

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 1 of 62

[1- Upcoming Events](#)
[2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
[4- Volleyball Schedule](#)
[5- Football Schedule](#)
[6- WELCA Ad](#)
[7- Jr. Teeners drop pair to Watertown](#)
[8- Groton Legion drops pair at Clark Tourney](#)
[9- State U12 Baseball Tournament begins today](#)
[10- Severson painting parking lot stripes](#)
[11- Miner County Fatal Motorcycle Crash](#)
[12- School Board Agenda](#)
[14- SD SearchLight: South Dakota's legacy of citizen ballot questions is under threat, law review authors warn](#)
[15- SD SearchLight: South Dakota Supreme Court rules against neighbors in now-moot prison site dispute](#)
[15- SD SearchLight: Governor appoints new state senator for Huron-Redfield area](#)
[16- SD SearchLight: US Senate committee members spar over forestry and wildfires](#)
[18- SD SearchLight: US Senate GOP under pressure on Trump demand to defund NPR, PBS, foreign aid](#)
[19- SD SearchLight: Federal judge to pause Trump's birthright citizenship order](#)
[20- Weather Pages](#)
[25- Daily Devotional](#)
[26- Subscription Form](#)
[27- Lottery Numbers](#)
[28- Upcoming Groton Events](#)
[29- News from the Associated Press](#)

Friday, July 11

Senior Menu: Chicken strips au gratin, mixed vegetables, honey fruit salad, whole wheat bread.
Legion at Clark Tourney
VFW Class B U12 State Baseball Tourney in Groton

Saturday, July 12

Legion at Clark Tourney
VFW Class B U12 State Baseball Tourney n Groton

Sunday, July 13

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

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

Happy Friday
Good Morning

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Hebrews 11:1

May your Friday be filled with peace, purpose, and the sweet presence of God. May He guide your steps and bless your day with joy and grace!

Happy
Weekend!



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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.

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

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

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

Amateurs at Clark, 4 p.m.

VFW Class B U12 State Baseball Tourney n Groton
Summer Fest/Car Show, 9 a.m., City Park

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 2 of 62

1440

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

Birthright Ban Blocked

A federal judge in New Hampshire issued a nationwide block yesterday against President Donald Trump's executive order ending birthright citizenship. The decision comes nearly two weeks after the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 to limit federal judges from issuing nationwide injunctions on Trump's executive orders but left open the possibility in the case of class-action lawsuits.

In his decision, Judge Joseph LaPlante appeared to acknowledge the Supreme Court's ruling by granting class-action status to a lawsuit brought last month by the American Civil Liberties Union. The suit seeks to represent babies born to people living in the US illegally or temporarily; plaintiffs and advocates—including an unnamed pregnant woman and two parents of infants—claim more than 150,000 babies will be born annually in this class.

LaPlante, who was appointed by former President George W. Bush, cites the 14th Amendment definition of US citizenship in his ruling. At issue is the phrase "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" and the status of individuals born stateless.

Rare Earths Investment

The Defense Department has purchased \$400M of stock in MP Materials, operator of the US' sole rare earths mine, the company revealed yesterday. The deal requires MP Materials to build a new magnet manufacturing facility in the US and makes the Pentagon the company's single largest shareholder, owning 15% of all shares. MP Materials' stock rose roughly 50% on the news—the highest price point in three years.

There are 17 rare earth elements in the world. The deal gives the US military preferential access to two—neodymium and praseodymium—at a 10-year minimum price of \$110 per kilogram. Those ingredients are found in commercial items like car batteries and smartphones, but also weapons, including F-35 planes, drones, and submarines. China operates the largest rare earths mine and accounts for 70% of the global market. MP Materials operates the second-largest mine, in Mountain Pass, California. The deal comes as the Trump administration works to build up US independence in the industry, and amid ongoing trade negotiations.

Original 'It' Bag

The original Hermès Birkin bag sold yesterday at Sotheby's Paris for approximately \$10.1M, the most expensive handbag ever sold at auction. The black leather prototype, featuring actress Jane Birkin's initials, a nondetachable strap, and gilded brass hardware, was purchased in under 20 minutes by a Japanese private collector.

The bag's story began in the 1980s when the actress met Hermès CEO Jean-Louis Dumas on a flight. Frustrated with her handbag, Birkin described her ideal bag to Dumas, and they famously sketched the design on an airsickness bag. Today, the bag is a global symbol of exclusivity and wealth, with prices for new bags typically ranging from \$10K to \$60K and waitlists that can last years. Only select clients—often those who have spent thousands on prior purchases—are invited to buy.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 3 of 62

Birkins are widely considered investment pieces, with some estimates showing an average annual value increase of 14.2%. Each bag is made by a single artisan and reportedly takes at least 18 hours to construct.

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

American Amanda Anisimova upsets No. 1 seed Aryna Sabalenka to advance to tomorrow's Wimbledon women's final against Iga Swiatek; men's semifinal matches are set for this morning.

"The Office" spinoff "The Paper" sets Sept. 4 premiere on Peacock.

"The Young and the Restless" leads all series in nominations for the 52nd Daytime Emmy Awards with 19; see complete list of nominees.

Paul McCartney announces 19-date North American tour beginning Sept. 29.

Screen Actors Guild ends nearly yearlong strike with video game companies over use of AI replicas.

Science & Technology

xAI releases Grok 4, the latest version of its flagship large language model; CEO Elon Musk says model was trained on the company's Colossus supercomputer.

New bionic knee, which integrates directly into bone and muscle tissue, restores natural movement in patients with above-the-knee amputations; users in clinical trial report device feels like a natural extension of the limb.

DNA analysis of Greenland sled dogs—the world's oldest known breed, known as "Qimmeq"—reveals Inuit communities arrived as early as 1,200 years ago; estimate is hundreds of years earlier than previously thought.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close up (S&P 500 +0.3%, Dow +0.4%, Nasdaq +0.1%); S&P 500, Nasdaq reach new records.

Bitcoin notches new all-time high above \$113K, up roughly 21% since the start of this year.

Italian candy maker Ferrero, owner of brands including Nutella, Kinder, and Ferrero Rocher, to buy cereal maker WK Kellogg in roughly \$3.1B deal; WK Kellogg shares close up nearly 31% on the news.

Tesla to hold annual shareholder meeting Nov. 6 amid investor pressure; comes four months past deadline under Texas law, where Tesla is incorporated.

Ford recalls over 850,000 cars in the US due to potential fuel pump failure.

Politics & World Affairs

Secret Service suspends six agents without pay for up to 42 days, nearly one year after assassination attempt on then-candidate Donald Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania.

Suspect in second assassination attempt on Trump at a Florida golf course seeks to represent himself in his trial, scheduled to begin in September.

Gaza hospital accuses Israeli military of killing at least 15 people, including seven children, waiting in line to receive nutritional supplements; Israel says it targeted militants.

Hamas says it will release 10 hostages amid ceasefire negotiations; did not say when release would occur and whether hostages were among 22 living or 28 dead hostages still believed to be held captive.

France and the UK reach deal to address migration, other issues; so-called "one in, one out" agreement will see the UK deport some migrants arriving by boat in exchange for accepting those with UK family connections.

Volleyball Schedule

First day of Practice: Aug. 14

Tues., Aug. 26 Hamlin

(Gym: 7th-5, 8th-6; Arena: C-5, JV-6, V-7:15)

Sat., Aug. 30 C Tournament at Matchbox, Abd.

Tues., Sept. 2 at Ipswich

(7th-5, 8th-6; C-5, JV-6, V-7:15)

Thurs., Sept. 4 Sisseton

(Gym: 7th-5, 8th-6; Arena: C-5, JV-6, V-7:15)

Sat., Sept. 6 JH Tourney at Northwestern

Tues., Sept. 9 at Webster Area

(7th-5, 8th-6; C-5, JV-6, V-7:15)

Thurs., Sept. 11 at Aberdeen Roncalli

(7th-5, 8th-6; C-5, JV-6, V-7:30)

Thurs., Sept. 18 at Clark/Willow Lake

(7th-5, 8th-6; C-5, JV-6, V-7:15)

Sat., Sept. 20 at Hamlin Tournament

Tues., Sept. 23 at Warner

(Welke: 7th-5:15, 8th-6:30; Arena: JV-6:30, V-7:45)

Thurs., Sept. 25 at Tiospa Zina

(7th-4, 8th-5; C-5, JV-6, V-7:15)

Sat., Sept. 27 JH at Hamlin Tourney

Sat., Sept. 27 C Tournament at Matchbox, Abd.

Tues., Sept. 30 Great Plains Lutheran

(C at 5, JV at 6, V-7:15)

Thurs., Oct. 2 JH: Milbank (7th-4, 8th-5)

Sat., Oct. 4 at Redfield Tourney

Mon., Oct. 6 Mobridge-Pollock

(Gym: 7th-4, 8th-5; Arena: C-4, JV-5, V-6:15)

Sat., Oct. 11 JH at Warner Tourney

Mon., Oct. 13 Britton-Hecla

(Gym: 7th-5, 8th-6; Arena: C-5, JV-6, V-7:15)

Thurs., Oct. 16 Deuel

(Gym: 7th-5, 8th-6; Arena: C-5, JV-6, V-7:15)

Sat., Oct. 18 V-JV-C at Milbank Tourney

Mon., Oct. 20 at Langford Area

(JH-4, JV-6:30, V-7:30)

Tues., Oct. 21 Northwestern Area

(Gym: 7th-5, 8th-6; Arena: C-5, JV-6, V-7:15)

Fri., Oct. 24 at Redfield

(Aux. Gym: 7th-5, 8th-6; Greeno Gym: C-5, JV-6, V-7:15)

Mon., Oct. 27 Faulkton

(JV-6, V-7:15)

Tues., Oct. 28 Milbank

(Arena: C-5, JV-6, V-7:30)

Tues., Nov. 4 Region 1A

Thurs., Nov. 6 Region 1A

Tues., Nov. 11 SoDak 16

Nov. 20-22 State at Rapid City

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 5 of 62

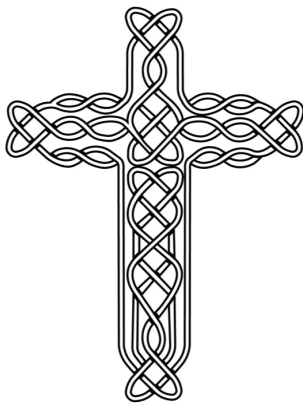
Football Schedule

Fri., Aug. 29	at Mobridge-Pollock, 7p.m.
Tues., Sept. 2	JH-JV: EEK/ JH at 4 p.m., JV at 5 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 5	Webster Area, 7p.m.
Mon., Sept. 8	JH-JV: at Webster, JH at 4 p.m., JV at 5 p.m.
Fri. Sept. 12	Milbank, 7p.m.
Mon., Sept. 15	JV: at Milbank, 4 p.m.
Tues., Sept. 16	JH: at Milbank, 7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 19	at Deuel, 7p.m.
Sat., Sept. 20	JH-JV Jamboree at Webster, 10 a.m.
Tues., Sept. 23	JH-JV: Britton-Hecla at Langford, JH at 4:30, JV at 5:30
Fri., Sept. 26	Clark/Willow Lake, 7p.m.
Mon., Sept. 29	JH-JV: at <u>Clark/Willow Lake</u> , JH at 4 p.m., JV at 5 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 3	Roncalli at Dakotah Bank Stadium, 7p.m.
Mon., Oct. 6	JH-JV: Roncalli, JH at 4 p.m., JV at 6 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 10	Sisseton, 7p.m.
Tues., Oct. 14	JV: Sisseton at Langford, 5 p.m.
Thurs., Oct. 16	JH: Sisseton, 4 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 17	at Baltic, 7p.m.
Thurs., Oct. 23	Playoffs
Thurs., Oct. 30	Playoffs
Fri., Nov. 7	Playoffs
Fri. Nov. 14	State at Dakota Dome, 2 p.m.

Golden Threads

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

Proverbs 8:10-11



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Ladies Luncheon

Bethesda Lutheran Church, Bristol

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

By Bethesda Women of the ELCA

Silent Auction opens at 10:30

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

Luncheon at Noon

Tickets: \$15.00

Deadline to purchase tickets is Friday, July 11

Kay Espeland 605-492-3507

Jane Goehring 605-290-1420

Or contact any WELCA member



Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 7 of 62

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U Falls To Watertown 13U

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U could not keep up with Watertown 13U 11-7 on Thursday.

Watertown 13U were the first to get on the board in the first when Dustin Garvey scored after tagging up.

Watertown 13U extended their early lead with two runs in the top of the third thanks to RBI singles by Garvey and Case Hulscher.

Watertown 13U scored six runs on four hits in the top of the fourth inning. Kai Schaack hit into a double play, but one run scored, Garvey drew a walk, scoring one run, Clayton Muller singled, scoring two runs, and Hulscher singled, scoring two runs.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U scored five runs on three hits in the bottom of the fifth inning. Keegan Kucker grounded out, scoring one run, a dropped third strike scored one run, Asher Zimmerman doubled, scoring one run, and Jordan Schwan singled, scoring two runs.

Hulscher earned the win for Watertown 13U. The starter gave up three hits and five runs over five innings, striking out five and walking four. Lincoln Shilhanek took the loss for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. The starter went three and two-thirds innings, allowing nine runs (eight earned) on seven hits, striking out none and walking seven.

Kucker led Groton Jr. Teeners 14U with three runs batted in from the number eight spot in the lineup. The catcher went 1-for-3 on the day. Zimmerman, Kolton Antonsen, Schwan, and Kucker each collected one hit for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. Groton Jr. Teeners 14U had a strong eye at the plate, piling up six walks for the game. Antonsen and Zach Fliehs led the team with two free passes each. Groton Jr. Teeners 14U turned one double play in the game.

Watertown 13U piled up 10 hits in the game. Hulscher provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Watertown 13U with three runs batted in. The cleanup hitter went 2-for-4 on the day. Jett Engen, Hulscher, and Muller each collected two hits for Watertown 13U. Watertown 13U had a strong eye at the plate, piling up nine walks for the game. Chace Trumm, Garvey, and Carter Dale led the team with two walks each. Engen and Garvey each stole multiple bases for Watertown 13U. Watertown 13U ran wild on the base paths, collecting eight stolen bases for the game. Watertown 13U didn't commit a single error in the field. Trumm had the most chances in the field with five.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U Defeated By Watertown 13U

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U could not keep up with Watertown 13U 7-3 on Thursday.

Watertown 13U got on the board in the top of the third inning after Groton Jr. Teeners 14U committed an error, and Clayton Muller singled, each scoring one run.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U tied the game in the bottom of the fourth thanks to a double by Lincoln Shilhanek, and a ground out by Kolton Antonsen.

Watertown 13U jumped back into the lead in the top of the fifth inning after Jett Engen singled to center field, Dustin Garvey grounded out, and Engen scored after tagging up, each scoring one run.

Dray Dahlgren earned the win for Watertown 13U. The starting pitcher surrendered three hits and three runs (two earned) over six innings, striking out six and walking three. Jordan Schwan took the loss for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. The right-handed pitcher went four and one-third innings, giving up five runs on five hits, striking out three and walking seven.

Schwan and Shilhanek were a one-two punch in the lineup, as each drove in one run for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. Schwan stole two bases.

Garvey and Muller were tough to handle back-to-back in the lineup, as each drove in two runs for Watertown 13U. Engen led Watertown 13U with two hits in three at bats from the leadoff position. Watertown 13U had patience at the plate, amassing eight walks for the game. Dahlgren, Chace Trumm, and Triton Ellis led the team with two bases on balls each. Watertown 13U turned one double play in the game.

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Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 8 of 62

Colton defeats Groton Legion

By GameChanger Media

Groton Legion Post 39 fell to Colton 8-5 on Thursday.

Groton Legion Post 39 got on the board in the top of the first inning after Brevin Fliehs doubled to center field, Gavin Englund grounded out, and Groton Legion Post 39 scored on a passed ball, each scoring one run.

Colton tied the game in the bottom of the second thanks to a solo home run to center field by Aiden Bunde, a hit by a pitch, and a single by Alex Wingen.

Groton Legion Post 39 jumped back into the lead in the top of the third inning after Carter Simon doubled to right field, and Nick Groeblichhoff was struck by a pitch, each scoring one run.

Colton tied the game in the bottom of the fourth thanks to a single by Tristen Bunde, and a sacrifice fly by Denton Bicknase.

In the bottom of the fifth inning, Colton went back into the lead after Brody Dybvig singled down the left field line, Groton Legion Post 39 committed an error, and Colton scored on a wild pitch, each scoring one run.

Nick Morris started on the bump for Groton Legion Post 39. The starter allowed 11 hits and eight runs (five earned) over five innings, striking out eight and walking one. Bunde started on the mound for Colton. The right-handed pitcher gave up five hits and four runs (one earned) over two and one-third innings, striking out three and walking one.

Fliehs and Simon were a force together in the lineup, as they each collected two hits for Groton Legion Post 39 while hitting back-to-back. Fliehs, Englund, and Simon each drove in one run for Groton Legion Post 39. Braxton Imrie stole two bases. Groton Legion Post 39 stole four bases in the game.

Colton collected 11 hits in the game. Wingen, Bunde, and Ryan Lehman each collected two hits for Colton. Dybvig went 1-for-3 at the plate and led the team with two runs batted in. Wingen stole three bases.

Groton Legion Post 39 Come Up Short Against Devils Lake Storm

By GameChanger Media

Groton Legion Post 39 lost to Devils Lake Storm 7-5 on Thursday.

Devils Lake Storm were the first to get on the board in the first when Trason Beck drew a walk, scoring one run.

A home run to left field by Carter Simon gave Groton Legion Post 39 the lead, 2-1, in the bottom of the first.

A single by Fausten Olson gave Devils Lake Storm the lead, 4-2, in the top of the second.

Devils Lake Storm added two runs in the third after Devils Lake Storm scored on a passed ball.

Groton Legion Post 39 scored one run in the bottom of the sixth on a solo home run to left field by Gavin Englund.

Jarrett Erdmann started the game for Groton Legion Post 39. The starting pitcher gave up five hits and six runs (four earned) over three innings, striking out one and walking six. Brody Rainsberry started the game for Devils Lake Storm. The hurler surrendered four hits and four runs (three earned) over four innings, striking out three and walking two.

Simon provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Groton Legion Post 39 with two runs batted in. The cleanup hitter went 2-for-3 on the day. Teylor Diegel and Simon each collected two hits for Groton Legion Post 39. Groton Legion Post 39 turned one double play in the game.

Devils Lake Storm tallied nine hits in the game. Rainsberry, Ben Larson, and Hunter Remmick each collected two hits for Devils Lake Storm. Olson led Devils Lake Storm with two runs batted in. The center fielder went 1-for-2 on the day. Beck paced Devils Lake Storm with three walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, collecting nine walks for the game.

Next up for Groton Legion Post 39 is a game at Clark Rotary Tournament on Friday.

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Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 9 of 62

State U12 Baseball Tournament begins today

Groton and Columbia will be busy towns in the next three days as the 15 teams take part in the State U12 Baseball Tournament. The opening ceremony is set for 9 a.m. this morning and Locke-Karst Field in Groton with all 15 teams being there for the event. The games will begin at 11 a.m.

Friday, July 11, 2025						
Game	Time	Location	Team 1	Score	Team 2	
P1	11:00 AM	Columbia	Winner Rattlers 12U		Britton Jr Jacks 12U	
P2	11:00 AM	Groton Baseball - Falk	Corsica/Stickney Jaguars 12U		Clark Area 12U	
P3	11:00 AM	Groton Baseball - Nelson	Hamlin/LN 12U		Parkston 12U Leischner	
P4	1:00 PM	Groton Baseball - Nelson	Groton 12U		Salem Cubs 12U	
P5	1:00 PM	Groton Baseball - Falk	Webster 12U		Sanborn Central/Woonsocket Hawks 12U	
P6	1:00 PM	Columbia	Emery 12U		KWL WiLdKats 12U	
P7	3:00 PM	Groton Baseball - Nelson	Canova Gang 12U		Winner Rattlers 12U	
P8	3:00 PM	Columbia	Britton Jr Jacks 12U		Clark Area 12U	
P9	3:00 PM	Groton Baseball - Falk	Wagner 12U		Hamlin/LN 12U	
P10	5:00 PM	Columbia	Parkston 12U Leischner		Salem Cubs 12U	
P11	5:00 PM	Groton Baseball - Falk	Baltic Bulldogs 12U		Webster 12U	
P12	5:00 PM	Groton Baseball - Nelson	Sanborn Central/Woonsocket Hawks 12U		KWL WiLdKats 12U	
P13	7:00 PM	Columbia	Corsica/Stickney Jaguars 12U		Canova Gang 12U	
P15	7:00 PM	Groton Baseball - Falk	Groton 12U		Wagner 12U	
P17	7:00 PM	Groton Baseball - Nelson	Emery 12U		Baltic Bulldogs 12U	

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 10 of 62



Aaron Severson was busy striping the parking lot at the baseball field on Friday in preparation of the state tournament.

Miner County Fatal Motorcycle Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal motorcycle crash

Where: 426th Avenue and SD Highway 34, five miles east of Fedora, SD

When: 2 a.m., Thursday, July 10, 2025

Driver 1: 53-year-old male from Webster, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2009 Harley Davidson FLHTCUI

Helmet Used: No

Passenger 1: 25-year-old male from Webster, SD, serious, non-life-threatening injuries

Helmet Used: No

Miner County, S.D.- A Webster man died and his passenger was injured in a single vehicle motorcycle crash Thursday morning, five miles east of Fedora, SD.

The names of the persons involved have not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2009 Harley Davidson motorcycle was traveling east on SD Highway 34 and went into the south ditch. The driver died at the scene and a passenger sustained 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

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 12 of 62

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

School Board Meeting

July 14, 2025 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of June 9 and July 9 school board meetings as drafted.
2. Approval of year ending (FY2025) district bills.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. Approval of June 2025 Financial Report, Custodial Accounts, and Investments.
3. Approve Supplemental Budget FY25-4.
4. Approval of June 2025 School Lunch Report.
5. Approval of June 2025 School Transportation Report.
6. Second Reading and Approval of Recommended Policy Changes: BD School Board Meetings (Amended); BDDG Minutes (Amended); FC Facilities Capitalization Program (Amended); IGBA Special Education and Related Services (Amended); KLB Public Complaints About the Curriculum or Instructional Materials (Amended); IIAC Library Materials Selection and Adoption (Amended); JEA Compulsory Attendance Ages (Amended); JEG Exemptions from School Attendance (Amended); ECABB Multi-Occupancy Room Use (New Policy); IKFB Graduation Ceremony Decoration (New Policy)
7. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

ADJOURN

.....

ANNUAL REORGANIZATION BUSINESS:

1. Call to Order with members present.
2. Installation of incumbent board members Tigh Fliehs and TJ Harder and new board member Samantha Weber followed by election of president and vice president as well as appointments to the various "ad hoc" committees.
3. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

7:30 PM – DISTRICT BUDGET HEARING

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approve July 2025 District bills for payment.
2. Designate legal counsel/school attorney...Rodney Freeman of Churchill, Manolis, and Freeman of Huron.
3. Designate Business Manager as custodian of all district accounts.
4. Authorize Business Manager to continue existing funds and establish new accounts and to invest and reinvest funds in local institutions which serve the greatest advantage to the District and set business manager bond.
5. Authorize Business Manager to publish staff salaries.
6. Designate official bank depository... Dacotah Bank.
7. Adopt Groton Area School District Policy Manual with such revisions as previously approved.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 13 of 62

8. Adopt Special Education Comprehensive Plan.
9. Authorize office personnel to administer Custodial Funds & NSLP (school lunch) funds, with oversight by business office management.
10. Authorize superintendent to administer or direct federal programs, with Consolidated Application (Title programs) and related ESSA compliance issues assigned to building principals.
11. Appoint Jodi Schwan District's McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison.
12. Appoint superintendent to act as Asbestos Compliance Officer.
13. Authorize superintendent or designee to close school in emergency situations or inclement weather.
14. Authorize superintendent or designee to institute NSLP & School Breakfast Agreement.
15. Adopt Food Safety Plan, HACCP-Based Standard Operating Procedures.
16. Authorize superintendent or designee to institute ASBSD school bus mutual assistance pact.
17. Authorize business manager to transfer petty cash and incident payment funds (SDCL 13-18-16/17).
18. Approve peripheral sports and other volunteer school workers such as chain gang, line judges, Booster Club/PAC workers, assistant coaches, volunteer coaches, volunteer drivers, school board members etc. to be included in the school's worker's compensation insurance coverage.
19. Approve lane change for Carrie Weisenburger from MS+15 to MS+30.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review and acknowledge South Dakota Open Meeting Law pursuant to SDCL 1-25-13.
2. Adopt FY2026 District Budget and authorize Business Manager to file tax request with county auditors.
3. First reading of recommended policy changes: BBB School Board Elections (amendment), GCDB/GDDB Background Checks (amendment), GCDBC Background Checks – Volunteers and Employees of Contractors (new)
4. Approve sponsorship of the sport of Girls Softball for the 2026 season.
5. Approve out-of-district transportation requests from Langford Area School District and Webster Area School District.
6. Open and approve diesel/gas quotes.
7. Open and approve newspaper quotes and designate official newspaper for FY2026.
8. Appoint board member to serve as voting member of the North Central Special Education Cooperative Governing Board for 2025-2026 school year.
9. Set dates and time for regular school board meetings.
10. Set salaries for board members...**presently at \$50/meeting; \$75/meeting for chairman; mileage as applicable.**
11. Set rate for substitute teachers for 2025-2026 school year...recommend \$135/day [Currently \$135/day].
12. Set rate for substitute bus drivers for 2025-2026 school year...recommend \$100/day [Currently \$100/day].
13. Establish activity admission & school lunch prices for 2024-2025.

		<u>Recommendations</u>
Admission:	Adult - \$5; Doubleheader - \$6	No Change
	Adult 10-punch ticket - \$45	No Change
	Adult All-Activities Pass - \$75	No Change
	1 st -12 th grade - \$4	No Change
	1 st -5 th grade activity ticket - \$25	No Change
	6 th -12 th grade activity ticket - \$30	No Change
Breakfast	K-5 - \$2.60; 6-12 - \$3.10; Adult - \$3.50	No Change
Lunch	K-5 - \$3.35; 6-12 - \$3.85; Adult \$4.75	No Change
Seconds Lunch	K-12; \$2.00	No Change
Second Milk	\$0.50	No Change

14. Set rate for OST services for 2025-2026 school year. No Change

ADJOURN



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

South Dakota's legacy of citizen ballot questions is under threat, law review authors warn

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - JULY 10, 2025 9:48 AM

A new law review article argues that South Dakota Republican legislators have spent the past eight years systematically weakening the public's ability to enact laws through ballot questions, a right enshrined in the state constitution since 1898.

"Republican supermajorities in Pierre have repeatedly proposed and passed legislation making it harder for citizen ballot committees to do their work," the authors wrote.

The article, published in the South Dakota Law Review, was written by Democratic activist Cory Heidelberg, University of South Dakota law school student Teagan McNary, and Augustana University professor and Democratic former state Sen. Reynold Nesiba.

The authors identified 33 legislative actions passed from 2017 through 2024 that altered the way citizens may draft, submit or campaign for ballot questions. The authors argue that 14 of those laws pose serious obstacles to direct democracy and were crafted by Republican legislators who are hostile to citizen-led change.

The authors also analyzed recent court rulings that have blocked or overturned several of the laws, citing constitutional violations. Still, they conclude that the overall effect of the legislative push has been to "chill participation in direct democracy."

Multiple Republicans in leadership positions declined to comment about the article, but Republican Lt. Gov. Tony Venhuizen said he enjoyed reading it.

"Although it really reads as an advocacy piece from authors with a particular perspective," he said, "I thought the entire law review issue was good and offered a number of perspectives on different aspects of the legislative process."

Other articles in the special legislative issue include a look back on the state's last 100 legislative sessions co-authored by Venhuizen, an assessment of government transparency, and an analysis of how state constitutions impact tribal relations, among other topics.

A legacy under pressure

South Dakota was the first state in the nation to adopt the initiative and referendum process 127 years ago, a legacy of the populist and progressive movements that sought to reduce corporate influence over state governments, the authors explain. An initiative puts a proposed law on the ballot, and a referendum sends a legislatively adopted law to the ballot for voters' approval or rejection. Both require thousands of petition signatures from registered voters to earn a place on the ballot.

Citizen-backed ballot questions have been used in South Dakota to raise the minimum wage (2014), cap "payday lending" at 36% interest (2016), legalize medical marijuana (2020) and expand Medicaid eligibility (2022). All that recent history, the authors argue, has triggered a backlash from Republican lawmakers in Pierre.

The article outlines a series of legislative changes in South Dakota that, according to authors, have made it harder for citizens to pass laws through the ballot initiative process. A 2017 law delayed implementing voter-approved measures until the following July, giving lawmakers more time to amend or repeal them. In 2018, the Legislature passed a law requiring initiatives be about one subject, which opponents argue makes it easier to challenge them in court. Last year, a new law allowed voters to withdraw their signatures

from petitions.

Additional bills were passed during this year's legislative session. One moved the deadline for filing ballot measure petition signatures from May up to February, shortening the time available for signature collection. That law is being challenged in court. Lawmakers also sent their own ballot question to voters next year that will ask them to raise the approval threshold for constitutional amendment ballot questions from a simple majority to 60% of votes cast.

The authors close the article with several recommendations, including increasing staffing at the Legislative Research Council to improve ballot measure processing, and repealing laws that burden circulators or discourage volunteerism.

"Opponents of initiative and referendum (most of them legislators who rightly perceive direct democracy as a check on their power) like to cry 'We're a Republic, not a Democracy!' But we are and can be both," the authors wrote.

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

South Dakota Supreme Court rules against neighbors in now-moot prison site dispute

BY: JOHN HULT - JULY 10, 2025 12:54 PM

The South Dakota Supreme Court handed a legal loss Thursday to opponents of a Lincoln County prison site lawmakers have already abandoned.

In a unanimous ruling, the justices decided that Lincoln County residents don't have the right to force the state to adhere to local zoning ordinances.

Representatives from the nonprofit organization Neighbors Opposed to Prison Expansion, or NOPE, sought to force the issue with a lawsuit filed in 2023, shortly after the state announced its decision to place a 1,500-bed men's prison on farm ground about 14 miles south of Sioux Falls.

The neighbors wanted the state to seek a conditional use permit for the prison. The state argued that counties don't have the authority to regulate what the state does with its own land.

The neighbors lost at the circuit court level, but appealed to the state's high court. The justices heard arguments in March.

The justices didn't decide if the state has immunity from local zoning restrictions. Instead, they ruled that neighbors lack the legal standing to enforce those ordinances through a lawsuit, leaving the underlying question of the state's authority to sidestep county rules untouched.

The practical weight of Thursday's decision in the state's ongoing prison debate is essentially null. The state's Project Prison Reset task force voted earlier this year to scratch the original Lincoln County site from its list of options, and voted this week to recommend building on one of two vacant industrial sites on the northeastern edge of Sioux Falls.

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

Governor appoints new state senator for Huron-Redfield area

BY: SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT STAFF - JULY 10, 2025 12:22 PM

South Dakota Gov. Larry Rhoden announced the appointment Thursday of a state senator to fill an empty seat in a legislative district that includes the cities of Huron and Redfield.

The appointee is Brandon Wipf, a Republican from Lake Byron.

"Brandon Wipf has a keen understanding of our property tax system and reflects South Dakota's strong

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 16 of 62

values," Rhoden said in a news release. "As a dedicated farmer and ag advocate, he is equipped with an understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our number one industry. I have no doubt that he will serve our state with excellence."

Rhoden's office described Wipf as a farmer in southern Spink County who serves on the Commodity Futures Trading Commission Ag Advisory Council and is a director for the American Soybean Association. He graduated as the valedictorian from James Valley Christian School in 2004 and obtained a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Dordt University in Iowa.

"I'm incredibly honored and grateful for the trust the governor has placed in me," Wipf said in the release. "I will work hard to earn that same trust from the people of District 22."

Wipf succeeds David Wheeler, a Republican and lawyer who resigned his state Senate seat in April to accept an appointment as a circuit court judge.

District 22 includes land in Beadle, Clark and Spink counties.

US Senate committee members spar over forestry and wildfires

BY: JACOB FISCHLER - JULY 10, 2025 3:43 PM

Members of the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee differed along party lines at a Thursday hearing about how the U.S. Forest Service should partner with states and how the federal wildfire response should be organized.

Senators of both parties emphasized the importance of working with state forest managers. But while Republicans praised the efforts of Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz, a former state forest administrator in Idaho and Montana, to reach out to state governments, Democrats noted that President Donald Trump's budget request for fiscal 2026 proposed eliminating a key program for state and tribal partnerships.

Democrats on the panel also raised a series of questions about the still-unfinished Forest Service budget request as the next fiscal year approaches in less than three months.

Schultz told the senators the budget proposal was not yet final, but confirmed the agency was telling states to prepare for zero dollars in discretionary spending for the State, Private, and Tribal Forestry program in fiscal 2026.

The program received more than \$300 million in discretionary funding in fiscal 2024, plus another roughly \$300 million in supplemental funding.

The Trump budget request does include \$300 million for supplemental funds to the program that can be used for disaster relief.

Impact of 'big, beautiful' law

Ranking Democrat Martin Heinrich of New Mexico noted states are facing tighter budgets after passage of Republicans' "big, beautiful" budget reconciliation law that includes a host of policy tweaks meant to reduce federal safety net spending while extending tax cuts for high earners.

Under the law, states will be required to pay billions more per year to cover a greater share of major federal-state partnership programs for food assistance and health coverage.

"States need that funding," Heinrich said of the forestry program. "That is an example of a successful partnership. If we don't have that funding, that's not shared responsibility, that's abdicating our federal responsibility... at a time when (state) budgets are being decimated by Medicaid cuts thanks to the big, whatever bill."

Schultz said the state foresters had relayed similar concerns, which the administration was considering as it finalized the budget request.

Chairman Mike Lee of Utah said the Forest Service under Schultz had given states greater flexibility to set their own forest management policies.

"I want to thank you, Chief, for giving the states more and more authority, more involvement and more of an ability to set a course for the proper management of these lands," he said. "I know that Utah is really looking forward to working with you to expand these partnerships and I know my state is not alone in that."

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 17 of 62

Funding versus dialogue

Democratic Sen. Alex Padilla of California also blasted the administration for cutting the state forestry spending.

"Every state that I'm aware of is having a tougher budget picture to face," he told Schultz. "The threat of fires is real. The threat of fires is growing. How does it make sense for the federal government to zero out these programs?"

Schultz answered that the agency would continue "partnering with the states in dialogue and discussion."

"But you're zeroing out their resources," Padilla said.

"That's correct," Schultz said. "It's sharing that responsibility and pushing it to the states."

Colorado Sen. John Hickenlooper, a former governor and Denver mayor, said the Trump budget request more broadly called for shifting more funding responsibilities to state and local governments.

"I see again and again, throughout all the budgets we're seeing, is more costs shifted from the federal government to states and local areas that are going through their own budget struggles right now," he said.

Montana Republican Steve Daines defended the idea of greater state responsibility, saying he had found the Gem State's approach to land management more effective than the federal government's.

"If you take a look at the landscapes across Montana and look at federal lands versus state lands, I can tell you the state's doing a much, much better job in terms of stewardship of public lands than the federal government," Daines said.

New firefighting service

Schultz said several times the administration had not yet finalized a plan to shift federal firefighting authorities to the Interior Department. The responsibility is currently split between the Forest Service, which is under the Department of Agriculture, and various Interior agencies, primarily the Bureau of Land Management.

Heinrich, Ron Wyden of Oregon and Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada, raised concerns about the lack of a plan.

Heinrich said he was open-minded about the reorganization effort but was concerned that Congress had not yet seen a blueprint.

"I think there are many of us who are more concerned about the adequacy of that plan and would like to see that plan before we start making budgetary decisions about whether it's a good idea or not," he said. "I am very open to different ways of organizing how we fight fires on our national forests and our public lands. But I want to see the plan."

Wyden raised opposition to the idea more broadly, saying the Forest Service should remain involved in firefighting.

"Nobody in my home state... has told me, in effect, 'Ron we gotta have the Forest Service less involved in fighting fires,'" Wyden said. "But that is the net effect of your organizational plan."

Schultz said the proposed reorganization would not cut any federal firefighting resources, but move the federal agency responsible for overseeing the issue. The administration would not put the reorganization in place this fire season, he added.

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

US Senate GOP under pressure on Trump demand to defund NPR, PBS, foreign aid

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT - JULY 10, 2025 12:54 PM

WASHINGTON — Congress has just one week left to approve the Trump administration's request to cancel \$9.4 billion in previously approved funding for public media and foreign aid, setting up yet another tight deadline for lawmakers.

The Senate must pass the bill before July 18, otherwise the White House budget office will be required to spend the funding and be barred from sending up the same proposal again for what are called rescissions.

But objections from several GOP senators could stop the legislation in its tracks, or change it substantially, requiring another House vote in a very short time frame. Rejecting the plan would represent a loss for the Trump administration after passage of the "big, beautiful" tax and spending cut law earlier this month.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., appears optimistic he can secure the votes needed to begin debate, though he hasn't said publicly if he thinks the bill can actually pass.

"We'll have it up on the floor next week. Hopefully, we get on it and then we'll have an amendment process," Thune said during a Wednesday press conference. "And kind of like a budget reconciliation bill, it's an open amendment process, a vote-a-rama type process, which I'm sure you're very excited about."

JD Vance needed again?

At least 50 Republicans must agree to proceed to the legislation amid unified opposition from Democrats. Thune can only lose three GOP senators and still begin debate with Vice President JD Vance's tie-breaking vote. Rescissions bills are exempt from the Senate's 60-vote legislative filibuster.

After a maximum of 10 hours of debate, the Senate will begin a marathon amendment voting session that could substantially reshape the measure.

There may be enough Republican votes to completely remove the section rescinding \$1.1 billion for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which funds the Public Broadcasting Service, National Public Radio and hundreds of local public media stations.

Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Susan Collins, Nebraska Sen. Deb Fischer, Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski and South Dakota Sen. Mike Rounds all brought up misgivings during a June hearing about how canceling previously approved funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting would impact rural communities and emergency alerts.

Collins, R-Maine, also raised concerns about the Trump administration's efforts to claw back previously approved funding for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, and is likely to bring an amendment to the floor on that issue, according to her office. PEPFAR is a global initiative to combat HIV/AIDS that was led by President George W. Bush.

Democrats will get to offer as many amendments as they want during the vote-a-rama and could try to remove each section of the bill one by one, forcing Republicans to weigh in publicly on numerous foreign aid programs.

45 days for Trump request

President Donald Trump sent Congress the rescissions request in early June, starting a 45-day clock for lawmakers to consider his proposal.

The recommendation asked lawmakers to cancel \$8.3 billion in foreign aid funding, including \$500 million for certain global health programs at the U.S. Agency for International Development.

"This proposal would not reduce treatment but would eliminate programs that are antithetical to American interests and worsen the lives of women and children, like 'family planning' and 'reproductive health,' LGBTQI+ activities, and 'equity' programs," the request states. "This rescission proposal aligns with the Administration's efforts to eliminate wasteful USAID foreign assistance programs."

The House voted mostly along party lines in mid-June to approve the rescissions request, but the legisla-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 19 of 62

tion sat around the Senate for weeks as Republicans struggled to pass their "big, beautiful" law.

The Senate can vote to approve the proposal as is, change it, or let it expire, forcing the White House budget office to spend the money, which it's been able to legally freeze since sending Congress the rescissions request.

Relations with White House

Senators' decision will impact how Republicans in that chamber, especially Thune and those on the Appropriations Committee, work with White House budget director Russ Vought in the coming months and years.

Congress and the Trump administration must broker some sort of funding agreement before the start of the next fiscal year on Oct. 1 to stave off a shutdown.

Vought has also said he plans to send lawmakers additional rescissions requests, though he hasn't said exactly when or what programs he'll include.

Senate Appropriations Committee ranking member Patty Murray, D-Wash., said Thursday as the panel debated three of the full-year government funding bills that the rescissions package is not acceptable and could impede the committee's traditionally bipartisan work.

"We need to make sure decisions about what to fund and, yes, what to rescind are made here in Congress on a bipartisan basis and within our annual funding process," Murray said. "We cannot allow bipartisan funding bills with partisan rescission packages. It will not work. And that is why I will repeat my commitment to all of my colleagues that on this side of the dais, we stand ready to discuss rescissions as part of these bipartisan spending bills."

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

Federal judge to pause Trump's birthright citizenship order

BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA - JULY 10, 2025 12:32 PM

WASHINGTON — A federal judge in New Hampshire Thursday issued a preliminary injunction against President Donald Trump's executive order that would rewrite the constitutional right to birthright citizenship, and granted a class certification to infants who would be affected by the order.

The ruling from U.S. District Judge Joseph Laplante came after the Supreme Court last month limited lower courts' ability to grant nationwide injunctions. Multiple courts had blocked the president's executive order ending birthright citizenship, which is granted under the 14th Amendment to any infant born on U.S. soil. There is an exception for children born to foreign diplomats.

Laplante will stay his ruling for seven days to give the Trump administration time to appeal, according to his written order. Laplante was nominated by former President George W. Bush.

The high court in June deemed that lower courts should seek a narrower way to issue orders with wide effect, such as a class action suit. Under the ruling, the Trump administration's executive order could take effect by July 27 in the 28 states that did not initially sue.

After the Supreme Court ruling, the American Civil Liberties Union filed the suit on behalf of immigrants whose babies would be affected by the order.

However, Laplante narrowed his injunction to focus on the infants as the plaintiffs rather than the parents.

"This ruling is a huge victory and will help protect the citizenship of all children born in the United States, as the Constitution intended," said Cody Wofsy, deputy director of the ACLU's Immigrants' Rights Project, who argued the case. "We are fighting to ensure President Trump doesn't trample on the citizenship rights of one single child."

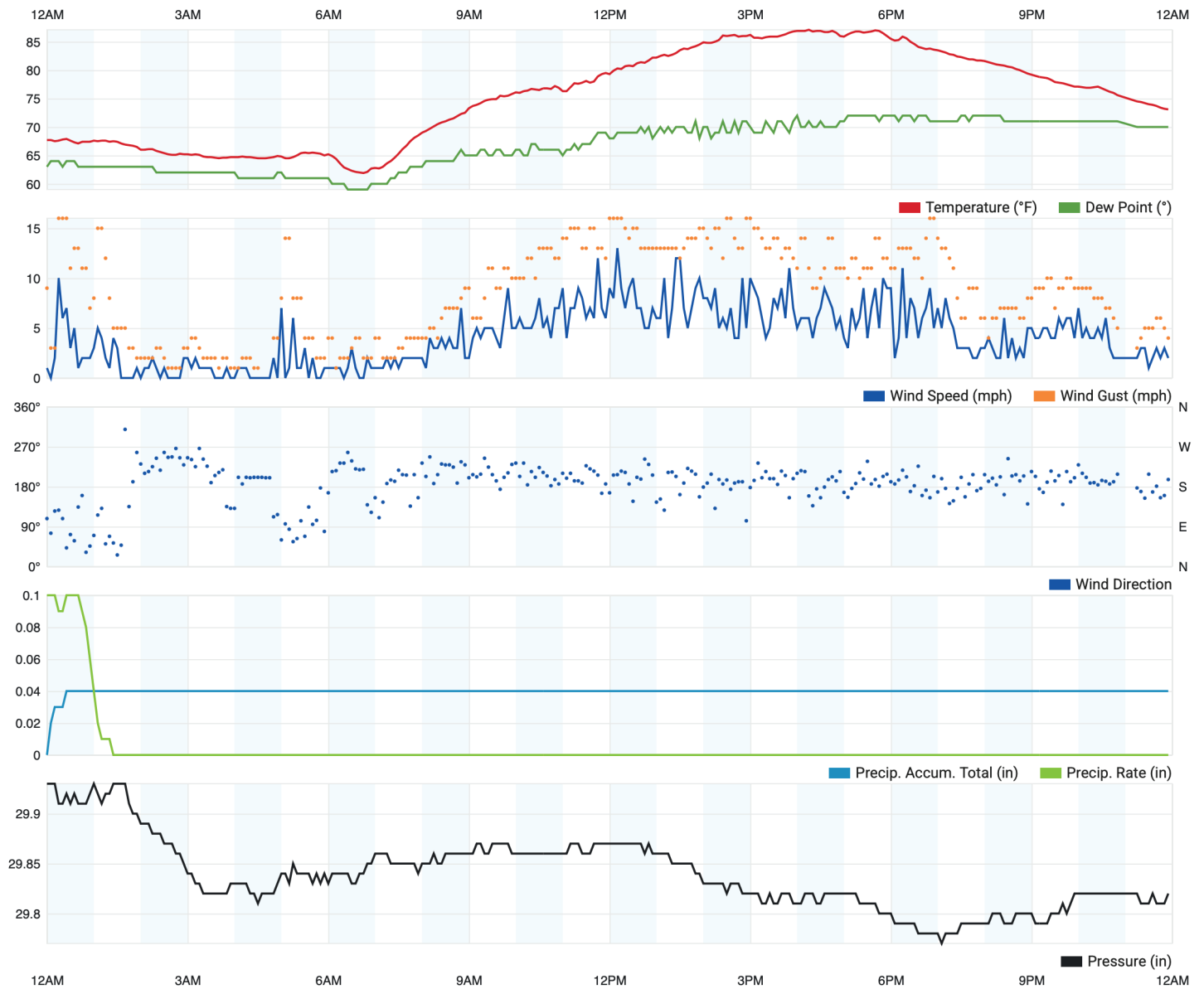
Ariana covers the nation's capital for States Newsroom. Her areas of coverage include politics and policy, lobbying, elections and campaign finance.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 20 of 62

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

July 10, 2025



Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 21 of 62

Today



High: 80 °F

Chance
T-storms

Tonight



Low: 55 °F

Chance
T-storms then
Mostly Clear

Saturday



High: 81 °F

Sunny

Saturday Night



Low: 59 °F

Partly Cloudy

Sunday



High: 90 °F

Hot

THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

1

WHAT THIS MEANS:
Isolated Severe Storms
Possible

TIMING

**This afternoon into
this evening**

PRIMARY THREATS



DAMAGING
WIND GUSTS UP
TO 60 MPH



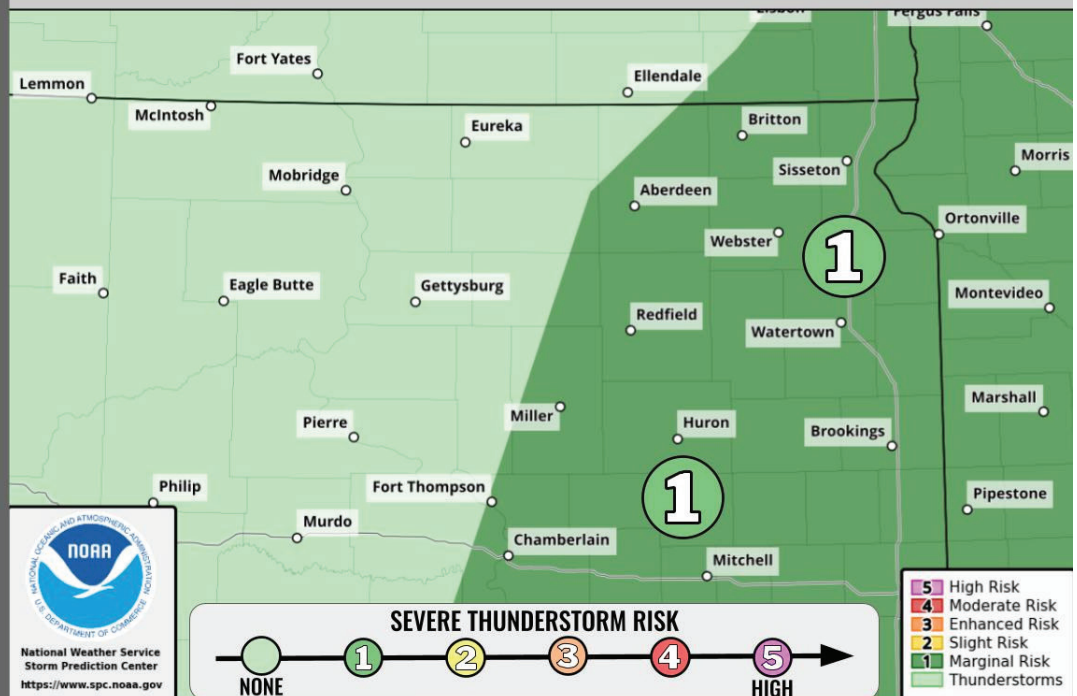
LARGE HAIL UP
TO QUARTER
SIZE

SECONDARY THREATS



HEAVY
RAINFALL

Marginal Risk For Severe Storms This Afternoon and Evening



Marginal risk (level 1 out of 5) for severe storms mainly from the James River Valley and eastward into west central MN this afternoon and evening. Main threats include hail, up to the size of quarters, and wind gusts up to 60 mph are possible within the risk area.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 22 of 62



Smoky Weekend?

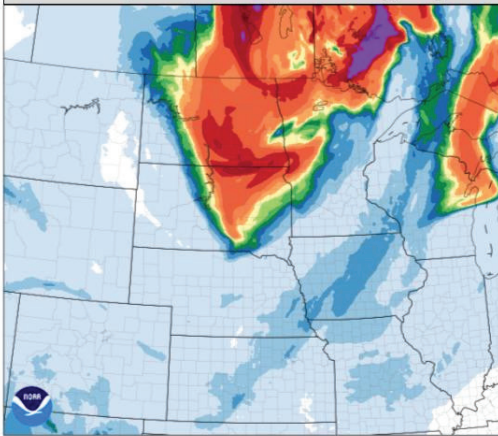
July 10, 2025

1:14 PM

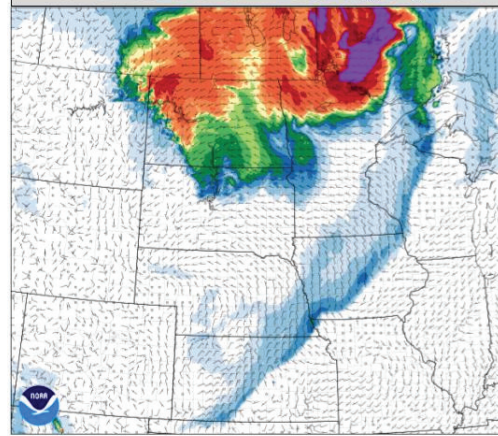
Smoke will move into the area on Saturday, potentially creating hazy conditions.

- Canadian Wildfire Smoke is forecasted to move south over the Northern Plains, reaching the Aberdeen area by Saturday morning.
- Most of the smoke will stay aloft, creating hazy skies, but some will be able to reach the surface.

Total Atmospheric Smoke 7AM Saturday, July 12th



Near Surface Smoke 7AM Saturday, July 12th



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Canadian wildfire smoke is forecasted to move south across the Northern Plains and reach South Dakota by Saturday morning. Most of the smoke will remain aloft, but some will still reach the surface. Those with respiratory issues may be impacted.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 23 of 62

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 87 °F at 4:02 PM

High Heat Index: 94 °F at 4:00 PM

Low Temp: 62 °F at 6:41 AM

Wind: 17 mph at 12:14 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 28 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 110 in 1930

Record Low: 45 in 1941

Average High: 85

Average Low: 60

Average Precip in July.: 1.26

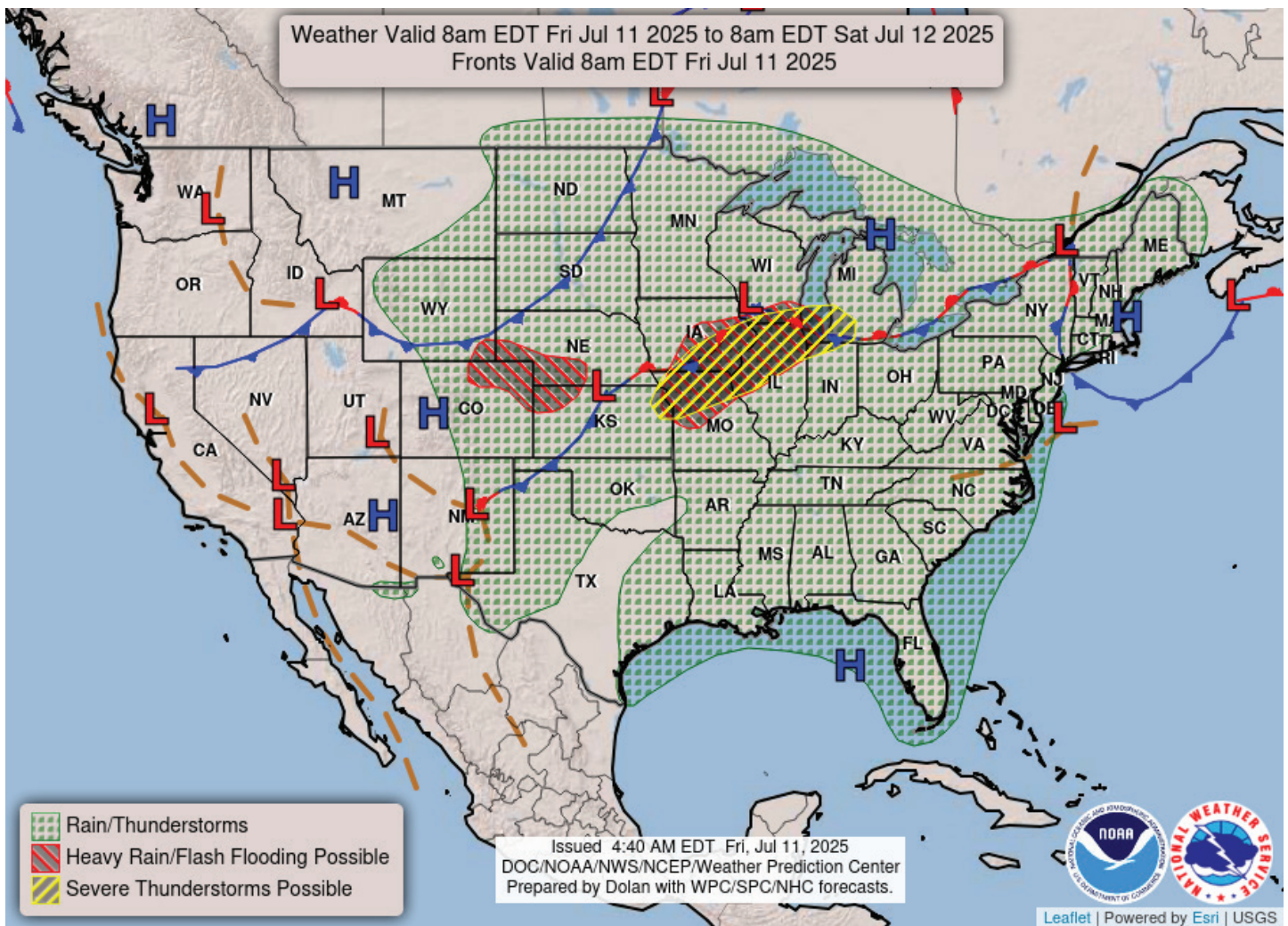
Precip to date in July: 1.87

Average Precip to date: 12.27

Precip Year to Date: 11.99

Sunset Tonight: 9:22:18 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:54:35 am



Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 24 of 62

Today in Weather History

July 11, 1909: A deadly, estimated F2 tornado moved ESE across the Simpson Park section of Big Stone City in South Dakota. A bus was thrown from the road, and the driver was killed. Two homes and several barns were destroyed. As the tornado crossed the foot of Big Stone Lake, it tore apart a railroad yard and killed four of the 26 Armenian laborers who were living in box cars at Ortonville, Minnesota. Nineteen were injured.

July 11, 1981: Severe thunderstorms moved eastward across the entire length of the South Dakota along the northern portion of the state. Hail, with the largest up to nine inches in circumference, resulted in 100 percent crop loss, damage to numerous buildings and loss of livestock. Trees were stripped, and large limbs were broken. High winds also accompanied these storms. Storms lasted into the early morning hours on the 12. Thunderhawk in Corson County had estimated winds of 70 to 75 mph that destroyed a machine shop and seven metal grain storage bins. In and around Pollock, a silo was moved three feet off the foundation. Power and telephones lines were down. Rainfall measured 2.28 inches in two hours in Pollock.

1888 - Heavy snow reached almost to the base of Mt. Washington, NH, and the peaks of the Green Mountains were whitened. (David Ludlum)

1936: From July 5-17, temperatures exceeding 111 degrees in Manitoba and Ontario claimed 1,180 lives (mostly the elderly and infants) during the most prolonged, deadliest heat wave on record. Four hundred of these deaths were caused by people who drowned seeking refuge from the heat. In fact, the heat was so intense that steel rail lines and bridge girders twisted, sidewalks buckled, crops wilted and fruit baked on trees. Some record temperatures include; 112 degrees at St. Albans and Emerson, Manitoba, 111 at Brandon, Manitoba, 108 at Atikokan, Ontario, and Winnipeg, Manitoba.

1987 - Early morning thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 90 mph at Parkston, SD, and wind gusts to 87 mph at Buffalo, MN. Later in the day strong thunderstorm winds at Howard WI collapsed a circus tent injuring 44 persons. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced heavy rain in southern Texas, with totals ranging up to 13 inches near Medina. Two men drowned when their pick-up truck was swept into the Guadalupe River, west of the town of Hunt. Ten cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Baltimore, MD, reported a record high reading of 102 degrees for the second day in a row. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather from North Dakota to Indiana. Thunderstorms in North Dakota produced tennis ball size hail at Carson. Thunderstorms in Indiana produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Fort Wayne. Five cities in the Southern Atlantic Coast Region reported record high temperatures for the date, including Lakeland, FL, with a reading of 100 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990: The costliest hailstorm in U.S. history occurred along the Front Range of the Colorado Rockies. (Denver, Colorado): Softball-sized hail destroyed roofs and cars, causing more than \$600 million in total damage.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 25 of 62



A DESPERATE CALL

"Larry," he said to get my complete attention, "don't go next door and play with Richard. He's not good for you to be around."

"OK, Dad. I won't." (At least not while you're looking, I said to myself, under my breath.)

Not long after the warning, I heard his penetrating whistle that could be heard throughout the neighborhood. However, I was next door, on the roof of Richard's garage with some other friends having a great time. But now, the "good time" was over. I looked down from the roof, and there was my Dad standing at the foot of the ladder. I knew I was "busted." He spoke, I refused to obey, and the party was over.

"How long will you simple ones love your simple ways?" wrote Solomon. Or, if he was talking to me today it would mean, "Larry, why were you so careless to allow yourself to drift into temptation. Don't you remember that I gave you a warning? Why didn't you follow my advice?"

This verse contains a certain sadness: "How long..." We are all "slow learners!" We refuse to hear God. "I warned you, didn't I? When will you ever "grow-up" and accept the wisdom I offered you? I offered you my best: My wisdom that will last a lifetime and you rejected it.

Rejecting God's wisdom is very costly. In verse 25 there are some tragic words to describe the results of disobeying God: "Since you rejected me when I called...and ignored my advice...and would not accept my rebuke, I will laugh at you." God's grace has its limits. Hear Him today!

Prayer: Lord, how blest are those who hear Your Word, accept it and follow it. Rejecting His wisdom has its consequences. We must listen to You, Lord. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Bible Verse: How long will you who are simple love your simple ways? Proverbs 1:22

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

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 26 of 62

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City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

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

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 27 of 62



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.08.25

4 6 38 44 62 24

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$80,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 15 Mins 41 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.09.25

2 10 27 30 50 5

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,700,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 30 Mins 41 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.10.25

7 9 11 17 32 3

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 45 Mins 41 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.09.25

13 24 26 28 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$52,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 45 Mins 41 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.09.25

24 40 51 52 61 17

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 14 Mins 41 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.09.25

5 9 25 28 69 5

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$234,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 14 Mins 41 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 28 of 62

Upcoming Groton Events

03/22/2025 Spring Vendor Fair at the GHS Gym 10am-2pm
03/29/2025 Men's Singles Bowling Tournament at the Jungle 10am, 1pm & 4pm
04/05/2025 Dueling Duo Baseball/Softball Fundraiser at the Legion Post #39, 6-11:30pm
04/06/2025 Pancake Sunday, Historical Society Fundraiser, 10am-1pm, Community Center
04/12/2025 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt at the City Park 10am Sharp
04/12/2025 Groton Firemens Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
05/03/2025 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
05/12/2025 High School Girls Golf Meet at Olive Grove
05/26/2025 Memorial Day Services Groton Union Cemetery with lunch at Legion Post #39, 12pm
06/07/2025 Day of Play
06/13/2025 SDSU 4 Person Scramble at Olive Grove
06/21/2025 Groton Triathlon
06/23/2025 Ladies 2 Person Scramble at Olive Grove
07/04/2025 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
07/09/2025 Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar at the Groton Legion 11am-1pm
07/11-13/25 2025 VFW 12U Class B State Baseball Tournament
07/13/2025 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm
07/16/2025 Men's Pro Am Golf at Olive Grove
07/25/2025 Ferney Open Scramble Golf at Olive Grove
08/01/2025 Wine on Nine Fundraiser at Olive Grove
08/09/2025 2nd Annual Celebration in the Park/Rib Cook-Off 1-9:30pm
08/14/2025 Family Fun Fest, Downtown Main Street 5:30-7:30pm (2nd Thursday)
08/23/2025 Glacial Tournament at Olive Grove
09/05/2025 Homecoming Parade 1pm
09/6-7/25 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

Kurdish separatist fighters in Iraq begin laying down weapons as part of peace process with Turkey

By STELLA MARTANY and QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA Associated Press

SULAYMANIYAH, Iraq (AP) — Fighters with a Kurdish separatist militant group that has waged a decades-long insurgency in Turkey began laying down their weapons in a symbolic ceremony on Friday in northern Iraq, the first concrete step toward a promised disarmament as part of a peace process.

The Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, announced in May that it would disband and renounce armed conflict, ending four decades of hostilities. The move came after PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan, who has been imprisoned on an island near Istanbul since 1999, urged his group in February to convene a congress and formally disband and disarm.

Öcalan renewed his call in a video message broadcast Wednesday, saying, "I believe in the power of politics and social peace, not weapons."

In Turkey, Devlet Bahçeli, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's nationalist ally who initiated the peace process, welcomed the development.

"Starting today, members of the separatist terrorist organization have begun surrendering their weapons in groups, marking historic developments that signal the end of a dark era," Bahçeli said in a written statement. "These are exceptionally important days for both Turkey and our region."

Bahçeli, who has traditionally maintained a hard-line stance against the PKK, had surprised everyone in October, when he suggested in parliament that Öcalan could be granted parole, if he renounced violence and disbanded the PKK.

The PKK issued a statement from the fighters laying down their weapons, who called themselves the "Peace and Democratic Society Group," saying that they had disarmed "as a gesture of goodwill and a commitment to the practical success" of the peace process.

"We will henceforth continue our struggle for freedom, democracy, and socialism through democratic politics and legal means," the statement said.

The ceremony took place in the mountains outside the city of Sulaymaniyah in northern Iraq's semiautonomous Kurdish region. The state-run Iraqi News Agency reported that "the process will take place in stages, with a group of party members initially laying down their weapons symbolically." The disarmament process is expected to be completed by September, the agency reported.

The PKK has long maintained bases in the mountains of northern Iraq. Turkish forces have launched offensives and airstrikes against the PKK in Iraq and have set up bases in the area. Scores of villages have emptied as a result.

Last year, Iraq's government announced an official ban on the separatist group, which has long been prohibited in Turkey.

Journalists weren't allowed at the site of Friday's ceremony.

An Iraqi Kurdish political official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly, said that about 30 fighters took part in the ceremony, which took place in the presence of a representative of the Turkish intelligence service and representatives of the Kurdish regional government, Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan party and the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party, a pro-Kurdish party in Turkey.

PKK officials previously said that in order to continue the disarmament process, they want to see Turkey take steps to end "the regime of isolation" imposed on Öcalan in prison and to allow integration of former militants into the political system.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 30 of 62

Global shares are mostly lower after Wall Street closes at new record highs

By TERESA CEROJANO Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Global shares are mostly down on Friday after Wall Street closed at an all-time high with Delta Air Lines kicking off earnings season with a solid outlook for the rest of 2025, spurring an airline stock rally.

In early European trading, Germany's DAX lost 0.9% to 24,246.86. In Paris, the CAC 40 shed 0.7% to 7,850.46, while Britain's FTSE 100 edged 0.2% down to 8,956.81.

In Asia, shares were mixed. Chinese markets were sharply higher in earlier trading, buoyed by signs of possible additional stimulus measures in China and Goldman Sachs Group's upgrade of Hong Kong stocks to market-weight. The gains were later trimmed, with the Hang Seng in Hong Kong finishing 0.6% higher to 24,172.50, and the Shanghai Composite up 0.1% to 3,510.18.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 closed 0.2% lower to 39,569.68, while South Korea's Kospi shed 0.2% to 3,173.77.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 slipped 0.1% to 8,580.10, and India's BSE Sensex fell 0.8% to 82,518.15.

The S&P 500 futures was down 0.5%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average futures slid 0.6%.

"Just as the market was catching its breath at new highs—drunk on Nvidia fumes and blissfully ignoring the dollar's quiet groan—President Trump tugged the rug again. A new act in the tariff opera: 35% duties on Canadian imports, with a sweeping upgrade in blanket tariffs now floating between 15% and 20%," Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management said in a commentary.

"Asian equities, initially hopeful, wilted into flat lines as if someone had pulled the plug on the optimism generator. There's a growing sense now that risk has become radioactive—tradable, but only in hazmat gloves," he added.

On Thursday, Wall Street added to its recent milestones as the market closed at an all-time high after Delta Air Lines kicked off earnings season with a solid outlook for the second half of the year.

The S&P 500 rose 0.3%, inching past the record it set last week after a better-than-expected June jobs report.

The Nasdaq composite edged up 0.1%, enough of a gain to notch a new high for the second day in a row. The Dow Jones Industrial Average finished 0.4% higher.

Delta surged 12%, bringing other airlines along with it, after beating Wall Street's revenue and profit targets. The Atlanta airline also gave a more optimistic view for the remaining summer travel season than it had just a couple months ago.

The airline and other major U.S. carriers had pulled or slashed their forecasts in the spring, citing macroeconomic uncertainty amid U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff rollouts, which have consumers feeling uneasy about spending on travel.

Meanwhile, bitcoin (BTC-USD) climbed to a new all-time high Thursday, breaking above \$113,000.

The token's price jump came amid bullish momentum across risk assets and coincides with Nvidia's surge to a \$4 trillion valuation. It also comes days before the U.S. Congress' Crypto Week on July 14, where lawmakers will debate a series of bills that could define the regulatory framework for the industry.

In other dealings on Friday, benchmark U.S. crude added 25 cents to \$66.82 per barrel. Brent crude, the international standard for oil prices, advanced 16 cents to \$68.80 per barrel. The dollar was trading at 146.85 Japanese yen, up from 146.20 yen. The euro slid to \$1,1686 from \$1.1704.

Trump plans to tour Texas flood damage as the scope of the disaster tests his pledge to shutter FEMA

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As President Donald Trump heads to Texas on Friday for a firsthand look at the devastation caused by catastrophic flooding, he has remained conspicuously quiet about his previous promises to do away with the federal agency in charge of disaster relief.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 31 of 62

The Trump administration isn't backing away from its pledges to shutter the Federal Emergency Management Agency and return disaster response to the states. But since the July 4 disaster, which has killed at least 120 people, the president and his top aides have focused on the once-in-a-lifetime nature of what occurred and the human tragedy involved rather than the government-slashing crusade that's been popular with Trump's core supporters.

"Nobody ever saw a thing like this coming," Trump told NBC News on Thursday, adding, "This is a once-in-every-200-year deal." He's also suggested he'd have been ready to visit Texas within hours but didn't want to burden authorities still searching for the more than 170 people who are still missing.

Trump's shift in focus underscores how tragedy can complicate political calculations, even though Trump has made slashing the federal workforce and charging ally-turned-antagonist Elon Musk with dramatically shrinking the size of government centerpieces of his administration's opening months.

The president is expected to do an aerial tour of some of the hard-hit areas.

The White House also says he'll visit the state emergency operations center to meet with first responders and relatives of flood victims. Trump will also get a briefing from officials. Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, Sen. John Cornyn and Sen. Ted Cruz are joining the visit, with the GOP senators expected to fly to their state with Trump aboard Air Force One.

It's relatively common for presidents visiting disaster sites to tour the damage by air, a move that can ease the logistical burdens on authorities on the ground.

Trump's predecessor, President Joe Biden, observed the aftermath of Hurricane Helene in western North Carolina and Hurricane Milton in Florida last fall by air before meeting with disaster response officials and victims on the ground.

Trump, though, has also used past disaster response efforts to launch political attacks. While still a candidate trying to win back the presidency, Trump made his own visit to North Carolina after Helene last year and accused the Biden administration of blocking disaster aid to victims in Republican-heavy areas.

First lady Melania Trump will accompany the president Friday, marking the second time this term that she has joined her husband to tour a natural disaster site.

During his first weekend back in the White House, Trump again visited North Carolina to scope out Helene damage and toured the aftermath of devastating wildfires in Los Angeles. But he also used those trips to sharply criticize the Biden administration and California officials.

Trump has promised repeatedly — and as recently as last month — to begin "phasing out" FEMA and bring disaster response management "down to the state level."

During Tuesday's Cabinet meeting, Trump didn't mention those plans and instead praised the federal flooding response. Turning to Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, whose department oversees FEMA, he said, "You had people there as fast as anybody's ever seen."

Pressed this week on whether the White House will continue to work to shutter FEMA, press secretary Karoline Leavitt wouldn't say.

"The president wants to ensure American citizens always have what they need during times of need," Leavitt said. "Whether that assistance comes from states or the federal government, that is a policy discussion that will continue."

While the focus is on FEMA at the federal level, local officials have come under mounting scrutiny over how much they were prepared and how quickly they acted. But not everyone affected has been quick to point fingers.

Darrin Potter, a Kerr County, Texas, resident for 25 years who saw ankle-high flooding in his home and said he knew people killed, said, "As far as early warnings, I'm sure they can improve on that."

But he said all the talk about evacuating was missing something important. The area where a wall of water ripped through was a two-lane road, he said.

"If you would have evacuated at 5 in the morning, all of those people would have been washed away on this road," he said.

During the Cabinet meeting, Noem described traveling to Texas and seeing heartbreaking scenes, including

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 32 of 62

around Camp Mystic, the century-old all-girls Christian summer camp where at least 27 people were killed. "The parents that were looking for their children and picking up their daughter's stuffed animals out of the mud and finding their daughter's shoe that might be laying in the cabin," she said.

Noem said that "just hugging and comforting people matters a lot" and "this is a time for all of us in this country to remember that we were created to serve each other."

But the secretary is also co-chairing a FEMA review council charged with submitting suggestions for how to overhaul the agency in coming months.

"We as a federal government don't manage these disasters. The state does," Noem told Trump on Tuesday.

She also referenced the administration's government-reducing efforts, saying: "We're cutting through the paperwork of the old FEMA. Streamlining it, much like your vision of how FEMA should operate."

Rubio meets China's foreign minister in Malaysia as US-Chinese tensions mount

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio wrapped up his second and final day at a Southeast Asian security conference in a high-stakes meeting with his Chinese counterpart as tensions grow between Washington and Beijing over issues from trade to security and China's support for Russia's war in Ukraine.

After discussions with regional countries at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations forum in Malaysia, Rubio on Friday ended his first official trip to Asia with his first face-to-face talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Neither man nor the delegations spoke to journalists as they posed for photos at the top of the meeting.

The meeting was held less than 24 hours after Rubio met in Kuala Lumpur with another rival, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, during which they discussed potential new avenues to jumpstart Ukraine peace talks.

The meetings come against a backdrop of global and regional unease over U.S. policies, notably on trade and large tariffs that U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened to impose on friend and foe alike.

While Rubio heard complaints about the tariffs from his Southeast Asian counterparts, he told reporters Thursday that many of them focused their discussion on security issues, their concerns about Chinese domination and desire for cooperation with the U.S.

"Of course, it's raised. It's an issue," Rubio said. "But I wouldn't say it solely defines our relationship with many of these countries. There are a lot of other issues that we work together on, and I think there was great enthusiasm that we were here and that we're a part of this."

However, Trump sees China as the biggest threat to the United States in multiple fields, not least technology and trade, and like previous U.S. presidents has watched the country greatly expand its influence globally while turning increasingly assertive in the Indo-Pacific, notably toward its small neighbors over the South China Sea and Taiwan.

Trump has warned of massive tariffs that he could impose on Chinese exports to the United States and preliminary discussions between the two sides have yet to produce significant progress.

Since former President Joe Biden was in office, the U.S. has also accused China of assisting Russia in rebuilding its military industrial sector to help it execute its war against Ukraine. Rubio said the Trump administration shares that view.

"I think the Chinese clearly have been supportive of the Russian effort, and I think that generally they've been willing to help them as much as they can without getting caught," Rubio said Thursday, suggesting the topic would be discussed if he and Wang met.

Rubio and Wang have been shadowboxing during the two-day ASEAN meeting, with each touting the benefits of their partnership to Southeast Asian nations.

Rubio has played up cooperation, including signing a civil-nuclear cooperation agreement with Malaysia, while Wang has railed against Trump's threatened tariffs and projected China as a stable counterweight

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 33 of 62

in talks with Southeast Asian counterparts on the sidelines.

"The U.S. is abusing tariffs, wrecking the free trade system and disrupting the stability of the global supply chain," Wang told his Thai counterpart Maris Sangiampongsa, according to the Chinese foreign ministry.

In a meeting with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn, Wang said that the tariffs are "an attempt to deprive all parties of their legitimate right to development."

"In the face of turbulent global situation, China is willing to be Cambodia's trustworthy and reliable friend and partner," he added.

On Thursday, Wang and Lavrov met and delivered a subtle but unmistakable warning to the United States over Southeast Asia.

"Russia and China both support ASEAN's central role in regional cooperation, are committed to maintaining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, and are wary of certain major powers creating divisions and instigating confrontation in the region," they said, according to Russia's foreign ministry.

But Rubio found support from Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, who said Friday that continued U.S. engagement was crucial for regional stability.

"We want to see a region where no one country dominates and no country is dominated," Wong told reporters when asked about China's rising might in the region. "We want to see a region where there is a balance of power... where there is no coercion or duress."

At the same time, Wong said Australia is committed to maintaining a stable relationship with China, noting that engagement remains the best path forward.

Brazil vows retaliatory tariffs against US if Trump follows through on 50% import taxes

By MAURICIO SAVARESE and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva said Thursday that he will impose retaliatory tariffs on the United States if President Donald Trump follows through on a pledge to boost import taxes by 50% over the South American country's criminal trial against his predecessor, Jair Bolsonaro.

Lula said he will trigger Brazil's reciprocity law approved by Congress earlier this year if negotiations with the U.S. fail.

"If there's no negotiation, the reciprocity law will be put to work. If he charges 50 (% tariffs) from us, we will charge 50 from them," Lula told TV Record in excerpts of an interview that will be fully aired later in the day. "Respect is good. I like to offer mine and I like to receive it."

Lula's comments raise the risk of a tariffs war erupting between the two countries, similar to what has happened between the U.S. and China. Trump has vowed to respond forcefully if countries seek to punish the U.S. by adding tariffs of their own.

The president of Brazil's Senate, Sen. Davi Alcolumbre, and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Hugo Motta, a pair of moderates who have recently been at odds with Lula, agreed that the reciprocity law gives Brazil "the means ... to protect our sovereignty."

"We will be ready to act with balance and firmness in defense of our economy, our productive sector, and the protection of Brazilian jobs," they said in a joint statement.

A new front in the trade war

The tariffs letter that Trump sent to Brazil — and posted on social media Wednesday — railing against the "witch hunt" trial against Bolsonaro opened up a new front in his trade wars, with the U.S. leader directly using import taxes to interfere with another nation's domestic politics.

Trump has already tried to use tariffs to ostensibly combat fentanyl trafficking and as a negotiating tool to change how other nations tax digital services and regulate their economies.

In Brazil's case, Trump is trying to dictate the outcome of the criminal trial of Bolsonaro, an ally who like Trump has been charged with attempting to overturn a presidential election. Bolsonaro maintains that he is being politically persecuted by Brazil's Supreme Court over his charges on the alleged plot to remain in

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 34 of 62

power after his 2022 election loss to Lula.

"There's nothing Lula or Brazil can do about Bolsonaro's trial," said Carlos Melo, a political science professor at Insper University in Sao Paulo. "Any change in that would be Brazil's capitulation. Bolsonaro's situation here won't change. How do you negotiate over that?"

Lula ordered his diplomats on Thursday to return Trump's letter if it physically arrives at the presidential palace in Brasilia. The document attacks the country's judiciary and mentions recent rulings on social media companies among the reasons why goods from the South American nation will have higher tariffs from Aug. 1.

Trade negotiations now 'up in the air'

Trump has initiated his tariffs under the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act, saying in April that the persistent deficit between what the U.S. exports and what it imports is a national crisis.

But the U.S. runs a trade surplus with Brazil, undermining some of the rationale.

A staffer of Brazil's foreign ministry told The Associated Press that trade negotiations that were ongoing since Trump imposed a first set of tariffs in April are now "up in the air."

Some members of the Lula administration say Trump's move is actually aimed at Brazil's connection with other Southern economies, as displayed on Sunday at the summit of BRICS nations hosted in Rio de Janeiro. Brazil's president once again mentioned the hope for an alternative currency to the dollar for transactions, a topic that frequently draws Trump's ire.

"Trump was never worried about democracy anywhere, much less with Bolsonaro's destiny," said Gleisi Hoffmann, Brazil's institutional relations minister.

Brazil's new unity

Trump's interference in Brazilian affairs has brought a sense of unity that was largely absent in the politically divided nation. Some of Bolsonaro's allies claimed Lula had drawn the U.S. president's anger with other decisions, including criticism of Israel's war in Gaza. But other supporters of the former president chose to ask for prudence in negotiations.

Daily O Estado de S. Paulo, a frequent critic of Lula and his administration, said in an editorial on Thursday that Trump's move against the Brazilian government is "a mafia thing." It also said Lula's reaction was correct, a rare feature for the newspaper.

Analysts also see Trump's attempt to interfere in the country's domestic affairs as a potential backfire for Bolsonaro during his trial and a push for Lula, whose reelection bid was facing unpopularity headwinds this year.

Canadians recently elected Mark Carney as prime minister, with his Liberal Party reenergized by Trump's tariffs and threats to make Canada the 51st U.S. state.

"The reaction of a lot of people is that this is a political gift to Lula," said Andre Pagliarini, a professor of history and international studies at Louisiana State University who is also affiliated with the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft.

Thomas Traumann, an independent political consultant and former Brazilian minister, called Trump's move "a game changer" for next year's election.

"Trump put Lula back in the game," Traumann said. "This gives Lula a narrative, puts Bolsonaro as the guilty part for any economic problems."

Exceeding the authority

The U.S. Court of International Trade ruled in May that Trump had exceeded his authority by declaring an emergency to impose tariffs without congressional approval. The Trump administration is appealing that decision, but opponents plan to use his Brazil letter to bolster their case.

"This is a brazenly illegal effort by Donald Trump to sacrifice the economy to settle his own personal scores, and it is far outside his legal authority," said Democratic Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden.

The Republican administration has argued that their tariffs are now relatively harmless for the U.S. economy, since inflation has trended down in recent months. But many companies stockpiled imports to get ahead of the import taxes, and it's unclear what happens when their inventories dwindle and consumers consider the risk of higher prices. Most outside economic analyses expect growth to decline.

In Brazil, Trump's interest in Bolsonaro's trial is expected to weigh over the trial. Media outlets have reported that lawmakers and judges are worried the former president will try to leave Brazil for the U.S. if he is convicted.

Lawmaker Eduardo Bolsonaro, a son of the former president, moved to the U.S. in March. On Wednesday night, he asked his supporters on X to post "their thank you to President Donald Trump."

In Thursday's interview, Lula said the elder Bolsonaro "should take the responsibility for agreeing with Trump's taxation to Brazil."

"His son went there to make up Trump's mind, then he (Trump) writes a letter to speak about a case that is in the hands of the Supreme Court. A case that is not a political trial. What is under investigation is the evidence of the case," Lula said.

A Texas family clung to life on their roof, capturing the terrifying flooding in photos and video

By JESSE BEDAYN Associated Press

Jane Towler was up late in a small cabin along the Guadalupe River as thunder boomed through a thrashing rain. It was 4 a.m. and water was pooling on the floor. Suddenly, her phone rang. It was her friend from a nearby cabin.

"Jane, we're f—ed!" Brian Keeper said frantically. "The water's in my house! Get out!"

Towler's grandfather bought the property in Texas Hill Country in the 1930s, and she's lived through many floods in her 70 years, losing a canoe or chairs here and there. But last Friday was different.

The river would swell 26 feet (nearly 8 meters) in 45 minutes and lay waste to homes and buildings, sweep away cars and trucks, and claim the lives of more than 100 people, including many summer campers.

Towler didn't know how bad things would get, but the fear in Keeper's voice kicked her into flight mode.

Pulling shoes onto bare feet, she ran in her pajamas toward the nearby house where her son, Alden Towler, and family friend Shabd Simon-Alexander were sleeping, along with Simon-Alexander's toddler daughter.

Towler, her son and Simon-Alexander chronicled their harrowing survival in several videos and hundreds of photos shared with The Associated Press.

Realizing the situation was worsening

When her son awoke to Simon-Alexander's desperate screams, the water was already ankle deep.

"Who do we tell? We have to tell someone," Simon-Alexander said in one of the videos.

"Everything in our yard has floated away," Jane Towler said as her video captured the muddy water rising in the kitchen. Simon-Alexander's daughter was quiet, strapped to her mother's chest.

"Okay, I want us to be prepared to go up in the attic," Jane Towler said.

Alden Towler got busy stacking belongings on a bed in another room to keep them dry. But Simon-Alexander pointed out the futility.

"When your mom got here, there was no water on the ground," she said.

With the water now at his knees and him still in just underwear, Alden Towler shifted priorities and grabbed a bottle of water and peanuts.

"What if we go up hill?" he asked.

"We can't get out! The whole area is flooded! OK, do you want to go see? I don't want you to get flash flooded away, Alden!" his mother said as she opened the hatch to the attic.

As the fridge toppled over with a splash, their narrowing options crystalized.

"What do we do to be safe? Go on the roof?" asked Jane Towler.

"I guess we go on the roof," her son replied.

A climb into darkness

Simon-Alexander consoled her daughter. Five days earlier, they celebrated the girl's first birthday with pancakes, balloons and a canoe ride.

Now, Simon-Alexander stood with her baby, the water up to her thighs. Looking back, she said at that point she was sure they would drown, either where they were or in the attic. But in the video, she calmed

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 36 of 62

her daughter in a gentle voice, telling her, "Yeah, it's a lot. It's a lot, baby."

Then darkness.

"Oh my god!" said Simon-Alexander.

"The electricity went out?" said Jane Towler. "That's good." No electrocution.

At 4:16 a.m. and with the furniture floating, Jane Towler called 911 from atop the kitchen counter.

"You have to help us," Simon-Alexander pleaded into the speaker-phone. "We are going to die."

The dispatcher, calm and kind, couldn't promise rescue anytime soon, but urged them to get as far away from the water as they could, and stay alive. They then pulled themselves into the attic.

Through the hatch, they watched water silently rise in the kitchen below. Then they heard the eerie clinking of plates and glasses as it swirled around the cabinets and neared the ceiling.

Glimpsing the destruction

Alden found a vent to the roof, punched it out, and they eventually climbed through. Water licked the roofline. Screams pierced the thunder as people called for each other across the valley. Car horns blared nonstop and vehicles floated past them, lit by lightning. The river smelled of sewage.

Huddled on the roof, Simon-Alexander sang to her daughter. It was a song from Mexico called "La Caña" that she'd sung through pregnancy.

There was a boom, and then a drawn out splintering noise that carried through the cacophony. The house quivered.

Their neighbor's house, buoyed by the swollen river, appeared to have smashed into the cabin Jane Towler had been staying in and torn it from its foundation. It then slammed into the house they were huddled on and a tree between the two structures before coming to a stop.

Alden thought of loved ones — his ex-girlfriend of eight years, her father — like flipping through final prayers.

Simon-Alexander sang another tune.

They were preparing to spend days on the roof, conserving their water, peanuts and the flashlight's battery, switching it on only every so often to check the river level.

It had dropped 4 inches (10 centimeters). Then later, a foot (30 centimeters).

Making it to safety

The sun began to rise at around 6:30 a.m., illuminating the transformed world around them. They shouted to cars that were driving on the road up the hill, and were eventually helped off the roof and driven to a church where others were gathering.

"That's really where the real horror begins," said Alden Towler, who is certified as a wilderness first responder.

With their medical training — Jane Towler is a retired labor and delivery nurse — they helped two doctors tend to the injured.

Alden Tower helped a 5-year-old boy whose shin was split open to the bone.

"We spent the night in a tree!" he recalls the boy saying.

The boy's 3-year-old sister was still missing. So was his father, two of his grandparents and his aunt. The aunt arrived hours later, missing fingertips after a house crashed into the tree she was clinging to.

To the Towlers and Simon-Alexander, the scene was a mix of horror and generosity. A man asked Alden Towler if he had his wallet, which he didn't, and the man handed him \$300.

Five days later, Alden Towler's voice still cracked with emotion when he described in the community the "unstoppable drive to help people."

Justin Bieber releases 'Swag,' his long-awaited seventh album

By MARIA SHERMAN AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Never say never! Justin Bieber surprised fans Friday by releasing "Swag," his seventh studio album, hours after he teased it on billboards and social media posts.

It is his first album since 2021's "Justice" and his first since becoming a father last year.

"Inspired by his devotion as a husband and father, this new era of music has fueled a deeper perspective and more reflective sound, resulting in some of his most personal music yet," Def Jam Recordings said of the 21-track album.

Billboards depicting Bieber were found by fans Thursday in Reykjavik, Iceland, and Los Angeles. The singer also shared images of billboards on his official Instagram account along with a tracklist that included song names like "All I Can Take," "Walking Away," "Dadz Love" and "Forgiveness."

Bieber, the two-time Grammy Award winning singer and Canadian pop idol who revolutionized teen pop and social media fame, is best known for his silky R&B pop lyric tenor, demonstrated on the diamond-selling "Baby," "Sorry," and "Stay" with the Kid Laroi. At the beginning of his career, and as a tween, Bieber began working with Usher and the influential music manager Scooter Braun.

In 2023, Bieber sold the rights to his music — all six of his albums, including hits like "Sorry" and "Baby" — to Hipgnosis, a U.K.-based music investment company. The deal's financial details were not disclosed, but Billboard Magazine reports that the sale was worth an estimated \$200 million.

In August 2024, Bieber and his wife, the model Hailey Bieber (nee Baldwin), announced the birth of their first child, Jack Blues Bieber.

Federal officials say a prominent Georgia Republican was running a \$140 million Ponzi scheme

By JEFF AMY Associated Press

NEWNAN, Ga. (AP) — A prominent Georgia Republican was running a Ponzi scheme that defrauded 300 investors of at least \$140 million, federal officials alleged in a complaint filed Thursday.

The civil lawsuit by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission said First Liberty Building and Loan, controlled by Brant Frost IV, lied to investors about its business of making high-interest loans to companies. Instead, investigators said, it raised more money to repay earlier investors.

Frost is alleged to have taken more than \$19 million of investor funds for himself, his family and affiliated companies even as the business was going broke, spending \$160,000 on jewelry and \$335,000 with a rare coin dealer. Frost is also said to have spent \$320,000 to rent a vacation home over multiple years in Kennebunkport, Maine, the town where the family of late president George H. W. Bush famously spent summers.

The SEC said Frost kept writing checks even after the commission began its investigation

First Liberty said last month that it would stop making loans and paying interest and principal to investors in those loans. The company said it was not answering phone calls or emails.

First Liberty has not responded to an email seeking comment, and no one was present at its office Thursday evening in Newnan, a suburb southwest of Atlanta. A lawyer who acts as the company's registered agent for corporate purposes said earlier that he had no information.

The collapse rocked the religious and political networks that the business drew investors from. It also could have ramifications in state Republican politics, cutting off funding to the far-right candidates that Frost and his family have favored. Investigators said Frost spent \$570,000 from investor funds on political contributions.

The SEC said the business had only \$2.67 million in cash as of May 30, although regulators are also seeking to claw back money from Frost and associated companies. With 300 investors out \$140 million, that means the average investor put in nearly \$500,000.

First Liberty said it made loans to companies that needed cash while they waited for more conventional loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration. It charged high rates of interest — 18% on some loans, according to a document obtained by The Associated Press. First Liberty promised investors equally high rates of return — 16% on the 18% loans.

In recent months the business advertised heavily on conservative radio shows promising "Wall Street returns for Main Street investors."

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 38 of 62

"The promise of a high rate of return on an investment is a red flag that should make all potential investors think twice or maybe even three times before investing their money," Justin C. Jeffries, associate director of enforcement for the SEC's Atlanta Regional Office, said in a statement.

The company has represented that it is "cooperating with federal authorities as part of an effort to accomplish an orderly wind-up of the business." The SEC said Frost and his companies agreed to the SEC's enforcement actions "with monetary remedies to be determined by the court at a later date."

While the SEC says there were loans to companies, as many as 90% of those companies have defaulted. By 2021 the company was running as a Ponzi scheme, the complaint said, even as Frost withdrew increasing amounts of money.

The business is being investigated by the Georgia secretary of state for possible violations of securities law said Robert Sinners, a spokesperson for the office.

A 2023 document obtained by the AP is titled as a "promissory note," and Sinners said anyone issuing promissory notes is supposed to be registered with Georgia securities officials.

Sinners encouraged any victims to contact the state Securities Division.

Federal prosecutors have declined to comment on whether they are considering criminal charges. Sometimes both an SEC civil case and a federal criminal case are filed over investment frauds.

Frost has been an important player in Georgia politics since 1988, when he coordinated televangelist Pat Robertson's Republican presidential bid in the state. His son, Brant Frost V, is chairman of the Coweta County Republican Party, where the company is based, and is a former second vice-chair of the state Republican Party. Daughter Katie Frost is Republican chairman of the 3rd Congressional District, which includes Coweta County and other areas southwest of Atlanta.

At last month's state Republican convention, Katie Frost chaired a nominating committee that recommended delegates reelect state Party Chairman Josh McKoon. Delegates followed that recommendation, rejecting a number of insurgent candidates.

Head Start will be cut off for immigrants without legal status, Trump administration says

BY ANNIE MA AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration will restrict immigrants in the country illegally from enrolling in Head Start, a federally funded preschool program, the Department of Health and Human Services announced Thursday. The move is part of a broad effort to limit access to federal benefits for immigrants who lack legal status.

People in the country illegally are largely ineligible for federal public benefits such as food stamps, student loans and financial aid for higher education. But for decades they have been able to access some community-level programs such as Head Start and community health centers.

HHS said it will reclassify those programs as federal public benefits, excluding immigrants in the country illegally from accessing them. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said the changes were part of a larger effort to protect American citizens' interests.

"For too long, the government has diverted hardworking Americans' tax dollars to incentivize illegal immigration," Kennedy said in a statement. "Today's action changes that — it restores integrity to federal social programs, enforces the rule of law, and protects vital resources for the American people."

A spokesperson for the Administration for Children and Families, which administers Head Start, said that eligibility will be determined based on the child's immigration status.

Requiring proof of immigration status would likely create fear and confusion among families seeking to enroll their children, said Yasmina Vinci, executive director of the National Head Start Association.

"This decision undermines the fundamental commitment that the country has made to children and disregards decades of evidence that Head Start is essential to our collective future," Vinci said.

The changes are part of a multi-agency announcement rescinding an interpretation of federal law dating to former President Bill Clinton's administration, which had allowed immigrants in the country illegally to

access some programs. The Education Department, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Labor announced similar changes affecting a range of workforce development and adult education programs.

The changes will affect community health centers that immigrants rely on for a wide range of services, said Shelby Gonzales, vice president of immigration policy at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

"People depend on those services to get cancer treatment, to get ongoing maintenance for a variety of different health needs," she said.

Students in the country illegally will no longer be eligible to participate in postsecondary career and technical education programs or adult education programs, the Education Department announced. The department also issued a notice to grant recipients to ensure programs receiving federal money do not provide services to immigrants without legal status.

Education advocates said the decision would harm young people who have grown up in this country. EdTrust Vice President Augustus Mays said the intention appears to be creating fear among immigrant communities.

"Policies like this don't exist in a vacuum," Mays said. "They are rooted in a political agenda that scapegoats immigrants and uses fear to strip rights and resources from the most vulnerable among us."

Head Start was started six decades ago as part of Democratic President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty. It operates in all 50 states, providing preschool, developmental therapy and child care for families who are homeless or are in poverty.

UN investigator and critic of Israel's actions in Gaza tells AP she was shocked by US sanctions

By AMER COHADZIC undefined

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — An independent U.N. investigator and outspoken critic of Israel's actions in Gaza said Thursday that "it was shocking" to learn that the Trump administration had imposed sanctions on her but defiantly stood by her view on the war.

Francesca Albanese said in an interview with The Associated Press that the powerful were trying to silence her for defending those without any power of their own, "other than standing and hoping not to die, not to see their children slaughtered."

"This is not a sign of power, it's a sign of guilt," the Italian human rights lawyer said.

The State Department's decision to impose sanctions on Albanese, the U.N. special rapporteur for the West Bank and Gaza, followed an unsuccessful U.S. pressure campaign to force the Geneva-based Human Rights Council, the U.N.'s top human rights body, to remove her from her post.

She is tasked with probing human rights abuses in the Palestinian territories and has been vocal about what she has described as the "genocide" by Israel against Palestinians in Gaza. Both Israel and the U.S. have strongly denied that accusation.

"Albanese's campaign of political and economic warfare against the United States and Israel will no longer be tolerated," Secretary of State Marco Rubio posted on social media. "We will always stand by our partners in their right to self-defense."

The U.S. announced the sanctions Wednesday as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was visiting Washington to meet with President Donald Trump and other officials about reaching a ceasefire deal in the war in Gaza. Netanyahu faces an arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court, which accuses him of crimes against humanity in his military offensive in Gaza.

In the interview, Albanese accused American officials of receiving Netanyahu with honor and standing side-by-side with someone wanted by the ICC, a court that neither the U.S. nor Israel is a member of or recognizes. Trump imposed sanctions on the court in February.

"We need to reverse the tide, and in order for it to happen — we need to stand united," she said. "They cannot silence us all. They cannot kill us all. They cannot fire us all."

Albanese stressed that the only way to win is to get rid of fear and to stand up for the Palestinians and

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 40 of 62

their right to an independent state.

The Trump administration's stand "is not normal," she said at the Sarajevo airport. She also defiantly repeated, "No one is free until Palestine is free."

Albanese was en route to Friday's 30th anniversary commemoration of the 1995 massacre in Srebrenica where more than 8,000 Bosniak Muslim men and boys in a U.N.-protected safe zone were killed when it was overrun by Bosnian Serbs.

The United Nations, Human Rights Watch and the Center for Constitutional Rights opposed the U.S. move. "The imposition of sanctions on special rapporteurs is a dangerous precedent" and "is unacceptable," U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

While Albanese reports to the Human Rights Council — not Secretary-General Antonio Guterres — the U.S. and any other U.N. member are entitled to disagree with reports by the independent rapporteurs, "but we encourage them to engage with the U.N. human rights architecture."

Trump announced the U.S. was withdrawing from the council in February.

The war between Israel and Hamas began Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel and killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took 251 people captive. Israel's retaliatory campaign has killed over 57,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which says women and children make up most of the dead but does not specify how many were fighters or civilians.

Nearly 21 months into the conflict that displaced the vast majority of Gaza's 2.3 million people, the U.N. says hunger is rampant after a lengthy Israeli blockade on food entering the territory and medical care is extremely limited.

UK and France agree to send some migrants arriving in Britain by boat back to France

By JILL LAWLESS and DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain and France agreed Thursday to a pilot plan that will send some migrants who cross the English Channel on small boats back to France as the U.K. government struggles to tamp down criticism that it has lost control of the country's borders.

U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron announced the deal Thursday in London. While the initial program a limited number of people, U.K. officials suggest it is a major breakthrough because it sets a precedent that migrants who reach Britain illegally can be returned to France.

"There is no silver bullet here, but with a united effort, new tactics and a new level of intent, we can finally turn the tables," Starmer told reporters at a news conference. "For the very first time, migrants arriving via small boat will be detained and returned to France in short order."

Under the agreement, Britain will send some of those who cross the Channel in small boats back to France while accepting an equal number migrants who are judged to have legitimate claims to asylum in the U.K.

Starmer had pushed for the arrangement, known as the "one in, one out" deal, in hopes of discouraging people from making the dangerous crossing. It is set to begin in weeks.

Small boat crossings have become a potent political issue in Britain, fueled by pictures of smugglers piling migrants into overcrowded, leaky inflatable boats on the French coast. So far this year, more than 21,000 people have arrived in the UK in small boats, up 56% from the same period last year.

The crossing is dangerous and many have died.

"I'm totally committed to make it work, because this is clearly our willingness and our common interest," Macron said. He added that the point of the pilot was a "deterrence" effect.

The measure announced Thursday is part of broader efforts to build closer cooperation with France, as well as countries further up the migrants' routes from Africa and the Middle East.

British officials have been pushing for French police to intervene more forcefully to stop boats once they have left the shore, and welcomed the sight of officers slashing rubber dinghies with knives in recent days.

Macron said earlier this week that he and Starmer would aim for "tangible results" on an issue that's "a burden for our two countries."

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 41 of 62

An issue that has dogged relations between France and that U.K.

As far back as 2001, the two countries were discussing ways to stop the flow of migrants, though at that time they were focused on people stowing away on trains and trucks entering Britain through the tunnel under the channel.

Over the following years, French authorities cleared out camps near Calais where thousands of migrants gathered before trying to reach Britain. Beefed up security sharply reduced the number of vehicle stowaways, but from about 2018 people-smugglers began offering migrants a new route by sea.

"You see that pattern again and again, where smuggling gangs and migrants try to find new ways to cross from France to the U.K.," said Mihnea Cuibus, a researcher at the University of Oxford's Migration Observatory. "The authorities crack down on that, and then gradually you see migrants and gangs try to adapt to that. And it becomes a bit of a game of cat and mouse."

Cooperation on stopping the boats stalled after Britain's acrimonious split from the European Union in 2020, but in the past few years the countries have struck several agreements that saw the U.K. pay France to increase police and drone patrols of the coast.

Britain's previous Conservative government came up with a contentious plan in 2022 to deport asylum-seekers arriving by boat to Rwanda. Critics called it unworkable and unethical, and it was scrapped by Starmer soon after he took office in July 2024.

Cuibus said irregular cross-channel migration would likely always be a challenge, but that the measures being discussed by Britain and France could make an impact, "if they're implemented in the right way."

"But that's a big if," he said.

Summit yields deals on defense cooperation plans

The UK-France summit came after a three-day state visit that stressed the longstanding ties between the two countries despite the rupture caused by Britain's departure from the European Union. Punctuated by carriage rides, banquets and champagne toasts, the two leaders hugged and offered a picture of unity — a step forward to greater cooperation in the future.

The bonhomie was followed by concrete actions. The two leaders sealed deals on defense cooperation, including a pledge to coordinate their nuclear deterrents for the first time.

"Now as Europe's only nuclear powers and as leaders in NATO, we play a vital role in preserving the peace and security on this continent," Starmer said.

"From today, our adversaries will know that any extreme threat to this continent would prompt a response from our two nations," Starmer added.

Progress made on assisting Ukraine

Also Thursday Macron and Starmer visited a military base and dialed in to a planning meeting of the "coalition of the willing," a U.K.- and France-initiated plan for an international force to guarantee a future ceasefire in Ukraine.

Americans attended the meeting for the first time, including retired Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg, U.S. President Donald Trump's special envoy to Ukraine and Russia. Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham and Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal, who have co-sponsored a new sanctions bill against Russia, were also at the table.

The group agreed to set up its headquarters in Paris to facilitate a rapid deployment after the war ends.

Mourning begins in Texas where more than 170 are still missing from flash floods

By NADIA LATHAN, SEAN MURPHY, and JOSHUA A. BICKEL Associated Press

KERRVILLE, Texas (AP) — Shock has turned into grief across Texas where at least 120 people died from flash floods and more were missing as the search for victims moved methodically along endless miles of rivers and rubble Thursday.

Photos of those who have died along with a colorful array of flowers and candles now decorate a fence in Hill Country — a growing tribute that reflects the enormity of the disaster in the region.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 42 of 62

The victims include three friends who had gathered for the July Fourth weekend, 8-year-old sisters who were at summer camp and a 91-year-old grandmother known for her sharp wit.

More than 170 people have been reported missing, most in Kerr County, where nearly 100 victims have been recovered. The death toll remained at 120 Thursday, nearly a week since the floods first hit.

Authorities say they have carefully gone over the list of those unaccounted for, but those numbers are often tough to pin down in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.

The unrelenting power of the floods forced families to make unnerving escapes with little time to spare in the middle of the night. One woman recounted how she and others, including a toddler, first climbed into an attic and then onto a roof where they heard screams and watched vehicles float past. Photos and videos captured their ordeal.

The aftermath

More than 2,000 local, state and federal workers were involved in the search for victims. Stifling heat and mounds of trees, hunks of lumber and trash made the task more difficult.

At a small shopping center damaged in the floods, people piled debris gathered from the rivers. Officials hope to eventually set aside personal items so residents find their possessions.

A disaster recovery center managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the state of Texas and the Small Business Administration opened Thursday at the First Baptist Church in Kerrville, offering survivors a hub to register for federal assistance and other services. Only a few people passed through the quiet church gymnasium in the late afternoon.

"The word's not out yet, the first few days are always slow," said Laurie Fried, long term recovery specialist for The Salvation Army in Texas.

A row of brooms and buckets filled with cleaning supplies stood behind the nonprofit Community Council of South Central Texas' table, where staff were distributing grocery store gift cards for income-qualified households and offering financial assistance for hotel stays and utility bills.

The cleaning kits were for those mucking out flooded homes, but the council's community service coordinator, Nina Ruiz, said they had only passed out about seven of them that day. "A lot of the people don't have homes to clean up," she said.

On Wednesday, hundreds prayed, wept and held one another at a prayer service, among the first of many somber gatherings to come in the weeks ahead.

"Our communities were struck with tragedy literally in the darkness," said Wyatt Wentrcek, a youth minister.

David Garza drove more than an hour to support his loved ones.

"I'm from here, and I was here in the '78 flood and the '87 flood," Garza said. "I just wanted to be a part of this."

Some at the service wore green ribbons for the girls from Camp Mystic, the century-old Christian summer camp where at least 27 campers and counselors died.

Parents of children who were at the many summer camps in Hill Country have credited the teenage counselors with ushering campers to safety and helping keep them calm during the chaos.

Calls for better flood preparation in the future

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott called on state lawmakers to approve funding for new warning systems and emergency communications in flood prone areas when the Legislature meets later this month. Abbott also asked for financial relief for the response and recovery efforts.

"We must ensure better preparation for such events in the future," he said in a statement Wednesday.

Public officials in the area have come under repeated criticism amid questions about the timeline of what happened and why widespread warnings were not sounded and more preparations were not made.

Kerr County Sheriff Larry Leitha has said those questions will be answered after the victims are recovered.

Local leaders have talked for years about the need for a flood warning system, but concerns about costs and noise led to missed opportunities to put up sirens.

President Donald Trump has pledged to provide whatever relief Texas needs to recover and is planning

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 43 of 62

to visit the state Friday.

Polls taken before the floods show Americans largely believe the federal government should play a major role in preparing for and responding to natural disasters, which are becoming a growing worry. On Tuesday, a deluge in New Mexico triggered flash floods that killed three people.

The devastation in Texas stretched from Hill Country all the way to just outside the state's capital. At least 15 people died in the Austin area and adjacent counties.

Just north of Austin, floodwaters from the San Gabriel River swamped two RV parks in Georgetown.

Teri Hoffman watched the water lift up her camper with her two dogs inside.

"The camper just kind of goes over on its side and starts floating. And then all the other campers just started crashing into it," she said.

Rescuers were able to save the dogs and she managed to dig out the last picture she has of her late mother. Everything else from the RV where she lived with her husband and children is gone, she said.

"I couldn't look at it," Hoffman said. "I had to walk away."

Texas officials are trying to figure out who's really missing from the floods

By ED WHITE Associated Press

This week in Texas, estimates put the number of people still missing from the Hill Country floods at more than 170, a daunting figure atop at least 120 deaths confirmed by authorities.

But that missing person tally might not be as precise as it seems.

Confusion and uncertainty can take hold after a shocking disaster and, despite best efforts by local authorities, it can be difficult to pin down how many people reported missing are actually unaccounted for. Some people on a list after California's Camp Fire wildfire in 2018 were later found to be OK the whole time. The death count in the 2023 Maui fire was 102, far below the 1,100 people initially feared missing.

In Texas, several hundred people were reported missing to officials in Kerr County after the Fourth of July floods, said Freeman Martin, director of the Texas Department of Public Safety. Investigators whittled that number down by Tuesday after learning that some were counted twice and others were found alive.

"There's nothing to celebrate about how well we've done this far, but there's a lot of work to be done," Martin said.

Authorities announced a phone number and email address for people to report missing friends or family.

"We need to keep an accurate count, as accurate as possible," Jonathan Lamb of the Kerrville Police Department said in a plea to the public Wednesday. "So if you've reported somebody missing and they've been recovered safely, please let us know."

The flooding sent walls of water through Hill Country in the middle of the night, killing at least 27 campers and counselors at Camp Mystic, a century-old all-girls Christian summer camp along the Guadalupe River. More remain missing from that camp and elsewhere.

The search in 88-degree Fahrenheit heat (31 degrees Celsius) has been made harder by overturned cars, trees, mud and other debris left in the wake of the ferocious flood.

"We will not stop until every missing person is accounted for," Gov. Greg Abbott said. "Know this also: There very likely could be more added to that list."

In 2017, more than 20 people died in the Tubbs fire in northern California. Sgt. Juan Valencia of the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office recalled that most of the 100 people initially reported missing to his agency were found safe.

Working through a list of names in a disaster is both meticulous and time-consuming work, he said.

"Put yourself in a family member's shoes," Valencia said. "They're concerned about their loved one. Are they really the victim of a disaster or did they maybe lose their cellphone? Basically you start calling temporary shelters, check family, friends. You check social media. That's how we were able to get a lot of those."

And he acknowledged that searching for victims of a water disaster poses distinct challenges.

"Sometimes you find them miles away," Valencia said.

The 2018 Camp Fire in California ended up killing nearly 100 people, though Butte County investigators at one point had the names of more than 3,000 people who were not accounted for in the early days of the disaster, Sheriff Kory Honea said.

"They were published in our local paper, the Chico Enterprise-Record. Many people didn't know we were looking for them. That helped us start to whittle that list down," Honea said.

Abbott said Texas authorities were trying to learn more about people who were not registered at a camp or a hotel for the holiday and left no paper or digital trail in the Hill Country region. He had a firm message for anyone contacting police about a missing person.

"If you make a prank call or provide false information, that's a crime. ... So you better be correct," the governor said.

Workers raced for miles in the dark to escape being trapped after tunnel collapsed in Los Angeles

By JULIE WATSON and CHRISTOPHER WEBER Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After a section of a large industrial tunnel caved in, more than two dozen construction workers who were hundreds of feet below the streets of Los Angeles raced for miles in the dark — clambering over towering debris, terrified of being trapped, according to descriptions by their family members and officials Thursday, a day after the collapse.

Remarkably, all 31 workers escaped to safety Wednesday night and none suffered any major injuries.

Fire Department Chief Ronnie Villanueva said the workers had to make it through the most treacherous part themselves, climbing over more than 12 feet (3.6 meters) of loose dirt before rescuers could reach them and drive them to the only opening.

The tunnel, which is 18 feet (5.5 meters) wide and 7 miles (11.3 kilometers) long, is under the Wilmington neighborhood, a heavily industrial area filled with oil refineries just north of the Port of Los Angeles. It is a nearly \$700 million project that's designed to carry treated wastewater to the Pacific Ocean.

The workers were 400 feet (121 meters) underground and as much as 6 miles (9.6 kilometers) away from the only exit, said Michael Chee, spokesperson for the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts.

A transport vehicle had taken them in to supervise the operations of a machine that digs out the corridor and then builds the tunnel at the same time and uses the panels that are installed to move itself forward, Chee said.

When they learned of the collapse, they ran back and hopped aboard the transport vehicle that had taken them into the tunnel, but it could only move for a mile before it encountered the debris.

"What we understand is the men who were in front of the collapse had approximately 6 to 8 feet of space above the debris where they were able to clamber over," Chee said.

After that, the workers — still in the dark, frightened and miles from the opening — continued on foot until rescuers were able to reach them and help them onto vehicles to take them to the shaft where a cage carried them out.

Aerial footage showed a crane hoisting workers out of the tunnel in a yellow cage.

"They're shaken up," Chess said, adding that the workers will be taking time to recover and all work has been halted.

Escaping in the dark

Araly Orozco said her three brothers who were in there are too traumatized to speak to journalists. After escaping, one came out crying.

"He told me he thought he was going to die underground," she said.

She said they described to her what they experienced: That night they heard a hissing sound after they got to their area of work, which took them an hour to get to by the transport vehicle.

As they worked in the dark with only headlamps, "They heard like a psss sound, like air was going out, like pressure was escaping, and they didn't know what it was," Orozco said.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 45 of 62

A while later, a couple of workers were heading back through the tunnel toward the opening when debris started raining down, the brothers told her. One worker ran back to alert the others while the other worker rushed ahead to get to the opening and call for help, Orozco said.

The group had to squeeze through a tiny hole that she said her brother feared he would not fit through. Water was rushing in so strong it pulled at the transport vehicle, she said. Her brother told her at one point the water reached up to his waist and he struggled to breathe because it seemed like the tunnel was losing oxygen.

"They felt helpless," she said.

Digging underground

The project has been underway for two years without any problems, Chee said.

"The tunnel boring machine has been digging under streets, public right-of-ways, homes, parks, lakes, ponds, golf courses without incident until now," he said.

Officials will investigate to determine the cause, Chee said.

"What our people and what our contractors and their specialists are going to do is a full assessment," he said. "Everything from the engineering to the structural integrity to the safety, and obviously a very close inspection and look at the actual collapse point in the tunnel before anything else is done."

Working so near the shoreline and at such a depth means crews could have been contending with very wet conditions that add challenges during design and digging, said Maria Mohammed, president of the Structural Engineers Association of Southern California.

"You would design not just for the pressure from the soil and the weight of the soil, you have to design for the pressure from the water," said Mohammed, whose group is not involved in the Wilmington project.

Mohammed said the investigation could take months, if not longer. It will take some time just to make the tunnel safe for investigators to enter. Once inside, they'll try to determine where the collapse originated, she said.

"It all comes down to, what's the first element that broke?" Mohammed said. "Usually a collapse is a propagating thing. One thing fails and it takes other things with it. So you would try to figure out, of the broken elements, which one broke first."

Getting out safely

City Councilmember Tim McOskey praised the workers for keeping cool heads.

"This is a highly technical, difficult project. And they knew exactly what to do. They knew how to secure themselves," he said. "Thank goodness for the good people that were down in the tunnel."

Mayor Karen Bass said at a news conference that she met with some of the workers.

"I know when we raced down here I was so concerned that we were going to find tragedy. Instead, what we found was victory," Bass said.

Stocks close higher, nudging the S&P 500 and Nasdaq to more highs

By ALEX VEIGA AP Business Writer

Wall Street added to its recent milestones Thursday as the market closed at an all-time high after Delta Air Lines kicked off earnings season with a solid outlook for the rest of 2025, spurring an airline stock rally.

The S&P 500 rose 0.3%, inching past the record it set last week after a better-than-expected June jobs report.

The Nasdaq composite edged up 0.1%, enough of a gain to notch a new high for the second day in a row. The Dow Jones Industrial Average finished 0.4% higher.

Delta surged 12%, bringing other airlines along with it, after beating Wall Street's revenue and profit targets. The Atlanta airline also gave a more optimistic view for the remaining summer travel season than it had just a couple months ago.

The airline and other major U.S. carriers had pulled or slashed their forecasts in the spring, citing macro-economic uncertainty amid President Donald Trump's tariff rollouts, which have consumers feeling uneasy

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 46 of 62

about spending on travel.

"Companies are becoming more confident in the range of outcomes for tariffs," said Michael Antonelli, market strategist at Baird. "Companies are starting to understand what the playing field looks like a little bit better, even though we continue to have these kind of tariff announcements that get bounced back and forth."

Delta's encouraging report boosted the entire airline sector. United jumped 14.3%, American climbed 12.7%, JetBlue gained 7.8% and Southwest finished 8.1% higher.

The market has been steadying following a downbeat start to the week as the Trump administration renewed its push to use threats of higher tariffs on goods imported into the U.S. in hopes of securing new trade agreements with countries around the globe.

Wednesday had been initially set as a deadline by Trump for countries to make deals with the U.S. or face heavy increases in tariffs. But with just two trade deals announced since April, one with the United Kingdom and one with Vietnam, the window for negotiations has now been extended to Aug. 1. That's given Wall Street a breather just in time for the start of corporate earnings season.

Wall Street analysts predict that companies in the S&P 500 will deliver 5% growth in second-quarter earnings, according to FactSet. That would mark the lowest rate since the fourth quarter of 2023.

Conagra Brands fell 4.4% Thursday after the maker of Slim Jim, Swiss Miss and other food products reported earnings and revenue that fell short of Wall Street's estimates. The company also lowered its earnings outlook, saying it expects continued cost increases due to tariffs.

Helen of Troy, the company behind Hydro Flask water bottles and OXO kitchen tools, sank 22.7% after its latest quarterly results came in below Wall Street's forecasts. The company said it would not be providing a fiscal year 2026 outlook, citing uncertainty over tariff policy and the economy.

Shares in AZZ rose 5.5% after the electrical equipment maker's latest quarterly earnings topped analysts' forecasts.

Earnings season shifts into high gear next week with JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo and Citigroup among the big banks due to report their results on Tuesday.

Beyond airlines, most of the sectors in the S&P 500 notched gains Thursday, led by banks and consumer-focused companies. JPMorgan and McDonald's each rose 1.8%.

Technology and communication services stocks were the only laggards. Autodesk fell 6.9% and Netflix ended 2.9% lower.

Shares of WK Kellogg vaulted 30.6% after Italian candy maker Ferrero agreed to acquire the cereal company in a deal valued at roughly \$3.1 billion. The transaction includes the manufacturing, marketing and distribution of WK Kellogg Co.'s portfolio of breakfast cereals across the United States, Canada and the Caribbean.

Shares in mining company Freeport-McMoRan rose 3.6% after Trump said a 50% tariff on copper imports would take effect on Aug. 1. The price of copper rose 1.9% to \$5.59 per pound.

All told, the S&P 500 rose 17.20 points to 6,280.46. The Dow added 192.34 points to 44,650.64. The Nasdaq gained 19.33 points to 20,630.66.

In economic news, the Labor Department reported Thursday that applications for unemployment benefits, a proxy for layoffs, fell last week, remaining in the historically healthy range they've been in the past couple of years.

Bond yields mostly rose, although the yield on the 10-year Treasury held steady at 4.34%.

European stock indexes closed mixed Thursday following an uneven finish in Asian markets.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 fell 0.4%, weighed down by selling of exporters' shares amid the yen's appreciation, which cuts profits from exports, and dampened sentiment because of the lack of progress in the Japan-U.S. trade talks.

AI device startup that sued OpenAI and Jony Ive is now suing its own ex-employee over trade secrets

By MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Writer

A secretive competition to pioneer a new way of communicating with artificial intelligence chatbots is getting a messy public airing as OpenAI fights a trademark dispute over its stealth hardware collaboration with legendary iPhone designer Jony Ive.

In the latest twist, tech startup iyO Inc., which already sued Ive and OpenAI CEO Sam Altman for trademark infringement, is now suing one of its own former employees for allegedly leaking a confidential drawing of iyO's unreleased product.

At the heart of this bitter legal wrangling is a big idea: we shouldn't need to stare at computer or phone screens or talk to a box like Amazon's Alexa to interact with our future AI assistants in a natural way. And whoever comes up with this new AI interface could profit immensely from it.

OpenAI, maker of ChatGPT, started to outline its own vision in May by buying io Products, a product and engineering company co-founded by Ive, in a deal valued at nearly \$6.5 billion. Soon after, iyO sued for trademark infringement for the similar sounding name and because of the firms' past interactions.

U.S. District Judge Trina Thompson ruled last month that iyO has a strong enough case to proceed to a hearing this fall. Until then, she ordered Altman, Ive and OpenAI to refrain from using the io brand, leading them to take down the web page and all mentions of the venture.

A second lawsuit from iyO filed this week in San Francisco Superior Court accuses a former iyO executive, Dan Sargent, of breach of contract and misappropriation of trade secrets over his meetings with another io co-founder, Tang Yew Tan, a close Ive ally who led design of the Apple Watch.

Sargent left iyO in December and now works for Apple. He and Apple didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

"This is not an action we take lightly," said iyO CEO Jason Rugolo in a statement Thursday. "Our primary goal here is not to target a former employee, whom we considered a friend, but to hold accountable those whom we believe preyed on him from a position of power."

Rugolo told The Associated Press last month that he thought he was on the right path in 2022 when he pitched his ideas and showed off his prototypes to firms tied to Altman and Ive. Rugolo later publicly expanded on his earbud-like "audio computer" product in a TED Talk last year.

What he didn't know was that, by 2023, Ive and Altman had begun quietly collaborating on their own AI hardware initiative.

"I'm happy to compete on product, but calling it the same name, that part is just amazing to me. And it was shocking," Rugolo said in an interview.

The new venture was revealed publicly in a May video announcement, and to Rugolo about two months earlier after he had emailed Altman with an investment pitch.

"thanks but im working on something competitive so will (respectfully) pass!" Altman wrote to Rugolo in March, adding in parentheses that it was called io.

Altman has dismissed iyO's lawsuit on social media as a "silly, disappointing and wrong" move from a "quite persistent" Rugolo. Other executives in court documents characterized the product Rugolo was pitching as a failed one that didn't work properly in a demo.

Altman said in a written declaration that he and Ive chose the name two years ago in reference to the concept of "input/output" that describes how a computer receives and transmits information. Neither io nor iyO was first to play with the phrasing — Google's flagship annual technology showcase is called I/O — but Altman said he and Ive acquired the io.com domain name in August 2023.

The idea was "to create products that go beyond traditional products and interfaces," Altman said. "We want to create new ways for people to input their requests and new ways for them to receive helpful outputs, powered by AI."

A number of startups have already tried, and mostly failed, to build gadgetry for AI interactions. The startup Humane developed a wearable pin that you could talk to, but the product was poorly reviewed

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 48 of 62

and the startup discontinued sales after HP acquired its assets earlier this year.

Altman has suggested that io's version could be different. He said in a now-removed video that he's already trying a prototype at home that Ive gave him, calling it "the coolest piece of technology that the world will have ever seen."

Altman and Ive still haven't said is what exactly it is. The court case, however, has forced their team to disclose what it's not.

"Its design is not yet finalized, but it is not an in-ear device, nor a wearable device," said Tan in a court declaration that sought to distance the venture from iyO's product.

It was that same declaration that led iyO to sue Sargent this week. Tan revealed in the filing that he had talked to a "now former" iyO engineer who was looking for a job because of his frustration with "iyO's slow pace, unscalable product plans, and continued acceptance of preorders without a sellable product."

Those conversations with the unnamed employee led Tan to conclude "that iyO was basically offering 'vaporware' — advertising for a product that does not actually exist or function as advertised, and my instinct was to avoid meeting with iyO myself and to discourage others from doing so."

IyO said its investigators recently reached out to Sargent and confirmed he was the one who met with Tan.

Rugolo told the AP he feels duped after he first pitched his idea to Altman in 2022 through the Apollo Projects, a venture capital firm started by Altman and his brothers. Rugolo said he demonstrated his products and the firm politely declined, with the explanation that they don't do consumer hardware investments.

That same year, Rugolo also pitched the same idea to Ive through LoveFrom, the San Francisco design firm started by Ive after his 27-year career at Apple. Ive's firm also declined.

"I feel kind of stupid now," Rugolo added. "Because we talked for so long. I met with them so many times and demo'd all their people — at least seven people there. Met with them in person a bunch of times, talking about all our ideas."

Europe unveils a deal for more food and fuel for Gaza. Israeli strike kills 15 outside a clinic

By WAFAA SHURAF, SARAH EL DEEB, MELANIE LIDMAN and SAM MCNEIL Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — European officials reached a new deal with Israel to allow desperately needed food and fuel into Gaza, the European Union's foreign policy chief said Thursday, hours after an Israeli airstrike killed 15 people, including 10 children, waiting for help outside a medical clinic.

The children's deaths drew outrage from humanitarian groups even as Israel allowed the first delivery of fuel to Gaza in more than four months, though still less than a day's supply, according to the United Nations.

"The killing of families trying to access life-saving aid is unconscionable," UNICEF's chief, Catherine Russell, said. "These were mothers seeking a lifeline for their children after months of hunger and desperation."

The Israeli military said it was targeting a militant when it struck near the clinic.

Security camera footage outside the clinic in the central Gaza city of Deir al Balah showed about a dozen people squatting in front of the clinic when a projectile explodes a few meters (yards) away, leaving bodies scattered.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu prepared to leave Washington after meetings with President Donald Trump, apparently without finalizing a temporary ceasefire advocated by the White House.

A deal to increase aid

The deal announced by European officials could result in "more crossings open, aid and food trucks entering Gaza, repair of vital infrastructure and protection of aid workers," said Kaja Kallas, the 27-member EU's top diplomat.

"We count on Israel to implement every measure agreed," she said in a post on social media.

Aid groups say Israeli military restrictions and recurring violence have made it difficult to deliver as-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 49 of 62

sistance in Gaza even after Israel eased its 2 1/2 month total blockade in May. Experts have warned the strip is at risk of famine, 21 months into the Israel-Hamas war.

Kallas said the deal would reactivate aid corridors from Jordan and Egypt and reopen community bakeries and kitchens across Gaza.

She said measures would be taken to prevent the militant Hamas group from diverting aid. Israel has long accused Hamas of stealing aid and selling it to finance militant activities. The U.N. says there is no evidence for widespread diversion.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar acknowledged the deal while at a conference in Vienna, saying it followed "our dialogue with the EU" and that it includes "more trucks, more crossings and more routes for the humanitarian efforts."

Neither Saar nor Kallas said whether the aid would go through the U.N.-run system or an alternative, U.S.- and Israeli-backed mechanism that has been marred by violence and controversy.

The U.N. said Israel had permitted a team to bring 75,000 liters of fuel into Gaza, the first delivery allowed in 130 days. U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric warned it wasn't enough to cover a single day's energy needs in the territory and that services would shut down without more shipments.

Israeli strikes kill at least 36

Israeli strikes pounded the Gaza Strip overnight and early Thursday, killing at least 36 Palestinians, local hospitals and aid workers said. The Israeli military said one soldier was killed in Gaza.

The 15 killed outside the clinic were waiting for nutritional supplements, according to Project Hope, an aid group that runs the facility. Along with the 10 children, two women were among those killed.

"No child waiting for food and medicine should face the risk of being bombed," said Dr. Mithqal Abutaha, the group's project manager.

At the morgue of Al-Aqsa Hospital, families prayed over the bodies of their loved ones, laid across the floor.

Omar Meshmesh held the body of his 3-year-old niece Aya Meshmesh. "What did she ever do? Did she throw a rocket at them or throw something at them? ... she's an innocent child."

Israel's military said it struck near the clinic while targeting a militant it said had entered Israel on Oct. 7, 2023. It said it was investigating.

Gaza's Nasser Hospital reported a total of 21 deaths in airstrikes in the southern town of Khan Younis and the nearby coastal area of Muwasi. It said three children and their mother, as well as two other women, were among the dead.

Netanyahu leaves Washington

Ready to leave Washington, Netanyahu said Israel continues to pursue a deal for a 60-day pause in the fighting and the release of half of the 50 hostages remaining in Gaza, many of them believed dead.

Once that deal is in place, Israel is prepared to negotiate a permanent end to the war, Netanyahu said — but only on condition that Hamas disarms and gives up its governing and military capabilities in Gaza.

If this "is not achieved through negotiations in 60 days, we will achieve it in other ways; by using force, the force of our heroic army," Netanyahu said in a video statement.

Still, U.S. officials held out hope that restarting high-level negotiations — mediated by Egypt and Qatar and including White House envoy Steve Witkoff — could bring progress.

"We're closer than we've been in quite a while and we're hopeful, but we also recognize there's still some challenges in the way," U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters during a stop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

West Bank violence, another Israeli soldier killed

The Israeli military said a soldier was killed in Khan Younis the day before, after militants burst out of an underground tunnel and tried to abduct him. The soldier was shot and killed, while troops in the area shot the militants, hitting several of them, it said.

Eighteen soldiers have been killed in the past three weeks, one of the deadliest periods for the Israeli army in months, putting additional public pressure on Netanyahu to end the war.

Meanwhile, two Palestinian attackers killed a 22-year-old Israeli man at a supermarket in a settlement

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 50 of 62

in the Israeli-occupied West Bank on Thursday afternoon, according to Israel's Magen David Adom emergency services.

Israeli police said two people in a stolen vehicle attacked a security guard at the supermarket. Paramedics said people on site shot and killed the two attackers. There was no information about the attackers but Israeli troops were setting up roadblocks around the Palestinian town of Halhul, around 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the supermarket.

Earlier Thursday, a 55-year-old Palestinian man was killed in the West Bank, the Palestinian Health Ministry said. The Israeli military said the man was shot after stabbing a soldier in the village of Rumana. The soldier suffered moderate wounds.

The war in Gaza has sparked a surge of violence in the West Bank, with the Israeli military targeting militants in large-scale operations that have killed hundreds of Palestinians and displaced tens of thousands.

That has coincided with a rise in settler violence and Palestinian attacks on Israelis. Palestinian militants from the West Bank have also attacked and killed Israelis in Israel and the West Bank.

The war began after Hamas attacked Israel in 2023, killing around 1,200 people and taking 251 others hostage. Most have been released in earlier ceasefires. Israel responded with an offensive that has killed more than 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-run government, doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants. The U.N. and other international organizations see its figures as the most reliable statistics on war casualties.

New Hampshire judge pauses Trump's birthright citizenship order nationwide via class action lawsuit

By HOLLY RAMER and MIKE CATALINI Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — A federal judge in New Hampshire issued a ruling Thursday prohibiting President Donald Trump's executive order ending birthright citizenship from taking effect anywhere in the U.S.

Judge Joseph LaPlante issued a preliminary injunction blocking Trump's order and certified a class action lawsuit including all children who will be affected. The order, which followed an hour-long hearing, included a seven-day stay to allow for appeal.

The judge's decision puts the birthright citizenship issue on a fast track to return to the Supreme Court. The justices could be asked to rule whether the order complies with their decision last month that limited judges' authority to issue nationwide injunctions. The Supreme Court said district judges generally can't issue nationwide, or universal, injunctions. But it didn't rule out whether judges could accomplish much the same thing by a different legal means, a class action.

The class approved in New Hampshire is slightly narrower than that sought by the plaintiffs, who wanted to include parents, but attorneys said that wouldn't make a material difference.

"This is going to protect every single child around the country from this lawless, unconstitutional and cruel executive order," said Cody Wofsy, an attorney for the plaintiffs.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of a pregnant woman, two parents and their infants. It's among numerous cases challenging Trump's January order denying citizenship to those born to parents living in the U.S. illegally or temporarily. The plaintiffs are represented by the American Civil Liberties Union and others.

At issue is the Constitution's 14th Amendment, which states: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States." The Trump administration says the phrase "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" means the U.S. can deny citizenship to babies born to women in the country illegally, ending what has been seen as an intrinsic part of U.S. law for more than a century.

"Prior misimpressions of the citizenship clause have created a perverse incentive for illegal immigration that has negatively impacted this country's sovereignty, national security, and economic stability," government lawyers wrote in the New Hampshire case.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 51 of 62

LaPlante, who had issued a narrow injunction in a similar case, said while he didn't consider the government's arguments frivolous, he found them unpersuasive. He said his decision to issue an injunction was "not a close call" and that deprivation of U.S. citizenship clearly amounted to irreparable harm.

"That's irreparable harm, citizenship alone," said LaPlante. "It is the greatest privilege that exists in the world."

White House spokesman Harrison Fields accused LaPlante, who was appointed by Republican President George W. Bush, of "abusing class action procedures."

"The Trump Administration will be fighting vigorously against the attempts of these rogue district court judges to impede the policies President Trump was elected to implement," he said in a statement.

During Thursday's hearing, Deputy Assistant Attorney General Eric Hamilton argued that both approving a class action and issuing an injunction would be premature, given that no one other than Trump has taken action. He said doing so would mean a single court could become the "end-all-and-be-all" in reversing new federal policies and said if anything, the injunction should be limited to New Hampshire.

Similar cases are pending from Washington to Maryland. It's not time to panic, said Ama Frimpong, legal director at nonprofit immigrant rights organization CASA, which is also seeking a nationwide injunction.

"No one has to move states right this instant," she said. "There's different avenues through which we are all fighting, again, to make sure that this executive order never actually sees the light of day."

The New Hampshire plaintiffs, referred to only by pseudonyms, include a woman from Honduras who has a pending asylum application and is due to give birth to her fourth child in October. She told the court the family came to the U.S. after being targeted by gangs.

"I do not want my child to live in fear and hiding. I do not want my child to be a target for immigration enforcement," she wrote. "I fear our family could be at risk of separation."

Another plaintiff, a man from Brazil, has lived with his wife in Florida for five years. Their first child was born in March, and they are in the process of applying for lawful permanent status based on family ties — his wife's father is a U.S. citizen.

"My baby has the right to citizenship and a future in the United States," he wrote.

Ford recalls over 850,000 cars in the US due to potential fuel pump failure

NEW YORK (AP) — Ford is recalling more than 850,000 of its cars across the U.S. because the low-pressure fuel pump inside the vehicles may fail — and potentially cause an engine stall while driving, increasing crash risks.

The recall covers a wide range of Ford and Lincoln-branded vehicles made in recent model years. That includes certain Ford Broncos, Explorers and F-150s, as well as Lincoln Aviators and Navigators, documents published this week by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration note.

Ford plans to send out notification letters to affected owners starting this Monday (July 14), to warn of safety risks related to potential fuel pump failure. But a remedy is still "under development," the NHTSA's recall report notes.

It wasn't immediately clear if there was an estimate for when a fix would become available. But this week's recall report noted that owners will receive an additional letter with instructions to take their car to an authorized dealer for that service when the time comes — and that there will be no charge.

The Associated Press reached out to Ford for further comments Thursday.

The Michigan-based automaker isn't aware of any accidents or injuries related to this recall, this week's report notes. But owners should look out for potential warnings. Prior to fuel pump failure, customers may encounter poor engine performance, for example, a check engine light or a decrease in engine power.

Fuel pump failure is "more likely to occur" during warm weather or if there's low fuel in the tank, the recall report notes. And loss of fuel pressure and flow can be caused by internal contamination of a car's jet pump, amid other factors. Ford also identified supplier changes during a review of the manufacturing process, the report adds.

Ford estimates that 10% of the 850,318 vehicles it's recalling in the U.S. have this fuel pump risk. The recall covers certain Ford Broncos, Explorers and Lincoln Aviators between the 2021 and 2023 model years, in addition to 2021-2023 model year F-250 SD, F-350 SD, F-450 SD and F-550 SD vehicles. Select 2021-2022 Lincoln Navigators, Ford Mustangs and F-150s are also impacted, as well as some 2022 Expeditions.

Freed from ICE detention, Mahmoud Khalil files \$20 million claim against Trump administration

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — On a recent afternoon, Mahmoud Khalil sat in his Manhattan apartment, cradling his 10-week-old son as he thought back to the pre-dawn hours spent pacing a frigid immigration jail in Louisiana, awaiting news of the child's birth in New York.

For a moment, the outspoken Palestinian activist found himself uncharacteristically speechless.

"I cannot describe the pain of that night," Khalil said finally, gazing down at the baby, Deen, cooed in his arms. "This is something I will never forgive."

Now, weeks after regaining his freedom, Khalil is seeking restitution. On Thursday, his lawyers filed a claim for \$20 million in damages against the Trump administration, alleging Khalil was falsely imprisoned, maliciously prosecuted and smeared as an antisemite as the government sought to deport him over his prominent role in campus protests.

The filing — a precursor to a lawsuit under the Federal Tort Claims Act — names the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the State Department.

It comes as the deportation case against Khalil, a 30-year-old recent graduate student at Columbia University, continues to wind its way through the immigration court system.

The goal, Khalil said, is to send a message that he won't be intimidated into silence.

"They are abusing their power because they think they are untouchable," Khalil said. "Unless they feel there is some sort of accountability, it will continue to go unchecked."

Khalil said he plans to share any settlement money with others targeted in Trump's "failed" effort to suppress pro-Palestinian speech. In lieu of a settlement, he would also accept an official apology and changes to the administration's deportation policies.

A White House spokesperson deferred comment to the State Department, which said its actions were fully supported by the law.

In an emailed statement, Tricia McLaughlin, a spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security, called Khalil's claim "absurd," accusing him of "hateful behavior and rhetoric" that threatened Jewish students.

Harsh conditions and an 'absurd' allegation

The filing accuses President Donald Trump and other officials of mounting a haphazard and illegal campaign to "terrorize him and his family," beginning with Khalil's March 8 arrest.

On that night, he said he was returning home from dinner with his wife, Noor Abdalla, when he was "effectively kidnapped" by plainclothes federal agents, who refused to provide a warrant and appeared surprised to learn he was a legal U.S. permanent resident.

He was then whisked overnight to an immigration jail in Jena, Louisiana, a remote location that was "deliberately concealed" from his family and attorneys, according to the filing.

Inside, Khalil said he was denied his ulcer medication, forced to sleep under harsh fluorescent lights and fed "nearly inedible" food, causing him to lose 15 pounds (7 kilograms). "I cannot remember a night when I didn't go to sleep hungry," Khalil recalled.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration publicly celebrated the arrest, promising to deport him and others whose protests against Israel it dubbed "pro-terrorist, anti-Semitic, anti-American activity."

Khalil, who has condemned antisemitism before and since his arrest, was not accused of a crime and has not been linked to Hamas or any other terror group. "At some point, it becomes like reality TV," Khalil said of the allegations. "It's very absurd."

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 53 of 62

Deported for beliefs

A few weeks into his incarceration, Khalil was awoken by a fellow detainee, who pointed excitedly to his face on a jailhouse TV screen. A new memo signed by Secretary of State Marco Rubio acknowledged Khalil hadn't broken the law, but argued he should be deported for beliefs that could undermine U.S. foreign policy interests.

"My beliefs are not wanting my tax money or tuition going toward investments in weapons manufacturers for a genocide," Khalil said. "It's as simple as that."

By then, Khalil had become something of a celebrity in the 1,200-person lock-up. When not dealing with his own case, he hosted "office hours" for fellow immigrant detainees, leaning on his past experience working at a British embassy in Beirut to help others organize paperwork and find translators for their cases.

"I'm pretty good at bureaucracy," Khalil said.

At night, they played Russian and Mexican card games, as Khalil listened to "one story after another from people who didn't understand what's happening to them."

"This was one of the most heartbreaking moments," he said. "People on the inside don't know if they have any rights."

Lost time

On June 20, after 104 days in custody, Khalil was ordered released by a federal judge, who found the government's efforts to remove him on foreign policy grounds were likely unconstitutional.

He now faces new allegations of misrepresenting personal details on his green card application. In a motion filed late Wednesday, attorneys for Khalil described those charges as baseless and retaliatory, urging a judge to dismiss them.

The weeks since his release, Khalil said, have brought moments of bliss and intense personal anguish.

Fearing harassment or possible arrest, he leaves the house less frequently, avoiding large crowds or late-night walks. But he lit up as he remembered watching Deen taking his first swim earlier in the week. "It was not very pleasant for him," Khalil said, smiling.

"I'm trying as much as possible to make up for the time with my son and my wife," he added. "As well thinking about my future and trying to comprehend this new reality."

Part of that reality, he said, will be continuing his efforts to advocate against Israel's war in Gaza, which has killed more than 57,000 Palestinians, more than half of them women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. On the day after his release, he led a march through Manhattan, draped in a Palestinian flag — and flanked by security.

As he poured Deen's milk into a bottle, Khalil considered whether he might've done anything differently had he known the personal cost of his activism.

"We could've communicated better. We could've built more bridges with more people," he said. "But the core thing of opposing a genocide, I don't think you can do that any differently. This is your moral imperative when you're watching your people be slaughtered by the minute."

What's next for President Donald Trump's birthright citizenship order in the courts

By HOLLY RAMER and MIKE CATALINI Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — The legal fight over President Donald Trump's order ending birthright citizenship is advancing on a path toward the U.S. Supreme Court.

A New Hampshire federal judge on Thursday issued a ruling prohibiting the president's January executive order ending birthright citizenship for children born to those without legal status from taking effect anywhere in the U.S.

The judge's preliminary injunction and certification of a class-action lawsuit blocks the order, though it included a seven-day stay to allow for appeal.

The district court judge's decision comes less than a month after the Supreme Court limited lower courts from issuing nationwide injunctions without settling the underlying question of the constitutionality of the

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 54 of 62

president's order. The high court also left open the possibility that birthright citizenship challenges could remain blocked nationwide.

Here's what to know about birthright citizenship and what happens next.

What birthright citizenship means

Birthright citizenship makes anyone born in the United States an American citizen, including children born to mothers in the country illegally.

The practice goes back to soon after the Civil War, when Congress ratified the Constitution's 14th Amendment, in part to ensure that Black people, including former slaves, had citizenship.

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States," the amendment states.

Thirty years later, Wong Kim Ark, a man born in the U.S. to Chinese parents, was refused reentry into the U.S. after traveling overseas. His lawsuit led to the Supreme Court explicitly ruling that the amendment gives citizenship to anyone born in the U.S., no matter their parents' legal status.

It has been seen since then as an intrinsic part of U.S. law, with only a handful of exceptions, such as for children born in the U.S. to foreign diplomats.

Trump has long said he wants to do away with birthright citizenship

Trump's executive order, signed in January, seeks to deny citizenship to children who are born to people who are living in the U.S. illegally or temporarily. It is part of the hard-line immigration agenda of the president, who has called birthright citizenship a "magnet for illegal immigration."

Trump and his supporters focus on one phrase in the amendment — "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" — saying it means the U.S. can deny citizenship to babies born to women in the country illegally.

A series of federal judges have said that is not true, and issued nationwide injunctions stopping his order from taking effect.

"I've been on the bench for over four decades. I can't remember another case where the question presented was as clear as this one is. This is a blatantly unconstitutional order," U.S. District Judge John Coughenour said at a hearing earlier this year in his Seattle courtroom.

The justices didn't say if Trump's order is constitutional

The high court's ruling was a major victory for the Trump administration in that it limited an individual judge's authority in granting nationwide injunctions based on individual plaintiffs.

The administration hailed the ruling as a monumental check on the powers of individual district court judges, whom Trump supporters have argued want to usurp the president's authority with rulings blocking his priorities around immigration and other matters.

But the Supreme Court did not address the merits of Trump's bid to enforce his birthright citizenship executive order, and it left the door open for class action lawsuits challenging it.

The Supreme Court said district judges generally can't issue nationwide injunctions. But the court didn't rule out whether judges could accomplish much the same thing by a different legal means, a class action.

Various legal pathways

New Hampshire District Court Judge Joseph Laplante's decision comes amid legal challenges to the president's order in district and appellate courts across the country.

Among the other cases pending are lawsuits brought by some two dozen states and cities, immigrant rights advocates and mothers and mothers-to-be.

A district court judge in Maryland is considering arguments over how to proceed since the Supreme Court's opinion limiting nationwide injunctions.

New Jersey and other states' attorneys general are arguing a nationwide pause of the order is warranted under the high court's recent opinion and that it's up to federal government to propose other remedies for the courts to consider.

Boston College law professor Daniel Kanstroom, an immigration law expert, said he thinks the case is bound for the Supreme Court.

"The stakes in this case could not possibly be higher," he said. "It affects millions of people. It affects the whole nature of our immigration system. And it in many ways, it affects the continuing question of how

we reacted to slavery and to the Civil War and what the 14th Amendment was about in the first place.”

Snap, crackle, sale: Nutella maker Ferrero plans to buy WK Kellogg for \$3 billion

By DEE-ANN DURBIN and MICHELLE CHAPMAN AP Business Writers

Italian confectioner Ferrero, known for brands like Nutella and Kinder, is buying the century-old U.S. cereal company WK Kellogg in an effort to expand its North American sales.

The Ferrero Group said Thursday it will pay \$23 for each Kellogg share, or approximately \$3.1 billion. The transaction includes WK Kellogg Co.’s six manufacturing plants and the marketing and distribution of its breakfast cereals across the United States, Canada and the Caribbean.

WK Kellogg’s shares were up 31% in mid-afternoon trading on Thursday.

Kellogg was founded in Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1906 after its founder accidentally figured out how to make flaked cereal while he was experimenting with granola. Kellogg still makes Corn Flakes, as well as Froot Loops, Special K, Frosted Flakes, Rice Krispies and other cereals.

Kellogg now has four U.S. plants, which are located in Michigan, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Nebraska. It also has a plant in Mexico and a plant in Canada. The company has around 3,000 employees.

The current company was formed in 2023, when Kellogg snack brands like Cheez-Its and Pringles were spun into a separate company called Kellanova. M&M’s maker Mars Inc. announced last year that it planned to buy Kellanova in a deal worth nearly \$30 billion.

Ferrero Group, a privately held, family-owned company founded in Italy in 1946, has been trying to expand its U.S. footprint. In 2018 it bought Nestle’s U.S. candy brands, including Butterfinger, Nerds and Sweet-Tarts. In 2022, it bought Wells Enterprises, the maker of ice cream brands like Blue Bunny and Halo Top.

“Over recent years, Ferrero has expanded its presence in North America, bringing together our well-known brands from around the world with local jewels rooted in the U.S. Today’s news is a key milestone in that journey, giving us confidence in the opportunities ahead,” Ferrero Executive Chairman Giovanni Ferrero said in a statement.

Gary Pilnick, WK Kellogg’s chairman and CEO, said the combination would give Kellogg resources to grow its brands and “explore opportunities beyond cereal.” Pilnick also said that Ferrero has a track record of supporting the communities in which it operates.

Kellogg has been struggling with a long-term decline in U.S. cereal consumption as consumers turned to protein bars, shakes and other breakfast items. Cereal sales got a bump during the coronavirus pandemic as more families stayed home, but sales continued to decline after the pandemic eased.

At the start of July, U.S. cold cereal sales were down 6% compared to the same period in 2022, according to market research company Nielsen IQ. Kellogg’s net sales fell 2% to \$2.7 billion in 2024.

Brad Haller, a senior partner for mergers and acquisitions at West Monroe, said Kellogg’s large distribution network and relationships with grocery chains in North America is appealing to Ferrero because it would help the European company negotiate pricing and positioning for its products.

The purchase also helps Ferrero expand beyond snacks, chocolate and sweets and into a meal category, Haller said. But the company also may wind up cutting Kellogg brands or shutting down manufacturing plants, he said.

“As Americans, these brands are iconic and beloved by us, but a European company buying these wouldn’t have the same nostalgia,” Haller said.

Kellogg has had other issues. A nearly three-month strike by workers at all its U.S. cereal plants in late 2021 hurt sales. And last fall, dozens of people rallied outside the company’s Battle Creek headquarters demanding that Kellogg remove artificial dyes from its cereals.

Earlier this year, Kellogg said it was reformulating cereals sold to schools to remove artificial dyes and will not include them in any new products starting in January.

Ferrero’s acquisition, which still needs approval from Kellogg shareholders, is expected to close in the second half of the year. Once the transaction is complete, Kellogg’s stock will no longer trade on the New

York Stock Exchange and the company will become a Ferrero subsidiary.

Amanda Anisimova upsets No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka at Wimbledon and faces Iga Swiatek in the final

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — A little more than two years ago, Amanda Anisimova took a break from tennis because of burnout. A year ago, working her way back into the game, the American lost when she had to go through qualifying for Wimbledon because her ranking of 189th was too low to get into the main bracket automatically.

Look at Anisimova now: She's a Grand Slam finalist for the first time after upsetting No. 1-ranked Aryna Sabalenka 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in a compelling contest at a steamy Centre Court on Thursday.

In Saturday's final, Anisimova will face Iga Swiatek, who is a five-time major champion but advanced to her first title match at the All England Club with a 6-2, 6-0 victory over Belinda Bencic.

Swiatek was dominant throughout, never letting Bencic get into their far-less-intriguing semifinal and wrapping things up in 71 minutes with serves at up to 119 mph and twice as many winners, 26, as unforced errors, 13.

So it turns out she can do just fine on grass courts, thank you very much.

"Tennis keeps surprising me. I thought I lived through everything, even though I'm young. I thought I experienced everything on the court. But I didn't experience playing well on grass," Swiatek said. "That's the first time."

She's 5-0 in major finals — 4-0 on the French Open's clay, 1-0 on the U.S. Open's hard courts — but only once had been as far as the quarterfinals at Wimbledon until now. It's been more than a year since Swiatek won a title anywhere, part of why the 24-year-old from Poland relinquished the top ranking to Sabalenka in October and is seeded No. 8 this fortnight.

Saturday's winner will be the eighth consecutive first-time Wimbledon women's champion.

The 13th-seeded Anisimova, who was born in New Jersey and grew up in Florida, was playing in her second major semifinal after losing at that stage at the 2019 French Open at age 17.

"This doesn't feel real right now," Anisimova said after ending the 2-hour, 36-minute contest with a forehand winner on her fourth match point. "I was absolutely dying out there. I don't know how I pulled it out."

In May 2023, Anisimova took time off, saying she had been "struggling with my mental health" for nearly a year.

Now 23, she is playing as well as ever, her crisp groundstrokes, particularly on the backhand side, as strong and smooth as anyone's. She is guaranteed to break into the top 10 of the WTA rankings for the first time next week, no matter what happens in the title match.

"If you told me I would be in the final of Wimbledon, I would not believe you," Anisimova said with a laugh. "At least not this soon, because it's been a year turnaround since coming back and to be in this spot, it's not easy. ... To be in the final is just indescribable, honestly."

For Sabalenka, 0-3 in semifinals at the All England Club, this defeat prevented her from becoming the first woman to reach four consecutive Grand Slam finals since Serena Williams won four major trophies in a row a decade ago.

Sabalenka missed Wimbledon last year because of an injured shoulder, then won the U.S. Open in September for her third Slam title.

She was the runner-up to Madison Keys at the Australian Open, and to Coco Gauff at the French Open, where Sabalenka's post-match comments drew criticism and led her to apologize both privately to Gauff and publicly. Sabalenka and Gauff smoothed things over before the start of play at the All England Club, dancing together and posting videos on social media.

On Thursday, Sabalenka began her news conference with as simple a statement as can be, "She was the better player," then laughed.

"Losing sucks, you know?" she added in response to the first question from a reporter. "You always feel

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 57 of 62

like ... you don't want to exist anymore."

Anisimova improved to 6-3 against Sabalenka, a 27-year-old from Belarus, and two of the hardest hitters in the game traded booming shots and loud shouts.

They smacked big serves: Sabalenka reached 120 mph, Anisimova 112 mph. They ended points quickly with first-strike aggressiveness.

The average exchange was over after just three shots. By the end, 167 of the 214 total points lasted fewer than five strokes, and just seven contained nine or more.

Probably a good thing, too, given the heat.

The temperature hit 88 degrees Fahrenheit (31 degrees Celsius) in the first set, which was delayed twice because spectators in the lower level — with no shade — felt unwell.

One key to the outcome: Anisimova saved 11 of the 14 break points she faced.

There was a particularly lengthy shout by Sabalenka in the second set, shortly after she was angered when Anisimova made some noise during another back-and-forth. When the game ended, with Sabalenka making the score 3-all, she let out another scream.

Sabalenka, who double-faulted to end the opening set, pulled even by closing the second set with a 114 mph service winner. She broke to begin the third.

Could have been daunting for Anisimova. Instead, she didn't waver, coming back to lead 5-2. Only then did some tension arrive anew, as Anisimova wasted her first match point, and Sabalenka broke for 5-4.

Anisimova stayed right there and, with another break, she had won, then covered her mouth with her right hand.

The US is having its worst year for measles in more than three decades

By DEVI SHASTRI AP Health Writer

The U.S. is having its worst year for measles spread in more than three decades, and the year is only half over.

The national case count reached 1,288 on Wednesday, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, though public health experts say the true figure may be higher.

The CDC's count is 14 more than 2019, when America almost lost its status of having eliminated the vaccine-preventable illness — something that could happen this year if the virus spreads without stopping for 12 months. But the U.S. is far from 1991, when there were 9,643 confirmed cases.

In a statement, the federal government said the CDC "continues to recommend (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccines as the best way to protect against measles." It also said it is "supporting community efforts" to tamp down ongoing outbreaks as requested, among taking other measures. CDC teams deployed for an on-the-ground outbreak response twice in Texas, and also helped New Mexico and Kansas with their outbreaks.

Fourteen states have active outbreaks; four other states' outbreaks have ended. The largest outbreak started five months ago in undervaccinated communities in West Texas. Three people have died — two children in Texas and an adult in New Mexico — and dozens of people have been hospitalized across the U.S.

But there are signs that transmission is slowing, especially in Texas. Lubbock County's hospitals treated most of the sickest patients in the region, but the county hasn't seen a new case in 50 days, public health director Katherine Wells said.

"What concerned me early on in this outbreak was is it spreading to other parts of the United States, and that's definitely what's happening now," she said.

In 2000, the World Health Organization and CDC said measles had been eliminated from the U.S. The closer a disease gets to eradication, the harder it can seem to stamp it out, said Dr. Jonathan Temte, a family physician in Wisconsin who helped certify that distinction 25 years ago.

It's hard to see measles cases break records despite the widespread availability of a vaccine, he added.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 58 of 62

The measles, mumps and rubella vaccine is safe and is 97% effective at preventing measles after two doses. "When we have tools that can be really helpful and see that they're discarded for no good reason, it's met with a little bit of melancholy on our part," Temte said of public health officials and primary care providers.

Wells said she is concerned about continuing vaccine hesitancy. A recent study found childhood vaccination rates against measles fell after the COVID-19 pandemic in nearly 80% of the more than 2,000 U.S. counties with available data, including in states that are battling outbreaks this year. And CDC data showed that only 92.7% of kindergarteners in the U.S. had the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine in the 2023-2024 school year, below the 95% needed to prevent outbreaks.

State and federal leaders have for years kept funding stagnant for local public health departments' vaccination programs that are tasked with reversing the trend. Wells said she talks with local public health leaders nationwide about how to prepare for an outbreak, but also says the system needs more investment.

"What we're seeing with measles is a little bit of a 'canary in a coal mine,'" said Lauren Gardner, leader of Johns Hopkins University's independent measles and COVID-19 tracking databases. "It's indicative of a problem that we know exists with vaccination attitudes in this county and just, I think, likely to get worse."

Currently, North America has three other major measles outbreaks: 2,966 cases in Chihuahua state, Mexico, 2,223 cases in Ontario, Canada and 1,246 in Alberta, Canada. The Ontario, Chihuahua and Texas outbreaks stem from large Mennonite communities in the regions. Mennonite churches do not formally discourage vaccination, though more conservative Mennonite communities historically have low vaccination rates and a distrust of government.

In 2019, the CDC identified 22 outbreaks with the largest in two separate clusters in New York — 412 in New York state and 702 in New York City. These were linked because measles was spreading through close-knit Orthodox Jewish communities, the CDC said.

Russia blasts Kyiv with another missile and drone barrage, killing at least 2

By VASILISA STEPANENKO and HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia pounded Ukraine's capital with another major missile and drone attack overnight into Thursday, killing at least two people and causing fires across Kyiv a day after the heaviest drone attack so far in the more than three-year war, Ukrainian officials said.

In another tense and sleepless night for Kyiv residents, with many of them dashing in the dark with children, pets and blankets to the protection of subway stations, at least 22 people were wounded, according to Tymur Tkachenko, head of the Kyiv Regional Administration.

The night was punctuated with the chilling whine of approaching drones that slammed into residential areas, exploded and sent balls of orange flames into the dark during the 10-hour barrage. Russia fired 397 Shahed and decoy drones as well as cruise and ballistic missiles at Kyiv and five other regions, authorities said.

"This is a clear escalation of Russian terror: hundreds of Shahed drones every night, constant missile strikes, massive attacks on Ukrainian cities," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a Telegram post.

June brought the highest monthly civilian casualties of the war, with 232 people killed and 1,343 wounded, the U.N. human rights mission in Ukraine said Thursday, as Russia launched 10 times more drones and missiles than the same month last year.

At least 13,580 civilians, including 716 children, have been killed and more than 34,000 wounded since Russia's full-scale invasion of its neighbor began on Feb. 24, 2022, the U.N. said.

Two rounds of direct peace talks between Russian and Ukrainian delegations have yielded no progress on stopping the fighting. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said Thursday there is no date for a possible third round of negotiations.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Thursday that the U.S. and Russia have exchanged new ideas for peace talks after he met with his Russian counterpart, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, in Malaysia on Thursday.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 59 of 62

Russia aims to sap Ukrainian morale

Russia has recently sought to overwhelm Ukraine's air defenses with major attacks that include increasing numbers of decoy drones. The previous night, it fired more than 700 attack and decoy drones, topping previous nightly barrages for the third time in two weeks.

"The continued increase in the size of strike packages is likely intended to support Russian efforts to degrade Ukrainian morale in the face of constant Russian aggression," the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, said late Wednesday.

In tandem with the bombardments, Russia's army has started a new drive to break through parts of the 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line, where short-handed Ukrainian forces are under heavy strain at what could prove to be a pivotal period of the war.

"At present, the rate of Russian advance is accelerating and Russia's summer offensive is likely to put the armed forces of Ukraine under intense pressure," Jack Watling, a senior research fellow at military think tank RUSI, wrote in an assessment published Wednesday.

The pressure has caused alarm among Ukrainian officials, who are uncertain about continuing vital military aid from the United States and U.S. President Donald Trump's policy toward Russia.

"Partners need to be faster with investments in weapons production and technology development," Zelenskyy said Thursday. "We need to be faster with sanctions and put pressure on Russia so that it feels the consequences of its terror."

Chancellor Friedrich Merz said at a Ukrainian recovery conference in Rome that German officials "stand ready to acquire additional Patriot (air defense) systems from the U.S. and make them available to Ukraine."

The U.S. last week halted some shipments of weapons, including crucial Patriot systems, to Ukraine amid concerns that its own stockpiles have declined too much.

"The Americans need them themselves in part, but they also have a great many of them," Merz said.

Meanwhile, the U.K. government announced the delivery to Ukraine of more than 5,000 Thales air defense missiles under a 19-year financing agreement, supported by a 2.5 billion-pound (\$3.4 billion) credit guarantee.

Some Ukrainians lose almost everything

In Kyiv, Karyna Holf, 25, was in the living room near the window when she heard a whistling sound from the incoming weapon. Moments later, little was left of the room but debris.

"After such a shock, when you know from your own experience what it's like to lose everything," she said. "I don't even know what comes next. All I have now is a backpack, a phone, a winter coat — that's it. This is my whole life now."

Holf said she was grateful to have her parents to turn to, but added, "There are people who have no one at all."

One Kyiv subway station worker said more than 1,000 people, including 70 children, took refuge there. One of them was 32-year-old Kyiv resident Alina Kalyna.

"The drone attacks a year ago were one thing, and now they're a completely different thing. We're exhausted," she said. "I sleep poorly, I recover poorly, in fact I no longer recover, I am just somehow on a reserve of energy, of which I have a little left, I just somehow live and exist," Kalyna said.

5,000 drones produced a month

Russia routinely fires more drones in a night than in a whole month a year ago, and analysts say the drone barrages are unlikely to let up.

Russia is now producing more and better drones, including some using artificial intelligence technology, according to the Atlantic Council. Its factories are manufacturing more than 5,000 drones a month, the Washington-based think tank said this week.

"For the first few years of the war following (Russia's) 2022 invasion, Ukraine's dynamic tech sector and vibrant startup culture helped keep the country a step ahead of Russia despite the Kremlin's far greater resources," the Atlantic Council said of the countries' drone development. "In recent months, however, it has become increasingly apparent that the initiative has passed to Moscow."

Ukraine urgently needs more interceptor drones to take down Russia's Shaheds as well as Patriot missile

systems to counter Russian missiles.

The U.S. has resumed deliveries of certain weapons, including 155 mm munitions and precision-guided rockets known as GMLRS, two U.S. officials told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity so that they could provide details that hadn't been announced publicly. It's unclear exactly when the weapons started moving.

Ukraine has also invested in drones, developing its own long-range weapons that can hit Russian soil.

Russia's Defense Ministry said Thursday that it shot down 14 Ukrainian drones overnight. Two people in the Belgorod region were injured by falling debris, Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said.

Bangladesh tribunal indicts ousted Prime Minister Hasina over deaths of protesters

By JULHAS ALAM Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — A special tribunal indicted Bangladesh's ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday by accepting charges of crimes against humanity filed against her in connection with a mass uprising in which hundreds of students were killed last year.

A three-member panel, headed by Justice Golam Mortuza Mozumder, indicted Hasina, former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan and former police chief Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun on five charges. Hasina and Khan are being tried in absentia.

Responding to the panel's decision, Hasina's Awami League party condemned the trial process and said the tribunal was a "kangaroo" court.

The tribunal opened the trial on June 5. Authorities published newspaper advertisements asking Hasina, who has been in exile in India, and Khan to appear before the tribunal. Hasina has been in exile since Aug. 5.

Bangladesh's interim government, headed by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus, sent a formal request to India for Hasina's extradition, but India has not responded. Khan is possibly also in India.

Al-Mamun, who was arrested and appeared before the panel on Thursday, pleaded guilty and told the tribunal that he would make a statement in favor of the prosecution at a later stage.

Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam later told reporters that Al-Mamun appealed to the judges to be an "approver." It refers to a person who pleads guilty and who, in exchange for potential leniency or a reduced sentence, agrees to testify against their accomplices as a state witness.

"The tribunal accepted his plea to be an approver," Islam said.

The prosecution offered a leaked audio of Hasina and other documents as evidence to the tribunal.

A petition by Amir Hossain, a lawyer appointed by the state for Hasina and Khan, for their names to be dropped from the case was rejected by the tribunal.

The tribunal fixed Aug. 3 for the opening statement by the prosecution and Aug. 4 for recording witness statements.

In a post on X, the Awami League accused the Yunus-led administration of manipulating the judiciary.

"People have lost their faith over the judicial system as Yunus regime has reduced this key state organ into a means to prosecute dissenters," it said. "We condemn in strongest term the indictment against our party president and other leaders as we assert that this step marks another testament to the ongoing witch hunt against our party and weaponization of judiciary by Yunus regime."

Hasina and the Awami League has previously criticized the tribunal and its prosecution team for connections to political parties, especially the Jamaat-e-Islami party.

Filing five charges, the prosecution argued Hasina was directly responsible for ordering all state forces, her Awami League party and its associates to carry out actions leading to mass killings, injuries, targeted violence against women and children, the incineration of bodies and denial of medical treatment to the wounded.

The charges describe Hasina as the "mastermind, conductor, and superior commander" of the atrocities.

The interim government has banned the Awami League party and amended relevant laws to allow the

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 61 of 62

trial of the former ruling party for its role during the uprising.

In February, the U.N. human rights office estimated up to 1,400 people may have been killed in Bangladesh over three weeks of crackdowns on the student-led protests against Hasina and two weeks after her fall on Aug. 5.

Earlier this month the tribunal sentenced Hasina to six months in jail after she was found in contempt of court for allegedly claiming she had a license to kill at least 227 people. The sentence was the first in any case against Hasina since she fled to India.

The contempt case stemmed from a leaked audio recording of a supposed phone conversation between Hasina and a leader of the student wing of her political party. A person alleged to be Hasina is heard on the audio saying: "There are 227 cases against me, so I now have a license to kill 227 people."

The tribunal was established by Hasina in 2009 to investigate and try crimes involving Bangladesh's independence war against Pakistan in 1971. The tribunal under Hasina tried politicians, mostly from the Jamaat-e-Islami party, for their actions during the nine-month war.

Aided by India, Bangladesh gained independence from Pakistan under the leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Hasina's father and the country's first leader.

Today in History: July 11, the fall of Srebrenica

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Friday, July 11, the 192nd day of 2025. There are 173 days left in the year.

Today in History:

On July 11, 1995, the U.N.-designated "safe haven" of Srebrenica (sreh-breh-NEET'-sah) in Bosnia-Herzegovina fell to Bosnian Serb forces, who subsequently carried out the killings of more than 8,000 Muslim men and boys.

Also on this date:

In 1798, the U.S. Marine Corps was formally re-established by a congressional act that also created the U.S. Marine Band.

In 1804, Vice President Aaron Burr mortally wounded former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton during a pistol duel in Weehawken, New Jersey. (Hamilton died the next day.)

In 1859, Big Ben, the great bell inside the famous London clock tower, chimed for the first time.

In 1864, Confederate forces led by Gen. Jubal Early began an abortive invasion of Washington, D.C., and his raid was turned back the next day.

In 1914, Babe Ruth made his Major League baseball debut, pitching the Boston Red Sox to a 4-3 victory over Cleveland.

In 1921, fighting in the Irish War of Independence ended with a truce.

In 1960, Harper Lee's novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" was published.

In 1972, the World Chess Championship opened as grandmasters Bobby Fischer of the United States and defending champion Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union began play in Reykjavik, Iceland. (Fischer won after 21 games.)

In 1979, the abandoned U.S. space station Skylab made a spectacular return to Earth, burning up in the atmosphere and showering debris over the Indian Ocean and Australia.

In 1991, a Nigeria Airways DC-8 carrying Muslim pilgrims crashed at the Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, international airport, killing all 261 people on board.

In 2006, eight bombs hit a commuter rail network during evening rush hour in Mumbai, India, killing more than 200 people.

In 2022, President Joe Biden revealed the first image from NASA's new space telescope, the farthest humanity had ever seen in both time and distance, closer to the dawn of the universe and the edge of the cosmos.

Today's Birthdays: Fashion designer Giorgio Armani is 91. Actor Susan Seaforth Hayes is 82. Actor Bruce

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 11, 2025 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 381 ~ 62 of 62

McGill is 75. Actor Stephen Lang is 73. Actor Mindy Sterling is 72. Actor Sela Ward is 69. Reggae singer Michael Rose (Black Uhuru) is 68. Singer Peter Murphy (Bauhaus) is 68. Actor Mark Lester is 67. Saxophonist Kirk Whalum is 67. Singer Suzanne Vega is 66. Rock guitarist Richie Sambora (Bon Jovi) is 66. Actor Lisa Rinna is 62. Author Jhumpa Lahiri is 58. Wildlife expert Jeff Corwin is 58. Actor Justin Chambers (TV: "Grey's Anatomy") is 55. Actor Michael Rosenbaum (TV: "Smallville") is 53. Rapper Lil' Kim is 51. Pro Football Hall of Famer Andre Johnson is 44. Pop-jazz singer-musician Peter Cincotti is 42. Actor Serinda Swan is 41. Actor David Henrie is 36. Actor Connor Paolo is 35. R&B/pop singer Alessia Cara is 29.