

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 1 of 79

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- We the People Column: History at an Accelerated Pace: Is This the America You Want?](#)
- [3- Baby-sitter Ad](#)
- [4- Tigers Roll Past Milbank in NEC Clash](#)
- [5- Lady Tigers rally past Milbank in Region 1 seeding showdown](#)
- [6- Today on GDILIVE.COM](#)
- [7- Groton Area places seventh at Kingsbury County Invitational](#)
- [8- Groton girls claim two titles at Governor's Invite](#)
- [8- Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling](#)
- [9- GDI Fitness Center Ad](#)
- [10- Wolves drop weekend matchups to St. Cloud State](#)
- [11- Sunday Extras](#)
- [29- Gov. Rhoden's Weekly Column](#)
- [30- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column](#)
- [31- Rev. Snyder's Column](#)
- [33- EarthTalk: NYC bans fossil fuels](#)
- [34- South Dakota Average Gas Prices](#)
- [35- Drought Monitor](#)
- [36- SD SearchLight: Federal agent shoots and kills man in Minneapolis, rousing more demonstrations](#)
- [38- SD SearchLight: Pretrial monitoring could reduce missed court appearances and improve outcomes, court officials say](#)
- [39- SD SearchLight: Complaining about governor's use of office for campaigning might backfire on opponents](#)
- [41- Weather Pages](#)
- [45- Daily Devotional](#)
- [46- Subscription Form](#)
- [47- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [48- News from the Associated Press](#)

## Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026

St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m.; and at Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship at 9 a.m. with congregational meeting to follow; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 6 p.m.

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

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

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



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

Carnival of Silver Skates, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.  
Groton Soccer Association Clinics, GHS Arena, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

4th Grade BBB Practice, 2 p.m.

6th Grade BBB Practice, 6 p.m.

Dance Team Practice, 5 p.m.

## Monday, Jan. 26, 2026

School Breakfast: Egg bake.

School Lunch: Corn dogs, baked beans.

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

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

1st Grade BBB Practice, 4:30 p.m.

5th/6th Grade Volleyball Practice, 6 p.m.

5th Grade BBB Practice, 6 p.m.

Kindergarten BBB Practice, 6 p.m.

Boys MS Wrestling at Ipswich, 6 p.m.

JH BBB at Britton-Hecla (7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.)

We the People

The South Dakota Humanities Council is making available a weekly column -- "We the People" -- that focuses on the U.S. Constitution. It is written by David Adler, who is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality, and civic education.



By David Adler

## History at an Accelerated Pace: Is This the America You Want?

American history is unfolding at such an accelerated pace that it is difficult for the citizenry to grasp, let alone comprehend, the enormous changes that are afoot. From ICE shootings and killings of American citizens in the streets of Minneapolis to President Donald Trump's demands for "Complete and Total" control of Greenland, the tectonic plates of our constitutional democracy are shifting in dangerous ways. The rapid transformation of our government under President Trump, yoked, he tells us, only by his own "morality" and "mind," embodies transcendent implications for our democracy, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and, certainly, NATO, the world order and America's global role and posture. The dramatic philosophical changes carry real-world consequences. Citizens should take a deep breath and ask themselves, as they frequently have, a profoundly important question: Is this the America we want?

President Trump's aggrandizement of unchecked authority in both foreign and domestic affairs, not merely in the executive branch, but in his own hands, has shredded the carefully constructed limits of Article II of the Constitution, which James Madison declared, "defines and confines" presidential power. Not under Trump, who has asserted "absolute" authority. His authoritarian view of executive power justifies, in his mind, the seizure of Greenland, "the easy way or the hard way," despite that fact that Greenlanders have no wish to be part of the United States and are Danish citizens who vote in Danish elections.

In his speech in Davos, President Trump ruled out the use of military force to seize Greenland from Denmark but threatened European allies with economic and national security consequences, if the world does not acquiesce to his demand for the territory. "You can say yes and we will be very appreciative, or you can say no and we will remember." Trump's coercive demands, coupled with the insulting, demeaning tone and terms of his speech, even with the belated retreat from a military option, have caused a major rupture in relations with NATO allies, perhaps beyond repair. His disregard of the territorial sovereignty of a NATO member and the right of Greenlanders to self-determination, represents an unprecedented breach of trust of the most effective defense alliance the world has known, one that has maintained peace since the end of World War II.

Until recently, few would have taken seriously the proposition that President Trump would seize Greenland. But his decapitation of Venezuelan leadership, for purposes of seizing control of the nation's oil supply, has raised questions about his perceived freedom to take "complete control" of Greenland. His assertion that it's about America's national security cannot withstand scrutiny. Under a 1951 treaty, the U.S. has *carte blanche* authority to build as many air bases and military installations as we wish. Greenland and Denmark have reiterated the force of that agreement. There is nothing to stop the U.S. from deploying as many military assets as it pleases. It seems more likely that Trump's interest is part of a vanity project—the acquisition of land three times the size of Texas that, he believes, would burnish his legacy. Then, there is his personal animosity toward Norway, as reflected in his letter to the prime minister, because "your country" did not award the Nobel Prize to Trump. A committee in Norway, not the government, awards the prize and, in any case, Norway is not Denmark. This is verging on 25th Amendment territory.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 3 of 79

Across the decades, Americans have looked in the mirror and rightly asked themselves, "is this the America I want?" They have asked it since the drafting of the Declaration of Independence and the start of the Revolutionary War, and certainly with the creation of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and, again, at every transformational moment in our 250- year history, including the Civil War, two world wars and the Civil Rights Movement. To ask the question is to be a citizen, and to exercise the opportunities and responsibilities of citizenship itself, with the inherent right of Americans to maintain self-government of, by and for the people. To ask the question is part of the Social Contract, the founding ideal, that "We the People" have created government, defined and limited its powers, with the full expectation that it will obey the Constitution. Without our consent, government has no legitimacy or authority. That's why we ask, is this the America you want?

*David Adler is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality and civic education. This column is made possible with the support of the South Dakota Humanities Council, South Dakota NewsMedia Association and this newspaper.*

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## Tigers Roll Past Milbank in NEC Clash



**Jayden Schwan**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

GROTON, S.D. — The Groton Area boys basketball team hosted Milbank on Saturday, and the Tigers earned a 57-34 win in a Northeast Conference contest.

Groton used an 11-point run in the first quarter to build a 21-8 lead at the end of the opening period. The Tigers carried a 33-17 advantage into halftime and led 44-27 after three quarters before closing out the 23-point victory.

Groton head coach Greg Kjellsen liked the team's defensive execution in the first half.

"I was really happy the first half," Kjellsen said. "When we got out and defended — they're so perimeter dominating — that means Gage or Becker's got to come out and cover a guard. They did a good job."

Groton shot 18-of-28 on two-point attempts (64%), went 4-of-13 from three-point range (31%), and was perfect at the free-throw line at 9-of-9. The Tigers

totaled 21 rebounds, 13 assists, nine steals, two blocks, and nine turnovers.

Milbank went to a zone defense in the second half, slowing the pace of play.

"They went to zone and it changed the flow of the game," Kjellsen said. "But it was good for us because we haven't seen much zone. When we executed, we got some really good shots, and sometimes we get impatient."

Becker Bosma and Ryder Johnson each scored 12 points to lead Groton.

Bosma added nine rebounds, two assists, and a steal, while Johnson recorded two rebounds, two assists, and two steals. Gage Sippel finished with 10 points, four rebounds, a steal, and a block. Karson Zac added seven points with two rebounds, five assists, a steal, and a block. Jayden Schwan scored six points. Keegen Tracy had five points with two rebounds, two assists, and three steals. Easton Weber added three points with two rebounds and an assist. Jace Johnson scored two points, and Asher Johnson recorded an assist.

Milbank shot 13-of-41 (31%) from the field and went 4-of-6 at the free-throw line (67%). The Bulldogs committed 16 turnovers. Sam Rick led Milbank with 13 points. Max Scoular had five. Jack Howard and Layten Osowski each scored four. Lincoln Holscher had three. Ryan Keeton added three. Harley Zemlicka and Emmett Snaza scored two each.

"Since the second quarter at Lennox, this has been a different team," Kjellsen said. "We've defended well, our offense has gotten better, and we're becoming a better basketball team."

With the win, Groton Area improves to 9-3 on the season. The Tigers will compete next Saturday at the Northeast Conference DAC-12 Clash in Madison.

### Groton JV Wins 36-20

Groton won the junior varsity game 36-20. The Tigers led 8-1 after the first quarter, 21-4 at halftime, and 30-14 after three quarters.

Asher Johnson scored eight points to lead Groton. Anthony Tracy added six, while Ethan Kroll, Jordan Schwan, and Jace Johnson each scored five. Ryder Schelle finished with four points, and J.J. Muller had three. Harley Zemlicka led Milbank with five points, and Sam Wilson added four.

### Milbank Wins C-Game 48-41 in Overtime

Milbank won the C-game 48-41 in overtime. The Bulldogs led 16-13 after the first quarter, 20-18 at halftime, and 33-31 after three quarters. The game was tied 38-38 at the end of regulation before Milbank pulled away in overtime.

Trayce Schelle led Groton with 13 points. Trey Tietz and Major Dolan each scored 11. Ryder Schwan added six. Max Scoular led Milbank with 15 points, Cade Grabow had 10, and Bennett Hunt added nine.



**Karson Zac**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

## Lady Tigers rally past Milbank in Region 1 seeding showdown



**Jayden Penning battles with Belle Pauli for the ball with Rylee Dunker also pictured.** (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Groton, S.D. — The Groton Area girls basketball team delivered its most complete performance of the season Tuesday night, rallying past Milbank 54-45 in a crucial North-east Conference and Region 1 seeding contest at Groton.

"This was a good basketball game — a fun game," said Groton head coach Matt Locke. "I thought the girls responded. That was probably the most complete game we've played this year."

The victory handed Milbank just its second loss of the season, dropping the Bulldogs to 8-2, while Groton improved to 8-4.

Groton led early before Milbank scored six straight points to take a 12-9 advantage at the end of the first quarter. The second quarter featured five lead changes and two ties before the Lady Tigers edged ahead 24-23 at halftime.

Milbank regained momentum in the third. The game was tied at 30 before the Bulldogs recaptured a 33-30 lead midway through the period and carried a 40-35 advantage into the fourth.

Groton tied the game at 40 early in the final quarter, but Milbank briefly reclaimed the lead at 42-40. From there, the Lady Tigers closed on a decisive 12-point run, turning a two-point deficit into a commanding 52-42 advantage

before sealing the 54-45 win.

"We had to decide at halftime that we were going to front their post players," Locke said. "Belle Paulie and Anna are tough to guard when they get the ball with their back to the basket. Our backside help was really good, and that made a difference."

"When we were down six, you wonder if it's going to get away from you," Locke added. "But they just fought back and fought back. Full effort is just who they are now."

Groton shot 44 percent from two-point range and 29 percent from three-point distance, knocking down seven shots from beyond the arc. Rylee Dunker led the outside attack by hitting three of four three-pointers. The Tigers finished 9-of-17 at the free-throw line, collected 26 rebounds, handed out 14 assists, recorded six steals, and committed just six turnovers.

In scoring, Jayden Penning paced Groton with 15 points while also grabbing seven rebounds, dishing two assists, and adding a steal. Jerica Locke followed with 14 points, four rebounds, four assists, and two steals. Rylee Dunker added 13 points along with six rebounds, three assists, and two steals. Makenna Krause chipped in seven points while pulling down four rebounds and distributing four assists. Taryn Traphagen scored three points with two rebounds, Talli Wright finished with two points, and Sydney Locke contributed two rebounds and an assist.

For Milbank, Belle Paulie scored 17 points before



**Cousins Jerica Locke and Susie Schuneman engage on the court.** (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 6 of 79

fouling out with 3:54 remaining in the game. Anna Neugenbauer finished with 10 points, while Susie Schunemann and Adison Paulie each scored eight. Avery Schunemann added two points. The Bulldogs shot 39 percent from the field, made four of six free throws, and committed 14 turnovers.

Adding to the rivalry atmosphere, the Locke sisters of Groton and the Schunemann sisters of Milbank are cousins and shared the floor in a spirited conference and region matchup.

## JV: Milbank 39, Groton Area 29

Milbank also claimed the junior varsity contest, pulling away late for a 39-29 victory.

Groton led 9-7 after the first quarter before Milbank used a 21-11 second quarter to take a 21-15 half-time advantage. The Tigers opened the third quarter on an 8-0 run to close within two at 21-19, but the Bulldogs carried a 28-26 lead into the fourth and closed the game on a six-point run.

Tevan Hanson and Ashlyn Warrington each scored eight points for Groton. Kella Tracy added six, Makenna Krause scored five, and Brynlee Dunker finished with two points. For Milbank, Bailee Hendricks led all scorers with 14 points and Violet Johnson added nine.

## Up Next

Groton now turns its attention to another major Region 1 test.

"We know Roncalli. They know us," Locke said. "It's a big rival, a big region game, a big seeding game — just a big game, period. It's going to come down to who shows up and who wants it."

The both varsity games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Avantara - Groton, Agtegra, Bierman Farm Service, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Full Circle Ag, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Heartland Energy and The MeatHouse in Andover. Rich Bosma did the commentary, Jeslyn Kosel ran the camera and Paul Kosel did the stats and technology. The boys and girls junior varsity and boys C game were broadcast as well. Sponsors were Jerry and Becky Johnson, Grandparents, and Brian Dolan.



**GT** on **Groton Area Tigers Groton, SD**

## Carnival of Silver Skates

Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026  
2 p.m. Performance



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**GT** on **Groton Area Tigers Groton, SD**

## Carnival of Silver Skates

Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026  
6 p.m. Performance



**GDILIVE**  
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# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 7 of 79

## Groton Area places seventh at Kingsbury County Invitational

ARLINGTON, S.D. — The Groton Area wrestling team finished seventh out of 12 teams Saturday at the Kingsbury County Invitational, scoring 124.5 points in a competitive field. Kingsbury County won the team title with 221.5 points, followed by Brookings at 202.5 and Flandreau at 145.5. Britton-Hecla, Redfield Area, Sioux Falls Washington, Sioux Valley, Hamlin/Castlewood, Warner/Northwestern, Tiospa Zina, and Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle rounded out the tournament standings.

The Tigers were led by heavyweight Gavin Englund, who captured the 285-pound championship. Englund opened with a fall over Rollie Betten of Redfield Area, followed with a tie-breaker semifinal win over Breyten Johnson of Kingsbury County, and closed the tournament with a 5-0 decision over Owen Vandeweerd of Sioux Valley in the title match.

At 190 pounds, Walker Zoellner earned a runner-up finish. Zoellner began with a forfeit win, then recorded falls over Johnnie Vermeulen of Sioux Valley and Rhyder Behnke of Flandreau to reach the finals, where he was pinned by Blake Kannegieter of Brookings.

Wyatt Hagen turned in a third-place finish at 120 pounds. Hagen pinned Jerrik Jones of Britton-Hecla and Salamana Idris of Sioux Falls Washington, fell by 5-2 decision to Maddon Odland of Redfield Area in the semifinals, then rebounded with falls over Chance Miller of Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle and Hunter Mellon of Brookings to secure third. Donavon Block also placed third at 157 pounds, opening with a fall over Jasper Opsahl of Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle, dropping a 10-5 decision to Luke VanVlymen of Brookings, then closing with falls over Kalel Bamba of Flandreau and Rayin Mansfield of Warner/Northwestern.

Two Tigers posted fourth-place finishes. At 126 pounds, Kyson Kucker received a bye, earned a technical fall over Noah Vig of Kingsbury County, lost a 9-8 decision to Chace Odland of Redfield Area, defeated Jaden Buchmann of Hamlin/Castlewood 9-2, and fell 17-12 to Briggs Archer of Brookings in the third-place match. At 144 pounds, Grayson Flores opened with a 13-3 major decision over Weston Weisser of Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle, was pinned by Conner Zens of Redfield Area, pinned Morgan Christensen of Sioux Valley, and lost by technical fall to Micah Eidem of Sioux Falls Washington in the third-place bout.

Ben Hoeft placed sixth at 165 pounds. Hoeft was pinned by Colton Chapin of Britton-Hecla, rebounded with a fall over Gile Rud of Sioux Valley, then lost by major decision to Jacob Lingen of Sioux Falls Washington and an 11-6 decision to Preston Meyer of Flandreau in the fifth-place match.

Several Tigers competed in deep brackets but did not reach the medal rounds. At 106 pounds, Preston Hinkelman lost by fall to Lane Madsen of Kingsbury County, received a consolation bye, and later forfeited to Willy Miller of Kingsbury County, while Bentley Ehresmann received a first-round bye, lost by fall to Kyson Sundberg of Sioux Valley, and dropped an 11-10 decision to Henry Kilker of Britton-Hecla. At 113, Luke Gauer was pinned by Aston Duncan of Flandreau, received a consolation bye, and lost by technical fall to Bode TeKrony of Brookings. At 120, Parker Zoellner received a bye, lost by fall to Chase Henriksen of Kingsbury County, and was pinned by Jerrik Jones of Britton-Hecla. At 132, Xavior Ellenbecker received a bye, was pinned by Haiden Baxter of Brookings, received a second bye, and lost a 15-3 major decision to Sawyer Johnson of Brookings, while Noah Scepaniak received a bye, lost by technical fall to Gabriel Frias of Flandreau, received another bye, and dropped a 6-3 decision to Carter Grobe of Britton-Hecla. At 138, Aiden Strom received a bye, was pinned by Micah Stern of Brookings, received another bye, and lost an 11-4 decision to Jack Griggs of Brookings. At 150, Kason Oswald received a bye, was pinned by Bryce Hawkinson of Britton-Hecla, received a second bye, and lost a 13-2 major decision to Ty Delbridge of Brookings. At 190, Isaiah Scepaniak was pinned by Tucker Hardy of Britton-Hecla, received a bye, and later was pinned by Johnnie Vermeulen of Sioux Valley.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 8 of 79

## Groton girls claim two titles at Governor's Invite

PIERRE, S.D. — The Groton girls wrestling team turned in an outstanding performance at the 2026 Governor's Girls Wrestling Invitational, bringing home two individual championships as Liza Krueger and Gracelynn Decker each captured first place in their respective weight classes.

At 105 pounds, Liza Krueger continued her dominant season by claiming the tournament title. Krueger opened the day with a fall over Keira Thorp of Custer, then advanced to the finals with another pin against Sydney Caven of Pierre T.F. Riggs. In the championship match, Krueger secured the title with a technical fall victory over Harper Gibson of Tri-Valley, scoring 23.5 team points in the process.

At 110B, Gracelynn Decker earned her first-place finish with a strong three-match performance. Decker opened the tournament with a major decision win over Giovannina Mazzocchio of Hot Springs, received a bye in the second round, and closed the day by pinning Alexis Red Bird of Todd County to claim the championship and 17 team points.

## Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling League Week #10 Results

**Team Standings:** Cheetahs 8, Coyotes 8, Shihtzus 8, Jackelopes 5, Foxes 5, Chipmunks 2

**Men's High Games:** John Sippel 201, Brad Waage 197, Vern Meyers 192

**Women's High Games:** Suzie Easthouse 177, Vicki Walter 171, Brenda Waage 164

**Men's High Series:** Brad Waage 539, Vern Meyers 502, John Sippel 480

**Women's High Series:** Suzie Easthouse 489, Vicki Walter 462, Darci Spanier 423

**Week 10 Fun Game:** Most Splits - Cheetahs with 16!

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 9 of 79

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# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 10 of 79

## Wolves drop weekend matchups to St. Cloud State

ST. CLOUD, Minn. — Northern State endured a tough weekend on the road as both the Wolves women's and men's basketball teams fell to St. Cloud State in NSIC action.

### Women Fall to Huskies, Drop to .500

The Northern State women struggled to find offensive rhythm Friday night, falling to St. Cloud State 70-39. The loss drops the Wolves to 10-10 overall and 5-9 in the NSIC.

St. Cloud State's defense held Northern to its lowest scoring output of the season. The Wolves managed just seven points in the first quarter and never recovered, scoring 39 total points on 27.6% shooting from the field. Northern added 31 rebounds, eight assists, and five steals, but committed 17 turnovers in the loss.

Lily Klein led the Wolves with nine points, while Izzy Moore added seven points and four rebounds. Reagan Rus and Carli Kuyper each scored six points, with Rus pulling down a team-high five rebounds. Northern's starters accounted for 20 points, while the bench contributed 19.

St. Cloud State was led by Rachel Kottke, who recorded a double-double with 17 points and ten rebounds. Reagan Briggs added 13 points for the Huskies.

### Men Struggle from Deep in Saturday Loss

On Saturday, the Northern State men's team dropped a 72-59 decision to St. Cloud State. The Wolves battled defensively but struggled from beyond the arc, hitting just 3-of-23 three-point attempts.

Northern shot 36.4% from the floor and went a perfect 16-of-17 from the free throw line. The Wolves scored 30 points in the paint and received 19 points from the bench, but St. Cloud State held a 44-36 rebounding advantage.

Joshua Book paced Northern with 16 points and six rebounds, going a perfect 8-for-8 from the free throw line. Simon Akena added 13 points and a team-high seven rebounds, while Marshawn Smith chipped in 11 points off the bench. Benjamin Bowen contributed eight points, four rebounds, and two assists.

### Up Next

Both Northern State teams return home next weekend for the annual I Hate Winter series at the Barnett Center.

The women will host Sioux Falls on Friday at 5:30 p.m. before facing Southwest Minnesota State on Saturday at 4 p.m.

The men will take on Sioux Falls Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Southwest Minnesota State on Saturday at 6 p.m.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 11 of 79



## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth. Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124: 6-8

*Detail of "Rippling Water" by Frank Benson (1920)*

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## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Deborah (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. Which of these wasn't on the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus?  
*Peter, James, John, Andrew*

3. From Matthew 13, how many of Jesus' "brothers" wrote books of the Bible? *0, 1, 2, 3*

4. Which of these had 300 concubines?  
*Pharaoh, King Solomon, Saul, Adam*

5. What is the biblical interpretation of a concubine?  
*Oven, Secondary wife, Chariot, Gold bracelet*

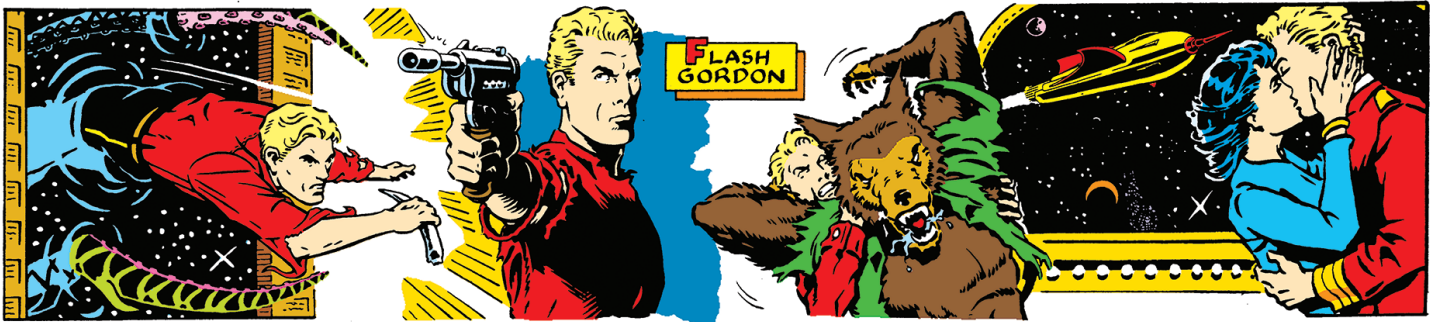
6. In which city did King Ahasuerus mainly live?  
*Corinth, Gath, Berea, Shushan*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Andrew, 3) Two (James and Jude), 4) King Solomon, 5) Secondary wife, 6) Shushan

*"Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.*

# Groton Daily Independent

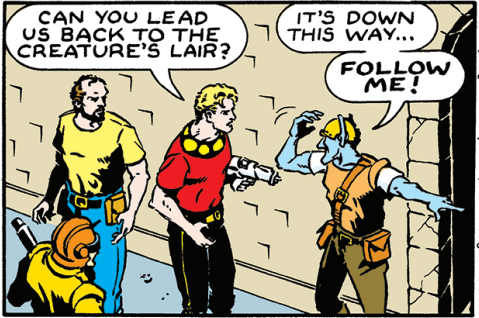
Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 13 of 79



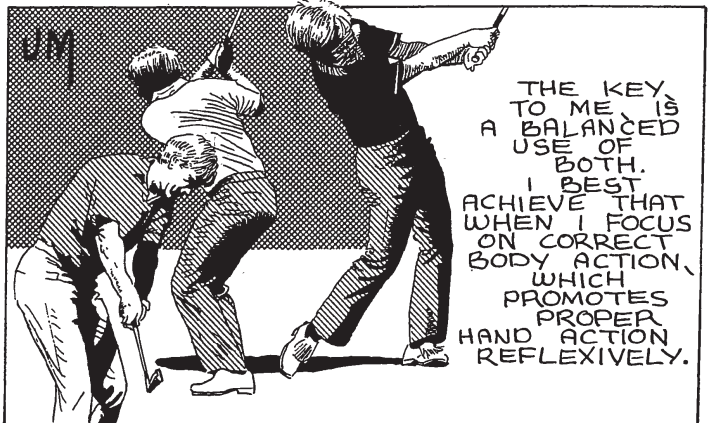
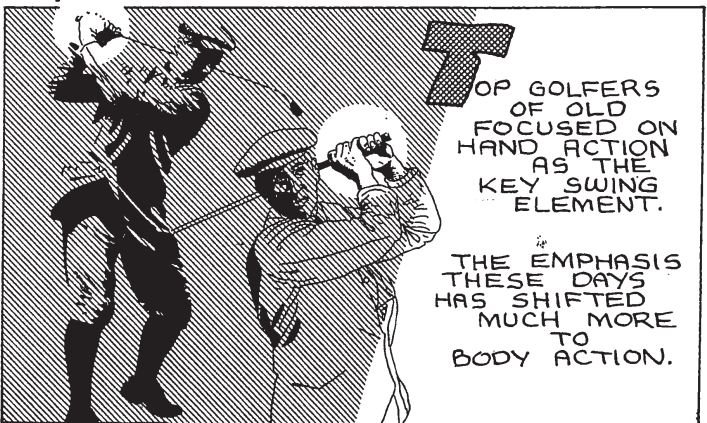
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## Working Out Which Plant-Based Milk Substitute Is Healthiest

DEAR DR. ROACH: Everyone in my family, except for me, has converted to using almond milk instead of cow's milk. I just saw something on the internet stating that almond milk is possibly the worst plant-based milk substitute. I trust your opinion and research. Can you please educate me on what is best? Are plant-based milks really better than cow's milk, and which plant-based milk is best? -- D.G.

ANSWER: When trying to compare plant-based milk substitutes with each other and with animal milks in their health impact, it's important to look at what each of them have in terms of macronutrients and micronutrients.

Cow's milk, like other animal milks, contains macronutrients like protein, sugars and fats, as well as micronutrients like calcium. (Most cow's milk is fortified with vitamin D.) While most North Americans consume adequate protein, many people try to increase their protein intake through cow's milk.

Similarly, although the data are mixed, most experts agree that saturated fat, which is found in cow's milk, increases heart disease risk. (Cow's milk can be whole, low-fat, reduced fat or skim, varying in their percentages of overall fat.) However, cow's milk contains beneficial fats like conjugated linoleic acid and methyl-branched-chain fatty acids. Most North Americans consume much more simple sugar than what is optimal with cow's milk.

Almond milk has much less protein than cow's milk (1 gram versus 8 grams), and the quality of the protein based on the amount of essential amino acids is less. Soy milk is much higher in protein than almond milk -- almost as much as cow's milk, about 7 grams. Coconut milk has almost none.

However, almond and soy milk have no saturated fat (or almost none) and more monounsaturated fats. Coconut milk has about the same amount of saturated fat as cow's milk. Almond, soy and coconut milks are typically fortified with calcium to match what is found in cow's milk, but the calcium in plant milks is not absorbed as well.

Almond milk can be bought unsweetened or sweetened with typically 7-8 grams of sugar per cup, compared to 12 grams per cup in cow's milk. Cow's milk has multiple other micronutrients naturally, while plant-based milk is fortified with vitamin A and D.

So, is your family right that almond milk is the worst? No, I don't think so. In my opinion, the nonexistent protein and high saturated fat content of coconut milk makes it the least acceptable from a health perspective. Soy and almond milk seem like the better alternatives, but neither of them is really comparable to cow's milk in terms of other micronutrients.

The choice of almond versus soy milk is not clear from a health perspective, so your taste preference should be your guide. In all cases of plant-based milks, I recommend unsweetened and unflavored products.

\*\*\*

DEAR DR. ROACH: I get regular pedicures. I never go for gel, but I often use a bright color. When the polish comes off, almost every single one of my nails is quite mottled with brown and white spots. Of course, I thought about not wearing polish and allowing the new nails to slowly grow out, but I can't stand the look of my toes.

I know this is just a cosmetic problem. My pedicurist seems to know nothing about it. The real question is, what causes such gross discoloration in some people but not in other others? -- N.W.

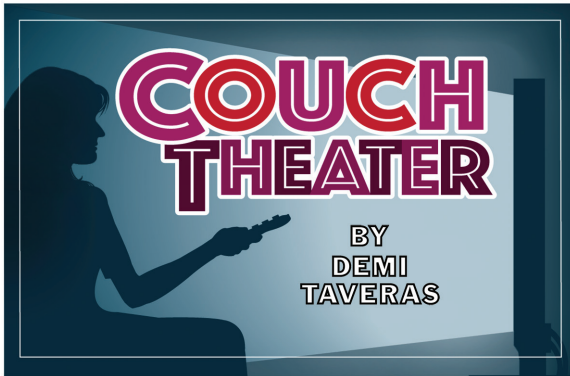
ANSWER: I'll bet you have keratin granules, which represent damage to the nail. They are often described to be chalky white and happen in many people if nail polish is left on for too long (more than 7-10 days). Experts recommend an acetone-free remover when it's time to remove them. You can also use a base coat to protect the nail. Let the nails go without polish periodically.

Fortunately, keratin granules are not dangerous and will grow out. They can be mistaken for toenail fungus, so your regular doctor or a dermatologist can help if these tips don't stop them from developing.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 15 of 79



**Dave Bautista, left, and Jason Momoa star in "The Wrecking Crew."** (Courtesy of MovieStillsDB)

"Die, My Love" (R) -- Whether you're a fan of twisty psychological films or not, this film is just a treat for millennials and Gen-Zers who grew up watching Robert Pattinson in the "Twilight" films and Jennifer Lawrence in "The Hunger Games" films. Playing love interests opposite each other, Pattinson and Lawrence respectively portray young couple Jackson and Grace right after they move to Montana from New York. The audience soon learns that Grace is pregnant with their first child, but after Grace gives birth, the film is told from Grace's fragmented and distorted point of view as she slowly descends into madness due to the stress of becoming a mother. It is chock-full of tough-to-watch, unforgettable emotional moments that remind us why Lawrence is one of the greatest of her generation. Out now. (MUBI)

"His & Hers" (TV-MA) -- Netflix has got the formula down on how to crank out series after series that still leave viewers on the edge of their seats. This new mystery-thriller series starring Jon Bernthal ("The Amateur") and Tessa Thompson ("Hedda") is only six episodes long, but with its two talented leads and a small-town setting, it's already become popular on the streaming service. Thompson plays reporter Anna Andrews, who returns to her old hometown of Dahlonaga, Georgia, to investigate a murder. While there, she bumps into her estranged husband, Detective Jack Harper (Bernthal), who has been assigned to the case himself. (What a coincidence!) No doubt that the spouses' suspicions of each other will escalate the tension to another level! Out now. (Netflix)

"The Wrecking Crew" (R) -- Any movie that is led by both Jason Momoa ("A Minecraft Movie") and Dave Bautista ("Trap House") is sure to be a testosterone-filled action flick with goofy moments in between to keep audiences shouting at their screens for more. Momoa and Bautista play two half-brothers: Jonny (Momoa), a "loose cannon cop," and James (Bautista), a "disciplined Navy SEAL." After their father is murdered in a suspicious hit-and-run in Hawaii, the brothers team up to figure out the root of the murder and keep the rest of their family from also being threatened. "The Wrecking Crew" premieres on Jan. 28. (Amazon Prime Video)

In Case You Missed It

"Chestnut" (NR) -- This drama film features Natalia Dyer in a much different tone than how we are used to seeing her as Nancy Wheeler in "Stranger Things." She plays Annie, a shy aspiring writer who is stuck in Philadelphia after graduating from college; however, at the end of the summer, a move to Los Angeles awaits her. In the weeks up until then, Annie meets a pair of best friends -- wild child Tyler (Rachel Keller) and the mysteriously sweet Danny (Danny Ramirez) -- and begins spending all her nights with the charming duo. When she suddenly finds herself with confusing feelings for both Tyler and Danny, Annie wonders whether she's subtly being told by the universe to stay in Philly or to run as fast as she can to L.A. Out now. (Plex)

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# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 16 of 79



1. Name The Kingston Trio song about the Boston subway.
2. Which group wrote and released "Baby Come Back"?
3. Name the artist who released "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue."
4. Who released "Man of the World"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "All my bags are packed, I'm ready to go, I'm standing here outside your door."

Answers

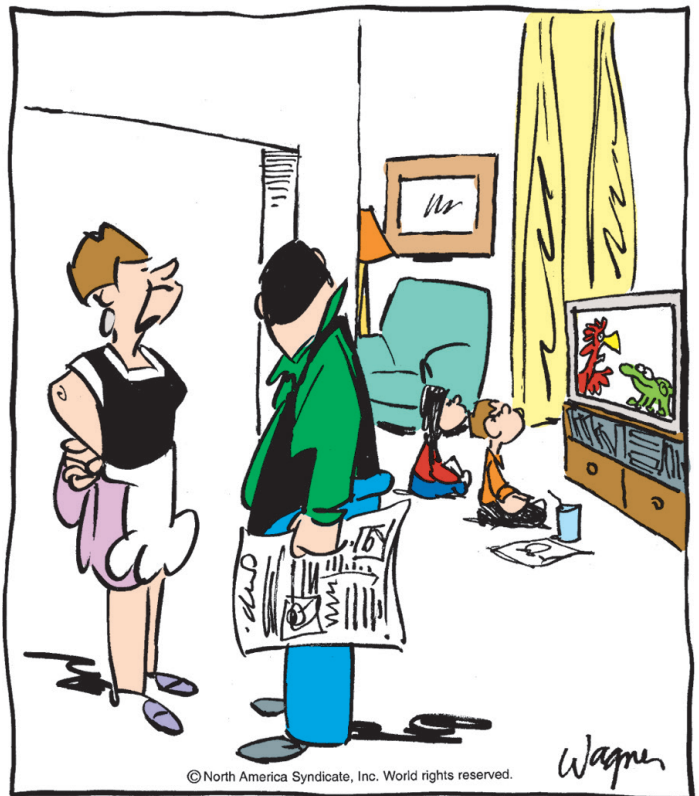
1. "M.T.A.," also known as "The MTA song." MTA is short for Metropolitan Transit Authority. Originally written as a campaign song in 1949 (Steiner/Hawes), the Trio's 1959 version

was released on their "At Large" album.

2. Player, in 1977. The song shot to the top of the chart and stayed there for three weeks.
3. Crystal Gayle, in 1977. Gayle won a Grammy for Best Female Country Vocal Performance. The song has been covered by artists around the globe, in several languages, including French, Cantonese, Czech and German.
4. Fleetwood Mac, in 1969.
5. "Leaving On a Jet Plane," by John Denver, in 1966. Singer-songwriter Denver did a limited release of the song, calling it "Babe I Hate to Go." The title was changed a year later. Peter, Paul and Mary followed with a cover in 1969.

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## GRIN *and* BEAR IT <sup>Wagner</sup>



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Wagner

"I've seen this. ... The frog did it."

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

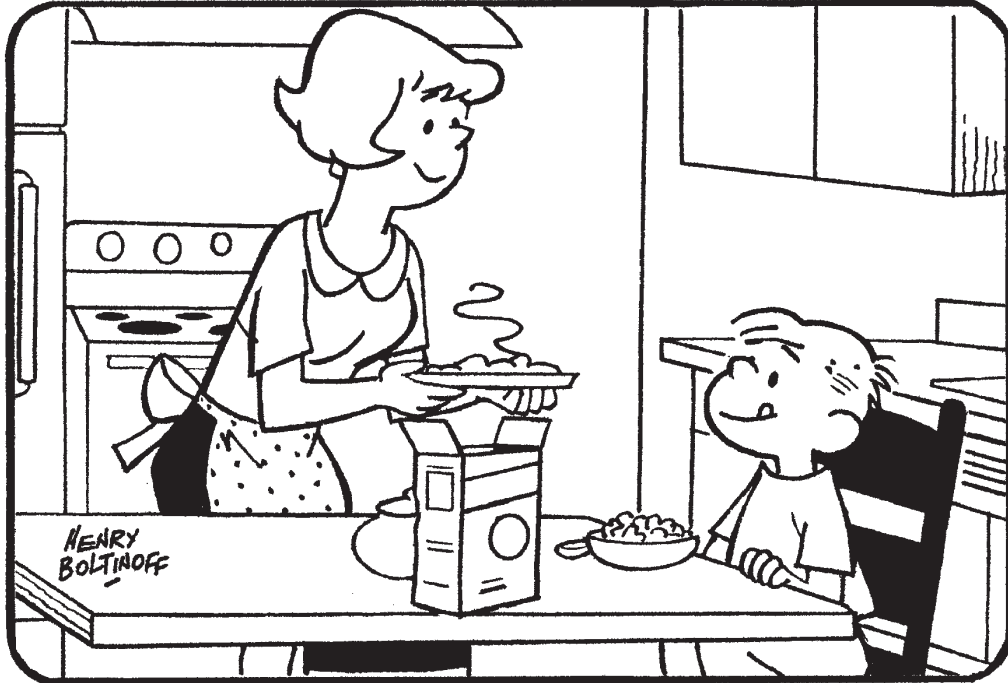


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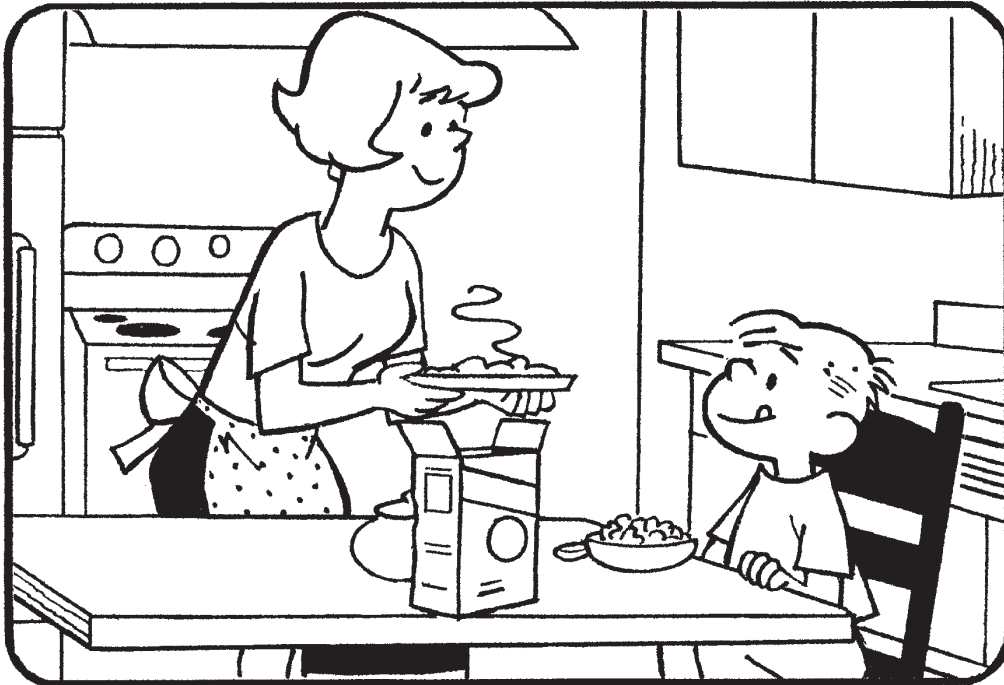
Phipps

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



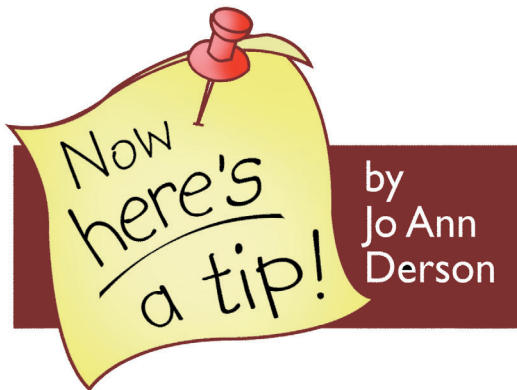
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Back of chair is different. 2. Box is different. 3. Collar is missing. 4. Burner is missing. 5. Refrigerator handle is lower. 6. Stove hood is wider.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 18 of 79



\* This tip will change your life when peeling eggs: After you have hard-boiled your eggs, drain them and leave them in the pot. Put the lid on the pot and shake. Shake in all directions for up to a minute. The eggs practically slip right out of their shells. Just rinse and prep.

\* "I feed my kitty cat outside on the back porch, but she eats a little at a time, and whenever she took a break, the ants would be all over her food. Now I serve my little princess in a teacup and saucer I found at a thrift store. I put the food in the cup and then put a little water in the saucer. The teacup sits in the water on the saucer. The ants won't get the food ever, because they can't cross the water to get to it. Kitty is very happy now that she can take her time." -- O.W. in Arkansas

\* "To distinguish your keys, especially house keys that have similar stamps, simply paint the key head with different colors of nail polish. You could even add a very subtle dot of the matching polish on the key lock. Reapply as needed." -- S.L. in Oregon

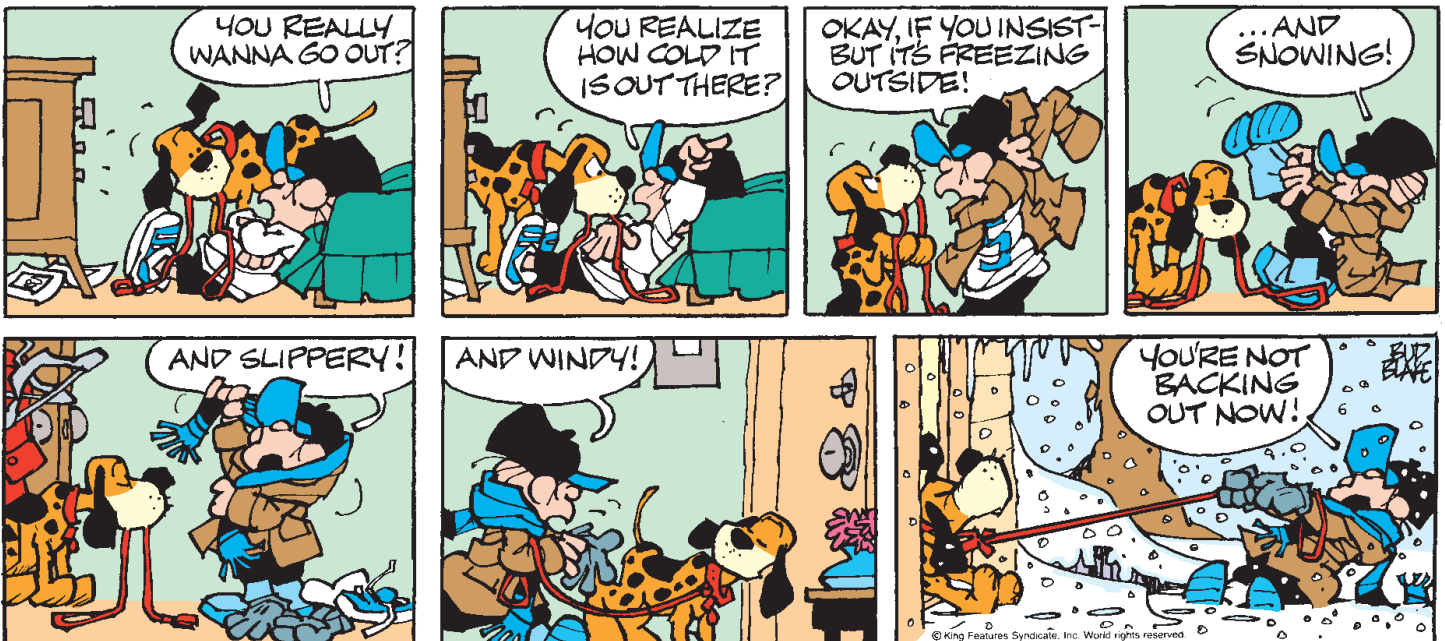
\* Use a flat iron to iron your collar if it's ruffled. This also works to straighten out button holes that have crimped.

\* "To mark the end on a roll of tape, save your bread tabs. Stick it on the end and it will be ready and easy to start the next time you need tape. If it's a thick tape, you can use two clips -- one at either side of the tape. This way, it won't split on you." -- M.E. in Maryland

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 1800 Pembroke Dr., Suite 300, Orlando, FL 32810.  
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## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 19 of 79

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Nile biter
- 4 Chat
- 8 Job for Holmes
- 12 One of the five W's
- 13 "East of Eden" son
- 14 Makes a choice
- 15 Snaky fish
- 16 Fruit salad ring
- 18 — Lama
- 20 Humorist
- 21 — Raton
- 24 Settle a debt
- 28 Holiday wreath adornment
- 32 Ms. McEntire
- 33 "I love," to Livy
- 34 Passion
- 36 "The One I Love" band
- 37 Attempt
- 39 Pesto ingredients
- 41 Bar mixer
- 43 Salinger girl
- 44 Sticky stuff
- 46 Tuscany setting
- 50 Forest-inspired color
- 55 Uncle, to Pedro
- 56 Romanov ruler

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16				17				
18			19				20					
			21		22	23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31		32			
33				34				35		36		
37			38		39				40			
41				42		43						
			44		45			46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54			55		
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

- 31 Billions of years
- 35 Prompts
- 38 Detroit team
- 40 Mosquito barrier
- 42 Gearwheel tooth
- 45 Spheres
- 47 Slightly
- 48 Ovid's 53
- 49 Luke's teacher
- 50 School org.
- 51 MSN, for one
- 52 Rebel Turner
- 53 Vichy water
- 54 Stately tree
- 57 Hardly hirsute
- 58 Help
- 59 Rental units (Abbr.)
- 60 Totals
- 61 24 horas
- 9 Smartphone download
- 10 Cardinal cap letters
- 11 Jargon suffix
- 17 Tire filler
- 19 Jurist Fortas
- 22 Business abbr.
- 23 MacDowell of "Green Card"
- 25 Andean land
- 26 Help a hood
- 27 Thanksgiving veggies
- 28 Bygone days
- 29 Texter's "As I see it"
- 30 Lunch hour

### DOWN

- 1 Dumbstruck
- 2 — butter
- 3 Survey
- 4 Bubble tea ingredient
- 5 Shapiro of NPR
- 6 Horror star Chaney
- 7 Recognized
- 8 Whirlybird

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 20 of 79

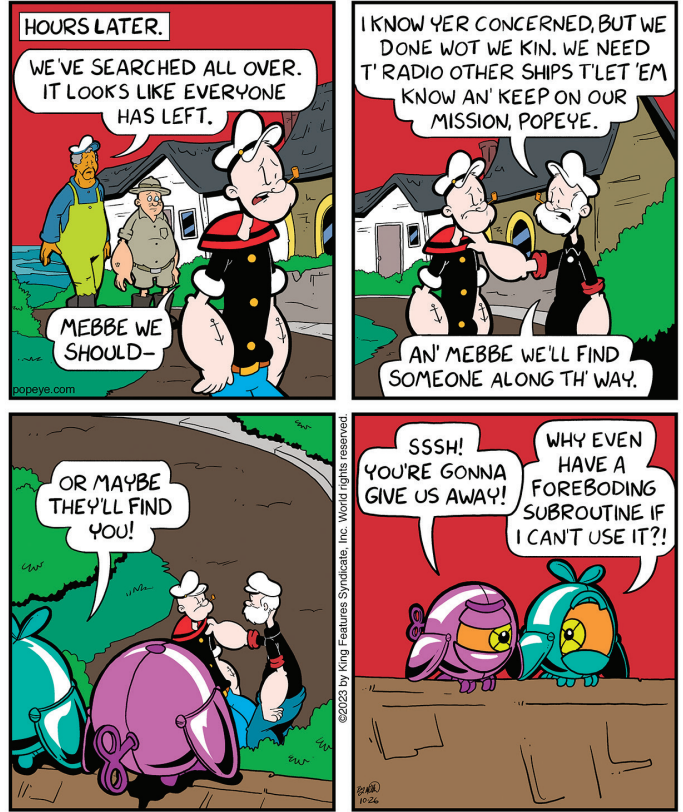
## King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

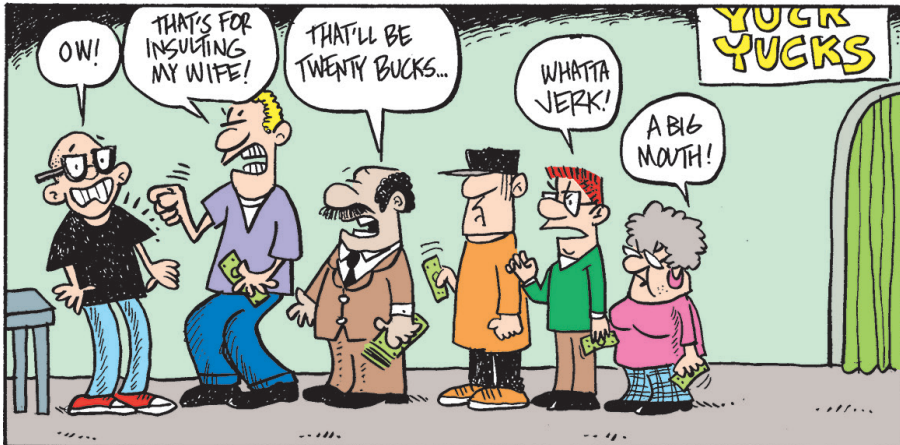
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W	H	O		A	R	O	N		O	P	T	S	
E	E	L		P	I	N	E	A	P	P	L	E	
D	A	L	A	I				W	I	T			
			B	O	C	A			R	E	P	A	Y
P	I	N	E	C	O	N	E		R	E	B	A	
A	M	O		A	R	D	O	R		R	E	M	
S	H	O	T		P	I	N	E	N	U	T	S	
T	O	N	I	C		E	S	M	E				
			G	O	O				I	T	A	L	Y
P	I	N	E	G	R	E	E	N		T	I	O	
T	S	A	R		B	A	L	D		A	I	D	
A	P	T	S		S	U	M	S		D	I	A	

## Olive



## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

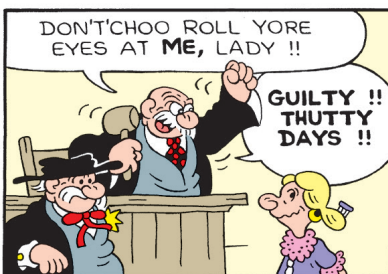
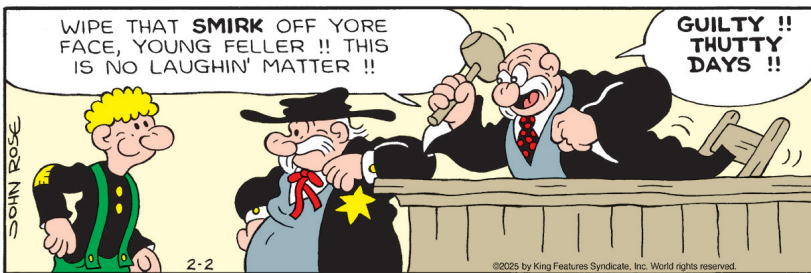
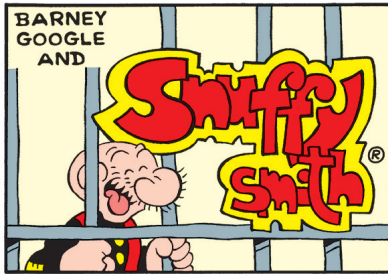
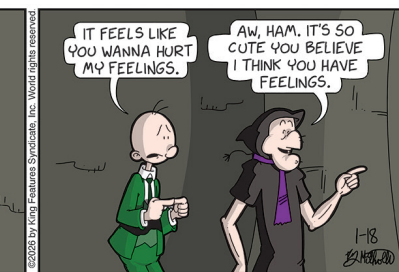
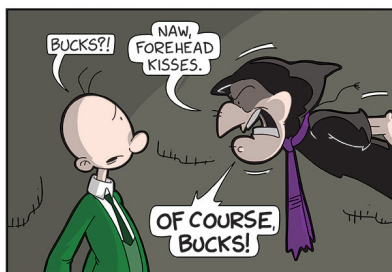
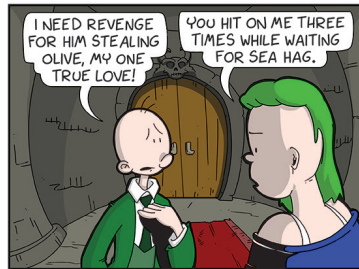
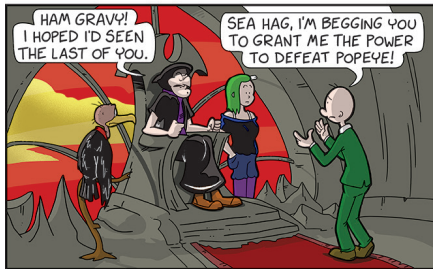
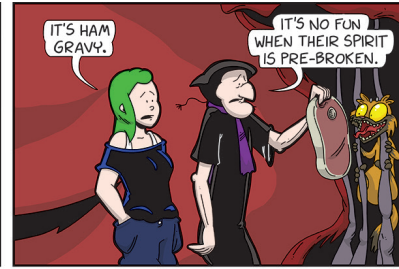


ANOTHER SHOW,  
ANOTHER PUNCHLINE FOR  
MARTY JACKLIN,  
INSULT COMIC

KOPERVAS

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 21 of 79



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 22 of 79

HAL FOSTER'S **Prince Valiant** BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

ALETA HAD SOUGHT TO AVOID THE DANGEROUS SEA CAVERNS UNTIL MORNING, BUT DESPERATE SITUATIONS CALL FOR DESPERATE MEASURES.

SHE WORKS UPON THE PIRATES' GREED: "THE TREASURES COME FROM THESE CAVES- IF YOU WILL SPARE US, I SHALL SHOW YOU THE SECRET PLACE." SHE HAS NO PLAN BEYOND THE HOPE OF CATCHING THEM OFF GUARD.



HIGH ABOVE, THANAA TELLS GUNDAR- WHOM SHE BELIEVES TO BE THE GOD VULCAN- OF ALETA'S PREDICAMENT. GUNDAR ORDERS HER TO LEAD THEM DOWN THE CAVERNS, HOPING SOMEHOW TO INTERCEPT THE PRISONERS.

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AFTER SOME TIME, THANAA HISSES: "LISTEN, MY LORD! THEY ARE CLOSE! CONCEAL YOURSELF AND WAIT." GUNDAR AND HIS MEN FLATTEN AGAINST AN OVERHANGING LEDGE. GUNDAR TURNS TO QUESTION THANAA, BUT SHE HAS DISAPPEARED!

BELOW THEM, ALETA AND HER PARTY STOP DEAD IN THEIR TRACKS, AS A WEIRD WAILING ARISES FROM THE DARK SPACE ABOVE...

YEATES 4060 11/30/14



... AND THANAA REVEALS HERSELF!

"WOE TO YOU DEVILS WHO TRADE IN HUMAN FLESH! YOU ARE DOOMED!"

NEXT: **Fury**

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

OUR CAT LOVES PRECIPITATION

IT DOES??

YES, WHEN IT RAINS IT PURRS!!

PICKERING

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# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 23 of 79

## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Reading and writing for relaxation

If ever there was a time to turn off the television -- especially during the evening news hour -- this is it. Between the stress and anxiety of current events that we can do nothing about and the shocking mistakes we see being made (not to mention the resulting disrupted sleep and rising blood pressure), we can easily just press the off button on the remote.

But what shall we do with our free time, once we have silenced the noise? We can read ...

"Homework for Grown-Ups: Everything You Learned at School and Promptly Forgot," by Elizabeth Foley and Beth Coates, is a trip down memory lane of all the facts and tidbits you used to know. The topics are covered in bite-size sections and include English language and literature, math, home economics, history, science and much more. Still wonder if you should use "that" or "which" in a sentence? Or you don't remember the answer when your grandchild asks, "What's the difference between a parallelogram and a rhombus?" Or if you need a refresher about rock, paper, scissors, the book will remind you. At the end of each section is a quiz with answers in the back of the book. If you read a few pages every day, you'll find it addicting!

And we can write ...

When is the last time you wrote someone a letter? Not an email, not a text message, not a letter typed on the computer and printed out, but a handwritten letter on nice stationery with a matching envelope. And yes, they still make such things, sold in sets. While you're shopping for stationery, consider buying a journal. If you make a habit of writing, without a daily dose of bad news, you'll likely find yourself much more relaxed -- and happy!

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# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 24 of 79

1. Which World Golf Hall of Famer became the first female to shoot lower than 300 in a 72-hole tournament when she won the 1947 U.S. Women's Open with a 295 score?

2. The San Diego Sockers, New York Arrows and Baltimore Blast were among the most successful teams in what arena soccer league that played from 1978 to 1992?

3. Which U.S. state's legislature passed Act 130, commonly called the 1936 Sunday Sports Law, which permitted professional sports to be played on Sundays?

4. He was selected by the San Francisco 49ers with the final pick of the 2022 NFL Draft. His young brother played college football for Florida State, Nebraska and Nevada. Who are they?

5. Name the pitcher who won the National League Cy Young Award with the Philadelphia Phillies in 1987 and won a World Series title with the Minnesota Twins in 1991.

6. The Women's Basketball Hall of Fame opened in 1999 in which U.S. city?

7. Which two college football teams have played for the Land of Lincoln Trophy (a bronze stovepipe hat) since 2009?



by Ryan A. Berenz

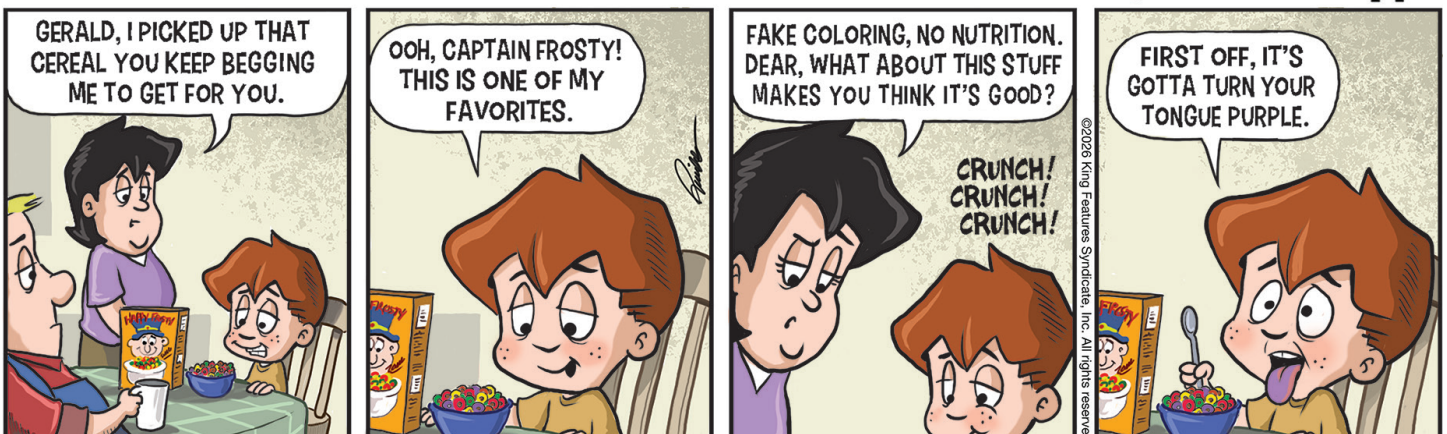
## Answers

1. Betty Jameson.
2. Major Indoor Soccer League (MISL).
3. Pennsylvania.
4. Brock and Chubba Purdy.
5. Steve Bedrosian.
6. Knoxville, Tennessee.
7. The Illinois Fighting Illini and the Northwestern Wildcats.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





## Frosty temps result in cold paws

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My cat "Fiero" is a robust outdoor cat who loves being outside all day and comes in at night. Recently, he came in limping a bit. I couldn't see any damage to his paws, but the pads felt really cold and he didn't like me touching them. Can cats' paws freeze in the cold? -- Fred S., Madison, Wisconsin

DEAR FRED: Yes, cats absolutely can be injured in cold weather. While they are more inclined to find a warm and cozy spot, away from ice and snow, cats are still at risk of frostbitten paw pads, cuts from jagged ice or salt, hypothermia and possible poisoning from licking ice melt off of their paws.

I suspect that Fiero's paw pads are frostbitten, and he may have gotten slightly hypothermic as well, especially if it was bitterly cold outside. Contact the veterinarian for guidance so that he recovers quickly from the injury.

While Fiero is happiest outside, you can create a space for him inside to watch birds and wildlife outdoors. Set up a window shelf that he can relax on while looking out of the window. Another option is to stream a "cat TV" channel. These increasingly popular live streams -- found mostly on YouTube -- are designed to draw cats' attention to twittering birds and curious squirrels on the screen.

Additionally, give him an outlet for his excess energy. Place scratch pads throughout the house so he can sharpen his claws without destroying the furniture. Try different cat toys to get him to chase and play.

For less-bitter-cold days outside, set up a covered shelter in a sunny spot next to your house for Fiero to rest in. This can reduce the risk of a cold injury.

Send your tips, comments or questions to [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto:ask@pawscorner.com).

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# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 26 of 79

## Strange BUT TRUE

\* The living room set of “The Addams Family” TV series was actually pink.

\* About 1,350 potentially active volcanoes presently exist on Earth, with the majority of them found along a 25,000-mile-long, horseshoe-shaped ribbon bordering the Pacific Ocean that’s commonly known as the “Ring of Fire.”

\* Chopsticks in Asia are about 2,000 years older than forks in Europe.

\* The color red appears in nearly every shot of Stanley

Kubrick’s 1980 horror classic “The Shining.”

\* Michelangelo only signed one piece of art, the “Madonna della Pietà,” and that was supposedly because he overheard his work credited to a rival and sneaked back to include his name on the sash across the Virgin Mary’s chest.

\* Philadelphia cream cheese doesn’t hail from Philadelphia. It originated in New York.

\* People spend roughly 10% of their waking hours with their eyes closed. That’s OK, we know you’re just thinking.

\* No American president has been an only child.

\* In 1954, the mayor of the wine-growing town Chateaufeuf-du-Pape in France issued a memorable decree that banned the “flying over, landing or taking off of flying saucers.” It’s unclear whether anyone ever considered how such an event should be handled should it defiantly occur.

\* Shaquille O’Neal missed 5,317 free throws over the course of his career.

\* Only three music companies are responsible for more than 80% of the music we listen to: Sony BMG, Warner Music Group and Universal Music Group.

\* Spiders, like humans, can have arachnophobia. Small wonder, since certain species regularly eat each other: for food, after mating and for other reasons scientists don’t yet fully understand.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: “You can make positive deposits in your own economy every day by reading and listening to powerful, positive, life-changing content and by associating with encouraging and hope-building people.” -- Zig Ziglar

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**The Garden Bug**

### Top gardening apps

Apps for planning:	Apps for plant care:
• Planter	• Planta
• iScape	• From Seed to Spoon
• Gardenize	• Garden Manager
• Gardroid	• Moon and Garden

– Brenda Weaver  
Source: [gardentherapy.ca](http://gardentherapy.ca)



by Freddy Groves

## Incomplete training for audiologists

You wouldn't think you would need to wonder about a risk of suicide related to the audiology department of a clinic or the kind of work they do there or in having a hearing checkup. But you'd be wrong.

Tinnitus (ringing, buzzing, clicking or other sounds in the ears) is the number one service-connected disability, and those who have it often also have PTSD, behavior disorders, substance abuse, mental health problems and anxiety. It seems that looking for those concerns when there is a diagnosis of tinnitus would be standard care when being seen by an audiologist.

Again, you'd be wrong.

What doesn't always happen is training of audiology staff in suicide risk identification and intervention.

Clinical staff are trained to do a yearly suicide risk screening on patients. However, audiologists are not always recognized as clinical staff. Therefore, audiologists are only partially trained -- they only receive Signs, Ask, Validate, Encourage and Expedite training. Clinical staff, on the other hand, receive the full Skills Training for Evaluation and Management of Suicide and need to complete it within 90 days of starting their job.

What the VA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) found in 132 facilities was that nonclinical staff got the training, but most clinical staff did not.

Are audiologists considered health care providers, or not? That question was batted back and forth, with policymakers seeming unsure. And it left the OIG with a concern: If audiologists are not considered health care providers, are they or are they not getting the correct suicide risk training? And are they actually doing the suicide screenings?

The OIG investigation results from two years indicate that no, they're not doing all the screenings. For those two years, only 22 and 39% of screenings were done. And at 15 facilities, no screenings were done at all.

For 29,000 VA patients who only get audiology care, that means nobody was doing any suicide risk assessments on them for those two years.

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# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 28 of 79

## Wishing Well®

4	2	7	6	3	4	5	3	2	3	8	6	4
B	F	F	V	F	I	B	U	R	N	E	I	G
7	5	3	2	6	3	2	3	4	8	4	7	6
E	E	T	E	C	I	E	M	G	X	E	E	T
4	7	6	7	8	4	7	6	7	4	3	2	8
R	L	O	I	E	P	N	R	G	A	E	C	R
6	2	7	6	7	6	4	3	6	7	4	8	3
Y	H	S	I	A	S	Y	S	A	R	C	T	A
4	2	6	8	7	5	2	6	8	6	7	5	3
H	O	C	I	E	C	I	H	D	I	H	O	H
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4	5	8	6	5	6	5	6	2	5	2	5	5
K	G	S	V	E	E	N	D	E	I	S	A	L

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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- HISTORY:** When did the Easter Rising insurrection take place in Ireland?
- GEOGRAPHY:** What is the capital of India?
- MEDICAL TERMS:** What is a common name for lateral epicondylitis?
- MOVIES:** The "Back to the Future II" characters travel forward in time to which year?
- LITERATURE:** What color is the badge of courage in Stephen Crane's novel about the Civil War?
- GAMES:** How many points is the center red bullseye on a dartboard worth?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What is a group of floating otters called?
- AD SLOGANS:** Which car company used the slogan "Drive your dreams"?
- TELEVISION:** What is husband Darrin's profession in the "Bewitched" sitcom?
- SCIENCE:** What part of the brain controls hunger?

### Answers

- 1916.
- New Delhi.
- Tennis elbow.
- 2015.
- Red.
- 50.
- A raft.
- Toyota.
- Advertising executive.
- Hypothalamus.

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South Dakota Governor



## Larry Rhoden



**South Dakota:** *Under God, the People Rule*

### The Right to Worship

South Dakota is the freest state in America – a nation that was founded on the principle of freedom. Freedom is the bedrock of our communities, our businesses, and our churches. And when freedom comes under assault, South Dakota stands up to defend it.

More than 400 years ago, the Pilgrims crossed the ocean seeking one thing: the freedom to worship God without fear. Our Founding Fathers later enshrined that same freedom in our First Amendment. Our Constitution recognizes that if religious liberty falls, every other liberty eventually falls with it.

In recent days, religious freedom came under assault just a few hundred miles from here in the Twin Cities. That should trouble every single American – it certainly troubled me. So I quickly worked with legislative leadership to announce a plan to fix it.

We introduced Senate Bill 113, which is very straightforward. It safeguards every South Dakotan's right to worship freely. If someone decides to target a house of worship, there will be real consequences. It is already a misdemeanor to disrupt religious worship in South Dakota. With this bill, we'll make it a felony.

We will continue to be a state that doesn't just talk about freedom – we take action when freedom is threatened.

I was joined for the announcement by legislative leadership and evangelist Will Graham. Will Graham has dedicated his life to sharing the Gospel and supporting communities of faith across the nation, and he understands first-hand why we need this legislation.

Will Graham was in town to join us for the Governor's Prayer Breakfast, and it was fitting for us to make this announcement on the same day. There is nothing more humbling and heartwarming than hearing, "Governor, I'm praying for you," words that I have heard from Will Graham many times.

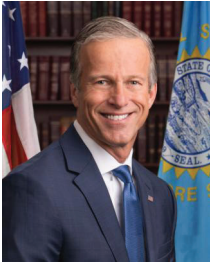
It is a privilege and an honor to serve in public service. America was founded on the revolutionary belief that our rights come from God – not from government. He endowed us with unalienable rights – which include life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. And He instituted government among us to secure those rights.

As God's Word declares in Romans 13:1, "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God."

As public servants, we should pray for wisdom to govern with integrity, humility, and respect for God's will. We should pray for discernment to protect the vulnerable, foster prosperity, and defend freedom. We should pray for God to empower us to serve as stewards of His creation.

And we should always remember that true authority derives from God, not human ambition.

So may God guide our leaders. May we as public servants always honor God's will. And may we always stand up for the Freedom of Religion – for South Dakotans and all Americans.



**JOHN THUNE**  
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

## Border Security Is a Promise Kept

It's difficult to overstate how dramatically the situation at the southern border has improved over the past year. In December, there were 10,000 total encounters at the southern border. Compare that to 96,000 encounters the previous December under President Biden, or more than 300,000 in December 2023. After years of crisis, the border is finally secure.

I was recently at the southern border to see for myself the progress that's been made in just one year under President Trump. What I saw could not be more different from my two visits during the Biden administration. In early 2021, I visited a facility that was already operating at 16 times its allotted capacity soon after President Biden took office. And when I returned in 2023, I heard from Border Patrol agents who had been dealing with a border crisis for two years and were in desperate need of resources and support from the Biden administration – support that never came.

The situation at the southern border today is a complete turnaround from the Biden-era crisis. Border Patrol agents I spoke to on my recent trip told me that the flood of illegal immigrants has slowed to a trickle. Law enforcement officers are being supported in their work and allowed to do the job they were hired to do to protect our border. And the data speaks for itself. Order has been restored, the crisis is behind us, and our country is much safer for it.

I'm grateful to President Trump and his administration for wasting no time securing our border, and I'm proud of the work Republicans have done in Congress to ensure that we sustain that progress in the years to come. Last year, Republicans made a generational investment in border security. We funded completion of the border wall, new technology and surveillance equipment, and expanded detention capacity. We also supported hiring additional Border Patrol agents and expanded partnerships with local law enforcement to enforce immigration law. These resources help law enforcement do its job, keep the border secure, and deter illegal immigration.

During my recent visit, border agents repeatedly emphasized that they are already seeing positive impacts from these investments, particularly with additional personnel and counter-drone technology. Thanks to new technology, Border Patrol can take over or destroy drones operated by cartels at the border, limiting the cartels' surveillance abilities and capacity to transport dangerous items into our country. And that's just one example of how Republicans' landmark legislation is strengthening border security and making America safer.

I believe that we are a nation of immigrants, but we are also a nation of laws, and those laws need to be enforced. President Trump has restored law and order at America's borders, and I'm proud that congressional Republicans have provided the resources necessary to sustain these important efforts. A safer America starts at our borders, and Republicans will continue to make border security a priority.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 31 of 79



Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

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## It's Not A Mess, It's My Creative Décor

The greatest joy I have every morning is not only getting up but also stepping in my office. I step inside, pause for a moment, and look around at all the books on my shelves. I have almost 10,000 books. And yes, I read every one of them. Well, except for commentaries and dictionaries.

I love looking through all my books, and most of them, I know where I got them. Every once in a while, I'll take one down and spend some time reading it. What would I do without my books?

If you saw my desk, you would not be able to find it. My desk is such a mess of papers and folders, my laptop, and other things. But I love every bit of it.

When I retired, I had to have a room built at the back of our house for my office. I think it was one of the best things I've ever done. Walking into that office is a wonderful experience for me.

Some days, I look at all of the books that I have written and remember working on that manuscript. I have over 30 books at the present time.

Every once in a while, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will come into my office while I'm working. She will step in, pause, look all around my office and then say, "What a mess you have."

I will look up to her with a big smile on my face and reply, "Where do you see any mess?"

With sort of a grunt in her voice, she says, "Just look all around this office. It's a mess everywhere. I don't know how you can work in this environment?"

"It's not a mess," I respond to her, "it is my creative décor."

I'm sure she's never heard that phrase before, especially coming out of my mouth.

Several times, I walked into her Craft Room and noticed how pristine it is. When I walk in, I get a bit dizzy, and I'm not sure how to get out. Such organization is not my cup of tea.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is known for her organizing skills. If you want something organized, call her.

I caught her once in my office trying to organize some things. I had to gently calm her down and walk her out of my office and set her in her chair.

My philosophy is, if you can't find something, you don't need it. And if you need something, you'll find it.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 32 of 79**

I can tell how many times I couldn't find what I wanted at that time. I have learned to stop looking for it and get back to work. When I do that, all of a sudden, I find what I need. I'm not sure how that works, but in my office, it works.

Unlike The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, I do not have to have everything organized. And the word "messy" is not part of my vocabulary.

Often, I will ask The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, "What do you mean by messy?"

Oh, she will go on a long tirade explaining to me what she considers messy. I listen, but I do not comprehend what she's saying. Messy is a part of me.

Not too long ago, while she was in her Craft Room, I peeked in and said, "Would you like me to organize your Craft Room?"

She stared at me for a moment and then said, "I think I'm quite all right here. There is nothing here that you can do to organize this room. Just go to your messy office and get back to work."

I chuckled all the way down the hall towards my office. What would her room look like if I organized it? I'm pretty sure she would not be able to find anything she needed for any of her crafts.

Whereas in my "messy office," I can find anything I want. If I can't find it, I don't need it. And if I don't need it, I'm not going to worry about it. Life can bring you a lot of lemons, but I would rather have ice tea.

Sometimes, as I walk around in my office looking at my library, I see a book I haven't seen for a long time. With great delight, I go to my chair and begin reading it.

All the books in my office have created a beautiful display that I enjoy every day. Since my retirement, I can go in and out of my office as I please.

Recently, both The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I had the flu. All week I wore my pajamas when I went into my office. I could go in and out as I pleased, dressed as I pleased.

As I was sitting in my office, thinking about this, I was reminded of a verse of scripture that addressed it. The Apostle Paul said, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

According to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, my office may be a mess. That's not the important issue. The thing that must be organized is my service to the Lord. That is the only thing that is crucial in my everyday life.

## EARTHTALK

### NYC Leading The World Away From Fossil Fuels by Dora Zhao

Dear EarthTalk: Is New York City the first big U.S. city to mandate that all new buildings avoid fossil fuels and only offer electricity hookups? Will others likely follow suit? - J.L., via email

Whether the Big Apple is truly the “greatest city in the world” may be debated, but one fact is clear: New York City is officially the first large U.S. city to adopt a comprehensive, city-wide mandate requiring most new construction to avoid fossil fuels and rely entirely on electric systems—and its policy is likely to influence other cities and states. “I’m excited that we are finally tackling, statewide, our largest source of fossil-fuel emissions,” said state Assembly member Emily Gallagher, who sponsored the 2023 legislation. This new policy places the city at the forefront of green infrastructure policy and is also shaping conversations nationwide.

Buildings are the main focus of this mandate for a clear reason: New York’s residential and commercial buildings produce as much as 32 percent of statewide greenhouse-gas emissions, making them a critical source of climate pollution. The effects of climate change are already seen in New York’s climate and infrastructure in recent heat waves, rising sea levels and storm damage. Lawmakers argue that electrifying buildings is essential not only for reducing emissions but also for improving air quality and public health.

Under New York’s all-electric buildings law, most new construction will be prohibited from installing fossil-fuel equipment as the policy phases in between 2026 and 2029. Beginning in 2026, most new buildings up to seven stories must be all-electric. By 2029, the requirement expands to larger buildings as well. However, exemptions still exist for facilities such as hospitals, commercial kitchens and highly specific industrial uses. New York City’s action builds on Local Law 154, aligning the city with a broader statewide push towards electrification.

Although smaller cities and municipalities have previously experimented with gas restrictions, New York is the first large U.S. city to adopt such a broad, citywide all-electric requirement. For example, Berkeley, California, became the first city in the nation to ban natural gas in most new buildings in 2019, but it is far smaller in scope compared to New York. In contrast, New York’s mandate applies citywide, and New York State has also adopted a similar statewide standard, highlighting its leadership.

It is likely that other cities and states will consider similar mandates in the coming years. Supporters point to long-term climate benefits, reduced indoor air pollution and alignment with clean-energy goals. Even in smaller towns like Crested Butte, Colorado, local officials have shown strong support for these types of policies. A member of the town council argued, “It’s an investment in the future. Going forward people will see this as the way to cleaner living.”



**New York City has banned fossil fuels in new construction buildings and hopes the rest of the world will follow in its pioneering footsteps.** Credit:

Pexels.com.

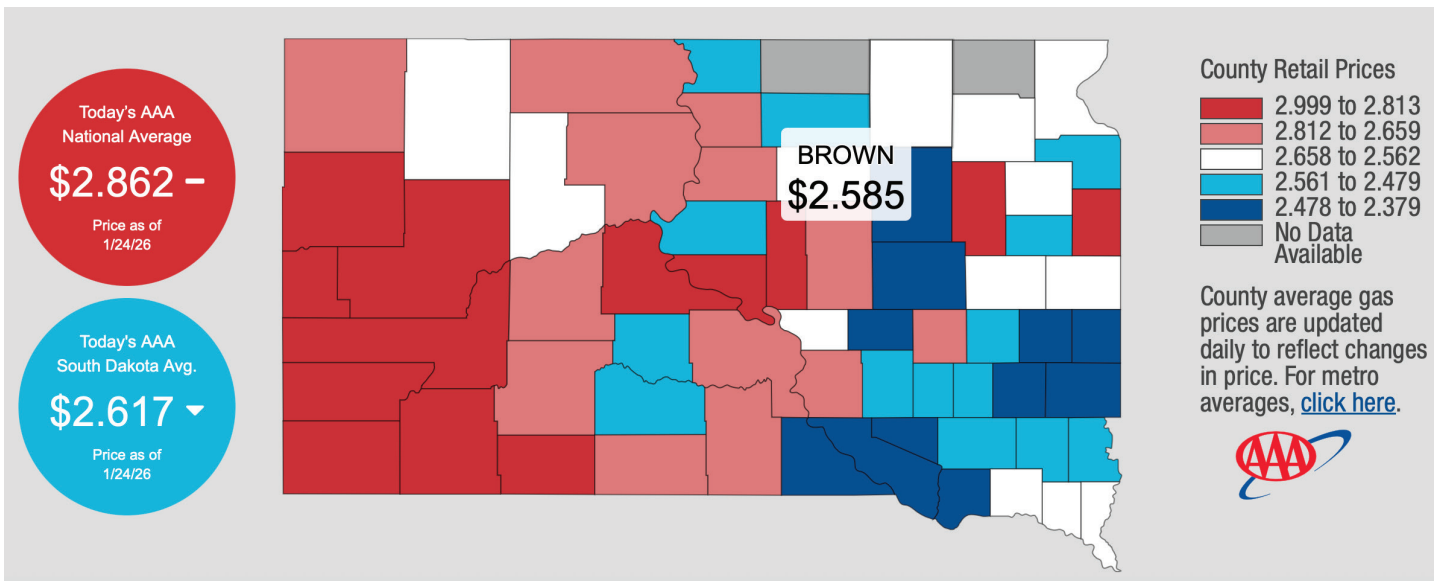
# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 34 of 79

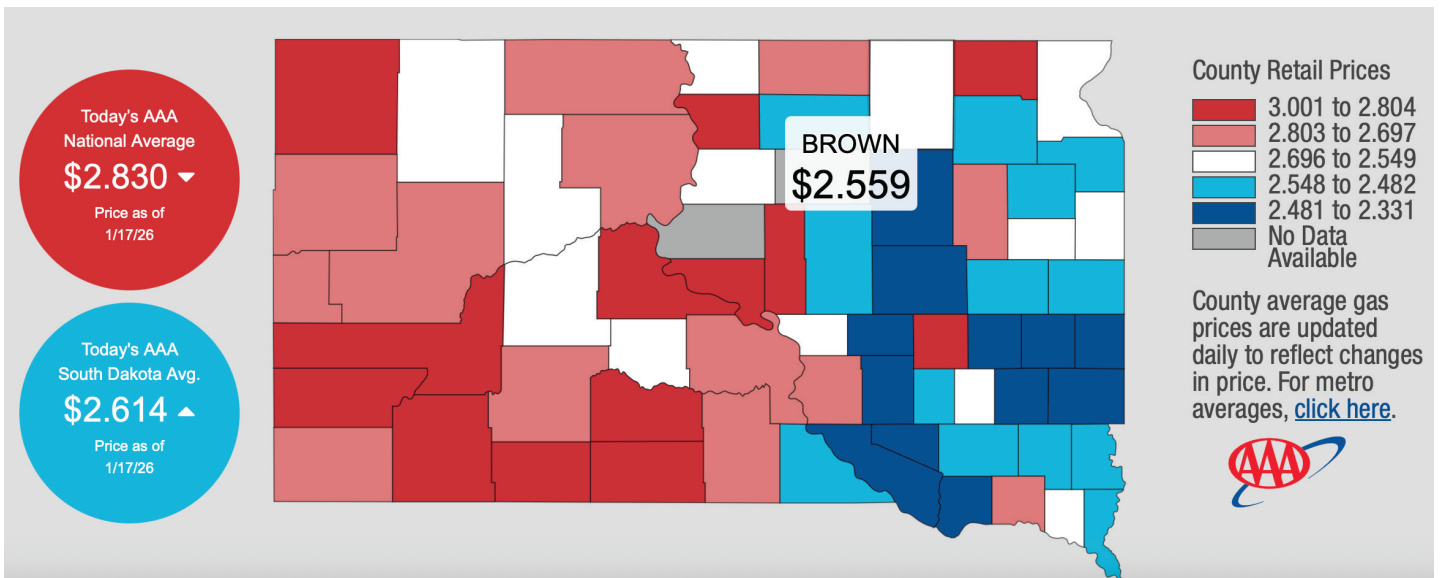
## South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$2.617	\$2.788	\$3.260	\$3.378
Yesterday Avg.	\$2.624	\$2.801	\$3.282	\$3.342
Week Ago Avg.	\$2.614	\$2.777	\$3.268	\$3.193
Month Ago Avg.	\$2.619	\$2.781	\$3.256	\$3.321
Year Ago Avg.	\$2.912	\$3.131	\$3.554	\$3.443

### This Week



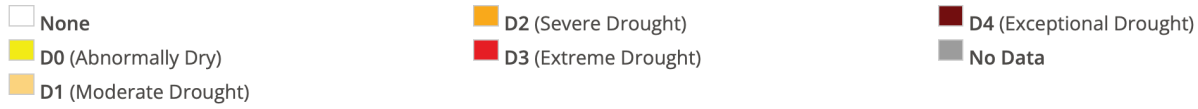
### Last Week



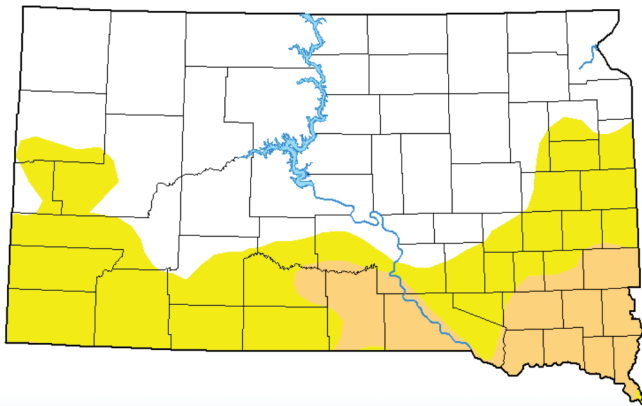
# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 35 of 79

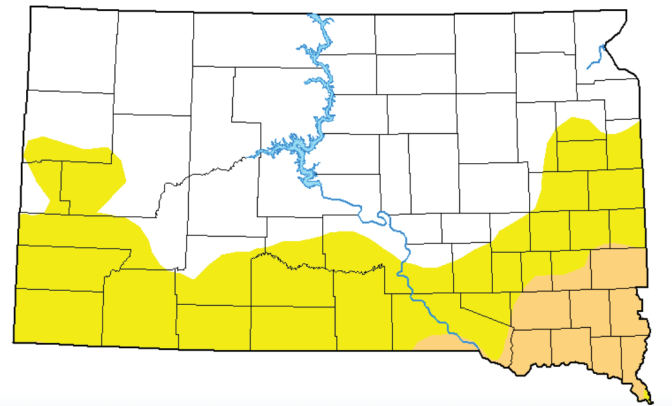
## Drought Classification



## Drought Monitor



Jan. 20



Jan. 13

Patchy expansion of dryness and drought was noted, mainly across Nebraska, Wyoming, and southern South Dakota. Due to periods of warm, windy weather, Nebraska reported that statewide topsoil moisture was rated 68% very short to short in early January, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Similarly, Wyoming's topsoil moisture was rated 55% very short to short.



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### Federal agent shoots and kills man in Minneapolis, rousing more demonstrations

**BY: MADISON MCVAN AND MICHELLE GRIFFITH**

A federal agent fatally shot a man in Minneapolis on Saturday amid the Trump administration's immigration crackdown, escalating tensions after another killing earlier in the month.

It was the third shooting by immigration officers in the city in three weeks – and the second to end in death. Democratic local and state officials immediately condemned Saturday's shooting as protests ramped up, and Republican President Donald Trump threatened again to send military troops to Minnesota.

Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara said federal agents killed a 37-year-old man whom officials believe is a U.S. citizen who lives in Minneapolis. Video of the shooting was captured by observers and posted to social media.

The man who was killed has been identified as Alex Jeffrey Pretti in a statement from Sen. Zaynab Mohamed, DFL-Minneapolis, and by the Star Tribune and The Associated Press.

O'Hara said he had no information about what led up to the shooting but said the man, whom he did not name, was a lawful gun owner with a permit to carry. O'Hara says police have not interacted with the deceased other than a few traffic tickets.

#### Protesters line streets

Hundreds of protesters gathered near where the shooting happened, despite subzero temperatures. Many wore gas masks and eye protection — common in the Twin Cities, where demonstrations started when immigration officers arrived in December.

Federal agents deployed tear gas and flash bangs to push back the crowds, which lined up at several intersections near the site of the shooting shouting, "Shame!" and "ICE out, f\*ck ICE!"

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey again urged the federal government to end its two-month immigration siege, which has brought 3,000 federal officers to Minnesota, or nearly five times the number of sworn Minneapolis police officers.

"How many times must local and national leaders plead with you, Donald Trump, to end this operation and recognize that this is not creating safety in our city?" Mayor Jacob Frey said.

Gov. Tim Walz said he'd spoken to the White House after the shooting, but he doesn't have confidence federal officials will change their actions or leave the state. He said the Department of Homeland Security has rushed to judgement and is already slandering the man who was killed.

"Minnesotans: You know who you are, and you demonstrate it every single day," Walz said. "And we damn sure know who these people are. The American public knows. This needs to be the event that says, 'enough.'"

Law enforcement blocked off the streets and deployed tear gas to dissuade angry demonstrators from going near the site of the shooting, which was around 26th Street West and Nicollet Avenue. Over 100 federal agents were on the scene after the shooting.

O'Hara urged demonstrators to go home. State Patrol and other state law enforcement were there also in an attempt to keep the peace.

#### Video captures shooting

In a graphic video now circulating on social media, six federal agents appear to wrestle the man to the

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 37 of 79

ground in front of the New American Development Center. One of the agents hits the man three times with what appears to be a firearm. Bystanders are surrounding the group and filming on their cell phones.

Over 10 shots can be heard in the video, but it's unclear if more than one agent fired a weapon.

The Department of Homeland Security said in a social media post that officers were conducting a targeted operation in Minneapolis against someone illegally in the U.S. "wanted for violent assault," when another person approached U.S. Border Patrol officers with a 9 mm handgun.

Video shows an agent in a gray jacket approach the man as he's being held on the ground by multiple other agents and then walk away with what appears to be a gun in his hand, before shots are fired.

"The officers attempted to disarm the suspect but the armed suspect violently resisted. More details on the armed struggle are forthcoming," Homeland Security said. "Fearing for his life and the lives and safety of fellow officers, an agent fired defensive shots. Medics on scene immediately delivered medical aid to the subject but was pronounced dead at the scene."

U.S. Border Patrol Commander Gregory Bovino said in a press conference that the officer who shot the man is "highly trained" and served as a Border Patrol agent for eight years. Bovino said the agent has "extensive training as a Range Safety Officer," to ensure people on a gun range are using it safely.

## **Conflict between state and federal law enforcement**

The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, which typically investigates law enforcement shootings, said in a social media post their agents arrived at the scene of Saturday's killing at the request of the Minneapolis Police Department but were blocked from accessing the location by the Department of Homeland Security.

BCA Superintendent Drew Evans said that after BCA officials were blocked from the scene of the shooting, they obtained a signed judicial warrant to gain access. BCA officials returned to the scene, but DHS agents still denied access.

The BCA began a joint investigation into the ICE officer shooting of Renee Good earlier this month before being abruptly shut out of the investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice, hindering local prosecutors from being able to consider if criminal charges are warranted against the officer.

Walz expressed disbelief that the federal agents were able to leave the scene with little to no investigation.

"You kill a man and then you just leave?" the governor said. "Is there a single case in American history where you just, like, walk away and say, 'I guess that just happened and we're not going to clean up our mess.'"

Walz said the federal agents involved in the shooting will be held accountable.

"Minnesota's justice system will have the last word," the governor said.

Trump posted a rambling response to the shooting on his social media platform referencing U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar's bank account and saying "what you're witnessing" is part of a cover up for Medicaid fraud.

"The Mayor and the Governor are inciting insurrection, with their pompous, dangerous and arrogant rhetoric," Trump wrote, reviving a threat to invoke the Insurrection Act and send military troops into the streets of Minnesota.

## **Accounts contradict Homeland Security**

Homeland Security statements about the previous shootings have later been found to be false or misleading. After the Jan. 7 killing of Good, the department referred to her as a "domestic terrorist."

A 911 call after a second shooting, of a Venezuelan man in north Minneapolis, suggests that the agent shot at the man as he was trying to escape into a house, which would contradict the Department of Homeland Security account that the federal immigration agent fired a shot defensively. In a sworn affidavit, an FBI agent confirmed that the agent shot the man when he had begun running toward the house, the Star Tribune reported.

As Reformer sibling publication Stateline recently reported, Homeland Security recently revised its account of a December shooting in Glen Burnie, Maryland, after local police contradicted its initial version.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 38 of 79

The agency first claimed both men injured in the incident were inside a van that ICE officers fired at in self-defense, but later said that one of the injured men had already been arrested and was in custody inside an ICE vehicle when he was hurt. The other man was shot twice and is facing two federal criminal charges.

In August, federal immigration agents fired at a family's vehicle three times in San Bernardino, California. Homeland Security maintained the shooting was justified after at least two agents were struck by the vehicle, but available footage shows an agent breaking the driver-side window moments before gunfire erupted. Surveillance footage from the street does not show agents being struck by the vehicle.

The Saturday shooting comes one day after tens of thousands of people protested ICE in downtown Minneapolis in subzero temperatures.

The Minnesota National Guard has been on active duty for over a week, meaning that they are prepared to rapidly respond if they are deployed. Hennepin County Sheriff Dawanna Witt on Saturday requested support from the National Guard to help them provide security at the federal Whipple Building — the site of ongoing protests. It's unclear how many guard members will be stationed there.

*Reformer Deputy Editor Max Nesterak and Reporter Alyssa Chen contributed to this report.*

*This story was originally produced by Minnesota Reformer, which is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network which includes South Dakota Searchlight, and is supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity.*

*Madison McVan is a Report for America corps member who covers economic mobility for Minnesota Reformer. She previously covered agriculture for Investigate Midwest after graduating from the University of Missouri in 2020 with degrees in Journalism and Latin American studies.*

*Michelle Griffith covers Minnesota politics and policy for the Reformer, with a focus on marginalized communities. Most recently she was a reporter with The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead in North Dakota where she covered state and local government and Indigenous issues.*

## Pretrial monitoring could reduce missed court appearances and improve outcomes, court officials say

**Some opponents concerned about adding workload to court staff**

**BY: JOHN HULT**

Judges in South Dakota routinely order people charged with alcohol or drug offenses to get chemical dependency evaluations or sign up for drug treatment programs as a condition of pretrial release from custody.

In practice, those orders have long functioned more like suggestions in most counties.

"Nobody follows up on that," South Dakota Supreme Court Chief Justice Steven Jensen told the Legislature's Joint Appropriations Committee on Friday at the Capitol in Pierre. "We don't have anybody doing that, because we're not doing pretrial probation."

That's about to change in South Dakota's second most populous county, Jensen told lawmakers earlier this year.

The chief justice told the committee that the pretrial supervision pilot program in Pennington County will use a \$385,000 grant from the MacArthur Foundation to build a base-level of supervision for people who've yet to be tried in court. Probation officers will follow up with people released on bond to notify them of upcoming court dates.

One piece of the Pennington County program is already in place in Minnehaha County, and has been since 2018.

In all counties outside of Minnehaha, Jensen said, judges set bond conditions without seeing a criminal or drug abuse history for the person asking for pretrial release.

Under the pilot program, Pennington County court staff will gather that information and share it with judges upfront, as staffers in Minnehaha County already do.

The Unified Judicial System isn't asking for any extra money from lawmakers this year for the pilot program, as Jensen said existing employees should be able to shoulder the workload. He also said, however, that the pilot program could point the way to a future expansion of pretrial services.

Jensen is asking lawmakers to take an action without a price tag, however. House Bill 1015 would authorize the state court system to offer probation-like services to people who've yet to be convicted. The House Judiciary Committee voted 10-3 on Wednesday to send that bill to the full House of Representatives.

Committee members commended court system officials for exploring ways to refine bond condition decisions and reduce problems with missed court appearances. Some members expressed concerns about ongoing funding when the grant money runs out.

One opponent, St. Onge Republican Rep. Mary Fitzgerald, said she couldn't support a bill that put more responsibilities on overworked court service officers.

"How in the world do you expect them to do this in Pennington County without hiring?" she said Wednesday.

Rep. John Hughes, R-Sioux Falls, said he understands concerns about ongoing funding, but that he supports the program. The issues created by a lack of pretrial services for people at risk of missing court or misbehaving are too serious to ignore, he argued.

"I'm of the mindset that doing something is mandatory, and doing something like this is way better than doing nothing," Hughes said.

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

## **COMMENTARY**

### **Complaining about governor's use of office for campaigning might backfire on opponents**

**by Dana Hess**

South Dakota Gov. Larry Rhoden has been getting some flak recently from his Republican primary election opponents for using his office to bolster his reelection campaign. It will be interesting to see, should any of them displace Rhoden, if they use the office any differently.

At the top of the opponent complaint list is the governor's penchant for roaming the state, handing out checks from the Future Fund. So far he has hit Aberdeen, Watertown and Brookings, offering payments to bolster economic development.

One of Rhoden's opponents, Aberdeen businessman Toby Doeden, questioned the timing of the \$1 million grant to Aberdeen's two new business parks. In a South Dakota Searchlight story, Doeden said Rhoden "uses taxpayer money the same way career politicians have been using taxpayer dollars for decades — largely for his own benefit."

It's easy to see Rhoden's largesse in Aberdeen as a political jab at the wealthy Doeden, as though the governor is saying "you're not the only one in this race with some money to throw around."

In the same story, Rhoden's other opponents also offered criticism of the timing of the Future Fund grants. U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson said it was concerning when award announcements turned into campaign rallies and state House Speaker Jon Hansen said that the Future Fund was funding Rhoden's political future. Rhoden countered by saying he was just doing his job.

Created in 1987 at the request of Gov. George Mickelson, the Future Fund was designed to allow a governor to respond with funding quickly for an economic development opportunity. Gov. Kristi Noem's use of the fund raised some eyebrows. She used it to pay for a series of commercials starring herself, a shooting range lawmakers had refused to pay for, a fireworks show and a rodeo. Basically, she used the Future Fund to pay for items that were too expensive for her to put on her state credit card.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 40 of 79

Part of the Noem legacy that Rhoden is left to deal with is Senate Bill 1, a measure that would take some control of the Future Fund away from the governor and give it to the Board of Economic Development. As much as his opponents don't like the timing of Rhoden's Future Fund awards, they may be secretly rooting for SB 1 to fail, ensuring their own ability to make grants and influence people. A vote on the bill ended in a tie in the Senate State Affairs Committee. It's likely to be resurrected in some form this session.

A case can be made for saying Rhoden began using the office to bolster his political career as soon as Noem left for a life of leading the masked marauders in the Department of Homeland Security. It's likely the scent of her perfume still lingered in the governor's office when Rhoden hit on the idea to embark on an Open for Opportunity tour of the state. The taxpayer-funded series of events was designed to introduce the state to its new governor and the new governor to business leaders and potential donors.

Well-timed economic development grants and taxpayer-funded travel aren't the only benefits of incumbency. Rhoden also inherited a well-tuned communications machine that cranks out news releases aplenty. These releases rarely, if ever, include bad news. It's usually a glowing report on state finances, grant announcements, task force recommendations, board appointments — with the appointee expressing what a pleasure it will be to work with the governor, pleas for Congress to do better and announcements about Rhoden's Open for Opportunity itinerary.

In among those news releases is a weekly column from Rhoden. Anyone with experience in public relations knows that it's unlikely the governor actually writes the columns. Still, they serve as inexpensive political advertising when picked up by the state's newspapers. His pre-session column assured voters that he would be working hard for them with the Legislature.

It would be easy for Rhoden to quell this particular line of attack from his opponents. He could stay in the Capitol, emerging only for actual campaign events. He could put away the Future Fund checkbook, or if there's a community in need, send an economic development minion to hand over the grant. That would keep the presentations from having the same air as a campaign event. He could cut back on the news releases and, out of fairness to his opponents, suspend his weekly column until he's no longer a candidate for office.

It's unlikely he'll do any of those things. Using the perks of the office for his benefit is what happens when a politician runs for a job he already has.

As for the other Republicans running for governor, they may want to choose something else to complain about. By harping on the notion that Rhoden is using his office for political gain, they run the risk of reminding voters that he's the governor and they're not.

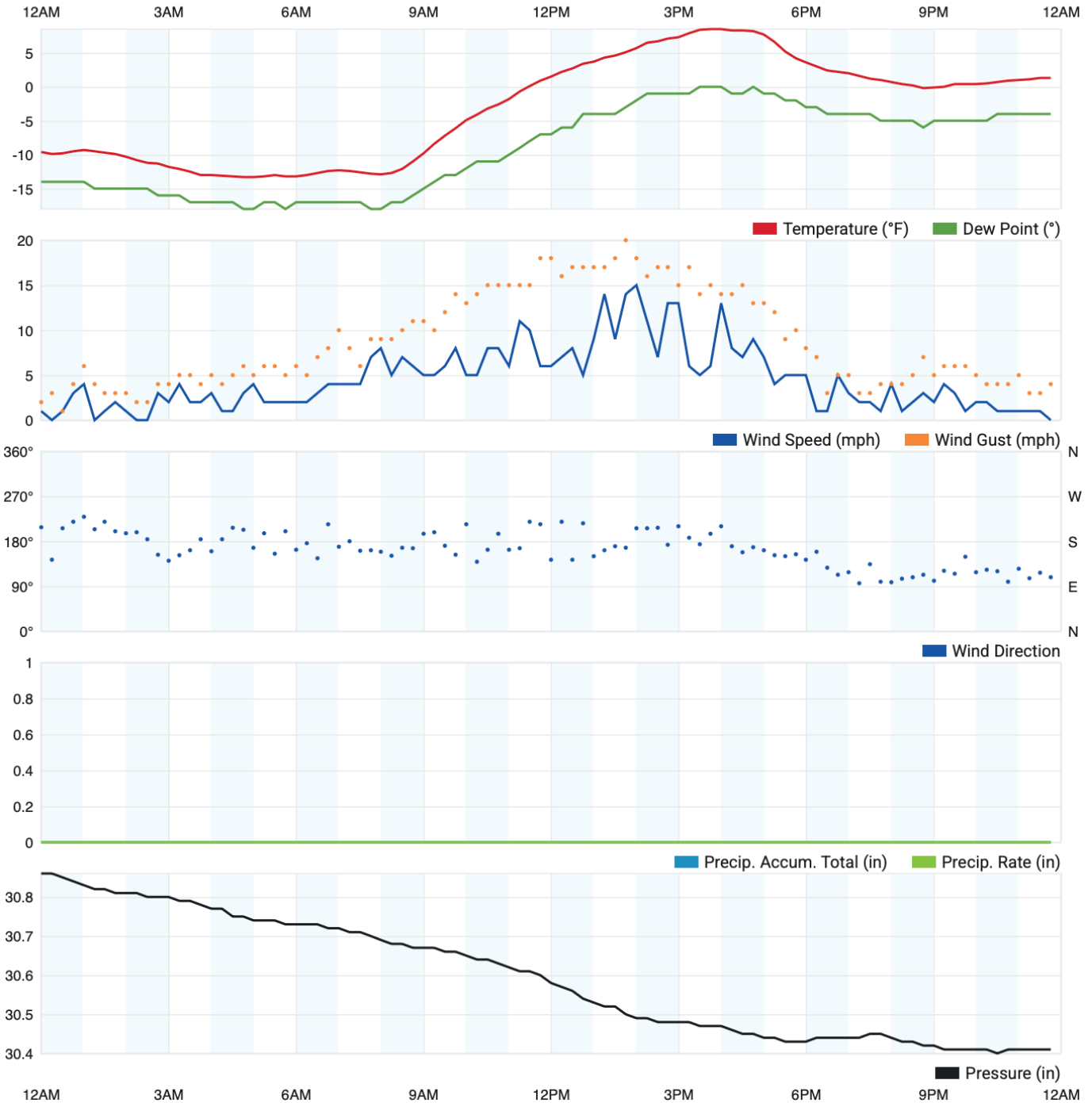
*Dana Hess spent more than 25 years in South Dakota journalism, editing newspapers in Redfield, Milbank and Pierre. He's retired and lives in Brookings, working occasionally as a freelance writer.*

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 41 of 79

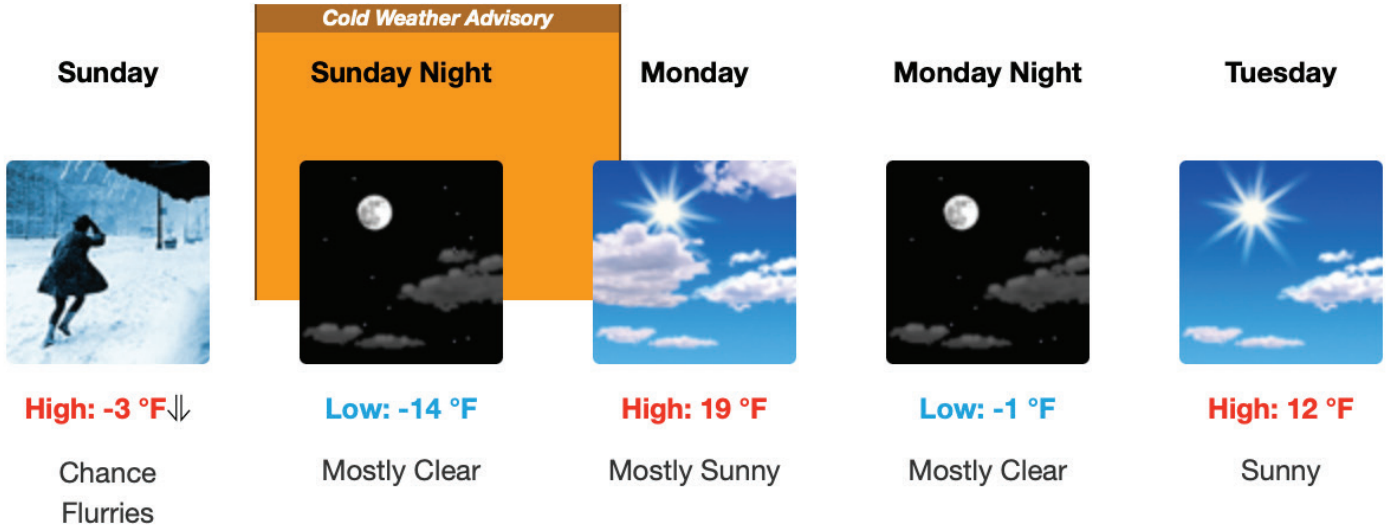
## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

January 24, 2026



# Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 42 of 79



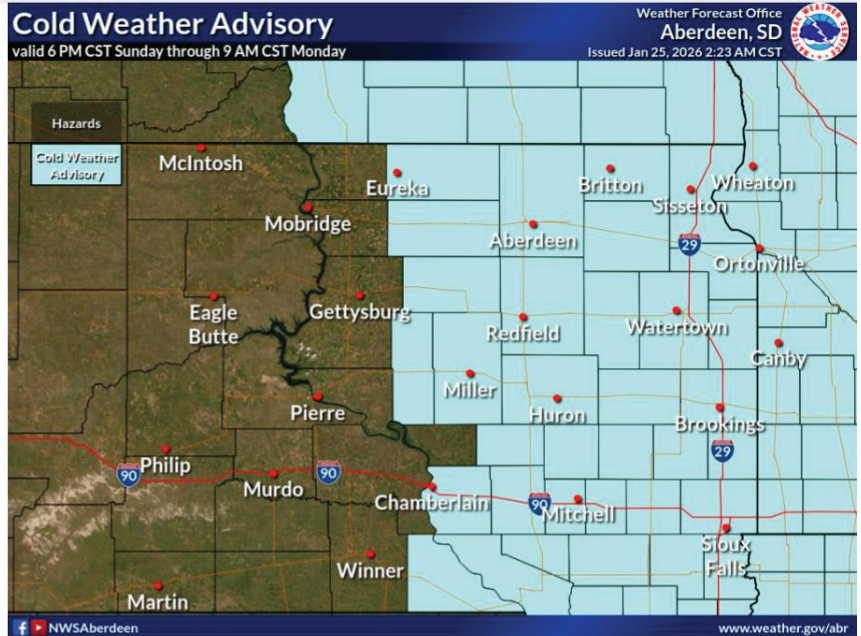
## Cold Weather Advisory Monday Morning

January 25, 2026  
2:40 AM CST

Dangerously cold wind chills of -35°

### Key Messages:

- A **Cold Weather Advisory** has been issued from **6 PM CST Sunday through 9 AM CST Monday**.
  - **Wind chills as low as -35° Monday morning**
  - For eastern SD and west central MN
- At these temperatures, **frostbite can occur on exposed skin in as little as 10 minutes**. If you must go outside, dress in layers, including a hat, face mask, and gloves.
- Keep pets indoors as much as possible. Make sure that outdoor animals have a warm, dry shelter with access to food and unfrozen water.



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

A Cold Weather Advisory has been issued for wind chills as low as -35° from 6 PM CST Sunday through 9 AM CST Monday. At these temperatures, frostbite can occur on exposed skin in as little as 10 minutes.

# Groton Daily Independent

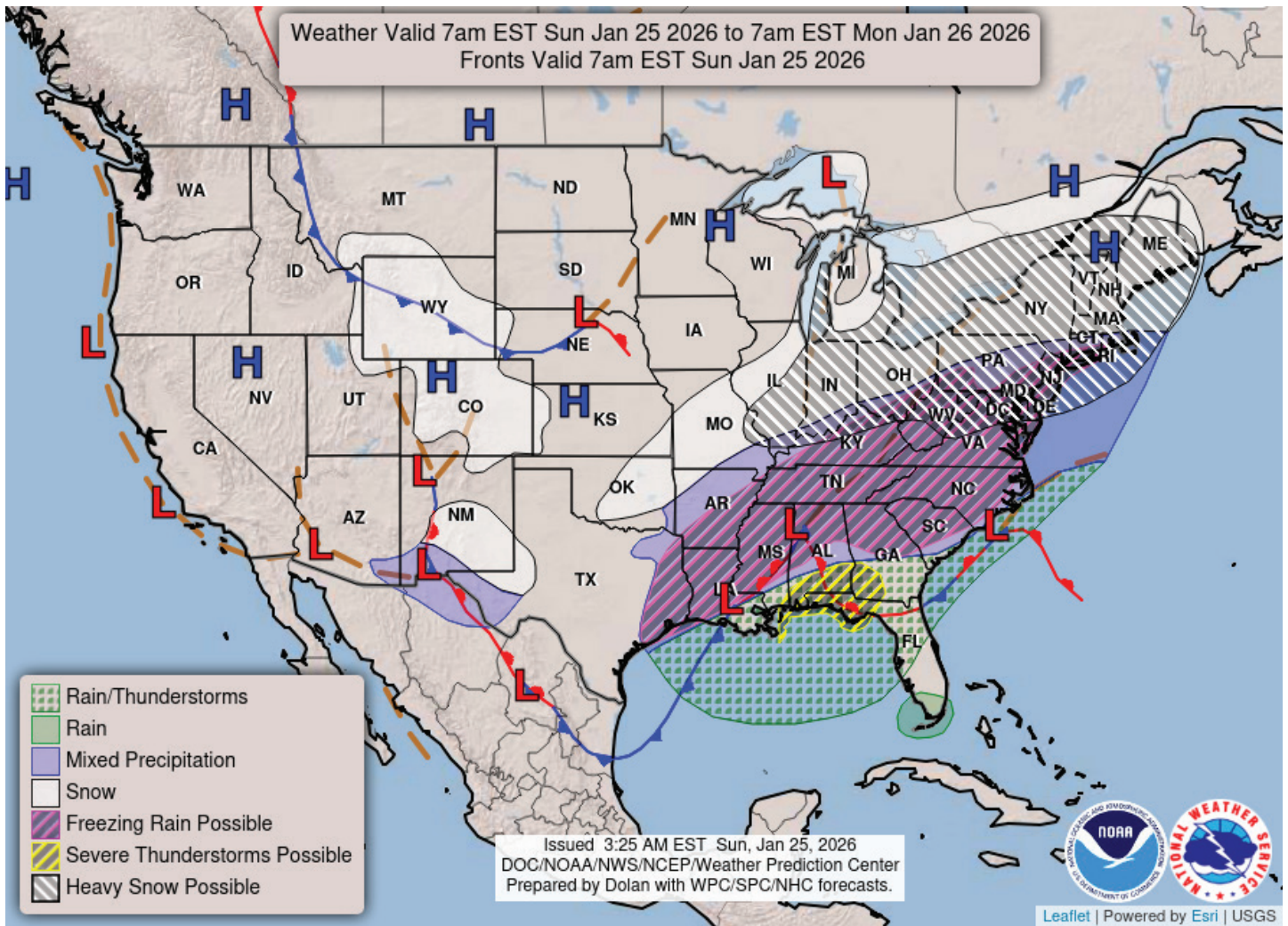
Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 43 of 79

## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 9 °F at 3:37 PM**  
**Low Temp: -14 °F at 4:37 AM**  
**Wind: 21 mph at 1:44 PM**  
**Precip: : 0.00**

## Today's Info

Record High: 54 in 1942  
Record Low: -33 in 1904  
Average High: 24  
Average Low: 1  
Average Precip in Jan.: 0.45  
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00  
Average Precip to date: 0.45  
Precip Year to Date: 0.00  
Sunset Tonight: 5:28 pm  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:59 am



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 44 of 79

## Today in Weather History

January 25, 2010: A large upper-level low-pressure area combined with a cold surface high-pressure area building in from the north brought light snow and extreme winds creating widespread blizzard conditions across north-central and northeast South Dakota. Snowfall amounts of 1 to 4 inches combined with north winds of 25 to 40 mph gusting up to 55 mph, created frequent whiteout conditions across the area. Travel was significantly affected or halted, and several schools were closed. Interstate-29 was closed from the North Dakota border and south on the 25th until the morning of the 26th. The blizzard hampered efforts to restore power to the thousands of customers from the previous winter storm. The snowfall began in the morning hours from 6 to 10 am and ended when the blizzard conditions subsided.

1821: The Hudson River was frozen solid amid the coldest winter in forty-one years. Thousands of persons crossed the ice from New York City to New Jersey, and refreshment taverns were set up in the middle of the river to warm pedestrians.

1837 — At 7 PM a display of the Northern Lights danced above Burlington, VT. Its light was equal to the full moon. Snow and other objects reflecting the light were deeply tinged with a blood red hue. Blue, yellow and white streamers were also noted. (The Weather Channel)

1937: Las Vegas, Nevada dropped to 8 degrees above zero, setting a record low for the city.

1949: Las Vegas, Nevada, recorded 4.7 inches of snow. This brought the monthly snowfall total to 16.7 inches which still ranks as their snowiest month on record.

1965 — Alta, UT, was in the midst of a storm that left the town buried under 105 inches of snow establishing a record for the state. (David Ludlum)

1987 — The second major storm in three days hit the Eastern Seaboard producing up to 15 inches of snow in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware. Up to 30 inches of snow covered the ground in Virginia following the two storms. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 — High winds created blizzard conditions in the mountains of Colorado. Winds gusted to 109 mph at Echo Lake, and a wind gust to 193 mph was reported atop Mount Evans. A "nor'easter" moving up the Atlantic Coast spread heavy snow from the Carolinas to New England, with as much as 16 inches reported in the Poconos of eastern Pennsylvania. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 — Bitter cold air, coming down from Alaska, settled over the Northern Rockies. Wilson WY reported a morning low of 48 degrees below zero. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the south central U.S. One thunderstorm in north central Texas spawned a tornado which injured three persons at Troy. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 — Low pressure developed explosively over east central Missouri and moved into Lower Michigan producing high winds and heavy snow across parts of Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. Wind gusts to 60 mph and up to a foot of snow created near blizzard conditions in southeastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Wind gusts in Indiana reached 76 mph at Wabash. Thunderstorms associated with the storm produced wind gusts to 54 mph at Fort Madison IA. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2000 — Heavy snow fell from the Carolinas to New England, with up to 20 inches of snow and five deaths reported. (NCDC)

## Getting the Most Out of Work

**We are always serving Christ—no matter who our boss on earth is.**

Ephesians 6:5-8: 5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ;

6 not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

7 With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

8 knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.

As the saying goes, “If you love what you do, you will not work a day in your life.” But we don’t always get to do what we like or labor alongside easy-going people. Just about any job—even a well-loved one—has low points and tasks that feel like drudgery. Our attitude, then, cannot be based upon the work itself or our feelings; rather, it must reflect our position as God’s children. We would be far wiser to adopt a new maxim: “Work for the Lord you love, and you will be fulfilled every day of your life.”

We get the most out of our work when we see ourselves as servants of the Lord. With regard to our attitude about work, here is the principle as taught in God’s Word: “In all things obey those who are your masters on earth” (Colossians 3:22). Biblical obedience isn’t merely an outward show with inward grumbling and resentment. Rather, it is a true commitment to the welfare of others.

God’s children are called to be His servants (Eph. 6:7). Since we spend significant amounts of time at a job, much of our service will be done there. As employees, we are to apply the biblical principles of obedience and sacrifice, because whoever our human boss may be, the Lord is the ultimate authority overseeing our actions. He wants to observe us practicing righteousness—at work and in every other area of our life.

*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

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 46 of 79

## The Groton Independent

Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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## Groton Daily Independent

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# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 47 of 79



## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

01.23.26

30 42 49 53 66 4

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$285,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

01.24.26

4 11 16 33 42 6

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$13,820,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

01.24.26

8 17 25 40 44 7

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 23 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

01.24.26

1 2 4 24 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$222,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

01.24.26

8 17 29 30 62 11

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

01.24.26

2 16 35 61 63 5

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$30,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 48 of 79

## News from the **AP** Associated Press

### **GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL**

Andes Central/Dakota Christian 44, Sioux Falls Lutheran 23  
Brandon Valley 77, Aberdeen Central 44  
Castlewood 41, Waverly-South Shore 36  
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 81, Stanley County 50  
Colman-Egan 46, West Central 44  
Elkton-Lake Benton 63, Wilmot 30  
Florence-Henry 55, Parker/Marion 24  
Gayville-Volin High School 52, Deubrook 47  
Gettysburg 43, Wolsey-Wessington 40  
Great Plains Lutheran 57, Aberdeen Christian 26  
Groton 54, Milbank 45  
Hill City 70, Alliance, Neb. 35  
Hot Springs 55, Lead-Deadwood 37  
Kimball-White Lake 38, Sunshine Bible Academy 17  
Lac qui Parle Valley, Minn. 37, Estelline-Hendricks 35  
Lakota Tech 57, Dakota Valley 52  
Lyman 60, Freeman 29  
Mahpiya Lúta Red Cloud 69, Belle Fourche 24  
Miller 42, Gregory 29  
New Underwood 45, White River 41  
North Central 56, Langford 40  
Oldham-Ramona-Rutland 62, Lower Brule 58  
Pine Ridge 59, Little Wound 58  
Rapid City Stevens 62, Rapid City Central 39  
Sioux Falls Jefferson 65, Huron 54  
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 63, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 20  
Sisseton 50, Redfield 48, OT  
St Thomas More 51, Douglas 13  
Todd County 77, Crow Creek Tribal School 56  
Vermillion 53, Western Christian, Iowa 34  
Viborg-Hurley 44, Osmond, Neb. 30  
Wall 64, Custer 23  
Watertown 45, Brookings 40  
Panhandle Conference Tournament=  
Fifth Place=  
Cody-Kilgore, Neb. 40, Edgemont 31  
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS=  
Ipswich vs. Waubay/Summit, ppd. to Jan 24th.

Some high school basketball scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 49 of 79

## BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Brandon Valley 76, Aberdeen Central 53  
Castlewood 65, Waverly-South Shore 31  
Colman-Egan 49, Wilmot 47  
Dakota Valley 58, Sioux Valley 54  
DeSmet 81, Dawson-Boyd, Minn. 80  
Groton 57, Milbank 36  
Hamlin 57, Viborg-Hurley 39  
Herried-Selby 83, Strasburg, N.D. 49  
Hills-Beaver Creek, Minn. 62, Sully Buttes 57  
Huron 66, Sioux Falls Jefferson 54  
Langford 53, North Central 46  
Lennox 51, St Thomas More 49  
Mahpiya Luta Red Cloud 76, Belle Fourche 45  
Miller 51, Gregory 42  
Oldham-Ramona-Rutland 57, Lac qui Parle Valley, Minn. 55, OT  
Ortonville, Minn. 65, Lower Brule 62  
Parkston 56, Lyman 49  
Pine Ridge 79, Little Wound 67  
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 58, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 44  
Sisseton 64, Redfield 41  
Stanley County 67, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 52  
Sunshine Bible Academy 65, Tiospaye Topa 63  
Todd County 69, Crow Creek Tribal School 50  
Wall 67, Custer 51  
Watertown 71, Brookings 38  
Waubay/Summit 52, Ipswich 41  
West Central 55, Clark-Willow Lake 52  
White River 50, Hanson 47  
Panhandle Conference Tournament=  
Fifth Place=  
Hay Springs, Neb. 64, Edgemont 26

Some high school basketball scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

## Janowski scores 23 as St. Thomas downs South Dakota 90-78

By The Associated Press undefined

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Nick Janowski's 23 points helped St. Thomas defeat South Dakota 90-78 on Saturday.

Janowski added five rebounds for the Tommies (17-5, 6-1 Summit League). Ryan Dufault scored 13 points, shooting 4 of 5 from the field and 5 for 6 from the line. Isaiah Johnson-Arigo shot 3 for 8 (1 for 5 from 3-point range) and 4 of 6 from the free-throw line to finish with 11 points.

The Coyotes (11-11, 3-4) were led by Jordan Crawford, who recorded 22 points. Uziah Buntyn added 13 points and three steals for South Dakota. Ethan Kizer finished with 11 points.

## Protesters demand immigration agents leave Minneapolis after man is shot and killed during crackdown

By JACK BROOK, STEVE KARNOWSKI and REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Democrats demanded that federal immigration officers leave Minnesota after a U.S. Border Patrol agent fatally shot a man in Minneapolis, drawing hundreds of protesters onto the frigid streets and increasing tensions in a city already shaken by another shooting death weeks earlier.

Family members identified the man who was killed as Alex Pretti, a 37-year-old intensive care unit nurse who protested President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown in his city. After the shooting, an angry crowd gathered and protesters clashed with federal officers, who wielded batons and deployed flash bangs.

The Minnesota National Guard was assisting local police at the direction of Gov. Tim Walz, officials said. Guard troops were sent to both the shooting site and a federal building where officers have squared off with demonstrators daily.

Information about what led up to the shooting was limited, Police Chief Brian O'Hara said.

Department of Homeland Security spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement that federal officers were conducting an operation and fired "defensive shots" after a man with a handgun approached them and "violently resisted" when they tried to disarm him.

In bystander videos of the shooting that emerged soon after, Pretti is seen with a phone in his hand but none appears to show him with a visible weapon.

O'Hara said police believe he was a "lawful gun owner with a permit to carry."

DHS Secretary Kristi Noem said during a news conference that Pretti had shown up to "impede a law enforcement operation." She questioned why he was armed but did not offer details about whether Pretti drew the weapon or brandished it at officers.

The officer who shot him is an eight-year Border Patrol veteran, federal officials said.

### Trump blames Democrats

The president weighed in on social media by lashing out at Walz and the Minneapolis mayor.

He shared images of the gun that immigration officials said was recovered and said: "What is that all about? Where are the local Police? Why weren't they allowed to protect ICE Officers?"

Trump, a Republican, said the Democratic governor and mayor are "are inciting Insurrection, with their pompous, dangerous, and arrogant rhetoric."

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York was among several Democratic lawmakers demanding federal immigration authorities leave Minnesota. She also urged Democrats to refuse to vote to fund U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, saying via social media: "We have a responsibility to protect Americans from tyranny."

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer later said that Democrats will not vote for a spending package that includes money for DHS, which oversees ICE. Schumer's statement increases the possibility that the government could partially shut down Jan. 30 when funding runs out.

Pretti was shot just over a mile from where an ICE officer killed 37-year-old Renee Good on Jan. 7, sparking widespread protests.

Pretti's family released a statement Saturday evening saying they are "heartbroken but also very angry" and calling him a kindhearted soul who wanted to make a difference in the world through his work as a nurse.

"The sickening lies told about our son by the administration are reprehensible and disgusting. Alex is clearly not holding a gun when attacked by Trump's murdering and cowardly ICE thugs. He has his phone in his right hand and his empty left hand is raised above his head while trying to protect the woman ICE just pushed down all while being pepper sprayed," the family statement said. "Please get the truth out about our son. He was a good man."

### Video shows officers, man who was shot

In a bystander video obtained by The Associated Press, protesters are heard blowing whistles and shouting profanities at federal officers on Nicollet Avenue.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 51 of 79

An officer shoves a person who is wearing a brown jacket, skirt and black tights and carrying a water bottle. That person reaches out for a man, and the two link up, embracing. The man, wearing a brown jacket and black hat, seems to be holding his phone up toward the officer.

The same officer shoves the man in his chest and the two, still embracing, fall back.

The video shifts to a different part of the street and then comes back to the two individuals unlinking from each other. It shifts focus again and then shows three officers surrounding the man.

Soon at least seven officers surround him. One is on his back, and another who appears to have a canister in his hand strikes a blow to his chest. Several officers try to bring the man's arms behind his back as he appears to resist. As they pull his arms, his face is briefly visible. The officer with the canister strikes him near his head several times.

A shot rings out, but with officers surrounding the man, it's not clear where it came from. Multiple officers back off. More shots are heard. Officers back away, and the man lies motionless on the street.

The police chief appealed for calm, both from the public and from federal law enforcement.

"Our demand today is for those federal agencies that are operating in our city to do so with the same discipline, humanity and integrity that effective law enforcement in this country demands," the chief said. "We urge everyone to remain peaceful."

Gregory Bovino of U.S. Border Patrol, who has commanded the administration's big-city immigration campaign, said the officer who shot the man had extensive training as a range safety officer and in using less-lethal force.

"This is only the latest attack on law enforcement. Across the country, the men and women of DHS have been attacked, shot at," he said.

Walz said he had no confidence in federal officials and the state would lead the investigation into the shooting.

But Drew Evans, superintendent of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, said during a news conference that federal officers blocked his agency from the scene even after it obtained a signed judicial warrant.

Protests continue

Demonstrations broke out in several cities across the country including New York, Washington and Los Angeles.

In Minneapolis, protesters converged at the scene of the shooting in Minneapolis despite dangerously cold weather — by the afternoon the worst of an extreme cold wave was over, but the temperature was still -6 degrees (-21 Celsius).

An angry crowd gathered after the shooting and screamed profanities at federal officers, calling them "cowards" and telling them to go home. One officer responded mockingly as he walked away, telling them: "Boo hoo." Agents elsewhere shoved a yelling protester into a car. Protesters dragged garbage dumpsters from alleyways to block streets, and people chanted "ICE out now" and "Observing ICE is not a crime."

As dark fell hundreds of people mourned quietly by a growing memorial at the site of the shooting. Some carried signs saying "Justice for Alex Pretti." Others chanted Pretti's and Good's names. A doughnut shop and a clothing store nearby stayed open, offering protesters a warm place as well as water, coffee and snacks.

Caleb Spike said he came from a nearby suburb to show his support and his frustration. "It feels like every day something crazier happens," he said. "What's happening in our community is wrong, it's sickening, it's disgusting."

## Natalie Portman, Seth Rogen debut new movies at Sundance Film Festival

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

PARK CITY, Utah (AP) — The comedy streak at the Sundance Film Festival continued Saturday with the world premieres of the art world satire "The Gallerist," with Natalie Portman, and Oliva Wilde's "The Invite," a sharp look a crumbling marriage.

"The Invite," which debuted at the Eccles Theater, marks Wilde's third time behind the camera and first since "Don't Worry Darling." It received an enthusiastic standing ovation.

Will McCormack and Rashida Jones wrote the script for "The Invite," in which a couple on the edge (Wilde and Seth Rogen) have their upstairs neighbors (Penélope Cruz and Edward Norton) over for dinner. The evening starts with awkward small talk and becomes a raw and revealing encounter that's funny and devastating at times.

"Several of the greatest moments of this movie were written by the cast," Wilde said after the premiere. "We shot in order, which was incredible. ... It was such a luxury."

There was also quite a bit of improv, Wilde and Rogen said.

"I think there's a seven-hour movie that you would have liked," Wilde said.

Wilde has had a busy Sundance so far. On Friday night she helped debut the new Gregg Araki movie "I Want Your Sex," in which she plays an eccentric artist and sexual provocateur.

Following "The Invite" was Cathy Yan's "The Gallerist," starring Portman as gallerist Polina Polinski attempting to make a name for herself at Art Basel in Miami, with the help of her assistant (Jenna Ortega), who gets involved in a plot to sell a dead body.

"It was such a great original concept that felt really juicy and perfect," Yan said after the movie, with Portman, Ortega and Charli xcx by her side.

When an audience member asked if Portman took the role for personal reasons, she quipped, "I've never tried to sell a dead body before."

Zach Galifianakis plays an influencer and Da'Vine Joy Randolph is an emerging artist in the starry cast, which also includes Catherine Zeta-Jones, Sterling K. Brown and Daniel Brühl.

The Eccles also hosted the premiere of "Wicker," starring Olivia Colman as a sardonic fisherwoman who commissions a basket weaver to make her a husband, played by Alexander Skarsgård, who co-stars in the Charli xcx movie "The Moment."

All of the films are seeking distribution at the Sundance Film Festival, which runs through Feb. 1.

## Man is shot and killed during Minneapolis immigration crackdown, National Guard activated

By JACK BROOK, STEVE KARNOWSKI and REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A federal immigration officer shot and killed a man Saturday in Minneapolis, drawing hundreds of protesters onto the frigid streets and ratcheting up tensions in a city already shaken by another fatal shooting weeks earlier.

Family members identified the man who was killed as Alex Pretti, a 37-year-old intensive care unit nurse who had protested President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown in his city. After the shooting, an angry crowd gathered and protesters clashed with federal immigration officers, who wielded batons and deployed flash bangs.

The Minnesota National Guard was assisting local police at the direction of Gov. Tim Walz, officials said. Guard troops were sent to both the shooting site and to a federal building where officials have squared off with protesters daily.

Information about what led up to the shooting was limited, Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara said.

Department of Homeland Security spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement that federal officers were conducting an operation and fired "defensive shots" after a man with a handgun approached

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 53 of 79

them and "violently resisted" when officers tried to disarm him.

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O'Hara said police believe the man was a "lawful gun owner with a permit to carry."

DHS Secretary Kristi Noem said during a news conference that Pretti had shown up to "impede a law enforcement operation." She questioned why he was armed but did not offer detail about whether Pretti drew the weapon or brandished it at officers.

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Trump weighed in on social media by lashing out at Walz and the Minneapolis mayor.

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Video shows officers, man who was shot

In a bystander video of Saturday's shooting obtained by The Associated Press, protesters can be heard blowing whistles and shouting profanities at federal officers on Nicollet Avenue.

The video shows an officer shoving a person who is wearing a brown jacket, skirt and black tights and carrying a water bottle. That person reaches out for a man and the two link up, embracing. The man, wearing a brown jacket and black hat, seems to be holding his phone up toward the officer.

The same officer shoves the man in his chest and the two, still embracing, fall back.

The video then shifts to a different part of the street and then comes back to the two individuals un-linking from each other. The video shifts focus again and then shows three officers surrounding the man.

Soon at least seven officers surround the man. One is on the man's back and another who appears to have a canister in his hand strikes a blow to the man's chest. Several officers try to bring the man's arms behind his back as he appears to resist. As they pull his arms, his face is briefly visible on camera. The officer with the canister strikes the man near his head several times.

A shot rings out, but with officers surrounding the man, it's not clear from where the shot came. Multiple officers back off the man after the shot. More shots are heard. Officers back away and the man lies motionless on the street.

The police chief appealed for calm, both from the public and from federal law enforcement.

"Our demand today is for those federal agencies that are operating in our city to do so with the same discipline, humanity and integrity that effective law enforcement in this country demands," the chief said. "We urge everyone to remain peaceful."

Gregory Bovino of U.S. Border Patrol, who has commanded the Trump administration's big-city immigration campaign, said the officer who shot the man had extensive training as a range safety officer and in using less-lethal force.

"This is only the latest attack on law enforcement. Across the country, the men and women of DHS have been attacked, shot at," he said.

Walz said he had no confidence in federal officials and that the state would lead the investigation into the latest fatal shooting.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 54 of 79

But Drew Evans, superintendent of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, said during a news conference that federal officers blocked his agency from the shooting scene even after it obtained a signed judicial warrant.

Amid the unrest, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said Democrats will not vote for a spending package that includes money for DHS. Schumer's statement increases the possibility that the government could partially shut down on Jan. 30 when funding runs out.

Protests continue in Minneapolis

Protesters converged at the scene of the shooting despite dangerously cold weather.

At midday Saturday, the worst of an extreme cold wave was over, but the temperature was still -6 degrees (-21 Celsius).

After the shooting, an angry crowd gathered and screamed profanities at federal officers, calling them "cowards" and telling them to go home. One officer responded mockingly as he walked away, telling them: "Boo hoo." Agents elsewhere shoved a yelling protester into a car. Protesters dragged garbage dumpsters from alleyways to block the streets, and people who gathered chanted, "ICE out now" and "Observing ICE is not a crime."

As dark fell, hundreds of people gathered quietly by a growing memorial at the site of the shooting. Some carried signs saying "Justice for Alex Pretti." Others chanted Pretti's and Good's names. A doughnut shop and a clothing store nearby stayed open, offering protesters a warm place as well as water, coffee and snacks.

Caleb Spike said he came from a nearby suburb to show his support and his frustration. "It feels like every day something crazier happens," he said. "What's happening in our community is wrong, it's sickening, it's disgusting."

## **The man killed by a US Border Patrol officer in Minneapolis was an ICU nurse, family says**

By MICHAEL BIESECKER, TIM SULLIVAN and JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Family members say the man killed by a U.S. Border Patrol officer in Minneapolis on Saturday was an intensive care nurse at a VA hospital who cared deeply about people and was upset by President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown in his city.

Alex Jeffrey Pretti, 37, was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed getting in adventures with Joule, his beloved Catahoula Leopard dog who also recently died. He worked for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and had participated in protests following the Jan. 7 killing of Renee Good by an Immigration and Customs officer.

"He cared about people deeply and he was very upset with what was happening in Minneapolis and throughout the United States with ICE, as millions of other people are upset," said Michael Pretti, Alex's father. "He thought it was terrible, you know, kidnapping children, just grabbing people off the street. He cared about those people, and he knew it was wrong, so he did participate in protests."

Pretti was a U.S. citizen, born in Illinois. Like Good, court records showed he had no criminal record and his family said he had never had any interactions with law enforcement beyond a handful of traffic tickets.

In a recent conversation with their son, his parents, who live in Colorado, told him to be careful when protesting.

"We had this discussion with him two weeks ago or so, you know, that go ahead and protest, but do not engage, do not do anything stupid, basically," Michael Pretti said. "And he said he knows that. He knew that."

The Department of Homeland Security said the man was shot after he "approached" Border Patrol officers with a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun. Officials did not specify if Pretti brandished the gun. In bystander videos of the shooting that emerged soon after, Pretti is seen with a phone in his hand but none appears to show him with a visible weapon.

Family members said Pretti owned a handgun and had a permit to carry a concealed handgun in Min-

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 55 of 79

nesota. They said they had never known him to carry it.

Alex Pretti's family struggles for information about what happened

The family first learned of the shooting when they were called by an Associated Press reporter. They watched the video and said the man killed appeared to be their son. They then tried reaching out to officials in Minnesota.

"I can't get any information from anybody," Michael Pretti said Saturday. "The police, they said call Border Patrol, Border Patrol's closed, the hospitals won't answer any questions."

Eventually, the parents called the Hennepin County Medical Examiner, who they said confirmed had a body matching the name and description of their son.

As of Saturday evening, the family said they had still not heard from anyone at a federal law enforcement agency about their son's death.

After seeing videos of top Trump administration officials suggesting their son was a "domestic terrorist" who attacked the officers who shot him, they issued a written statement describing themselves as both heartbroken and angry.

"The sickening lies told about our son by the administration are reprehensible and disgusting," the family's statement said. They added that videos showed Alex Pretti was not holding a gun when he was tackled by federal agents, but holding his phone with one hand and using the other to shield a woman who was being pepper-sprayed.

"Please get the truth out about our son. He was a good man," they said.

Alex Pretti grew up in Green Bay, Wisconsin, where he played football, baseball and ran track for Preble High School. He was a Boy Scout and sang in the Green Bay Boy Choir.

After graduation, he went to the University of Minnesota, graduating in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in biology, society and the environment, according to the family. He worked as a research scientist before returning to school to become a registered nurse.

Alex Pretti had protested before

Pretti's ex-wife, who spoke to the AP but later said she didn't want her name used, said she was not surprised he would have been involved in protesting Trump's immigration crackdown. She said she had not spoken to him since they divorced more than two years ago and she moved to another state.

She said he was a Democratic voter and that he had participated in the wave of street protests following the killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer in 2020, not far from the couple's neighborhood. She described him as someone who might shout at law enforcement officers at a protest, but she had never known him to be physically confrontational.

She said Pretti got a permit to carry a concealed firearm about three years ago and that he owned at least one semiautomatic handgun when they separated.

Pretti had 'a great heart'

Pretti lived in a four-unit condominium building about 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) from where he was shot. Neighbors described him as quiet and warmhearted.

"He's a wonderful person," said Sue Gitar, who lived downstairs from Pretti and said he moved into the building about three years ago. "He has a great heart."

If there was something suspicious going on in the neighborhood, or when they worried the building might have a gas leak, he would jump in to help.

Pretti lived alone and worked long hours as a nurse, but he was not a loner, his neighbors said, and would sometimes have friends over.

His neighbors knew he had guns — he'd occasionally take a rifle to shoot at a gun range — but were surprised at the idea that he might carry a pistol on the streets.

"I never thought of him as a person who carried a gun," said Gitar.

Pretti was also passionate about the outdoors

A competitive bicycle racer who lavished care on his new Audi, Pretti had also been deeply attached to his dog, who died about a year ago.

His parents said their last conversation with their son was a couple days before his death. They talked

about repairs he had done to the garage door of his home. The worker was a Latino man, and they said with all that was happening in Minneapolis he gave the man a \$100 tip.

Pretti's mother said her son cared immensely about the direction the county was headed, especially the Trump administration's rollback of environmental regulations.

"He hated that, you know, people were just trashing the land," Susan Pretti said. "He was an outdoorsman. He took his dog everywhere he went. You know, he loved this country, but he hated what people were doing to it."

## Thousands of flights canceled as major winter storm moves across the US

By THOMAS PEIPERT, JEFF AMY and DAVE COLLINS Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Thousands of flights across the U.S. set to take off over the weekend were canceled as a monster storm started to wreak havoc Saturday across much of the country, knocking out power and snarling major roadways with dangerous ice.

Widespread heavy snow, sleet and freezing rain threatened nearly 180 million people — more than half the U.S. population — in a path stretching from the southern Rocky Mountains to New England, the National Weather Service said Saturday night. It warned people to brace for a string of frigid days.

"The snow and the ice will be very, very slow to melt and won't be going away anytime soon, and that's going to hinder any recovery efforts," said Allison Santorelli, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

President Donald Trump had approved emergency declarations for at least a dozen states by Saturday, with more expected to come. The Federal Emergency Management Agency pre-positioned commodities, staff and search and rescue teams in numerous states, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said.

"We just ask that everyone would be smart — stay home if possible," Noem said.

As crews in some southern states began working to restore downed power lines Saturday, officials in some eastern states issued final warnings to residents.

"We are expecting a storm the likes of which we haven't seen in years," New Jersey Gov. Mikie Sherrill said Saturday while announcing restrictions on commercial vehicle travel and a 35 mph (56 kph) speed limit on highways. She added: "It's a good weekend to stay indoors."

Power outages hit Louisiana and Texas

Forecasters say the damage, especially in areas pounded by ice, could rival that of a hurricane.

About 140,000 power outages were reported in the path of the winter storm Saturday, including more than 58,000 in Louisiana about 50,000 in Texas, according to [poweroutage.us](http://poweroutage.us).

In Shelby County, Texas, near the Louisiana border, ice weighed down on pine trees and caused branches to snap, downing power lines. About a third of the county's 16,000 electric customers lost power on Saturday.

"We have hundreds of trees down and a lot of limbs in the road," Shelby County Commissioner Stevie Smith said from his pickup truck. "I've got my crew out clearing roads as fast as we can. It's a lot to deal with right now."

There were reports of vehicles hitting fallen trees and trees falling onto houses in DeSoto Parish, Louisiana, where more than half of all electric customers lost power.

"We got limbs that are dragging the ground," said Mark Pierce, a spokesperson for the local sheriff's office. "These trees are just completely saturated with ice."

Airplanes are grounded

More than 13,000 flights were canceled Saturday and Sunday across the U.S., according to the flight tracking website FlightAware. Sunday's cancellations, which are still growing, already are the most on any single day since the coronavirus pandemic, according to aviation analytics firm Cirium.

All Saturday flights were canceled at Will Rogers International Airport in Oklahoma City, and all Sunday

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 57 of 79

morning flights also were called off, as officials aimed to restart service Sunday afternoon at Oklahoma's biggest airport.

Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, a major hub, saw more than 700 departing flights canceled on Saturday and nearly as many arriving flights called off. Disruptions were also piling up at airports in Chicago, Atlanta, Nashville, and Charlotte, North Carolina.

By late Saturday afternoon, nearly all departing flights scheduled to leave Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport on Sunday had already been canceled.

A warning about the biggest ice storm in a decade

Officials in Georgia advised people in the state's northern regions to get off the roads by sundown Saturday and be prepared to stay put for at least 48 hours.

Will Lanxton, the senior state meteorologist, said Georgia could get "perhaps the biggest ice storm we have expected in more than a decade" followed by unusually cold temperatures.

"Ice is a whole different ballgame than snow," Lanxton said. "Ice, you can't do anything with. You can't drive on it. It's much more likely to bring down power lines and trees."

Crews began treating highways with brine after midnight Saturday, with 1,800 workers on 12-hour shifts, Georgia Department of Transportation Commissioner Russell McMurry said.

"We're going to do what we can to keep the ice from sticking to the roads," McMurry said. "This is going to be a challenge."

After earlier putting 500 National Guard members on standby, Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp announced Saturday that he was deploying 120 of them to northeast Georgia "to further strengthen our response in the hardest hit areas."

After sweeping through the South, the storm was expected to move into the Northeast, dumping snow exceeding 1 foot (30 centimeters), the weather service predicted.

"Please, if you can avoid it, do not drive, do not travel, do not do anything that can potentially place you or your loved ones in danger," New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani said Saturday. "Instead, I urge every New Yorker who can to put a warm sweater on, turn on the TV, watch 'Mission Impossible' for the 10th time, above all to stay inside."

Frigid temperatures affect the Midwest and North

The Midwest saw windchills as low as minus 40 F (minus 40 C), meaning that frostbite could set in within 10 minutes. The minus 36 F (minus 38 C) reading in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, on Saturday morning was the coldest in almost 30 years.

In Minneapolis, the worst of an extreme cold wave was over, but protesters calling for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to leave Minnesota on Saturday still faced an outdoor temperature of minus 6 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 21 Celsius).

Workers from The Orange Tent Project, a Chicago nonprofit that provides cold weather tents and other supplies to unhoused individuals throughout the city, went out to check on those who did not or could not seek shelter.

"Seeing the forecasted weather, I knew we had to come out and do this today," CEO Morgan McLuckie said.

Mardi Gras and classes canceled. Opry performs without audience

Churches moved Sunday services online, and the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee, decided to hold its Saturday night radio performance without fans. Mardi Gras parades in Louisiana were canceled or rescheduled.

School closings were already announced for Monday in numerous cities, including Dallas, Houston, Philadelphia and Memphis, Tennessee.

Some universities in the South canceled classes for Monday, including the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Mississippi's main campus in Oxford.

Around the southeast, people used the cancellations to have some fun. On a hill outside the Capitol building in Nashville, adult sledders on green discs and inflatable pool animals giggled with joy as they slid in the snow.

Weather forecasters said the winter storm was unusual.

"I think there are two parts of this storm that make it unique. One is just a broad expanse of spatial coverage of this event ... You've got 2,000 miles of country that's being impacted by the storm with snow, sleet, and freezing rain," said Josh Weiss, a meteorologist at NOAA's Weather Prediction Center. "The other part of this storm that's really impressive is what's going to happen right afterward. We're looking at extreme cold, record cold."

## Videos show deadly Minneapolis shooting and political leaders reach different conclusions

By HANNAH FINGERHUT Associated Press

Videos quickly emerged Saturday showing the fatal shooting of a Minneapolis protester by a Border Patrol agent, with Democratic leaders in Minnesota saying the footage showed the deadly encounter was the result of untrained federal officers overreacting and the Trump administration saying the man provoked the violence.

It was the second fatal shooting in Minneapolis by federal immigration authorities this month. The first, on Jan. 7, involved Renee Good. It also was captured on videos and produced a similar schism among political leaders.

On Saturday, at around 9 a.m., a Border Patrol agent shot and killed 37-year-old Alex Pretti after a roughly 30-second scuffle. The Trump administration said shots were fired "defensively" against Pretti, who federal authorities said had a semiautomatic handgun and was "violently" resisting officers.

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, who said he watched one of several videos, said he saw "more than six masked agents pummeling one of our constituents, shooting him to death." Frey has said Minneapolis and St. Paul are being "invaded" by the administration's largest immigration crackdown, dubbed Operation Metro Surge.

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said Pretti attacked officers, and Customs and Border Patrol Commander Gregory Bovino said he wanted to do "maximum damage and massacre law enforcement." In posts on X, President Donald Trump's deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller called Pretti "a would-be assassin."

The shooting Saturday occurred when officers were pursuing a man in the country illegally wanted for domestic assault, Bovino said. Protesters routinely try to disrupt such operations, and they sounded their high-pitched whistles, honked horns and yelled out at the officers.

Among them was Pretti. At one point, in a video obtained by The Associated Press, Pretti is standing in the street and holding up his phone. He is face-to-face with an officer in a tactical vest, who places his hand on Pretti and pushes him toward the sidewalk.

Pretti is talking to the officer, though it is not clear what he is saying.

The video shows protesters wandering in and out of the street as officers persist in trying to talk them back. One protester is put in handcuffs. Some officers are carrying pepper spray canisters.

Pretti comes in again when the video shows an officer wearing tactical gear shoving a protester. The protester, who is wearing a skirt over black tights and holding a water bottle, reaches out for Pretti.

The same officer shoves Pretti in his chest, leading Pretti and the other protester to stumble backward.

A different video then shows Pretti moving toward another protester, who falls over after being shoved by the same officer. Pretti moves between the protester and the officer, reaching his arms out toward the officer. The officer deploys pepper spray, and Pretti raises his hand and turns his face. The officer grabs Pretti's hand to bring it behind his back, and deploys the pepper spray canister again and then pushes Pretti away.

Seconds later, at least a half-dozen federal officers surround Pretti, who is wrestled to the ground and hit several times. Several agents try to bring Pretti's arms behind his back, and he struggles.

Videos show an officer, who is hovering over the scuffle with his right hand on Pretti's back, backs away

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 59 of 79

from the group with what appears to be a gun in his right hand just before the first shot.

Someone shouts "gun, gun." It is not clear if that's a reference to the weapon authorities say Pretti had. And then the first shot is heard.

Videos do not clearly show who fired the first shot. In one video, seconds before the first shot, one officer reaches for his belt and appears to draw his gun. That same officer is seen with a gun to Pretti's back as three more shots ring out. Pretti slumps to the ground. Videos show the officers backing away, some with guns drawn. More shots are fired.

The Department of Homeland Security said Pretti was shot after he "approached" Border Patrol officers with a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun. Officials did not say if Pretti, who is licensed to carry a concealed weapon, brandished the gun or kept it hidden.

An agency statement said officers fired "defensive shots" after Pretti "violently resisted" officers tried to disarm him.

Walz expressed dismay at the characterization.

"I've seen the videos, from several angles, and it's sickening," he said.

President Donald Trump weighed in on social media by lashing out Walz and Frey. Trump shared images of the gun that immigration officials said was recovered from Pretti and said "What is that all about? Where are the local Police? Why weren't they allowed to protect ICE Officers?"

## **A man fatally shot by a federal officer in Minnesota worked as an ICU nurse, his parents say**

By The Associated Press undefined

A federal immigration officer fatally shot a man in Minneapolis on Saturday, drawing hundreds of protesters onto the frigidly cold streets in a city already shaken by another fatal shooting weeks earlier.

Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara said a 37-year-old man was killed but declined to identify him. He added that information about what led up to the shooting was limited. The man was identified by his parents as Alex Jeffrey Pretti, an intensive care unit nurse. The officer who shot Pretti is an eight-year Border Patrol veteran, federal officials said.

The Minnesota National Guard has been activated by Gov. Tim Walz and is assisting local police amid growing protests. Guard troops are going to both to the shooting site and to a federal building where officials have squared off with protesters daily.

There have been daily protests in the Twin Cities since the Jan. 7 shooting of 37-year-old Renee Good by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer who fired into her vehicle. Pretti was killed just over a mile away from where Good was shot.

The Latest:

Family: 'heartbroken but also very angry'

Pretti's family released a statement Saturday evening saying they are "heartbroken but also very angry" and calling him a kindhearted soul who wanted to make a difference in the world through his work as a nurse.

"The sickening lies told about our son by the administration are reprehensible and disgusting. Alex is clearly not holding a gun when attacked by Trump's murdering and cowardly ICE thugs. He has his phone in his right hand and his empty left hand is raised above his head while trying to protect the woman ICE just pushed down all while being pepper sprayed," the statement said.

"Please get the truth out about our son. He was a good man. Thank you."

Gun rights group 'deeply concerned' about shooting

While noting that "many critical facts remain unknown," the Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus said in a statement that "there has been no evidence produced indicating an intent to harm the officers" and called for an investigation by both state and federal authorities.

"Every peaceable Minnesotan has the right to keep and bear arms — including while attending protests, acting as observers, or exercising their First Amendment rights," the group said. "These rights do not

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 60 of 79

disappear when someone is lawfully armed."

Federal officials have said Pretti was armed and officers fired defensively after he approached them during an operation and resisted attempts to disarm him. However bystander videos do not appear to show Pretti holding a weapon.

The Minneapolis police chief said Pretti had a permit to carry a gun.

Another evening rally at a park near the scene of Saturday's shooting

People chanted "say his name" in memory of Alex Pretti, who was fatally shot earlier in the day by a federal agent.

One speaker called for sit-ins at congressional offices to urge a halt to funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Another participant said he believes the tide of public opinion is turning in the protesters' favor.

Some carried lit candles, and all were bundled up against the frigid nighttime cold.

After about an hour they went to the scene of the shooting. There were chants of "Resisting ICE is not a crime" and "Observing ICE is not a crime."

There were also chants honoring Renee Good, another person who was fatally shot by a federal agent in Minneapolis this month.

Republican chair of House Homeland Security Committee requests ICE, CBP, USCIS appear before Congress

Rep. Andrew Garbarino, a New York Republican who chairs the committee that oversees the Department of Homeland Security, sent a letter to the department requesting three top officials appear for questioning before the committee.

"As chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, my top priority remains keeping Americans safe and ensuring the Department of Homeland Security can accomplish its core mission," Garbarino said in a statement. "Congress has an important responsibility to ensure the safety of law enforcement and the people they serve and protect."

Garbarino requested that Immigration and Customs Enforcement senior official Todd Lyons, Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Rodney Scott and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Joseph Edlow appear.

The public hearing would take place sometime in the next two months. Garbarino previously requested that senior DHS officials appear before the committee in a Jan. 15 letter.

Schumer: Democrats will block spending bill if it includes Homeland Security funding

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said Senate Democrats will not vote for a spending package that includes money for the Department of Homeland Security.

Schumer's statement increases the possibility that the government could partially shut down Jan. 30 when funding runs out. Several Democrats said Saturday that they will not vote for the bipartisan package of bills, which will need some Democratic votes to pass.

Democrats say the legislation, which includes money for a broad swath of government agencies, does not include enough restrictions on ICE.

Schumer said what is happening in Minnesota is "appalling."

"Democrats sought common sense reforms in the Department of Homeland Security spending bill, but because of Republicans' refusal to stand up to President Trump, the DHS bill is woefully inadequate to rein in the abuses of ICE," Schumer said. "I will vote no."

Justice Department official says Minnesota leaders 'created this escalation'

Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche called the shooting an "avoidable tragedy" that is the "result of the total failure of Minnesota's city and state officials who have resisted federal law enforcement and created this escalation."

Blanche said in a statement that the Justice Department will "continue to hold those breaking federal law accountable, including those who harass and violently attack law enforcement in the name of protest."

The Department of Homeland Security is leading the investigation into the shooting with assistance from

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 61 of 79

the FBI. The DOJ has not yet indicated whether it would open a civil rights investigation but declined to do so after the earlier shooting, of Renee Good.

That was a sharp departure from past administrations, which have moved quickly to probe shootings of civilians by law enforcement officials for potential civil rights offenses.

Dozens of people pay their respects to protester killed by federal agent

They lit candles, placed flowers and stood in silence at the vigil Saturday evening. As dark fell, hundreds of people gathered somberly and quietly by the growing memorial at the shooting scene.

Caleb Spike came from a nearby suburb to show his support and his frustration. "It feels like every day something crazier happens," he said. "What's happening in our community is wrong, it's sickening, it's disgusting."

A nearby doughnut shop and clothing store stayed open to offer a place for people to warm up, as well as water, coffee and snacks.

Democratic senators come out against funding DHS, raising risk of another shutdown

Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto said Saturday that she too would not vote for legislation in the Senate that would fund the Department of Homeland Security.

In doing so, Cortez Masto joined fellow Nevada Democratic Sen. Jacky Rosen. The two moderates broke with their party last year on a vote over the last government shutdown.

Others like Democratic Sen. Brian Schatz of Hawaii have said in the wake of the shooting that they would oppose a DHS funding bill that is part of a spending package in the Senate that aims to avoid a partial government shutdown at the end of the month.

Minnesota-born Defense Secretary Hegseth says ICE is greater than Minnesota

Pete Hegseth posted on the social platform X to thank God for the "patriots" who work for ICE and said, "we have your back 100%."

The Pentagon chief added: "Shame on the leadership of Minnesota — and the lunatics in the street. ICE MN."

Hegseth was born and raised in Minnesota.

Nevada Sen. Rosen says she will vote against any government funding package that funds ICE

Sen. Jacky Rosen, a moderate Democrat from a political swing state, made the announcement Saturday after the fatal shooting in Minneapolis. Rosen was one of eight Democratic senators last year to break ranks with her party and vote with Republicans to move to reopen the government.

"The abuses of power we are seeing from ICE in Minneapolis and across the country are un-American and cannot be normalized," Rosen said via the social platform X.

"Enough is enough. We need to rein in ICE's out of control conduct," Rosen said.

A bill that funds the Department of Homeland Security is part of a package of spending bills that is moving through the Senate to avoid a partial government shutdown at the end of the month.

Top Democrat on House Homeland Security Committee calls for Noem impeachment

Congressman Bennie Thompson, the top Democrat on the U.S. House Homeland Security Committee, called for Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem to be impeached and denounced statements from the administration about the man DHS agents killed.

"Apparently, the Trump administration and its secret police only support the First and Second Amendments when it's convenient to them," Thompson said in a statement.

Thompson called on Democrats in the U.S. Senate to vote against a funding bill for DHS that passed the lower chamber last week. "This is un-American and has to stop," Thompson said. "The House must immediately take steps to impeach Kristi Noem."

Walz excoriates immigration operations in Minnesota

Walz issued a statement Saturday calling immigration enforcement "organized brutality."

"The federal occupation of Minnesota long ago stopped being a matter of immigration enforcement. It is a campaign of organized brutality against the people of our state. And today, that campaign claimed yet another life," Walz said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 62 of 79

He said the state, and not the federal government, will lead the investigation into the death of 37-year-old Alex Pretti.

Pretti was shot and killed by federal officers amid an immigration operation.

"Minnesotans and our local law enforcement have done everything we can to deescalate. The federal government must deescalate. I once again call on the President to remove the 3,000 agents from Minnesota who are sowing chaos and violence."

Congressional Democrats sharply criticize DHS chief Kristi Noem

Congressional Democrats responded with immediate outrage to the killing of another person by federal agents in Minneapolis.

Congressman Robert Garcia, the top Democrat on the House Oversight Committee, called for ICE to be "abolished" and for Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem to be impeached.

"Trump has created a militarized police force accountable only to him and ready to murder people in our streets. These agents need to leave our cities NOW," the California Democrat wrote on social media.

Congressman Brad Schneider, chair of the moderate New Democratic Coalition in the U.S. House, called for an investigation into the shooting and for federal agents to leave Minnesota.

"Every agent involved in this shooting must be suspended pending a full and independent investigation and ultimately held to account for their actions today," Schneider said in a statement. "And, Kristi Noem has got to go. She needs to resign or be fired. If not, Congress must act," the Illinois Democrat continued.

Man identified who was shot and killed amid Minneapolis immigration operation

The man who was shot and killed by a federal officer during an immigration operation has been identified as 37-year-old Alex Pretti. His parents told The Associated Press that Pretti was an intensive care unit nurse.

Vance criticizes local authorities for refusing to cooperate with ICE agents

Vice President JD Vance responded to the shooting in a post on X and said that when he visited Minneapolis this week, "what the ICE agents wanted more than anything was to work with local law enforcement so that situations on the ground didn't get out of hand."

He accused local officials in Minnesota of ignoring requests from ICE agents to work with them.

Notably, federal officials refused to cooperate with local officials on an investigation into the shooting death of Renee Good on Jan. 7.

Store owner opens to help protesters amid freezing temperatures

Allison Bross opened her fashion store, b. Resale, next to the shooting scene for the protesters to grab food, water, use the restroom, receive medical attention and get a warm break from the frigid temperatures outside.

"We're a community-based business, we don't exist without the community," she said. "So if we hear someone in our neighborhood is getting hurt, I'm going to be here immediately."

Meanwhile, a makeshift memorial at a bus stop next to the site of the shooting was taking shape. People left flowers and lit candles.

Hennepin County Sheriff's Office asks for National Guard help

Sheriff Dawanna Witt has requested assistance from the Minnesota National Guard to support deputies at the Whipple Federal Building so that deputies can be assigned to other areas.

The Minnesota National Guard's role is to work in support of local law enforcement and emergency responders, providing additional resources, the sheriff's office said.

Their presence is meant to help create a secure environment where all Minnesotans can exercise their rights safely, including the right to peacefully protest.

"We know this moment is challenging for our community. Remember that our local teams are also part of this community. We respect and protect everyone's rights to voice concerns and stand up for what they believe in, but we urge all actions to remain peaceful and lawful. Our collective priority remains protecting our neighborhoods and keeping people safe," a statement said.

Trump weighs in on the shooting in Minneapolis

Trump posted to his Truth Social account after a man was killed by federal officers during an immigration enforcement action in Minneapolis. Trump's statement said:

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 63 of 79

"This is the gunman's gun, loaded (with two additional full magazines!), and ready to go — What is that all about? Where are the local Police? Why weren't they allowed to protect ICE Officers? The Mayor and the Governor called them off? It is stated that many of these Police were not allowed to do their job, that ICE had to protect themselves — Not an easy thing to do! Why does Ilhan Omar have \$34 Million Dollars in her account? And where are the Tens of Billions of Dollars that have been stolen from the once Great State of Minnesota? We are there because of massive Monetary Fraud, with Billions of Dollars missing, and Illegal Criminals that were allowed to infiltrate the State through the Democrats' Open Border Policy. We want the money back, and we want it back, NOW. Those Fraudsters who stole the money are going to jail, where they belong! This is no different than a really big Bank Robbery. Much of what you're witnessing is a COVER UP for this Theft and Fraud.

"The Mayor and the Governor are inciting Insurrection, with their pompous, dangerous, and arrogant rhetoric! Instead, these sanctimonious political fools should be looking for the Billions of Dollars that has been stolen from the people of Minnesota, and the United States of America. LET OUR ICE PATRIOTS DO THEIR JOB! 12,000 Illegal Alien Criminals, many of them violent, have been arrested and taken out of Minnesota. If they were still there, you would see something far worse than you are witnessing today!"

DHS says officers fired 'defensive shots'

Department of Homeland Security spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement that federal officers were conducting an operation as part of the Trump administration's immigration crackdown.

She said officers fired "defensive shots" after a man with a handgun approached them and "violently resisted" when officers tried to disarm him. O'Hara said police believe the man was a "lawful gun owner with a permit to carry."

Police chief says man shot and killed was a 'lawful gun owner'

O'Hara said the man's only previous interaction with law enforcement as far as he knew was for traffic tickets.

"And we believe he is a lawful gun owner with a permit to carry," he said.

Police chief asks public, law enforcement to remain calm

Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara appealed for calm, both from the public and from federal law enforcement, following the shooting of a man.

"Our demand today is for those federal agencies that are operating in our city to do so with the same discipline, humanity and integrity that effective law enforcement in this country demands," the chief said.

"We urge everyone to remain peaceful. We recognize that there is a lot of anger and a lot of questions around what has happened, but we need people to remain peaceful in the area."

Police also clarified that the age of the man shot is 37.

Angry crowd gathers after shooting of man in Minneapolis

An angry crowd gathered after the shooting and screamed profanities at federal officers, calling them "cowards" and telling them to go home.

One officer responded mockingly as he walked away, telling them: "Boo hoo." Agents elsewhere shoved a yelling protester into a car.

The intersection where the shooting has been blocked off, and Border Patrol agents are on the scene wielding batons.

The shooting happened a day after thousands of demonstrators protesting the crackdown on immigrants crowded the city's streets in frigid weather, calling for federal law enforcement to leave.

Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar expresses outrage at shooting

Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar has expressed outrage at the shooting of a man during an immigration operation.

"Donald Trump and all your lieutenants who ordered this ICE surge: watch the horrific video of the killing today. The world is watching. Thousands of citizens stopped and harassed. Local police no longer able to do their work. Kids hiding. Schools closed. Get ICE out of Minnesota," Klobuchar said in a message posted on X.

Minnesota Democrats react to the shooting

Minnesota Sen. Tina Smith issued a statement after the shooting of a man during an ICE operation. She said, "We are gathering more information, but ICE must leave now so MPD can secure the scene and do their jobs."

Rep. Angie Craig said in a statement that she has seen "my own eyes the video of another horrific killing by ICE agents this morning in Minneapolis. This is sickening.

"The agency is beyond out of control. How much more evidence do my Republican colleagues in Minnesota need to speak out?"

Minneapolis police chief calls for calm

Police Chief Brian O'Hara called for protesters who amassed at the scene of a shooting to stay calm and leave the area. "Please do not destroy our own city," he said at a news conference.

Rep. Omar releases statement after Minnesota shooting

Rep. Ilhan Omar issued a statement after the shooting of a man by federal officers in Minnesota.

"I am absolutely heartbroken, horrified, and appalled that federal agents murdered another member of our community. It is beyond shameful these federal agents are targeting our residents instead of protecting them," she said in a statement.

"This isn't isolated or accidental. The Trump administration is trying to beat us into submission rather than protect us. ... This administration cannot continue violating constitutional rights under the guise of immigration enforcement."

## **Immigrant families protest at Texas facility housing 5-year-old boy, father detained in Minnesota**

By VALERIE GONZALEZ Associated Press

Dozens of immigrant families protested Saturday behind the fences of a Texas detention facility where a 5-year-old Ecuadorian boy and his father were sent this week after being detained in Minnesota.

Aerial photos taken by The Associated Press showed children and parents at the South Texas Family Residential Center clad in jackets and sweaters, some of them holding signs that included "Libertad para los niños," or "Liberty for the kids."

Families could also be heard outside chanting "Libertad!" or "Let us go," said Eric Lee, an immigration attorney who was there to visit a client at the facility in the town of Dilley.

"The message we want to send is for them to treat us with dignity and according to the law. We're immigrants, with children, not criminals," Maria Alejandra Montoya Sanchez, 31, told the AP in a phone interview from the facility after the demonstration. She and her 9-year-old daughter have been held at Dilley since October.

The detention of 5-year-old Liam Conejo Ramos and his father, Adrian Alexander Conejo Arias, in Minnesota on Tuesday has become another lightning rod for America's divisions on immigration under the Trump administration. Versions offered by government officials and the family's attorney and neighbors offer contradictory versions of whether the parents were given adequate opportunity to leave the child with someone else.

Earlier Saturday in Minneapolis, a federal immigration officer shot and killed a man, drawing hundreds of protesters onto the frigid streets and ratcheting up tensions in a city already shaken by another fatal shooting weeks earlier.

Montoya Sanchez said she saw the father and son outside for a few minutes during the protest. Marc Prokosch, an attorney for the family, did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

A spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security did not immediately comment Saturday.

Montoya Sanchez said the protest was organized internally by the families exhausted by the long detention and conditions that advocates say have included food with worms, constant illness and insufficient medical access. Lee said he later heard from his clients inside that the demonstration was related to Liam Conejo Ramos' case.

Lee, an attorney from Michigan, said was in the waiting room for a scheduled client visit when guards

walked in and ordered everyone out.

"That children and their parents would risk retribution under these conditions to speak up is a testament both to how courageous they are and how abysmal the conditions of this place is," he said.

Hundreds of children have been held at the facility beyond the court-mandated limit, according to a report filed December by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in an ongoing federal lawsuit.

## **Democrats Crockett, Talarico align on much in Texas Senate debate. Trump impeachment is different**

By THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

Democrats Jasmine Crockett and James Talarico differed more on style than substance in their first debate for U.S. Senate in heavily Republican Texas, though they distinguished themselves somewhat on the future of ICE and impeachment of President Donald Trump.

Crockett, an outspoken second-term U.S. House member, and Talarico, a more soft-spoken four-term state representative, generally echoed each other on economic issues, health care and taxes.

Both called for a "fighter" in the role. Crockett, who is Black, said she was better positioned to attract disaffected Black voters, while Talarico, a Presbyterian seminarian who often discusses his Christian faith, suggested he could net rural voters unhappy with Republicans.

The hour-long discussion, before hundreds of labor union members and their families at the Texas AFL-CIO political convention, served as an early preview for themes Democrats hoping to overtake the Republican majority in the Senate in November are likely to stress throughout the midterm campaign.

The nominee chosen in the March 3 primary will face the winner of a Republican contest between four-term Sen. John Cornyn, Rep. Wesley Hunt and state Attorney Gen. Ken Paxton.

### Impeachment of Trump

Crockett said she would support impeachment proceedings against Trump, beginning with investigating his use of tariffs. Crockett has supported impeachment measures in the House, and would be in a position to promote them as a member of the House Judiciary Committee, should Democrats take control of the House in November.

"I think that there is more than enough to impeach Donald Trump," Crockett said. "Ultimately, do I think we should go through the formal process? Absolutely."

Talarico stopped short of suggesting whether he would support impeachment proceedings, except to say, "I think the administration has certainly committed impeachable offenses."

Instead, Talarico said he would, as a senator, weigh any evidence presented during an impeachment trial fairly, given that the Senate does not bring impeachment charges but votes to convict or acquit. "I'm not going to articulate articles of impeachment here at a political debate," he said.

### Both candidates address ICE funding

Both candidates condemned the shooting of a man in Minneapolis by federal immigration officers Sunday, and ICE's heavy presence in the city, though Talarico was more adamant about cutting funding to the agency.

Both said they support bringing impeachment proceedings against Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, under whom ICE serves. But Crockett was less specific about cutting their funding.

"We absolutely have to clean house," she said. "Whatever that looks like, I'm willing to do it."

Talarico more specifically said of ICE funding, "We should take that money back and put it in our communities where it belongs."

### Differences of style

While both candidates said the position requires "a fighter," Crockett cast herself as a high-profile adversarial figure while Talarico said he had been confronting Republicans in the Texas Statehouse.

"I am here to fight the system, the system that is holding so many of us down," said Crockett, a 44-year-old Dallas civil rights lawyer and former public defender who has built her national profile with a candid style marked by viral moments.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 66 of 79

"It is about tapping into the rawness of this moment," Crockett said of what Democratic primary voters are seeking.

Talarico, a former public school teacher, cast himself as someone who had been actively opposing the Republican-controlled state legislature.

He pointed to his opposition to Texas' Republican Gov. Greg Abbott's agenda in Austin, notably on tax credits for Texans who choose private schools for their children.

"We need a proven fighter for our schools, for our values, for our constituents in the halls of power," he said. "I think we need a teacher in the United States Senate."

Taxes, health care and economy

Crockett and Talarico generally aligned on domestic policy, including support for higher taxes.

Both candidates proposed ending tariffs as a way of lowering consumer prices.

"We have to roll back these tariffs," Crockett said. "It's hurting farmers and ranchers who are filing a record number of bankruptcies."

Talarico was more direct about his support for higher taxes on the nation's wealthiest earners.

"What I will not compromise on is making sure these billionaires pay for all that they have gotten from this country," Talarico said, though he stopped short of suggesting how much he would seek to raise taxes.

Crockett voted last summer against the tax-cut and spending-reduction bill passed by the Republican-controlled Congress and signed by Trump. The bill extended tax cuts enacted during Trump's first administration.

She also said she supported Medicare for all, a government-backed health insurance plan for all Americans.

"If we truly believe that everyone should have access to health care, we can make that a reality with bold leadership," she said.

Talarico supports the concept, and spoke favorably about universal basic income, without suggesting he would specifically support it in the Senate.

"I'm very encouraged by some pilot programs of universal basic income," he said.

## US envoys urge Netanyahu to move into Gaza ceasefire's second phase

By SAMY MAGDY, WAFAA SHURAFU and MELANIE LIDMAN Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Top U.S. envoys met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday, urging his government to move into the second phase of the ceasefire in Gaza.

Netanyahu met with U.S. President Donald Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and Middle East adviser, according to the prime minister's office, which did not give details. A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity to describe the talks, told reporters the envoys had been working closely with Netanyahu on recovering the remains of the last hostage in Gaza, and on the next steps for demilitarizing the territory.

The U.S. is anxious to keep the Trump-brokered deal moving, but Netanyahu faces pressure to wait until Hamas returns the hostage's remains.

The biggest signal of the second phase would be the reopening of the Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt. Ali Shaath, the head of a future technocratic government in Gaza that is expected to run day-to-day affairs, said Thursday the border crossing will open in both directions this coming week. There was no confirmation from Israel, which said it would consider the matter this week. The crossing's Gaza side is currently under Israeli military control.

The family of Ran Gvili, whose body is still in Gaza, urged more pressure on Hamas. "President Trump himself stated this week in Davos that Hamas knows exactly where our son is being held," the family said Saturday. "Hamas is deceiving the international community and refusing to return our son, the last remaining hostage, in what constitutes a clear violation of the agreement it signed."

Hamas said Wednesday it has provided "all information" it has on Gvili's remains to ceasefire mediators, and accused Israel of obstructing search efforts in areas it controls in Gaza. The ceasefire took effect on

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 67 of 79

Oct. 10.

Egypt pushes for Rafah crossing to open

Egypt's top diplomat pressed for an immediate opening of the Rafah crossing with the director of Trump's new Board of Peace in Gaza, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said Saturday, including the ability of Palestinians to enter and exit the territory.

Foreign Minister Bader Abdelatty spoke by phone with Bulgarian diplomat Nickolay Mladenov, the high representative for Gaza, the ministry said in a statement. They discussed the implementation of the ceasefire's second phase, including the deployment of an international monitoring force, the opening of the Rafah crossing in both directions and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the strip, the statement said.

The Egyptian minister said implementing the second phase is a "key entry point" to launch Gaza's reconstruction. The statement didn't say when the crossing will open for travelers and the evacuation of sick and wounded.

Israel is expected to discuss opening the Rafah crossing during Sunday's Cabinet meeting.

Hamas in a statement Saturday said a delegation met in Istanbul with the head of Turkey's National Intelligence Organization about the ceasefire's second phase and "the fulfillment of the requirements of the first phase."

2 teens killed in Gaza while searching for firewood

Also on Saturday, an Israeli strike killed two Palestinian teens in Gaza, according to hospital authorities. The boys, cousins aged 13 and 15, were searching for firewood, according to Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, which received the bodies.

The boys were killed in the area that Israel's military has said is safe for Palestinians, about 500 meters (yards) from the Yellow Line, which separates the Israeli-controlled areas in eastern Gaza from the rest of the strip, said a relative, Arafat al-Zawara.

Israel's military said it had targeted several militants who crossed the Yellow Line and planted explosives, threatening troops. It denied that those killed were children.

Since the ceasefire, more than 480 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The ministry, which is part of the Hamas-led government, maintains detailed casualty records that are seen as generally reliable by U.N. agencies and independent experts. Israel disputes its figures but has not provided its own.

Shurafa reported from Deir Al-Balah, Gaza Strip, and Lidman reported from Tel Aviv, Israel. Associated Press writers Sally About AlJoud in Beirut and Michelle Price in Washington contributed to this report.

## Stranded by winter weather? Here's what airlines owe you

By RIO YAMAT AP Airlines and Travel Writer

Winter weather can upend even the best-laid travel plans, but one less thing to worry about is losing money if your flight is canceled: U.S. airlines are required to provide refunds.

A monster storm started to wreak havoc Saturday across parts of the country, with 12,200 weekend flights and counting canceled. Forecasters warned that catastrophic damage, especially in areas pounded by ice, could rival that of a hurricane.

Here's a guide for winter travelers as flight disruptions pile up:

Keep an eye on weather forecasts

When airlines expect bad weather to create problems for flights, they often give travelers a chance to postpone their trips by a few days without having to pay a fee. Search online for your airline's name and "travel alerts" or similar phrases to look for possible rescheduling offers.

American Airlines, for example, said it is waiving change fees for passengers impacted by the storm and adding extra flights around the country in an effort to help passengers reach their destination after the storm passes.

Check before going to the airport

Use the airline's app to make sure your flight is still on before heading to the airport.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 68 of 79

Cancellations can happen hours — or even days — before departure time. Consider American and Delta Air Lines: By mid-day Saturday, each carrier had canceled more than 1,000 of its scheduled Sunday flights, according to flight tracking site FlightAware.

Oklahoma's largest airport suspended all flights Saturday, while Dallas–Fort Worth International Airport, a major hub, saw more than 700 departing flights canceled and nearly as many arriving flights called off. Flight disruptions also were stacking up at airports in Chicago, Atlanta, Nashville and Charlotte, North Carolina.

Disruptions were expected to intensify Sunday, FlightAware data showed. By late Saturday afternoon, nearly all departing flights scheduled to leave Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport on Sunday — 405 flights, or about 95% — had already been canceled. Major disruptions were also forecast for airports in Charlotte and Atlanta, home to the nation's busiest airport, as well as New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport and LaGuardia Airport, where 87% of Sunday's departing flights have so far been canceled.

My flight was canceled, now what?

If you're already at the airport, get in line to speak to a customer service representative. If you're still at home or at your hotel, call or go online to connect to your airline's reservations staff. Either way, it helps to also research alternate flights while you wait to talk to an agent.

Most airlines will rebook you on a later flight for no additional charge, but it depends on the availability of open seats.

Can I get booked on another airline?

You can, but airlines aren't required to put you on another carrier's flight. Some airlines, including most of the biggest carriers, say they can put you on a partner airline, but even then it can be a hit or miss.

Am I owed a refund?

If your flight was canceled and you no longer want to take the trip, or you've found another way to get to your destination, the airline is legally required to refund your money — even if you bought a non-refundable ticket. It doesn't matter why the flight was canceled.

The airline might offer you a travel credit, but you are entitled to a full refund. You are also entitled to a refund of any bag fees, seat upgrades or other extras that you didn't get to use.

When will I get my refund?

If you paid with a credit card, a refund is due within seven business days after you decline an offer from the airline for another flight or a voucher, and within 20 calendar days if you paid for the ticket with a check or cash, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

What else will my airline cover?

U.S. airlines aren't required by the Transportation Department to compensate passengers for meals or lodging when an airline cancels or significantly delays a flight during an "uncontrollable" event like bad weather.

Each airline, however, does have its own policies for assisting passengers who are stranded by a so-called "controllable" flight cancellation or long delay. These include disruptions caused by maintenance issues, crew shortages or computer outages that halt operations. The Transportation Department can hold airlines accountable for these commitments and maintains a website that lets travelers see what each airline promises if a major disruption is their fault.

Other tips

If the weather forecast is troubling, Kyle Potter, executive editor of Thrifty Traveler, suggests looking into booking a backup flight. Some airlines stand out as potential backups, Potter says, because they let customers get a full refund as long as they cancel within 24 hours of booking.

The customer service phone lines will be slammed if flight cancellations and delays start stacking up during a bad storm. If you're traveling with someone who has a higher frequent-flyer status, call the airline using their priority number. Another trick: Look up the airline's international support number. Those agents can often rebook you just the same.

## Steelers and Mike McCarthy have reached a verbal agreement for McCarthy to coach his hometown team

By WILL GRAVES AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Mike McCarthy is coming home.

The Pittsburgh Steelers announced Saturday the club has reached a verbal agreement with McCarthy to replace Mike Tomlin as head coach.

McCarthy grew up in the Greenfield neighborhood, just a couple of miles away from the team's practice facility on the city's South Side.

The 62-year-old McCarthy is 185–123–2 (playoffs included) across 18 seasons, 13 with Green Bay — which beat the Steelers in the Super Bowl following the 2010 season — and five with Dallas.

His potential hire is just the fourth by the Steelers since 1969 and a marked departure from his predecessors, Tomlin and Hall of Famers Chuck Noll and Bill Cowher.

All three were largely unknown assistants/coordinators. McCarthy is hardly that.

McCarthy would replace Tomlin, who stepped down earlier this month after his 19th season ended with a seventh straight playoff loss, this one at home to the Houston Texans. Tomlin's surprise departure came as he was under contract for 2026 with a club option for 2027.

The Steelers took a methodical approach, interviewing nearly a dozen candidates that spanned a wide spectrum of experience, from Minnesota Vikings defensive coordinator Brian Flores (who spent 2022 as a defensive assistant on Tomlin's staff) to Chargers defensive coordinator Jesse Minter, who was hired by the Baltimore Ravens on Thursday to replace John Harbaugh.

They ultimately landed on McCarthy, who takes over a team that has been stuck in a purgatory of sorts for going on a decade.

Tomlin's nearly two-decade tenure included 193 regular-season victories — tied with Noll for the most in franchise history — and the team's sixth Super Bowl. Perhaps most remarkably, Pittsburgh didn't have a losing season with Tomlin on the sideline.

That startling consistency, however, did not always translate to postseason success. Pittsburgh has been one-and-done in each of its last six playoff appearances, all of them double-digit losses.

In some ways, the Steelers have been victims of their own success. They have frequently been drafting in the high teens and low-20s, not exactly a prime position to find a franchise quarterback. It didn't help that they chose not to draft Ben Roethlisberger's replacement in his final seasons, then whiffed badly on Kenny Pickett, who flamed out in less than two years after being taken in the first round of the 2022 draft.

It's led to a revolving door at the most important position on the field. If Aaron Rodgers, who will be a free agent in March, doesn't return for a 22nd season, the Steelers will have their sixth different Week 1 quarterback in six years. McCarthy's arrival, however, would seemingly open the door for the 42-year-old Rodgers to come back.

Rodgers said earlier this month he believes he would have at least a couple of options if he chose to run it back one more time, and his long partnership with McCarthy in Green Bay included a Super Bowl victory over Tomlin and the Steelers. Pittsburgh will have the 21st pick when a draft that appears to be thin in quality options at quarterback descends on the Steel City in late April.

There's a very real chance the Steelers, who currently only have veteran backup Mason Rudolph and 2025 sixth-round pick Will Howard under contract for next season, will kick the can down the road again and address a handful of other positions of need in the draft, namely wide receiver and cornerback.

Regardless, president Art Rooney II brushed off the idea of the Steelers rebuilding.

"I don't like that word that much," Rooney said the day after Tomlin resigned. "We'll try to compete day one if we can."

McCarthy's potential arrival would indicate that's still the plan.

His hire would also give McCarthy a chance to burnish a resume that stalled a bit after guiding the Packers from a wild-card berth to the franchise's fifth Super Bowl in 2010.

McCarthy is just 6-9 in the playoffs since the confetti fell at AT&T Stadium. That includes a 1-2 mark

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 70 of 79

with the Cowboys, where he posted three straight 12-win seasons from 2021-23 before being fired after Dallas tumbled to 7-10 in 2024 thanks in large part to an injury to quarterback Dak Prescott that limited him to just eight games.

The one thing McCarthy — who early in his career was a graduate assistant at the University of Pittsburgh (which now shares a building with the Steelers) — has consistently done is put together offenses that can move the ball.

McCarthy-coached teams have finished in the top 10 in yards in 12 of his 18 seasons, though his first years in both Green Bay in 2006 and Dallas in 2020 were sluggish.

The Steelers have been stuck in a transition period on offense for a solid half-decade. That transition may soon move to an expensive and aging defense that has potential Hall of Famers at every level (defensive tackle Cam Heyward, linebacker T.J. Watt and defensive back Jalen Ramsey), all in their 30s.

McCarthy would be the first Steelers hire with previous NFL head coaching experience since Mike Nixon in 1965. Nixon lasted just one season in Pittsburgh and was fired after going 2-12. Nixon was replaced by Bill Austin, who made it three years before Pittsburgh hired Noll, a decision that transformed the franchise from a laughingstock into one of the league's most successful and stable teams.

Noll and his four Super Bowls set a standard of excellence that Cowher and Tomlin maintained in their own unique ways.

That standard, however, had slipped of late. McCarthy's mandate will be returning some of the luster to a team that hasn't won a playoff game since the final days of the Barack Obama administration.

It will also provide a test of sorts for the hometown boy who made good, who now gets to find out whether you can truly go home again.

## **Trump threatens Canada with a 100% tariff over its China trade deal and escalates feud with Carney**

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and ROB GILLIES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Saturday threatened to impose a 100% tariff on goods imported from Canada if America's northern neighbor went ahead with its China trade deal, intensifying a feud with Prime Minister Mark Carney, a rising voice in the West's pushback to Trump's new world order.

Trump said in a social media post that if Carney "thinks he is going to make Canada a 'Drop Off Port' for China to send goods and products into the United States, he is sorely mistaken."

It was unclear when Trump might impose the threatened tariff. He said in the post it would happen "immediately" if Canada made a deal with China, which Carney did a week earlier, drawing initial praise from the president.

The White House did not offer any additional details.

While Trump has waged a trade war over the past year, Canada forged ahead with its own deal to lower tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles in return for lower import taxes on Canadian farm products. At the time, Trump said that agreement was what Carney "should be doing and it's a good thing for him to sign a trade deal."

Dominic LeBlanc, Canada's minister responsible for trade with the United States, said Canada and China had resolved "several important trade issues" but there was no pursuit of a free-trade agreement.

Trump's threat came amid an escalating war of words with Carney as the Republican president's push to acquire Greenland strained the NATO alliance. Trump had commented while in Davos, Switzerland, this week that "Canada lives because of the United States." Carney shot back that his nation can be an example that the world does not have to bend toward autocratic tendencies. "Canada doesn't live because of the United States. Canada thrives because we are Canadian," he said.

Trump later revoked his invitation to Carney to join the president's "Board of Peace" that he is forming to try to resolve global conflicts.

Trump's push to acquire Greenland has come after he has repeatedly needled Canada over its sovereignty and suggested it also be absorbed the United States as a 51st state. He posted an altered image

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 71 of 79

on social media this week showing a map of the United States that included Canada, Venezuela, Greenland and Cuba as part of its territory.

In his message Saturday, Trump continued his provocations by calling Canada's leader "Governor Carney." Trump had used the same nickname for Carney's predecessor, Justin Trudeau, and his first use of it toward Carney was the latest mark of their soured relationship.

Daniel Béland, a political science professor at McGill University in Montreal, said "there was a sense Trump showed more respect for Carney than for Trudeau. Now, after Carney's visit to China and, even more, his widely celebrated Davos speech, which clearly outshined and upset Trump, the gloves are off."

Carney has emerged as a leader of a movement for countries to find ways to link up and counter the U.S. under Trump. Speaking in Davos before Trump, Carney said, "Middle powers must act together because if you are not at the table, you are on the menu" and he warned about coercion by great powers — without mentioning Trump's name. The prime minister received widespread praise and attention for his remarks, upstaging Trump at the World Economic Forum.

The prime minister even spoke of a "rupture" between the U.S. under Trump and its Western allies that would never be repaired.

Trump, in his Truth Social post Saturday, also said that "China will eat Canada alive, completely devour it, including the destruction of their businesses, social fabric, and general way of life." In a later post, the president said: "The last thing the World needs is to have China take over Canada. It's NOT going to happen, or even come close to happening!"

Carney has not yet reached a deal with Trump to reduce some of the tariffs that he has imposed on key sectors of the Canadian economy. But Canada has been protected by the heaviest impact of Trump's tariffs by the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement. That trade agreement is up for a review this year.

In the fall, the Canadian province of Ontario aired an anti-tariff ad in the U.S. that prompted Trump to end trade talks with Canada. The television ad used the words of former President Ronald Reagan to criticize U.S. tariffs. Trump pledged to increase tariffs on imports of Canadian goods by an extra 10%. He did not follow through.

As for China, Canada had initially mirrored the United States by putting a 100% tariff on electric vehicles from Beijing and a 25% tariff on steel and aluminum. China had responded by imposing 100% import taxes on Canadian canola oil and meal and 25% on pork and seafood.

But as Trump's pursued pressure tactics, Canada's foreign policy has been less aligned with the U.S., creating an opening for an improved relationship with China. Carney made the tariff announcement earlier this month during a visit to Beijing.

Carney has said that Canada's relationship with the U.S. is complex and deep and that Canada and China disagree on issues such as human rights.

LeBlanc, the trade minister, said in a statement that Canada would work to ensure that the future of that relationship "benefits workers and businesses on both sides of the border."

Canada is the top export destination for 36 U.S. states. Nearly \$3.6 billion Canadian (US \$2.7 billion) worth of goods and services cross the border each day. About 60% of U.S. crude oil imports are from Canada, as are 85% of U.S. electricity imports.

Canada is also the largest foreign supplier of steel, aluminum and uranium to the U.S. and has 34 critical minerals and metals that the Pentagon is eager for and investing in for national security.

## Heavy snow and rainfall kill 61, injure 110 over 3 days in Afghanistan, authorities say

By ABDUL QA HAR AFGHAN Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Heavy snow and rainfall over the past three days have killed more than 60 people and injured over 100 across Afghanistan, the country's disaster management authority said Saturday, as authorities in the impoverished country struggled to open roads and gain access to cut-off villages.

National Disaster Management Authority spokesman Yousaf Hammad said 61 people had died and 110

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 72 of 79

were injured, while 458 homes had been completely or partially destroyed and hundreds of animals had died in 15 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. The numbers, he said, could change as authorities gathered more information from the provinces.

Afghanistan is highly vulnerable to extreme weather events, with snow and heavy rain that triggers flash floods often killing dozens, or even hundreds, of people at a time. In 2024, more than 300 people died in springtime flash floods.

Decades of conflict coupled with poor infrastructure, a struggling economy, deforestation and the intensifying effects of climate change have amplified the impact of such disasters, particularly in remote areas where many homes are built of mud and offer limited protection against sudden deluges or heavy snowfall.

The country's eastern provinces are also still struggling to recover from devastating earthquakes that struck last year, in late August and again in November, destroying villages and killing more than 2,200 people.

Those displaced by the quakes are particularly vulnerable to the extreme cold and bad weather conditions. In December, UNICEF said an estimated 270,000 children in the areas affected by the quakes were at "severe risk of life-threatening diseases related to the cold."

Earlier this month, the United Nations said Afghanistan would "remain one of the world's largest humanitarian crises in 2026." The U.N. and its humanitarian partners launched a \$1.7 billion appeal to assist nearly 18 million people in urgent need in the country.

## **Iran's Revolutionary Guard commander warns the US his force has its 'finger on the trigger'**

By ELENA BECATOROS Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The commander of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, which was key in putting down recent nationwide protests in a crackdown that left thousands dead, warned that his force is "more ready than ever, finger on the trigger," as U.S. warships headed toward the Middle East.

Nournews, a news outlet close to Iran's Supreme National Security Council, reported on its Telegram channel that the commander, Gen. Mohammad Pakpour, warned the United States and Israel "to avoid any miscalculation."

"The Islamic Revolutionary Guard and dear Iran stand more ready than ever, finger on the trigger, to execute the orders and directives of the Commander-in-Chief," Nournews quoted Pakpour as saying.

Tension remains high between Iran and the U.S. in the wake of a bloody crackdown on protests that began on Dec. 28, triggered by the collapse of Iran's currency, the rial, and swept the country for about two weeks.

Meanwhile, the number of people reported by activists as having been arrested jumped to more than 40,000, as fears grow some could face the death penalty.

Trump's warnings

U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly warned Tehran, setting two red lines for the use of military force: the killing of peaceful demonstrators and the mass execution of people arrested in the protests.

Trump has repeatedly said Iran halted the execution of 800 people detained in the protests. He has not elaborated on the source of the claim, which Iran's top prosecutor, Mohammad Movahedi, strongly denied Friday in comments carried by the judiciary's Mizan news agency.

On Thursday, Trump said aboard Air Force One that the U.S. was moving warships toward Iran "just in case" he wants to take action.

"We have a massive fleet heading in that direction and maybe we won't have to use it," Trump said.

A U.S. Navy official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss military movements, said Thursday that the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln and other warships traveling with it were in the Indian Ocean.

Trump also mentioned the multiple rounds of talks American officials had with Iran over its nuclear program before Israel launched a 12-day war against the Islamic Republic in June, which also saw U.S. warplanes bomb Iranian nuclear sites. He threatened Iran with military action that would make earlier

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 73 of 79

U.S. strikes against Iranian uranium enrichment sites "look like peanuts."

Airline jitters

The tension has led at least two European airlines to suspend some flights to the wider region.

Air France canceled two return flights from Paris to Dubai over the weekend. The airline said it was "closely following developments in the Middle East in real time and continuously monitors the geopolitical situation in the territories served and overflown by its aircraft in order to ensure the highest level of flight safety and security." It said it would resume its service to Dubai later Saturday.

Luxair said it had postponed its Saturday flight from Luxembourg to Dubai by 24 hours "in light of on-going tensions and insecurity affecting the region's airspace, and in line with measures taken by several other airlines."

It told the AP it was closely monitoring the situation "and a decision on whether the flight will operate tomorrow will be taken based on the ongoing assessment."

Arrivals information at Dubai's international airport also showed the cancellation of Saturday flights from Amsterdam by Dutch carriers KLM and Transavia. The airlines did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Some KLM flights to Tel Aviv in Israel were also canceled on Friday and Saturday, according to online flight trackers.

Rising death toll and arrests

Although there have been no further demonstrations in Iran for days, the death toll reported by activists has continued to rise as information trickles out despite the most comprehensive internet blackout in Iran's history, which has now lasted more than two weeks.

The U.S.-based Human Rights Activists News Agency on Saturday put the death toll at 5,200, with the number expected to increase. The group's figures have been accurate in previous unrest and rely on a network of activists in Iran to verify deaths. That death toll exceeds that of any other round of protest or unrest there in decades, and recalls the chaos surrounding Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Iran's government offered its first death toll on Wednesday, saying 3,117 people were killed. It said 2,427 were civilians and security forces, and labeled the rest as "terrorists." In the past, Iran's theocracy has undercounted or not reported fatalities from unrest.

The activist agency on Saturday also increased the total number of people arrested to 40,879 — a significant jump from the more than 27,700 people in its previous update.

There have been fears Iran could apply the death penalty to arrested protesters, as it has done in the past.

Iranian judiciary officials have called some of those being held "mohareb" — or "enemies of God" — a charge that carries the death penalty. It had been used along with other charges to carry out mass executions in 1988 that reportedly killed at least 5,000 people.

At a U.N. Human Rights Council special session on Iran held in Geneva Friday, Volker Türk, the U.N.'s high commissioner for human rights, expressed concern over "contradictory statements from the Iranian authorities about whether those detained in connection with the protests may be executed."

He said Iran "remains among the top executioner states in the world," with at least 1,500 people reportedly executed last year — a 50% increase over 2024.

## Trump housing finance chief OKs more mortgage spending and adds risk for government-backed lenders

By BRIAN SLODYSKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's federal housing finance director, Bill Pulte, quietly granted government-backed lenders the authority to nearly double a \$200 billion bond purchase that Trump ordered to try to lower mortgage rates, a move that could introduce a new level of risk for the companies.

An email obtained by The Associated Press that was sent by the Federal Housing Finance Agency to top officials at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac eliminated caps that prohibited the lenders from each holding more

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 74 of 79

than \$40 billion in mortgage bonds. The Jan. 12 email says that "effective immediately" the new amount of mortgage bonds that they could hold in their portfolios was raised to \$225 billion apiece.

If the mortgage buyers were to act on the full extent of this new authority, that would amount to a roughly \$170 billion increase in bond purchases over what the president instructed them to buy. Neither Pulte nor the FHFA addressed questions about whether Trump or Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent was consulted before the increase was enacted.

The changes to the purchasing rules effectively reverse nearly two decades of bipartisan consensus that limits should be imposed after the government had to bail out Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in the aftermath of the financial crisis of 2008-09, which led to both being placed into a government conservatorship.

Before this story was published, Pulte took to X, calling it "fake news."

"FHFA simply gave each entity legal flexibility to go beyond their previous caps," Pulte wrote Friday, adding that despite the lenders' new bond purchasing authority, they would not "exceed \$200 billion."

After the story was published, the agency put out additional statement saying that "Fannie and Freddie will not be allowed to go beyond the president's buy."

The White House, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac did not respond to requests for comment. The Treasury Department, in a statement, said Pulte has been "collaborative and transparent" in working with the department. The statement did not address the bond purchases.

Some members of Congress who were closely involved in the fallout from the financial crisis have raised concerns about Pulte and the Republican administration's new approach. They say any benefit from the mortgage bond purchase will be fleeting unless the tight supply of homes can be increased. Without that, they argue, any decrease in interest rates will only drive up home prices as sellers adapt to the lower cost of borrowing by increasing their asking prices.

"This is just a smoke screen for Trump and Bill Pulte to tweet about — it will do little, if anything, to lower mortgage interest rates over the long term and raises questions about increased risks to Fannie and Freddie," said Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, the top Democrat on the Senate's banking committee.

An unusually high profile

The episode offers the latest example of Pulte's turbulent tenure in a typically low-profile position in the federal bureaucracy.

Pulte, who also appointed himself chair of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, has used the post to cultivate his own political profile and spearheaded efforts to initiate federal criminal investigations of some of Trump's chief antagonists.

Pulte was identified as a driving force behind the administration's decision to criminally investigate Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, according to Bloomberg News, provoking an outcry from some prominent Republicans in Congress.

Pulte has presided over the firing of executives at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, as well as ethics officials at Fannie Mae who were investigating him and his allies. He also has pushed Trump to endorse policy ideas that were widely panned. In November, Pulte convinced Trump of the allure of a 50-year mortgage as a way to increase home buying and building — a proposal that would drastically increase the overall price of a loan.

Fannie Mae was created in 1938 as part of the New Deal to shore up the mortgage industry. Congress created Freddie Mac in 1970 to provide additional liquidity to the housing market. The institutions buy up the vast majority of mortgages that lenders issue to homeowners, which are then packaged into bonds that are sold to investors.

Both now exist as private companies, but due to their government charters, are subject to additional regulation and can borrow money at far lower costs. Because of this government affiliation, markets also broadly recognize the financial products they sell as federally guaranteed.

But there is a tension between the lenders' public mission and their desire to generate earnings, which has at times led both to take on heightened levels of risk, as was the case before the financial crisis. That led to both being placed in a government conservatorship.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 75 of 79

As a result, the federal government forced Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to draw down their mortgage investment portfolios, which the Treasury capped at \$450 billion. The FHFA went further, gradually ratcheting down the amount of mortgage bonds they could each retain, which was set as low as \$25 billion earlier this year, records show.

Taking greater risks

Now Pulte is overseeing a reversal of that. Both lenders are still subject to the Treasury's \$450 billion cap. But with their newly granted limits, they can adjust their portfolios to take on a far more aggressive — and riskier — approach toward buying mortgage bonds.

At first, Pulte took a slow approach. In recent months, the FHFA granted Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac small increases in their mortgage bond buying capacities, which essentially served as a test run for Trump's announcement this month, according to housing market analysts.

Now that both lenders have the authority to stake out a larger position, they could use it to boost earnings before an anticipated initial public offering that would allow investors to buy significant stakes in the companies. Neither company, however, seems to have enough cash or liquid assets to make a \$225 billion purchase, which could require taking on debt, analysts say.

Though Pulte maintains that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac would not buy more bonds than Trump ordered, the email that his agency sent to the lenders did not directly address the issue.

The email instructed the companies to increase bond investments to "exert meaningful downward pressure" on rates. Both companies were directed to submit purchasing plans to the FHFA, but the agency also made clear that the "commencement of increases" in purchases did not require its approval first.

The moves demonstrate the extent to which mortgage interest rates have become a political liability for Trump before the midterm elections in November, when Republicans' control of Congress will be on the line.

But the plan, as announced by Trump, has already been criticized by many economists and housing policy experts as a gimmick considering the mammoth size of the \$13 trillion U.S. mortgage market.

"It does raise the question of whether we're letting the genie back out of the bottle. That wouldn't be so worrisome if the genie hadn't done so much damage the last time around," said Jim Parrott, who served on the National Economic Council during Democrat Barack Obama's presidency and counseled him on housing issues.

Edward Pinto, a resident fellow at the conservative-leaning American Enterprise Institute, likened Trump's initial \$200 billion announcement to a "sugar high."

"It may have an effect, but it will be fleeting," said Pinto, a former Fannie Mae executive. He noted that while Trump's announcement briefly drove mortgage rates down, they ticked back up after Trump threatened a takeover of Greenland.

"It's easy for the federal government to make a mistake here. They've done it in the past," Pinto said.

## How the old and new US defense strategies differ on traditional priorities

By The Associated Press undefined

The new U.S. National Defense Strategy released by President Donald Trump's administration is the first since 2022 and contrasts with its predecessor, issued under former President Joe Biden. Here's a look at how the two Pentagon strategies address some of the traditional concerns of U.S. security policy.

The Western Hemisphere

2022: "The United States derives immense benefit from a stable, peaceful, and democratic Western Hemisphere that reduces security threats to the homeland. To prevent distant threats from becoming a challenge at home, the Department will continue to partner with countries in the region to build capability and promote security and stability.

"As in all regions, the Department will work collaboratively, seeking to understand our partners' security needs and areas of mutual concern."

2026: "We will actively and fearlessly defend America's interests throughout the Western Hemisphere.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 76 of 79

We will guarantee U.S. military and commercial access to key terrain, especially the Panama Canal, Gulf of America, and Greenland. We will provide President Trump with credible military options to use against narco-terrorists wherever they may be. We will engage in good faith with our neighbors, from Canada to our partners in Central and South America, but we will ensure that they respect and do their part to defend our shared interests. And where they do not, we will stand ready to take focused, decisive action that concretely advances U.S. interests."

## Russia and European security

2022: "The Department will maintain its bedrock commitment to NATO collective security, working alongside Allies and partners to deter, defend, and build resilience against further Russian military aggression and acute forms of gray zone coercion. As we continue contributing to NATO capabilities and readiness — including through improvements to our posture in Europe and our extended nuclear deterrence commitments — the Department will work with Allies bilaterally and through NATO's established processes to better focus NATO capability development and military modernization to address Russia's military threat."

2026: "Russia will remain a persistent but manageable threat to NATO's eastern members for the foreseeable future."

"European NATO dwarfs Russia in economic scale, population, and, thus, latent military power. At the same time, although Europe remains important, it has a smaller and decreasing share of global economic power. It follows that, although we are and will remain engaged in Europe, we must — and will — prioritize defending the U.S. Homeland and deterring China."

"Fortunately, our NATO allies are substantially more powerful than Russia — it is not even close. Germany's economy alone dwarfs that of Russia. At the same time, under President Trump's leadership, NATO allies have committed to raise defense spending to the new global standard of 5% of GDP in total, with 3.5% of GDP invested in hard military capabilities. Our NATO allies are therefore strongly positioned to take primary responsibility for Europe's conventional defense, with critical but more limited U.S. support. This includes taking the lead in supporting Ukraine's defense."

## China and the Indo-Pacific

2022: "The NDS (National Defense Strategy) directs the Department to act urgently to sustain and strengthen U.S. deterrence, with the People's Republic of China (PRC) as the pacing challenge for the Department."

"The most comprehensive and serious challenge to U.S. national security is the PRC's coercive and increasingly aggressive endeavor to refashion the Indo-Pacific region and the international system to suit its interests and authoritarian preferences."

"The PRC's increasingly provocative rhetoric and coercive activity towards Taiwan are destabilizing, risk miscalculation, and threaten the peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait. This is part of a broader pattern of destabilizing and coercive PRC behavior that stretches across the East China Sea, the South China Sea, and along the Line of Actual Control."

"The Department will support Taiwan's asymmetric self-defense commensurate with the evolving PRC threat and consistent with our one China policy."

2026: "Were China — or anyone else, for that matter — to dominate this broad and crucial region, it would be able to effectively veto Americans' access to the world's economic center of gravity, with enduring implications for our nation's economic prospects, including our ability to reindustrialize. That is why the NSS (National Security Strategy) directs DoW (Department of War) to maintain a favorable balance of military power in the Indo-Pacific."

"Not for purposes of dominating, humiliating, or strangling China. To the contrary, our goal is far more scoped and reasonable than that: It is simply to ensure that neither China nor anyone else can dominate us or our allies. This does not require regime change or some other existential struggle. Rather, a decent peace, on terms favorable to Americans but that China can also accept and live under, is possible."

## North Korea

2022: "The Department will continue to deter attacks through forward posture; integrated air and mis-

sile defense; close coordination and interoperability with our ROK (South Korea) Ally; nuclear deterrence; resilience initiatives; and the potential for direct cost imposition approaches that come from globally deployable Joint Forces.”

2026: “With its powerful military, supported by high defense spending, a robust defense industry, and mandatory conscription, South Korea is capable of taking primary responsibility for deterring North Korea with critical but more limited U.S. support. South Korea also has the will to do so, given that it faces a direct and clear threat from North Korea.”

Middle East

2022: “As the Department continues to right-size its forward military presence in the Middle East following the mission transition in Afghanistan and continuing our ‘by, with, and through’ approach in Iraq and Syria, we will address major security challenges in the region in effective and sustainable ways.”

“The Department will prioritize cooperation with our regional and global partners that results in their increased ability to deter and defend against potential aggression from Iran, for example by working to advance integrated air and missile defense, maritime security, and irregular warfare capabilities. Working in concert with global and interagency partners, the Department will redouble efforts to support regional security coalitions within the Gulf Cooperation Council and among states in the region to ensure maritime security and improve collective intelligence and warning.”

2026: “DoW will empower regional allies and partners to take primary responsibility for deterring and defending against Iran and its proxies, including by strongly backing Israel’s efforts to defend itself; deepening cooperation with our Arabian Gulf partners; and enabling integration between Israel and our Arabian Gulf partners, building on President Trump’s historic initiative, the Abraham Accords. As we do, DoW will maintain our ability to take focused, decisive action to defend U.S. interests.”

## **Minneapolis residents shelter immigrant children separated from parents and sought by federal agents**

By JACK BROOK Associated Press/Report for America

When federal immigration agents pounded on the door of his Minneapolis home, the oldest son in a family of 10 knew he had to move his siblings to a safer place.

Their mother, a 41-year-old Indigenous Ecuadorian office cleaner without a known criminal record besides minor traffic offenses, had been detained in early January because she entered the country illegally. Her eldest children feared they would be next, leaving behind their 5-month-old brother and six other children under 16 years old.

“The immigration agents were knocking on our door very late at night, and that’s when I became afraid,” said the 20-year-old son, speaking on condition of anonymity out of fear additional family members could face deportation. “I’m afraid that I’ll be taken and my brothers and sisters will be in the hands of the government.”

That’s when the family contacted Feliza Martinez, a friend from church, who rallied a group of volunteers to quietly move them to a safe house in south Minneapolis.

Martinez is one of the countless Twin Cities residents aiding immigrants like Melida Rita Wampash Tuntuam’s family, prompted by word-of-mouth appeals for help — mostly ordinary people appalled by the aggressive tactics of federal agents who have broken down doors without warrants and violently clashed with protesters during the Trump administration’s crackdown.

As more than 2,000 federal agents scour Minneapolis-St. Paul for immigrants to detain and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security reports more than 3,000 arrests since early December, residents have organized to monitor, disrupt and protest the crackdown in the streets and in less visible ways.

These Minnesotans have paid rent for immigrant families whose breadwinners are afraid to go to work, delivered home-cooked meals and arranged for regular check-ins and emergency custody arrangements to make sure children are cared for in case their parents are detained. Christian nonprofit Source MN has expanded its food bank program to provide for hundreds of sheltering immigrant families.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 78 of 79

"I do receive calls every single day from families and they're terrified, and we're just trying to help them as much as we can," said Martinez, a mother of five who has been taking time off her job on a factory assembly line to volunteer for Source MN. "I just try to bring hope — like, 'We're here with you.'"

Leaving home to stay safe

Snow covered the street as the Wampash Tuntuam family arrived at the safe house. A stream of visitors brought snacks, baby supplies and coloring books for the children. They assembled bunk beds and carried in mattresses.

The younger siblings settled in quickly, nestling on the couch in pajamas to share a bag of Cheetos and opening a coloring book to draw butterflies. The house soon sounded like any other filled with the shrieks and giggles of small children at play.

But Wampash Tuntuam's older children, fidgeting on the couch, still worried about their future. They told The Associated Press that their mother gave the address of their rental home to Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, who said they wanted to send a social worker to check on the younger children. Instead, armed masked immigration officers appeared and surrounded the house twice.

"That's when we knew they hadn't sent a social worker but agents to detain us," recalled Wampash Tuntuam's 22-year-old daughter, who spoke on condition of anonymity because she and three other family members have final orders of removal. Her 20-year-old brother and other siblings are working on obtaining legal status. The two youngest children are U.S. citizens.

Martinez, a devoted Christian, said she voted for President Donald Trump in the past three elections because of his hard-line stance against abortion and gender-affirming care for youth. The granddaughter of a Mexican immigrant supported deporting violent criminals and had not paid much attention to reports of family separations in the first Trump presidency.

But over the past two months, after watching videos of federal agents aggressively detaining her neighbors and working directly with children parted from their parents, she has changed her views.

"Being on the front line and what I have experienced and seen, I wish I would've never voted for him," Martinez said. "What he's doing, it's not Christian. It's not my beliefs."

DHS spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement that "ICE does not separate families," noting that parents are asked whether they want to be removed with their children or place them with a designated person.

McLaughlin said Wampash Tuntuam entered the country illegally in 2022 via the Texas border and later received a final order of removal from an immigration judge. She said Wampash Tuntuam received due process and the administration is enforcing the law.

Facing an uncertain future

According to Wampash Tuntuam's family, their mother had been planning to self-deport but was preparing custody documents for her infant son. The older children said their mother did not want her children to be deported because they will all end up living on the streets in their hometown in the Ecuadorian Amazon, like they did before coming to the U.S.

The older children expect their mother will be deported at any moment and worry about what will happen to her five youngest.

"If they found out that the baby was alone, they may take him away," the 22-year-old daughter said. "We have all grown up together. I saw my baby brother's birth. I am very scared they will take him away and I will never see him again."

After their mother was detained, the 20-year-old son quit work at a restaurant to watch over his child siblings. He's still figuring out how to care for his infant brother, who has had to switch from breastfeeding to formula and struggles to sleep without his mother.

The 20-year-old said he once saw Minneapolis as a "beautiful city" offering opportunities for immigrants like him until the surge of federal agents. There are still good people here, he said, referring to the volunteers who sheltered his family.

But his younger siblings continue to ask when their mother will return. He comforts them by saying she's at the hospital and will be home soon.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 235 ~ 79 of 79

"I keep telling them that she is going to come back, that she is already on her way," he said. "They think that."

## Today in History: January 25 NASA Opportunity rover lands on Mars

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Jan. 25, the 25th day of 2026. There are 340 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Jan. 25, 2004, NASA's Opportunity rover landed on Mars and sent its first pictures of the planet to Earth; originally planned as a 90-day mission, the rover remained operational for over 15 years, traveling a total of 28 miles across the planet's surface.

Also on this date:

In 1924, the first Winter Olympic Games opened in Chamonix (shah-moh-NEE'), France.

In 1945, the World War II Battle of the Bulge ended as the German army concluded its final offensive on the Western Front; approximately 19,000 U.S. soldiers were killed during the five-week campaign.

In 1945, Grand Rapids, Michigan, became the first city to add fluoride to its public water supply.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy held the first live televised presidential news conference.

In 1971, Charles Manson and three of his followers were convicted in Los Angeles of murder and conspiracy in the 1969 slayings of seven people, including actor Sharon Tate.

In 2011, Egyptians began nationwide protests that forced longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak to step down amid the Arab Spring uprisings that swept the Middle East and North Africa.

In 2021, President Joe Biden signed an order reversing a Pentagon policy that largely barred transgender people from military service.

In 2024, Alabama conducted the nation's first execution using nitrogen gas, putting to death Kenneth Eugene Smith for his conviction in the 1988 murder-for-hire killing of a pastor's wife.

Today's birthdays: Football Hall of Famer Carl Eller is 84. Actor Leigh Taylor-Young is 81. Actor Jenifer Lewis is 69. Hockey Hall of Famer Chris Chelios is 64. Actor Ana Ortiz is 55. Actor Mia Kirshner is 51. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is 48. Soccer manager and former player Xavi is 46. Singer-songwriter Alicia Keys is 45. Football Hall of Famer Patrick Willis is 41. Actor-singer Ariana DeBose is 35. Rapper Lil Mosey is 24.