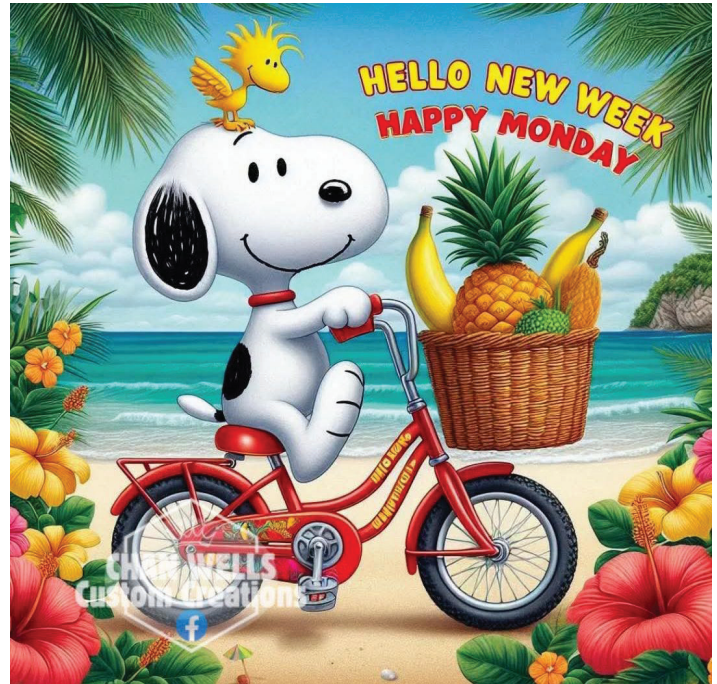


Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 1 of 71

[1- Upcoming Events](#)
[2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
[4- Harry Implement Ad](#)
[5- Jones County Fatal Crash](#)
[6- Prairie Doc: Feeling Dizzy?](#)
[7- Celebration in the Park ad](#)
[8- Locke Electric wins first game of districts](#)
[10- Claremont Honkers earn Sportsmanship Award at State](#)
[12- Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion Looks To Continue Strong Play Against Redfield Post 92 Jr. Legion 18U](#)
[13- Groton Jr. Teeners 14U Looks To Continue Strong Play Against MVP Titans 14U](#)
[14- Weekly Vikings Roundup](#)
[15- EarthTalk - Hunter-gatherers](#)
[16- SD SearchLight: Feeding South Dakota requests \\$3 million from Legislature to fill federal loss](#)
[18- Weather Pages](#)
[25- Daily Devotional](#)
[26- Subscription Form](#)
[27- Lottery Numbers](#)
[28- Upcoming Groton Events](#)
[29- News from the Associated Press](#)



Monday, July 28

Senior Menu: Sloopy joe on bun, oven roasted potatoes, winter blend, apricots.

Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, with Potluck at noon.

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

Jr. Legion Baseball Tournament in Groton: Starting at Noon at Locke-Karst Field in Groton: Sisseton vs. Redfield followed by Groton vs. Redfield followed by Groton vs. Clark.

Jr. Teeners Regional : 6 p.m.: Groton at Plankinton
Groton Soccer Camp

Tuesday, July 29

Senior Menu: Chicken cacciatore with noodles, Italian blend, 5 cup salad, whole wheat bread.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Jr. Legion Baseball Tournament in Groton: Starting at 2 p.m.: Sisseton vs. Groton followed by Sisseton vs. Clark followed by Redfield vs. Clark.

Groton Soccer Camp

Wednesday, July 30

Senior Menu: Cold turkey sub, lettuce, cheese and tomato, Macaroni salad, fruit.

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

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

Jr. Teeners Regional: 5 p.m.: Groton hosts Mt. Vernon/Plankinton. If a third game is required it will follow this game.

Groton Soccer Camp

Thursday, July 31

Senior Menu: Pork chop, sweet potato, corn, chocolate pudding with banana, whole wheat bread.

Aug. 1-5: Legion State B Tourney at Milbank

Aug. 8-10: State Jr. Legion at Milbank

Aug. 8-10: State Jr. Teener at Britton

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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 2 of 71

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.

European Trade Deal

The United States and European Union announced a trade deal yesterday. The framework sees the US applying a 15% tariff on most EU goods, including cars and pharmaceuticals, and a mutual reduction to 0% tariffs on others, including aircraft and semiconductor equipment. Steel and aluminum will remain tariffed at 50%. Tariffs on some goods—including wine—are still under negotiation.

The announcement ends months of uncertainty for two of the world's largest economies, responsible for nearly one-third of global trade. As part of the deal, the EU has committed to spending an additional \$600B in the US, including on military equipment, and \$750B on liquid gas and nuclear energy. The EU intends to phase out Russian gas imports by 2028.

The deal prevents a baseline 30% tariff on EU goods, a change Trump said would go into effect this Friday, barring a deal. In addition to the 27-member EU bloc, Trump has reached revised deals with the UK, Japan, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

Gaza Aid Crisis

Israel said it would implement a tactical pause in parts of Gaza yesterday, ceasing hostilities in three areas to facilitate aid delivery. The country said it would not conduct operations in Al-Mawasi, Deir al-Balah, and Gaza City for 10 hours daily, from 10 am to 8 pm, until further notice. Israel also said it had begun air-dropping aid.

The announcement comes as deaths attributed to starvation doubled in the past month, to 127 people, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. The dire humanitarian situation can be traced to March, when Israel implemented a weekslong blockade amid stalled ceasefire talks with Hamas. Since May, an average of 69 aid trucks have entered the territory per day, below the minimum 500 to 600 the UN says is needed. Shootings near reduced distribution sites have exacerbated the crisis, reportedly killing hundreds of people.

Israel has accused Hamas of diverting aid, implementing an administration process with fewer distribution points than the UN-led process.

'Arsenic Life' Retraction

A blockbuster paper claiming the first-ever observation of an organism using arsenic to grow was retracted last week by the prestigious journal "Science." The decision caps a 15-year controversy marked by intense criticism and the departure of the lead author from scientific research.

All known life generally relies on six core elements: hydrogen, oxygen, carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus, and sulfur. Researchers argued a microbe found in California's Mono Lake could swap out some phosphorus for arsenic, a claim that would reshape what is known about the building blocks of life. The paper generated significant public interest—amplified by a high-profile NASA news conference—in part theorizing about new forms of extraterrestrial life. Critics argued the data were flawed and such biology was impossible on Earth.

The retraction did not include accusations of misconduct and follows a recent profile of lead author Felisa Wolfe-Simon's part-time return to science.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 3 of 71

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Slovenia's Tadej Pogačar tops two-time champion Jonas Vingegaard of Denmark to win his fourth Tour de France title and second in a row.

Destiny's Child reunites for first time since 2018 in Las Vegas as Beyoncé's "Cowboy Carter" tour closes after 32 concerts across the US and Europe.

England tops Spain in penalty shootout to win 2025 UEFA Women's European soccer championship.

National Baseball Hall of Fame inducts Ichiro Suzuki, CC Sabathia, Billy Wagner, the late Dave Parker, and the late Dick Allen.

Science & Technology

Johns Hopkins University to license its books to AI firms to train large language models; press arm publishes around 150 books annually, authors would receive a reported \$100 per title per license.

Researchers snap first image of thermal vibrations in quantum materials.

Neanderthals ate maggots alongside fermented meat as a source of additional nutrients, study suggests; diet helped avoid protein poisoning despite a highly carnivorous diet.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher Friday (S&P 500 +0.4%, Dow +0.5%, Nasdaq +0.2%) with Nasdaq, S&P 500 hitting all-time intraday highs.

Palantir joins list of the US' 20 most valuable companies; stock more than doubles this year.

White House calls on the Federal Reserve to dramatically lower interest rates when it meets this week; the Fed is widely expected to leave interest rates unchanged.

Dating safety app Tea reports hack leaking 72,000 images, including some account users' photo IDs.

Allianz Life reveals hackers accessed majority of its 1.4 million customers' personal data.

Politics & World Affairs

Walmart stabbing in Traverse City, Michigan, leaves 11 people injured, six critically; authorities have yet to identify a motive for the 42-year-old suspect, who faces terrorism, assault, and intent to murder charges.

Clashes continue at the border between Thailand and Cambodia despite ceasefire talks; death toll surpasses 33 people as of this writing, with 168,000 displaced.

Wildfires in Greece lead to second day of evacuations, including some residents near Athens; comes amid severe heat wave with temperatures reaching 112 degrees Fahrenheit.

Flooding in northern China leaves two people dead.

Cub Cadet®

ZERO-TURN LEADER.



ULTIMA SERIES™ ZTS™



ULTIMA SERIES™ ZT™



ULTIMA SERIES™ ZTX™



ULTIMA SERIES™ ZTXS™



Ultima™ ZT1 54P ZERO-TURN

- 23 HP^{††} Kawasaki® FR691VV-twin OHV engine
- 54" AeroForce™ fabricated triple-blade deck
- Dual Hydro-Gear® EZT-2200™ transmission

\$3,999*



CC30H RIDING LAWN MOWER

- 10.5 HP[†] Briggs & Stratton engine
- 30" mowing deck
- Hydrostatic transmission

\$2,229*



Ultima™ ZT1 46 ZERO-TURN

- 21.5 HP^{††} Kawasaki® FR691VV-twin OHV engine
- 46" AeroForce™ fabricated twin-blade deck
- Dual Hydro-Gear® EZT-2200™ transmission
- Continuous 2" x 2" tubular steel frame with protective e-coat on lower end

\$3,499*

FOR FULL PRODUCT SPECS **Cub Cadet** VISIT CUBCADET.COM

HARRY IMPLEMENT INC
FERNEY, SD 57439
www.harrysinc.com
605-395-6421

*Actual retail prices are set by dealer and may vary. Taxes are additional and vary by location. Freight and PDI charges may be additional and vary by dealer. Models subject to limited availability. Images may not reflect dealer inventory and/or unit specifications. † As rated by Kohler, all power levels are stated in gross horsepower at 3600 RPM per SAE J1940 as rated by engine manufacturer. †† As required by Kawasaki, horsepower tested in accordance with SAE J1995 and rated in accordance with SAE J2723 and certified by SAE International. **See operator's manual for warranty details and information. Certain restrictions apply. Kohler® is a registered trademark of Kohler Co. Kawasaki® is a registered trademark of KAWASAKI JUKOGYO KABUSHIKI KAISHA.
© 2025 Cub Cadet

Jones County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash

Where: 279th Avenue and 238th Street, four miles north of Draper, SD

When: 6:50 p.m., Saturday, July 27, 2025

Driver 1: 37-year-old male from Murdo, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 1989 Ford Fire Tender

Seat belt Used: No

Jones County, S.D.- A Murdo firefighter died enroute to a large grass fire in a single vehicle crash Saturday evening, four miles north of Draper, SD.

The name of the person involved has not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 1989 Ford Fire Tender was traveling northbound on 279th Street while responding to a fire north of Draper. The vehicle left the roadway, rolled and ejected the driver, who was pronounced deceased at the scene.

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.

Feeling Dizzy? How Physical Therapy Can Help You Find Your Balance

Have you ever stood up too quickly and felt the room spin? Or rolled over in bed and suddenly felt like you were on a merry go round you didn't ask to ride? Maybe you've started to notice you feel a little unsteady when walking or need to hold onto furniture "just in case." If that sounds familiar, you are not alone. And more importantly, you are not without options.

Dizziness and balance problems are surprisingly common. These issues can develop after a cold, a minor head injury, or simply as part of the aging process. But despite how common they are, they are often overlooked. Many people chalk them up to aging or learn to "just live with it," avoiding stairs, skipping favorite outings, or giving up activities they enjoy because they don't feel steady.

That is where physical therapy can make a real difference. And no, it is not just about stretching or lifting weights. Physical therapists who focus on balance and vestibular care can help identify the source of your symptoms and offer practical, personalized solutions.

Let's start with one of the most common causes of vertigo: Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo, or BPPV. It sounds complicated, but the fix is often simple. In BPPV, tiny crystals in your inner ear float into the wrong place and start sending confusing signals to your brain. The result? Sudden, brief spinning sensations with head movement or changes in position. A trained physical therapist can perform a series of head and body movements called repositioning maneuvers to guide the crystals back where they belong. Relief is often immediate.

But not all dizziness is BPPV. Sometimes it stems from vestibular system weakness, where the inner ear is not working properly. This can be caused by a virus, changes that come with age or for reasons unknown. Other times, balance problems are linked to neurological conditions like Parkinson's disease or stroke, or to weakness and reduced movement after illness. Even changes in vision or sensation in your feet can throw off your balance.

That is why careful evaluation is so important. A physical therapist will assess how your eyes, ears, brain and muscles work together to keep you steady. Then they will create a personalized plan to help you feel more confident and stable. This may include exercises to improve gaze control, strengthen your muscles, practice safe walking and retrain your sense of balance.

Most importantly, therapy helps you rebuild your confidence. When you are afraid of falling or feeling dizzy, it is easy to stop moving. But that can make things worse. Physical therapy offers a safe way to stay active and regain control.

You do not have to live in fear of the next dizzy spell or miss out on the things you enjoy. If you are feeling off balance, ask your doctor if a referral to a vestibular trained physical therapist is right for you. The path to steady footing might be closer than you think.



Matt Leedom, PT, DPT, NCS, is a board-certified clinical specialist in neurologic physical therapy and an assistant professor in the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of South Dakota. He earned his B.S. in psychology from USD and his Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Creighton University. Leedom's clinical expertise includes the treatment of individual neurological conditions, including vestibular disorders. His research focuses on improving mobility and quality of life for individuals with Parkinson's disease, with current projects exploring cognitive flexibility training and non-invasive brain stimulation to address gait and postural impairments. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Threads. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB and streaming on the Prairie Doc Facebook page), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB), providing health information based on science, built on trust.

2ND ANNUAL CELEBRATION IN THE PARK

SAT, AUG 2ND

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 8AM RIB TEAM CHECK-IN
- 9:30AM RIB TEAM RULES MEETING
- 1PM LIONS START SERVING LUNCH
- 1PM CORNHOLE REGISTRATION
- 2PM CORNHOLE TOURNEY
- 1-3PM HUB CITY RADIO LIVE BROADCAST
- 1-4:30PM KIDS ACTIVITIES
 - WATER BALLONS AT 4:30PM
- **5PM RIB TASTING \$1/RIB (LIMIT 10 PER PERSON) WHILE SUPPLIES LAST**
- 6-9PM B&M TUNES KARAOKE



Enjoy karaoke and a chance to win—two split pot drawings will be held!

Groton City Park

Groton Locke Electric Defeats Northville Merchants On Back Of Clutch Display From Dylan Frey In District Competition

By GameChanger Media

The District Baseball Tournament is underway and Groton Locke Electric won the first game to advance to the next round Wednesday against Redfield Dairy Queen at Northville. Dylan Frey drove in four runs on four hits to lead Groton Locke Electric past Northville Merchants 13-7 on Sunday. Frey singled in the fifth scoring two, singled in the second scoring one, and singled in the fourth scoring one.

Northville Merchants got on the board in the bottom of the first inning after Ashton Remily tripled down the right field line, and Ben Fischbach grounded out, each scoring one run.

Groton Locke Electric captured the lead, 4-2, in the top of the fourth when Bj Richter doubled, scoring two runs, and Frey singled, scoring one run.

Northville Merchants made the score 6-4 in the bottom of the fourth after Fischbach doubled, scoring three runs, and Kyle Stahl singled, scoring one run.

Groton Locke Electric flipped the game on its head in the top of the fifth, scoring five runs on five hits to take the lead, 9-6. The biggest blow in the inning was a single by Frey that drove in two.

Alex Morris earned the win for Groton Locke Electric. The starter gave up nine hits and seven runs (five earned) over nine innings, striking out six and walking two. Fischbach took the loss for Northville Merchants. The pitcher went three and one-third innings, surrendering seven runs (six earned) on eight hits, striking out none and walking two. Remily stepped on the hill first for Northville Merchants. The pitcher allowed six hits and four runs (zero earned) over four innings, striking out two and walking none.

Groton Locke Electric collected 17 hits in the game. Ryan Groeblichhoff, Richter, Brian Hansen, and Jonah Schmidt each collected multiple hits for Groton Locke Electric.

Northville Merchants tallied nine hits in the game. Fischbach provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Northville Merchants with four runs batted in. The third baseman went 1-for-5 on the day. Stahl and Devin Fischbach each collected two hits for Northville Merchants. Fischbach stole two bases. Northville Merchants turned one double play in the game.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 9 of 71

Groton Locke Electric 13 - 7 Northville Merchants

📍 Away 📅 Sunday July 27, 2025

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
GRTN	0	1	0	3	5	0	0	2	2	13	17	6
NRTH	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	7	9	5

BATTING

Groton Locke Electric	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
T Sieber #24 (SS)	6	1	1	0	0	1
R Groebli... #0 (LF)	5	3	3	1	0	0
A Morris #13 (P)	6	1	1	1	0	1
J Schmidt #21 (CF)	4	1	2	0	2	0
B Hansen #18 (1B)	6	1	2	1	0	0
B Althoff #1 (3B)	4	1	1	1	0	0
W Locke #38 (2B)	4	3	1	0	0	0
C Cam... #10 (2B)	0	0	0	0	0	0
B Richter #2 (C)	5	1	2	3	0	0
D Frey #6 (RF)	5	1	4	4	0	0
A Jones #7 (RF)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	45	13	17	11	2	2

2B: B Richter, T Sieber, R Groebblinghoff, **TB:** B Althoff, B Richter 3, W Locke, J Schmidt 2, D Frey 4, T Sieber 2, R Groebblinghoff 4, A Morris, B Hansen 2, **SF:** B Althoff, **CS:** D Frey, **HBP:** W Locke, R Groebblinghoff, **LOB:** 9

PITCHING

Groton Locke Electric	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
A Morris #13	9.0	9	7	5	2	6	0
Totals	9.0	9	7	5	2	6	0

W: A Morris, **P-S:** A Morris 140-93, **HBP:** A Morris, **BF:** A Morris 43

Northville Merchants	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
C Simes #1 (CF)	5	2	1	1	0	0
A Remily #21 (P)	4	2	1	1	1	2
B Fischba... #5 (3B)	5	1	1	4	0	0
G Heyne #11 (2B)	4	0	1	0	1	0
K Stahl #2 (C)	4	0	2	1	0	0
E Beyers #34 (1B)	5	0	0	0	0	1
M Waltm... #29 (RF)	5	0	0	0	0	0
D Fischba... #1 (SS)	4	2	2	0	0	0
X Kadlec #3 (LF)	4	0	1	0	0	3
Totals	40	7	9	7	2	6

2B: B Fischbach, K Stahl, **3B:** A Remily, **TB:** X Kadlec, C Simes, A Remily 3, D Fischbach 2, B Fischbach 2, K Stahl 3, G Heyne, **HBP:** K Stahl, **SB:** C Simes, D Fischbach 2, **LOB:** 9

Northville Merchants	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
A Remily #21	4.0	6	4	0	0	2	0
B Fischb... #5	3.1	8	7	6	2	0	0
X Kadlec #3	1.1	3	2	0	0	0	0
M Walt... #29	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	9.0	17	13	6	2	2	0

L: B Fischbach, **P-S:** X Kadlec 26-15, M Waltman 2-1, A Remily 68-46, B Fischbach 62-36, **WP:** X Kadlec, **HBP:** X Kadlec, B Fischbach, **BF:** X Kadlec 9, M Waltman, A Remily 19, B Fischbach 21

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 10 of 71



Claremont Honkers Win Sportsmanship Award

The Claremont Honkers 17U VFW team earned the Sportsmanship Award at the State Tournament held over the weekend in Northville. The Honkers played in the Alpha Division.

In back, left to right, are David Grantham (SD VFW Representative), Coach Colby Dauwen, Kassen Keough, Rennan Bruns, Chris Cutler, Grant Cutler, Nate Schuller, Coach Dallas Bohle and Coach Joe Gustafson; in front left to right, are Dawson Feist, Bentlee Zerr, Charlie Schuller, Wes Morehouse, Nick Cutler, Case Reints, Carter Glines and Korbin McKane. (Courtesy Photo

Jennifer Gustafson)

Claremont Honkers With Tough Game Against Canton C-Hawks By GameChanger Media

Claremont Honkers had trouble keeping up with Canton C-Hawks in an 8-0 loss on Friday at Northville Baseball Field.

Canton C-Hawks opened the scoring in the first after Wyette Greenwood scored after tagging up.

Canton C-Hawks extended their early lead with three runs in the bottom of the second thanks to RBI singles by Landon Hill and Shane Sehr.

Canton C-Hawks added to their early lead in the bottom of the third inning after Jacoby Ulrikson scored after tagging up, and Alex Opland singled down the left field line, each scoring one run.

Wesley Morehouse led things off on the bump for SDVFW 17A Claremont Honkers 17U. The pitcher allowed 12 hits and eight runs over four innings, striking out none and walking one. Kayden Chaulk stepped on the mound first for Canton C-Hawks. The hurler surrendered two hits and zero runs over three innings, striking out two and walking four.

Chris Cutler, Grant Cutler, and Morehouse each collected one hit for SDVFW 17A Claremont Honkers 17U.

Canton C-Hawks collected 12 hits in the game. Hill led Canton C-Hawks with two runs batted in from the number nine spot in the lineup. The third baseman went 2-for-2 on the day. Ryder Thompson went 3-for-3 at the plate to lead Canton C-Hawks in hits. ESPN Anderson and Sehr each collected multiple hits for Canton C-Hawks. Anderson and Thompson each stole multiple bases for Canton C-Hawks. Canton C-Hawks stole seven bases in the game. Canton C-Hawks were sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Sehr had the most chances in the field with seven.

Claremont Honkers Stymied By W.I.N. Gators

By GameChanger Media

Claremont Honkers had trouble keeping up with W.I.N. Gators in a 13-0 loss on Friday at Northville Baseball Field.

W.I.N. Gators opened the scoring in the first after Chays Mansfield singled, scoring one run.

An error, a tag up by Beckett Halvorson, and a single by Alec Mikkelsen helped W.I.N. Gators extend their early lead in the second.

W.I.N. Gators scored five runs on five hits in the top of the third inning. Mansfield singled, scoring one run, Mikkelsen singled, scoring two runs, Nick Cutler induced Logan Fischbach to hit into a fielder's choice, but one run scored, and Mac Heinz doubled, scoring one run.

Cutler stepped on the hill first for SDVFW 17A Claremont Honkers 17U. The right-handed pitcher gave up 12 hits and 12 runs (10 earned) over three and two-thirds innings, striking out one and walking two. Heinz started the game for W.I.N. Gators. The starting pitcher allowed zero hits and zero runs over two and one-third innings, striking out two and walking two.

Kassen Keough led Claremont Honkers with one hit in two at bats.

W.I.N. Gators amassed 14 hits in the game. Mikkelsen and Mansfield were tough to handle back-to-back in the lineup, as each drove in five runs for W.I.N. Gators. Heinz and Quinn Huettl each collected multiple hits for W.I.N. Gators. Jacob Schmit stole two bases.

Claremont Honkers Come Up Short Against Tri-Valley Mustangs

By GameChanger Media

Claremont Honkers fell to Tri-Valley Mustangs 9-4 on Saturday.

Tri-Valley Mustangs jumped out to the lead in the bottom of the second inning after an error scored one run, an error scored two runs, and Lawson Schneiderman singled, scoring one run.

A fielder's choice by Tristen Bunde extended the Tri-Valley Mustangs lead to 5-0 in the bottom of the third inning.

Evan Focken stepped on the bump first for Tri-Valley Mustangs. The starter surrendered three hits and four runs (one earned) over seven innings, striking out five and walking one.

Nick Cutler led Claremont Honkers with two runs batted in from the number seven spot in the lineup. The right fielder went 1-for-3 on the day. Korbin Mckane, Cutler, and Grant Cutler each collected one hit for SDVFW 17A Claremont Honkers 17U.

Jackson Williams, Tri-Valley Mustangs's number eight hitter, led the team with two hits in three at-bats. Cole Hendrixson led Tri-Valley Mustangs with two runs batted in. Focken and Cooper Durick each stole multiple bases for Tri-Valley Mustangs. Tri-Valley Mustangs stole eight bases in the game.

Canton C-Hawks Take Down Claremont Honkers A Little At A Time

By GameChanger Media

Canton C-Hawks kept adding on runs in an 8-2 victory over Claremont Honkers on Sunday.

Canton C-Hawks were the first to get on the board in the first when Jacoby Ulrikson drew a walk, scoring one run.

Canton C-Hawks added to their early lead in the bottom of the second inning after Claremont Honkers committed an error, and Theo Meister singled to right field, each scoring one run.

Canton C-Hawks added to their early lead in the bottom of the third inning after Shane Sehr was struck by a pitch, and Meister grounded into a fielder's choice, each scoring one run.

Rennan Bruns began the game for SDVFW 17A Claremont Honkers 17U. The pitcher gave up three hits and five runs (three earned) over three innings, striking out three and walking five. Kayden Chaulk started on the bump for Canton C-Hawks. The left-handed pitcher gave up one hit and zero runs over two and

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 12 of 71

one-third innings, striking out three and walking two.

Chris Cutler, Kassen Keough, and Nate Schuller each collected one hit for SDVFW 17A Claremont Honkers 17U. Wesley Morehouse led Claremont Honkers with one run batted in.

Meister provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Canton C-Hawks with three runs batted in. The number three hitter went 1-for-3 on the day. Wyette Greenwood and Chaulk each collected two hits for Canton C-Hawks. Sehr paced Canton C-Hawks with three walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, tallying 12 walks for the game. Meister, Greenwood, and Landon Hill each stole multiple bases for Canton C-Hawks. Canton C-Hawks stole six bases in the game. Canton C-Hawks turned one double play in the game.

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

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion Looks To Continue Strong Play Against Redfield Post 92 Jr. Legion 18U

By GameChanger Media

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion have been playing well lately, going 7-3 in their last 10 games. They'll put that strong play to the test when they go up against Redfield Post 92 Jr. Legion 18U on Monday at Locke/Karst Field. The region round robin begins today with the Groton game the second of three that starts at noon.

Last Time Out:

Tristin McGannon drove in four runs as Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion topped Clear Lake 18-1.

Player Highlight:

T.C Schuster hits and pitches for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Schuster primarily plays shortstop on the field. Schuster has driven in a run in the past two games. The right-handed hitter has hit 3-4 and driven in three runs during the streak. Schuster is on a 2-game hitting streak. The shortstop has hit 0.750 during the streak. Schuster has hit for power this season with two triples and six doubles among Schuster's 30 hits. Schuster has kept hitters on their toes all season with a 0.75 WHIP. Schuster has allowed four hits and two walks in eight innings this season.

About Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion:

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion has played well lately, going 7-3 in their last 10 games. They have an 18-9 record overall. Schuster's 1.259 OPS leads Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. The infielder has a 0.592 OBP and a 0.667 slugging percentage this season. Alex Abeln leads Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion with 25 and two-thirds innings pitched. The starting pitcher has a 1.36 ERA this season. Lincoln Krause leads Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion with 89 total fielding chances this season. Krause's primary position is catcher.

About Redfield Post 92 Jr. Legion 18U:

Redfield Post 92 Jr. Legion 18U has one win against seven losses this season. Chace Odland's 1.012 OPS leads Redfield Post 92 Jr. Legion 18U. The shortstop has a 0.538 OBP and a 0.474 slugging percentage this season. Jackson Rude leads Redfield Post 92 Jr. Legion 18U with 12 innings pitched. Tate Bray leads Redfield Post 92 Jr. Legion 18U with 31 total fielding chances this season. Bray's primary position is catcher.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 13 of 71

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U Looks To Continue Strong Play Against MVP Titans 14U

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U have been playing well lately, going 6-4 in their last 10 games. They'll put that strong play to the test when they take on MVP Titans 14U on Monday at Plankinton. This is the first game of the region competition. The two teams will play Wednesday in Groton as it is the best of three games with the winner advancing to state. There are only two teams in the region.

Last Time Out:

Lincoln Shilhanek drove in five runs as Groton Jr. Teeners 14U defeated Faulkton 14U 17-6. MVP Titans 14U were defeated by Salem Cubs 14U 13-3.

Player Highlight:

Noah Scepaniak hits and pitches for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. Scepaniak primarily plays center field on the field. Scepaniak has an on-base percentage of 0.523 this season thanks in part to 11 walks. Scepaniak gets ahead in the count fast on the bump. Scepaniak has thrown first pitch strikes to 14 of the 23 batters they've faced this season.

About Groton Jr. Teeners 14U:

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U has played well lately, going 6-4 in their last 10 games. They have a 19-13 record overall. Jordan Schwan's 1.582 OPS leads Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. The right-handed hitter has a 0.680 OBP and a 0.902 slugging percentage this season. Trayce Schelle leads Groton Jr. Teeners 14U with 26 and two-thirds innings pitched. Keegan Kucker leads Groton Jr. Teeners 14U with 181 total fielding chances this season. Kucker's primary position is catcher.

About MVP Titans 14U:

MVP Titans 14U has played well lately, going 6-4 in their last 10 games. They have a 9-4 record overall. Lucas Hanson's 1.357 OPS leads MVP Titans 14U. The outfielder has a 0.786 OBP and a 0.571 slugging percentage this season. Mason DeGeest leads MVP Titans 14U with 20 innings pitched. The starting pitcher has a 1.75 ERA this season. Preston Nedved leads MVP Titans 14U with 61 total fielding chances this season. Nedved's primary position is catcher.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 14 of 71



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.

We continue this series with a look at the Vikings' cornerback situation. If you've been reading my articles this offseason, you know that the CB position is the weak link on the roster. Even though I have full confidence

in the Vikings' front office, and I think Brian Flores is perhaps the best defensive coordinator in the league, I can't help but worry about the secondary.

Starter(s)

Byron Murphy Jr. – The Vikings re-signed Murphy this offseason to a three-year deal worth \$54 million after he made his first Pro Bowl in 2024. Entering his seventh season in the NFL, the 27-year-old CB is the only one on the roster guaranteed to be a starter this upcoming season.

Battling for a starting spot

Isaiah Rodgers – A 6th-round pick by the Colts in 2020, Rodgers would be entering his 6th season in the NFL, but he was forced to miss the 2023 season because he violated the league's gambling policy. In his three seasons with the Colts and one with the Eagles, Rodgers has only started a combined 13 games. He signed a two-year, \$11 million contract with the Vikings this offseason, and the coaching staff has been raving about him in training camp.

Mekhi Blackmon – A 3rd round pick by the Vikings in 2023, Blackmon started three games in his rookie season and seemed to be coming along. Then he suffered an injury last offseason and missed the entire 2024 season. He was the in-house favorite to earn a starting spot before his injury, so it will be interesting to see if he can return to form and claim a large role in 2025.

Jeff Okudah – The 3rd overall pick by the Lions in 2020, the 26-year-old Okudah is now on his fourth team. There is no doubt the talent is there, but for whatever reason, he's never been able to put it all together. The Vikings are betting on Flores unlocking his potential, but it wasn't a huge gamble considering they only signed him to a one-year deal worth \$2.35 million.

Battling for a roster spot (alphabetical order)

Keenan Garber – An undrafted rookie from Kansas State, Garber is likely hoping for a spot on the practice squad.

Kahlef Hailassie – After two years with the Cleveland Browns in which he appeared in 10 games (mostly special teams), Hailassie joined the Vikings this offseason and will likely be vying for a spot on the practice squad, although it's possible he plays well enough to sneak his way onto the 53-man roster.

Dwight McGlother – Undrafted in 2024, McGlother is the most likely player from this group to make the 53-man roster. He played in five games for the Vikings last season and has been impressing the coaching staff this offseason.

Reddy Steward – Undrafted out of Troy, Steward played his rookie season with the Chicago Bears and appeared in one game. Now with the Vikings for his sophomore season, he'll be hoping for a spot on the practice squad.

Ambry Thomas – A 3rd round pick by the 49ers in 2021, Thomas started 11 games for them over three seasons. However, he suffered a broken forearm during the 2024 preseason and missed the entire season before the team waived him. Now healthy, he is in the mix for one of the final roster spots.

Tavierre Thomas – The veteran of this group, Tavierre is entering his eighth season in the NFL. Officially listed as a defensive back, he can play both cornerback and safety, and he also has experience returning kicks.

Zemaiah Vaughn – Although he is an undrafted rookie, Vaughn is someone to keep your eye on. He has impressive size (6'3") and speed (4.45-second 40-yard dash), and while he will likely be put on the practice squad this season, in a year or two, he could develop into a solid CB for the Vikings.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 15 of 71

EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Are there humans on the planet today still living hunter-gatherer subsistence lifestyles? If so, how are they dealing with modern-day pollution or climate change? – P.K. via email

For the vast majority of human history, up until around 12,000 years ago, every human was a hunter-gatherer. As hunter-gatherers, humans lived with a subsistence lifestyle that relied on hunting, fishing and foraging for wild vegetation and other nutrients like honey for food. This lifestyle declined due to modern innovations and agricultural practices. Today, very few groups of hunter-gatherers exist, scattered around the globe, and all have been affected by modern-day issues.

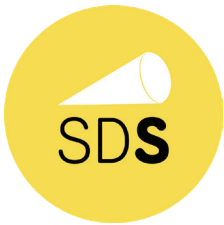


Hunter-gatherers continue to eek out an existence but it's harder every year due to pollution and the encroachment of civilization. Credit: Pexels.

In Tanzania, the Hadza people are nomadic, making temporary huts and moving in accordance with local animals rather than creating permanent settlements. However, the animals and plants they need to survive, including cows and local herbs, have been disappearing rapidly, while much of their local forests have been burned to make space for crops or razed to create water holes for irrigation. In the last 50 years, the Hadza lost over 90 percent of their ancestral land to farmers and cattle herders. As Shani Msaftin-Sigwaze, the first Hadza to attend university and the informal spokesperson for the group, said, "The Hadza are suffering much because the natural food is disappearing. Without the land, the Hadza will disappear."

Similarly, the Arctic's Inuit people face environmental issues. They have consistently adapted to difficult environments throughout history by wearing thick clothes and moving southward when ice caps melted. However, global warming has increased the rate at which ice caps are melting, forcing more frequent migration. Furthermore, the transition to modern life fostered frustration and depression, leading to alcoholism, suicide, violence, and delinquency for the first time in the group's history. And Paraguay's Ache people were forced to combat attempts to remove them from their ancestral homelands for other land to be developed. Similarly, the Pila Nguru of Australia faced encroaching farmlands, railways, and the use of their land for atomic testing.

Generally, hunter-gatherer groups are often threatened by pollution, climate change, deforestation and industrial projects. The presence of mineral resources and commercial land make these areas a hotspot for industry seeking to construct oil pipelines, dams or mining sites. In addition to industrial projects, the loss of biodiversity through deforestation and the subsequent extinction of animal species decreases food sources and the supply of traditional medicine. Citizens and governments must make efforts toward preserving the cultures and homelands of hunter-gatherer groups. The Brazilian government, for instance, is actively trying to protect lands from incursion and development in areas that hold uncontacted hunter-gatherers. Citizens can support such efforts by opposing the industrialization of untouched areas and advocating for policies that preserve ancestral lands.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Feeding South Dakota requests \$3 million from Legislature to fill federal loss

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - JULY 27, 2025 9:12 AM

Feeding South Dakota is the first of what could be multiple nonprofits asking the Legislature for help to recover from federal funding cuts.

Executive Director Lori Dykstra requested \$3 million in one-time funds at the legislative Appropriations Committee meeting Wednesday in Pierre to offset 1.5 million pounds of food no longer being provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture since March.

Feeding South Dakota partners to provide food to 265 smaller food pantries and food insecurity organizations throughout the state. "If we don't have food, they don't have food," Dykstra said.

The nonprofit's budget typically runs just over \$10 million and is nearly entirely privately funded. The \$3 million of state funding would help the organization purchase the lost 1.5 million pounds of food and purchase additional food to meet the expected increased need, Feeding South Dakota Vice President of Marketing Stacey Andernacht told South Dakota Searchlight after the meeting. The cost to purchase that much food fluctuates, rising to \$2.7 million as of July 25.

Tea Republican Sen. Ernie Otten, who serves as co-chair of the budget committee, warned lawmakers of hard choices to "pick winners and losers" in the next legislative session. The committee learned of an up to \$24.5 million shortfall in projected general fund revenue for this fiscal year, and Otten said because of federal cuts affecting state departments and nonprofits, "every agency and group will have their hands out."

Sen. Taffy Howard, R-Rapid City, questioned ways that Feeding South Dakota could get churches and South Dakotans to contribute more, rather than relying on state or federal funding.

"You are a wonderful organization, but you're one of hundreds, if not thousands, that want government funds to assist them in doing what they started out doing probably without government funds," Howard said.

Dykstra told lawmakers the nonprofit "runs very lean" and that 93 cents of every dollar goes toward feeding people. Feeding South Dakota has been operating for 50 years, primarily privately funded, and this is the first time leaders have requested state general funds, Andernacht said.

Lawmakers won't take up the request until the 2026 legislative session starts in January.

"We felt it was the right time to put in front of the state the dollars that they could partner with us on to help fill that gap," Andernacht said. "They have plenty of time to consider that, ask questions and get more information from us."

The cuts came from the rollback of federal aid by the Trump administration, particularly programs be-



Feeding South Dakota's Rapid City location on May 30, 2025. (Seth Tupper/South Dakota Searchlight)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 17 of 71

gun during the COVID-19 pandemic to help the U.S. Department of Agriculture support food distribution. Feeding South Dakota spoke to the legislative budget committee in May about the cuts.

The nonprofit reduced its programs by up to 35% to address the federal loss, Dykstra told lawmakers. Reduced programs include its mobile pantry, wellness pantry and senior box programs, Dykstra said. Feeding South Dakota partners with the state to deliver U.S. Department of Agriculture food insecurity programs, like the senior box program, in South Dakota. Andernacht said the nonprofit has not reduced food provided in the backpack program for school children.

The group didn't fill open positions and made cuts to technology to lessen the blow to food-insecure families.

"We did what we needed to Band-Aid the situation," Dykstra added.

If the nonprofit doesn't fill its gap in federal funding, she said, rural communities will be hit hardest, because they don't have other resources like Sioux Falls and Rapid City do.

Sioux Falls Republican Sen. Larry Zikmund highlighted the amount of volunteerism Feeding South Dakota depends on to operate its programs, in addition to the funding.

"It's very much needed," Zikmund said, "and we need to look at seeing what we can do to help support them."

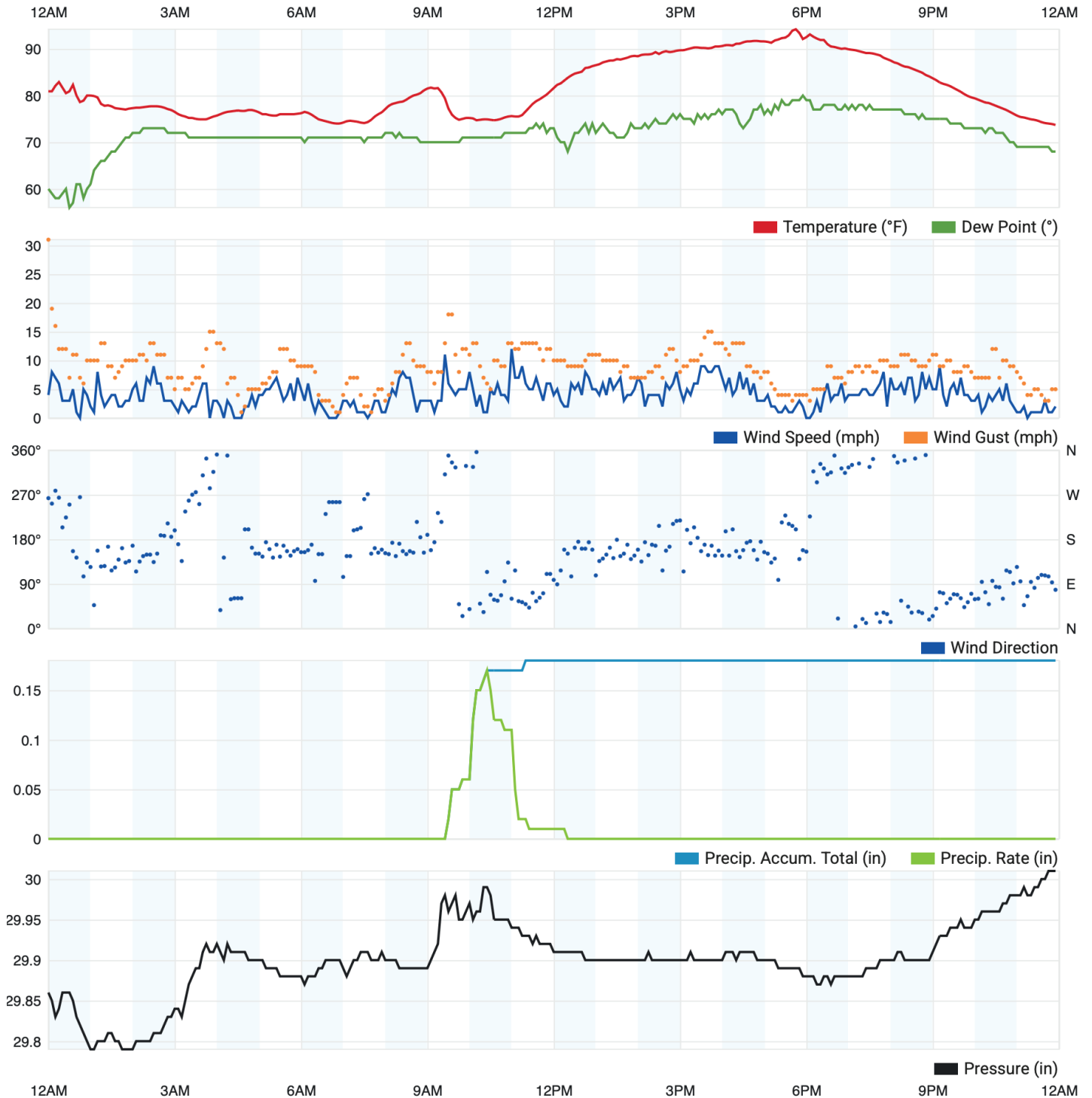
Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan who regularly reports on the intersection of politics and policy with health, education, social services and Indigenous affairs. Her work with South Dakota Searchlight earned her the title of South Dakota's Outstanding Young Journalist in 2024, and she was a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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 18 of 71

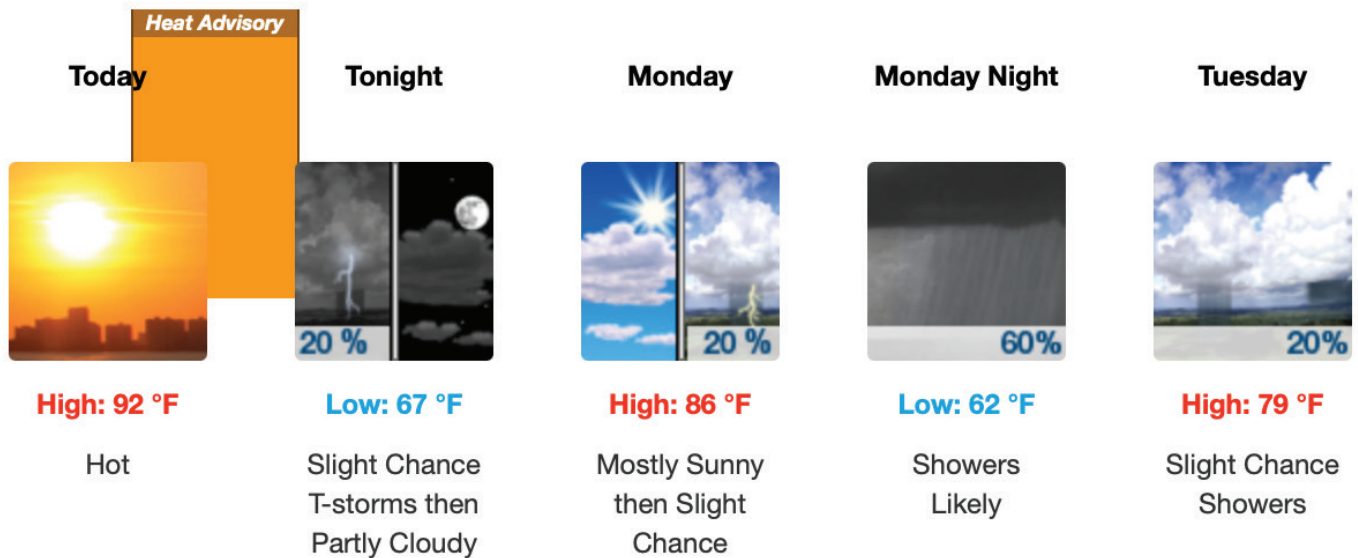
Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

July 27, 2025



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 19 of 71



THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

4

WHAT THIS MEANS:
Widespread severe
storms *Likely*

TIMING

Mid-Day Thru
Afternoon

PRIMARY THREATS



DAMAGING
WIND GUSTS
of 80+ mph

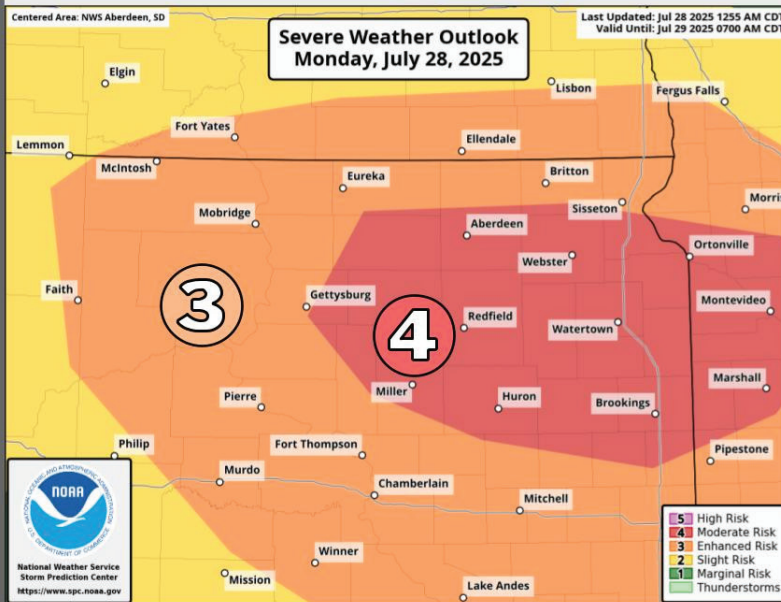


LARGE HAIL
to 2 inches
diameter



TORNADOES
ARE POSSIBLE

High Wind Producing SEVERE STORMS Today



What to Expect:

- 80+ mph wind gusts.
- Hail up to 2 inches in diameter.
- Tornadoes are possible.

Timing:

- Early afternoon storms develop in northwest/north-central SD.
- Storms rapidly move southeast through the afternoon.
- By evening storms are in far eastern SD / western MN.

How to be
Prepared:



INDOOR SHELTER



OUTDOOR PLANS?
STAY WEATHER
AWARE



MULTIPLE WAYS TO
RECEIVE WARNINGS

The threat exists today for widespread severe storms. All hazards exist with this risk, area including winds in excess of 80 miles per hour, large hail, tornadoes and heavy rain/flooding. Maintain a high weather awareness throughout the day, and make sure you have a way to get weather alerts.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 20 of 71



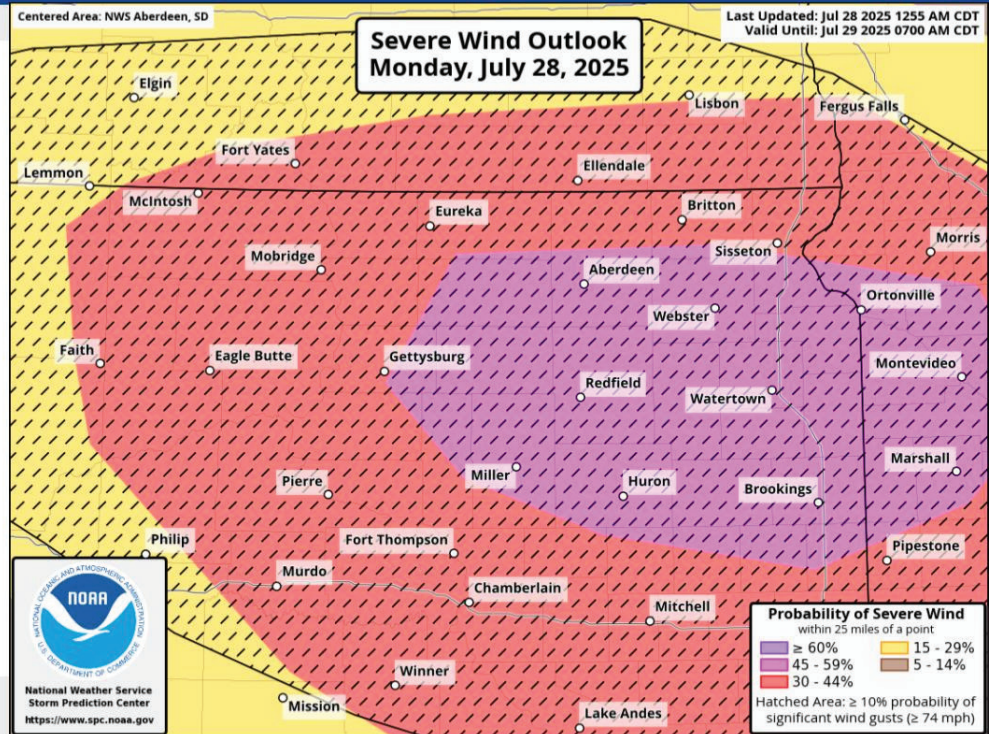
Severe Weather Threats - High Winds

July 28, 2025
2:49 AM

Wind Threat Highlights:

The greatest risk with storms today will be the potential for high winds in excess of 80 mph. Essentially the entire forecast area is at risk. Storms will develop West River into North Central South Dakota and rapidly proceed east/southeast-wards.

It is highly advised that you secure easy to blow away items before heading out for your daily activities



The main severe weather threat for today is high winds. Storms will have the potential for winds in excess of 80 mph.

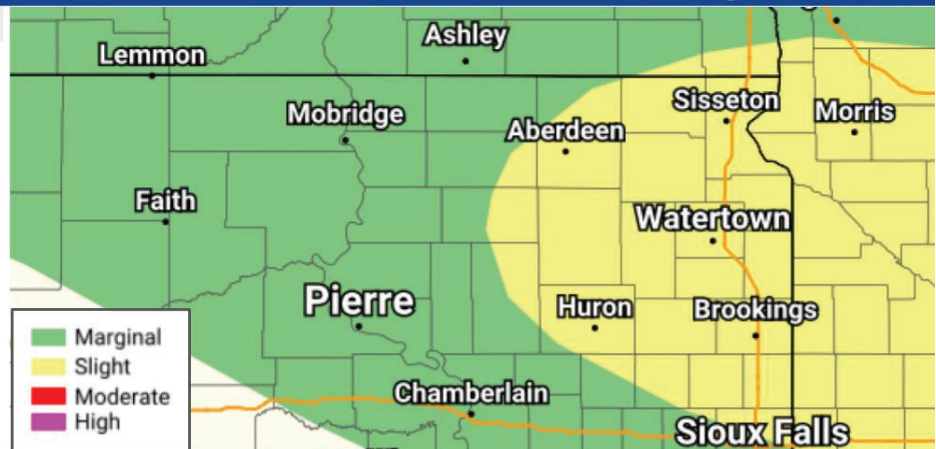


Severe Weather Threats - Heavy Rain/Flooding

July 28, 2025
3:06 AM

Heavy Rain/Flooding Threat Highlights:

While storms should be moving relatively quickly, the threat for heavy rainfall still exists. Additionally we have many areas saturated from yesterday's storms that could easily see more flooding with little additional rainfall.



Ponding of Water



Water On Road



River & Stream Rises



NEVER DRIVE THROUGH FLOODED ROADWAYS!

MOST LIKELY IMPACT AREAS

Low Lying and Poor Drainage Areas

Roads With Insufficient or Plugged Culverts or Storm Drains

James River and east, especially those near Watertown



NWS Aberdeen, SD
weather.gov/Aberdeen

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 21 of 71

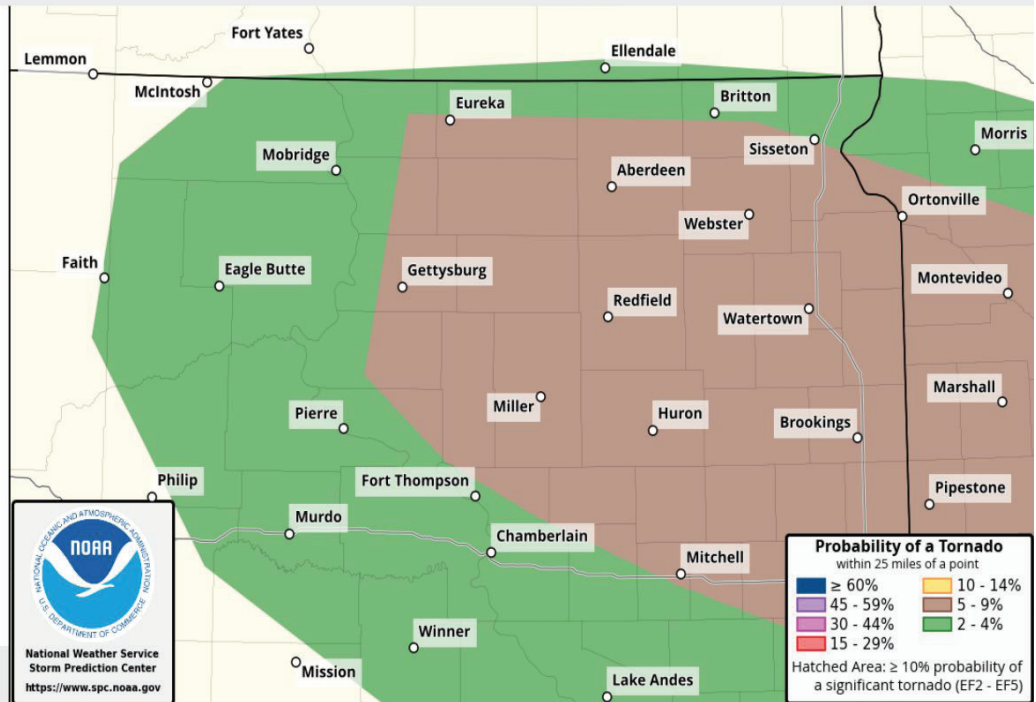


Severe Weather Threats - Tornado

July 28, 2025
3:11 AM

Tornado Threat Highlights:

A heightened tornado potential exists with storms today from West River where storms develop eastwards all the way into western Minnesota.



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

NOAA
National Weather Service
Storm Prediction Center
<https://www.spc.noaa.gov>

Probability of a Tornado
within 25 miles of a point

≥ 60%	10 - 14%
45 - 59%	5 - 9%
30 - 44%	2 - 4%
15 - 29%	

Hatched Area: ≥ 10% probability of a significant tornado (EF2 - EF5)



General Timing And Coverage Of Storms

July 28, 2025
3:11 AM

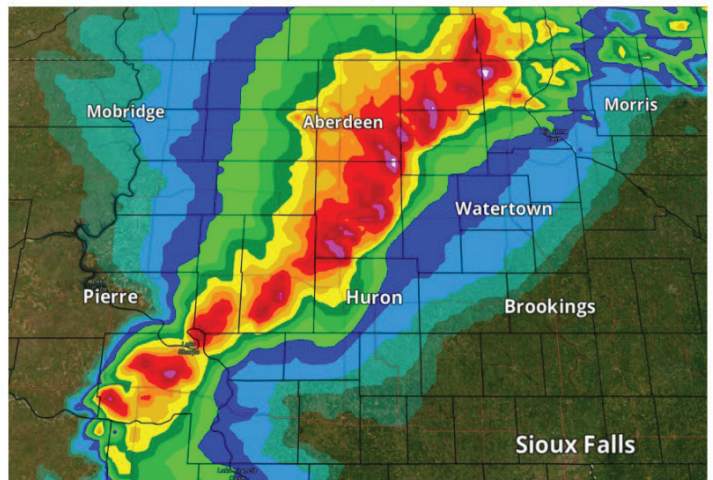
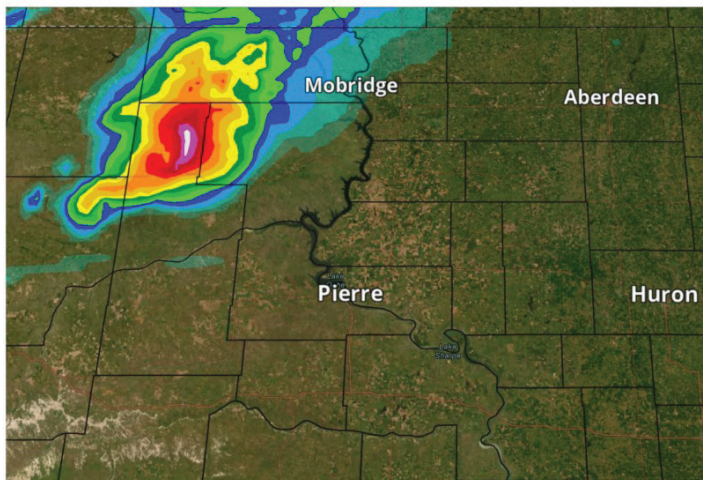
Model Estimated Timing and Locations of Thunderstorms (CDT)

Noon - 3 PM

Storms developing West River into North Central South Dakota. Storms expected to expand in coverage and move rapidly to the east and southeast.

3 PM - 6 PM

Widespread severe storms expected to transition from the Missouri Valley into northeast and eastern South Dakota. All threats (+80 mph winds, large hail, tornadoes, flooding) exist with these storms!



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 22 of 71



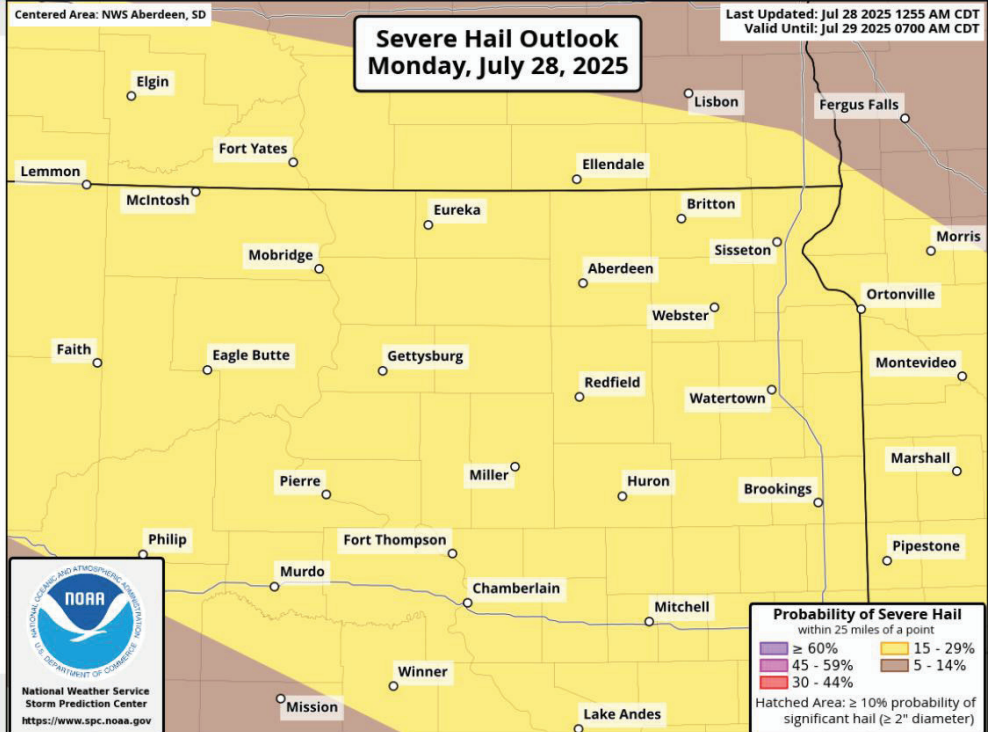
Severe Weather Threats - Hail

July 28, 2025
3:11 AM

Hail Threat Highlights:

The threat for large hail essentially covers everyone in the forecast area. Maximum hail size is expected to be around two inches.

The damage potential from large hail will be enhanced by the expected **strong winds** (possibly in excess of 80 mph) associated with these thunderstorms



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 23 of 71

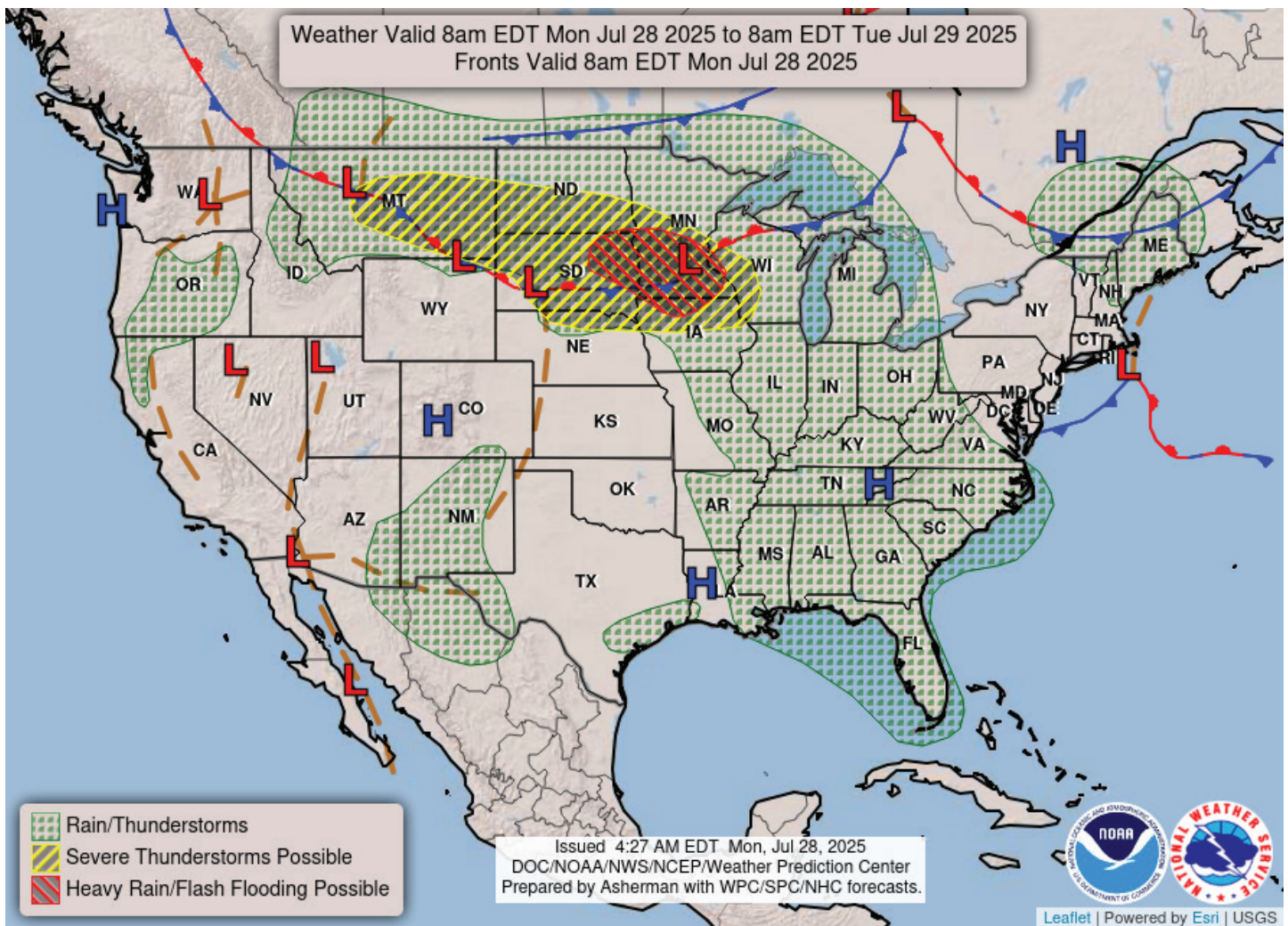
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 94 °F at 5:43 PM
Heat Index: 114 °F at 6:15 PM
Low Temp: 74 °F at 6:50 AM
Wind: 18 mph at 9:26 AM
Precip: : 0.18

Day length: 14 hours, 55 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 109 in 1975
Record Low: 40 in 2013
Average High: 85
Average Low: 60
Average Precip in July.: 2.84
Precip to date in July: 6.86
Average Precip to date: 13.85
Precip Year to Date: 15.02
Sunset Tonight: 9:06:50 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:12:08 am



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 24 of 71

Today in Weather History

July 28, 1986: Very intense thunderstorms developed in South Dakota and Nebraska and moved into Iowa. The first of these storms produced a tornado that crossed into Iowa south of Sioux City and slammed into a coal-burning power plant. This storm caused between 25 and 50 million dollars damage to the plant. The tornado continued across farmland, then damaged a store and flattened a motel in Sloan before lifting up.

1819 - A small but intense hurricane passed over Bay Saint Louis, MS. The hurricane was considered the worst in fifty years. Few houses were left standing either at Bay Saint Louis or at Pass Christian, and much of the Mississippi coast was desolate following the storm. A U.S. cutter was lost along with its thirty-nine crew members. The storm struck the same area that was hit 150 years later by Hurricane Camille. (David Ludlum)

1898: A severe thunderstorm produced considerable hail (some stones to 11 ounces) in Chicago, Illinois business district. Some people were hurt, not by hail, but by several hundred runaway horses spooked by the hailstones.

1930 - The temperature at Greensburg, KY, soared to 114 degrees to set a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1934 - The temperature at Grofino, ID, climbed to 118 degrees to establish a record for Idaho. (The Weather Channel)

1952 - A severe storm with hail up to an inch and a half in diameter broke windows, ruined roofs, and stripped trees of leaves near Benson, AZ. The temperature dropped to 37 degrees, as hail was three to four inches deep, with drifts 46 inches high. (The Weather Channel)

1976: At 3:42 AM, an earthquake measuring between 7.8 and 8.2 magnitudes on the Richter scale flattens Tangshan, a Chinese industrial city with a population of about one million people. An estimated 242,000 people in Tangshan and surrounding areas were killed, making the earthquake one of the deadliest in recorded history, surpassed only by the 300,000 who died in the Calcutta earthquake in 1737, and the 830,000 thought to have perished in China's Shaanxi province in 1556.

1986 - Severe thunderstorms moving out of South Dakota across Iowa produce high winds which derailed eighteen piggyback trailer cars of a westbound freight train near Boone, IA. Sixteen of the cars fell 187 feet into the Des Moines River. The thunderstorms also spawned a number of tornadoes, including one which caused twenty-five to fifty million dollars damage at Sloan, near Sioux City, IA. (Storm Data)

1987 - Thunderstorms in Nevada produced wind gusts to 70 mph at Searchlight, reducing visibilities to near zero in blowing dust and sand. Thunderstorms in Montana drenched Lonesome Lake with 3.78 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms drenched Wilmington, NC, with 3.33 inches of rain, bringing their monthly total 14.46 inches. Seven cities in Michigan and Minnesota reported record high temperatures for the date. Marquette, MI, hit 99 degrees, and the record high of 94 degrees at Flint MI was their tenth of the month. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Afternoon thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in Massachusetts. Early evening thunderstorms over Florida produced wind gusts to 68 mph at Fort Myers, and evening thunderstorms in South Dakota produced nearly two inches of rain in twenty minutes at Pierpoint. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 25 of 71



GOING BEYOND THE ORDINARY

What does it take to "go beyond" others and find happiness? Education? Wealth? Family? Networking? Occupation? Power? Recognition? Prestige?

What about "going beyond" for the Christian? Are there standards for "happiness?"

The first Psalm almost explodes with a joyful exclamation of one who "goes beyond." That one is called "blessed," or in many translations, "happy." And it is not "everyone" who attains this plateau of happiness. It is "the one" who is a believer in the Word of God – Christ Jesus.

To look at some who profess to be followers of the Lord does not provide an easy answer. They do not seem to be satisfied with life, have a sense of peace about them, or look forward to living each day with expectancy and joy. They appear "ordinary." They give the world the wrong impression of what God has to offer us through His Son.

The first Psalm provides the "do's" and "do not's" to "go beyond" the ordinary Christian and become an extraordinary Christian.

Negatively, the extraordinary Christian does not follow the advice of the wicked, spend time talking to them, or listening to their advice, and even avoids being in their presence whenever possible.

Positively, the extraordinary Christian takes pleasure in honoring God, following His teachings, and being obedient to His Word.

The extraordinary Christian is always seeking ways to grow into the likeness of Christ, to follow His teachings, and to worship and serve Him daily.

Prayer: Help us, Heavenly Father, to willingly make any and every sacrifice that is necessary to become all that we can become in You and through You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. Psalm 1:1-4

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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 26 of 71

The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.2% Sales Tax

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

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

Groton Daily Independent www.397news.com Subscription Form

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

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

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

E-mail _____

Password _____

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

paypal.me/paperpaul

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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 27 of 71



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.25.25

14 21 25 49 52 7

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$130,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 31 Mins
36 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.26.25

8 16 20 35 48 8

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$3,410,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 46 Mins 36
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.27.25

4 6 9 25 47 4

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 1 Mins 36
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.26.25

1 17 21 28 33

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$71,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 17 Hrs 1 Mins
36 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.26.25

11 16 21 29 41 1

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 30 Mins 36
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.26.25

8 31 57 65 67 23

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$364,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 30 Mins 37
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 28 of 71

Upcoming Groton Events

007/25/2025 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.

Jr. Teener Region Tournament

July 28 and 30

Only two teams in the region (Groton and Mt. Vernon/Plankinton) so the best of three games will advance to state.

Monday, July 28, 6 p.m. in Plankinton

Wednesday, July 30, 5 p.m. in Groton

If a third game is required it will be played after the game in Groton.

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Israeli strikes kill at least 34 people in Gaza, officials say, as some aid restrictions are eased

By WAFAA SHURAF and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli strikes killed at least 34 Palestinians in multiple locations across Gaza on Monday, local health officials said, a day after Israel eased aid restrictions in the face of a worsening humanitarian crisis in the territory.

Israel announced Sunday that the military would pause operations in Gaza City, Deir al-Balah and Muwasi for 10 hours a day until further notice to allow for the improved flow of aid to Palestinians in Gaza, where concern over hunger has grown, and designate secure routes for aid delivery.

Israel said it would continue military operations alongside the new humanitarian measures. The Israeli military had no immediate comment about the latest strikes, which occurred outside the time frame for the pause Israel declared would be held between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Aid agencies have welcomed the new aid measures, which also included allowing airdrops into Gaza, but said they were not enough to counter the rising hunger in the Palestinian territory.

Images of emaciated children have sparked outrage around the world, including from Israel's close allies. U.S. President Donald Trump on Sunday called the images of emaciated and malnourished children in Gaza "terrible."

Israel has restricted aid to varying degrees throughout the war. In March, it cut off the entry of all goods, including fuel, food and medicine to pressure Hamas to free hostages.

Israel partially lifted those restrictions in May but also pushed ahead on a new U.S.-backed aid delivery system that has been wracked by chaos and violence. Traditional aid providers also have encountered a similar breakdown in law and order surrounding their aid deliveries.

Most of Gaza's population now relies on aid. Accessing food has become a challenge that some Palestinians have risked their lives for.

The Awda hospital in central Gaza said it received the bodies of seven Palestinians who it said were killed Monday by Israeli fire close to an aid distribution site run by the U.S.- and Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation. The hospital said 20 others were wounded close to the site.

Elsewhere, a woman who was seven months pregnant was killed along with 11 others after their house was struck in the Muwasi area, west of the southern city of Khan Younis. The woman's fetus survived after a complex surgery, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent.

One strike hit a two-story house in the western Japanese neighborhood of Khan Younis, killing at least 11 people, more than half of them women and children, said the Nasser Hospital, which received the casualties.

The Israeli military and GHF did not immediately respond to a request for comment on those strikes.

In its Oct. 7, 2023, attack, Hamas killed 1,200 people and took 251 hostages. It still holds 50, more than half Israel believes to be dead.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed more than 59,800 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Its count doesn't distinguish between militants and civilians, but the ministry says over half of the dead are women and children. The ministry operates under the Hamas government. The U.N. and other international organizations see it as the most reliable source of data on casualties.

Gunman kills 5 and wounds 2 at a Bangkok market before killing himself, police say

BANGKOK (AP) — A gunman shot and killed five people at a popular fresh food market in the Thai capital on Monday before killing himself, police said.

The victims included security guards at the Or Tor Kor market in the district of Chatuchak district in

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 30 of 71

Bangkok, according to a police statement. The Erawan Medical Center, which coordinates emergency medical services, reported two women were also wounded.

The market, next to the sprawling Chatuchak weekend Market, carries all sorts of goods and is popular with Thai and foreign tourists.

A video circulating online reportedly showed the shooter wearing a baseball cap and shorts walking in the market with a backpack strapped to his chest and a handgun in his right hand.

Police said they were probing details about the suspect, including his motivation.

Police Gen. Kitrat Phanphet, chief of the national police force, said he has ordered city police to carry out their investigation quickly and gather all evidence, including closed-circuit video footage.

Gun violence is not unusual in Thailand, which has fairly restrictive laws but also a high level of gun ownership.

The last mass shooting incident in Bangkok was in October 2023 when a teenage boy, using a modified blank pistol, shot more than half a dozen people at the Paragon shopping mall in the city's main shopping district, killing three.

One of the country's worst mass killings occurred in October 2022 in the northeastern province of Nong Bua Lamphu, when a police sergeant who had lost his job used guns and knives to kill 36 people, including two dozen toddlers at a day care center.

In February 2020, a disgruntled Thai army soldier shot and killed 29 people, most at a shopping mall in the northeastern city of Nakhon Ratchasima, before he was killed by police after an 18-hour standoff.

Cambodian and Thai leaders hold ceasefire talks in Malaysia as border violence enters fifth day

By EILEEN NG, JINTAMAS SAKSORNCHAI and SOPHENG CHEANG Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Ceasefire talks have started between Thai and Cambodian leaders in Malaysia in an urgent effort to resolve deadly border clashes that entered a fifth day despite mounting international calls for peace.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet and Thai Acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai gathered Monday for the meeting at the official residence of Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim who is hosting the negotiations as chair of the regional bloc, Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The fighting flared last Thursday after a land mine explosion along the border wounded five Thai soldiers. Both sides blamed each other for starting the clashes, that have killed at least 35 people and displaced more than 260,000 people on both sides. Both countries recalled their ambassadors and Thailand shut all border crossings with Cambodia, with an exception for migrant Cambodian workers returning home.

Troops from both sides reported ongoing fighting Monday along border areas. Gunfire could be heard as dawn broke in Samrong in Cambodia's Oddar Meanchey province, Associated Press reporters covering the conflict said.

Maly Socheata, a Cambodian defense ministry spokesperson, said the Thai assault was "ongoing and strong" on Monday.

Anwar said late Sunday that both sides would present their conditions for peace but "what is important is immediate ceasefire."

"I hope this can work," Anwar was quoted as saying by Malaysian national news agency Bernama. "Although it's not as bad as many other countries, we have to put a stop (to the violence)."

The meeting followed direct pressure from U.S. President Donald Trump, who has warned that the United States may not proceed with trade deals with either country if hostilities continue.

Before departing for Kuala Lumpur, Phumtham told reporters in Bangkok that representatives from China and the U.S. will also attend as observers. He said the key focus would be on an immediate ceasefire, but noted trust could be an issue as Cambodia has not stopped its strikes.

"We have informed that we don't have trust in Cambodia. All they have done reflect that they are not sincere in solving this problem. So they have to show the detail how they will do to prove their sincerity,"

he said.

Officials later said that the Chinese and American ambassadors to Malaysia are attending the meeting. The violence marks a rare instance of open military confrontation between ASEAN member states, a 10-nation regional bloc that has prided itself on non-aggression, peaceful dialogue and economic cooperation.

In a statement Monday, ASEAN foreign ministers reiterated concern over the rising death toll, destruction of public properties and displacement of a large number of people along the disputed border areas. They urged the two countries to resolve their disputes through negotiations and expressed support for efforts to find a middle ground during Monday's talks.

The conflict also drew the attention of Pope Leo XIV. At the Vatican on Sunday, the pontiff said he was praying for all those affected by war in the world, including "for those affected by the clashes on the border between Thailand and Cambodia, especially the children and displaced families."

At an evacuation shelter in Cambodia's Siem Reap province far away from the border, Ron Mao, 56, prays for a ceasefire deal during the leaders' meeting Monday. She and her family fled their home a kilometer (0.6 mile) away from the front line when fighting broke out Thursday. They took refuge in a shelter but moved again to another camp further away after hearing artillery shelling.

"I don't want to see this war happen. It's very difficult and I don't want to run around like this," she said, "When I heard our Prime Minister go to negotiate for peace, I would be very happy if they reached the deal as soon as possible, so that I and my children can return home as soon as possible."

Thai evacuees shared the sentiment.

"I beg the government. I want it to end quickly," said farmer Nakorn Jomkamsing at an evacuation camp in Surin hosting more than 6,000 people. "I want to live peacefully. I miss my home, my pets, my pigs, dogs and chicken," the 63-year-old woman said.

The 800-kilometer (500-mile) frontier between Thailand and Cambodia has been disputed for decades, but past confrontations have been limited and brief. The latest tensions erupted in May when a Cambodian soldier was killed in a confrontation that created a diplomatic rift and roiled Thailand's domestic politics.

Passengers flee smoking jet on emergency slide after apparent landing gear problem at Denver airport

By MINGSON LAU and JEFF MARTIN Associated Press

Passengers slid down an emergency slide of a smoking jet at Denver International Airport due to a possible problem with the plane's landing gear, authorities said.

American Airlines Flight 3023 reported a "possible landing gear incident" during its departure from Denver on Saturday afternoon, the Federal Aviation Administration said. The problem involved an aircraft tire, the Fort Worth, Texas-based airline said in a statement.

The Boeing 737 MAX 8 carrying 173 passengers and six crew members was on its way to Miami International Airport, American said.

Video aired by local media showed people sliding down the inflatable chute near the front of the plane while clutching luggage and small children. Some passengers, including at least one adult carrying a young child, tripped at the end of the slide and fell onto the concrete runway. Passengers were then taken to the terminal by bus.

Shay Armistead, a 17-year-old from Minturn, Colorado, described a chaotic scene.

After hearing a loud "boom," the plane "started to violently shake and we were drifting to the left side of the runway," Armistead told The Associated Press in an interview.

Armistead and her teammates on a ski racing team were on their way from Colorado to Chile when it happened.

"I started grabbing my friend's hands, I was like 'Oh my God,' and then they slammed on the brakes, and we all like went forward and they finally brought the plane to a stop," she said. "It was just terrifying."

One of the passengers was taken to a hospital with a minor injury, American Airlines said in its statement. Five people were evaluated for injuries at the scene but did not require hospitalization, airport officials said.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 32 of 71

"About halfway to takeoff speed, we hear a big bang and a pop," passenger Shaun Williams told KUSA-TV. "The pilot immediately started abort procedures for taking off. You could feel him start to hit the brakes."

Firefighters extinguished a fire on the aircraft, the Denver Fire Department said.

"All customers and crew deplaned safely, and the aircraft was taken out of service to be inspected by our maintenance team," American said.

In a statement, the FAA said it's investigating.

Armistead said she's thankful for everyone who helped her and the other passengers, and grateful that she's safe.

"You've just got to appreciate what you're given, and I'm so grateful that it wasn't worse," Armistead said. ____

This story corrects the spelling of a passenger's name. She is Shay Armistead, not Armisteadz.

US-EU deal sets a 15% tariff on most goods and averts the threat of a trade war with a global shock

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — The United States and the European Union agreed on Sunday to a trade framework setting a 15% tariff on most goods, staving off — at least for now — far higher import duties on both sides that might have sent shock waves through economies around the globe.

The sweeping announcement came after President Donald Trump and European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen met briefly at Trump's Turnberry golf course in Scotland. Their private sit-down culminated months of bargaining, with the White House deadline Friday nearing for imposing punishing tariffs on the EU's 27 member countries.

"It was a very interesting negotiation. I think it's going to be great for both parties," Trump said. The agreement, he said, was "a good deal for everybody" and "a giant deal with lots of countries."

Von der Leyen said the deal "will bring stability, it will bring predictability, that's very important for our businesses on both sides of the Atlantic."

Many facets will require more work

As with other, recent tariff agreements that Trump announced with countries including Japan and the United Kingdom, some major details remain pending in this one.

Trump said the EU had agreed to buy some \$750 billion worth of U.S. energy and invest \$600 billion more than it already is in America — as well as make a major military equipment purchase. He said tariffs "for automobiles and everything else will be a straight across tariff of 15%" and meant that U.S. exporters "have the opening up of all of the European countries."

Von der Leyen said the 15% tariffs were "across the board, all inclusive" and that "indeed, basically the European market is open."

At a later news conference away from Turnberry, she said the \$750 billion in additional U.S. energy purchases was actually over the next three years — and would help ease the dependence on natural gas from Russia among the bloc's countries.

"When the European Union and the United States work together as partners, the benefits are tangible," Von der Leyen said, noting that the agreement "stabilized on a single, 15% tariff rate for the vast majority of EU exports" including cars, semiconductors and pharmaceuticals.

"15% is a clear ceiling," she said.

But von der Leyen also clarified that such a rate wouldn't apply to everything, saying that both sides agreed on "zero for zero tariffs on a number of strategic products," like all aircraft and component parts, certain chemicals, certain generic drugs, semiconductor equipment, some agricultural products, natural resources and critical raw materials.

It is unclear if alcohol will be included in that list.

"And we will keep working to add more products to this list," she said, while also stressing that the "framework means the figures we have just explained to the public, but, of course, details have to be

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 33 of 71

sorted out. And that will happen over the next weeks."

Further EU approval needed

In the meantime, there will be work to do on other fronts. Von der Leyen had a mandate to negotiate because the European Commission handles trade for member countries. But the Commission must now present the deal to member states and EU lawmakers, who will ultimately decide whether or not to approve it.

Before their meeting began, Trump pledged to change what he characterized as "a very one-sided transaction, very unfair to the United States."

"I think both sides want to see fairness," the Republican president told reporters.

Von der Leyen said the U.S. and EU combined have the world's largest trade volume, encompassing hundreds of millions of people and trillions of dollars and added that Trump was "known as a tough negotiator and dealmaker."

"But fair," Trump said.

Trump has spent months threatening most of the world with large tariffs in hopes of shrinking major U.S. trade deficits with many key trading partners. More recently, he had hinted that any deal with the EU would have to "buy down" a tariff rate of 30% that had been set to take effect.

But during his comments before the agreement was announced, the president was asked if he'd be willing to accept tariff rates lower than 15%, and he said "no."

First golf, then trade talk

Their meeting came after Trump played golf for the second straight day at Turnberry, this time with a group that included sons Eric and Donald Jr. In addition to negotiating deals, Trump's five-day visit to Scotland is built around golf and promoting properties bearing his name.

A small group of demonstrators at the course waved American flags and raised a sign criticizing British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who plans his own Turnberry meeting with Trump on Monday.

Other voices could be heard cheering and chanting "Trump! Trump!" as he played nearby.

On Tuesday, Trump will be in Aberdeen, in northeastern Scotland, where his family has another golf course and is opening a third next month. The president and his sons plan to help cut the ribbon on the new course.

The U.S. and EU seemed close to a deal earlier this month, but Trump instead threatened the 30% tariff rate. The deadline for the Trump administration to begin imposing tariffs has shifted in recent weeks but is now firm and coming Friday, the administration insists.

"No extensions, no more grace periods. Aug. 1, the tariffs are set, they'll go into place, Customs will start collecting the money and off we go," U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick told "Fox News Sunday" before the EU deal was announced. He added, however, that even after that "people can still talk to President Trump. I mean, he's always willing to listen."

Without an agreement, the EU said it was prepared to retaliate with tariffs on hundreds of American products, ranging from beef and auto parts to beer and Boeing airplanes.

If Trump eventually followed through on his threat of tariffs against Europe, meanwhile, it could have made everything from French cheese and Italian leather goods to German electronics and Spanish pharmaceuticals more expensive in the United States.

"I think it's great that we made a deal today, instead of playing games and maybe not making a deal at all," Trump said. "I think it's the biggest deal ever made."

What to expect, and what not to, at the UN meeting on an Israel-Palestinian two-state solution

By EDITH M. LEDERER and JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. General Assembly is bringing high-level officials together this week to promote a two-state solution to the decades-old Israel-Palestinian conflict that would place their peoples

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 34 of 71

side by side, living in peace in independent nations.

Israel and its close ally the United States are boycotting the two-day meeting, which starts Monday and will be co-chaired by the foreign ministers of France and Saudi Arabia. Israel's right-wing government opposes a two-state solution, and the United States has called the meeting "counterproductive" to its efforts to end the war in Gaza. France and Saudi Arabia want the meeting to put a spotlight on the two-state solution, which they view as the only viable road map to peace, and to start addressing the steps to get there.

The meeting was postponed from late June and downgraded from a four-day meeting of world leaders amid surging tensions in the Middle East, including Israel's 12-day war against Iran and the war in Gaza.

"It was absolutely necessary to restart a political process, the two-state solution process, that is today threatened, more threatened than it has ever been," French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot said Sunday on CBS News' "Face the Nation."

Here's what's useful to know about the upcoming gathering.

Why a two-state solution?

The idea of dividing the Holy Land goes back decades.

When the British mandate over Palestine ended, the U.N. partition plan in 1947 envisioned dividing the territory into Jewish and Arab states. Israel accepted the plan, but upon Israel's declaration of independence the following year, its Arab neighbors declared war and the plan was never implemented. Under a 1949 armistice, Jordan held control over the West Bank and east Jerusalem and Egypt over Gaza.

Israel captured the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians seek those lands for a future independent state alongside Israel, and this idea of a two-state solution based on Israel's pre-1967 boundaries has been the basis of peace talks dating back to the 1990s.

The two-state solution has wide international support. The logic behind it is that the population of Israel — along with east Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza — is divided equally between Jews and Palestinians.

The establishment of an independent Palestine would leave Israel as a democratic country with a solid Jewish majority and grant the Palestinians their dream of self-determination.

Why hold a conference now?

France and Saudi Arabia have said they want to put a spotlight on the two-state solution as the only viable path to peace in the Middle East — and they want to see a road map with specific steps, first ending the war in Gaza.

The co-chairs said in a document sent to U.N. members in May that the primary goal of the meeting is to identify actions by "all relevant actors" to implement the two-state solution — and "to urgently mobilize the necessary efforts and resources to achieve this aim, through concrete and time-bound commitments."

Saudi diplomat Manal Radwan, who led the country's delegation to the preparatory conference, said the meeting must "chart a course for action, not reflection." It must be "anchored in a credible and irreversible political plan that addresses the root cause of the conflict and offers a real path to peace, dignity and mutual security," she said.

French President Emmanuel Macron has pushed for a broader movement toward a two-state solution in parallel with a recognition of Israel's right to defend itself. He announced late Thursday that France will recognize the state of Palestine officially at the annual gathering of world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly in late September.

About 145 countries have recognized the state of Palestine. But Macron's announcement, ahead of Monday's meeting and amid increasing global anger over desperately hungry people in Gaza starting to die from starvation, makes France the most important Western power to do so.

What is Israel's view?

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejects the two-state solution on both nationalistic and security grounds.

Netanyahu's religious and nationalist base views the West Bank as the biblical and historical homeland of the Jewish people, while Israeli Jews overwhelmingly consider Jerusalem their eternal capital. The city's eastern side is home to Judaism's holiest site, along with major Christian and Muslim holy places.

Hard-line Israelis like Netanyahu believe the Palestinians don't want peace, citing the second Palestinian

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 35 of 71

uprising of the early 2000s, and more recently the Hamas takeover of Gaza two years after Israel withdrew from the territory in 2005. The Hamas takeover led to five wars, including the current and ongoing 21-month conflict.

At the same time, Israel also opposes a one-state solution in which Jews could lose their majority. Netanyahu's preference seems to be the status quo, where Israel maintains overall control and Israelis have fuller rights than Palestinians, Israel deepens its control by expanding settlements, and the Palestinian Authority has limited autonomy in pockets of the West Bank.

Netanyahu condemned Macron's announcement of Palestinian recognition, saying it "rewards terror and risks creating another Iranian proxy, just as Gaza became."

What is the Palestinian view?

The Palestinians, who label the current arrangement "apartheid," accuse Israel of undermining repeated peace initiatives by deepening settlement construction in the West Bank and threatening annexation. That would harm the prospect of a contiguous Palestinian state and their prospects for independence.

Ahmed Majdalani, a member of the PLO Executive Committee and close associate of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, said the meeting will serve as preparation for a presidential summit expected in September. It will take place either in France or at the U.N. on the sidelines of the high-level meeting, U.N. diplomats said.

Majdalani said the Palestinians have several goals, first a "serious international political process leading to the establishment of a Palestinian state."

The Palestinians also want additional international recognition of their state by major countries including Britain. But expect that to happen in September, not at Monday's meeting, Majdalani said. And he said they want economic and financial support for the Palestinian Authority and international support for the reconstruction and recovery of the Gaza Strip.

What will happen — and won't happen — at the meeting?

All 193 U.N. member nations have been invited to attend the meeting and a French diplomat said about 40 ministers are expected. The United States and Israel are the only countries who are boycotting.

The co-chairs have circulated an outcome document which could be adopted, and there could be some announcements of intentions to recognize a Palestinian state. But with Israel and the United States boycotting, there is no prospect of a breakthrough and the resumption of long-stalled negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians on an end to their conflict.

Secretary-General António Guterres urged participants after the meeting was announced "to keep the two-state solution alive." And he said the international community must not only support a solution where independent states of Palestine and Israel live side-by-side in peace but "materialize the conditions to make it happen."

US-EU trade deal wards off further escalation but will raise costs for companies and consumers

By DAVID McHUGH AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — President Donald Trump and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen have announced a sweeping trade deal that imposes 15% tariffs on most European goods, warding off Trump's threat of a 30% rate if no deal had been reached by Aug. 1.

The tariffs, or import taxes, paid when Americans buy European products could raise prices for U.S. consumers and dent profits for European companies and their partners who bring goods into the country.

Here are some things to know about the trade deal between the United States and the European Union:

Many details remain to be decided

Trump and von der Leyen's announcement, made during Trump's visit to one of his golf courses in Scotland, leaves many details to be filled in.

The headline figure is a 15% tariff rate on "the vast majority" of European goods brought into the U.S., including cars, computer chips and pharmaceuticals. It's lower than the 20% Trump initially proposed, and

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 36 of 71

lower than his threats of 50% and then 30%.

Von der Leyen said the two sides agreed on zero tariffs on both sides for a range of "strategic" goods: Aircraft and aircraft parts, certain chemicals, semiconductor equipment, certain agricultural products, and some natural resources and critical raw materials. Specifics were lacking.

She said the two sides "would keep working" to add more products to the list.

Additionally, the EU side would purchase what Trump said was \$750 billion (638 billion euros) worth of natural gas, oil and nuclear fuel to replace Russian energy supplies, and Europeans would invest an additional \$600 billion (511 billion euros) in the U.S.

50% U.S. tariff on steel stays and others might, too

Trump said the 50% U.S. tariff on imported steel would remain; von der Leyen said the two sides agreed to further negotiations to fight a global steel glut, reduce tariffs and establish import quotas — that is, set amounts that can be imported, often at a lower rate.

Trump said pharmaceuticals were not included in the deal. Von der Leyen said the pharmaceuticals issue was "on a separate sheet of paper" from Sunday's deal.

Where the \$600 billion for additional investment would come from was not specified. And von der Leyen said that when it came to farm products, the EU side made clear that "there were tariffs that could not be lowered," without specifying which products.

The 15% rate is higher than in the past

The 15% rate removes Trump's threat of a 30% tariff. It's still much higher than the average tariff before Trump came into office of around 1%, and higher than Trump's minimum 10% baseline tariff.

Higher tariffs, or import taxes, on European goods mean sellers in the U.S. would have to either increase prices for consumers — risking loss of market share — or swallow the added cost in terms of lower profits. The higher tariffs are expected to hurt export earnings for European firms and slow the economy.

The 10% baseline applied while the deal was negotiated was already sufficiently high to make the European Union's executive commission cut its growth forecast for this year from 1.3% to 0.9%.

Von der Leyen said the 15% rate was "the best we could do" and credited the deal with maintaining access to the U.S. market and providing "stability and predictability for companies on both sides."

The reaction is tentative

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz welcomed the deal which avoided "an unnecessary escalation in transatlantic trade relations" and said that "we were able to preserve our core interests," while adding that "I would have very much wished for further relief in transatlantic trade."

The Federation of German Industries was blunter. "Even a 15% tariff rate will have immense negative effects on export-oriented German industry," said Wolfgang Niedermark, a member of the federation's leadership.

While the rate is lower than threatened, "the big caveat to today's deal is that there is nothing on paper, yet," said Carsten Brzeski, global chief of macro at ING bank.

"With this disclaimer in mind and at face value, today's agreement would clearly bring an end to the uncertainty of recent months. An escalation of the US-EU trade tensions would have been a severe risk for the global economy," Brzeski said.

"This risk seems to have been avoided."

Car companies expect higher prices

Asked if European carmakers could still sell cars at 15%, von der Leyen said the rate was much lower than the current 27.5%. That has been the rate under Trump's 25% tariff on cars from all countries, plus the preexisting U.S. car tariff of 2.5%.

The impact is likely to be substantial on some companies, given that automaker Volkswagen said it suffered a 1.3 billion euro (\$1.5 billion) hit to profit in the first half of the year from the higher tariffs.

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

Trump had cited the trade gap with Europe

Before Trump returned to office, the U.S. and the EU maintained generally low tariff levels in what is the largest bilateral trading relationship in the world, with some 1.7 trillion euros (\$2 trillion) in annual trade. Together the U.S. and the EU have 44% of the global economy. The U.S. rate averaged 1.47% for European goods, while the EU's averaged 1.35% for American products, according to the Bruegel think tank in Brussels.

Trump has complained about the EU's 198 billion-euro trade surplus in goods, which shows Americans buy more from European businesses than the other way around, and has said the European market is not open enough for U.S.-made cars.

However, American companies fill some of the trade gap by outselling the EU when it comes to services such as cloud computing, travel bookings, and legal and financial services. And some 30% of European imports are from American-owned companies, according to the European Central Bank.

US and China to talk in Stockholm on trade with eye on Trump-Xi summit later this year

By DIDI TANG and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When top U.S. and Chinese officials meet in Stockholm, they are almost certain to agree to at least leaving tariffs at the current levels while working toward a meeting between their presidents later this year for a more lasting trade deal between the world's two largest economies, analysts say.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng are set to hold talks Monday for the third time this year — this round in the Swedish capital, nearly four months after President Donald Trump upset global trade with his sweeping tariff proposal, including an import tax that shot up to 145% on Chinese goods.

"We have the confines of a deal with China," Trump said Friday before leaving for Scotland.

Bessent told MSNBC on Wednesday that the two countries after talks in Geneva and London have reached a "status quo," with the U.S. taxing imported goods from China at 30% and China responding with a 10% tariff, on top of tariffs prior to the start of Trump's second term.

"Now we can move on to discussing other matters in terms of bringing the economic relationship into balance," Bessent said. He was referring to the U.S. running a \$295.5 billion trade deficit last year. The U.S. seeks an agreement that would enable it to export more to China and shift the Chinese economy more toward domestic consumer spending.

The Chinese embassy in Washington said Beijing hopes "there will be more consensus and cooperation and less misperception" coming out of the talks.

With an eye on a possible leaders' summit, Stockholm could provide some answers as to the timeline and viability of that particular goal ahead of a possible meeting between Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

"The meeting will be important in starting to set the stage for a fall meeting between Trump and Xi," said Wendy Cutler, a former U.S. trade negotiator and now vice president at the Asia Society Policy Institute. "Beijing will likely insist on detailed preparations before they agree to a leaders' meeting."

In Stockholm, the two sides are likely to focus on commercial announcements to be made at a leaders' summit as well as agreements to address "major irritants," such as China's industrial overcapacity and its lack of control over chemicals used to make fentanyl, also to be announced when Xi and Trump should meet, Cutler said.

Sean Stein, president of the U.S.-China Business Council, said Stockholm could be the first real opportunity for the two governments to address structural reform issues including market access in China for U.S. companies.

What businesses will be seeking coming out of Stockholm would largely be "the atmosphere" — how the two sides characterize the discussions. They will also look for clues about a possible leaders' summit because any real deal will hinge on the two presidents meeting each other, he said.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 38 of 71

Fentanyl-related tariffs are likely a focus for China

In Stockholm, Beijing will likely demand the removal of the 20% fentanyl-related tariff that Trump imposed earlier this year, said Sun Yun, director of the China program at the Washington-based Stimson Center.

This round of the U.S.-China trade dispute began with fentanyl, when Trump in February imposed a 10% tariff on Chinese goods, citing that China failed to curb the outflow of the chemicals used to make the drug. The following month, Trump added another 10% tax for the same reason. Beijing retaliated with extra duties on some U.S. goods, including coal, liquefied natural gas, and farm products such as beef, chicken, pork and soy.

In Geneva, both sides climbed down from three-digit tariffs rolled out following Trump's "Liberation Day" tariffs in April, but the U.S. kept the 20% "fentanyl" tariffs, in addition to the 10% baseline rate — to which China responded by keeping the same 10% rate on U.S. products. These across-the-board duties were unchanged when the two sides met in London a month later to negotiate over non-tariff measures such as export controls on critical products.

The Chinese government has long protested that American politicians blame China for the fentanyl crisis in the U.S. but argued the root problem lies with the U.S. itself. Washington says Beijing is not doing enough to regulate precursor chemicals that flow out of China into the hands of drug dealers.

In July, China placed two fentanyl ingredients under enhanced control, a move seen as in response to U.S. pressure and signaling goodwill.

Gabriel Wildau, managing director at the consultancy Teneo, said he doesn't expect any tariff to go away in Stockholm but that tariff relief could be part of a final trade deal.

"It's possible that Trump would cancel the 20% tariff that he has explicitly linked with fentanyl, but I would expect the final tariff level on China to be at least as high as the 15-20% rate contained in the recent deals with Japan, Indonesia, Vietnam," Wildau said.

US wants China to dump less, buy less oil from Russia and Iran

China's industrial overcapacity is as much a headache for the United States as it is for the European Union. Even Beijing has acknowledged the problem but suggested it might be difficult to address.

America's trade imbalance with China has decreased from a peak of \$418 billion in 2018, according to the Census Bureau. But China has found new markets for its goods and as the world's dominant manufacturer ran a global trade surplus approaching \$1 trillion last year — somewhat larger than the size of the U.S. overall trade deficit in 2024. And China's emergence as a manufacturer of electric vehicles and other emerging technologies has suddenly made it more of a financial and geopolitical threat for those same industries based in the U.S., Europe, Japan and South Korea.

"Some enterprises, especially manufacturing enterprises, feel more deeply that China's manufacturing capabilities are too strong, and Chinese people are too hardworking. Factories run 24 hours a day," Chinese Premier Li Qiang said on Thursday when hosting European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in Beijing. "Some people think this will cause some new problems in the balance of supply and demand in world production."

"We see this problem too," Li said.

Bessent also said the Stockholm talks could address Chinese purchases of Russian and Iranian oil. However, Wildau of Teneo said China could demand some U.S. security concessions in exchange, such as a reduced U.S. military presence in East Asia and scaled-back diplomatic support for Taiwan and the Philippines. This would likely face political pushback in Washington.

The Stockholm talks will be "geared towards building a trade agreement based around Chinese purchase commitments and pledges of investment in the U.S. in exchange for partial relief from U.S. tariffs and export controls," Wildau said.

He doubts there will be a grand deal. Instead, he predicts "a more limited agreement based around fentanyl."

"That," he said, "is probably the preferred outcome for China hawks in the Trump administration, who worry that an overeager Trump might offer too much to Xi."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 39 of 71

Tom Lehrer, song satirist and mathematician, dies at 97

By GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tom Lehrer, the popular song satirist who lampooned marriage, politics, racism and the Cold War, then largely abandoned his music career to return to teaching math at Harvard and other universities, has died. He was 97.

Longtime friend David Herder said Lehrer died Saturday at his home in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He did not specify a cause of death.

Lehrer had remained on the math faculty of the University of California at Santa Cruz well into his late 70s. In 2020, he even turned away from his own copyright, granting the public permission to use his lyrics in any format without any fee in return.

A Harvard prodigy (he had earned a math degree from the institution at age 18), Lehrer soon turned his very sharp mind to old traditions and current events. His songs included "Poisoning Pigeons in the Park," "The Old Dope Peddler" (set to a tune reminiscent of "The Old Lamplighter"), "Be Prepared" (in which he mocked the Boy Scouts) and "The Vatican Rag," in which Lehrer, an atheist, poked at the rites and ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church. (Sample lyrics: "Get down on your knees, fiddle with your rosaries. Bow your head with great respect, and genuflect, genuflect, genuflect.")

Accompanying himself on piano, he performed the songs in a colorful style reminiscent of such musical heroes as Gilbert and Sullivan and Stephen Sondheim, the latter a lifelong friend. Lehrer was often likened to such contemporaries as Allen Sherman and Stan Freberg for his comic riffs on culture and politics and he was cited by Randy Newman and "Weird Al" Yankovic among others as an influence.

He mocked the forms of music he didn't like (modern folk songs, rock 'n' roll and modern jazz), laughed at the threat of nuclear annihilation and denounced discrimination.

But he attacked in such an erudite, even polite, manner that almost no one objected.

"Tom Lehrer is the most brilliant song satirist ever recorded," musicologist Barry Hansen once said. Hansen co-produced the 2000 boxed set of Lehrer's songs, "The Remains of Tom Lehrer," and had featured Lehrer's music for decades on his syndicated "Dr. Demento" radio show.

Lehrer's body of work was actually quite small, amounting to about three dozen songs.

"When I got a funny idea for a song, I wrote it. And if I didn't, I didn't," Lehrer told The Associated Press in 2000 during a rare interview. "I wasn't like a real writer who would sit down and put a piece of paper in the typewriter. And when I quit writing, I just quit. ... It wasn't like I had writer's block."

He'd gotten into performing accidentally when he began to compose songs in the early 1950s to amuse his friends. Soon he was performing them at coffeehouses around Cambridge, while he remained at Harvard to teach and obtain a master's degree in math.

He cut his first record in 1953, "Songs by Tom Lehrer," which included "I Wanna Go Back to Dixie," lampooning the attitudes of the Old South, and the "Fight Fiercely, Harvard," suggesting how a prissy Harvard blueblood might sing a football fight song.

After a two-year stint in the Army, Lehrer began to perform concerts of his material in venues around the world. In 1959, he released another LP called "More of Tom Lehrer" and a live recording called "An Evening Wasted with Tom Lehrer," nominated for a Grammy for best comedy performance (musical) in 1960.

But around the same time, he largely quit touring and returned to teaching math, though he did some writing and performing on the side.

Lehrer said he was never comfortable appearing in public.

"I enjoyed it up to a point," he told The AP in 2000. "But to me, going out and performing the concert every night when it was all available on record would be like a novelist going out and reading his novel every night."

He did produce a political satire song each week for the 1964 television show "That Was the Week That Was," a groundbreaking topical comedy show that anticipated "Saturday Night Live" a decade later.

He released the songs the following year in an album titled "That Was the Year That Was." The material included "Who's Next?" that ponders which government will be the next to get the nuclear bomb ... perhaps

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 40 of 71

Alabama? (He didn't need to tell his listeners that it was a bastion of segregation at the time.) "Pollution" takes a look at the then-new concept that perhaps rivers and lakes should be cleaned up.

He also wrote songs for the 1970s educational children's show "The Electric Company." He told AP in 2000 that hearing from people who had benefited from them gave him far more satisfaction than praise for any of his satirical works.

His songs were revived in the 1980 musical revue "Tomfoolery" and he made a rare public appearance in London in 1998 at a celebration honoring that musical's producer, Cameron Mackintosh.

Lehrer was born in 1928, in New York City, the son of a successful necktie designer. He recalled an idyllic childhood on Manhattan's Upper West Side that included attending Broadway shows with his family and walking through Central Park day or night.

After skipping two grades in school, he entered Harvard at 15 and, after receiving his master's degree, he spent several years unsuccessfully pursuing a doctorate.

"I spent many, many years satisfying all the requirements, as many years as possible, and I started on the thesis," he once said. "But I just wanted to be a grad student, it's a wonderful life. That's what I wanted to be, and unfortunately, you can't be a Ph.D. and a grad student at the same time."

He began to teach part-time at Santa Cruz in the 1970s, mainly to escape the harsh New England winters.

From time to time, he acknowledged, a student would enroll in one of his classes based on knowledge of his songs.

"But it's a real math class," he said at the time. "I don't do any funny theorems. So those people go away pretty quickly."

Bubba Wallace becomes first Black driver to win a major race on Indianapolis' oval

By MICHAEL MAROT AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Bubba Wallace climbed out of the No. 23 car Sunday, pumped his fists, found his family and savored every precious moment of a historic Brickyard 400 victory.

He deserved every minute of it.

The 31-year-old Wallace overcame a tenuous 18-minute rain delay, two tantalizing overtimes, fears about running out of fuel late and the hard-charging defending race champ, Kyle Larson, on back-to-back restarts to become the first Black driver to win a major race on Indianapolis Motor Speedway's 2.5-mile oval. No Black driver has won the Indianapolis 500, and Formula 1 raced on the track's road course.

"This one's really cool," Wallace said. "Coming off Turn 4, I knew I was going to get there — unless we ran out of gas. I was surprised I wasn't crying like a little baby."

His third career NASCAR Cup victory delivered Wallace's first victory in the series' four crown jewel events, the others being the Daytona 500, Coca-Cola 600 and Southern 500. It also snapped a 100-race winless streak that dated to 2022 at Kansas and locked up a playoff spot. His only other win came at Talladega in 2021.

The final gap was 0.222 seconds, but that was no measure of the consternation he faced.

Larson cut a 5.057-second deficit with 14 laps to go to about three seconds with six laps left as the yellow flag came out for the rain. The cars then rolled to a stop on pit lane with four laps remaining, forcing Wallace to think and rethink his restart strategy.

"The whole time I'm thinking are we going? Are we not?" he said. "I will say I leaned more towards 'I know we're going to go back racing. Be ready. Don't get complacent here.'"

Wallace made sure of it.

He beat Larson through the second turn on the first restart only to have a crash behind him force a second overtime, forcing his crew to recalculate whether they had enough fuel to finish the race or whether he needed to surrender the lead and refuel.

In Wallace's mind, there was no choice.

"The first thing that went through my mind was, 'Here we go again,'" he said. "But then I said, 'I want

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 41 of 71

to win this straight up. I want to go back racing.' Here we are."

He beat Larson off the restart again and pulled away, preventing Larson from becoming the race's fourth back-to-back winner.

The victory also alleviated the frustration Wallace felt Saturday when he spent most of the qualifying session on the provisional pole only to see Chase Briscoe claim the No. 1 starting spot with one of the last runs in the session.

On Sunday, he made sure there was no repeat, providing an added boost to the 23XI Racing team co-owned by basketball Hall of Famer Michael Jordan and last week's race winner, Denny Hamlin, as it continues to battle NASCAR in court over its charter status.

"Those last 20 laps there were ups and downs and I was telling myself 'You won't be able to do it,'" Wallace said. "Once I'd seen it was Larson, I knew he won here last year and he's arguably the best in the field. So to beat the best, we had to be the best today."

The other big race — the In-Season Challenge — went to Ty Gibbs, who had a better car than Ty Dillon in qualifying and on race day. Gibbs finished 21st to win the inaugural March Madness-like single-elimination tournament and collect the \$1 million prize.

Dillon, a surprise championship round entrant after making the field as the 32nd and final driver, finished 28th.

"They brought me money guns and they jammed so I decided to take all the money and throwing it to the fans and they were all wrestling and fighting over it," said Gibbs, who also received a title belt and a ring. "But it's super cool. It's a cool opportunity."

Tire troubles

At different points, Austin Cindric and three-time Cup champion Joey Logano appeared to be in control of the race, but tire problems took them out of contention. Eric Jones also was knocked out of the race when his right front tire came off between Turns 3 and 4, sending him hard into the outside wall on Lap 91.

They weren't the only drivers who made early exits.

Ross Chastain was the first out after just 18 laps when a tap from Michael McDowell sent Chastain's car spinning into the third turn wall and caused heavy damage.

The others who were out before Lap 100 were Austin Dillon, Ricky Stenhouse Jr. and Cody Ware.

Weathering the storm

Series officials were concerned enough about the threat of rain that they moved up the start time by 10 minutes. Fifteen minutes probably would have eliminated the rain delay.

But the threat of rain impacted the race long before the delay. Early in the second stage, some teams informed drivers rain was expected near the midway point and it seemed to increase the aggressiveness earlier in the race than expected.

Monster advice

Cookie Monster made it to the track Sunday, too. The beloved Sesame Street character, who served as the Brickyard's grand marshal, attended driver introductions and took a handful of questions before the race and even offered some advice to the drivers.

"Don't stop and ask for directions," the furry blue character said.

Up next

Cup drivers will continue their brief Midwestern tour next Sunday when they race at Iowa.

Israel begins daily pause in fighting in 3 Gaza areas to allow 'minimal' aid as hunger grows

By WAFAA SHURAF, TIA GOLDENBERG and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — The Israeli military Sunday began limited pauses in fighting in three populated areas of Gaza for 10 hours a day, part of measures including airdrops as concerns grow over surging hunger and as Israel faces criticism over its conduct in the 21-month war.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 42 of 71

The military said the "tactical pause" from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. in Gaza City, Deir al-Balah and Muwasi, all with large populations, would increase humanitarian aid entering the territory.

United Nations humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher welcomed Israel's decision to support a "one-week scale-up of aid" and said "some movement restrictions appear to have been eased." But he said action needs to be sustained, vast and fast.

"Whichever path we choose, we will have to continue to allow the entry of minimal humanitarian supplies," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.

Images of emaciated children have fanned criticism of Israel, including by allies who call for the war's end. Israel has restricted aid to Gaza's population of over 2 million because it says Hamas siphons it off to bolster its rule, without providing evidence. Much of the population, squeezed into ever-smaller patches of land, now relies on aid.

As the military had warned, combat operations continued otherwise. Health officials in Gaza said Israeli strikes killed at least 41 Palestinians from late Saturday into Sunday, including 26 seeking aid.

Aid for some, none for others

"I came to get flour for my children because they have not tasted flour for more than a week, and thank God, God provided me with a kilo of rice with difficulty," said Sabreen Hassona, as other Palestinians trudged along a dusty road carrying sacks of food from the Zikim crossing.

But aid came slowly for others, if at all. "We saw the planes, but we didn't see what they dropped," Samira Yahya said in Zawaida in central Gaza. "They said trucks would pass, but we didn't see the trucks."

Some people feared going out and having a box of aid fall on their children, Ahmed al-Sumairi said.

'Every delay is measured by another funeral'

Israel's military said 28 aid packages containing food were airdropped, and said it would put in place secure routes for aid delivery. It said the steps were made in coordination with the U.N. and other humanitarian groups.

The U.N. World Food Program said it had enough food in, or on its way, to feed all of Gaza for nearly three months. It has said nearly half a million people were enduring famine-like conditions.

Antoine Renard, WFP's country director for the occupied Palestinian territories, said around 80 WFP trucks entered Gaza, while another over 130 trucks arrived via Jordan, Ashdod and Egypt. He said other aid was moving through the Kerem Shalom and Zikim crossings.

He stressed it was not enough to counter the "current starvation."

Gaza saw 63 malnutrition-related deaths in July, including 24 children under age 5, the World Health Organization said.

Dr. Muneer al-Boursh, Gaza Health Ministry's director-general, called for a flood of medical supplies to treat child malnutrition.

"This (humanitarian) truce will mean nothing if it doesn't turn into a real opportunity to save lives," he said. "Every delay is measured by another funeral."

Questions over ceasefire talks

Ceasefire efforts appeared to be in doubt. Israel and the U.S. recalled negotiating teams from Qatar on Thursday, blaming Hamas, and Israel said it was considering "alternative options" to talks.

Israel says it is prepared to end the war if Hamas surrenders, disarms and goes into exile, something the group has refused. Khalil al-Hayya, head of Hamas' negotiating delegation, said the group had displayed "maximum flexibility."

Senior Hamas official Mahmoud Merdawi said Israel's change of approach on the humanitarian crisis amounted to an acknowledgment of Palestinians starving in Gaza, and asserted that it was meant to improve Israel's international standing and not save lives.

Troubles with aid delivery

After ending the latest ceasefire in March, Israel cut off the entry of food, medicine, fuel and other supplies to Gaza for 2 ½ months, saying it aimed to pressure Hamas to release hostages. Fifty of them remain in Gaza, over half of them believed to be dead.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 43 of 71

Under international pressure, Israel slightly eased the blockade in May. Since then, the average of 69 trucks a day has been far below the 500 to 600 trucks the U.N. says are needed. The U.N. says it has been unable to distribute much aid because hungry crowds and gangs take most of it from trucks.

In an attempt to divert aid delivery from U.N. control, Israel has backed the U.S.-registered Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which in May opened four distribution centers. More than 1,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces since May while trying to get food, mostly near those sites, the U.N. human rights office says.

Israel asserts the U.N. system allows Hamas to steal aid. The U.N. denies it.

"Gaza is not a remote island. The infrastructure and resources exist to prevent starvation; we just need safe, sustained access," Mercy Corps' vice president of global policy and advocacy, Kate Phillips-Barrasso, said in a statement.

Killed while seeking aid

Awda Hospital in Nuseirat said Israeli forces killed at least 13 people, including four children and a woman, and wounded 101 as they headed toward a GHF aid distribution site in central Gaza.

Israel's military said it fired warning shots to prevent a "gathering of suspects" from approaching, hundreds of meters from the site before opening hours. GHF said there were no incidents at or near its sites.

Thirteen others were killed seeking aid elsewhere, including northwestern Gaza City, where over 50 people were wounded, and near the Zikim crossing where over 90 were wounded, hospital officials and medics said.

Israel's military said two soldiers were killed in Gaza, bringing the total to 898 since the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack that sparked the war. Hamas killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in that attack, and took 251 hostages.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed more than 59,700 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Its count doesn't distinguish between militants and civilians, but the ministry says over half of the dead are women and children. The ministry operates under the Hamas government. The U.N. and other international organizations see it as the most reliable source of data on casualties.

U.S. President Donald Trump on Sunday called the images of emaciated and malnourished children in Gaza "terrible."

Authorities seek to file terrorism and assault charges against suspect in Walmart knife attack

By MIKE HOUSEHOLDER, RYAN SUN and MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) — A man accused of entering a Walmart in Michigan and randomly stabbing 11 shoppers before being detained by bystanders in the store parking lot is expected to face terrorism and multiple assault charges, authorities said Sunday.

Grand Traverse County Sheriff Michael Shea said a motive behind the attack by Bradford Gille, 42, of Afton, Michigan, remains unclear. Gille, who Shea said had "prior assaultive incidents as well as controlled substance violations," said very little as he was arrested. The man is expected to be charged with one count of terrorism and 11 counts of assault with intent to murder.

Shea praised the quick response by law officers who arrived within three minutes of receiving the call about the stabbing — as well as a group of bystanders who intervened and detained Gille in the parking lot of the store in Traverse City. The community of about 16,000 people is along Lake Michigan.

Gille entered the store at 4:10 p.m. and remained there for some time before the attack began, authorities said. Calls began coming in to authorities at 4:43 p.m. on Saturday and a sheriff's deputy arrived at 4:46 p.m.

He said the "remarkable" efforts likely prevented others from being harmed, adding a 3 and 1/2 inch (nearly 9-centimeter) cutting blade was used in the attack.

"I cannot commend everyone that was involved enough," Shea said at a news conference. "When you stop and look from the time of call to the time of actual custody, the individual was detained within one

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 44 of 71

minute.”

Terrorism charges

Gille remained jailed and his name did not appear Sunday in Michigan’s online jail records. Messages left Sunday with phone numbers and an email listed for Gille were not immediately returned. His previous court cases did not have an attorney’s name listed in public records.

Grand Traverse County Prosecutor Noelle Moeggenberg told reporters that the terrorism charge will be brought due to the fact that the attack impacted the community, rather than one individual.

“It’s something that is done not to individual people, not to those individual victims — obviously they are most affected — but it is, we believe, in some ways done to affect the entire community, to put fear in the entire community and to change how maybe we operate on a daily basis,” Moeggenberg said. “So that is why we are looking at that terrorism charge.”

Shea said the 11 victims were both men and women and they ranged in age from 29 to 84 and included one Walmart employee. Munson Medical Center Chief Medical Officer Dr. Tom Schermerhorn, speaking at Sunday’s news conference, said one patient was treated and released; two were in serious condition; and the rest are in fair condition. All were expected to survive.

Witness accounts

Steven Carter was loading his truck in the Walmart parking lot when he saw a man with a knife stab a woman in the throat.

About five minutes later, he said, the attacker was surrounded by shoppers in the parking lot, including one who was holding a gun. The group of five or six people kept yelling to the man to “drop the knife,” he said, and the man responded: “I don’t care, I don’t care.” He kept backing away from the crowd, before someone tackled and subdued him.

“At first, it was disbelief. I thought maybe it was like a terror attack,” said Carter, who delivers customer orders from Walmart. “And then it was fear, disbelief, shock. And that was, it was just amazing. And it all happened fast. Like he was totally subdued on the ground by the time police arrived.”

Emergency vehicles and uniformed first responders gathered in the parking lot of the shopping center that houses several other retail stores. Authorities also were seen interviewing employees, still wearing blue uniform vests and name tags as the investigation unfolded.

Tiffany DeFell, 36, who lives in Honor, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) from Traverse City, said she was in the store’s parking lot when she saw chaos erupt around her.

“It was really scary. Me and my sister were just freaking out,” she said. “This is something you see out of the movies. It’s not what you expect to see where you’re living.”

Shea said the weapon involved appeared to be a folding-style knife, adding that the stabbing started near the checkout counter of the store and that his victims were “not predetermined.”

Walmart said in a statement that it would continue to work closely with law enforcement in the investigation. It said store associates would be paid while the store remains closed and that counseling services would be made available to them. It wasn’t known when the store would reopen.

FBI Deputy Director Dan Bongino said in a social media post that bureau officials were responding to “provide any necessary support.”

Traverse City is a popular vacation spot. It is known for its cherry festival, wineries and lighthouses and is about 25 miles (40 kilometers) east of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

At least 3 killed and others injured in train derailment in southern Germany

By STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — A regional passenger train derailed in southern Germany on Sunday, killing at least three people and seriously injuring others, authorities said.

Federal and local police said the cause of the crash near Riedlingen, roughly 158 kilometers (98 miles) west of Munich, remains under investigation. Photos from the scene showed parts of the train on its side

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 45 of 71

as rescuers climbed atop the carriages.

It was not immediately clear how many people were injured. Roughly 100 people were onboard the train when at least two carriages derailed in a forested area around 6:10 p.m. (1610 GMT).

Storms passed through the area before the crash and investigators were seeking to determine if the rain was a factor.

"There have been heavy rains here, so it cannot be ruled out that the heavy rain and a related landslide accident may have been the cause. However, this is currently the subject of ongoing investigations," said Thomas Strobl, interior minister of the state of Baden Württemberg.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, in a post on social platform X, said he mourned the victims and gave his condolences to their families.

Deutsche Bahn, Germany's main national railway operator, said in a statement that it was cooperating with investigators. The company also offered its condolences.

Tadej Pogačar shows unrivaled audacity to win his fourth Tour de France title in style

By JEROME PUGMIRE AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — The roads were dangerously slippery after heavy rain. A fourth Tour de France title was all but won anyway, so finishing safely in the pack would do fine for Tadej Pogačar. Especially considering Sunday's final stage had already been neutralized for safety reasons and he just had to complete the race.

Surely there was no need to launch a seemingly pointless attack and risk crashing?

But holding back or being cautious rarely appeals to Pogačar, the 26-year-old cycling star from Slovenia. He clinched his fourth Tour title in inimitably daring style on Sunday and further cemented his place among cycling's greats.

Even though he really did not need to, and risked falling on oil slick-wet roads, Pogačar simply could not help himself. Against all logical opinion, he tried winning Sunday's 21st and final stage with trademark uphill attacks, only to fall short of the stage win itself.

"In the end I found myself in the front, even though I didn't have the energy," said Pogačar, who won the Tour last year and in 2020 and 2021.

"Just speechless to win the Tour de France, this one feels especially amazing," Pogačar added. "Just super proud that I can wear this yellow jersey."

Two-time Tour champion Jonas Vingegaard finished the overall race 4 minutes, 24 seconds behind Pogačar in second place and Florian Lipowitz was 11 minutes adrift in third.

Belgian rider Wout van Aert won the 21st and last stage, which broke with tradition and featured three climbs of Montmartre hill.

Because of heavy rain and the risk of crashes, organizers had earlier neutralized the times 50 kilometers (31 miles) from the end, effectively giving Pogačar the victory — providing he crossed the finish line.

He did the opposite of what almost every rider would do with victory a near certainty.

As the rain teemed down, he set a tremendous pace in the Montmartre climbs as fans cheered all along the cobbled Rue Lepic, with flags and fans hanging out of windows.

Only five riders were left with Pogačar on the third ascension of the 1.1-kilometer Montmartre hill.

After fending off American Matteo Jorgenson, he was caught cold near the top as Van Aert launched a stunning attack to drop — yes, drop! — Pogačar, the world's best climber, on the steepest section.

"Hats off to Wout, he was incredibly strong," Pogačar said.

Van Aert rolled back down for a prestigious stage win on the famed Champs-Élysées. Pogačar looked weary as he crossed the line in fourth place, 19 seconds behind.

'Peace and some nice weather'

But then it was time to celebrate title No. 4. Although don't expect Pogačar to make any headlines on that front.

"Everyone celebrates in their own way, I just want peace and some nice weather, not like here today,"

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 46 of 71

Pogačar said. "Just to enjoy some quiet days at home."

Only four riders have won the showcase race five times: Belgian Eddy Merckx, Spaniard Miguel Induráin and Frenchmen Jacques Anquetil and Bernard Hinault.

Pogačar won four stages this year to take his Tour tally to 21 and 30 at major races, including six at the Giro d'Italia and three at the Spanish Vuelta.

The UAE Team Emirates leader praised his teammates.

"I think the second week was the decisive moment," Pogačar said. "We took more advantage."

Lipowitz, meanwhile, secured his first career podium at a Grand Tour, the alternative name given to the three major races.

His performance, following his third-placed finish last month at the Critérium du Dauphiné, suggests the 24-year-old German rider could challenge in the near future.

Breaking with tradition

Traditionally, the last stage is largely processional with riders doing laps around Paris. The Tour broke with tradition after the success of the Paris Olympics road race, which also took in Montmartre, famous for its Sacré-Coeur basilica.

Five in a row

It was the fifth straight year where Pogačar and Vingegaard finished 1-2 at the Tour.

Vingegaard was second in 2021, before beating Pogačar the next two years with the Slovenian second. When Pogačar reclaimed his title last year, Vingegaard was runner-up.

"We've raised the level of each other much higher and we push each other to the limit," Pogačar said. "I must say to him, big, big respect."

Five major titles

Pogačar has also won the Giro d'Italia, doing so last year to become the first cyclist to secure the Giro and Tour double in the same season since the late Marco Pantani in 1998.

But Pogačar has not yet won the Spanish Vuelta, whereas Anquetil, Hinault and Merckx won all three major races.

A century of success

When Pogačar won the hilly fourth stage of this year's race, it was the 100th professional victory of his stellar career, all events combined.

Pogačar is also the world road race champion.

His dominant victory at the Critérium continued his excellent form the spring classics.

After winning stage 4 of the Tour, Pogačar added three more stage wins, including an emphatic uphill time trial.

What's left to win?

He would love to win the Paris-Roubaix classic and Milan-San-Remo.

The 259.2-kilometer (161-mile) Roubaix race is called "The Hell of the North" because of its dangerous cobblestone sections.

Pogačar debut appearance at the one-day classic this year saw him seeking to become the first Tour champion to win it since Hinault in 1981. But powerful Dutch rider Mathieu van der Poel won it for the third straight year.

Pogačar has also yet to win Milan-San Remo, with Van der Poel also beating him there this year.

Expect a fired-up Pogačar next year at Roubaix and Milan-San Remo.

But it's unsure whether he'll tackle the Vuelta.

Wildfires threaten Turkey's fourth-largest city as southern Europe grapples with blazes

By ANDREW WILKS Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — Wildfires that have engulfed Turkey for weeks threatened the country's fourth-largest city on Sunday, forcing more than 3,500 people to flee their homes and leaving two people dead.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 47 of 71

Greece, Bulgaria and Montenegro are also battling blazes fed by unusually high temperatures, dry conditions and strong winds.

Overnight fires in the forested mountains surrounding Bursa, in northwest Turkey, spread rapidly, tinting the night sky over the city's eastern suburbs with a red glow. Dozens of severe wildfires have hit the country daily since late June, with the government declaring the two western provinces of Izmir and Bilecik as disaster areas on Friday.

Forestry Minister Ibrahim Yumakli told reporters late Sunday that 3,515 people had been safely evacuated from villages to the northeast of Bursa as more than 1,900 firefighters battled the flames. The highway linking Bursa to the capital, Ankara, was closed as surrounding forests burned.

A firefighter died from a heart attack while on the job, the city's mayor, Mustafa Bozbey, said, adding that the flames had scorched 3,000 hectares (7,413 acres) around the city. One person was killed and two seriously injured when a water tanker fell into a ravine outside Bursa, local media reported.

Orhan Saribal, an opposition parliamentarian for the province, described the scene as "an apocalypse."

By morning, lessening winds brought some respite to firefighters, who continued efforts to battle the flames. However, TV footage revealed an ashen landscape where farms and pine forests had earlier stood.

Yumakli said fire crews across the country confronted 84 separate blazes Saturday. The country's northwest was under the greatest threat, including Karabuk, where wildfires have burned since Tuesday and 1,839 people have been evacuated from 19 villages.

Aside from Bursa and Karabuk, a major fire was raging in Kahramanmaraş, southern Turkey, the minister said, warning that growing winds could suddenly reignite fires not properly watered down after being extinguished.

Beleagued firefighters and rescue workers saved thousands of livestock and pets that had been left behind in the rush to evacuate threatened areas. Local media also showed images of workers assisting wildlife caught among the fires.

Unseasonably high temperatures, dry conditions and strong winds have been fueling the wildfires.

The General Directorate of Meteorology said Turkey recorded its highest ever temperature of 50.5 degrees Celsius (122.9 degrees Fahrenheit) in the southeastern Sirnak province on Friday. The highest temperatures for July were seen in 132 other locations, it said.

Fifteen people have died in recent weeks, including 10 rescue volunteers and forestry workers killed Wednesday in a fire in Eskisehir in western Turkey.

Justice Minister Yilmaz Tunc said late Saturday that prosecutors had investigated fires in 33 provinces since June 26, and that legal action had been taken against 97 suspects.

Overnight evacuations

In Greece, firefighters battled active wildfires in the country's southwest and on the island of Kythera on Sunday, following a blaze that scorched the northern Athens suburb of Kryoneri on Saturday. High temperatures, reaching 38 C (100 F) or more, persist across much of the country, though winds have eased slightly.

In Kryoneri, 27 residents were evacuated overnight with police assistance after some initially ignored warnings. Authorities urged the public to comply with evacuation orders, warning that resistance puts both civilians and rescuers in danger.

The fire service reported three people hospitalized with breathing issues and one firefighter treated for burns at a military hospital.

On the island of Evia, where another fire is now under control, media reports indicate large numbers of animals perished in barns.

Fanned by strong winds

On Bulgaria's southern borders with Greece and Turkey, as well as the western Serbian frontier, firefighters battled wildfires as the government declared the worst-hit provinces disaster zones. Residents across nearly half the country were issued with a code red warning, the highest level.

National Fire Service chief Alexander Djartov told reporters that 236 wildfires were burning, many fanned by strong winds. The government had asked EU partners for help, he added, and aircraft were expected

from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, France, Hungary and Sweden later Sunday.

In the southwestern Strumyani region, overnight blazes forced firefighters to retreat. They were reinforced Sunday by soldiers. Dozens of people fled their homes in the western Tran region as flames threatened villages near the Serbian border.

Boat capsizes in Nigeria's Niger state and at least 25 people feared dead, authorities say

By DYEPAKAZAH SHIBAYAN Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — A boat transporting passengers to a market in north-central Nigeria capsized, killing at least 25 people, authorities said Sunday.

The accident happened Saturday near Gumu village in the Shiroro area of Niger state, Ibrahim Hussaini, an official with the National Emergency Management Agency, told The Associated Press.

Hussaini said search and rescue efforts were underway, but are limited because armed gangs mostly control the area. He added that the number of casualties may rise.

"Very few people can go to the scene because of banditry in that area," he told the AP.

Armed groups, commonly referred to as bandits, have stepped up attacks in recent months in the north-central region, complicating rescue efforts.

The accident is the latest in a series of deadly boat accidents on Nigerian waterways, where accidents are common in remote communities, especially during the rainy season, due to overloaded and poorly maintained vessels.

In September last year, a boat carrying mostly farmers capsized on a river in the northwestern state of Zamfara, drowning at least 40 people.

At least 326 people died in boat accidents in Nigeria in 2024, according to a count by TheCable, a local media outlet.

Analysts say many boats operate without life jackets and blame weak enforcement by regulatory authorities.

Russia scales down celebrations honoring its navy as Ukraine launches more drone attacks

By The Associated Press undefined

Russia on Sunday scaled down the festivities honoring its navy citing security concerns as continuing Ukrainian drone attacks posed a challenge to the Kremlin.

Russian authorities canceled the parades of warships in St. Petersburg, in the Kaliningrad region on the Baltic and in the far-eastern port of Vladivostok that are usually held to mark the annual Navy Day celebrations.

Asked about the reason for the cancellation of the parade in St. Petersburg even as President Vladimir Putin arrived in his home city to visit the navy headquarters, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that "it's linked to the overall situation, security reasons, which are above all else."

The Russian Defense Ministry said that air defenses downed 99 Ukrainian drones over several regions overnight. Later in the day, it said another 51 drones were shot down near St. Petersburg. A man was killed and three other people were injured by drone fragments in the region around St. Petersburg, according to local authorities.

St. Petersburg's Pulkovo airport suspended dozens of flights early Sunday because of the drone threat.

On a trip to St. Petersburg, Putin visited the historic Admiralty building to receive reports on four-day naval maneuvers that wrapped up Sunday. The July Storm exercise involved 150 warships from the Baltics to the Pacific.

Putin vowed to build more warships and intensify the navy's training, adding that "the navy's strike power

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 49 of 71

and combat capability will rise to a qualitatively new level.”

He also visited the Admiral Grigorovich frigate of the Baltic Fleet at the Kronstadt naval base just west of St. Petersburg to hail its crew for fending off a Ukrainian drone attack in the region earlier in the day.

Reducing the scale of the Navy Day celebrations reflects Moscow’s worries about Ukraine’s sweeping drone attacks across the country.

In a series of strikes earlier in the war now in its fourth year, Ukraine sank several Russian warships in the Black Sea, crippling Moscow’s naval capability and forcing it to redeploy its fleet from Russia-occupied Crimea to Novorossiysk.

And in an audacious June 1 attack code-named “Spiderweb,” Ukraine used drones to hit several Russian air bases hosting long-range bombers across Russia, from the Arctic Kola Peninsula to Siberia. The drones were launched from trucks covertly placed near the bases, taking the Russian military by surprise in a humiliating blow to the Kremlin.

The raid destroyed or damaged many of the bombers that had been used by Moscow to launch aerial attacks on Ukraine, providing a major morale boost for Kyiv at a time when Kyiv’s undermanned and under-gunned forces are facing Russian attacks along the 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line.

Russia continued to batter Ukraine with drone and missile strikes Sunday.

In Sumy in Ukraine’s northeast, a drone attack damaged civil infrastructure objects, an administrative building and nonresidential premises, leaving three people wounded. Elsewhere in the region, two men died after being blown up by a land mine and another woman was injured from a drone attack on another community in the region, the regional military administration said.

French President Emmanuel Macron had a phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sunday and said later on X that he reaffirmed France’s support for Kyiv and vowed to raise pressure on Moscow to force it to “agree to a ceasefire that paves the way for talks leading to a solid and lasting peace, with full European involvement.”

‘Fantastic Four: First Steps’ scores Marvel’s first \$100 million box office opening of 2025

By LINDSEY BAHR and ITZEL LUNA Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Marvel’s first family has finally found box office gold. “The Fantastic Four: First Steps,” the first film about the superheroes made under the guidance of Kevin Feige and the Walt Disney Co., earned \$118 million in its first weekend in 4,125 North American theaters, according to studio estimates Sunday.

That makes it the fourth biggest opening of the year, behind “A Minecraft Movie,” “Lilo & Stitch” and “Superman,” and the biggest Marvel opening since “Deadpool & Wolverine” grossed \$211 million out of the gate last summer. Internationally, “Fantastic Four” made \$100 million from 52 territories, adding up to a \$218 million worldwide debut. The numbers were within the range the studio was expecting.

The film arrived in the wake of another big superhero reboot, James Gunn’s “Superman,” which opened three weekends ago and has already crossed \$500 million globally. That film, from the other main player in comic book films, DC Studios, took second place with \$24.9 million domestically.

The box office success of “First Steps” and “Superman” means “the whole notion of superhero fatigue, which has been talked about a lot, can I think be put to rest. I always say it’s bad movie fatigue, not superhero fatigue,” said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for data firm Comscore.

“First Steps” is the latest attempt at bringing the superhuman family to the big screen, following lackluster performances for other versions. The film, based on the original Marvel comics, is set during the 1960s in a retro-futuristic world led by the Fantastic Four, a family of astronauts-turned-superhuman from exposure to cosmic rays during a space mission.

The family is made up of Reed Richards (Pedro Pascal), who can stretch his body to incredible lengths; Sue Storm (Vanessa Kirby), who can render herself invisible; Johnny Storm (Joseph Quinn), who transforms into a fiery human torch; and Ben Grimm (Ebon Moss-Bachrach), who possesses tremendous superhuman

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 50 of 71

strength with his stone-like flesh.

The movie takes place four years after the family gained powers, during which Reed's inventions have transformed technology, and Sue's diplomacy has led to global peace.

Both audiences and critics responded positively to the film, which currently has an 88% on Rotten Tomatoes and promising exit poll responses from opening weekend ticket buyers. An estimated 46% of audiences chose to see it on premium screens, including IMAX and other large formats.

The once towering Marvel is working to rebuild audience enthusiasm for its films and characters. Its two previous offerings this year did not reach the cosmic box office heights of "Deadpool & Wolverine," which made over \$1.3 billion, or those of the "Avengers"-era. But critically, the films have been on an upswing since the poorly reviewed "Captain America: Brave New World," which ultimately grossed \$415 million worldwide. "Thunderbolts," which jumpstarted the summer movie season, was better received critically but financially is capping out at just over \$382 million globally.

Like Deadpool and Wolverine, the Fantastic Four characters had been under the banner of 20th Century Fox for years. The studio produced two critically loathed, but decently profitable attempts in the mid-2000s with future Captain America Chris Evans as the Human Torch. In 2015, it tried again (unsuccessfully) with Michael B. Jordan and Miles Teller. They got another chance after Disney's \$71 billion acquisition of Fox's entertainment assets in 2019.

The "Fantastic Four's" opening weekend results were a little less than some rival studio projections, Dergarabedian said. Nonetheless, the film is expected to carry movie theater earnings well into August.

Holdovers dominated the top 10, but one other newcomer managed to make the chart. The dark romantic comedy "Oh, Hi!" earned \$1.1 million from 866 screens.

"Jurassic World Rebirth" landed in third place in its fourth weekend with \$13 million, followed by "F1" with \$6.2 million. The Brad Pitt racing movie also passed \$500 million globally. "Smurfs" rounded out the top five with \$5.4 million in its second weekend.

The box office is currently up over 12% from last year.

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. "The Fantastic Four: First Steps," \$118 million.
2. "Superman," \$24.9 million.
3. "Jurassic World Rebirth," \$13 million.
4. "F1: The Movie," \$6.2 million.
5. "Smurfs," \$5.4 million.
6. "I Know What You Did Last Summer," \$5.1 million.
7. "How to Train Your Dragon," \$2.8 million.
8. "Eddington," \$1.7 million.
9. "Saiyaara," \$1.3 million.
10. "Oh, Hi!," \$1.1 million.

Alec Baldwin talks his love for 'Peanuts' and the 'immeasurable' effects of his trial

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Alec Baldwin says the year since his trial suddenly ended with a dismissal has been far better than the few years that preceded it, and the affect that time has had on him has been "immeasurable."

"Something as powerful as that happens in your life, you don't know how much it changes you," he said. "I can't even tell you how different I am from three-and-a-half years ago. And what I want and what I don't want, and how I want to live my life and not live my life."

The 67-year-old actor spoke to The Associated Press at San Diego's Comic-Con International, where he

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 51 of 71

was part of a panel on 75 years of Charles Schulz's "Peanuts," whose simplicity, existential philosophy and moral outlook have been very much on his mind.

Baldwin spoke while a suited Snoopy character stood nearby after posing for photos with him.

In a foreword Baldwin wrote for "The Complete Peanuts 1977-1978," he said while reading Schulz's newspaper comic strip every day as a child, he realized Charlie Brown, more than anyone, wanted the things he wanted.

Chief among those wants are "the desire to have friends and the desire to hold your friends close to you." That hasn't changed in the years since.

"Come on, what man my age doesn't relate to Charlie Brown? If Charlie Brown was 67 years old, he'd be me, but he wouldn't have been stupid enough to have seven (small) children," he said with a laugh.

But he aspires to the qualities of a different character.

"Lucy. I want to be Lucy. Lucy is in charge. She's got it all figured out," he said. "She pauses for a moment of self-awareness, but not too long."

Baldwin said he admired Schulz's simple line drawings combined with the real circumstances of the characters, embodied by real children's voices when the animated holiday specials emerged in his childhood.

"It's so complicated and simple at the same time, which is what I think makes it beautiful," he said.

And he admired Schulz's willingness to embrace melancholy, and deeper darknesses, in stories about inner struggle that needed no villains.

"A dog sitting on top of a dog house would have the same impact on you as, like, Nietzsche," he said, looking across the room at Snoopy. "They should have named the dog Nietzsche."

Baldwin's career has had several distinct phases. Early on he played tough husbands and boyfriends in supporting roles including "Married to the Mob" and "Working Girl." He moved on to heroic leading man in "The Hunt for Red October" and "The Shadow."

Downshifting to memorable character parts, he showed his gift for manly speeches in "Glengarry Glen Ross" and "The Departed," and his comedy prowess in seven seasons of "30 Rock" and as a constant host and guest on "Saturday Night Live."

In July 2024 his trial in New Mexico on an involuntary manslaughter charge in the 2021 shooting death of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the set of the Western "Rust" fell apart halfway through. A judge dismissed the case on allegations authorities withheld evidence.

"I can't believe that happened on that day the way it happened," he said. "And it couldn't have been better for us in certain terms because of the malice and so forth and everything that's embodied in that whole situation."

The next phase is uncertain. He says he's "just trying to move forward with my wife and my family."

He and wife Hilaria and their seven small kids recently appeared on the TLC reality series "The Baldwins."

He says he has successfully sold his young ones on "Peanuts," especially the Halloween and Christmas specials, as he did with his now nearly 30-year-old daughter Ireland when she was young.

He notices their personalities zig-zagging between the traits of Schulz's characters.

"They're Charlie Brown, now they're Snoopy, now they're Schroeder, now they're Linus, now they're Pig-Pen," he said. "They're Pig-Pen most of the time, I must say."

And their house is full of themed toys.

He keeps a small Snoopy figure among the things in his office, a reminder to try to maintain "love, kindness, patience."

"Peanuts are still kind of like, in that zone," he said. "Let's just try to be good people."

Thai and Cambodian leaders to meet in Malaysia for talks to end deadly border dispute

By JINTAMAS SAKSORNCHAI and SOPHENG CHEANG Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thai and Cambodian leaders will meet in Malaysia for talks to end hostilities, a spokesperson for the Thai prime minister's office said Sunday. This comes following pressure from U.S. President

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 52 of 71

Donald Trump to end a deadly border dispute, now in its fourth day, which has killed at least 35 people and displaced more than 218,000.

Jirayu Huangsap said Acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai will attend Monday's talks in response to an invitation from Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim "to discuss peace efforts in the region." Anwar has been acting in his capacity as this year's chair of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet late Sunday night on several social media platforms confirmed his participation as well.

"I will lead (the) Cambodian delegation to attend a special meeting in Kuala Lumpur hosted by Malaysia, co-organized by the United States and with participation of China," he said. China is a close ally of Cambodia, and had early in the fighting urged the two nations to resolve their differences peacefully, but Hun Manet's statement appeared to be the first mentioning a Chinese link to Monday's planned talks.

Trump posted on the Truth Social social network Saturday that he spoke to the leaders of Thailand and Cambodia and suggested he would not move forward with trade agreements with either country if the hostilities continued. He later said both sides agreed to meet to negotiate a ceasefire.

Both sides agree to discuss a ceasefire

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet said earlier Sunday his country agreed to pursue an "immediate and unconditional ceasefire." He said Trump told him that Thailand had also agreed to halt attacks following the U.S. president's conversation with Phumtham.

Phumtham thanked Trump and qualified Thailand's position, saying it agreed in principle to a ceasefire but stressed the need for "sincere intention" from Cambodia, the Thai Foreign Ministry said.

U.S. State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce on Sunday said Secretary of State Marco Rubio had spoken with the foreign ministers of both Thailand and Cambodia urging them "to de-escalate tensions immediately and agree to a ceasefire."

Her statement added that the U.S. "is prepared to facilitate future discussions in order to ensure peace and stability" between the two countries.

Each side blames the other for the clashes

The fighting flared Thursday after a land mine explosion along the border wounded five Thai soldiers. Both sides blamed each other for starting the clashes. Both countries recalled their ambassadors and Thailand closed its border crossings with Cambodia, with an exception for migrant Cambodian workers returning home.

Despite the diplomatic efforts, fighting continued Sunday along parts of the contested border, with both sides refusing to budge and trading blame over renewed shelling and troop movements.

Col. Richa Suksowanont, a Thai army deputy spokesperson, said Cambodian forces fired heavy artillery into Surin province, including at civilian homes, early Sunday. He said Cambodia also launched rocket attacks targeting the ancient Ta Muen Thom temple, claimed by both countries, and other areas in a bid to reclaim territory secured by Thai troops. Thai forces responded with long-range artillery to strike Cambodian artillery and rocket launchers.

Battlefield operations will continue and a ceasefire can only happen if Cambodia formally initiates negotiations, he added.

"Cambodian attacks remain irregular and may constitute violations of rules of engagement, posing further risk to border communities," said the Thai military's daily summary of the fighting issued Sunday night.

"The situation remains highly tense, and it is anticipated that Cambodia may be preparing for a major military operation prior to entering negotiations," it said.

Cambodian Defense Ministry spokesperson Lt. Gen. Maly Socheata accused Thai forces of escalating the violence with bombardment of Cambodian territory early Sunday, followed by a "large-scale incursion" involving tanks and ground troops in multiple areas.

"Such actions undermine all efforts toward peaceful resolution and expose Thailand's clear intent to escalate rather than de-escalate the conflict," she said.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 53 of 71

Thailand on Sunday reported a new death of a soldier, bringing its total number of fatalities to 22, mostly civilians. Cambodia said 13 people have been killed, though it was unclear if that included Lt. Gen. Duong Samnieng, whose death in combat was announced Sunday.

More than 139,000 people in Thailand have evacuated to safe locations and over 79,000 people fled from three Cambodian provinces. Many border villages are mostly deserted, with many schools and hospitals shut.

Evacuees hope for a swift end to the fighting

Pichayut Surasit, an air-conditioning technician in Thailand, said the sudden outbreak of fighting meant leaving his work in Bangkok to return home to protect his family.

"I didn't have the heart to continue with my work when I heard the news. I wanted to come back as soon as possible, but I had to wait until the evening," he said. Now at a shelter in Surin housing some 6,000 evacuees, Pichayut worries for his wife and twin daughters, hoping the conflict will end soon so they can return to their home in Kap Choeng district, one of the hardest hit by shelling.

Bualee Chanduang, a local vendor who moved to the same shelter Thursday with her family and pet rabbit, is counting on swift negotiations to end the violence. "I pray for God to help so that both sides can agree to talk and end this war," she said.

At the Vatican, Pope Leo XIV said he was praying for all those affected by war in the world, including "for those affected by the clashes on the border between Thailand and Cambodia, especially the children and displaced families."

The 800-kilometer (500-mile) frontier between Thailand and Cambodia has been disputed for decades, but past confrontations have been limited and brief. The latest tensions erupted in May when a Cambodian soldier was killed in a confrontation that created a diplomatic rift and roiled Thailand's domestic politics.

Islamic State-backed rebels attack a Catholic church in eastern Congo, killing at least 34

By JUSTIN KABUMBA and OPE ADETAYO Associated Press

GOMA, Congo (AP) — Islamic State-backed rebels attacked a Catholic church in eastern Congo on Sunday, killing at least 34 people, according to a local civil society leader.

Dieudonne Duranthabo, a civil society coordinator in Komanda, in the Ituri province, told The Associated Press that the attackers stormed the church in Komanda town at around 1 a.m. Several houses and shops were also burnt.

"The bodies of the victims are still at the scene of the tragedy, and volunteers are preparing how to bury them in a mass grave that we are preparing in a compound of the Catholic church," Duranthabo said.

Video footage from the scene shared online appeared to show burning structures and bodies on the floor of the church. Those who were able to identify some of the victims wailed while others stood in shock.

At least five other people were killed in an earlier attack on the nearby village of Machongani.

"They took several people into the bush; we do not know their destination or their number," Lossa Dhekana, a civil society leader in Ituri, told the AP.

Both attacks are believed to have been carried out by members of the Allied Democratic Force (ADF) armed with guns and machetes.

Lt. Jules Ngongo, a spokesperson for the Congolese army in Ituri, confirmed at least 10 fatalities in the Komanda church attack. However, U.N.-backed Radio Okapi reported 43 deaths, citing security sources. The attackers reportedly came from a stronghold about 12 kilometers (7 miles) from Komanda and fled before security forces arrived.

Duranthabo condemned the violence in what he said was "a town where all the security officials are present." He called for immediate military intervention, warning that "the enemy is still near our town."

Eastern Congo has suffered deadly attacks in recent years by armed groups, including the ADF and Rwanda-backed rebels. The ADF, which has ties to the Islamic State, operates in the borderland between Uganda and Congo and often targets civilians. The group killed dozens of people in Ituri earlier this month.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 54 of 71

in what a United Nations spokesperson described as a bloodbath.

The ADF was formed by disparate small groups in Uganda in the late 1990s following alleged discontent with President Yoweri Museveni.

In 2002, following military assaults by Ugandan forces, the group moved its activities to neighboring Congo and has since been responsible for the killings of thousands of civilians. In 2019, it pledged allegiance to the Islamic State.

The Congolese army (FARDC) has long struggled to contain the group, especially amid renewed conflict involving the M23 rebel movement backed by neighboring Rwanda.

Women in legislatures across the US fight for 'potty parity'

By KIMBERLEE KRUESI and CLAIRE RUSH Associated Press

For female state lawmakers in Kentucky, choosing when to go to the bathroom has long required careful calculation.

There are only two bathroom stalls for women on the third floor of the Kentucky Statehouse, where the House and Senate chambers are located. Female legislators — 41 of the 138 member Legislature — needing a reprieve during a lengthy floor session have to weigh the risk of missing an important debate or a critical vote.

None of their male colleagues face the same dilemma because, of course, multiple men's bathrooms are available. The Legislature even installed speakers in the men's bathrooms to broadcast the chamber's events so they don't miss anything important.

In a pinch, House Speaker David Osborne allows women to use his single stall bathroom in the chamber, but even that attracts long lines.

"You get the message very quickly: This place was not really built for us," said Rep. Lisa Willner, a Democrat from Louisville, reflecting on the photos of former lawmakers, predominantly male, that line her office.

The issue of potty parity may seem comic, but its impact runs deeper than uncomfortably full bladders, said Kathryn Anthony, professor emerita at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's School of Architecture.

"It's absolutely critical because the built environment reflects our culture and reflects our population," said Anthony, who has testified on the issue before Congress. "And if you have an environment that is designed for half the population but forgets about the other half, you have a group of disenfranchised people and disadvantaged people."

There is hope for Kentucky's lady legislators seeking more chamber potties.

A \$300 million renovation of the 155-year-old Capitol — scheduled for completion by 2028 at the soonest — aims to create more women's restrooms and end Kentucky's bathroom disparity.

The Bluegrass State is among the last to add bathrooms to aging statehouses that were built when female legislators were not a consideration.

In the \$392 million renovation of the Georgia Capitol, expanding bathroom access is a priority, said Gerald Pilgrim, chief of staff with the state's Building Authority. It will introduce female facilities on the building's fourth floor, where the public galleries are located, and will add more bathrooms throughout to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"We know there are not enough bathrooms," he said.

Evolving equality in statehouses

There's no federal law requiring bathroom access for all genders in public buildings. Some 20 states have statutes prescribing how many washrooms buildings must have, but historical buildings — such as statehouses — are often exempt.

Over the years, as the makeup of state governments has changed, statehouses have added bathrooms for women.

When Tennessee's Capitol opened in 1859, the architects designed only one restroom — for men only — situated on the ground floor. According to legislative librarian Eddie Weeks, the toilet could only be

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 55 of 71

"flushed" when enough rainwater had been collected.

"The room was famously described as 'a stench in the nostrils of decency,'" Weeks said in an email.

Today, Tennessee's Capitol has a female bathroom located between the Senate and House chambers. It's in a cramped hall under a staircase, sparking comparisons to Harry Potter's cupboard bedroom, and it contains just two stalls. The men also just have one bathroom on the same floor, but it has three urinals and three stalls.

Democratic Rep. Aftyn Behn, who was elected in 2023, said she wasn't aware of the disparity in facilities until contacted by The Associated Press.

"I've apparently accepted that waiting in line for a two-stall closet under the Senate balcony is just part of the job," she said.

"I had to fight to get elected to a legislature that ranks dead last for female representation, and now I get to squeeze into a space that feels like it was designed by someone who thought women didn't exist -- or at least didn't have bladders," Behn said.

The Maryland State House is the country's oldest state capitol in continuous legislative use, operational since the late 1700s. Archivists say its bathroom facilities were initially intended for white men only because desegregation laws were still in place. Women's restrooms were added after 1922, but they were insufficient for the rising number of women elected to office.

Delegate Pauline Menes complained about the issue so much that House Speaker Thomas Lowe appointed her chair of the "Ladies Rest Room Committee," and presented her with a fur covered toilet seat in front of her colleagues in 1972. She launched the women's caucus the following year.

It wasn't until 2019 that House Speaker Adrienne A. Jones, the first woman to secure the top position, ordered the addition of more women's restrooms along with a gender-neutral bathroom and a nursing room for mothers in the Lowe House Office Building.

'No longer do we fret and squirm or cross our legs in panic'

As more women were elected nationwide in the 20th century, some found creative workarounds.

In Nebraska's unicameral Legislature, female senators didn't get a dedicated restroom until 1988, when a facility was added in the chamber's cloakroom. There had previously been a single restroom in the senate lounge, and Sen. Shirley Marsh, who served for some 16 years, would ask a State Patrol trooper to guard the door while she used it, said Brandon Metzler, the Legislature's clerk.

In Colorado, female House representatives and staff were so happy to have a restroom added in the chamber's hallway in 1987 that they hung a plaque to honor then-state Rep. Arie Taylor, the state's first Black woman legislator, who pushed for the facility.

The plaque, now inside a women's bathroom in the Capitol, reads: "Once here beneath the golden dome if nature made a call, we'd have to scramble from our seats and dash across the hall ... Then Arie took the mike once more to push an urge organic, no longer do we fret and squirm or cross our legs in panic."

The poem concludes: "In mem'ry of you, Arie (may you never be forgot), from this day forth we'll call that room the Taylor Chamber Pot."

New Mexico Democratic state Rep. Liz Thomson recalled missing votes in the House during her first year in office in 2013 because there was no women's restroom in the chamber's lounge. An increase in female lawmakers — New Mexico elected the largest female majority Legislature in U.S. history in 2024 — helped raise awareness of the issue, she said.

"It seems kind of like fluff, but it really isn't," she said. "To me, it really talks about respect and inclusion."

The issue is not exclusive to statehouses. In the U.S. Capitol, the first restroom for congresswomen didn't open until 1962. While a facility was made available for female U.S. Senators in 1992, it wasn't until 2011 that the House chamber opened a bathroom to women lawmakers.

Jeannette Rankin of Montana was the first woman elected to a congressional seat. That happened in 1916.

Willner insists that knowing the Kentucky Capitol wasn't designed for women gives her extra impetus to stand up and make herself heard.

"This building was not designed for me," she said. "Well, guess what? I'm here."

Families of Americans slain in the West Bank lose hope for justice

By JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

BIDDU, West Bank (AP) — When Sayfollah Musallet of Tampa, Florida, was beaten to death by Israeli settlers in the West Bank two weeks ago, he became the fourth Palestinian-American killed in the occupied territory since the war in Gaza began.

No one has been arrested or charged in Musallet's slaying — and if Israel's track record on the other three deaths is any guide, it seems unlikely to happen. Yet Musallet's father and a growing number of U.S. politicians want to flip the script.

"We demand justice," Kamel Musallet said at his 20-year-old son's funeral earlier this week. "We demand the U.S. government do something about it."

Still, Musallet and relatives of the other Palestinian-Americans say they doubt anyone will be held accountable, either by Israel or the U.S. They believe the first word in their hyphenated identity undercuts the power of the second. And they say Israel and its law enforcement have made them feel like culprits — by imposing travel bans and, in some cases, detaining and interrogating them.

Although the Trump administration has stopped short of promising investigations of its own, the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem has urged Israel to investigate the circumstances of each American's death.

Writing on X on July 15, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee said he'd asked Israel to "aggressively investigate the murder" of Musallet and that "there must be accountability for this criminal and terrorist act."

Senator Chris Van Hollen of Maryland and 28 other Democratic senators have also called for an investigation. In a letter this week to Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Attorney General Pam Bondi, they pointed to the "repeated lack of accountability" after the deaths of Musallet and other Americans killed in the West Bank.

Israel's military, police and Shin Bet domestic security agency did not respond to requests for comment about the Palestinian-Americans' deaths.

Families have demanded independent investigations

American-born teenagers Tawfic Abdel Jabbar and Mohammad Khmour were killed in early 2024 by Israeli fire while driving in the West Bank. In April 2025, 14-year-old Amer Rabee, a New Jersey native, was shot in the head at least nine times by Israeli forces, according to his father, as he stood among a grove of green almond trees in his family's village.

In the immediate aftermath of both cases, Israeli authorities said that forces had fired on rock throwers, allegations disputed by the families and by testimony obtained by the AP. Israel pledged to investigate the cases further, but has released no new findings.

The teens' families told the AP they sought independent investigations by American authorities, expressing doubts that Israel would investigate in good faith. According to the Israeli watchdog group Yesh Din, killings of Palestinians in the West Bank rarely result in investigations — and when they do, indictments are uncommon.

The U.S. Justice Department has jurisdiction to investigate the deaths of its own citizens abroad, but does so after it gets permission from the host government and usually works with the host country's law enforcement. The U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem declined to say whether the U.S. has launched independent probes into the killings.

A spokesperson for the embassy said in a statement that investigations are "underway" in Israel over the deaths of the four Americans and that its staff is pressing the Israeli authorities to move quickly and transparently.

Sen. Van Hollen said that when the U.S. deals with Israel it "either doesn't pursue these cases with the vigor necessary, or we don't get any serious cooperation."

"And then instead of demanding cooperation and accountability, we sort of stop — and that's unacceptable. It's unacceptable to allow American citizens to be killed with impunity," the Maryland Democrat said.

Israel says it holds soldiers and settlers accountable

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 57 of 71

Israel says it holds soldiers and settlers to account under the bounds of the law, and that the lack of indictments does not mean a lack of effort.

A prominent recent case was the death of Shireen Abu Akleh, a Palestinian-American journalist for broadcaster Al Jazeera killed in the West Bank in 2022. An independent U.S. analysis of the circumstances of her death found that fire from an Israeli soldier was "likely responsible" for her killing but said it appeared to be an accident.

Despite an Israeli military investigation with similar conclusions, no one was ever disciplined.

Violence by Israeli forces and settlers has flared in the West Bank since the Hamas attack on Oct. 7, 2023. More than 950 Palestinians have been killed since the beginning of the war in Gaza, according to the United Nations. Some have been militants killed in fighting with Israel, though the dead have also included stone-throwers and bystanders uninvolved in violence.

Instead of justice, restrictions and detentions

Rather than a path toward justice, the families of Khmour, Rabee, and Abdel Jabbar say they've faced only challenges since the deaths.

Khmour, born in Miami, Florida, was shot and killed in April 2024 while driving in Biddu, a West Bank town near Jerusalem where he lived since age 2. U.S. investigators visited his family after the killing, his family said. Abdel Jabbar was killed while driving down a dirt road close to Al Mazra as-Sharqiya, his village in the northern West Bank.

Khmour's cousin, Malek Mansour, the sole witness, told the AP he was questioned by both Israeli and American investigators and repeated his testimony that shots came from a white pickup on Israeli territory.

He believes the investigators did not push hard enough to figure out who killed his cousin.

"The matter ended like many of those who were martyred (killed)," said Hanan Khmour, Khmour's mother.

Two months after the death, Israeli forces raided the family's home and detained Mohammad's brother, Omar Khmour, 23, also an American citizen.

Videos taken by family and shared with the AP show Omar Khmour blindfolded and handcuffed as Israeli soldiers in riot gear lead him out of the building and into a military jeep.

He said he was threatened during questioning, held from 4 a.m. to 3 p.m., and warned not to pursue the case.

'Here, being American means nothing'

Omar Khmour said Israeli soldiers at checkpoints have prevented him from leaving the West Bank to visit Israel or Jerusalem. Two other American fathers of Palestinian-Americans killed since Oct. 7, 2023 reported similar restrictions.

Hafeth Abdel Jabbar, Tawfic Abdel Jabbar's father, said he and his wife were blocked from leaving the West Bank for seven months. His son, Amir Abdel Jabbar, 22, remains restricted.

The father of Amer Rabee says he and his wife have also been stuck in the West Bank since their son's killing. He showed AP emails from the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem in which a consular official told him that Israel had imposed a travel ban on him, though it was unclear why.

Israeli authorities did not respond to comment on the detentions or travel restrictions.

Rabee said that in a land where violence against Palestinians goes unchecked, his family's American passports amounted to nothing more than a blue book.

"We are all American citizens," Rabee said. "But here, for us, being American means nothing."

Summer McIntosh wins first gold medal at worlds in her quest for five

By STEPHEN WADE AP Sports Writer

SINGAPORE (AP) — For Summer McIntosh of Canada, it's one gold medal won at the swimming world championships with four to go.

McIntosh is aiming to win five gold medals in individual events at the worlds in Singapore, and the first one came Sunday in the 400-meter freestyle on the first of eight days in the pool.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 58 of 71

Only legendary American Michael Phelps has ever won five individual medals in the worlds. He also did it at the Olympics.

McIntosh won but did not break her own world record, winning in 3 minutes, 56.26 seconds. Li Bingjie of China took silver (3:58.21) with a late charge to leave American Katie Ledecky (3:58.49) with bronze.

A year ago in the Olympics, Ledecky also took bronze in the 400. McIntosh was the silver medalist with gold for Australian Ariarne Titmus of Australia.

Titmus is taking a year off and did not swim and has since lost her world record in the event to McIntosh. For Ledecky, a nine-time Olympic gold medalist, it was her 27th medal in the world championships in an astonishing career.

She won her first Olympic gold in 2012 in London, and then started adding world championship medals beginning in Barcelona in 2013.

About 25 minutes after winning the 400, McIntosh came back and qualified first in the 200 individual medley, clocking 2:07.39. American Alex Walsh was second in 2:08.49. That final is Monday.

"I've never done a double like that," McIntosh said. "I think the 400 free, at past world championships and Olympics, I haven't been at my best. And I haven't been where I wanted to be. So, to finally stand in the center of the podium is promising for the rest of the meet."

The Canadian added: I think I'm at my best. I'm in the best shape of my life. So now I just have to act on that and put it into all my races."

The shock of the first day might have been Chinese 12-year-old Yu Zidi, who was the seventh fastest in qualifying and will swim in the final.

Asked her reaction, she replied: "Oh, I'm in," unaware she had advanced.

"I will continue to work harder," she added. "I hope to find a breakthrough at these world championships and show my potential."

Asked for her reaction to the competition, she added. "You can feel it's quite intense. I try not to think so much and just give it my all."

The 200 IM might not even be her best event with the Chinese likely quicker in the 400 IM and the 200 butterfly.

Meanwhile, the United States is swimming with what appears to be a weakened team after officials acknowledged Sunday that some members of the team had come down with "acute gastroenteritis" at a training camp in Thailand prior to arriving in Singapore.

Nikki Warner, a spokeswoman for USA Swimming, would not say how many fell ill in Thailand. She cited health confidentiality rules. She said all American swimmers had traveled to Singapore.

In the other early individual final Sunday, Lukas Martens of Germany won the men's 400 free in 3:42.35, edging Sam Short of Australia who was .02 behind. Bronze went to Kim Woomin of South Korea in 3:42.60.

Martens is the defending Olympic champion and also holds the world record of 3:39.96.

McIntosh, who won three gold medals a year ago at the Paris Olympics, holds the world record in the 400 free — 3:54.18. She will face off again with Ledecky in the 800 free later in the meet, probably the most anticipated race in Singapore.

Though she holds the 400 free world record, McIntosh had failed to win gold in the event in the Olympics or previous world championships.

McIntosh will also be after gold in the 200- and 400-individual medleys, and the 200 butterfly.

Famed Olympian Michael Phelps is the only swimmer to have won five individual gold medals at a world championships.

The other two gold medals Sunday were in the relays. The United States was the favorite in both and failed to win either.

The Australian women took gold just ahead of the United States in the 4x100 freestyle relay. The Aussies clocked 3:30.60 with 3:31.04 for the US. The Netherlands took bronze in 3:33.89.

On the men's side in the 4x100, Australia also took gold in 3:08.97. Italy took silver in 3:09.58 with bronze for the United States in 3:09.64.

There were three other semifinal results on Sunday.

Qin Haiyang of China took the 200 breaststroke in 58.24 with Paris Olympic champion Nicolo Martinenghi second in 58.62. The Italian was initially disqualified for moving on the blocks, but was later reinstated on appeal.

Gretchen Walsh of the United States and Roos Vanotterdijk of Belgium tied in the 100 butterfly in 56.07, and Maxime Grousset of France took the men's 50 fly in 22.61.

NIH cuts spotlight a hidden crisis facing patients with experimental brain implants

By LAURA UNGAR AP Science Writer

Carol Seeger finally escaped her debilitating depression with an experimental treatment that placed electrodes in her brain and a pacemaker-like device in her chest. But when its batteries stopped working, insurance wouldn't pay to fix the problem and she sank back into a dangerous darkness.

She worried for her life, asking herself: "Why am I putting myself through this?"

Seeger's predicament highlights a growing problem for hundreds of people with experimental neural implants, including those for depression, quadriplegia and other conditions. Although these patients take big risks to advance science, there's no guarantee that their devices will be maintained — particularly after they finish participating in clinical trials — and no mechanism requiring companies or insurers to do so.

A research project led by Gabriel Lázaro-Muñoz, a Harvard University scientist, aimed to change that by creating partnerships between players in the burgeoning implant field to overcome barriers to device access and follow-up care.

But the cancellation of hundreds of National Institutes of Health grants by the Trump administration this year left the project in limbo, dimming hope for Seeger and others like her who wonder what will happen to their health and progress.

An ethical quagmire

Unlike medications, implanted devices often require parts, maintenance, batteries and surgeries when changes are needed. Insurance typically covers such expenses for federally approved devices considered medically necessary, but not experimental ones.

A procedure to replace a battery alone can cost more than \$15,000 without insurance, Lázaro-Muñoz said.

While companies stand to profit from research, "there's really nothing that helps ensure that device manufacturers have to provide any of these parts or cover any kind of maintenance," said Lázaro-Muñoz.

Some companies also move on to newer versions of devices or abandon the research altogether, which can leave patients in an uncertain place.

Medtronic, the company that made the deep brain stimulation, or DBS, technology Seeger used, said in a statement that every study is different and that the company puts patient safety first when considering care after studies end.

People consider various possibilities when they join a clinical trial.

The Food and Drug Administration requires the informed consent process to include a description of "reasonably foreseeable risks and discomforts to the participant," a spokesperson said. However, the FDA doesn't require trial plans to include procedures for long-term device follow-up and maintenance, although the spokesperson stated that the agency has requested those in the past.

While some informed consent forms say devices will be removed at a study's end, Lázaro-Muñoz said removal is ethically problematic when a device is helping a patient. Plus, he said, some trial participants told him and his colleagues that they didn't remember everything discussed during the consent process, partly because they were so focused on getting better.

Brandy Ellis, a 49-year-old in Boynton Beach, Florida, said she was desperate for healing when she joined a trial testing the same treatment Seeger got, which delivers an electrical current into the brain to treat severe depression. She was willing to sign whatever forms were necessary to get help after nothing else had worked.

"I was facing death," she said. "So it was most definitely consent at the barrel of a gun, which is true

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 60 of 71

for a lot of people who are in a terminal condition.”

Patients risk losing a treatment of last resort

Ellis and Seeger, 64, both turned to DBS as a last resort after trying many approved medications and treatments.

“I got in the trial fully expecting it not to work because nothing else had. So I was kind of surprised when it did,” said Ellis, whose device was implanted in 2011 at Emory University in Atlanta. “I am celebrating every single milestone because I’m like: This is all bonus life for me.”

She’s now on her third battery. She needed surgery to replace two single-use ones, and the one she has now is rechargeable. She’s lucky her insurance has covered the procedures, she said, but she worries it may not in the future.

“I can’t count on any coverage because there’s nothing that says even though I’ve had this and it works, that it has to be covered under my commercial or any other insurance,” said Ellis, who advocates for other former trial participants.

Even if companies still make replacement parts for older devices, she added, “availability and accessibility are entirely different things,” given most people can’t afford continued care without insurance coverage.

Seeger, whose device was implanted in 2012 at Emory, said she went without a working device for around four months when the insurance coverage her wife’s job at Emory provided wouldn’t pay for battery replacement surgery. Neither would Medicare, which generally only covers DBS for FDA-approved uses.

With her research team at Emory advocating for her, Seeger ultimately got financial help from the hospital’s indigent care program and paid a few thousand dollars out of pocket.

She now has a rechargeable battery, and the device has been working well. But at any point, she said, that could change.

Federal cuts stall solutions

Lázaro-Muñoz hoped his work would protect people like Seeger and Ellis.

“We should do whatever we can as a society to be able to help them maintain their health,” he said.

Lázaro-Muñoz’s project received about \$987,800 from the National Institute of Mental Health in the 2023 and 2024 fiscal years and was already underway when he was notified of the NIH funding cut in May. He declined to answer questions about it.

Ellis said any delay in addressing the thorny issues around experimental brain devices hurts patients.

Planning at the beginning of a clinical trial about how to continue treatment and maintain devices, she said, would be much better than depending on the kindness of researchers and the whims of insurers.

“If this turns off, I get sick again. Like, I’m not cured,” she said. “This is a treatment that absolutely works, but only as long as I’ve got a working device.”

Citi launches Strata Elite Card to compete with AmEx and Chase

By KEN SWEET AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — There’s a new but familiar face coming to the world of high-end credit cards.

Citigroup is launching the Strata Elite Card, the bank’s latest attempt to grab a piece of the high-fee, high-rewards credit card market that’s dominated by American Express’ Platinum Card and JPMorgan Chase’s Sapphire Reserve Card.

The card, which is priced less than the Platinum Card and the Sapphire Reserve Card at an annual fee of \$595, will offer points multiples for certain types of spending, like hotels, car rents, air travel and restaurants. Additionally, the card will offer points for everyday spending, as well as a \$300 hotel credit and a \$200 “splurge” credit at brands like Best Buy, Live Nation and others.

Citi has had other forays into the high-end credit card market. The company launched Citi Prestige in 2013 as a direct competitor to the American Express Platinum Card, and the card won high praise from travel fanatics when it debuted for its hefty rewards program and perks.

But Prestige lost its prestige when Chase launched the Sapphire Reserve Card, a credit card that was an instant hit when it was released in 2016, and when AmEx overhauled the Platinum Card to be more

competitive. Citi stopped allowing new applications for Prestige in 2021, but the card's benefits still exist for customers carrying the card.

Strata Elite is facing a highly competitive marketplace. Along with the Platinum Card and Sapphire Reserve, there are other rewards-heavy cards like Capital One's Venture X Card and a coming high rewards card from credit card upstart Bilt early next year. Chase raised the annual fee on Sapphire Reserve to \$795 as part of a product refresh in June, and American Express has indicated it will be revising the Platinum Card's rewards and perks later this year.

A customer who ends up carrying two of these high-fee cards can quickly spend more than \$1,000 on annual fees. So far, credit card companies have been able to justify these fees by attaching lucrative perks to the cards, like travel or other spending credits, and generous rewards programs, effectively marketing them as a high-end subscription plan. But it's not clear how willing customers are to carry several of these cards each year.

This is the third in the Citi Strata card family, following a similar formula to other banks where there's a "good, better, best" choice for customers. The other cards are the Citi Strata Card and Strata Premier.

The biggest earning potential on Citi's new card is by booking travel through Citi's new travel portal, which gives 12 times points on Citi's "Thank You" rewards program.

Credit card companies are trying to push customers onto their own travel portals, where banks can contract directly with airlines and hotels and make sure customers use their branded credit cards when traveling. American Express, Chase and Capital One have all built out their travel services in recent years and are increasingly offering customers better rewards and redemptions for using their services instead of booking through a place like Expedia.

To host UN climate talks, Brazil chose one of its poorer cities. That's no accident

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — When world leaders, diplomats, business leaders, scientists and activists go to Brazil in November for the United Nations' annual climate negotiations, poverty, deforestation and much of the world's troubles will be right in their faces — by design.

In past conference cities — including resort areas and playgrounds for the rich such as Bali, Cancun, Paris, Sharm El-Sheikh and Dubai — host nations show off both their amenities and what their communities have done about climate change. But this fall's conference is in a high-poverty city on the edge of the Amazon to demonstrate what needs to be done, said the diplomat who will run the mega-negotiations in Belem known as COP30, or Conference of Parties.

What better way to tackle a problem than facing it head on, however uncomfortable, COP30 President-designate André Corrêa do Lago, a veteran Brazilian diplomat, said in an interview with The Associated Press at United Nations headquarters.

"We cannot hide the fact that we are in the world with lots of inequalities and where sustainability and fighting climate change is something that has to get closer to people," do Lago said. That's what Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has in mind, he said.

"When people will go to Belem, you are going to see a developing country and city with considerable infrastructure issues still with, in relative terms, a high percentage of poverty and President Lula thinks it's very important that we talk about climate thinking of all the forests, thinking of poverty and thinking of progress," do Lago said. "He wants everybody to see a city that can improve thanks to the results of these debates."

The rich and powerful — as well as poorer nations, activists and media — are already feeling a bit of that discomfort even before getting to Belem. Even with two years of notice, Brazil is way behind in having enough hotel rooms and other accommodations for a global conference that has had 90,000 attendees.

The official United Nations COP30 website says Brazil would have an official booking portal by the end of

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 62 of 71

April. But specific plans weren't announced till last week when Brazil said it arranged for two cruise ships with 6,000 beds to help with lodging, saying the country is ensuring "accommodation for all countries" and starting a system where 98 poorer nations have the option to reserve first.

Skyrocketing lodging costs are a problem, do Lago conceded. Some places have been charging \$15,000 a night for one person and activists and others have talked of cutting back. But he said prices "are already going down," even as local media report otherwise.

Do Lago said it will be a local holiday so residents can rent out their homes, adding "a significant supply of apartments."

Big year for climate negotiations

This is a significant year for climate negotiations. The 2015 Paris climate agreement required countries to come up with their own plans to reduce the emissions of heat-trapping gases from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas and then to update those plans every five years.

This year nearly every nation — the United States, the No. 2 carbon dioxide emitter and historically biggest polluter, withdrew from the accord earlier this year — has to submit their first plan update. Most of those updates are already late, but the United Nations wants countries to complete them by September when world leaders gather in New York. That would give the United Nations time to calculate how much they would curb future climate change if implemented — before the COP six weeks later.

UN Secretary-General Antonio-Guterres, in an interview with AP, reiterated what officials want in those plans: that they cover each nation's entire economy, that they include all greenhouse gases and that they are in line with efforts to limit long-term human-caused warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times. That target is the Paris agreement goal. And it's tough since the world is only a couple of tenths of a degree away and last year even temporarily shot past the 1.5 degree mark.

Do Lago said he expects the countries' plans will fall short of keeping warming below the 1.5 degree mark, so tackling that gap will be a crucial element of negotiations.

Some big things aren't on agenda, like \$1.3 trillion for poorer nations

Some of the negotiations' most important work won't be on the formal agenda, including these plans, do Lago said. Another is a road map to provide \$1.3 trillion in financial help to poorer nations in dealing with climate change. And finally, he said, Brazil "wants very much to talk about nature, about forests."

The nearby Amazon has been an important part of Earth's natural system to suck large amounts of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, but deforestation is a major threat to that. At times, parts of the Amazon have gone from reducing carbon dioxide in the air to increasing it, a 2021 study found.

On Wednesday, the United Nation's top court ruled that a clean and healthy environment is a basic human right, a decision that may bolster efforts to come up with stronger action at the November climate conference, some activists said.

"Failure of a state to take appropriate action to protect the climate system ... may constitute an internationally wrongful act," court President Yuji Iwasawa said during the hearing.

Do Lago said the challenge for countries is to think of these emission-reduction plans not as a sacrifice but as a moment to change and grow.

"One of the objectives of this COP is that we hope we will be remembered as a COP of solutions, a COP in which people realized that this agenda is creating more opportunities and challenges," do Lago said.

Trump once decried the idea of presidential vacations. His Scotland trip is built around golf

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — During sweaty summer months, Abraham Lincoln often decamped about 3 miles (5 kilometers) north of the White House to the Soldiers' Home, a presidential retreat of cottages and parkland in what today is the Petworth section of northwest Washington.

Ulysses S. Grant sometimes summered at his family's cottage in Long Branch, New Jersey, even occasionally driving teams of horses on the beach. Ronald Reagan once said he did "some of my best thinking"

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 63 of 71

at his Rancho Del Cielo retreat outside Santa Barbara, California.

Donald Trump's getaway is taking him considerably farther from the nation's capital, to the coast of Scotland.

The White House isn't calling Trump's five-day, midsummer jaunt a vacation, but rather a working trip where the Republican president might hold a news conference and sit for interviews with U.S. and British media outlets. Trump was also talking trade in separate meetings with European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

Trump is staying at his properties near Turnberry and Aberdeen, where his family owns two golf courses and is opening a third on Aug. 13. Trump played golf over the weekend at Turnberry and is helping cut the ribbon on the new course on Tuesday.

He's not the first president to play in Scotland: Dwight D. Eisenhower played at Turnberry in 1959, more than a half century before Trump bought it, after meeting with French President Charles de Gaulle in Paris. But none of Trump's predecessors has constructed a foreign itinerary around promoting vacation sites his family owns and is actively expanding.

It lays bare how Trump has leveraged his second term to pad his family's profits in a variety of ways, including overseas development deals and promoting cryptocurrencies, despite growing questions about ethics concerns.

"You have to look at this as yet another attempt by Donald Trump to monetize his presidency," said Leonard Steinhorn, who teaches political communication and courses on American culture and the modern presidency at American University. "In this case, using the trip as a PR opportunity to promote his golf courses."

Presidents typically vacation in the US

Franklin D. Roosevelt went to the Bahamas, often for the excellent fishing, five times between 1933 and 1940. He visited Canada's Campobello Island in New Brunswick, where he had vacationed as a child, in 1933, 1936 and 1939.

Reagan spent Easter 1982 on vacation in Barbados after meeting with Caribbean leaders and warning of a Marxist threat that could spread throughout the region from nearby Grenada.

Presidents also never fully go on vacation. They travel with a large entourage of aides, receive intelligence briefings, take calls and otherwise work away from Washington. Kicking back in the United States, though, has long been the norm.

Harry S. Truman helped make Key West, Florida, a tourist hot spot with his "Little White House" cottage there. Several presidents, including James Buchanan and Benjamin Harrison, visited the Victorian architecture in Cape May, New Jersey.

More recently, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama boosted tourism on Massachusetts' Martha's Vineyard, while Trump has buoyed Palm Beach, Florida, with frequent trips to his Mar-a-Lago estate. But any tourist lift Trump gets from his Scottish visit is likely to most benefit his family.

"Every president is forced to weigh politics versus fun on vacation," said Jeffrey Engel, David Gergen Director of the Center for Presidential History at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, who added that Trump is "demonstrating his priorities."

"When he thinks about how he wants to spend his free time, A., playing golf, B., visiting places where he has investments and C., enhancing those investments, that was not the priority for previous presidents, but it is his vacation time," Engel said.

It's even a departure from Trump's first term, when he found ways to squeeze in visits to his properties while on trips more focused on work. Trump stopped at his resort in Hawaii to thank staff members after visiting the memorial site at Pearl Harbor and before embarking on an Asia trip in November 2017. He played golf at Turnberry in 2018 before meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Finland.

Trump once decried the idea of taking vacations as president.

"Don't take vacations. What's the point? If you're not enjoying your work, you're in the wrong job," Trump wrote in his 2004 book, "Think Like a Billionaire." During his presidential campaign in 2015, he pledged to

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 64 of 71

"rarely leave the White House."

Even as recently as a speech at a summit on artificial intelligence in Washington on Wednesday, Trump derided his predecessor for flying long distances for golf — something he's now doing.

"They talked about the carbon footprint and then Obama hops onto a 747, Air Force One, and flies to Hawaii to play a round of golf and comes back," he said.

Presidential vacations and any overseas trips were once taboo

Trump isn't the first president not wanting to publicize taking time off.

George Washington was criticized for embarking on a New England tour to promote the presidency. Some took issue with his successor, John Adams, for leaving the then-capital of Philadelphia in 1797 for a long visit to his family's farm in Quincy, Massachusetts. James Madison left Washington for months after the War of 1812.

Teddy Roosevelt helped pioneer the modern presidential vacation in 1902 by chartering a special train and directing key staffers to rent houses near Sagamore Hill, his home in Oyster Bay, New York, according to the White House Historical Association.

Four years later, Roosevelt upended tradition again, this time by becoming the first president to leave the country while in office. The New York Times noted that Roosevelt's 30-day trip by yacht and battleship to tour construction of the Panama Canal "will violate the traditions of the United States for 117 years by taking its President outside the jurisdiction of the Government at Washington."

In the decades since, where presidents opted to vacation, even outside the U.S., has become part of their political personas.

In addition to New Jersey, Grant relaxed on Martha's Vineyard. Calvin Coolidge spent the 1928 Christmas holidays at Sapelo Island, Georgia. Lyndon B. Johnson had his "Texas White House," a Hill Country ranch.

Eisenhower vacationed in Newport, Rhode Island. John F. Kennedy went to Palm Springs, California, and his family's compound in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, among other places. Richard Nixon had the "Southern White House" on Key Biscayne, Florida, while Joe Biden traveled frequently to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, while also visiting Nantucket, Massachusetts, and St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

George H.W. Bush was a frequent visitor to his family's property in Kennebunkport, Maine, and didn't let the start of the Gulf War in 1991 detour him from a monthlong vacation there. His son, George W. Bush, opted for his ranch in Crawford, Texas, rather than a more posh destination.

Presidential visits help tourism in some places more than others, but Engel said that for some Americans, "if the president of the United States goes some place, you want to go to the same place."

He noted that visitors emulating presidential vacations are out "to show that you're either as cool as he or she, that you understand the same values as he or she or, heck, maybe you'll bump into he or she."

Trump's demand for Washington NFL team name change ignores years of psychological data, experts say

By GRAHAM LEE BREWER Associated Press

President Donald Trump is threatening to hold up a new stadium deal if Washington's NFL team did not restore its name to a racial slur, despite decades of psychological research showing the negative mental health impacts of Native American mascots.

The president is demanding a private company change its name to something that researchers have linked to a variety of negative mental health outcomes, particularly for children, said Mark Macarro, president of the National Congress of American Indians. The organization has been pushing back on stereotypes of Native Americans since the 1950s, including Native sports mascots.

"This is a big reminder with this administration that we're going to take some backward steps," Macarro said. "We have our studies, we have our receipts, and we can demonstrate that this causes real harm."

More than two decades of research on Native mascots have shown they lead to heightened rates of depression, self-harm, substance abuse and suicidal ideation among Indigenous peoples, and those impacts are the greatest on children. Citing this data, the American Psychological Association has been recom-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 65 of 71

mending the retirement of Native mascots since 2001.

The president believes that franchises who changed their names to “pander to the Woke Left” should immediately restore their original names,” White House spokesperson Davis Ingle said in a statement to The Associated Press.

“Thanks to President Trump, the days of political correctness and cancel culture are over,” he said.

Some teams change names while others resist

Under pressure from decades of activism, the Washington Redskins — a racial slur and arguably the most egregious example — retired the name in 2020, eventually settling on the Commanders. Later that year, the Cleveland Indians changed its name to the Guardians.

Two major league teams, the NFL’s Kansas City Chiefs and the NHL’s Chicago Blackhawks, continue to resist calls to change their names. The Chiefs have banned fans from wearing headdresses or face paint meant to depict Native Americans at games but has resisted prohibiting the use of the “tomahawk chop”, which critics have long called derogatory.

More than 1,500 grade schools across the country — a decrease over the past few years — still use Native mascots, according to the National Congress of American Indians, using names like “Savages” as well as the slur that Trump aims to bring back to the Washington team.

Experts say Native mascots reinforce racial bias

Native American people, activists, and leaders have been asking for the retirement of Native mascots for generations. Popular arguments defending the mascots have been that they “honor” Native people or that it simply boiled down to people being “offended,” said Steph Cross, a professor of psychology and researcher at the University of Oklahoma and a citizen of the Comanche Nation. But now we have decades of data that agrees on the negative mental health impacts, she said.

“Being offended is not even really the problem. That’s a symptom,” Cross said.

She noted that Native mascots aren’t just harmful to Indigenous peoples, they also reinforce racial prejudices among non-Natives, including people who will work directly with Native people like health care professionals and teachers.

“I think about these people who are going to be working with Native children, whether they realize that or not, and how they may unintentionally have these biases,” Cross said.

Stephanie Fryberg, a professor at Northwestern University, who is a member of the Tulalip Tribes and one of the country’s leading researchers on Native mascots, said, “The ultimate impact, whether conscious or unconscious, is bias in American society.”

Her work has also shown Native mascots increase the risk of real psychological harm, especially for young Native people.

“Honoring Native peoples means ending dehumanization in both imagery and policy,” she said. “Indian Country needs meaningful investment, respect, and the restoration of federal commitments, not more distractions or excuses for inaction.”

Several states pass Native mascot bans

In recent years, several states — including Maine, Oregon, Washington, Colorado, and New York — have passed laws or issued directives that ban or require districts to change Native mascots. A law prohibiting them in Illinois stalled this year in the state Senate.

The Trump administration has interjected into other efforts to change Native mascots. This month, the U.S. Department of Education launched an investigation into a Long Island public school district working to retire its Native American-themed mascot.

“The Department of Education has been clear with the state of New York: it is neither legal nor right to prohibit Native American mascots and logos while celebrating European and other cultural imagery in schools,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon.

When it comes to grade schools specifically, the negative impacts on children’s mental health is compounded by the fact that U.S. history standards largely ignore Indigenous history and rarely frame Native Americans as modern people, said Sarah Shear, a professor and researcher at the University of Washington.

In 2015, she was part of a study that found 87% of schools in the U.S. teach about Native Americans

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 66 of 71

in only a pre-1900 context. That hasn't improved much in the decade since the study, Shear said. Most curriculum also doesn't present the arguments against harmful stereotypes, like Native Mascots.

"Just on the standards documents alone," Shear said, "I'm not surprised that Trump and other folks continue to advocate that these mascots are celebratory when they're not."

It's a year of rapid change, except when it comes to Trump's approval numbers, AP-NORC polling finds

By AMELIA THOMSON-DEVEAUX and JONATHAN J. COOPER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eric Hildenbrand has noticed prices continue to rise this year, even with President Donald Trump in the White House. He doesn't blame Trump, his choice for president in 2024, but says Gov. Gavin Newsom and other Democrats who control his home state, California, are at fault.

"You can't compare California with the rest of the country," said Hildenbrand, who is 76 and lives in San Diego. "I don't know what's going on in the rest of the country. It seems like prices are dropping. Things are getting better, but I don't necessarily see it here."

Voters like Hildenbrand, whose support of the Republican president is unwavering, help explain Trump's polling numbers and how they have differed from other presidents' polling trajectory in significant ways. An Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll conducted in March found that 42% of U.S. adults approved of Trump's job performance. That is a lower rating than those of other recent presidents at the beginning of their second terms, including Democrat Barack Obama and Republican George W. Bush.

The most recent AP-NORC poll, from July, puts Trump at 40% approval. While that is not a meaningful change from March, there is some evidence that Trump's support may be softening, at least on the margins. The July poll showed a slight decrease in approval of his handling of immigration since earlier in the year. Some other pollsters, such as Gallup, show a downward slide in overall approval since slightly earlier in his term, in January.

But even those shifts are within a relatively narrow range, which is typical for Trump. The new AP-NORC polling tracker shows that Trump's favorability rating has remained largely steady since the end of his first term, with between 33% and 43% of U.S. adults saying they viewed him favorably across more than five years.

Those long-term trends underscore that Trump has many steadfast opponents. But loyal supporters also help explain why views of the president are hard to change even as he pursues policies that most Americans do not support, using an approach that many find abrasive.

Persistently low approval of Trump's job performance

Trump has not had a traditional honeymoon period in his second term. He did not in his first, either.

An AP-NORC poll conducted in March 2017, two months into his first term, showed that 42% of Americans "somewhat" or "strongly" approved of his performance. That is largely where his approval rating stayed over the course of the next four years.

The recent slippage on immigration is particularly significant because that issue was a major strength for Trump in the 2024 election. Earlier in his second term, it was also one of the few areas where he was outperforming his overall approval. In March, about half of U.S. adults approved of his handling of immigration. But the July AP-NORC poll found his approval on immigration at 43%, in line with his overall approval rating.

Other recent polls show growing discontent with Trump's approach on immigration. A CNN/SSRS poll found that 55% of U.S. adults say the president has gone too far when it comes to deporting immigrants who are living in the United States illegally, an increase of 10 percentage points since February.

"I understand wanting to get rid of illegal immigrants, but the way that's being done is very aggressive," said Donovan Baldwin, 18, of Asheboro, North Carolina, who did not vote in the 2024 election. "And that's why people are protesting because it comes off as aggression. It's not right."

Ratings of Trump's handling of the economy, which were more positive during his first term, have been persistently negative in his second term. The July poll found that few Americans think Trump's policies

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 67 of 71

have benefited them so far.

Even if he is not a fan of everything Trump has done so far, Brian Nichols, 58, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, is giving him the benefit of the doubt.

Nichols, who voted for Trump in 2024, likes what he is seeing from the president overall, though he has his concerns both on style and substance, particularly Trump's social media presence and his on-again, off-again tariffs. Nichols also does not like the push to eliminate federal agencies such as the Education Department.

Despite his occasional disagreements with Trump, though, Nichols said he wants to give the president space to do his job, and he trusts the House and Senate, now run by Republicans, to act as a safeguard.

"We put him into office for a reason, and we should be trusting that he's doing the job for the best of America," Nichols said.

Overall views of Trump have been fairly steady since 2019

Trump has spent the past six months pushing far-reaching and often unpopular policies. Earlier this year, Americans were bracing themselves for higher prices as a result of his approach to tariffs. The July poll found that most people think Trump's tax and spending bill will benefit the wealthy, while few think it will pay dividends for the middle class or people like them.

Discomfort with individual policies may not translate into wholesale changes in views of Trump, though. Those have largely been constant through years of turmoil, with his favorability rating staying within a 10-percentage point range through the COVID-19 pandemic, a felony conviction and attempted assassination.

To some of his supporters, the benefits of his presidency far outweigh the costs.

Kim Schultz, 62, of Springhill, Florida said she is thrilled with just about everything Trump is doing as president, particularly his aggressive moves to deport anyone living in the country illegally.

Even if Trump's tariffs eventually take effect and push prices up, she said she will not be alarmed.

"I've always had the opinion that if the tariffs are going to cost me a little bit more here and there, I don't have a problem with that," she said.

Across the country, Hildenbrand dislikes Trump's personality and his penchant for insults, including those directed at foreign leaders. But he thinks Trump is making things happen.

"More or less, to me, he's showing that he's on the right track," he said. "I'm not in favor of Trump's personality, but I am in favor of what he's getting done."

Trump plays golf in Scotland while protesters take to the streets and decry his visit

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — President Donald Trump played golf Saturday at his course on Scotland's coast while protesters around the country took to the streets to decry his visit and accuse United Kingdom leaders of pandering to the American.

Trump and his son Eric played with the U.S. ambassador to Britain, Warren Stephens, near Turnberry, a historic course that the Trump family's company took over in 2014. Security was tight, and protesters kept at a distance went unseen by the group during Trump's round. He was dressed in black, with a white "USA" cap, and was spotted driving a golf cart.

The president appeared to play an opening nine holes, stop for lunch, then head out for nine more. By the middle of the afternoon, plainclothes security officials began leaving, suggesting Trump was done for the day.

Hundreds of demonstrators gathered on the cobblestone and tree-lined street in front of the U.S. Consulate about 100 miles (160 kilometers) away in Edinburgh, Scotland's capital. Speakers told the crowd that Trump was not welcome and criticized British Prime Minister Keir Starmer for striking a recent trade deal to avoid stiff U.S. tariffs on goods imported from the U.K.

Protests were planned in other cities as environmental activists, opponents of Israel's war with Hamas

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 68 of 71

in Gaza and pro-Ukraine groups loosely formed a "Stop Trump Coalition." Anita Bhadani, an organizer, said the protests were "kind of like a carnival of resistance."

Trump's late mother, Mary Anne MacLeod, was born on the Isle of Lewis in Scotland and the president has suggested he feels at home in the country. But the protesters did their best to change that.

"I don't think I could just stand by and not do anything," said Amy White, 15, of Edinburgh, who attended with her parents. She held a cardboard sign that said "We don't negotiate with fascists." She said "so many people here loathe him. We're not divided. We're not divided by religion, or race or political allegiance, we're just here together because we hate him."

Other demonstrators held signs of pictures with Trump and Jeffrey Epstein as the fervor over files in the case has increasingly frustrated the president.

In the view of Mark Gorman, 63, of Edinburgh, "the vast majority of Scots have this sort of feeling about Trump that, even though he has Scottish roots, he's a disgrace." Gorman, who works in advertising, said he came out "because I have deep disdain for Donald Trump and everything that he stands for."

Saturday's protests were not nearly as large as the throngs that demonstrated across Scotland when Trump played at Turnberry during his first term in 2018.

But, as bagpipes played, people chanted "Trump Out!" and raised dozens of homemade signs that said things like "No red carpet for dictators," "We don't want you here" and "Stop Trump. Migrants welcome."

One dog had a sign that said "No treats for tyrants."

Some on the far right took to social media to call for gatherings supporting Trump in places such as Glasgow.

Trump also plans to talk trade with Starmer and Ursula von der Leyen, the European Commission president. But golf is a major focus.

The family will also visit another Trump course near Aberdeen in northeastern Scotland, before returning to Washington on Tuesday. The Trumps will cut the ribbon and play a new, second course in that area, which officially opens to the public next month.

Scottish First Minister John Swinney, who is also set to meet with Trump during the visit, announced that public money will go to staging the 2025 Nexo Championship, previously known as the Scottish Championship, at Trump's first course near Aberdeen next month.

"The Scottish Government recognizes the importance and benefits of golf and golf events, including boosting tourism and our economy," Swinney said.

At a protest Saturday in Aberdeen, Scottish Parliament member Maggie Chapman told the crowd of hundreds: "We stand in solidarity, not only against Trump but against everything he and his politics stand for."

The president has long lobbied for Turnberry to host the British Open, which it has not done since he took over ownership.

In a social media post Saturday, Trump quoted the retired golfer Gary Player as saying Turnberry was among the "Top Five Greatest Golf Courses" he had played in as a professional. The president, in the post, misspelled the city where his golf course is located.

Israel again intercepts Gaza-bound ship carrying activists and humanitarian aid

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) —

The Israeli military has intercepted a Gaza-bound aid ship seeking to break the Israeli blockade of the Palestinian territory, detaining 21 international activists and journalists and seizing all cargo, including baby formula, food and medicine, the Freedom Flotilla Coalition said Sunday.

The coalition that operates the vessel Handala said the Israeli military "violently intercepted" the ship in international waters about 40 nautical miles from Gaza, cutting the cameras and communication, just before midnight Saturday.

"All cargo was non-military, civilian and intended for direct distribution to a population facing deliberate starvation and medical collapse under Israel's illegal blockade," the group said in a statement.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 69 of 71

The Israeli military had no immediate comment. Israel's Foreign Ministry posted on X early Sunday that the Navy stopped the vessel and was bringing it to shore.

It was the second ship operated by the coalition that Israel has prevented in recent months from delivering aid to Gaza, where food experts have for months warned of the risk of famine. Activist Greta Thunberg was among 12 activists on board the ship Madleen when it was seized by the Israeli military in June. In May, the coalition's civilian aid ship Conscience sustained a drone attack off Malta that disabled the vessel.

The ship's interception comes as Israel faces mounting international criticism over the worsening humanitarian situation in Gaza, with concern growing over rising hunger in the territory amid Israeli restrictions on aid.

A regional human rights group, Adalah, said the raid on the vessel violated international law. It demanded the immediate release of the 21 activists, including lawmakers and human rights campaigners, from 10 countries.

Adalah said the vessel has arrived at the Israeli port of Ashdod, but that its lawyers have been denied access to the detained activists.

"The flotilla never entered Israeli territorial waters, nor was it intended to do so; it was headed toward the territorial waters of the State of Palestine, as recognized under international law," Adalah said in a statement. "Israel has no legal jurisdiction or authority over the international waters in which the vessel was sailing."

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani spoke with his Israeli counterpart, Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar, regarding two Italians on board, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. Sa'ar indicated that if they don't agree to leave the country immediately, they would be forcibly repatriated over the next three days, the ministry said.

Also on board were seven U.S. citizens, including a human rights attorney, a Jewish U.S. war veteran and a Jewish-American activist, according to the Freedom Flotilla Coalition.

In Syria's Sweida, the stench of death still lingers days after sectarian bloodshed

By OMAR SANADIKI and SALLY ABOU ALJOUD Associated Press

SWEIDA, Syria (AP) — The stench of decaying bodies hangs heavy in the streets of the provincial capital in Syria's southern province of Sweida, where fighting recently erupted. Once bustling roads now lie eerily silent, with only a few people passing by. In some areas, the destruction is overwhelming, with buildings and cars charred black.

At a bank branch, shattered glass covered the floor as an alarm blared nonstop. Walls are emblazoned with slogans graffitied by both sides in the recent conflict.

The devastation came after violent clashes broke out two weeks ago, sparked by tit-for-tat kidnappings between armed Bedouin clans and fighters from the Druze religious minority. The fighting killed hundreds of people and threatened to unravel Syria's fragile postwar transition.

Syrian government forces intervened, ostensibly to end the fighting, but effectively sided with the clans. Some government fighters reportedly robbed and executed Druze civilians.

Associated Press journalists from outside the city were able to enter Sweida on Friday for the first time since the violence started on July 13. With a ceasefire largely holding, residents of Sweida are trying to pick up the pieces of their lives.

'Snipers hit him'

At the main hospital, where bodies of those killed in the fighting were piled up for days, workers were scrubbing the floor, but the smell lingered.

Manal Harb was there with her wounded 19-year-old son, Safi Dargham, a first-year engineering student, who was shot while volunteering at the overwhelmed hospital.

"Snipers hit him in front of the hospital," she said. "We are civilians and have no weapons."

Safi sustained injuries to his elbow, behind his ear, and his leg. Harb says he may lose his arm if he

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 70 of 71

doesn't receive urgent treatment.

Harb's husband, Khaled Dargham, was killed when armed men stormed their home, shot him, and set the house on fire. She said the armed men also stole their phones and other belongings.

An emergency room nurse who gave only her nickname, Em Hassib ("mother of Hassib"), said she had remained in the hospital with her children throughout the conflict. She alleged that at one point, government fighters who were brought to the hospital for treatment opened fire, killing a police officer guarding the hospital and wounding another. The AP could not independently verify her claim.

She said the bodies had piled up for days with no one to remove them, becoming a medical hazard.

Sectarian tensions simmer as Druze resist disarmament

Disturbing videos and reports from Sweida surfaced showing Druze civilians being humiliated and executed during the conflict, sometimes accompanied by sectarian slurs. After a ceasefire took hold, some Druze groups launched revenge attacks on Bedouin communities. The U.N. has said more than 130,000 people were displaced by the violence.

Government officials, including interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa, have promised to hold accountable those who targeted civilians, but many residents of Sweida remain angry and suspicious.

The Druze religious sect is an offshoot of Ismailism, a branch of Shiite Islam. There are roughly a million Druze worldwide and more than half of them live in Syria. The others live in Lebanon and Israel, including in the Golan Heights — which Israel captured from Syria during the 1967 Mideast War and annexed in 1981.

The Druze largely welcomed the fall of former President Bashar Assad in December in a rebel offensive that ended decades of autocratic rule by the Assad dynasty.

However, the new government under al-Sharaa, a former Islamist commander who once had al-Qaida ties, drew mixed reactions from Druze leaders. Some clerics supported engaging with the new leadership, while others, including spiritual leader Sheikh Hikmat al-Hijri and his Sweida Military Council, opposed him.

Al-Sharaa has denied targeting the Druze and blamed the unrest on armed groups defying state authority, particularly those loyal to al-Hijri. He also accused Israel of deepening divisions by striking Syrian forces in Sweida, attacks that were carried out under the pretext of defending the Druze.

Talal Jaramany, a 30-year-old Druze resort owner, took up arms during the fighting.

"What pushed me to put on a military uniform and go to the front lines is that what happened was lawless," he told The Associated Press.

Jaramany insisted there was little distinction between the Bedouin clans and the government's General Security forces. "They used weapons, not dialogue," he said.

He rejects calls for disarmament, saying the Druze need their weapons for self-defense.

"We won't hand over our arms. Our weapon is sacred," he said. "It's not for attacking. We've never been supporters of war. We'll only give it up when the state provides real security that protects human rights."

Sweida's Christians also recount near-death escapes

Members of Sweida's Christian minority were also caught up in the violence.

At a church where a number of Christian families were sheltering, 36-year-old Walaa al-Shammas, a housewife with two children, said a rocket struck her home on July 16.

"Had we not been sheltering in the hallway, we would've been gone," she said. "My house lies in destruction and our cars are gone."

Gunmen came to the damaged house later, but moved on, apparently thinking it was empty as the family hid in the hallway, she said.

In recent days, hundreds of people — Bedouins as well as Druze and Christians — have evacuated Sweida in convoys of buses carrying them to other areas, organized by the Syrian Red Crescent. Others have found their own way out.

Micheline Jaber, a public employee in the provincial government in Sweida, was trying to flee the clashes last week with her husband, in-laws and extended family members when the two cars they were driving in came under shelling. She was wounded but survived, along with her mother-in-law and the young son of one of her husband's siblings.

Her husband and the rest of the family members who were fleeing with them were killed.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 28, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 015 ~ 71 of 71

Someone, Jaber doesn't know who, loaded her and the other two survivors in a car and drove them to an ambulance crew, which evacuated them to a hospital outside of the city. She was then taken to another hospital in the southwestern city of Daraa, and finally transported to Damascus. She's now staying with friends in the Damascus suburb of Jaramana, her arms encased in bandages.

"When the shell hit the car, I came out alive — I was able to get out of the car and walk normally," Jaber said. "When you see all the people who died and I'm still here, I don't understand it. God has His reasons."

The one thing that comforts her is that her 15-year-old daughter was with her parents elsewhere at the time and was not harmed.

"My daughter is the most important thing and she is what gives me strength," Jaber said.

Today in History: July 28, US Army airplane crashes into Empire State Building

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, July 28, the 209th day of 2025. There are 156 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On July 28, 1945, A U.S. Army B-25 bomber crashed into the 79th floor of New York's Empire State Building, the world's tallest structure at the time, killing 14 people.

Also on this date:

In 1794, Maximilien Robespierre and Louis Antoine de Saint-Just were executed by guillotine during the French Revolution.

In 1914, World War I began as Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson announced he was increasing the number of American troops in South Vietnam from 75,000 to 125,000.

In 1976, an earthquake devastated northern China, killing at least 242,000 people, according to an official estimate.

In 1984, the Los Angeles Summer Olympics officially opened; 14 Eastern Bloc countries, led by the Soviet Union, boycotted the Games.

In 1995, a jury in Union, South Carolina, rejected the death penalty for Susan Smith, sentencing her to life in prison for drowning her two young sons (Smith will be eligible for parole in November 2024).

In 1996, 8,000 year-old human skeletal remains (later referred to as Kennewick Man) were discovered in a bank of the Columbia River in Kennewick, Washington.

In 2004, the Irish Republican Army formally announced an end to its armed campaign against British rule in Northern Ireland.

In 2015, it was announced that Jonathan Pollard, the former U.S. Naval intelligence analyst who had spent nearly three decades in prison for spying for Israel, had been granted parole.

In 2018, Pope Francis accepted the resignation of U.S. Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, the emeritus archbishop of Washington, D.C., following allegations of sexual abuse, including one involving an 11-year-old boy. Both died in April of 2025.

In 2019, a gunman opened fire at a popular garlic festival in Gilroy, California, killing three people, including a six-year-old boy and a 13-year-old girl, and wounding 17 others before taking his own life.

Today's Birthdays: Music conductor Riccardo Muti is 84. Former Senator and NBA Hall of Famer Bill Bradley is 82. "Garfield" creator Jim Davis is 80. TV producer Dick Ebersol is 78. Actor Sally Struthers is 78. Architect Santiago Calatrava is 74. CBS TV journalist Scott Pelley is 68. Actor Lori Loughlin is 61. Jazz musician-producer Delfeayo Marsalis is 60. UFC president Dana White is 56. Actor Elizabeth Berkley is 53. Basketball Hall of Famer Manu Ginobili is 48. Actor John David Washington is 41. Actor Dustin Milligan is 40. Rapper Soulja Boy is 35. England soccer star Harry Kane is 32. Pop/rock singer Cher Lloyd is 32. Golfer Nelly Korda is 27.