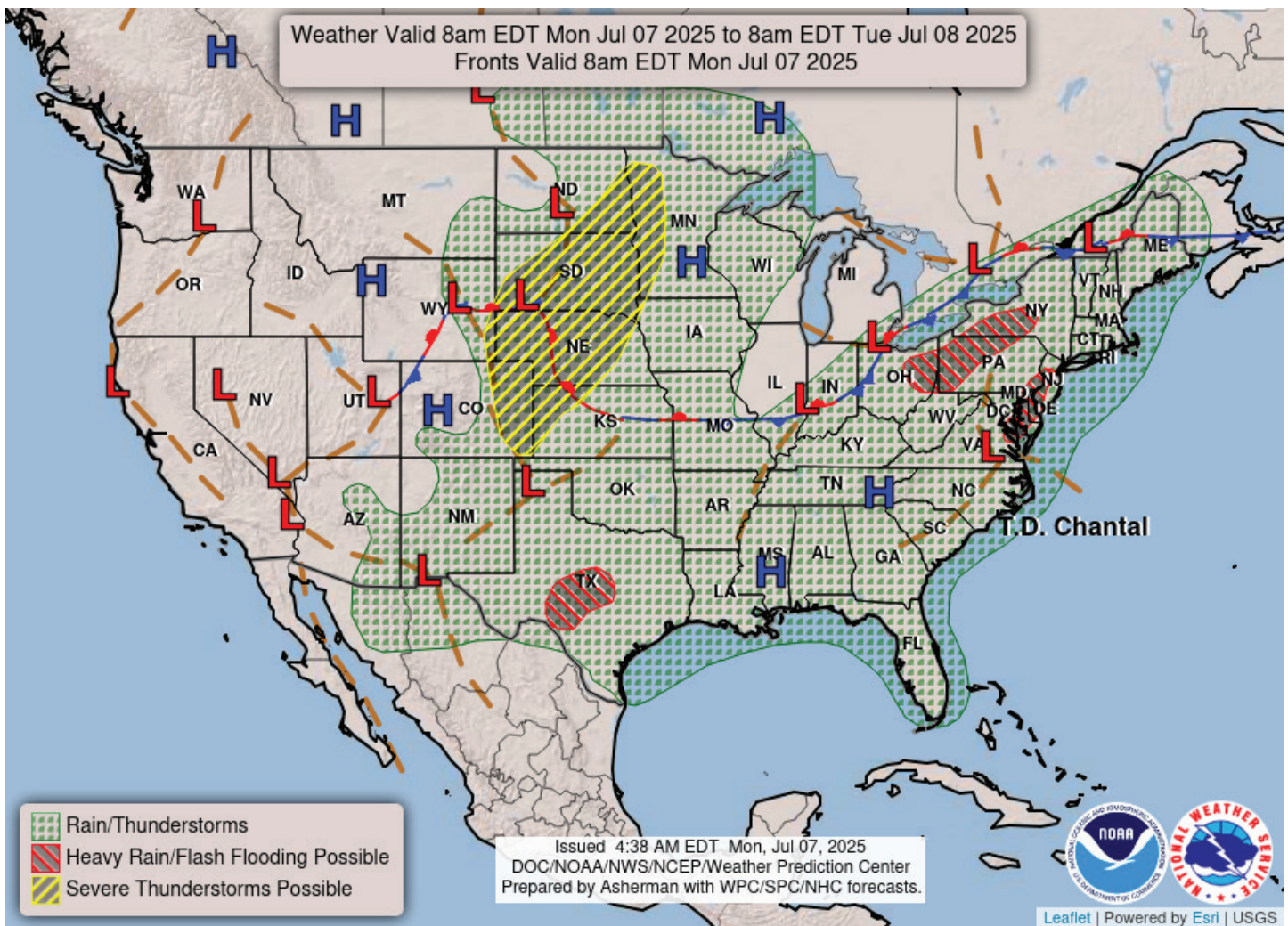
Precip to date in July: 1.71

Average Precip to date: 11.71

Precip Year to Date: 11.83

Sunset Tonight: 9:24:51 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:50:28 am



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 15 of 44

Today in Weather History

July 7, 1959: A powerful and widespread windstorm began near Kadoka and moved northeastward across the state at a speed of 60 to 65 mph. Airplane hangers were damaged or destroyed at Murdo, Redfield, and Watertown. Fourteen barns were destroyed or severely damaged. Five trailer homes were overturned.

July 7, 1990: A teenager was injured by softball size hail while working in a field near Herreid. The large hail also injured many cattle in the area. Most homes and vehicles in town suffered damage. The Herreid School had 120 broken panes of glass.

July 6, 1994: Widespread rainfall of over 6 inches fell in Dewey, Potter, and Faulk Counties, causing damage to roads and flooded basements and fields. A teenage girl escaped injury when her car was washed away by the waters of a swollen creek about 5 miles east of Gettysburg. Some total storm amounts include; 6.80 inches in Orient; 6.70 at Faulkton; 5.80 in Milbank; 5.48 in Big Stone City; 5.02 in Ipswich; 4.50 in Gettysburg; 4.17 in Webster; 4.12 near Onaka; 4.02 in Leola; and 3.97 in Britton.

1905: The mercury soared to 127 degrees at Parker, Arizona to tie the state record established at Fort Mohave on the 15th of June in 1896. The current record for Arizona is 128 degrees set in Lake Havasu City on 6-29-1994.

1915 - A severe wind and thunderstorm caused heavy damage and 38 deaths in and near Cincinnati, OH. Many older buildings were demolished. The steamship Dick Fulton was overturned. (The Weather Channel)

1981 - Montana was in the midst of a snowstorm that dumped ten inches at Glacier National Park, and produced winds to 90 mph. Meanwhile, Denver, CO, set a record high with a reading of 101 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms spawned eight tornadoes in Colorado, and three in West Texas. Thunderstorms also produced softball size hail at Bula, TX. In the midst of a record thirty-nine day string of 100 degree days, the temperature at Tucson, AZ, dipped to 66 degrees, marking their third straight record low for the date. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thirty-eight cities in the north central and northeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Youngstown, OH, hit 100 degrees, and for the second day in a row, Flint, MI, reached 101 degrees, equalling all-time records for those two cities. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather during the day, with more than 100 reports of large hail and damaging winds from Ohio to Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Thunderstorm winds reached 90 mph in Sullivan County, NH, and golf ball size hail was reported in Pennsylvania. Twenty-four cities, mostly in the southwestern U.S., reported record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 105 degrees at Cedar City, UT, and 114 degrees at Moab, UT, were all-time records for those locations. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1991: During the early daylight hours of Sunday, July 7, 1991, a bow echo developed over southeast South Dakota and began racing east, producing very damaging winds. This bow echo was the start of a long-lived derecho that lasted 17 hours and affected areas from the Great Plains into western New York and Pennsylvania. Wind gusts in some places reached 80 to 100 mph. The strongest gust, 103 mph, was measured at Sioux Center, Iowa around mid-morning, and the roof of a school was blown off in nearby Orange City.

2004: A tornado occurred in the Rockwell Pass area of Sequoia National Park, California. Since the elevation of the tornado's ground circulation was approximately 3705 m (12,156 ft) MSL, this is the highest-elevation tornado documented in the United States.

2012: In Krymsk, Russia, nearly 11 inches of rain falls within a few hours on July 6th. The resulting flash floods occurred during the early morning hours on the 7. The flood wave, as high as 23 feet killed at least 172 people. The 10.83 inches is equivalent to three or four months' worth of precipitation in a typical year.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 16 of 44



We often hear of damage done by those who speak before they think. Their damage is harmful, piercing like a sword, leaving broken hearts, troubled minds, and sleepless nights as a result. I know of no one who has not been damaged, in one way or another, by careless words from calloused hearts. Unfortunately, for some, speaking harshly is a way of life. Kindness does not reside within them.

People who destroy others with their words are not new. Solomon recognized the pain they caused others when he wrote, "Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."

Reckless words are words that come from resentful hearts and minds filled with evil thoughts. For whatever is in our hearts is there because we gave it a home. If it's in there, we allow it to be there because we do not realize the damage it does to ourselves and others. And, it will remain there until we ask God, in humility and sincerity, to remove the rage.

And when He does, we can do great things for those hurt by the reckless words of others: we can bring them His healing. Imagine this wonderful opportunity that is available to us to take the healing grace of God to those who have been harmed by hatred and wounded by words.

"The tongue of the wise brings healing!" How? Heed what Paul said: "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouth, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs" – God's love through us.

Today's Prayer: From our own experience, Father, we know the pain of "reckless words." Help us to realize the power of our words and use them to help and heal others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."
-Proverbs 12:18

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

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 17 of 44

The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.2% Sales Tax

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

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

Groton Daily Independent www.397news.com Subscription Form

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

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

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

E-mail _____

Password _____

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

paypal.me/paperpaul

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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 18 of 44



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.04.25

17 20 24 41 42 24

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$70,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 50 Mins 15 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.05.25

8 10 36 43 45 9

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,600,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 5 Mins 15 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.06.25

6 15 16 30 45 12

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 20 Mins 14 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.05.25

1 2 14 19 29

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$48,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 16 Hrs 20 Mins 14 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.05.25

15 20 61 63 69 1

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 49 Mins 14 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.05.25

1 28 34 50 58 8

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$203,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 49 Mins 14 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 19 of 44

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

What to know about the flash floods in Texas that killed more than 80 people

KERRVILLE, Texas (AP) — Flash floods in Texas killed at least 82 people over the Fourth of July holiday weekend and left others still missing, including girls attending a summer camp. The devastation along the Guadalupe River, outside of San Antonio, has drawn a massive search effort as officials face questions over their preparedness and the speed of their initial actions.

Here's what to know about the deadly flooding, the colossal weather system that drove it in and around Kerr County, Texas, and ongoing efforts to identify victims.

Massive rain hit at just the wrong time, in a flood-prone place

The floods grew to their worst at the midpoint of a long holiday weekend when many people were asleep. The Texas Hill Country in the central part of the state is naturally prone to flash flooding due to the dry dirt-packed areas where the soil lets rain skid along the surface of the landscape instead of soaking it up. Friday's flash floods started with a particularly bad storm that dropped most of its 12 inches (30 centimeters) of rain in the dark early morning hours.

After a flood watch notice midday Thursday, the National Weather Service office issued an urgent warning around 4 a.m. that raised the potential of catastrophic damage and a severe threat to human life. By at least 5:20 a.m., some in the Kerrville City area say water levels were getting alarmingly high. The massive rain flowing down hills sent rushing water into the Guadalupe River, causing it to rise 26 feet (8 meters) in just 45 minutes.

Death toll is expected to rise and the number of missing is uncertain

Gov. Greg Abbott said Sunday that there were 41 people confirmed to be unaccounted for across the state and more could be missing.

In Kerr County, home to youth camps in the Texas Hill Country, searchers have found the bodies of 68 people, including 28 children, Sheriff Larry Leitha said Sunday afternoon. Fatalities in nearby counties brought the total number of deaths to 79 as of Sunday evening.

Ten girls and a counselor were still unaccounted for at Camp Mystic, a Christian summer camp along the river.

For past campers, the tragedy turned happy memories into grief.

Beyond the Camp Mystic campers unaccounted for, the number of missing from other nearby campgrounds and across the region had not been released.

"We don't even want to begin to estimate at this time," Kerrville City Manager Dalton Rice said Saturday, citing the likely influx of visitors during the July Fourth holiday.

Officials face scrutiny over flash flood warnings

Survivors have described the floods as a "pitch black wall of death" and said they received no emergency warnings.

Kerr County Judge Rob Kelly, who lives along the Guadalupe River, said Saturday that "nobody saw this coming." Various officials have referred to it as a "100-year-flood," meaning that the water levels were highly unlikely based on the historical record.

And records behind those statistics don't always account for human-caused climate change. Though it's hard to connect specific storms to a warming planet so soon after they occur, meteorologists say that a warmer atmosphere can hold more moisture and allow severe storms to dump even more rain.

Additionally, officials have come under scrutiny about why residents and youth summer camps along the river were not alerted sooner than 4 a.m. or told to evacuate.

Officials noted that the public can grow weary from too many flooding alerts or forecasts that turn out to be minor.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 21 of 44

Kerr county officials said they had presented a proposal for a more robust flood warning system, similar to a tornado warning system, but that members of the public reeled at the cost.

On Sunday, officials walked out of a news briefing after reporters asked them again about delays in alerts and evacuations.

Monumental clearing and rebuilding effort

The flash floods have erased campgrounds and torn homes from their foundations.

"It's going to be a long time before we're ever able to clean it up, much less rebuild it," Kelly said Saturday after surveying the destruction from a helicopter.

Other massive flooding events have driven residents and business owners to give up, including in areas struck last year by Hurricane Helene.

President Donald Trump said he would likely visit the flood zone on Friday.

AP photographers have captured the scale of the destruction, and one of Texas' largest rescue and recover efforts.

Risk of further floods in Texas during desperate search for missing as death toll tops 80

By JIM VERTUNO and JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

KERRVILLE, Texas (AP) — With more rain on the way, the risk of life-threatening flooding was still high in central Texas on Monday even as crews search urgently for the missing following a holiday weekend deluge that killed at least 82 people, including children at summer camps. Officials said the death toll was sure to rise.

Residents of Kerr County began clearing mud and salvaging what they could from their demolished properties as they recounted harrowing escapes from rapidly rising floodwaters late Friday.

Reagan Brown said his parents, in their 80s, managed to escape uphill as water inundated their home in the town of Hunt. When the couple learned that their 92-year-old neighbor was trapped in her attic, they went back and rescued her.

"Then they were able to reach their toolshed up higher ground, and neighbors throughout the early morning began to show up at their toolshed, and they all rode it out together," Brown said.

A few miles away, rescuers maneuvering through challenging terrain filled with snakes continued their search for the missing, including 10 girls and a counselor from Camp Mystic, an all-girls summer camp that sustained massive damage.

Gov. Greg Abbott said 41 people were unaccounted for across the state and more could be missing.

In the Hill Country area, home to several summer camps, searchers have found the bodies of 68 people, including 28 children, Kerr County Sheriff Larry Leitha said.

Ten other deaths were reported in Travis, Burnet, Kendall, Tom Green and Williamson counties, according to local officials.

The governor warned that additional rounds of heavy rains lasting into Tuesday could produce more dangerous flooding, especially in places already saturated.

Families were allowed to look around the camp beginning Sunday morning. One girl walked out of a building carrying a large bell. A man whose daughter was rescued from a cabin on the highest point in the camp walked a riverbank, looking in clumps of trees and under big rocks.

One family left with a blue footlocker. A teenage girl had tears running down her face as they slowly drove away and she gazed through the open window at the wreckage.

Searching the disaster zone

Nearby crews operating heavy equipment pulled tree trunks and tangled branches from the river. With each passing hour, the outlook of finding more survivors became even more bleak.

Volunteers and some families of the missing came to the disaster zone and searched despite being asked not to do so.

Authorities faced growing questions about whether enough warnings were issued in an area long vulner-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 22 of 44

able to flooding and whether enough preparations were made.

President Donald Trump signed a major disaster declaration Sunday for Kerr County and said he would likely visit Friday: "I would have done it today, but we'd just be in their way."

"It's a horrible thing that took place, absolutely horrible," he told reporters.

Prayers in Texas — and from the Vatican

Abbott vowed that authorities will work around the clock and said new areas were being searched as the water receded. He declared Sunday a day of prayer for the state.

In Rome, Pope Leo XIV offered special prayers for those touched by the disaster. The first American pope spoke in English at the end of his Sunday noon blessing, saying, "I would like to express sincere condolences to all the families who have lost loved ones, in particular their daughters who were in summer camp, in the disaster caused by the flooding of the Guadalupe River in Texas in the United States. We pray for them."

Desperate refuge and trees and attics

Survivors shared terrifying stories of being swept away and clinging to trees as rampaging floodwaters carried trees and cars past them. Others fled to attics, praying the water wouldn't reach them.

At Camp Mystic, a cabin full of girls held onto a rope strung by rescuers as they walked across a bridge with water whipping around their legs.

Among those confirmed dead were an 8-year-old girl from Mountain Brook, Alabama, who was at Camp Mystic, and the director of another camp up the road.

Two school-age sisters from Dallas were missing after their cabin was swept away. Their parents were staying in a different cabin and were safe, but the girls' grandparents were unaccounted for.

Warnings came before the disaster

On Thursday the National Weather Service advised of potential flooding and then sent out a series of flash flood warnings in the early hours of Friday before issuing flash flood emergencies — a rare alert notifying of imminent danger.

Authorities and elected officials have said they did not expect such an intense downpour, the equivalent of months' worth of rain for the area.

Kerrville City Manager Dalton Rice said authorities are committed to a full review of the emergency response.

Trump, asked whether he was still planning to phase out the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said that was something "we can talk about later, but right now we are busy working." He has said he wants to overhaul if not completely eliminate FEMA and sharply criticized its performance.

Trump also was asked whether he planned to rehire any of the federal meteorologists who were fired this year as part of widespread government spending cuts.

"I would think not. This was a thing that happened in seconds. Nobody expected it. Nobody saw it. Very talented people there, and they didn't see it," the president said.

Israel launches airstrikes targeting Yemen's Houthi rebels, and Houthis launch missile at Israel

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Israel's military launched airstrikes early Monday targeting ports and facilities held by Yemen's Houthi rebels, with the rebels responding with missile fire targeting Israel.

The attacks came after an attack Sunday targeting a Liberian-flagged ship in the Red Sea that caught fire and took on water, later forcing its crew to abandon the vessel.

Suspicion for the attack on the Greek-owned bulk carrier Magic Seas immediately fell on the Houthis, particularly as a security firm said bomb-carrying drone boats appeared to hit the ship after it was targeted by small arms and rocket-propelled grenades. The rebels' media reported on the attack but did not claim it. It can take them days sometimes before they acknowledge an assault.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 23 of 44

A renewed Houthi campaign against shipping could again draw in U.S. and Western forces to the area, particularly after President Donald Trump targeted the rebels in a major airstrike campaign.

The ship attack comes at a sensitive moment in the Middle East, as a possible ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war hangs in the balance and as Iran weighs whether to restart negotiations over its nuclear program following American airstrikes targeting its most sensitive atomic sites during an Israeli war against the Islamic Republic. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also was traveling to Washington to meet with Trump.

Israeli strikes target Houthi-held ports

The Israeli military said it struck Houthi-held ports at Hodeida, Ras Isa and Salif, as well as the Ras Kanatib power plant. It released footage showing an F-16 launching from Israel for the strike, which came after the Israeli military issued a warning for the area.

"These ports are used by the Houthi terrorist regime to transfer weapons from the Iranian regime, which are employed to carry out terrorist operations against the state of Israel and its allies," the Israeli military said.

The Israeli military also said it struck the Galaxy Leader, a vehicle-carrying vessel that the Houthis seized back in November 2023 when they began their attacks in the Red Sea corridor over the Israel-Hamas war.

"Houthi forces installed a radar system on the ship and have been using it to track vessels in the international maritime arena to facilitate further terrorist activities," the Israeli military said.

The Bahamas-flagged Galaxy Leader was affiliated with an Israeli billionaire. It said no Israelis were on board. The ship had been operated by a Japanese firm NYK Line.

The Houthis acknowledged the strikes, but offered no damage assessment from the attack. Their military spokesman, Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, claimed its air defense forces "effectively confronted" the Israelis without offering evidence.

Israel has repeatedly attacked Houthi areas in Yemen, including a naval strike in June. Both Israel and the United States have struck ports in the area in the past — including an American attack that killed 74 people in April — but Israel is now acting alone in attacking the rebels as they continue to fire missiles at Israel.

Israel's Defense Minister Israel Katz threatened to launch further strikes.

"What's true for Iran is true for Yemen," Katz said in a statement. "Anyone who raises a hand against Israel will have it cut off. The Houthis will continue to pay a heavy price for their actions."

The Houthis then responded with an apparent missile attack on Israel. The Israeli military said it attempted to intercept the two missiles launched by the Houthis, but they appeared to make impact, though no injuries have been reported. Sirens sounded in the West Bank and along the Dead Sea.

Saree on Monday claimed launching missiles and drones targeting Israel in its attack.

"We are fully prepared for a sustained and prolonged confrontation, to confront hostile warplanes and to counter attempts to break the naval blockade imposed by our armed forces on the enemy," Saree said.

Ship attack forces crew to abandon vessel

The attack on the Magic Seas, a bulk carrier heading north to Egypt's Suez Canal, happened some 100 kilometers (60 miles) southwest of Hodeida, Yemen, which is held by the Houthis. The British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center first said that an armed security team on the vessel had returned fire against an initial attack of gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades, though the vessel later was struck by projectiles.

Ambrey, a private maritime security firm, said the Magic Seas also had been attacked by bomb-carrying drone boats, which could be a major escalation. It said two drone boats struck the ship, while another two had been destroyed by the armed guards on board.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said the ship was taking on water and its crew had abandoned the vessel. They were rescued by a passing ship, it added.

Moammar al-Eryani, the information minister for Yemen's exiled government opposing the Houthis, identified the vessel attacked as the Magic Seas and blamed the rebels. The ship had been broadcasting it had

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 24 of 44

an armed security team on board in the vicinity where the attack took place and had been heading north. "The attack also proves once again that the Houthis are merely a front for an Iranian scheme using Yemen as a platform to undermine regional and global stability, at a time when Tehran continues to arm the militia and provide it with military technology, including missiles, aircraft, drones, and sea mines," al-Eryani wrote on the social platform X.

The Magic Seas' owners did not respond to a request for comment.

Houthi attacks came over the Israel-Hamas war

The Houthi rebels have been launching missile and drone attacks against commercial and military ships in the region in what the group's leadership has described as an effort to end Israel's offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Between November 2023 and January 2025, the Houthis targeted more than 100 merchant vessels with missiles and drones, sinking two of them and killing four sailors. Their campaign has greatly reduced the flow of trade through the Red Sea corridor, which typically sees \$1 trillion of goods move through it annually. Shipping through the Red Sea, while still lower than normal, has increased in recent weeks.

The Houthis paused attacks until the U.S. launched a broad assault against the rebels in mid-March. That ended weeks later and the Houthis haven't attacked a vessel, though they have continued occasional missile attacks targeting Israel.

Death toll in central Texas flash floods rises to 82 as sheriff says 10 campers remain missing

By JIM VERTUNO and JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

KERRVILLE, Texas (AP) — Families sifted through waterlogged debris Sunday and stepped inside empty cabins at Camp Mystic, an all-girls summer camp ripped apart by flash floods that washed homes off their foundations and killed at least 82 people in central Texas.

Rescuers maneuvering through challenging terrain, high waters and snakes including water moccasins continued their desperate search for the missing, including 10 girls and a counselor from the camp. For the first time since the storms began pounding Texas, Gov. Greg Abbott said there were 41 people confirmed to be unaccounted for across the state and more could be missing.

In Kerr County, home to Camp Mystic and other youth camps in the Texas Hill Country, searchers have found the bodies of 68 people, including 28 children, Sheriff Larry Leitha said in the afternoon.

He pledged to keep searching until "everybody is found" from Friday's flash floods. Ten other deaths were reported in Travis, Burnet, Kendall, Tom Green and Williamson counties, according to local officials. The death toll is certain to rise over the next few days, said Col. Freeman Martin of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

The governor warned that additional rounds of heavy rains lasting into Tuesday could produce more life-threatening flooding, especially in places already saturated. As he spoke at a news conference in Austin, emergency alerts lit up mobile phones in Kerr County that warned of "High confidence of river flooding" and a loudspeaker near Camp Mystic urged people to leave. Minutes later, however, authorities on the scene said there was no risk.

Families were allowed to look around the camp beginning Sunday morning. One girl walked out of a building carrying a large bell. A man, who said his daughter was rescued from a cabin on the highest point in the camp, walked a riverbank, looking in clumps of trees and under big rocks.

A woman and a teenage girl, both wearing rubber waders, briefly went inside one of the cabins, which stood next to a pile of soaked mattresses, a storage trunk and clothes. At one point, the pair doubled over, sobbing before they embraced.

One family left with a blue footlocker. A teenage girl had tears running down her face looking out the open window, gazing at the wreckage as they slowly drove away.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 25 of 44

Searching the disaster zone

While the families saw the devastation for the first time, nearby crews operating heavy equipment pulled tree trunks and tangled branches from the water as they searched the river.

With each passing hour, the outlook of finding more survivors became even more bleak. Volunteers and some families of the missing who drove to the disaster zone searched the riverbanks despite being asked not to do so.

Authorities faced growing questions about whether enough warnings were issued in an area long vulnerable to flooding and whether enough preparations were made.

President Donald Trump signed a major disaster declaration Sunday for Kerr County, activating the Federal Emergency Management Agency to Texas.

The president said he would likely visit Friday. "I would have done it today, but we'd just be in their way," he told reporters before boarding Air Force One back to Washington after spending the weekend at his golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey. "It's a horrible thing that took place, absolutely horrible."

The destructive, fast-moving waters rose 26 feet (8 meters) on the river in only 45 minutes before day-break Friday, washing away homes and vehicles. The danger was not over as flash flood watches remained in effect and more rain fell in central Texas on Sunday.

Searchers used helicopters, boats and drones to look for victims and to rescue people stranded in trees and from camps isolated by washed-out roads. Officials said more than 850 people were rescued in the first 36 hours.

Prayers in Texas — and from the Vatican

Gov. Greg Abbott vowed that authorities will work around the clock and said new areas were being searched as the water receded. He declared Sunday a day of prayer for the state.

"I urge every Texan to join me in prayer this Sunday — for the lives lost, for those still missing, for the recovery of our communities, and for the safety of those on the front lines," he said in a statement.

In Rome, Pope Leo XIV offered special prayers for those touched by the disaster. History's first American pope spoke in English at the end of his Sunday noon blessing, "I would like to express sincere condolences to all the families who have lost loved ones, in particular their daughters who were in summer camp, in the disaster caused by the flooding of the Guadalupe River in Texas in the United States. We pray for them."

The hills along the Guadalupe River are dotted with century-old youth camps and campgrounds where generations of families have come to swim and enjoy the outdoors. The area is especially popular around the Independence Day holiday, making it more difficult to know how many are missing.

Harrowing escapes from floodwaters

Survivors shared terrifying stories of being swept away and clinging to trees as rampaging floodwaters carried trees and cars past them. Others fled to attics inside their homes, praying the water wouldn't reach them.

At Camp Mystic, a cabin full of girls held onto a rope strung by rescuers as they walked across a bridge with water whipping around their legs.

Among those confirmed dead were an 8-year-old girl from Mountain Brook, Alabama, who was at Camp Mystic, and the director of another camp up the road.

Two school-age sisters from Dallas were missing after their cabin was swept away. Their parents were staying in a different cabin and were safe, but the girls' grandparents were unaccounted for.

Locals know the Hill Country as "flash flood alley" but the flooding in the middle of the night caught many campers and residents by surprise even though there were warnings.

Warnings came before the disaster

The National Weather Service on Thursday advised of potential flooding and then sent out a series of flash flood warnings in the early hours of Friday before issuing flash flood emergencies — a rare alert notifying of imminent danger.

At the Mo-Ranch Camp in the community of Hunt, officials had been monitoring the weather and opted to move several hundred campers and attendees at a church youth conference to higher ground. At nearby

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 26 of 44

Camps Rio Vista and Sierra Vista, organizers also had mentioned on social media that they were watching the weather the day before ending their second summer session Thursday.

Authorities and elected officials have said they did not expect such an intense downpour, the equivalent of months' worth of rain for the area.

Kerrville City Manager Dalton Rice said authorities are committed to a full review of the emergency response, including how the public was alerted to the storm threat.

Trump, asked whether he was still planning to phase out the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said that was something "we can talk about later, but right now we are busy working." He has previously said he wants to overhaul if not completely eliminate FEMA and has been sharply critical of its performance.

Trump also was asked whether he planned to rehire any of the federal meteorologists who were fired this year as part of widespread government spending reductions.

"I would think not. This was a thing that happened in seconds. Nobody expected it. Nobody saw it. Very talented people there, and they didn't see it," the president said.

Pressure from Trump for trade deals before Wednesday deadline, but hints of more time for talks

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is stepping up pressure on trading partners to quickly make new deals before a Wednesday deadline, with plans for the United States to start sending letters Monday warning countries that higher tariffs could kick in Aug. 1.

That furthers the uncertainty for businesses, consumers and America's trading partners, and questions remain about which countries will be notified, whether anything will change in the days ahead and whether President Donald Trump will once more push off imposing the rates. Trump and his top trade advisers say he could extend the time for dealmaking but they insist the administration is applying maximum pressure on other nations.

Kevin Hassett, director of the White House National Economic Council, told CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday that Trump would decide when it was time to give up on negotiations.

"The United States is always willing to talk to everybody about everything," Hassett said. "There are deadlines, and there are things that are close, so maybe things will push back past the deadline or maybe they won't. In the end the president is going to make that judgment."

Stephen Miran, the chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, likewise said countries negotiating in good faith and making concessions could "sort of, get the date rolled."

The steeper tariffs that Trump announced April 2 threatened to overhaul the global economy and lead to broader trade wars. A week later, after the financial markets had panicked, his administration suspended for 90 days most of the higher taxes on imports just as they were to take effect. The negotiating window until July 9 has led to announced deals only with the United Kingdom and Vietnam.

Trump imposed elevated tariff rates on dozens of nations that run meaningful trade surpluses with the U.S., and a 10% baseline tax on imports from all countries in response to what he called an economic emergency. There are separate 50% tariffs on steel and aluminum and a 25% tariff on autos.

Since April, few foreign governments have set new trade terms with Washington as the Republican president demanded.

Trump told reporters Friday that his administration might be sending out letters as early as Saturday to countries spelling out their tariff rates if they did not reach a deal, but that the U.S. would not start collecting those taxes until Aug. 1. On Sunday, he said he would send out letters starting Monday — "could be 12, could be 15" — to foreign governments reflecting planned tariffs for each.

"We've made deals also," Trump told reporters before heading back to the White House from his home in New Jersey. "So we'll get to have a combination of letters, and some deals have been made."

He and his advisers have declined to say which countries would receive the letters.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent rejected the idea that Aug. 1 was a new deadline and declined to say

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 27 of 44

what might happen Wednesday.

"We'll see," Bessent said on CNN's State of the Union. "I'm not going to give away the playbook."

He said the U.S. was "close to several deals," and predicted several big announcements over the next few days. He gave no details.

"I think we're going to see a lot of deals very quickly," Bessent said.

Later Sunday, Trump vowed to impose more tariffs against the BRICS bloc of developing nations, which had condemned tariffs increases at its summit in Brazil. Trump said in a post on his social media platform that any country aligning itself with what he termed "the Anti-American policies of BRICS" would be levied an added 10% tariff.

Trump has announced a deal with Vietnam that would allow U.S. goods to enter the country duty-free, while Vietnamese exports to the U.S. would face a 20% levy.

That was a decline from the 46% tax on Vietnamese imports he proposed in April — one of his so-called reciprocal tariffs targeting dozens of countries with which the U.S. runs a trade deficit.

Asked if he expected to reach deals with the European Union or India, Trump said Friday that "letters are better for us" because there are so many countries involved.

"We have India coming up and with Vietnam, we did it, but much easier to send a letter saying, 'Listen, we know we have a certain deficit, or in some cases a surplus, but not too many. And this is what you're going to have to pay if you want to do business in the United States.'"

Canada, however, will not be one of the countries receiving letters, Trump's ambassador, Pete Hoekstra, said Friday after trade talks between the two countries recently resumed.

"Canada is one of our biggest trading partners," Hoekstra told CTV News in an interview in Ottawa. "We're going to have a deal that's articulated."

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has said he wants a new deal in place by July 21 or Canada will increase trade countermeasures.

Hoekstra would not commit to a date for a trade agreement and said even with a deal, Canada could still face some tariffs. But "we're not going to send Canada just a letter," he said.

Sean 'Diddy' Combs gets standing ovation from inmates after court victory, his lawyer says

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Sean "Diddy" Combs got a standing ovation from fellow inmates when the music mogul returned to jail after winning acquittals on potential life-in-prison charges, providing what his lawyer says might have been the best thing he could do for incarcerated Black men in America.

"They all said: 'We never get to see anyone who beats the government,'" attorney Marc Agnifilo told The Associated Press in a weekend interview days after a jury acquitted Combs of sex trafficking and racketeering conspiracy charges.

Combs, 55, remains jailed at a federal lockup in Brooklyn after his conviction Wednesday on prostitution-related charges, which could put him in prison for several more years. Any sentence will include credit for time already served. So far that's almost 10 months.

After federal agents raided Combs' homes in Los Angeles and the Miami area in March 2024, Agnifilo said he told the "I'll Be Missing You" singer to expect to be arrested on sex trafficking charges.

"I said: 'Maybe it's your fate in life to be the guy who wins,'" he recalled during a telephone interview briefly interrupted by a jailhouse call from Combs. "They need to see that someone can win. I think he took that to heart."

Blunt trial strategy works

The verdict in Manhattan federal court came after a veteran team of eight defense lawyers led by Agnifilo executed a trial strategy that resonated with jurors. Combs passed lawyers notes during effective cross-examinations of nearly three dozen witnesses over two months, including Combs' ex-employees.

The lawyers told jurors Combs was a jealous domestic abuser with a drug problem who participated in

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 28 of 44

the swinger lifestyle through threesomes involving Combs, his girlfriends and another man.

"You may think to yourself, wow, he is a really bad boyfriend," Combs' lawyer Teny Geragos told jurors in her May opening statement. But that, she said, "is simply not sex trafficking."

Agnifilo said the blunt talk was a "no brainer."

"The violence was so clear and up front and we knew the government was going to try to confuse the jury into thinking it was part of a sex trafficking effort. So we had to tell the jury what it was so they wouldn't think it was something it wasn't," he said.

Combs and his lawyers seemed deflated Tuesday when jurors said they were deadlocked on the racketeering count but had reached a verdict on sex trafficking and lesser prostitution-related charges. A judge ordered them back to deliberate Wednesday.

"No one knows what to think," Agnifilo said. Then he slept on it.

Morning surprise awakes lawyer

"I wake up at three in the morning and I text Teny and say: 'We have to get a bail application together,'" he recalled. "It's going to be a good verdict for us but I think he went down on the prostitution counts so let's try to get him out."

He said he "kind of whipped everybody into feeling better" after concluding jurors would have convicted him of racketeering if they had convicted him of sex trafficking because trafficking was an alleged component of racketeering.

Agnifilo met with Combs before court and Combs entered the courtroom rejuvenated. Smiling, the one-time Catholic schoolboy prayed with family. In less than an hour, the jury matched Agnifilo's prediction.

The seemingly chastened Combs mouthed "thank you" to jurors and smiled as family and supporters applauded. After he was escorted from the room, spectators cheered the defense team, a few chanting: "Dream Team! Dream Team!" Several lawyers, including Geragos, cried.

"This was a major victory for the defense and a major loss for the prosecution," said Mitchell Epner, a lawyer who worked with Agnifilo as a federal prosecutor in New Jersey over two decades ago. He credited "a dream team of defense lawyers" against prosecutors who almost always win.

Agnifilo showcased what would become his trial strategy — belittling the charges and mocking the investigation that led to them — last September in arguing unsuccessfully for bail. The case against Combs was what happens when the "federal government comes into our bedrooms," he said.

Lawyers gently questioned most witnesses

During an eight-week trial, Combs' lawyers picked apart the prosecution case with mostly gentle but firm cross-examinations. Combs never testified and his lawyers called no witnesses.

Sarah Krissoff, a federal prosecutor in Manhattan from 2008 to 2021, said Combs' defense team "had a narrative from the beginning and they did all of it without putting on any witnesses. That's masterful."

Ironically, Agnifilo expanded the use of racketeering laws as a federal prosecutor on an organized crime task force in New Jersey two decades ago, using them often to indict street gangs in violence-torn cities.

"I knew the weak points in the statute," he said. "The statute is very mechanical. If you know how the car works, you know where the fail points are."

He said prosecutors had "dozens of fail points."

"They didn't have a conspiracy, they just didn't," he said. "They basically had Combs' personal life and tried to build racketeering around personal assistants."

Some personal assistants, even after viewing videos of Combs beating his longtime girlfriend, Casandra "Cassie" Ventura, had glowing things to say about Combs on cross examination.

Once freed, Combs likely to reenter domestic abusers program

For Combs, Agnifilo sees a long road ahead once he is freed and resumes work on personal demons, likely reentering a program for domestic batterers that he had just started before his arrest.

"He's doing OK," said Agnifilo, who speaks with him four or five times daily.

He said Combs genuinely desires improvement and "realizes he has flaws like everyone else that he never worked on."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 29 of 44

"He burns hot in all matters. I think what he has come to see is that he has these flaws and there's no amount of fame and no amount of fortune" that can erase them," he said. "You can't cover them up."

For Agnifilo, a final surprise awaited him after Combs' bail was rejected when a man collapsed into violent seizures at the elevators outside the courtroom.

"I'm like: 'What the hell?'" recalled the lawyer, who has experience in treating seizures.

Agnifilo straddled him, pulling him onto his side and using a foot to prevent him from rolling backward while a law partner, Jacob Kaplan, put a backpack under the man's head and Agnifilo's daughter took his pulse.

"We made sure he didn't choke on vomit. It was crazy. I was worried about him," he said.

The man was eventually taken away conscious by rescue workers, leaving Agnifilo to ponder a tumultuous day.

"It was like I was getting punked by God," he said.

A young Alabama student, a grandparent and a camp director among those killed in Texas floods

By SOPHIA TAREEN Associated Press

A small-town grandmother who disappeared on her way to work. A beloved director of a Texas summer camp for girls. An Alabama elementary student away from home. These are a few of the dozens of victims lost in devastating flooding in Texas.

The flooding in central Texas originated from the fast-moving waters on the Guadalupe River on Friday, killing at least 82 people. Authorities say search and rescue efforts are still underway, including for campers missing from a summer camp for girls.

Tanya Burwick

The last time Tanya Burwick's family heard from her was a frantic phone call about the floodwaters as she headed to work at a Walmart early Friday in the San Angelo area. When Burwick didn't show up for work, her employer filed a missing persons report and sent a colleague to look for her.

Police investigating the 62-year-old's disappearance found Burwick's unoccupied SUV fully submerged later that day. Her body was found the next morning blocks from the vehicle.

"She lit up the room and had a laugh that made other people laugh," said Lindsey Burwick, who added that her mom was a beloved parent, grandparent and colleague to many.

She and her brother Zac said the day was especially difficult because it happened on July Fourth as they were working at a fireworks stand that's been in the family for generations. As word of Tanya Burwick's disappearance spread, people from from Blackwell, a small community of about 250 people, showed up to the stand that's run out of a trailer painted orange.

"People came to our aid," Lindsey Burwick said.

Police in San Angelo said more than 12,000 houses, barns and other buildings have been affected by the floods in the community of roughly 100,000 people.

"We ask that the public continue to keep the Burwick family in their thoughts and prayers as they navigate this heartbreaking tragedy," the San Angelo Police Department said in a Facebook post.

Jane Ragsdale

Jane Ragsdale, 68, devoted her life to the Heart O'the Hills Camp, a summer camp for girls in Texas Hill Country. She was a camper and counselor there herself in the 1970s before becoming a co-owner. By the 1980s, she was director of the camp in Hunt.

"She was the heart of The Heart," the camp said in a statement. "She was our guiding light, our example, and our safe place. She had the rare gift of making every person feel seen, loved, and important."

Since the camp was between sessions, no children were staying there when the floodwaters rose. The camp's facilities, directly in the path of the flood, were extensively damaged and access to the site remained difficult, according to camp officials. The camp has been in existence since the 1950s.

Camp officials said Ragsdale would be remembered for her strength and wisdom.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 30 of 44

"We are heartbroken. But above all, we are grateful," the camp said. "Grateful to have known her, to have learned from her, and to carry her light forward."

In a 2015 oral history for the Kerr County Historical Commission, Ragsdale, whose first name was Cynthia, but went by her middle name Jane, talked about how her father was also a camp director and how much she enjoyed her experiences.

"I loved every minute of camp from the first time I stepped foot in one," she recalled.

Videos of Ragsdale strumming a guitar and singing to campers during a recent session were posted in a memorial on the camp's Facebook page: "Life is good today. So keep singing 'til we meet, again."

Sarah Marsh

Eight-year-old Sarah Marsh from Alabama had been attending Camp Mystic in Texas, a longtime Christian girls camp in Hunt where several others were killed in the floods. As of Sunday afternoon, 11 children were still missing.

Marsh was a student at Cherokee Bend Elementary in suburban Birmingham.

"This is an unimaginable loss for her family, her school, and our entire community," Mountain Brook Mayor Stewart Welch said in a Facebook post. "Sarah's passing is a sorrow shared by all of us, and our hearts are with those who knew and loved her."

He said the community — where about 20,000 people reside — would rally behind the Marsh family as they grieved.

Her parents declined an interview request Sunday "as they mourn this unbearable loss," the girl's grandmother, Debbie Ford Marsh, told The Associated Press in an email.

"We will always feel blessed to have had this beautiful spunky ray of light in our lives. She will live on in our hearts forever!" Marsh wrote on Facebook. "We love you so much, sweet Sarah!"

She declined further comment.

U.S. Sen. Katie Britt of Alabama also noted the girl's tragic death.

"We continue to pray for the victims' loved ones, the survivors, those who are still missing, and our brave first responders as search and rescue efforts continue in Texas," she said in a post on social media platform X.

Blair and Brooke Harber

Sisters Blair and Brooke Harber, both students at St. Rita Catholic School in Dallas, had been staying alongside the Guadalupe River when their cabin was swept away, according to the school.

Pastor Joshua J. Whitfield of St. Rita Catholic Community, which shares a campus with the school, said the girls' parents, Annie and RJ Harber, were staying in a different cabin and were safe. However, their grandparents were unaccounted for. Annie Harber has been a longtime teacher at the school.

"This tragedy has touched every corner of our hearts," the church said in a statement Sunday.

Blair, who was enrolled in advanced classes, was involved in numerous school activities from volleyball and basketball to speech and drama. Brooke was a rising sixth grader and a student athlete in volleyball and lacrosse, among other sports. She also participated in speech and drama, according to the church.

Both were remembered for their kind hearts and warm personalities.

"We will honor Blair and Brooke's lives, the light they shared, and the joy they brought to everyone who knew them," Whitfield wrote in a Saturday letter to parishioners. "And we will surround Annie, RJ, and their extended family with the strength and support of our St. Rita community."

The church held a special prayer service Saturday afternoon and offered counseling.

"Please keep the Harber family in your prayers during this time of profound grief," Whitfield wrote. "May our faith, our love, and our St. Rita community be a source of strength and comfort in the days ahead."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 31 of 44

Clayton Kershaw makes his 11th All-Star team. James Wood is the youngest All-Star at 22

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw was picked for his 11th All-Star Game and Paul Skenes, James Wood and Elly De La Cruz boosted the 23-and-under group to five when they were picked Sunday for the July 15 showcase at Atlanta's Truist Park.

Wood at 22 is the youngest of the 65 All-Stars, while Skenes, De La Cruz and fan-elected starters Pete Crow-Armstrong and Jacob Wilson are all 23.

Cal Raleigh and Yoshinobu Yamamoto joined Wood, Wilson and Crow-Armstrong among 19 first-time All-Stars. Wood was acquired by Washington in the August 2022 trade that sent outfielder Juan Soto to San Diego.

"It'll just be cool being around some of the best players in the game," Wood said.

Kershaw last week became the 20th pitcher to reach 3,000 strikeouts and Commissioner Rob Manfred made the left-hander the 65th All-Star as a so-called Legend Pick, his first since selecting Miguel Cabrera and Albert Pujols in 2022 under a provision in the then-new collective bargaining agreement.

Kershaw gives the Dodgers at least five All-Stars for the sixth straight season. The oldest NL All-Star at 37 and most senior All-Star with 11 selections, Kershaw is joined by Yamamoto and fan-elected starters Shohei Ohtani, Freddie Freeman and Will Smith.

Kershaw said he didn't want to discuss the selection on Sunday.

Pittsburgh's Skenes is willing to start his second straight All-Star Game if picked by Dave Roberts, the Dodgers manager in charge of the NL team.

"I think it would be stupid to say no to that. It's a pretty cool opportunity," Skenes said. "I didn't make plans over the All-Star break or anything. So, yeah, I'm super stoked."

Detroit and Seattle will have four players each at the game.

Starting pitchers Hunter Brown of Houston, Garrett Crochet of Boston, Jacob deGrom of Texas, Max Fried of the New York Yankees and Tarik Skubal of Detroit were voted to the AL staff by players, managers and coaches along with relievers Aroldis Chapman of Boston, Josh Hader of Houston and Andrés Muñoz of Seattle.

Chapman is the oldest All-Star, born 19 days before Kershaw.

AL reserves picked by players included Toronto catcher Alejandro Kirk, Tampa Bay first baseman Jonathan Aranda and second baseman Brandon Lowe, Houston shortstop Jeremy Peña, Boston third baseman Alex Bregman, Athletics designated hitter Brent Rooker and outfielders Byron Buxton of Minnesota, Steven Kwan of Cleveland and Julio Rodríguez of Seattle.

MLB used its six picks on pitchers Kris Bubic of Kansas City, Yusei Kikuchi of the Los Angeles Angels, Shane Smith of the Chicago White Sox and Bryan Woo of Seattle, along with Yankees infielder Jazz Chisholm Jr. and Kansas City shortstop Bobby Witt Jr.

"Red carpet, that's my thing," Chisholm said. "I do have a 'fit in mind."

Smith became the second player since 2000 to become an All-Star in the season after he was selected in the Rule 5 draft, following Marlins second baseman Dan Uggla in 2006, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Smith was left unprotected by Milwaukee and joined Wilson (Athletics) as the only rookies on the All-Star rosters.

Skenes, Washington's MacKenzie Gore, Atlanta's Chris Sale, San Francisco's Logan Webb and Philadelphia's Zack Wheeler were elected to the starting rotation by players along with relievers Jason Adam of San Diego, Edwin Díaz of the New York Mets and Randy Rodríguez of San Francisco.

Skenes started last year's All-Star Game just 66 days after his major league debut, pitching a hitless inning in the NL's 5-3 loss at Arlington, Texas.

Player-elected NL reserves were Colorado catcher Hunter Goodman, Mets first baseman Pete Alonso, St. Louis second baseman Brendan Donovan, Cincinnati's De La Cruz at shortstop, Arizona third baseman Eugenio Suárez, Philadelphia DH Kyle Schwarber and Wood, Arizona's Corbin Carroll and the Padres' Fer-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 32 of 44

nando Tatis Jr. in the outfield.

MLB's NL picks were Yamamoto, the Cubs' Matthew Boyd, Milwaukee's Freddy Peralta and the Giants' Robbie Ray for the pitching staff along with Atlanta first baseman Matt Olson and Miami outfielder Kyle Stowers.

Mets outfielder Juan Soto, Dodgers shortstop Mookie Betts, Blue Jays outfielder George Springer, Phillies shortstop Trea Turner and Cardinals pitcher Sonny Gray were not picked. There usually are about 10 roster replacements between the announcements and the game.

Russia and Ukraine trade drone strikes as Kyiv signs deals to boost drone production

By The Associated Press undefined

Russia and Ukraine struck each other with hundreds of drones on Sunday, throwing Russian air travel in disarray, shortly after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced deals with Western partners that would allow Kyiv to scale up drone production.

Photos circulating on social media showed crowds huddling at Russian airports including key international hubs in Moscow and St. Petersburg, as hundreds of flights were delayed or canceled due to Ukrainian drone strikes on Saturday and overnight, according to Russia's Transport Ministry.

The flight disruptions hit Moscow's Sheremetyevo and St. Petersburg's main Pulkovo airports. Other airports in western and central Russia also faced disruptions.

Russian air defenses shot down 120 Ukrainian drones during the nighttime attacks, and 39 more before 2 p.m. Moscow time (1100 GMT) on Sunday, Russia's Defense Ministry said. It did not clarify how many had hit targets, or how many had been launched in total.

Early on Sunday, Ukrainian drones injured two civilians in Russia's Belgorod region near the border, its Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said.

Russia pounded Kyiv last week

The Ukrainian attacks came just days after Russia pummelled Kyiv with waves of drones and missiles overnight into Friday, in what Ukrainian officials called the largest such strike since Moscow's all-out invasion. The seven-hour onslaught killed at least two civilians, wounded dozens more and caused widespread damage, Ukraine said, while Moscow ramped up its push to capture more of its neighbor's land.

In total, Russia launched 550 drones and missiles across Ukraine that night, according to the country's air force. The barrages have coincided with a concerted Russian effort to break through parts of the roughly 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line, where Ukrainian troops are under severe pressure.

Large-scale Russian drone strikes on Sunday injured three civilians in Kyiv and at least two in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city in the northeast, officials said. A Russian attack involving Shahed drones also targeted port infrastructure in Mykolaiv in central Ukraine, according to local Gov. Vitaliy Kim. He reported warehouses and the port's power grid were damaged but there were no casualties.

Hours later, Russia launched a glide bomb and a drone at the front-line town of Kostyantynivka in eastern Ukraine, killing four civilians and injuring a fifth, the prosecutor's office said. The drone struck a car in which a married couple were travelling, killing the 39-year-old woman and 40-year-old man on the spot, it said.

Ukraine seeks to ramp up drone production

Zelenskyy said on Saturday that Ukraine had inked deals with European allies and a leading U.S. defense company to step up drone production, ensuring Kyiv receives "hundreds of thousands" more this year.

Zelenskyy did not name the U.S. business in his nightly video address to Ukrainians, but said Ukraine and Denmark have also agreed to co-produce drones and other weapons on Danish soil.

His remarks came days after the U.S. paused some shipments of military aid to Ukraine, including crucial air defense missiles. Ukraine's main European backers are considering how they can help pick up the slack. Zelenskyy said plans are afoot to build up Ukraine's domestic arms industry, but scaling up will take time.

Ukraine has previously used homemade drones to hit high-value military targets deep inside Russia,

demonstrating its capabilities and denting Moscow's confidence. Last month, Kyiv said it destroyed more than 40 Russian planes stationed at several airfields deep inside Russia in a surprise attack.

Outmanned and outgunned, Ukraine's army has also turned to drones to compensate for its troop shortage and shore up its defenses. While Russia has ramped up offensives this summer on two fronts in Ukraine, analysts say the front isn't about to collapse.

On Friday, Zelenskyy said he had a "very important and productive" phone call that day with U.S. President Donald Trump, discussing possible joint drone production alongside U.S.-led efforts to end the war.

Speaking to reporters on Sunday, Trump described the call as "good".

"He's been hit very hard, as I said he would. He's been hit very hard," he said.

Crew abandons Liberian-flagged, Greek-owned ship attacked in the Red Sea, UK military says

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Crew members aboard a Liberian-flagged ship set ablaze by a series of attacks in the Red Sea abandoned the vessel Sunday night as it took on water, marking the first serious assault in the vital corridor for trade after a monthslong campaign by Yemen's Houthi rebels there.

Suspicion for the attack on the Greek-owned bulk carrier Magic Seas immediately fell on the Houthis, particularly as a security firm said it appeared bomb-carrying drone boats hit the ship after it was targeted by small arms and rocket-propelled grenades. The rebels' media reported on the attack but did not claim it. It can take them hours or even days before they acknowledge an assault.

A renewed Houthi campaign against shipping could again draw in U.S. and Western forces to the area, particularly after President Donald Trump targeted the rebels in a major airstrike campaign.

Shortly before midnight in Yemen, Israel's military issued a warning for three Houthi-held ports and said airstrikes would begin shortly in Hodeidah, Ras Isa and Salif along with at the Ras al-Khatib power station.

Attack comes at a delicate time

The ship attack comes at a sensitive moment in the Middle East, as a possible ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war hangs in the balance and as Iran weighs whether to restart negotiations over its nuclear program following American airstrikes targeting its most-sensitive atomic sites amid an Israeli war against the Islamic Republic.

"It likely serves as a message that the Houthis continue to possess the capability and willingness to strike at strategic maritime targets regardless of diplomatic developments," wrote Mohammad al-Basha, a Yemen analyst at the Basha Report risk advisory firm.

The British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center first said that an armed security team on the unidentified vessel had returned fire against an initial attack and that the "situation is ongoing." It described the attack as happening some 100 kilometers (60 miles) southwest of Hodeida, Yemen, which is held by the country's Houthi rebels.

"Authorities are investigating," it said. It later said the ship was on fire after being "struck by unknown projectiles."

Possibly a major escalation

Ambrey, a private maritime security firm, issued an alert saying that a merchant ship had been "attacked by eight skiffs while transiting northbound in the Red Sea."

Ambrey later said the ship also had been attacked by bomb-carrying drone boats, which could mark a major escalation. It said two drone boats struck the ship, while another two had been destroyed by the armed guards on board.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said the ship was taking on water and its crew had abandoned the vessel.

The U.S. Navy's Mideast-based 5th Fleet referred questions to the military's Central Command, which said it was aware of the incident without elaborating.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 34 of 44

Moammar al-Eryani, the information minister for Yemen's exiled government opposing the Houthis, identified the vessel attacked as the Magic Seas and blamed the rebels for the attack. The ship had been broadcasting it had an armed security team on board in the vicinity the attack took place and had been heading north.

"The attack also proves once again that the Houthis are merely a front for an Iranian scheme using Yemen as a platform to undermine regional and global stability, at a time when Tehran continues to arm the militia and provide it with military technology, including missiles, aircraft, drones, and sea mines," al-Eryani wrote on the social platform X.

The Magic Seas' owners did not respond to a request for comment.

Houthi attacks came over Israel-Hamas war

The Houthi rebels have been launching missile and drone attacks against commercial and military ships in the region in what the group's leadership has described as an effort to end Israel's offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The group's al-Masirah satellite news channel acknowledged the attack occurred, but offered no other comment on it as it aired a speech by its secretive leader, Abdul Malik al-Houthi. However, Ambrey said the vessel targeted met "the established Houthi target profile," without elaborating.

Between November 2023 and January 2025, the Houthis targeted more than 100 merchant vessels with missiles and drones, sinking two of them and killing four sailors. That has greatly reduced the flow of trade through the Red Sea corridor, which typically sees \$1 trillion of goods move through it annually.

The Houthis paused attacks in a self-imposed ceasefire until the U.S. launched a broad assault against the rebels in mid-March. That ended weeks later and the Houthis haven't attacked a vessel, though they have continued occasional missile attacks targeting Israel. On Sunday, the group claimed launching a missile at Israel which the Israeli military said it intercepted. Shipping through the Red Sea, while still lower than normal, has increased in recent weeks.

Meanwhile, a wider, decadelong war in Yemen between the Houthis and the country's exiled government, backed by a Saudi-led coalition, remains in a stalemate. The Yemeni Coast Guard, which is loyal to the exiled government, has engaged in a firefight with at least one vessel in the Red Sea in the past as well.

Pirates from Somalia also have operated in the region, though typically they've sought to capture vessels either to rob or ransom their crews. But neither the Yemeni Coast Guard nor the pirates have been known to use drone boats in their attacks.

Carlos Alcaraz's Wimbledon win streak reaches 18. Sabalenka gets to another Slam quarterfinal

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — Carlos Alcaraz's latest up-and-down Wimbledon performance began with a dropped set. Later Sunday, he was in danger of getting broken to fall further behind in the third. And then, as he so often does, Alcaraz seized the moment, produced some magic and moved closer to a third consecutive title at the All England Club.

Alcaraz stretched his winning streak in the grass-court Grand Slam tournament to 18 matches — and his current unbeaten run across all events to 22 — by coming back to beat No. 14 seed Andrey Rublev 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 at Centre Court to return to the quarterfinals.

In this fortnight's first matchup between two men ranked in the top 20, No. 2 Alcaraz brought out his best while down 3-2 in the third set. First, he needed to fend off a break chance for Rublev, doing so with a forehand passing winner.

After eventually holding to 3-all, Alcaraz earned his own break opportunity and didn't let Rublev escape. On an eight-stroke exchange, Alcaraz sprinted from one corner of the court to the other and, with a stomp of his right foot and a bit of a slide, he flicked a cross-court forehand winner.

Oh, did he relish that one. Alcaraz spread his arms wide, pointed to his right ear and basked in the crowd's loud adulation, the noise bouncing off the underside of the stadium's closed roof.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 35 of 44

Rublev sat in his sideline chair, looked up at his guest box and made a sarcastic "OK" hand signal. Just 10 minutes later, that set belong to Alcaraz, who will face 2022 semifinalist Cam Norrie — the last British player in singles — on Tuesday for a berth in the final four.

"I always said that it's just about belief in yourself. It doesn't matter that you are one-set-to-love down," Alcaraz said. "Tennis is a sport that can change in just one point. One point can change the match completely, turn around everything."

The 61st-ranked Norrie, who played college tennis at TCU in Fort Worth, Texas, advanced with a 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-7 (7), 6-7 (5), 6-3 win over qualifier Nicolas Jarry, who hit 46 aces. Norrie had a chance to close things out much earlier than he did but failed to convert a match point while ahead 6-5 in the third-set tiebreaker.

The other men's quarterfinal Tuesday will be No. 5 Taylor Fritz vs. No. 17 Karen Khachanov. Fritz, last year's U.S. Open runner-up, had a short day because his opponent, Jordan Thompson, quit after about 40 minutes with back and leg injuries that he'd been dealing with throughout the tournament.

Alcaraz is just 22 and already owns five Grand Slam trophies, the latest arriving in June at the French Open. He hasn't lost a match anywhere since April 20 against Holger Rune in the final at Barcelona.

There have been lapses, of course, including when Alcaraz fell behind by two sets against No. 1 Jannik Sinner in the final at Roland-Garros. Or when the Spaniard lost four points in a row after going up 5-3 in the opening tiebreaker against Rublev.

He hasn't been as close-to-perfect as others over the past week: Sinner, No. 10 Ben Shelton and No. 22 Flavio Cobolli haven't dropped a set heading into their fourth-round contests.

So, sure, Alcaraz has ceded five sets already, but all that matters is that he hasn't lost a match.

What else happened at Wimbledon on Sunday?

No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka reached the quarterfinals at her 11th consecutive Grand Slam tournament, defeating No. 24 Elise Mertens 6-4, 7-6 (4), and will play unseeded Laura Siegemund, the 37-year-old German who followed up her elimination of Australian Open champ Madison Keys by beating lucky loser Solana Sierra 6-3, 6-2. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova overcame a missed call late in the first set — when the electronic system accidentally was off — and beat Sonay Kartal 7-6 (3), 6-4 to return to the grass-court major's quarterfinals for the first time in nine years. Pavlyuchenkova's opponent Tuesday will be Amanda Anisimova, the 13th-seeded American who got past No. 30 Linda Noskova 6-2, 5-7, 6-4 at night.

Who plays at the All England Club on Monday?

Monday's fourth-rounders include Novak Djokovic against No. 11 Alex de Minaur at 1:30 p.m. local time (8:30 a.m. ET). They were supposed to face each other in last year's quarterfinals at Wimbledon, but de Minaur was forced to withdraw with a hip injury. That'll be followed at Centre Court by Mirra Andrejeva vs. Emma Navarro, and then Sinner vs. No. 19 Grigor Dimitrov.

New details emerge on Gaza ceasefire proposal as Netanyahu heads to the White House

By WAFAA SHURAF. ABBY SEWELL and KAREEM CHEHAYEB Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — New details of the Gaza ceasefire proposal emerged on Sunday as Israel sent a negotiating team to Qatar ahead of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's White House visit for talks toward an agreement. Inside the territory, hospital officials said Israeli airstrikes killed at least 38 Palestinians.

"There are 20 hostages that are alive, 30 dead. I am determined, we are determined, to bring them all back. And we will also be determined to ensure that Gaza will no longer pose a threat to Israel," Netanyahu said before departing, emphasizing the goal of eliminating Hamas' military and governing power.

A person familiar with the negotiations shared with The Associated Press a copy of the latest ceasefire proposal submitted by mediators to Hamas, and its veracity was confirmed by two other people familiar with the document. All three spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the sensitive talks with the media.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 36 of 44

The document outlines plans for a 60-day ceasefire during which Hamas would hand over 10 living and 18 dead hostages, Israeli forces would withdraw to a buffer zone along Gaza's borders with Israel and Egypt, and significant amounts of aid would be brought in. The document says the aid would be distributed by United Nations agencies and the Palestinian Red Crescent. It does not specify what would happen to the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, the American organization that has distributed food aid since May. Israel wants it to replace the U.N.-coordinated system.

A Trump guarantee

As in previous ceasefire agreements, Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli facilities would be released in exchange for the hostages, but the number is not yet agreed upon.

The proposal stops short of guaranteeing a permanent end to the war — a condition demanded by Hamas -- but says negotiations for a permanent ceasefire would take place during the 60 days. During that time, "President (Donald) Trump guarantees Israel's adherence" to halting military operations, the document says, adding that Trump "will personally announce the ceasefire agreement."

The personal guarantee by Trump appeared to be an attempt to reassure Hamas that Israel would not unilaterally resume fighting as it did in March during a previous ceasefire, when talks to extend it appeared to stall.

Trump said last week that Israel had agreed on terms for a 60-day ceasefire, but it was unclear if the terms were those in the document reviewed by the AP. Hamas has requested some changes but has not specified them.

Separately, an Israeli official said the security Cabinet late Saturday approved sending aid into northern Gaza, where civilians suffer from acute food shortages. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the decision with the media, declined to give more details.

Northern Gaza has seen just a trickle of aid enter since Israel ended the latest ceasefire in March. The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation's closest distribution site is near the Netzarim corridor south of Gaza City that separates the territory's north and south.

Israel hits 130 targets across Gaza

Israeli strikes hit two houses in Gaza City, killing 20 Palestinians and wounding 25 others, according to Mohammed Abu Selmia, director of Shifa Hospital, which serves the area.

Israel's military said it struck several Hamas fighters in two locations in the area of Gaza City.

In southern Gaza, Israeli strikes killed 18 Palestinians in Muwasi on the Mediterranean coast, where thousands of displaced people live in tents, said officials at Nasser Hospital in nearby Khan Younis. It said two families were among the dead.

"My brother, his wife, his four children, my cousin's son and his daughter. ... Eight people are gone," said Saqer Abu Al-Kheir as people gathered on the sand for prayers and burials.

Israel's military had no immediate comment on those strikes but said it struck 130 targets across Gaza in the past 24 hours. It claimed it targeted Hamas command and control structures, storage facilities, weapons and launchers, and that they killed a number of militants in northern Gaza.

Rift over ending the war

Ahead of the indirect talks with Hamas in Qatar, Netanyahu's office asserted that the militant group was seeking "unacceptable" changes to the ceasefire proposal. Hamas gave a "positive" response late Friday to the latest proposal.

The militant group has sought guarantees that the initial truce would lead to a total end to the war and withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza. Previous negotiations have stalled over Hamas demands of guarantees that further negotiations would lead to the war's end, while Netanyahu has insisted Israel would resume fighting to ensure the group's destruction.

The war began when Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people and taking 251 others hostage. Most have been released in earlier ceasefires. Israel responded with an offensive that has killed over 57,000 Palestinians, more than half of them women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

The ministry, which is under Gaza's Hamas government, does not differentiate between civilians and combatants. The U.N. and other international organizations see its figures as the most reliable statistics on war casualties.

Lando Norris wins thrilling British Grand Prix in the rain to cut Oscar Piastri's F1 lead

By JAMES ELLINGWORTH AP Sports Writer

SILVERSTONE, England (AP) — It was an image that inspired Lando Norris to chase his Formula 1 dream.

The sight of Lewis Hamilton, his tires kicking up a tail of spray as he sped through the rain toward victory at the British Grand Prix in 2008, stayed with the 8-year-old Norris, who was watching on TV.

On Sunday, Norris got his own win in a thrilling wet British GP — also involving Hamilton — in front of the British crowd.

"I got that picture of him going around and seeing all the fans standing up, that picture of what the atmosphere at Silverstone is like, and dreamed of that for many, many years," Norris said. "Today I got to live that feeling myself."

Amid spins, crashes and controversy, Norris held on to win and cut the gap to his teammate and title rival Oscar Piastri.

Norris had said it was the race he'd give up all other victories for.

He started third on the grid, overtook Max Verstappen for second, lost the place again due to a slow pit stop, then saw Verstappen spin out ahead of him. He took the lead after Piastri had to serve a 10-second penalty for sharp braking behind the safety car earlier.

It was McLaren's first win at Silverstone since that Hamilton victory in 2008. Hamilton went on to win his first title that year. On Sunday, Hamilton finished fourth.

"This is a dream, winning at home. It's beautiful," Norris told the team over the radio. "Thanks for the memory. I'll remember this more than anything."

He climbed out of the car and celebrated with both arms raised to take in the moment, before hugs with his team and his mother. On the podium, Norris closed his eyes with a smile as the British anthem played.

McLaren ignores Piastri's request to swap

Piastri finished second behind Norris after the penalty. He asked for the lead back.

The Australian thought the penalty was unfair, arguing it was for a legal move that he and others had done before to slow down the cars behind before speeding off at the restart.

Adding an element of controversy to what's been an unusually friendly title rivalry, Piastri even suggested that if McLaren thought the call was unfair, the team could ask him and Norris to swap places to cancel the effect of the penalty. The team declined to do so.

Piastri had been leading the pack before a restart from safety car conditions and slowed to back up the cars behind, but did it sharply enough that Max Verstappen behind had to swerve to avoid him.

Once it became clear Piastri would have to serve the penalty at his next pit stop, Norris made sure the Australian couldn't build a lead to cancel it out. Norris just needed to stay with his teammate and hovered two seconds behind, waiting to inherit the lead.

Piastri now leads Norris by eight points overall, cut from 15. It's the halfway point of the season, with 12 of 24 races remaining.

History for Hülkenberg

In a race with plenty of crashes and spins, Sauber's Nico Hülkenberg was third from 19th on the grid for his first podium finish in his 239th race of an F1 career that began in 2010. His team hadn't finished in the top three since 2012.

Verstappen started on pole but ended up fifth after spinning from second behind Piastri at a safety-car restart, briefly dropping to 10th. The Dutch driver stayed third in the standings but it was another heavy blow to his title defense, leaving him 69 points off Piastri.

Smart strategy could win big, like it did for Hulkenberg, or risk everything. George Russell asked the team

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 38 of 44

for slick tires on a slippery track and span off through the gravel a lap later, finishing 10th.

Rookies off the road

It was a rough day for the rookies. Racing Bulls' Isack Hadjar crashed into the wall after hitting the back of fellow rookie Kimi Antonelli, saying he couldn't see the Mercedes driver in the rain.

Antonelli later retired and fellow rookies Gabriel Bortoleto, Liam Lawson and Franco Colapinto all failed to finish too. Oliver Bearman made it to the end for Haas in 11th but crashed into teammate Esteban Ocon along the way.

Bodies of all 7 missing people found at a California fireworks warehouse that exploded

ESPARTO, Calif. (AP) — Authorities in Northern California have found the bodies of all seven people missing since an explosion last week at a fireworks warehouse that caused a wildfire and shook a tiny farming community.

The barrage of fireworks that exploded Tuesday caused a massive blaze that led to other spot fires and collapsed the building in Yolo County, which lies about 40 miles (64 kilometers) northwest of Sacramento.

All human remains have been recovered from the charred warehouse site, but the identities of the deceased were being withheld pending family notifications, the county said in a statement Sunday.

"Crews are continuing to mitigate explosive hazards present at the scene," the statement said. The cause of the explosion was under investigation.

Two people were treated for injuries following the blast in the town of Encarto, officials said.

The warehouse was managed by Devastating Pyrotechnics, which has more than 30 years of experience designing and producing fireworks shows, according to a screenshot of its website before it was taken down.

"Our hearts and thoughts are with those we lost, their families, and everyone impacted in our community," the company said in a statement last week. "Our focus will remain on those directly impacted by this tragedy, and we will cooperate fully with the proper authorities in their investigation."

The wildfire covered nearly 80 acres (33 hectares) and scorched surrounding agricultural fields, officials said.

'Jurassic World Rebirth' bites off \$318 million at the global box office

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

Dinosaur fatigue may be a theme in "Jurassic World Rebirth," but moviegoing audiences don't seem to have that reservation. The newest installment in the "Jurassic World" franchise ruled the Fourth of July holiday box office with a global, five-day launch of \$318.3 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Universal Pictures release, directed by Gareth Edwards, opened on Wednesday and earned \$147.3 million in its first five days in 4,308 North American theaters. An estimated \$91.5 million of that comes from the traditional "three day" weekend, which includes the Friday holiday, Saturday and projected Sunday ticket sales.

Internationally, it opened in 82 markets including China, adding \$171 million to the opening total. According to the studio, \$41.5 million of that came from China alone, where it played on 65,000 screens, 760 of which were IMAX. It's the country's biggest MPA (Motion Picture Association) opening of the year.

"It's just a tremendous result," said Jim Orr, who oversees domestic distribution for Universal. "Jurassic World Rebirth is exactly what audiences crave during the summer: a very big, fun, extraordinarily well-done adventure."

"Jurassic World" was missing from IMAX screens domestically (due to a commitment to continue showing "F1"), but it thrived on the premium large format screens where it played. One of those options was Dolby Cinema, where it made nearly \$8 million from only 167 screens in five days.

"Rebirth," starring Scarlett Johansson, Mahershala Ali and Jonathan Bailey, is the fourth movie in the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 39 of 44

"Jurassic World" series and the seventh since Steven Spielberg's original Michael Crichton adaptation stormed theaters in the summer of 1993. The new film received mixed reviews from critics, carrying a 51% on Rotten Tomatoes, and B CinemaScore from opening weekend audiences.

The studio was struck by the broad audience turnout, from ages eight to 80, and the fact that the film exceeded estimates at every step despite the reviews.

"The word of mouth on it is stellar," Orr said. "And it should point to a very long run throughout the summer as well."

Factors like the holiday weekend, inflation and post-COVID moviegoing realities make it difficult to fairly compare the "Rebirth" launch to the other films in the "Jurassic World" franchise, the first of which opened to \$208 million domestically in 2015. The other two, "Fallen Kingdom" and "Dominion" opened to \$148 million and \$145 million respectively.

"Jurassic World Rebirth" introduced a new main cast to the series and brought back a familiar voice in "Jurassic Park" screenwriter David Koepp to guide the story about a dangerous hunt for dinosaur DNA (not for making dinosaurs this time, but for curing heart disease). It cost a reported \$180 million net to produce, not including marketing and promotion costs.

The campaign was far reaching, including a global press tour, with stops everywhere from London to Seoul, integrated marketing across NBC Universal platforms and brand tie-ins with everything from Jeep and 7-11 to Johansson's skincare line.

No major new films dared go up against the dinosaurs, who left last week's champion, the Brad Pitt racing movie "F1," in the dust. "F1" fell a modest 54% in its second weekend with \$26.1 million, helping bring its domestic total to \$109.5 million. It continues to play on IMAX screens with accounted for \$7.6 million of the North American weekend ticket sales. Globally, it's nearing \$300 million with a running total of \$293.6 million.

Third place went to Universal's live-action "How to Train Your Dragon," which earned \$11 million in its fourth weekend, bringing its domestic total to \$224 million. Disney and Pixar's "Elio" landed in fourth place with \$5.7 million. Globally, "Elio" has just crossed \$96 million in three weekends. "28 Years Later" rounded out the top five with \$4.6 million.

A 41-year-old movie also made the domestic top 10: The re-release of Rob Reiner's 1984 film "This is Spinal Tap."

Having the Fourth of July land on a Friday could have negatively impacted the overall box office, but the holiday didn't blow up the weekend's earnings.

"We had a solid Friday despite some pretty heavy competition from the fireworks," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore.

And there's still some major movies to come in the packed summer movie calendar, including "Superman," which opens later this week.

"This is one of the most competitive summer movie seasons ever," Dergarabedian said. "For moviegoers, it's so much fun."

Top 10 movies by domestic box office

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

1. "Jurassic World Rebirth," \$91.5 million.
2. "F1 The Movie," \$26.1 million.
3. "How to Train Your Dragon," \$11 million.
4. "Elio," \$5.7 million.
5. "28 Years Later," \$4.6 million.
6. "Lilo & Stitch," \$3.8 million.
7. "M3GAN 2.0," \$3.8 million.
8. "Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning," \$2.7 million.
9. "Materialists," \$1.3 million.

10. "This is Spinal Tap" (41st Anniversary re-release), \$931,737.

US tariffs on European goods threaten to shake up the world's largest trade relationship

By DAVID McHUGH AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — The European Union expects to find out on Monday whether President Donald Trump will impose punishing tariffs on America's largest trade partner in a move economists have warned would have repercussions for companies and consumers on both sides of the Atlantic.

Trump imposed a 20% import tax on all EU-made products in early April as part of a set of tariffs targeting countries with which the United States has a trade imbalance. Hours after the nation-specific duties took effect, he put them on hold until July 9 at a standard rate of 10% to quiet financial markets and allow time for negotiations.

Expressing displeasure with the EU's stance in trade talks, however, Trump said he would increase the tariff rate for European exports to 50%, which could make everything — from French cheese and Italian leather goods to German electronics and Spanish pharmaceuticals — much more expensive in the U.S.

The EU's executive commission, which handles trade issues for the bloc's 27-member nations, said its leaders hope to strike a deal with the Trump administration. Without one, the EU said it was prepared to retaliate with tariffs on hundreds of American products, ranging from beef and auto parts to beer and Boeing airplanes.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told CNN's "State of the Union" program on Sunday that "the EU was very slow in coming to the table" but that talks were now making "very good progress."

Here are important things to know about trade between the United States and the European Union.

US-EU trade is enormous

The European Commission describes the trade between the U.S. and the EU as "the most important commercial relationship in the world."

The value of EU-U.S. trade in goods and services amounted to 1.7 trillion euros (\$2 trillion) in 2024, or an average of 4.6 billion euros a day, according to EU statistics agency Eurostat.

The biggest U.S. export to Europe was crude oil, followed by pharmaceuticals, aircraft, automobiles, and medical and diagnostic equipment.

Europe's biggest exports to the U.S. were pharmaceuticals, cars, aircraft, chemicals, medical instruments, and wine and spirits.

EU sells more to the US than vice versa

Trump has complained about the EU's 198 billion-euro trade surplus in goods, which shows Americans buy more stuff from European businesses than the other way around.

However, American companies fill some of the gap by outselling the EU when it comes to services such as cloud computing, travel bookings, and legal and financial services.

The U.S. services surplus took the nation's trade deficit with the EU down to 50 billion euros (\$59 billion), which represents less than 3% of overall U.S.-EU trade.

What are the issues dividing the two sides?

Before Trump returned to office, the U.S. and the EU maintained a generally cooperative trade relationship and low tariff levels on both sides. The U.S. rate averaged 1.47% for European goods, while the EU's averaged 1.35% for American products.

But the White House has taken a much less friendly posture toward the longstanding U.S. ally since February. Along with the fluctuating tariff rate on European goods Trump has floated, the EU has been subject to his administration's 50% tariff on steel and aluminum, and a 25% tax on imported automobiles and parts.

Trump administration officials have raised a slew of issues they want to see addressed, including agricultural barriers such as EU health regulations that include bans on chlorine-washed chicken and hormone-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 41 of 44

treated beef.

Trump has also criticized Europe's value-added taxes, which EU countries levy at the point of sale this year at rates of 17% to 27%. But many economists see VAT as trade-neutral since they apply to domestic goods and services as well as imported ones. Because national governments set the taxes through legislation, the EU has said they aren't on the table during trade negotiations.

"On the thorny issues of regulations, consumer standards and taxes, the EU and its member states cannot give much ground," Holger Schmieding, chief economist at Germany's Berenberg bank, said. "They cannot change the way they run the EU's vast internal market according to U.S. demands, which are often rooted in a faulty understanding of how the EU works."

'Consequence for many companies'

Economists and companies say higher tariffs will mean higher prices for U.S. consumers on imported goods. Importers must decide how much of the extra tax costs to absorb through lower profits and how much to pass on to customers.

Mercedes-Benz dealers in the U.S. have said they are holding the line on 2025 model year prices "until further notice." The German automaker has a partial tariff shield because it makes 35% of the Mercedes-Benz vehicles sold in the U.S. in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, but the company said it expects prices to undergo "significant increases" in coming years.

Simon Hunt, CEO of Italian wine and spirits producer Campari Group, told investment analysts that prices could increase for some products or stay the same depending what rival companies do. If competitors raise prices, the company might decide to hold its prices on Skyy vodka or Aperol aperitif to gain market share, Hunt said.

Trump has argued that making it more difficult for foreign companies to sell in the U.S. is a way to stimulate a revival of American manufacturing. Many companies have dismissed the idea or said it would take years to yield positive economic benefits. However, some corporations have proved willing to shift some production stateside.

France-based luxury group LVMH, whose brands include Tiffany & Co., Luis Vuitton, Christian Dior and Moët & Chandon, could move some production to the United States, billionaire CEO Bernard Arnault said at the company's annual meeting in April.

Arnault, who attended Trump's inauguration, has urged Europe to reach a deal based on reciprocal concessions.

"If we end up with high tariffs, ... we will be forced to increase our U.S.-based production to avoid tariffs," Arnault said. "And if Europe fails to negotiate intelligently, that will be the consequence for many companies. ... It will be the fault of Brussels, if it comes to that."

'Road could be rocky'

Some forecasts indicate the U.S. economy would be more at risk if the negotiations fail.

Without a deal, the EU would lose 0.3% of its gross domestic product and U.S. GDP would fall 0.7%, if Trump slaps imported goods from Europe with tariffs of 10% to 25%, according to a research review by Bruegel, a think tank in Brussels.

Given the complexity of some of the issues, the two sides may arrive only at a framework deal before Wednesday's deadline. That would likely leave a 10% base tariff, as well as the auto, steel and aluminum tariffs in place until details of a formal trade agreement are ironed out.

The most likely outcome of the trade talks is that "the U.S. will agree to deals in which it takes back its worst threats of 'retaliatory' tariffs well beyond 10%," Schmieding said. "However, the road to get there could be rocky."

The U.S. offering exemptions for some goods might smooth the path to a deal. The EU could offer to ease some regulations that the White House views as trade barriers.

"While Trump might be able to sell such an outcome as a 'win' for him, the ultimate victims of his protectionism would, of course, be mostly the U.S. consumers," Schmieding said.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 42 of 44

Texas floods leave at least 51 dead, 27 girls missing as rescuers search devastated landscape

By JIM VERTUNO, JULIO CORTEZ and JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

KERRVILLE, Texas (AP) — Rescuers scoured a devastated central Texas landscape of mangled trees, overturned cars and muck-filled debris Saturday in an increasingly bleak mission to locate survivors, including 27 girls who have not been seen since their camp was slammed with a wall of water in a historic flash flood.

The flooding in Kerr County killed at least 43 people, including 15 children, and at least eight people died in nearby counties.

Authorities still have not said how many people were missing beyond the children from Camp Mystic, a Christian summer camp along a river in Kerr County where most of the dead were recovered.

The destructive, fast-moving waters rose 26 feet (8 meters) on the Guadalupe River in just 45 minutes before daybreak Friday, washing away homes and vehicles. The danger was not over as rains continued pounding communities outside San Antonio on Saturday and flash flood warnings and watches remained in effect.

Searchers used helicopters, boats and drones to look for victims and to rescue people stranded in trees and from camps isolated by washed-out roads.

Gov. Greg Abbott vowed that authorities will work around the clock and said new areas were being searched as the water receded. He declared Sunday a day of prayer for the state.

"I urge every Texan to join me in prayer this Sunday — for the lives lost, for those still missing, for the recovery of our communities, and for the safety of those on the front lines," he said in a statement.

Authorities were coming under scrutiny over whether the camps and residents in places long vulnerable to flooding received proper warning and whether enough preparations were made.

The hills along the Guadalupe River in central Texas are dotted with century-old youth camps and campgrounds where generations of families have come to swim and enjoy the outdoors. The area is especially popular around the July Fourth holiday, making it more difficult to know how many are missing.

"We don't even want to begin to estimate at this time," Kerrville City Manager Dalton Rice said earlier.

Raging storm hit camp in middle of the night

"The camp was completely destroyed," said Elinor Lester, 13, one of hundreds of campers. "A helicopter landed and started taking people away. It was really scary."

The raging storm, fueled by incredible amounts of moisture, woke up her cabin just after midnight Friday. When rescuers arrived, they tied a rope for the girls to hold as they walked across a bridge with water whipping around their legs, she said.

Frantic parents and families posted photos of missing loved ones and pleas for information.

Among those confirmed dead were an 8-year-old girl from Mountain Brook, Alabama, who was at Camp Mystic, and the director of another camp just up the road.

The flooding in the middle of the night caught many residents, campers and officials by surprise.

AccuWeather said the private forecasting company and the National Weather Service sent warnings about potential flash flooding hours beforehand.

"These warnings should have provided officials with ample time to evacuate camps such as Camp Mystic and get people to safety," AccuWeather said in a statement. It called the Hill Country one of the most flash-flood-prone areas of the U.S. because of its terrain and many water crossings.

At the Mo-Ranch Camp in the community of Hunt, officials had been monitoring the weather and opted to move several hundred campers and attendees at a church youth conference to higher ground. At nearby Camps Rio Vista and Sierra Vista, organizers also had mentioned on social media that they were watching the weather the day before wrapping up their second summer session Thursday.

Authorities and elected officials have said they did not expect such an intense downpour, the equivalent of months' worth of rain for the area.

U.S. Rep. Chip Roy, whose district includes the ravaged area, called it a once-in-a-century flood and ac-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 43 of 44

knowledgeed that there would be second-guessing and finger-pointing as people look for someone to blame.

Helicopters and drones used in frantic search

Search crews were facing harsh conditions while "looking in every possible location," Rice said.

Officials said more than 850 people had been rescued in the last 36 hours and there were heroic efforts at the camps to save children.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem arrived and pledged that the Trump administration would use all available resources. Coast Guard helicopters and planes were assisting to ensure operations can continue even in darkness.

One reunification center at an elementary school was mostly quiet after taking in hundreds of evacuees the day before.

"We still have people coming here looking for their loved ones. We've had a little success, but not much," said Bobby Templeton, superintendent of Ingram Independent School District.

People clung to trees and fled to attics

In Ingram, Erin Burgess woke to thunder and rain in the middle of the night. Just 20 minutes later, water was pouring into her home, she said. She described an agonizing hour clinging to a tree with her teen son.

"My son and I floated to a tree where we hung onto it, and my boyfriend and my dog floated away. He was lost for a while, but we found them," she said.

Barry Adelman said water pushed everyone in his three-story house into the attic, including his 94-year-old grandmother and 9-year-old grandson.

"I was having to look at my grandson in the face and tell him everything was going to be OK, but inside I was scared to death," he said.

Locals know the place as "flash flood alley."

"When it rains, water doesn't soak into the soil," said Austin Dickson, CEO of the Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country, which was collecting donations. "It rushes down the hill."

'Nobody saw this coming'

The weekend forecast had called for rain, with a flood watch upgraded to a warning overnight Friday for at least 30,000 people.

"We know we get rains. We know the river rises. But nobody saw this coming," said Kerr County Judge Rob Kelly, the county's chief elected official.

The county had considered a flood warning system on the river similar to a tornado warning siren about six or seven years ago, but Kelly said the idea never got off the ground and the cost would have been an issue.

Kelly said he was heartbroken seeing body bags at the funeral home and the devastation on the ground during a helicopter tour.

"The rescue has gone as well as can be expected. It's getting time now for the recovery," he said. "And that's going to be a long, toilsome task for us."

Today in History: July 7

Reagan nominates O'Connor for the US Supreme Court

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, July 7, the 188th day of 2025. There are 177 days left in the year.

Today in History:

On July 7, 1981, President Ronald Reagan announced he was nominating Arizona Judge Sandra Day O'Connor to become the first female justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Also on this date:

In 1865, four people were hanged in Washington, D.C. for conspiring with John Wilkes Booth to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln: Lewis Powell, David Herold, George Atzerodt and Mary Surratt, the first

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 7, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 377 ~ 44 of 44

woman to be executed by the federal government.

In 1898, President William McKinley signed the Newlands Resolution, approving the annexation of the Republic of Hawaii.

In 1930, construction began on Boulder Dam (known today as Hoover Dam).

In 1976, the United States Military Academy at West Point included female cadets for the first time as 119 women joined the Class of 1980.

In 1990, the first "Three Tenors" concert took place as opera stars Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo and Jose Carreras performed amid the brick ruins of Rome's Baths of Caracalla on the eve of the FIFA World Cup final.

In 2005, terrorist bombings in three Underground stations and a double-decker bus killed 52 people and four bombers in the worst attack on London since World War II.

In 2010, Los Angeles police arrested and charged Lonnie Franklin Jr. in the city's "Grim Sleeper" serial killings. (Franklin, who was sentenced to death for the killings of nine women and a teenage girl, died in prison in March 2020 at the age of 67.)

In 2013, Andy Murray became the first British man in 77 years to win the Wimbledon title, beating Novak Djokovic in the final.

In 2016, Micah Johnson, a Black Army veteran who served in Afghanistan, opened fire on Dallas police, killing five officers in an act of vengeance for the fatal police shootings of Black men; the attack ended with Johnson being killed by a bomb delivered by a police robot.

In 2021, a squad of gunmen assassinated Haitian President Jovenel Moïse and wounded his wife in an overnight raid on their home.

Today's Birthdays: Musician-conductor Doc Severinsen is 98. Former Beatle Ringo Starr is 85. World Golf Hall of Famer Tony Jacklin is 81. Actor Joe Spano is 79. Actor Roz Ryan is 74. Actor Billy Campbell is 66. Basketball Hall of Famer Ralph Sampson is 65. Singer-songwriter Vonda Shepard is 62. Actor-comedian Jim Gaffigan is 59. Actor Amy Carlson is 57. Actor Jorja Fox is 57. Actor Robin Weigert is 56. Basketball Hall of Famer Lisa Leslie is 53. Actor Kirsten Vangsness ("Criminal Minds") is 53. Actor Berenice Bejo (BEH'-ruh-nees BAY'-hoh) (Film: "The Artist") is 49. Actor Hamish Linklater is 49. Olympic figure skating medalist Michelle Kwan is 45. Guitarist Synyster Gates (Avenged Sevenfold) is 44. Pop singer Ally Brooke (Fifth Harmony) (TV: "The X Factor") is 32. Pop musician Ashton Irwin (5 Seconds to Summer) is 31. Country singer Maddie Font (Maddie and Tae) is 30.