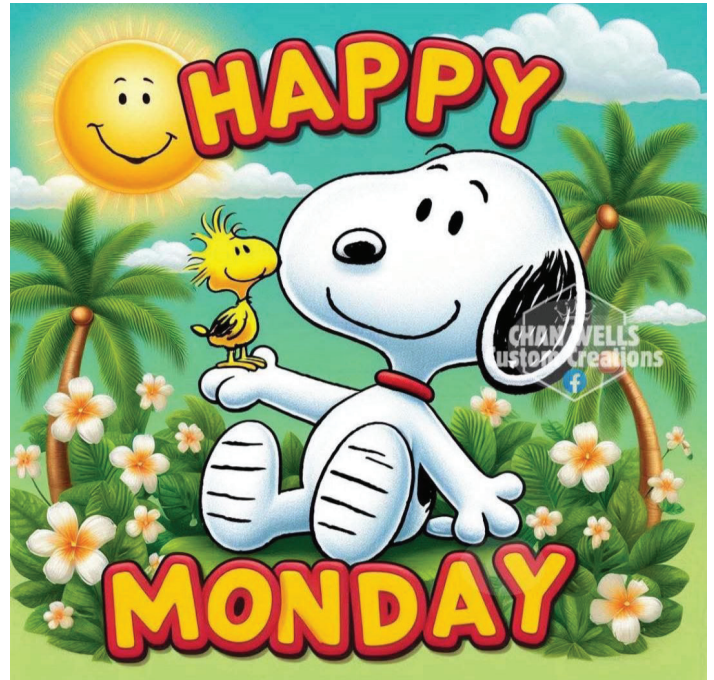


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Monday, July 14

School Board Meeting 7 p.m.

Senior Menu: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, blushing pears, whole wheat bread.

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

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

Softball: U8B at Britton, 6 p.m.; U8G at Britton, 6 p.m.; U10B&G at Aberdeen (NSU), 5:30 p.m.; U12 vs. Aberdeen at NSU, 6:45 p.m.; U14 vs. Aberdeen (NSU), 8 p.m.

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

Tuesday, July 15

Senior Menu: Lemon baked cod, parsley. buttered potato, broccoli, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.

Amateurs host Aberdeen, 6 p.m.

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

Softball: U14U18 hosts Claremont, 6 p.m. (DH); U14 at Warner, 6 p.m. (DH)

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.



Groton
Area
Tigers
Groton, SD

GDILIVE

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Groton Daily Independent

For more info: GDILIVE.COM

School Board Meeting
July 14, 2025, 7 p.m.



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

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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.

Trade Tariffs, Continued

President Donald Trump announced 30% tariffs on the European Union and Mexico Saturday. Barring any agreement, the tariffs are scheduled to go into effect Aug. 1.

The EU is the US' single biggest trading partner, with total trade approaching \$1T last year; trade with Mexico approached \$840B. Collectively, goods from the EU and Mexico make up about one-third of all US imports. The announcement comes amid ongoing negotiations. Trump warned in his statement any retaliatory rate the EU levies on the US will be automatically added to EU goods. The EU has since announced it would delay countermeasures—planned to go into effect tomorrow—until early August.

The Trump administration has threatened tariffs on dozens of countries in its bid to reduce the US trade in goods deficit (\$1.2T last year) and bolster US manufacturing. A 90-day pause on those tariffs expired this week, with three countries—the United Kingdom, Vietnam, and China—agreeing to new arrangements or a truce. Trump has extended countries' deadlines to Aug. 1.

Air India Crash Report

The Air India flight that crashed last month saw fuel control switches for both engines shut off seconds after takeoff. The revelation comes from a preliminary report released by India's aircraft investigation bureau Saturday; a broader investigation is ongoing.

The London-bound flight crashed into a medical college June 12, less than one minute after taking off from Ahmedabad, India. All but one of the flight's 242 people aboard were killed, with 40-year-old British citizen Vishwash Kumar Ramesh escaping through an emergency door. The accident was among the deadliest in India's aviation history. It was the first crash worldwide involving a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner.

The preliminary report does not reveal what caused the shut-off, which is protected by a locking mechanism. One pilot asked the other why he shut off the fuel, an accusation the other pilot rejected. They managed to relight both engines before issuing a mayday alert.

Meme Coins to the Moon

Popular cryptocurrency creation platform Pump.fun raised a reported \$600M in just 12 minutes over the weekend. The sale was completed via an initial coin offering, a fundraising process similar to an initial public offering, but where a company sells crypto tokens instead of shares.

Launched in January 2024, the site is the world's most popular method to create "meme coins"—crypto tokens anyone can create within minutes and that often have little value or utility. The community has become notorious for speculation, with creators engaging in increasingly unusual stunts to temporarily drive up a coin's price before selling their stake (known as a "rugpull"). In one high-profile incident, dozens of coins were created attempting to capitalize on the death of a user who died by suicide on a livestream after losing their investments.

In related news, bitcoin hit a record high over the weekend, passing \$119K.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

World No. 1 Jannik Sinner beats Carlos Alcaraz to win his first Wimbledon title and fourth career Grand Slam

Iga Swiatek tops American Amanda Anisimova to win her first Wimbledon and sixth major title.

Chelsea cruises to 3-0 victory over Paris Saint-Germain to win 2025 FIFA Club World Cup.

Washington Nationals take Oklahoma high schooler Eli Willits with top pick in 2025 MLB Draft; see complete Day One draft tracker

Seattle Mariners' Cal Raleigh breaks American League record by hitting 38 home runs prior to the MLB All-Star Game.

Science & Technology

Tesla adds Grok chatbot to newer vehicles in software update; follows the release of xAI's latest version of its flagship large language model, chatbot not yet capable of issuing commands to the vehicle.

Some gut microbes are capable of processing PFAS, or "forever," chemicals from the body; study may lead to probiotics to replace bloodletting or drug therapies.

Archaeologists discover royal burial tomb belonging to the first known ruler of the ancient Mayan city of Caracol; once a major metropolis in modern Belize, city was abandoned about 1,000 years ago.

Microplastics: Tomorrow's 1440 Science & Technology newsletter explores the tiny particles found everywhere on Earth. Sign up here to receive!

Business & Markets

US stock markets close lower Friday (S&P 500 -0.3%, Dow -0.6%, Nasdaq -0.2%) following President Donald Trump's announcement of 35% tariffs on Canada and baseline tariffs of 15% to 20% on other countries.

Google pays \$2.4B to license AI coding startup Windsurf and hire company's top talent, including its CEO and cofounder

SpaceX invests \$2B in Elon Musk's artificial intelligence company, xAI, as part of \$5B equity round.

North Carolina, Texas, and Florida top CNBC's ranking of best states for business in 2025; Massachusetts is ranked "most improved"; Alaska ranks last.

Politics & World Affairs

Lawmakers visit Alligator Alcatraz, the 3,000-bed immigration detention center newly opened in Florida's Everglades; Democrats criticize conditions as unsanitary, overcrowded

Israeli strike kills 10 people, including six children, in line to fill water containers in central Gaza; Israel says missile was intended to strike an Islamic Jihad militant, blames malfunction for missed target

US citizen Sayfollah Musallet among two Palestinians killed by Israeli settlers in the West Bank.

Sudanese Armed Forces retake control of strategic North Kordofan region from paramilitary Rapid Support Forces

International Criminal Court suggests both sides are committing war crimes in western Darfur region.

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State VFW 12B Tournament

Groton Fall After Strong Showing By Wagner

By GameChanger Media

Groton had trouble keeping up with Wagner in a 6-0 loss on Sunday at Nelson Field.

Wagner got on the board in the top of the first inning after Ron K tripled, scoring two runs, and a wild pitch scored one run.

Ron earned the win for Wagner. The starter allowed two hits and zero runs over six innings, striking out four and walking two. Mason Locke took the loss for Groton. The starting pitcher went six innings, allowing six runs on five hits, striking out five and walking two.

Brody Zimmerman and Owen Tewksbury each collected one hit for Groton.

Ryder I, Dax L, Isaiah M, Ron, and Cristian K each collected one hit for Wagner. Isaiah and Ron each drove in two runs for Wagner. Wagner turned two double plays in the game.

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VFW State 12 Finals

First Round

Wagner 6, Groton 0

Emery 10, Webster 0

Clark 11, Winner 0

Corsica/Stickney 8, Baltic 6

Championship semifinal

Corsica/Stickney 14, Clark 1

Emery 11, Wagner 1

Third Place: Wagner 9, Clark 6

Championship: Corsica/Stickney 12, Emery 2

9th place: Salem 7, Parkson 4

11th place: Kimball/White Lake 9, Canova 2

It all started today, on a Monday, back in 1999

¶ The Groton Independent weekly newspaper was launched on the internet in June of 1998. Each week, a PDF file was published on the internet.

¶ Then a year later, an early morning storm blew through Groton and the end result was the publishing of the Groton Daily Independent.

¶ On the morning of Saturday, July 12, 1999, a storm caused much damage in the city. Instead of waiting until the print copy would come out the following Wednesday, it was decided to publish a special edition. By midmorning, pictures and stories from the storm hit the internet readers of the Groton Independent.

¶ Over the weekend, then publisher Paul Kosel, decided, "Why not a daily?" So on Monday, July 14, 1999, the Groton Daily was officially launched.

¶ Shortly after the daily was launched, the Groton Daily Independent was converted from a PDF file to HTML programming with Microsoft Publisher. The same program is used today to publish the GDI..

¶ The Groton Daily Independent became the first weekly paper in the state to have a daily presence on the internet. The GDI had a whole sum of seven subscribers. Now, instead of waiting until Wednesday to read what happened at meetings or sporting events, you can read them the next morning right here and the GDI now has over 260 subscribers.

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Baseball pictures of Groton U-12 players during Groton State U-12 VFW Baseball Tournament. Pictures by Bruce Babcock and Katie Kesterson.



Ceremonial first pitch by Jarod Fliehs and catching is Brevan Fliehs (his son)



Mason Locke readies to tag a Salem runner.



Bentley Erschman pitching first game.



Carter Boerger fielding a hit.



Easton Larson warms up on the pitching mound while L-R Knox Moulder, Mason Locke, Hank Hill, and Owen Tewksbury look on.

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Groton coaches Matt Locke, Chris Ehresmann, and Josh Larson.



Knox Moulder makes contact.



Groton team huddle!



Graham Rose hurls another pitch!



DH Rylan Blackwood swings for a hit.

"The Implant and Surgical Approach Choices Every Cataract Patient Should Understand"

Introduction

Few decisions in life are more impactful than the choice to undergo cataract surgery—and how to have it done. Because cataract surgery is so common, many patients don't realize it involves important decisions that can affect their vision for the rest of their lives. Modern technology has introduced new options for how the surgery is performed and what type of lens implant is used. These choices matter.

Before we explore the available options, it's important to first understand what a cataract is and the role of the natural lens in our vision.

The Lens of the Eye

Behind the pupil sits the eye's natural lens. When we're young (typically under age 40), this lens is flexible and able to shift focus to help us read and see clearly at all distances. It also contributes about 20% of the eye's focusing power.

As we age, this lens gradually becomes stiffer—often starting in our 40s—leading to difficulty seeing up close. This is why people begin to need reading glasses or bifocals. Over time, the lens also becomes cloudy, reducing the quality of vision even with glasses. When this happens, it's called a cataract.

Cataract surgery is one of the most successful and common procedures in the world. It involves replacing the cloudy natural lens with a clear artificial lens implant.

Lens Replacement Surgery: More Than Just Cataract Removal

During cataract surgery, we remove the clouded lens and replace it with a new, clear one. Some lens implants restore clarity but still require glasses—often trifocals—to help patients see far away, up close, and at intermediate distances (like a computer screen).

Other advanced lens implants do much more. They restore both clarity and a full range of vision, often giving patients the ability to read, work, and drive without glasses—similar to the visual range they had in their 30s.

It's important to understand:

- Insurance typically covers the standard lens that restores clarity only.
- Advanced lens implants, which restore clarity and reading range, involve an additional investment by the patient.
- Both options are good—but which is best depends on the patient's lifestyle, eye health, and visual goals. Your consultation with your eye doctor and surgeon helps with these important decisions.

Some people choose to have Lens Replacement Surgery even before their cataract fully forms, especially if they're in their 40s to 60s and want to eliminate their need for reading glasses or bifocals. This is called Refractive Lens Exchange and the patients who do it never need to worry about developing a cataract and they are not dependent on reading glasses or bifocals anymore.

Surgical Technique: Manual vs. Laser Lens Capsule Opening

The natural lens is housed in a thin, clear membrane called the capsule—imagine a grape inside a grape skin. During surgery, the surgeon must create a round opening in the front of the capsule, about 5.0 mm in diameter, perfectly centered over the lens. This allows the lens to be removed and the new implant to be placed in the capsule.

After surgery, the capsule naturally "shrink-wraps" around the new lens implant. This process, called capsule contraction, helps hold the lens in place for the rest of the patient's life—and does this the best if the opening overlaps the edge of the implant for 360 degrees.



By Vance Thompson, MD

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Achieving this ideal overlap is a key to long-term stability of the implant.

There are two main methods for creating the capsule opening:

1. Manual method – done with handheld forceps and typically quite accurate.
2. Laser method – uses a femtosecond laser guided by advanced imaging (OCT) to precisely place and shape the opening.

The laser method can:

- Provide a near-perfectly round and centered opening.
- Improve the chances of 360° overlap, which enhances lens stability.
- Use imaging to determine the exact center of the natural lens—something that can be more difficult to judge manually.

Both manual and laser methods are highly respected and can lead to excellent outcomes. However, the laser approach involves an additional cost and is generally considered more precise. Patients should weigh these benefits with their doctor when deciding which approach is right for them.

Conclusion

When considering cataract surgery—or elective lens replacement—patients should be informed about:

- Implant choices: standard (clarity only) vs. advanced (clarity and range of vision).
- Surgical techniques: manual vs. laser-guided lens capsule opening.

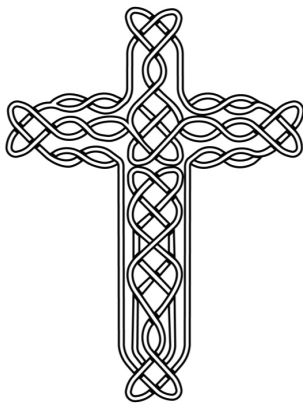
Understanding these options empowers you to have meaningful conversations with your eye surgeon and make the best decision for your vision and lifestyle.

Vance Thompson, MD is an internationally recognized specialist in refractive cornea, phakic IOL and lens replacement surgery. He is the Founder of Vance Thompson Vision Sioux Falls, SD and the Director of Refractive Surgery. Vance Thompson Vision has grown to serve the mid and mountain west with nine locations. Dr. Thompson also serves as a Professor of Ophthalmology at the Sanford USD School of Medicine. As a leading international researcher, he has played a key role in the development of the most advanced technologies and techniques for both laser and implant vision correction. He has a passion for research and development of new technologies and has served as the medical monitor or principal investigator in over 130 FDA monitored clinical trials studying laser and implant surgery. Dr. Thompson is the immediate Past President of the American Society and is also on the Executive Committee as Vice President of the International Intraocular Implant Club (IIIC) that was founded in 1966 by Sir Harold Ridley, the inventor of the Lens Implant that revolutionized cataract surgery and refractive lens exchange. In addition, Dr. Thompson has published numerous papers and book chapters and is co-author of the textbook Refractive Surgery. He has lectured and taught advanced laser and implant surgery to thousands of surgeons all around the world. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Threads. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB), providing health information based on science, built on trust.

Golden Threads

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

Proverbs 8:10-11



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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



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As the 2025 NFL season draws closer, the Minnesota Vikings find themselves in a rare position: built to win now, yet still developing key young talent across the roster. With training camp on the horizon and a deep, competitive team in place, I'll be breaking down each position group over the next seven weeks to get a clearer picture of who's locked in, who's on the bubble, and who could surprise us this summer. We'll start at quarterback and work our way through the entire roster, ending with the secondary just before the first preseason game kicks off.

Last week we evaluated the offensive line, which wrapped up the offensive side of the ball. This week we flip to the other side, starting with the defensive line. The Vikings technically run a 3-4 defense, which means when they are in their base, there are three defensive linemen and four linebackers on the field. However, Brian Flores – whether through necessity or inventiveness – has thrown tradition out the window. The Vikings will have plays where there is only one or two defensive linemen on the field. Heck, there are even plays when a safety is lined up as a defensive lineman. This offseason, the Vikings invested heavily to beef up the d-line, so it will be interesting to see how he deploys his new toys.

The Starters

Harrison Phillips – For the past few years, Phillips has been the only defensive tackle on the Vikings' roster that opposing teams had to game plan for. Since joining the Vikings in 2022, Phillips hasn't missed a game. The veteran is also a leader in the locker room, making his contributions on and off the field invaluable. Still only 29 years old, Phillips is signed through the 2026 season.

Jonathan Allen – The 30-year-old former first-round pick is a two-time Pro Bowler who spent his first eight seasons in Washington. The Vikings gave Allen a three-year, \$51 million contract this offseason. Allen missed nine games in 2024 after tearing his pectoral muscle, but before that, he had only missed three games in the previous six seasons.

Javon Hargrave – Like Allen, Hargrave is an older (32 years old) defensive tackle who made two Pro Bowl appearances and was injured last season (torn triceps). Also like Allen, Hargrave had been relatively healthy before the 2024 season, only missing four games from 2016 to 2023. The Vikings gave him a two-year, \$30 million contract this offseason.

Likely Backups

Jalen Redmond – Undrafted in 2023, Redmond originally signed with the Carolina Panthers and spent the his rookie season on their practice squad. He signed with the Vikings in 2024 and bounced between the active roster and the practice squad, appearing in 13 games last season with two starts.

Tyrion Ingram-Dawkins – Had he stayed in college one more season, Ingram-Dawkins likely would have been a first or second-round pick in 2026. He chose to enter the NFL early, however, and the Vikings took him in the 5th round. He needs time to develop, but he's likely too good to be stashed on the practice squad.

On the Bubble

Levi Drake Rodriguez – A seventh-round draft pick in 2024, LDR spent most of his rookie season on the Vikings' practice squad. He was an undersized defensive tackle with a high motor who needed time to bulk up and refine his skills. Entering his sophomore season, LDR will be competing for the sixth defensive lineman spot on the Vikings' 53-man roster. He appeared in two games last season.

Taki Taimani – Signed as an undrafted free agent in 2024, Taki played in seven games for the Vikings in his rookie season. He is more of a natural nose tackle, which the Vikings don't have many of, so he has a good chance to make the Vikings' 53-man roster.

Jonathan Harris – Entering his sixth season in the NFL, Harris has played in 40 games and has nine starts under his belt. He is a solid rotational player but doesn't have much upside, so he's likely the Vikings' backup plan in case Levi Drake Rodriguez and/or Taki Taimani don't improve as much as the team is hoping for.

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Possible Practice Squad Players

Travis Bell – A seventh-round draft pick by the Chicago Bears in 2023, Bell is on his fourth team in two years.

Alexander Musch Williams – The undrafted rookie is 25 years old. He began his college career with the Ohio State Buckeyes before transferring to Vanderbilt for the 2020-22 seasons. He finished his college career at Middle Tennessee State.

Elijah Williams – An undrafted rookie, Williams is an undersized defensive tackle who had a knack for sacks in college at Morgan State. NFL media analyst Charles Davis said Williams was the best player on the field in the HBCU Legacy Bowl.

Groton Locke Electric Fall Victim To Clark Traders Rally

By GameChanger Media

Despite leading by as many as four runs, Groton Locke Electric fell to Clark Traders 12-7 on Sunday at Clark.

Groton Locke Electric lost despite out-hitting Clark Traders 13 to 12. Brian Hansen, Ben Althoff, Austin Jones, and Jonah Schmidt each collected two hits for Groton Locke Electric.

Clark Traders got on the board in the first inning after Brent Griffith singled, scoring one run.

Carlos Camacho was struck by a pitch, which helped Groton Locke Electric tie the game at one in the top of the second.

In the top of the third, Groton Locke Electric broke up the tie when Hansen singled, scoring one run. Then a home run to right field by Schmidt followed to extend the lead to 5-1.

Clark Traders flipped the game on its head in the bottom of the third, scoring 10 runs on seven hits to take the lead, 11-5. The biggest blow in the inning was an error that drove in two.

Hudson Fuller earned the win for Clark Traders. The righty allowed 13 hits and seven runs (five earned) over nine innings, striking out five and walking one. Alex Morris took the loss for Groton Locke Electric. The starter went eight innings, giving up 12 runs (four earned) on 12 hits, striking out six and walking one.

Groton Locke Electric amassed 13 hits in the game. Hansen and Schmidt were a one-two punch in the lineup, as each drove in two runs for Groton Locke Electric.

Clark Traders tallied 12 hits in the game. Zach Toben drove the middle of the lineup, leading Clark Traders with four runs batted in. The 3-hole hitter went 2-for-5 on the day. Brent Griffith, Grayson Florey, Braedon Zaug, and Toben each collected two hits for Clark Traders. Clark Traders turned one double play in the game.

Groton Locke Electric welcome Circus Sports Bar on Tuesday for their next game.

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Groton Locke Electric 7 - 12 Clark Traders

📍 Away 📅 Sunday July 13, 2025

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
GRTN	0	1	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	7	13	3
CLRK	1	0	10	0	1	0	0	0	X	12	12	2

BATTING

Groton Locke Electric	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
D Frey #6 (LF)	5	1	1	0	0	1
T Sieber #24 (SS)	5	1	1	0	0	0
A Morris #13 (P)	5	1	1	0	0	0
B Althoff #1 (3B)	5	1	2	1	0	0
B Hansen #18 (1B)	4	1	2	2	0	0
G Knebel #9	1	0	0	0	0	0
J Schmidt #21 (RF)	4	2	2	2	1	1
R Groebli... #0 (2B)	4	0	1	0	0	1
A Jones #7 (CF)	4	0	2	0	0	1
S Locke #15	1	0	0	0	0	0
C Camacho #10 (C)	3	0	1	1	0	1
Totals	41	7	13	6	1	5

2B: B Althoff, **HR:** J Schmidt, **TB:** A Jones 2, J Schmidt 5, D Frey, R Groebli... #0 (2B), B Althoff 3, B Hansen 2, A Morris, T Sieber, C Camacho, **HBP:** R Groebli... #0 (2B), C Camacho, **LOB:** 9

PITCHING

Groton Locke Electric	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
A Morris #13	8.0	12	12	4	1	6	1
Totals	8.0	12	12	4	1	6	1

L: A Morris, **P-S:** A Morris 121-87, **WP:** A Morris, **HBP:** A Morris, **BF:** A Morris 42

Clark Traders	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Grayson... #21 (CF)	5	3	2	2	0	2
Braedon... #13 (DH)	5	2	2	1	0	1
Z Toben #23 (SS)	5	2	2	4	0	0
Andrew... #24 (3B)	3	1	1	1	1	0
Brent Gri... #25 (1B)	5	1	2	0	0	0
John Koe... #10 (C)	5	0	1	0	0	0
W Grant... #14 (LF)	3	0	0	0	0	2
Jay Huber #3 (2B)	4	1	1	0	0	0
P Hoffer #16 (RF)	4	2	1	0	0	1
Totals	39	12	12	8	1	6

2B: Grayson Florey 2, Jay Huber, Z Toben, P Hoffer, Braedon Zaug, **HR:** Z Toben, **TB:** John Koenig, Grayson Florey 4, Andrew Magedanz, Jay Huber 2, Z Toben 6, Brent Griffith 2, P Hoffer 2, Braedon Zaug 3, **SAC:** W Grantham, **HBP:** Andrew Magedanz, **LOB:** 6

Clark Traders	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
Hudson... #9	9.0	13	7	5	1	5	1
Totals	9.0	13	7	5	1	5	1

W: Hudson Fuller, **P-S:** Hudson Fuller 140-96, **WP:** Hudson Fuller, **HBP:** Hudson Fuller 2, **BF:** Hudson Fuller 44

Groton Legion Post 39 Defeat Rattlers 2025 Legion On Multiple Hit Performance By Alex Abeln

By GameChanger Media

Alex Abeln collected three hits in three at bats, as Groton Legion Post 39 defeated Rattlers 2025 Legion 18-4 on Saturday. Abeln singled in the third inning, singled in the second inning, and singled in the third inning.

Groton Legion Post 39 won thanks in part to 14 runs in the third inning. Abeln singled, scoring one run, Lincoln Krause singled, scoring one run, Teylor Diegel singled, scoring one run, Korbin Kucker doubled, scoring two runs, Brevin Fliehs singled, scoring two runs, Carter Simon singled, scoring one run, Braxton Imrie doubled, scoring two runs, Abeln singled, scoring two runs, Kucker drew a walk, scoring one run, and an error scored one run.

Rattlers 2025 Legion got on the board in the bottom of the first inning after Cole Nitschke singled to center field, and Colin Goettle walked, each scoring one run.

Groton Legion Post 39 took the lead, 4-2, in the top of the second thanks to singles by Nick Groebelinghoff, Abeln, and Diegel.

Rattlers 2025 Legion tied the game up in the bottom of the second thanks to two singles. Rattlers 2025 Legion tied the game at four on a single by Berkley Frantz.

Gavin Englund led things off on the bump for Groton Legion Post 39. The hurler gave up four hits and four runs over three innings, striking out four and walking four. Parker Salwei opened the game for Rattlers 2025 Legion. The pitcher allowed 15 hits and 18 runs (11 earned) over two and two-thirds innings, striking out two and walking four.

Groton Legion Post 39 collected 15 hits in the game. Krause and Abeln were a force together in the lineup, as they each collected three hits for Groton Legion Post 39 while hitting back-to-back. Diegel, Abeln, and Kucker each drove in three runs for Groton Legion Post 39. Englund collected two hits for Groton Legion Post 39 in two at bats.

Frantz went 2-for-2 at the plate to lead Rattlers 2025 Legion in hits. Justin Bosch, Frantz, and Nitschke each drove in one run for Rattlers 2025 Legion.

Next up for Groton Legion Post 39 is a game at Milbank on Tuesday.

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Groton Area Clay Target League places ninth in the nation

From Groton Area Facebook Page

The Groton Area Clay Target League had a very successful season and terrific showing at the National Level in Mason, Michigan at the USA High School Clay Target League National Championship this weekend!

Representing our school at the national level was: Payton Mitchell, Jaeger Kampa, Turner Thompson, Paisley Mitchell, and Wesley Morehouse.

Team Placing:

- 9th Place in the Nation with a total score of 490/500!

Individual Placing (out of 1,800 shooters):

- Turner Thompson - 12th Place
- Wesley Morehouse - 56th Place
- Payton Mitchell - 308th Place
- Jaeger Kampa - 507th Place
- Paisley Mitchell - 587th Place

All five athletes marked their own personal records at the National Tournament. We are so proud of the perseverance, hard work, and dedication you have shown to your sport. A lot of heart was shown competing the way you did and finishing your season out with amazing results! Thank you for representing your school and community with pride!

Names Released in 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: Ryan Glen Shepherd, 53-year-old male from Webster, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2009 Harley Davidson FLHTCUI

Helmet Used: No

Passenger 1: Sean Vincent Shepherd, 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.

Preliminary crash information indicates Ryan Glen Shepherd, 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, Sean Vincent Shepherd, 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.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Former vice presidential candidate calls Noem 'antithesis of the South Dakota I know'

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz draws a thousand to Democrat fundraiser in Sioux Falls

BY: JOHN HULT - SUNDAY JULY 13, 2025 9:52 AM

SIOUX FALLS — Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz regaled about a thousand people at a South Dakota Democratic Party fundraiser Saturday night with jabs at the state's former and current governors, advice for winning back rural voters and blue collar workers, and pride in liberal ideals.

The 2024 Democratic vice presidential nominee — who was on the losing ticket with presidential nominee Kamala Harris — delivered the keynote speech to a sellout crowd at the 2025 McGovern Day dinner at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. Reporters were allowed into the event, but not to take photographs once it started.

It didn't take long for Walz to criticize the actions of U.S. Homeland Security secretary and Republican former South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem.

"If you had to pick somebody who's the antithesis of the South Dakota I know, it would be that," he said.

The two served in Congress, cosponsoring bills together before 2018, when each was elected to lead their respective states.

Their relationship soured during the COVID-19 pandemic when they took divergent approaches, and further deteriorated when Noem described Walz as a "radical" in her role as a Trump surrogate during last year's presidential campaign.

Walz, speaking of his preparation to appear in South Dakota, said "I had to decide what I was going to wear."

"When you're a governor and you're in South Dakota, do you dress as a fireman? You dress as a cow-girl?" he said.

The joke was a dig at Noem. She donned firefighting gear at a U.S. Coast Guard training facility, for example, and wore a cowboy hat for an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"I know it's petty, but some people just bring out the petty," Walz said.

Advice for SD Democrats

He laid out his connections to South Dakota once the laughter died down. He grew up nearby in Nebraska. He hunted pheasants in Winner, saw drive-in movies in Lake Andes and "spent too much time" at a bar called the Longbranch in Burke.

Walz also prodded current South Dakota Gov. Larry Rhoden, who recently signed a bill that will allow the concealed carry of pistols on college campuses by gun owners with enhanced permits. Walz described that as one of the Republican talking points about South Dakota being "the freest state in the nation."

"I think some of you may have a difference of opinion in that. I ran into an OB-GYN that says that's not true," Walz said, referencing South Dakota's near-total abortion ban.

Walz told Democrats that Republicans who paint them as "elites" are cutting taxes for the wealthy and reducing support for student aid programs and Medicaid while "tearing apart" rural communities and mass-detaining undocumented immigrants.

"Is our immigration system broken? Yes. But our moral system sure as hell should not be with throwing people in camps," he said, a reference to a detention center for migrants in the Florida Everglades that President Trump calls "Alligator Alcatraz."

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"The people building prison camps are never the good guys in history," Walz said.

He urged Democrats to work on issues of importance to rural and working class South Dakotans, like Medicaid and Medicare, and to work with labor unions.

"There's a direct correlation between the strength of the middle class and economic security with the number of people who are in labor unions," he said.

He also suggested the national Democratic Party should pay more attention to places like South Dakota if it expects to build a coalition durable enough to compete outside of its traditional strongholds and battleground states. "A few million dollars" could make a difference and help South Dakota build the Democratic bench, he said.

"I hear people say 'there are no Democrats in South Dakota,'" Walz said. "But there's a hell of a lot in this room."

Party expects more candidates in 2026

The McGovern Day dinner is the state party's largest annual fundraiser. Regular tickets cost \$125. Meet-and-greet tickets cost twice that.

"We haven't had a McGovern Day dinner this big at least since I've been around," said Shane Merrill, chair of the state party.

The party leaned into Walz's fame for more than ticket sales. Vermillion brewery XIX whipped up a batch of "Walz on Tap" blonde ale, sold by the can at cocktail stations and by the four-pack in a silent auction.

The enthusiasm was tempered by reality. South Dakotans registered as independents or without any political affiliation outnumber Democrats. Republicans have the most registrants and hold every state-wide office, all three of the state's congressional seats, and all but nine of the seats in the 105-member Legislature.

Democrats have faced criticism during recent South Dakota election cycles for not fielding candidates, sometimes for offices as high as Congress. Before the speeches started Saturday, state party Executive Director Dan Ahlers said that won't be a problem in 2026.

"I need two of me to interview all the people who want to run," he said.

The party already has candidates for U.S. Senate (Julian Beaudion), secretary of state (Terrence Davis) and U.S. representative, although Ahlers said that candidate won't announce until the fall. Nineteen-year-old Robert Arnold has announced his candidacy for governor, and Ahlers said he expects another hopeful to announce for that race, as well.

Later, speaking from the stage, Ahlers declared "we can no longer be content with a few seats at the table. We need to run the table."

"It shouldn't be enough to field a good Democratic candidate," he said. "We need to elect Democratic candidates."

State Sen. Liz Larson, D-Sioux Falls, said she's proud to have been the first female state Senate minority leader, but told the audience that it took time to get there. She lost in her first run for office in 2020, but "knocked on thousands of doors" and won on her second and third go-rounds.

Democrats believe, she said, "that you're no better than anybody else, and we're all in this together."

"That is a politics worth showing up for," Larson said.

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.

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EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that there's a link between good health and living near trees?

-- Paul Morra, Los Angeles, CA

Trees are an essential part of most ecosystems around the planet, as both habitat for a multitude of species and as air purifiers. Their impact on the overall health of the planet is unquestionable, and with regard to human health, trees can provide a variety of benefits, both mentally and physically.

Trees' mental health benefits include help with ameliorating mental health disorders symptoms like depression or anxiety. These benefits also extend to general stress and nervousness, with one study stating that those who live in urban neighborhoods with 30 percent or more tree canopy are 33 percent less likely to experience psychological distress than those in areas with zero to nine percent tree canopy coverage.

For those who live near trees, these benefits are easy to come by—even a passive view of trees from indoors can help better one's mental state. And when walks, runs—or any activity in nature—are incorporated into one's daily or semi-frequent routine, these benefits are exponentially increased.

In addition, the positive mental health benefits of trees are especially pronounced in children, with kids aged four to six years proven to have reduced hyperactive behavior and improved memory and cognition when living close to green space.

"By offering children opportunities to connect with nature, we can significantly improve their overall health and equip them with the tools to lead fulfilling lives," says Angela Warren, Executive Director at Genesee Soil and Water Conservation District, showcasing the long-lasting impacts of living near trees (including a 55 percent reduction in the risk of developing mental health disorders in the future).

Physically, trees provide benefits for the whole body, including the heart, lungs, eyes and more. Densely populated areas are hotter due to the urban heat island effect, but places with many trees can stay up to seven degrees cooler. Being in close proximity to trees can directly improve the climate of one's surroundings, as well as the air quality.

Trees can often serve as 'natural air purifiers', reducing the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and air pollutants in one's surroundings. Such natural air purification serves to provide good health for those with respiratory impairments, such as allergies, asthma or other lung disease.

To help provide these benefits to everyone, you can plant trees and advocate for the forested land currently near you and for the continued protection of trees around the world.



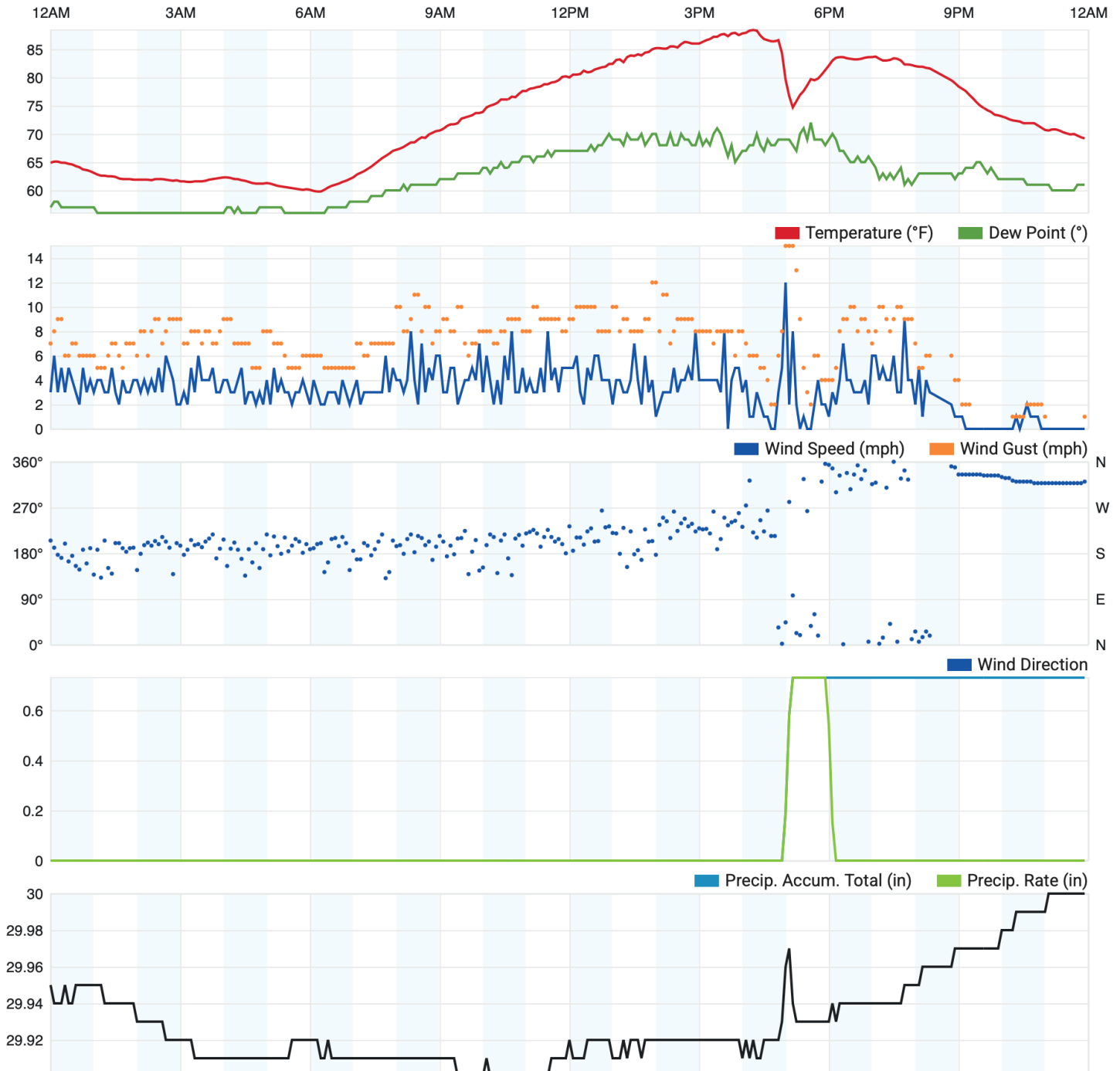
Trees' impact on the overall health of the planet is unquestionable, and with regard to human health, trees can provide a variety of benefits, both mentally and physically. Credit: Pexels.com.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

July 13, 2025



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Today



High: 92 °F

Hot

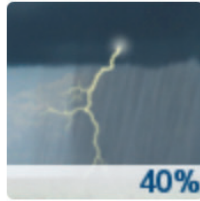
Tonight



Low: 67 °F

Partly Cloudy
then Slight
Chance
T-storms

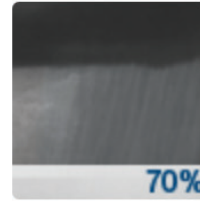
Tuesday



High: 76 °F

Chance
T-storms

Tuesday Night



Low: 57 °F

Showers
Likely and
Breezy

Wednesday



High: 67 °F

Chance
Showers



Hot Today!

- Hottest temperatures of 100° will be across south central South Dakota this afternoon
- Moderate Heat Risk with portions of south central SD in Major Heat Risk

Risk of Heat-Related Impacts

Little to None

- Little to no risk from expected heat.

Minor

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

Moderate

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

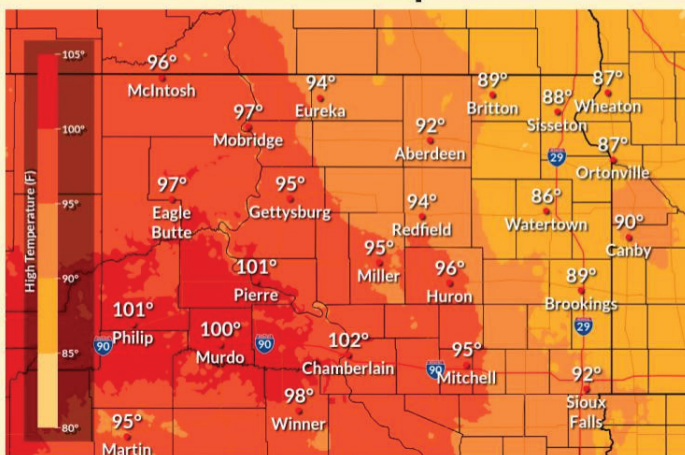
Major

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

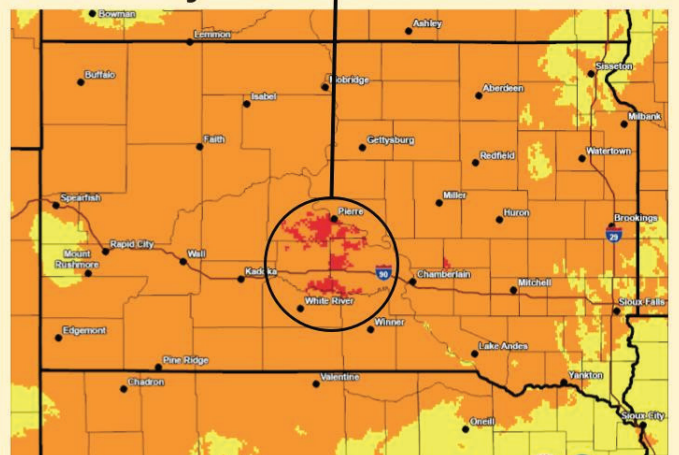
Extreme

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

Maximum Temperatures



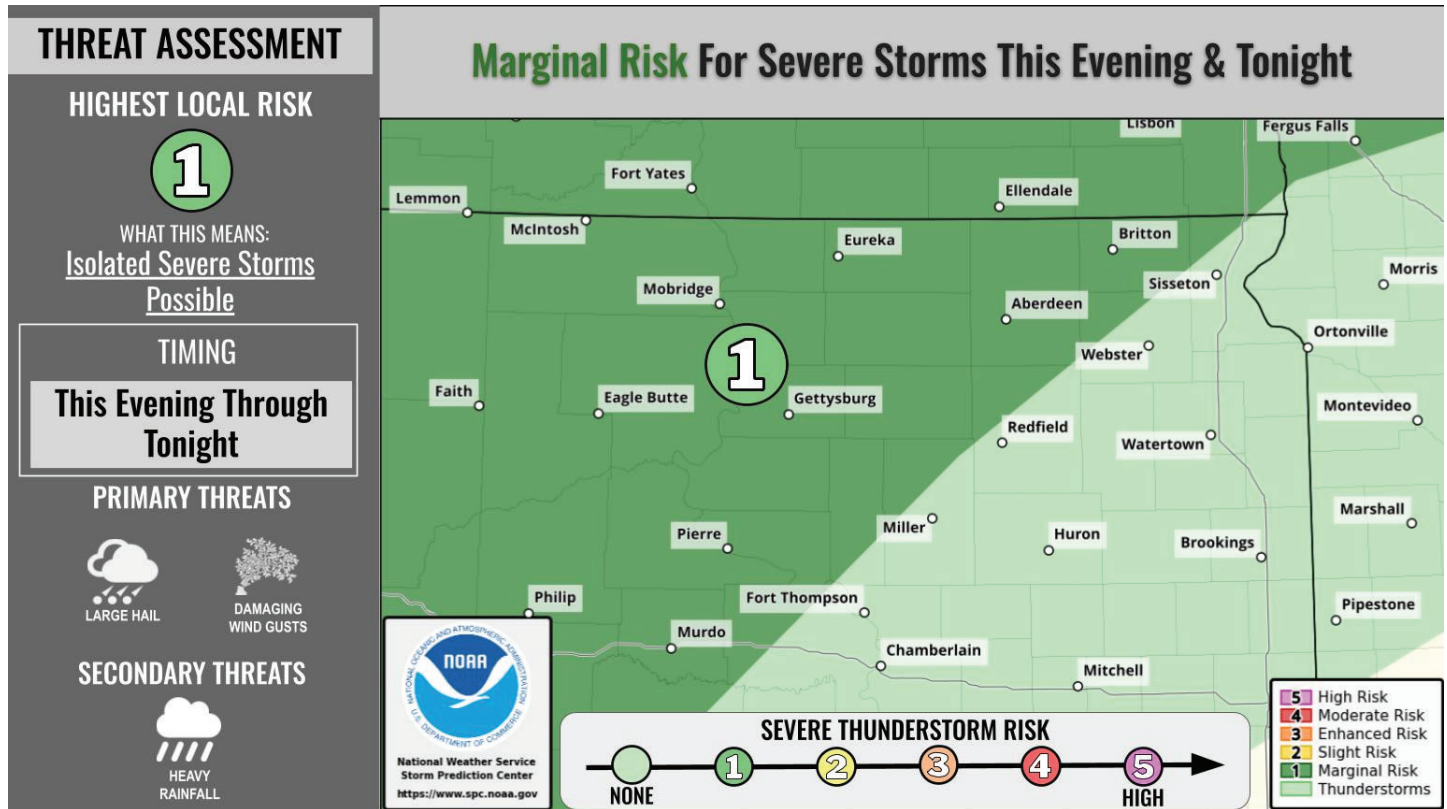
Today's Heat Risk Potential



Highs for today will range in the upper 80s to the 90s with some locations across south central SD topping out around the 100 degree mark! Make sure to stay cool and hydrated and take frequent breaks if you plan to be outside.

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Isolated strong to severe storms are possible this evening and tonight. The Storm Prediction Center has issued a Marginal Risk (level 1 out of 5) for north central, central, and portions of northeastern SD. Main threats include hail, up to the size of quarters, wind gusts of 60 mph, and the potential for heavy rain.

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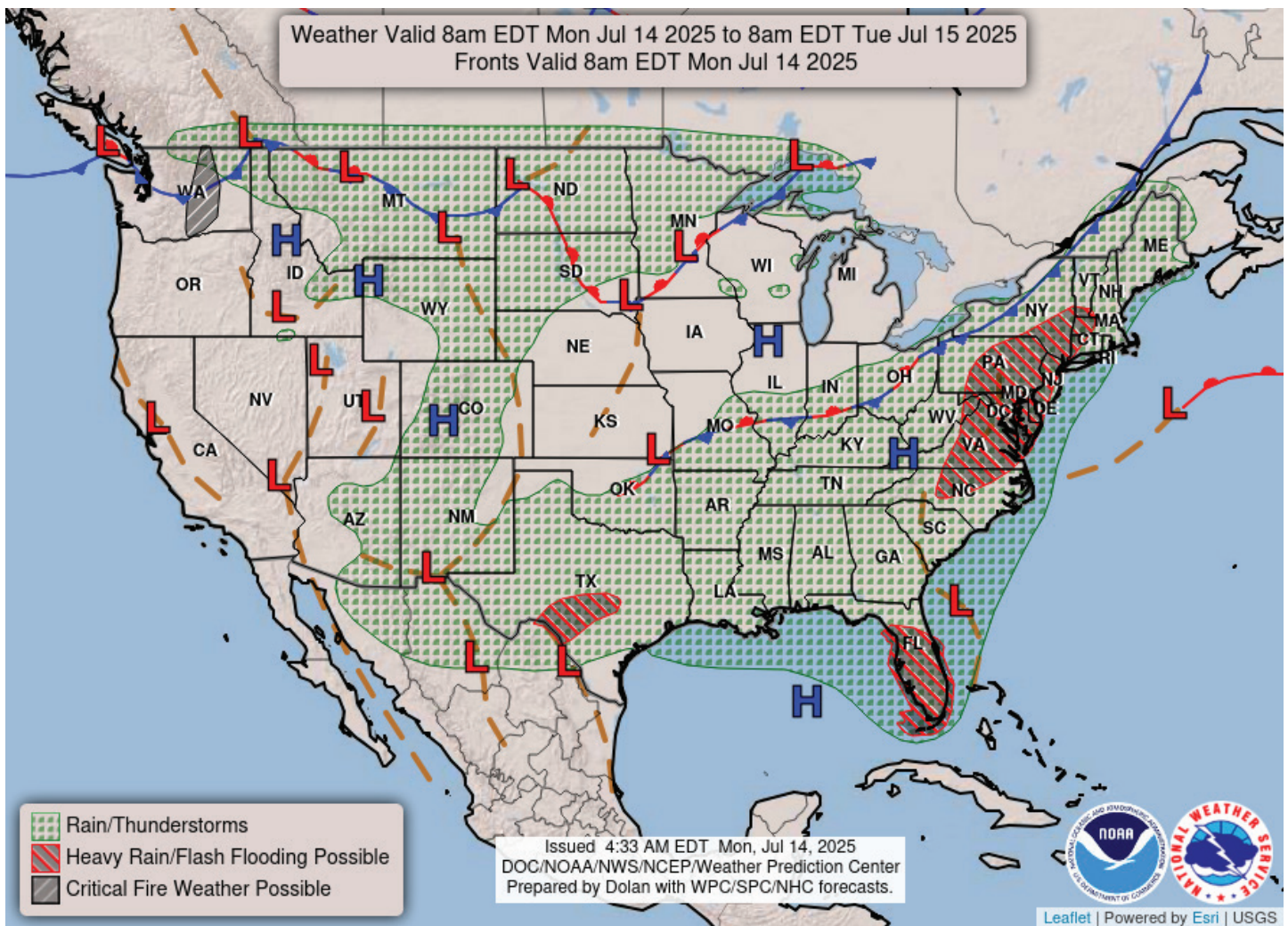
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 88 °F at 4:11 PM
Heat Index: 94 °F at 3:30 PM
Low Temp: 60 °F at 6:10 AM
Wind: 16 mph at 4:59 PM
Precip: : 0.73

Day length: 15 hours, 23 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 106 in 1931
Record Low: 42 in 1967
Average High: 85
Average Low: 60
Average Precip in July.: 1.59
Precip to date in July: 2.60
Average Precip to date: 12.60
Precip Year to Date: 12.72
Sunset Tonight: 9:20:19 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:57:20 am



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Today in Weather History

July 14, 1970: A line of severe thunderstorms raced across southeast South Dakota into northwest Iowa causing extensive damage. The line of storms produced widespread high winds and large hail. The hail averaged quarter to hen egg size although some areas received stones the size of softballs and winds over 70 mph were not uncommon. The most extensive damage from the storms extended from Mitchell through Parker to near Beresford. Spotty areas reported 100% crop damage. In Lincoln County, the hail caused an estimated \$8 million in crop damage and \$2 million in property damage. In the town of Marion, the hail was so large that it punched holes in some roofs.

July 14, 2009: A line of storms moving across north-central South Dakota during the early morning hours on the 14th became heavy rainfall producing thunderstorms for northeastern South Dakota. Rainfall amounts of 2 to 5 inches caused mainly localized flooding. However in Grant County, a 20 foot wide by a 17-foot deep culvert on 468th Avenue in Twin Brooks was washed away by flash flooding. The Grant County Highway Department said fixing the channel would cost more than \$40,000.

1936 - Extreme heat prevailed across the central U.S. as severe drought raged from Texas to the Dakotas. Record high temperatures were established in sixteen states that summer, including readings as high as 120 degrees in the Great Plains Region. On this particular date, afternoon highs for 113 stations across the state of Iowa averaged 108.7 degrees. (David Ludlum)

1957 - Hail, with some stones up to an inch in diameter, covered the ground to a depth of three inches ruining crops in the Bath area of New Hampshire. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms in Iowa produced eight inches of golf ball size hail near Grafton, IA, completely stripping corn stalks in the area. Hail caused more than a million dollars damage to crops in Worth County and Mitchell County, and another million dollars damage in Ada County and Crawford County. Unseasonably cool weather prevailed in the Great Plains Region. Eight cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Duluth, MN, with a reading of 37 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Severe thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in the Northern Atlantic Coast Region during the afternoon and evening hours. Thunderstorms also spawned a rather strong tornado near Westtown, NY, and drenched Agawam, MA, with four inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather from eastern New Mexico to central Nebraska. One hundred soldiers were injured by flying debris and collapsing tents during a thunderstorm near Trinidad, CO. Thunderstorms in Colorado produced wind gusts to 77 mph at La Junta. Early morning thunderstorms produced torrential rains over parts of Louisiana, with 7.50 inches at Carencro, and 5.85 inches at Morgan City. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1995: On the evening of Friday, July 14th, thunderstorms producing severe weather were occurring over Upper Michigan and adjacent portions of Ontario near Sault Saint Marie. By late evening the storms had evolved into a bowing line just northwest of the Mackinac Bridge. At 10:17 PM EDT, the thunderstorm gust front hit the bridge, and a gust to 90 mph was measured. Sustained winds of 80 mph continued on the bridge for ten more minutes. Thus began the intense "Ontario-Adirondacks Derecho" that would cause hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of damage, several deaths, and many injuries as it raced southeast from the northern Great Lakes to the Atlantic coast.

2005 - Death Valley had 7 consecutive days (July 14-20) with high temperatures equal to or above 125 degrees.

2006: Tropical Storm Bilis tracks across northern Taiwan before making landfall in southeastern China's Fujian province with maximum sustained winds near 65 mph. The storm causes at least 575 deaths in Fujian, Guangdong, and Hunan provinces and direct economic losses near \$3.3 billion.

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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

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.11.25

12 23 24 31 56 1

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$90,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 16 Mins 46 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.12.25

2 10 12 21 45 3

All Star Bonus: 5x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,750,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 31 Mins 46 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.13.25

4 7 20 35 40 2

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 46 Mins 46 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.12.25

5 14 15 19 20

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$55,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 16 Hrs 46 Mins 46 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.12.25

5 8 35 62 63 8

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 15 Mins 46 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.12.25

8 16 24 33 54 18

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$248,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 15 Mins 46 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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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

Jr. Legion Baseball Region Tournament

Locke/Karst Field, Groton

Monday, July 28 starting at Noon

Sisseton vs. Redfield

Groton vs. Redfield

Clark vs. Groton

Tuesday, July 29 starting at 2 p.m.

Sisseton vs. Groton

Sisseton vs. Clark

Redfield vs. Clark

If no one is undefeated, or there is no clear winner, a formula is used to determine who will advance to state tournament August 8-10 in Milbank.

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Trump envoy arrives in Kyiv as US pledges Patriot missiles to Ukraine

By ILLIA NOVIKOV Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump's special envoy to Ukraine and Russia, retired Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg, arrived in Kyiv on Monday, a senior Ukrainian official said, as anticipation grew over a possible shift in the Trump administration's policy on the more than three-year war.

Trump last week teased that he would make a "major statement" on Russia on Monday. Trump made quickly stopping the war one of his diplomatic priorities, and he has increasingly expressed frustration about Russian President Vladimir Putin's unbudging stance on U.S.-led peace efforts.

Putin "talks nice and then he bombs everybody," Trump said late Sunday, as he confirmed the U.S. is sending Ukraine badly needed U.S.-made Patriot air defense missiles to help it fend off Russia's intensifying aerial attacks.

Russia has spread terror in Ukrainian cities, including the capital, Kyiv, with hundreds of drones and cruise and ballistic missiles that Ukraine's air defenses are struggling to counter. June brought the highest monthly civilian casualties of the past three years, with 232 people killed and 1,343 wounded, the U.N. human rights mission in Ukraine said Thursday. Russia launched 10 times more drones and missiles in June than in the same month last year, it said.

That has happened at the same time as Russia's bigger army is making a new effort to drive back Ukrainian defenders on parts of the 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line.

A top ally of Trump, Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, said Sunday that the conflict is nearing an inflection point as Trump shows growing interest in helping Ukraine fight back against Russia's full-scale invasion. It's a cause that Trump had previously dismissed as being a waste of U.S. taxpayer money.

"In the coming days, you'll see weapons flowing at a record level to help Ukraine defend themselves," Graham said on CBS' "Face the Nation." He added: "One of the biggest miscalculations (Russian President Vladimir) Putin has made is to play Trump. And you just watch, in the coming days and weeks, there's going to be a massive effort to get Putin to the table."

Also, NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte was due in Washington on Monday and Tuesday. He planned to hold talks with Trump, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, as well as members of Congress.

Talks during Kellogg's visit to Kyiv will cover "defense, strengthening security, weapons, sanctions, protection of our people and enhancing cooperation between Ukraine and the United States," said the head of Ukraine's presidential office, Andrii Yermak.

"Russia does not want a cease fire. Peace through strength is President Donald Trump's principle, and we support this approach," Yermak said.

Russian troops conducted a combined aerial strike at Shostka, in the northern Sumy region of Ukraine, using glide bombs and drones early Monday morning, killing two people, the regional prosecutor's office said. Four others were injured, including a 7-year-old, it said.

Overnight from Sunday to Monday, Russia fired four S-300/400 missiles and 136 Shahed and decoy drones at Ukraine, the air force said. It said that 61 drones were intercepted and 47 more were either jammed or lost from radars mid-flight.

The Russian Defense Ministry, meanwhile, said its air defenses downed 11 Ukrainian drones over Russian regions on the border with Ukraine, as well as over the annexed Crimea and the Black Sea.

European trade ministers meet to forge strategy after Trump's surprise 30% tariffs

By SAM McNEIL Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European trade ministers are meeting in Brussels on Monday, following U.S. President Donald Trump's surprise announcement of 30% tariffs on the European Union.

The EU is America's biggest business partner and the world's largest trading bloc. The U.S. decision will have repercussions for governments, companies and consumers on both sides of the Atlantic.

"We shouldn't impose countermeasures at this stage, but we should prepare to be ready to use all the tools in the toolbox," said Denmark's foreign minister, Lars Løkke Rasmussen, told reporters ahead of the meeting. "So we want a deal, but there's an old saying: 'If you want peace, you have to prepare for war.'"

The tariffs, also imposed on Mexico, are set to start on Aug. 1 and could make everything from French cheese and Italian leather goods to German electronics and Spanish pharmaceuticals more expensive in the U.S., and destabilize economies from Portugal to Norway.

Meanwhile, Brussels decided to suspend retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods scheduled to take effect Monday in hopes of reaching a trade deal with the Trump administration by the end of the month.

The "countermeasures" by the EU, which negotiates trade deals on behalf of its 27 member countries, will be delayed until Aug. 1.

Trump's letter shows "that we have until the first of August" to negotiate, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told reporters in Brussels on Sunday.

Maroš Šefčovič, the EU's trade representative in its talks with the U.S., said negotiations would continue. "I'm absolutely 100% sure that a negotiated solution is much better than the tension which we might have after the 1st of August," he told reporters in Brussels on Monday.

"I cannot imagine walking away without genuine effort. Having said that, the current uncertainty caused by unjustified tariffs cannot persist indefinitely and therefore we must prepare for all outcomes, including, if necessary, well-considered proportionate countermeasures to restore the balance in our transit static relationship."

The letters to the EU and Mexico come in the midst of an on-and-off Trump threat to impose tariffs on countries and right an imbalance in trade.

Trump imposed tariffs in April on dozens of countries, before pausing them for 90 days to negotiate individual deals. As the three-month grace period ended this week, he began sending tariff letters to leaders, but again has pushed back the implementation day for what he says will be just a few more weeks.

If he moves forward with the tariffs, it could have ramifications for nearly every aspect of the global economy.

In the wake of the new tariffs, European leaders largely closed ranks, calling for unity but also a steady hand to not provoke further acrimony.

Just last week, Europe was cautiously optimistic.

Officials told reporters on Friday they weren't expecting a letter like the one sent Saturday and that a trade deal was to be inked in "the coming days." For months, the EU has broadcast that it has strong retaliatory measures ready if talks fail.

Reeling from successive rebukes from Washington, Šefčovič said Monday the EU is "doubling down on efforts to open new markets" and pointed to a new economic agreement with Indonesia as one.

The EU top brass will visit Beijing for a summit later this month while courting other Pacific nations like South Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Singapore, the Philippines, and Indonesia, whose prime minister visited Brussels over the weekend to sign a new economic partnership with the EU. It also has mega-deals in the works with Mexico and a trading bloc of South American nations known as Mercosur.

While meeting with Indonesia's president on Sunday, Von der Leyen said that "when economic uncertainty meets geopolitical volatility, partners like us must come closer together."

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Asian shares are mixed after S&P 500 and Nasdaq composite pull back from their all-time highs

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Shares were mixed in Asia on Monday after the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq composite edged away from the records they set last week.

An announcement over the weekend by U.S. President Donald Trump that he plans 30% tariffs on goods from Mexico and the European Union had scant immediate impact, as analysts said they expected progress toward trade deals before an Aug. 1 deadline.

Trump detailed the planned tariffs Saturday in letters posted to his social media account.

The Mexican peso weakened slightly against the dollar, trading at 18.6 pesos to the dollar.

Chinese shares advanced after the government reported that exports rose last month as a truce in a tariffs war prompted a surge in orders ahead of an Aug. 12 deadline for reaching a new trade deal with Washington.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.5% to 24,253.18, while the Shanghai Composite index also was up 0.5%, at 3,526.75.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index slipped 0.3% to 39,459.20, while the Kospi in South Korea jumped 0.8% to 3,200.25.

In Australia, the S&P/ASX 200 was little changed at 8,577.80.

Taiwan's benchmark lost 2.3%.

On Friday, a modest pullback for U.S. stocks left major stock indexes on Wall Street in the red for the week.

The S&P 500 closed 0.3% lower, at 6,259.75, a day after setting a record high.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 0.6% to 44,371.51, and the Nasdaq composite gave up 0.2% to 20,585.53 after drifting between small gains and losses much of the day. The tech-heavy index was coming off its own all-time high on Thursday.

The selling capped an uneven week in the market as Wall Street kept an eye on the Trump administration's rollout of new tariff threats against trading partners like Canada and looked ahead to the upcoming corporate earnings reporting season.

Trump said in a letter Thursday that he will raise taxes on many imported goods from Canada to 35%, deepening the rift between the longtime North American allies. The letter to Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney was an aggressive increase to the top 25% tariff rates that Trump first imposed in March.

The administration had initially set Wednesday as a deadline 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 been extended to Aug. 1.

Trump also floated this week that he would impose tariffs of as much as 200% on pharmaceutical drugs and place a 50% tariff on copper imports, matching the rates charged on steel and aluminum.

The initial rollout of Trump's tariff policies in the spring roiled financial markets. But they have been relatively stable in recent weeks, suggesting investors have adjusted to the unpredictability of his sudden policy shifts.

Markets are set to shift their focus to quarterly earnings over the next few weeks. JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo and Citigroup are among big banks due to report their results on Tuesday.

Shares in aviation company Red Cat Holdings jumped 26.4% Friday after Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth issued orders aimed at ramping up production and deployment of drones.

Bitcoin climbed to another all-time high, rising 3.6% early Monday to \$122,065, according to Coindesk.

Bitcoin's price has jumped amid bullish momentum across risk assets and coincides with Nvidia's surge to a \$4 trillion valuation. The U.S. Congress' Crypto Week starts Monday. Lawmakers will debate a series of bills that could define the regulatory framework for the industry.

In other dealings early Monday, U.S. benchmark crude oil gained 9 cents to \$68.54 per barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, was up 10 cents at \$70.46 per barrel.

The dollar slipped to 147.36 Japanese yen from 147.38 yen. The euro fell to \$1.1659 from \$1.1692.

Clashes between Druze militias and Sunni Bedouin clans in Syria kill more than 30 people

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Clashes between local militias and clans in Syria's Sweida province have killed more than 30 people and injured nearly 100, and government forces were being sent to the area to restore order, authorities said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported at least 37 people killed, including two children, in the clashes between armed groups from the Druze religious minority and Sunni Bedouin clans around the province. The U.K.-based war monitor reported that military convoys were sent to the area to reinforce security checkpoints.

The observatory said the clashes had started after a series of kidnappings between both groups, which began when members of a Bedouin tribe in the area set up a checkpoint where they attacked and robbed a young Druze man.

Rami Abdurrahman, who heads the observatory, said the conflict started with the kidnapping and robbery of a Druze vegetable seller, leading to tit-for-tat attacks and kidnappings.

Syria's defense and interior ministries were deploying personnel to the area to attempt to restore order.

The interior ministry in a statement called the situation a dangerous escalation that "comes in the absence of the relevant official institutions, which has led to an exacerbation of the state of chaos, the deterioration of the security situation, and the inability of the local community to contain the situation despite repeated calls for calm."

Factions from the Druze minority have been suspicious of the new authorities in Damascus after former President Bashar Assad fell in a lightning rebel offensive led by Sunni Islamist insurgent groups in December. Earlier this year, Druze groups in Sweida clashed with security forces from the new government.

The Druze religious sect is a minority group that began as a 10th-century offshoot of Ismailism, a branch of Shiite Islam. In Syria, they largely live in the southern Sweida province and some suburbs of Damascus, mainly in Jaramana and Ashrafiyat Sahnaya to the south.

The Druze developed their own militias during the country's nearly 14-year civil war. Since Assad's fall, different Druze factions have been at odds over whether to integrate with the new government and armed forces.

Trump to meet NATO secretary-general as plan takes shape for Ukraine weapons sales

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) — NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte is set to meet President Donald Trump this week on the heels of the U.S. leader announcing plans to sell NATO allies weaponry that they can then pass on to Ukraine.

Rutte will be in Washington on Monday and Tuesday and plans to hold talks with Trump, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth as well as members of Congress.

"I'm gonna have a meeting with the secretary-general who's coming in tomorrow," Trump told reporters as he arrived in Washington on Sunday night. "But we basically are going to send them various pieces of very sophisticated (weapons) and they're gonna pay us 100% for them."

A top ally of Trump, Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, said Sunday that the conflict is nearing an inflection point as Trump shows growing interest in helping Ukraine fight back Russia. It's a cause that Trump, who during his campaign made quickly ending the war a top priority, had previously dismissed as being a waste of U.S. taxpayer money.

"In the coming days, you'll see weapons flowing at a record level to help Ukraine defend themselves," Graham said on CBS' "Face the Nation." He added: "One of the biggest miscalculations (Russian President Vladimir) Putin has made is to play Trump. And you just watch, in the coming days and weeks, there's going to be a massive effort to get Putin to the table."

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The Rutte visit comes after Trump last week teased that he would make a "major statement" on Russia on Monday and as Ukraine struggles to repel massive and complex air assaults launched by Russian forces. Trump on Sunday declined to offer further details on his coming announcement.

"We're going to see what we will see tomorrow," he said.

Graham and Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, who also appeared on CBS, said there is also growing consensus on Capitol Hill and among European officials about tapping some of the \$300 billion in Russian assets frozen by Group of Seven countries early in the war to help Ukraine.

"It's time to do it," Blumenthal said.

Rubio said Friday that some of the U.S.-made weapons that Ukraine is seeking are deployed with NATO allies in Europe. Those weapons could be more quickly transferred to Ukraine, with European countries buying replacements from the U.S., he said.

French Defense Minister Sebastien Lecornu, in an interview published Sunday in La Tribune Dimanche, said European officials have been making the case to the Trump administration to bolster air defense capabilities with any coming packages.

He added that France is in a "capacity hole" and will have to wait until next year before being able to provide Ukraine new ground-air missiles.

Trump is also facing calls from Republicans and Democrats as well as European allies to support legislation in the Senate that aims to cripple Russia's oil industry and hit Moscow with U.S. sanctions for its ongoing invasion of Ukraine.

The legislation, in part, calls for a 500% tariff on goods imported from countries that continue to buy Russian oil, gas, uranium and other exports. It would have an enormous impact on the economies of Brazil, China and India, which account for the vast majority of Russia's energy trade.

"The big offender here is China, India and Brazil," Graham said. "My goal is to end this war. And the only way you are going to end this war is to get people who prop up Putin — make them choose between the American economy and helping Putin."

That revenue is critical in helping keep the Russian war machine humming as the U.S. and Europe have imposed significant import and export bans on a wide range of goods to and from Russia, affecting sectors like finance, energy, transport, technology and defense.

Trump for months had threatened, but held off on, imposing new sanctions against Russia's oil industry. But the Republican leader has become increasingly exasperated with Putin in recent days and has repeatedly laid into the Russian leader for prolonging the war.

"He talks so beautifully and then he'll bomb people at night," Trump said in his latest broadside against Putin. "We don't like that."

Congress has been prepared to act on the legislation, sponsored by Graham and Blumenthal, for some time.

The bill has overwhelming support in the Senate, but Republican leadership has been waiting for Trump to give the green light before moving ahead with it.

The White House had expressed some reservations about the legislation. Trump made clear he wants full authority over the waiver process to lift the sanctions, tariffs or other penalties, without having to cede control to Congress.

Under the initial bill, the president "may terminate" the penalties under certain circumstances, but immediately reimpose them if the violations resume. Graham has said the president would be allowed to waive the sanctions, for 180 days, and could also renew a waiver.

Some Democratic lawmakers have expressed concerns about the waivers. But Blumenthal downplayed the differences and said the legislation would give Trump a "sledgehammer" to utilize on Putin.

"The waiver language we will have in this bill is very much like the provisions have existed in past similar measures," Blumenthal said. He added, "What I think is most important right now is our unity."

Suspect kills 2 women in Kentucky church after shooting state trooper, police say

By BRUCE SCHREINER Associated Press

Two women died Sunday at a church in Lexington, Kentucky, in a shooting rampage that began when a state trooper was wounded after making a traffic stop, police said. The suspect in both shootings was also killed.

The suspect carjacked a vehicle after the traffic stop near Lexington's airport and fled to Richmond Road Baptist Church, where he opened fire, city Police Chief Lawrence Weathers said. Killed in the shootings at the church were a 72-year-old woman and a 32-year-old woman, the local coroner said.

Two other people were wounded at the church and taken to a local hospital, the police chief said. One victim sustained critical injuries and the other was in stable condition, Weathers said.

The suspect was shot by police and died at the scene, he said. The suspect was not immediately identified pending notification of family, he said.

"Preliminary information indicates that the suspect may have had a connection to the individuals at the church," the police chief said at a news conference.

The trooper stopped the vehicle after receiving a "license plate reader alert" and was shot about 11:30 a.m., Weathers said. The trooper was in stable condition, he said.

Police tracked the carjacked vehicle to the Baptist church, the police chief said. The church is about 16 miles (26 kilometers) from where the trooper was shot.

The shootings remain under investigation, Weathers said.

Fayette County Coroner Gary Ginn said the church is home to a small, tight-knit congregation.

"Please pray for everyone affected by these senseless acts of violence, and let's give thanks for the swift response by the Lexington Police Department and Kentucky State Police," Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said in a social media post.

State Attorney General Russell Coleman said detectives with his office were ready to support local and state agencies. "Today, violence invaded the Lord's House," Coleman said in a statement. "The attack on law enforcement and people of faith in Lexington shocked the entire Commonwealth."

Lawmakers visit 'Alligator Alcatraz' after being blocked

By JENNIFER PELTZ and ALEXANDRA RODRIGUEZ Associated Press

OCHOPEE, Fla. (AP) — Democratic lawmakers condemned Florida's new Everglades immigration detention center after visiting Saturday, describing it as crowded, unsanitary and bug-infested. Republicans on the same tour said they saw nothing of the sort at the remote facility that officials have dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz."

The state-arranged tour came after some Democrats were blocked earlier from viewing the 3,000-bed detention center that the state rapidly built on an isolated airstrip surrounded by swampland. So many state legislators and members of Congress turned up Saturday that they were split into multiple groups.

"There are really disturbing, vile conditions and this place needs to be shut the hell down," U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, a Democrat, told reporters after visiting the agglomeration of tents, trailers and temporary buildings. "This place is a stunt, and they're abusing human beings here."

Cage-style units of 32 men share three combination toilet-sink devices, the visitors measured the temperature at 83 degrees (28 degrees Celsius) in a housing area entranceway and 85 (29 Celsius) in a medical intake area, and grasshoppers and other insects abound, she and her fellow Florida Democrats said.

Although the visitors said they were not able to speak with the detainees, Rep. Maxwell Alejandro Frost, also a Democrat, said one called out "I'm an American citizen!" and others chanted "Libertad!" Spanish for "freedom."

State Sen. Blaise Ingoglia, a Republican from Florida, countered that he had seen a well-run, safe facility where the living quarters were clean and the air conditioning worked well.

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"The rhetoric coming out of the Democrats does not match the reality," said Ingoglia, who said he toured in the same group as Wasserman Schultz. Ingoglia said a handful of detainees became "a little raucous" when the visitors appeared, but he did not make out what they were saying.

State Sen. Jay Collins was in another group and said he also found the detention center to be clean and functioning well: "No squalor."

Collins, a Republican, said he saw backup generators, a tracking system for dietary restrictions and military-style bunks with good mattresses. The sanitation devices struck him as appropriate, if basic.

"Would I want that toilet-and-sink combination at my bathroom at the house? Probably not, but this is a transitional holding facility," Collins said by phone.

Journalists were not allowed on the tour, and lawmakers were instructed not to bring phones or cameras inside.

Messages seeking comment were sent to the state Division of Emergency Management, which built the facility, and to representatives for Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican. DeSantis spokesperson Molly Best highlighted one of Ingoglia's upbeat readouts on social media.

Across the state in Tampa, federal Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said that of the Everglades detention center that "any issues that were there have been addressed." She added that she has talked with five unnamed Republican governors about modeling other facilities on it.

DeSantis and fellow Republicans have touted the makeshift detention center, constructed in days as an efficient and get-tough response to President Donald Trump's call for mass deportations. The first detainees arrived July 3, after Trump toured and praised the facility.

Described as temporary, it is meant to help the Republican president's administration reach its goal of boosting migrant detention capacity from 41,000 people to at least 100,000. The Florida facility's remote location and its name — a nod to the notorious Alcatraz prison that once housed federal inmates in California — are meant to underscore a message of deterring illegal immigration.

Ahead of the facility's opening, state officials said detainees would have access to medical care, consistent air conditioning, a recreation yard, attorneys and clergy members.

But detainees and their relatives and advocates have told The Associated Press that conditions are awful, with worm-infested food, toilets overflowing onto floors, mosquitoes buzzing around the fenced bunks, and air conditioners that sometimes shut off in the oppressive South Florida summer heat. One man told his wife that detainees go days without getting showers.

Division of Emergency Management spokesperson Stephanie Hartman called those descriptions "completely false," saying detainees always get three meals a day, unlimited drinking water, showers and other necessities.

"The facility meets all required standards and is in good working order," she said.

Five Democratic state lawmakers tried to visit the site July 3 but said they were denied access. The state subsequently arranged Saturday's tour.

The lawmakers have sued over the earlier denial, accusing the DeSantis administration of impeding their oversight authority. A DeSantis spokesperson has called the lawsuit "dumb."

One year after Trump assassination attempt, changes at Secret Service but questions remain

By REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In many ways, the assassination attempt against Donald Trump at a Pennsylvania campaign stop was a perfect storm of failings coming together that allowed 20-year-old Michael Thomas Crooks to climb on top of a nearby building and take eight shots at the once and future president.

One attendee was killed, two others wounded and a bullet grazed Trump's ear before a Secret Service counter sniper opened fire on Crooks and killed him. That day jolted an already chaotic race for the White House and solidified Trump's iconic status in his party and beyond.

It also became a turning point for the agency tasked with protecting the president. As more details

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emerged about what went wrong, questions multiplied: What happened to the Secret Service's planning? Why was a rooftop with a clear line of sight to Trump left unguarded? What motivated the shooter?

Another incident in September where a gunman camped in the shrubbery outside one of Trump's golf courses before being spotted and shot at by a Secret Service agent also raised questions about the agency's performance.

A year after Butler, multiple investigations have detailed the breakdowns that day. Under a new leader hired by Trump, the agency has been pushing to address those problems but key questions remain.

"This was a wake-up call for the Secret Service," said retired supervisory agent Bobby McDonald, who's now a criminal justice lecturer at the University of New Haven.

A Senate committee and federal auditing agency over the weekend released reports about the Secret Service's actions.

Here's a look at what went wrong, what's been done to address problems and the questions still unanswered.

How'd he get on that roof? Who was talking to who?

All the investigations zeroed in on a few specific problems.

The building with a clear sight line to the stage where the president was speaking only 135 meters (157 yards) away was left unguarded. Crooks eventually boosted himself up there and fired eight shots with an AR-style rifle.

The Secret Service's investigation into its own agency's conduct said that it wasn't that the line-of-sight risks weren't known about ahead of time. It was that multiple personnel assessed them as "acceptable."

Supervisors had expected large pieces of farm equipment would be situated to block the view from the building. Those ultimately weren't placed, and staffers who visited the site before the rally didn't tell their supervisors that the line-of-sight concerns hadn't been addressed, the report said.

Another glaring problem: fragmented communications between the Secret Service and the local law enforcement that the agency regularly relies on to secure events.

Instead of having one unified command post with representatives from every agency providing security in the same room, there were two command posts at the rally. One investigation described a "chaotic mixture" of radio, cell phone, text, and email used to communicate that day.

And a year later, the investigations are still coming.

"There were multiple, unacceptable failures in the planning and execution of the July 13 Butler rally," said the Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs in a report released Sunday.

The committee found that the agency denied "multiple requests for additional staff, assets, and resources to protect President Trump" during the presidential campaign. The committee said that included at least two requests for the Butler rally.

The agency's former director, Kim Cheatle, last year told a House panel before she resigned that the agency didn't deny any requests for the rally.

In a statement released Sunday in response to the Senate report, Cheatle said, "For the Butler rally, I actually did direct additional assets to be provided, particularly in the form of agency countersnipers."

Another report by the Government Accountability Office requested by Republican Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley criticized the agency's practices for sharing threat information. That report said senior-level agency officials knew of a specific threat to Trump in the days leading up to the rally. It wasn't specific to the rally but it wasn't shared with the agents or local law enforcement planning for it.

The report said the lack of information-sharing was due to the agency's "siloe information sharing practices." The report didn't offer details on the threat although reporting at the time indicated that a threat to Trump's life from Iran prompted additional security in the days before the Butler rally.

'Ensure such an event can never be repeated'

The agency said Sunday that following the assassination attempt, they took a "serious look" at their operations and have undergone significant reforms to address what happened that day.

Earlier this week the agency issued its own report Thursday about what it has done.

"Since President Trump appointed me as director of the United States Secret Service, I have kept my

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experience on July 13 top of mind, and the agency has taken many steps to ensure such an event can never be repeated in the future," said Sean Curran, whom Trump tasked with leading the agency. Curran was one of the agents standing next to Trump as he was hustled off the stage after the shooting.

The agency said it had implemented 21 of the 46 recommendations made by Congressional oversight bodies. The rest were either in progress or not up to the agency to implement.

Some of what they've done involves new equipment and a greater emphasis on addressing threats from above. They've created a new Aviation Division to oversee aerial operations like drones. The agency said it has two armored ATVs for use on golf courses and is producing another three. And they're purchasing mobile command vehicles that will be pre-positioned around the country.

But much of what the agency says it has done is about changing policies and procedures to address those July 13 lapses — things like revising their manual to "advance procedures and communication practices" when it comes to coordinating with local law enforcement or clarifying who's responsible for events where protectees are appearing.

They've updated their procedures about documenting line-of-sight concerns and how those concerns are going to be addressed.

So far it doesn't appear that anyone has been or will be fired, although the agency's director at the time, Cheatle, swiftly resigned. The agency said Thursday that six staffers have been disciplined with suspensions ranging from 10 to 42 days without pay; the six were placed on restricted duty or nonoperational positions. Their identities and positions were not released.

The lack of firings has led to criticism. The Senate report said more than six people should have been disciplined and the penalties were too weak to match the severity of what happened.

What we still don't know

In many ways Crooks and his motivations are still a mystery.

He was killed by a Secret Service countersniper and did not leave much information about why he did what he did. Investigators say they believe he acted alone and they didn't find any threatening comments or ideological positions on social media that shed light on his thinking.

And while it's clear what went wrong in Butler, questions linger about how things that were so clearly problematic — like that open roof — weren't addressed ahead of time.

Anthony Cangelosi, a former Secret Service agent who is now a lecturer at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, said that without being able to read the interviews with the agents involved in the Butler planning it's hard to know exactly why they did what they did. A year later, he still struggles with how so many things went wrong.

"I can't understand how many errors were made on that site that day," he said. "If they agreed to leave that roof unoccupied, I can't ... understand it for the life of me."

The widow of Corey Comperatore, who died during the Butler assassination attempt, echoed some of that sentiment during an interview with Fox News this week.

"Why was that such a failure? Why weren't they paying attention? Why did they think that that roof didn't need covered? I want to sit down and talk to them," Helen Comperatore said.

Cangelosi said he still questions whether the agency asked for additional personnel to cover a busy election year and if they did, whether those requests were granted. He thinks the Secret Service needs better pay to retain agents tempted to leave the agency for other federal government jobs.

McDonald said he suspects part of the problem ahead of the Butler rally was that the Secret Service might have had a hard time understanding that the type of protection Trump needed wasn't the same as for other former presidents.

He said it "boggles the mind" how Crooks was able to get on that roof and said that "communication" and "complacency" are the two issues that he thinks really went wrong in Butler.

But he also said that he feels the agency is moving in the right direction. "A lot of good people doing a lot good work there," he said, "and I hope they continue to move in the right direction."

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Jannik Sinner beats 2-time defending champion Carlos Alcaraz to win his first Wimbledon title

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — Jannik Sinner insisted early on at Wimbledon that he put an excruciating loss to Carlos Alcaraz in their epic French Open final behind him. Sinner was sure that one defeat wouldn't haunt him, wouldn't prevent a quick recalibration and certainly wouldn't mean a thing at the All England Club.

Sinner was right about all of that.

Exactly five weeks after the devastating defeat at Roland-Garros against his rival, Sinner reversed the result, beating two-time defending Wimbledon champion Alcaraz 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 on Sunday to win his first championship at the grass-court major.

"At the end of the day, it doesn't really matter how you win or you lose the important tournaments. You just have to understand what you did wrong. Trying to work on that — that's exactly what we did. We tried to accept the loss and then just kept working," Sinner said Sunday, his shiny gold hardware in his hands. "And this is, for sure, why I'm holding this trophy here."

The No. 1-ranked Sinner earned his fourth Grand Slam title overall, moving him one away from No. 2 Alcaraz's total as the two no-longer-rising-but-firmly-established stars of the game separate themselves from the rest of the pack in men's tennis.

Sinner, a 23-year-old Italian, put an end to several streaks for Alcaraz, a 22-year-old Spaniard, who had been 5-0 in Grand Slam finals.

Alcaraz had won their last five matches, most famously across five sets and nearly 5 1/2 hours on the red clay of the French Open on June 8. Sinner took a two-set lead, then held a trio of match points, but couldn't close the deal.

"Today was important not just because it was a Grand Slam final, not just because it was Wimbledon, and not just because Carlos had won the last five matches against him," said Darren Cahill, one of Sinner's two coaches, who had planned to leave the team at the end of 2025 but now might stick around. "He needed that win today. So he knew the importance of closing this one out when he had the opportunities."

Asked during Week 1 at Wimbledon whether what happened in Paris created lingering doubts, Sinner immediately replied: "Why negative feelings? Because I lost in (that) final?"

Then he continued: "No. Look, it's a new tournament, new Grand Slam, new surface. I'm not concerned about my level I can play. ... I'm not concerned that one loss can influence you for so long a time. I believe that here is a new chance that I can do something good."

Great, even.

This time, he didn't waver, asserting himself in a match that featured moments of terrific play by both men, but also the occasional lapses — and one memorable, brief, interruption right before a Sinner serve when a Champagne cork came flying out of the stands and settled on the turf.

With Prince William and Princess Kate in the Royal Box, along with King Felipe VI of Spain, Alcaraz stepped into the sunlight bathing Centre Court with a career-best 24-match unbeaten run. He had won 20 matches in a row at the All England Club.

"It's difficult to lose," Alcaraz said. "It's always difficult to lose."

The last man to beat him at Wimbledon? Sinner, in the fourth round in 2022.

So this served as a bookend win for Sinner, who would be forgiven for at least thinking a bit about his collapse in their last match — especially when facing two break points while serving at 4-3, 15-40 in the fourth set Sunday.

But he calmly took the next four points to take that game, then soon was serving out the win after a chorus of "Car-los! Car-los!" rang out from spectators.

"The things that went his way in Paris," Sinner said, "went my way this time."

When it ended, he put both hands on his white hat. After embracing Alcaraz, Sinner crouched with his head bowed, then pounded his right palm on the grass.

He has participated in four consecutive major finals, including triumphs at the U.S. Open — shortly after

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the world learned about a doping case that eventually led to a three-month ban — and the Australian Open.

Wearing the same tape job and white arm sleeve to protect his right elbow that he has been using since falling in the fourth round, Sinner never showed any issues, just as he hadn't while eliminating Novak Djokovic on Friday.

In the final, Sinner and Alcaraz produced scintillating points, with few, if any, half-measures. They sprinted at top speed and swung away with full force, rarely bending to the other's will.

From 4-2 down, Alcaraz took four games in a row. That spurt included a 140 mph ace that sprayed the air with a cloud of white chalk dust and a set-capping, flick-of-a-backhand winner at an impossible angle after barely getting his racket on the ball.

As fans rose and roared, Alcaraz pointed to his ear and spun around, then pumped his right fist overhead.

Sinner was undaunted, quickly breaking to lead the second set. He returned exceptionally, even as Alcaraz served aggressively, which did lead to 15 aces — but also to a 53% first-serve percentage and seven double-faults.

Much like at the French Open, there was often an unrelenting intensity to these three-plus hours, and any slight misstep created problems. It was Alcaraz who had more of those, although Sinner might have had the most memorable, blowing an overhead right after coming up with a behind-the-back, through-the-legs half-volley in the third set.

In all, these guys showed why they combined to win the past seven Grand Slam trophies, and nine of the last 12.

Fittingly, this marked the first time the same two men faced off in the title matches at the French Open and Wimbledon in the same year since Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal did it in 2006, 2007 and 2008. It hadn't happened for more than a half-century before that trilogy.

"I'm just really, really happy about having this rivalry with him," Alcaraz said about Sinner. "It's great for us, and it is great for tennis."

Nigeria's ex-president Buhari, twice leader of Africa's most populous nation, dies at 82

By OPE ADETAYO and CHINEDU ASADU Associated Press

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — Former Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, who led the country twice as a military head of state and a democratic president, has died aged 82, his press secretary said Sunday.

Buhari died Sunday in London, where he had been receiving medical treatment.

He first took power in Africa's most populous nation in 1983, after a military coup, running an authoritarian regime until fellow soldiers ousted him less than 20 months later. When he was elected in 2015 on his fourth attempt, he became the first opposition candidate to win a presidential election there.

Buhari rode into power in that election on a wave of goodwill after promising to rid Nigeria of chronic corruption and a deadly security crisis. He led until 2023, during a period marked by Boko Haram's extremist violence in the northeast and a plunging economy.

Current President Bola Tinubu in a statement described Buhari as "a patriot, a soldier, a statesman ... to the very core." Tinubu dispatched the vice president to bring Buhari's body home from London.

Others across Nigeria remembered Buhari as a president who left the country of more than 200 million people — divided between a largely Muslim north and Christian south — more at odds than before.

For many, Buhari will be linked with memories of the 2020 youth protests against a police unit accused by rights groups and others of extrajudicial killings, torture and extortion — and the deadly shootings of demonstrators by soldiers.

"The uneven response to Buhari's death, with muted disillusionment in some quarters and sadness in others, is a reflection of how difficult it is to unite a country and his inability to do so after decades in the public eye," said Afolabi Adekaiyaoja, an Abuja-based political scientist.

Coming from Nigeria's north, the lanky, austere Buhari had vowed to end extremist killings and clean up

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rampant corruption in one of Africa's largest economies and oil producers.

By the end of his eight-year tenure, however, goodwill toward him had faded into discontent. Insecurity had only grown, and corruption was more widespread.

Nigeria also fell into a recession amid slumping global oil prices and attacks by militants in the sprawling oil-rich Niger Delta region. The currency faltered as Buhari pursued unorthodox monetary policies to defend its fixed price to the dollar, and a massive foreign currency shortage worsened. Inflation was in the double digits.

Civil society accused him of authoritarian tendencies after protesters were killed during a protest against police brutality and over his decision to restrict access to social media, as young people vented their frustrations against economic and security problems.

Buhari's attempts at managing the problems were complicated by prolonged medical stays abroad. His absences, with few details, created anxiety among Nigerians and some calls for him to be replaced. There also was anger over his seeking taxpayer-funded health care abroad while millions suffered from poor health facilities at home.

"I need a longer time to rest," the president once said in a rare comment during his time away.

His presidency saw a rare bright moment in Nigeria's fight against Boko Haram — the safe return of dozens of Chibok schoolgirls seized in a mass abduction in 2014 that drew global attention.

But others among the thousands of people abducted by Boko Haram over the years remain missing — a powerful symbol of the government's failure to protect civilians.

At the end of 2016, Buhari announced that the extremist group had been crushed, driven by the military from its remote strongholds.

"The terrorists are on the run, and no longer have a place to hide," he boasted.

But suicide bombings and other attacks remained a threat, and the military's fight against Boko Haram continued to be hurt by allegations of abuses by troops against civilians. In early 2017, the accidental military bombing of a displaced persons camp in the northeast killed more than 100 people, including aid workers. The U.N. refugee chief called the killings "truly catastrophic."

As Nigeria's military reclaimed more area from Boko Haram's control, a vast humanitarian crisis was revealed. Aid groups began alerting the world to people dying from malnutrition, even as government officials denied the crisis and accused aid groups of exaggerating the situation to attract donations.

The extremist threat and humanitarian crisis in the northeast — now exacerbated by Trump administration aid cuts — continues today.

Years earlier, as Nigeria's military ruler, Buhari oversaw a regime that executed drug dealers, returned looted state assets and sent soldiers to the streets with whips to enforce traffic laws. With oil prices slumping and Nigerians saying foreigners were depriving them of work, the regime also ordered an estimated 700,000 illegal immigrants to leave the country.

Meanwhile, government workers arriving late to their offices were forced to perform squats in a "war against indiscipline" that won many followers. Buhari's administration, however, was also criticized by rights groups and others for detaining journalists critical of the government and for passing laws that allowed indefinite detention without trial.

As he pursued the presidency decades later, Buhari said he had undergone radical changes and that he now championed democracy. But some of his past stances haunted him, including statements in the 1980s that he would introduce Islamic law across Nigeria.

'Superman' and DC Studios fly to a \$122 million opening

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In a bid to kickoff a new era for DC Studios, James Gunn's "Superman" opened with \$122 million in U.S. and Canada ticket sales over the weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

DC and Warner Bros. had a lot riding on "Superman." While the Walt Disney Co.'s Marvel Studios has had its own share of struggles, the superheroes of DC have recently found mostly kryptonite in theaters.

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Films like "Joker: Folie à Deux," "The Flash" and "Shazam! Fury of the Gods" all flopped.

But "Superman," written and directed by Gunn, is intended as a new start. It's the first release fully steered by Gunn and Peter Safran, co-heads of DC Studios, since they were handed the keys to DC's superhero cinematic universe.

And while Gunn turned "Guardians of the Galaxy" into a massive success for Marvel, his irreverent, idiosyncratic touch made the director — once a B-movie filmmaker with Troma Entertainment — an unlikely steward for one of the movies' most bankable and beloved brands.

The roughly on-target opening was the third largest of 2025, and the first DC title to surpass \$100 million in its opening weekend since "Wonder Woman" in 2017. Warner Bros. could also celebrate a unique hot streak: "Superman" is their fifth movie in a row to open over \$45 million.

"It's quite a win for DC Studios," said Jeffrey Goldstein, chief of distribution for Warner Bros. "We needed to get the trust of the fanbase, and we didn't have it. They were clear to us that we needed to take a step back and reinvent ourselves."

Ticket sales were relatively soft for "Superman" overseas. In 78 international markets, it grossed \$95 million. In China, it collected just \$6.6 million.

David A. Gross, who runs the movie consulting firm FranchiseRe, called the international performance the only ding against the otherwise strong "Superman" debut.

"Thus far, the foreign openings are not equal to domestic," said Gross. "Superman has always been identified as a quintessentially American character and story, and in some parts of the world, America is currently not enjoying its greatest popularity."

As an American icon, "Superman" also attracted political discourse at home. Some right-wing commentators criticized the movie as "woke" after Gunn described the superhero from Krypton as "an immigrant." On X, the White House posted an image of President Donald Trump as Superman.

In "Superman," which cost about \$225 million to make, Gunn steers the Man of Steel in a drastically different tonal direction than in previous iterations from filmmaker Zack Snyder. Skipping the Kansas origin story, the film instead picks up with Superman (David Corenswet) after his first defeat. Rachel Brosnahan plays Lois Lane and Nicholas Hoult is Lex Luthor.

The "Superman" debut didn't come close to besting the \$166 million launch for Snyder's "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice," in 2016. But it did open higher, not accounting for inflation, than Snyder's "Man of Steel." That film debuted with \$116 million in 2013.

But while Snyder's films were often unloved by critics, largely good reviews greeted Gunn's "Superman." On Rotten Tomatoes, it scored 82% fresh — the best for the franchise since the first two movies with Christopher Reeve: "Superman" (1978) and "Superman II" (1980). Audiences gave it an "A-" CinemaScore.

"Superman" faced sizeable competition too. Last week's top film, "Jurassic World Rebirth," slid to second place with \$40 million. With "Superman" soaking up many large-format screens, Universal Pictures' seventh "Jurassic" film slipped a steep 57% from its opening weekend. Starring Scarlett Johansson, "Jurassic World Rebirth" got off to a thunderous \$318.3 million global start. In two weeks, it's amassed \$529.5 million worldwide.

Also still in the mix is Apple Studios' biggest box-office success yet, "F1." Joseph Kosinski's Formula One action thriller, starring Brad Pitt, came in third with \$13 million in its third weekend. The film, distributed by Warner Bros., has collected \$393.4 million globally in three weeks. But it also carries a hefty price tag of roughly \$250 million, plus at least \$100 million in promotion.

Top 10 movies by domestic box office

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

1. "Superman," \$122 million.
2. "Jurassic World Rebirth," \$40 million.
3. "F1: The Movie," \$13 million.
4. "How to Train Your Dragon," \$7.8 million.

5. "Elio," \$3.9 million.
6. "28 Years Later," \$2.7 million.
7. "Lilo & Stitch," \$2.7 million.
8. "Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning," \$1.5 million.
9. "M3gan 2.0," \$1.4 million.
10. "Materialists," \$720,498.

'Beautiful' or 'Ugly,' Trump's big bill shapes the battle for House control in 2026 midterms

By BILL BARROW, JONATHAN J. COOPER and JACK BROOK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Debate over President Donald Trump's sweeping budget-and-policy package is over on Capitol Hill. Now the argument goes national.

From the Central Valley of California to Midwestern battlegrounds and suburban districts of the northeast, the new law already is shaping the 2026 midterm battle for control of the House of Representatives. The outcome will set the tone for Trump's final two years in the Oval Office.

Democrats need a net gain of three House seats to break the GOP's chokehold on Washington and re-establish a power center to counter Trump. There's added pressure to flip the House given that midterm Senate contests are concentrated in Republican-leaning states, making it harder for Democrats to reclaim that chamber.

As Republicans see it, they've now delivered broad tax cuts, an unprecedented investment in immigration enforcement and new restraints on social safety net programs. Democrats see a law that rolls back health insurance access and raises costs for middle-class Americans while cutting taxes mostly for the rich, curtailing green energy initiatives and restricting some workers' organizing rights.

"It represents the broken promise they made to the American people," said Rep. Suzan DelBene, a Washington Democrat who chairs the party's House campaign arm. "We're going to continue to hold Republicans accountable for this vote."

Parties gear up for a fight

Whether voters see it that way will be determined on a district-by-district level, but the battle will be more intense in some places than others. Among the 435 House districts, only 69 contests were decided by less than 10 percentage points in the 2024 general election.

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee has so far identified 26 Democratic-held seats it must defend vigorously, along with 35 GOP-held seats it believes could be ripe to flip. Republicans' campaign arm, the National Republican Congressional Committee, has so far listed 18 GOP incumbents as priorities, plus two districts opened by retirements.

There are a historically low number of so-called crossover districts: Only 13 Democrats represent districts Trump carried in 2024, while just three Republicans serve districts Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris carried.

Both committees are busy recruiting challengers and open-seat candidates and more retirements could come, so the competitive map will evolve. Still, there are clusters of districts guaranteed to influence the national result.

California, despite its clear lean to Democrats statewide, has at least nine House districts expected to be up for grabs: three in the Central Valley and six in southern California. Six are held by Democrats, three by the GOP.

Pennsylvania features four districts that have been among the closest national House races for several consecutive cycles. They include a suburban Philadelphia seat represented by Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, one of just two House Republicans to vote against Trump's bill and one of the three GOP lawmakers from a district Harris won. Fitzpatrick cited the Medicaid cuts.

Vice President JD Vance plans on Wednesday to be in Republican Rep. Rob Bresnahan's northwest

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Pennsylvania district to tout the GOP package. Bresnahan's seat is a top Democratic target.

Iowa and Wisconsin, meanwhile, feature four contiguous GOP-held districts in farm-heavy regions where voters could be swayed by fallout from Trump's tariffs.

Democrats fight to define the GOP

Beyond bumper-sticker labels – Trump's preferred "Big Beautiful Bill" versus Democrats' "Big Ugly Bill" retort – the 900-page law is, in fact, an array of policies with varying impact.

Democrats hammer Medicaid and food assistance cuts, some timed to take full effect only after the 2026 midterms, along with Republicans' refusal to extend tax credits to some people who obtained health insurance through the Affordable Care Act.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that 11.8 million more Americans would become uninsured by 2034 if the bill became law; 3 million more would not qualify for food stamps, also known as SNAP benefits.

"Folks will die here in Louisiana and in other parts of the country," House Minority Leader Jeffries warned last week during a town hall in Republican Speaker Mike Johnson's home state of Louisiana.

Jeffries singled out vulnerable Republicans like California Rep. David Valadao, who represents a heavily agricultural Central Valley district where more than half the population is eligible for the joint state-federal insurance program. California allows immigrants with legal status and those who are undocumented to qualify for Medicaid, so not all Medicaid recipients are voters. But the program helps finance the overall health care system, including nursing homes and hospitals.

Republicans highlight the law's tightened work requirements for Medicaid enrollees. They argue it's a popular provision that will strengthen the program.

"I voted for this bill because it does preserve the Medicaid program for its intended recipients — children, pregnant women, the disabled, and elderly," Valadao said. "I know how important the program is for my constituents."

Republicans hope voters see lower taxes

The law includes \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts. It makes permanent existing rates and brackets approved during Trump's first term. Republicans and their allies have hammered vulnerable Democrats for "raising costs" on American households by opposing the bill.

GOP campaign aides point to the popularity of individual provisions: boosting the \$2,000 child tax credit to \$2,200 (some families at lower income levels would not get the full credit), new deductions on tip and overtime income and auto loans; and a new deduction for older adults earning less than \$75,000 a year.

"Everyone will have more take home pay. They'll have more jobs and opportunity," Johnson said in a Fox News Sunday interview. "The economy will be doing better and we'll be able to point to that as the obvious result of what we did."

Democrats note that the biggest beneficiaries of Trump's tax code are wealthy Americans and corporations. Pairing that with safety net cuts, Florida Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz concluded, "The cruelty is the point."

Immigration, meanwhile, was Trump's strongest issue in 2024. NRCC aides say that will continue with the new law's investments in immigration enforcement. Democrats believe the Trump administration has overplayed its hand with its push for mass deportation.

Playing the Trump card

The president is a titanic variable.

Democrats point to 2018, when they notched a 40-seat net gain in House seats to take control away from the GOP. This year, Democrats have enjoyed a double-digit swing in special elections around the country when compared to 2024 presidential results. Similar trends emerged in 2017 after Trump's 2016 victory. Democrats say that reflects voter discontent with Trump once he's actually in charge.

Republicans answer that Trump's job approval remains higher at this point than in 2017. But the GOP's effort is further complicated by ongoing realignments: Since Trump's emergence, Democrats have gained affluent white voters — like those in suburban swing districts — while Trump has drawn more working-class voters across racial and ethnic groups. But Republicans face a stiffer challenge of replicating Trump's coalition in a midterm election without him on the ballot.

Democrats, meanwhile, must corral voters who are not a threat to vote for Republicans but could stay home.

Jeffries said he's determined not to let that happen: "We're going to do everything we can until we end this national nightmare."

Nursing homes struggle with Trump's immigration crackdown

By MATT SEDENSKY AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Nursing homes already struggling to recruit staff are now grappling with President Donald Trump's attack on one of their few reliable sources of workers: immigration.

Facilities for older adults and disabled people are reporting the sporadic loss of employees who have had their legal status revoked by Trump. But they fear even more dramatic impacts are ahead as pipelines of potential workers slow to a trickle with an overall downturn in legal immigration.

"We feel completely beat up right now," says Deke Cateau, CEO of A.G. Rhodes, which operates three nursing homes in the Atlanta area, with one-third of the staff made up of foreign-born people from about three dozen countries. "The pipeline is getting smaller and smaller."

Eight of Cateau's workers are expected to be forced to leave after having their Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, revoked. TPS allows people already living in the U.S. to stay and work legally if their home countries are unsafe due to civil unrest or natural disasters and during the Biden administration, the designation was expanded to cover people from a dozen countries, including large numbers from Venezuela and Haiti.

While those with TPS represent a tiny minority of A.G. Rhodes' 500 staffers, Cateau says they will be "very difficult, if not impossible, to replace" and he worries what comes next.

"It may be eight today, but who knows what it's going to be down the road," says Cateau, an immigrant himself, who arrived from Trinidad and Tobago 25 years ago.

Nearly one in five civilian workers in the U.S. is foreign born, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, but as in construction, agriculture and manufacturing, immigrants are overrepresented in caregiving roles. More than a quarter of an estimated 4 million nursing assistants, home health aides, personal care aides and other so-called direct care workers are foreign born, according to PHI, a nonprofit focused on the caregiving workforce.

The aging of the massive Baby Boom generation is poised to fuel even more demand for caregivers, both in institutional settings and in individuals' homes. BLS projects more growth among home health and personal care aides than any other job, with some 820,000 new positions added by 2032.

Nursing homes, assisted living facilities, home health agencies and other such businesses were counting on immigrants to fill many of those roles, so Trump's return to the White House and his administration's attack on nearly all forms of immigration has sent a chill throughout the industry.

Katie Smith Sloan, CEO of LeadingAge, which represents nonprofit care facilities, says homes around the country have been affected by the immigration tumult. Some have reported employees who have stopped coming to work, fearful of a raid, even though they are legally in the country. Others have workers who are staying home with children they have kept out of school because they worry about roundups. Many others see a slowdown of job applicants.

"This is just like a punch in the gut," she says.

Rachel Blumberg, CEO of the Toby and Leon Cooperman Sinai Residences in Boca Raton, Florida, has already lost 10 workers whose permission to stay in the U.S. came under a program known as humanitarian parole, which had been granted to people from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela. She is slated to lose 30 more in the coming weeks with the end of TPS for Haitians.

"I think it's the tip of the iceberg," says Blumberg, forecasting further departures of employees who may not themselves be deported, but whose spouse or parent is.

Blumberg got less than 24 hours' notice when her employees lost their work authorization, setting off a scramble to fill shifts. She has already boosted salaries and referral bonuses but says it will be difficult

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to replace not just aides, but maintenance workers, dishwashers and servers.

"Unfortunately, Americans are not drawn to applying and working in the positions that we have available," she says.

Front-line caregivers are overwhelmingly female and a majority are members of minority groups, according to PHI, earning an average of just \$16.72 hourly in 2023.

Long-term care homes saw an exodus of workers as COVID made an already-challenging workplace even more so. Some facilities were beginning to see employment normalize to pre-pandemic levels just as the immigration crackdown hit, though industry-wide, there is still a massive shortage of workers.

Some in the industry have watched in frustration as Trump lamented how businesses including farming and hospitality could be hurt by his policies, wondering why those who clean hotel rooms or pick tomatoes deserve more attention than those who care for elders. Beyond rescinded work authorizations for people living in the U.S., care homes are having difficulty getting visas approved for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses they recruit abroad.

What used to be a simple process now stretches so long that candidates reconsider the U.S. altogether, says Mark Sanchez, chief operating officer of United Hebrew, a nursing home in New Rochelle, New York.

"There are lines upon lines upon lines," says Sanchez, "and now they're saying, 'I'm going to go to Canada' and 'I'm going to go to Germany and they're welcoming me with open arms.'"

Looking around a facility with a majority-immigrant staff, the son of Filipino immigrants wonders where his future recruits will come from.

"I don't have ICE coming in my door and taking my people," Sanchez says, "but the pipeline that was flowing before is now coming in dribs and drabs."

Long-term care workers are routinely lured away not just by hospitals and doctors' offices, but restaurants, stores and factories. Half of the average nursing home's staff turns over each year, according to federal data, making the attraction and retention of every employee vital to their operation.

Robin Wolzenburg of LeadingAge in Wisconsin began working to place an influx of people from Afghanistan after the U.S. pulled out its final troops four years ago and thousands of refugees arrived in her state. Care homes began hiring the refugees and were so delighted with them, some facilities began hiring refugees who arrived from Ukraine, Somalia and Congo. Though many homes had employee retention rates around 30%, Wolzenburg said the figure was above 90% with refugees.

Trump has halted most refugee admissions, meaning Wolzenburg's successful outreach program has no new arrivals to target.

"It's been really devastating," Wolzenburg says. "Our communities that were actively working with the resettlement agencies are not seeing those referrals to long-term care like we were. There's no refugees coming in."

Lynne Katman, the founder of Juniper Communities, which runs 21 facilities across five states, says it's hard enough to find the right workers with a passion for older adults. Now, just as homes gird for an influx of residents brought on by the country's demographic shift, they're facing another challenge to a stable workforce.

"The work is hard. It's not always been the highest paying job that one can get," she says. "But many of the immigrants who actually have chosen this work consider caregiving a noble profession."

Ukraine's security agency says it killed Russian agents suspected of gunning down its officer

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine's security agency said Sunday it tracked down and killed Russian agents suspected of shooting one of its senior officers to death in the Ukrainian capital.

The Security Service of Ukraine, or SBU, said in a statement that the suspected Russian agents were killed in the Kyiv region after they offered resistance to arrest. A video released by the agency showed two bodies lying on the ground.

The agency said earlier that a man and a woman were suspected to be involved in Thursday's assassina-

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tion of Ivan Voronych, an SBU colonel, in a bold daylight attack that was caught on surveillance cameras.

Media reports claimed that Voronych was involved in covert operations in Russia-occupied territories of Ukraine and reportedly helped organize Ukraine's surprise incursion into Russia's Kursk region last year.

After a series of massive attacks across Ukraine involving hundreds of exploding drones, Russia launched 60 drones overnight, Ukraine's air force said. It said 20 of them were shot down and 20 others were jammed.

The Ukrainian authorities reported that four civilians were killed and 13 others injured in Russian attacks on the Donetsk and Kherson regions since Saturday.

Today in History: July 14, the storming of the Bastille

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, July 14, the 195th day of 2025. There are 170 days left in the year.

Today in History: On July 14, 1789, in an event symbolizing the start of the French Revolution, citizens of Paris stormed the Bastille prison and released the seven prisoners held there.

Also on this date:

In 1798, Congress passed the Sedition Act, making it a federal crime to publish false, scandalous or malicious writing about the United States government.

In 1881, outlaw William H. Bonney Jr., alias "Billy the Kid," was shot and killed by Sheriff Pat Garrett in Fort Sumner in present-day New Mexico.

In 1912, American folk singer-songwriter Woody Guthrie was born in Okemah, Oklahoma.

In 1933, all German political parties, except the Nazi Party, were outlawed by the government of Nazi Germany.

In 1945, Italy formally declared war on Japan, its former Axis partner during World War II.

In 1960, 26-year-old Jane Goodall first arrived at the Gombe Stream Reserve in present-day Tanzania to begin her study of the wild chimpanzees living there.

In 2004, the Senate scuttled a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. (Forty-eight senators voted to advance the measure — 12 short of the 60 needed — and 50 voted to block it.)

In 2009, disgraced financier Bernard Madoff arrived at the Butner Federal Correctional Complex in North Carolina to begin serving a 150-year sentence for his massive Ponzi scheme. (Madoff died in prison in April 2021.)

In 2013, thousands of demonstrators across the country protested a Florida jury's decision one day earlier to clear George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin.

In 2015, world powers and Iran struck a deal to curb Iran's nuclear program in exchange for relief from international sanctions.

In 2016, terror struck Bastille Day celebrations in the French Riviera city of Nice as a large truck plowed into a festive crowd, killing 86 people in an attack claimed by Islamic State extremists; the driver was shot dead by police.

In 2020, researchers reported that the first COVID-19 vaccine tested in the U.S. boosted people's immune systems as scientists had hoped; the vaccine was developed by the National Institutes of Health and Moderna Inc.

In 2022, the National Galleries of Scotland said a previously unknown self-portrait of Vincent Van Gogh was discovered behind another of the artist's paintings when experts took an X-ray of the canvas ahead of an upcoming exhibition.

Today's Birthdays: Former football player and actor Rosey Grier is 93. Actor Vincent Pastore (TV's "The Sopranos") is 79. Music company executive Tommy Mottola (muh-TOH'-luh) is 77. Movie producer Scott Rudin is 67. Singer-songwriter Anjelique Kidjo is 65. Singer-guitarist Kyle Gass (Tenacious D) is 65. Actor Jane Lynch is 65. Actor Jackie Earle Haley is 64. Actor Matthew Fox is 59. Rock singer-musician Tanya Donelly is 59. Olympic gold medal snowboarder Ross Rebagliati is 54. Country singer Jamey Johnson is 50. Hip-hop musician Taboo (Black Eyed Peas) is 50. Actor/writer/producer Phoebe Waller-Bridge is 39. Rock singer Dan Reynolds (Imagine Dragons) is 38. MMA fighter Conor McGregor is 37.