

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 1 of 69

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- We the People Column: Readers Ask About Restraining Presidential Warmaking: Replying to Thoughtful Questions](#)
- [3- Balloon Ad](#)
- [3- Softball Livestreamers wanted](#)
- [4- GHS Prom Pictures](#)
- [15- Sunday Extras](#)
- [33- Gov. Rhoden's Weekly Column](#)
- [34- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column](#)
- [35- Rev. Snyder's Column](#)
- [37- South Dakota Average Gas Prices](#)
- [38- Drought Monitor](#)
- [39- SD SearchLight: National Guard 'follows the Constitution,' general says of troops possibly deployed to polls](#)
- [40- SD SearchLight: Milbank goes out on a limb to save ash trees from invasive beetle](#)
- [42- Weather Pages](#)
- [46- Daily Devotional](#)
- [47- Subscription Form](#)
- [48- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [49- News from the Associated Press](#)

Sunday, April 19

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 6 p.m.

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

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

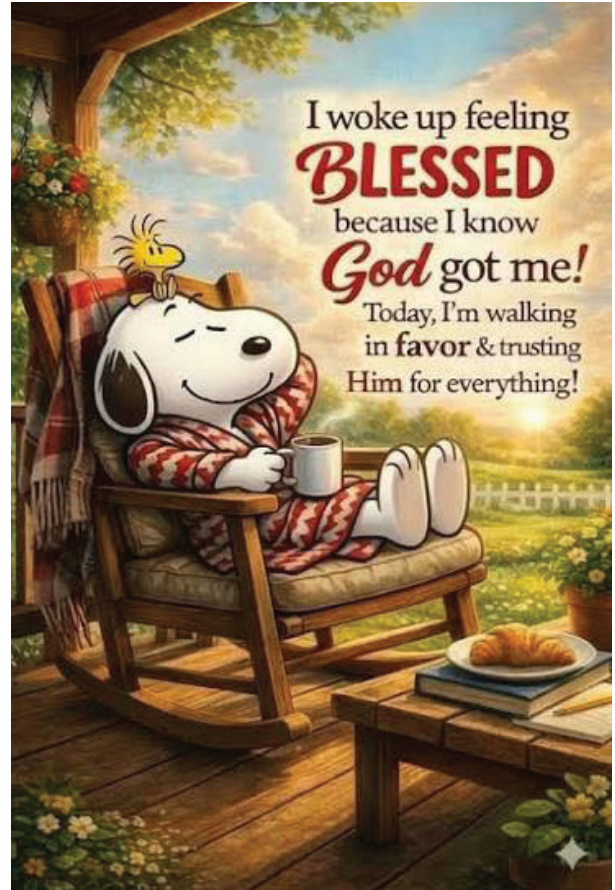
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

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

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship (Jordan and Julia (Grenz) Kroll will be the guest speakers), 10:30 a.m.

JVT Practice, 3 p.m., Arena

Princesses Prom, 4:30 p.m.



Monday, April 20

Senior Menu: BBQ chicken breast, au gratin potatoes, coleslaw, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Egg bake.

School Lunch: Hot dogs, chips.

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

St. John's Lutheran: Christian Literature Circle, 7:30 p.m.

FFA Convention at Brookings

Grades 5 & 8 Science Testing

Girls Golf at Sisseton, 10 a.m.

Middle School Track at Ipswich, 2:30 p.m.

Girls Fast Pitch Softball at Arlington (Varsity at 4:30 p.m. followed by JV)

Pickleball, 5:30 p.m., Elementary Gym

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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 2 of 69

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

Readers Ask About Restraining Presidential Warmaking: Replying to Thoughtful Questions

Few exercises of governmental power trigger more questions about constitutionality and legality, not to mention considerations of wisdom and judgment, than warmaking, particularly unilateral presidential warmaking. This is for good reason, of course, as American citizens bear the brunt of the toll that war exacts in lives lost and treasuries raided. The twists and turns of warfare are unpredictable. The impact on the economy and, indeed, the future of the country, is clouded and uncertain. This is true, whether the discussion involves the issue of presidential warmaking in Vietnam or Iran. Recent questions from thoughtful readers of this column coalesce around a common theme: restraining presidential power to take the nation to war. They reflect a keen grasp of the sincere efforts, dating back to the framing of the Constitution, to subject the American Presidency to the rule of law, a task of enduring importance to the maintenance of the republic, but one fraught with challenges and resistance, grounded in political and personal motivations and interests. These good questions deserve more space than is available here, but with apologies, here are some abbreviated responses.

Numerous readers have asked whether presidential usurpation of the war power over time, by presidents of both parties, somehow renders the constitutional violations legal. These questions reflect a working knowledge of the fact that since 1950, Democrats and Republicans in the White House have commenced war without the requisite congressional authorization. Since my own loyalty is to the Constitution rather than party or president, I have for 40 years consistently criticized presidential usurpation of the war power, regardless of who is sitting in the Oval Office.

While the questions raised are rightly placed in a historical context, they have been sparked by President Trump's war of choice in Iran. The war power, granted exclusively to Congress in the War Clause-- Article I, section 8-- cannot be acquired through practice. In 1969, in *Powell v. McCormack*, Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote: "That an unconstitutional action has been taken before surely does not render that action any less unconstitutional at a later date." Earlier, Justice Felix Frankfurter, writing for a unanimous Court in 1940, in *Inland Waterways Corp. v. Young*, echoed a centuries-old principle of Anglo-American jurisprudence: "Illegality cannot attain legitimacy through practice." To put this in homespun terms, the practice of stealing hubcaps cannot become legal through repetition.

In essence, the Court has repeatedly denied claims that the president can acquire power by a series of usurpations. If it were otherwise, the president might aggrandize all governmental power. Neither Congress nor the judiciary could lawfully restrain the president's accumulated constitutional powers. Clearly, this practice would scuttle our entire constitutional jurisprudence. Thus, the most recent act of usurpation stands no better than the first.

Let us dive a little deeper. It is unwarranted to conclude that presidential usurpation, indulged by congressional acquiescence or passivity, attains a legal status. Congress may not divest itself of those powers conferred upon it by the Constitution, a necessary predicate of the separation of powers doctrine. Neither

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 3 of 69

congressional abdication nor acquiescence can accomplish a transfer of authority to the president. As the Court has held, harking back to an old axiom of English law, once powers are "granted, they are not lost by being allowed to lie dormant, any more than non-existent powers can be prescribed by an unchallenged exercise." This principle is true of any constitutional power vested in Congress, whether it is the authority to commence war, write laws or spend taxpayer dollars. If Congress wishes to change the allocation of constitutional powers, it must invoke the amendatory process. Neither the president nor the Congress has authority to void constitutional arrangements ratified by the sovereign people.

Of course, for the past several decades, the congressional power to decide for war and peace has at times been usurped by the executive. In this case, there is a fundamental conflict between the principles of the Constitution and the practice of government. A 17th Century English commentator, observing a similar state of affairs, noted, "the practice of government is but feeble proof of its legality." In the United States, there is no better illustration of this than in presidential aggrandizement of the war power.

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.



Softball Livestreamers Wanted

GDILIVE.COM is looking for someone to livestream the softball games at Arlington Monday and at Hanson on Tuesday as I will be unable to go. Text Paul at 605-397-7460 for details.



Thank You to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church for your balloon order for these student's special day.

GHS Groton Area Junior-Senior Prom **Rustic Nights & Twinkling Lights**

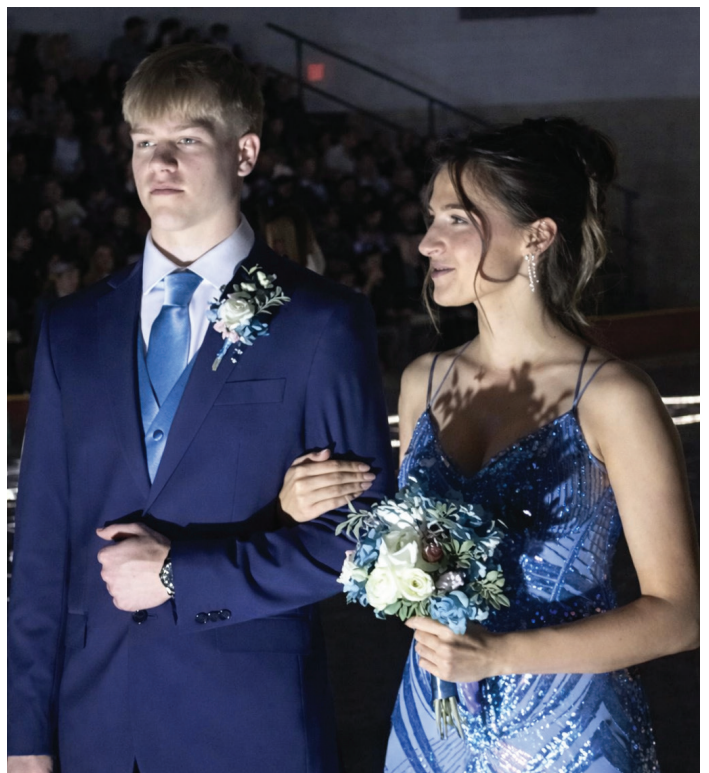
Photos lifted from
GDILIVE.COM video



Junior Class President Teagan Hanten escorted by Jordan Schwan.



Senior Class President Olivia Stiegelmeier escorted by Keegan Harry.



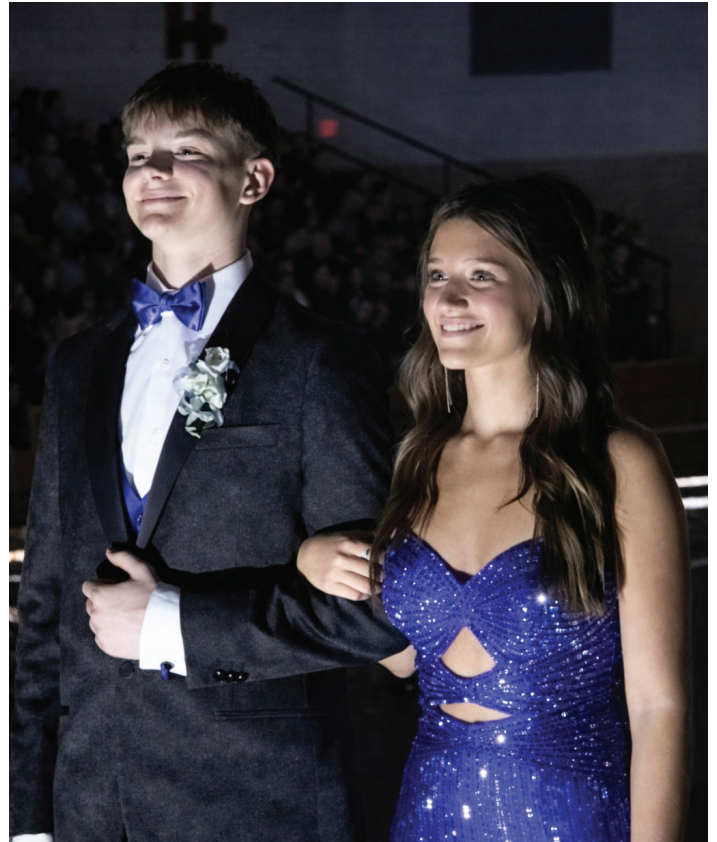
Claire Schuelke escorted by Ryder Schelle.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 5 of 69



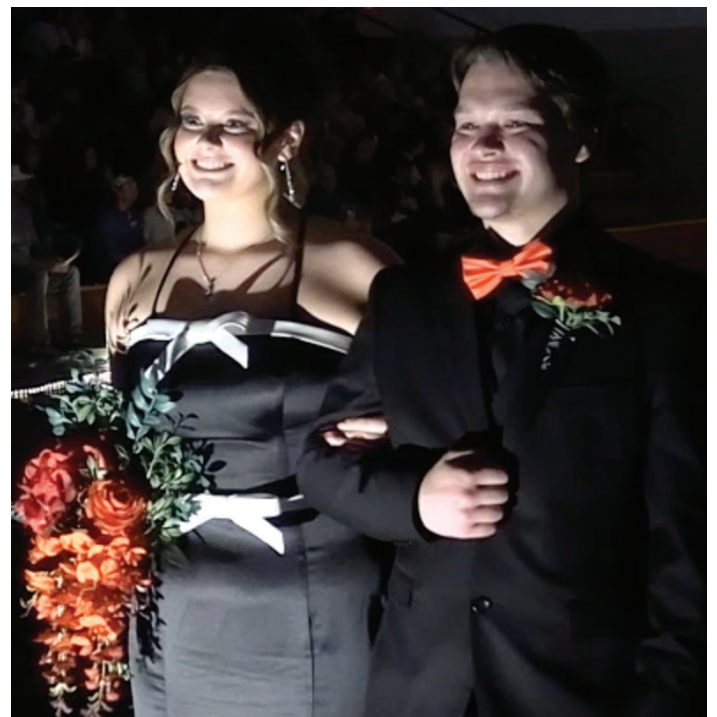
Leah Jones escorted by Alex Abeln.



Brenna Imrie escorted by TC Schuster.



Paisley Mitchell escorted by Wheeler Malsam.



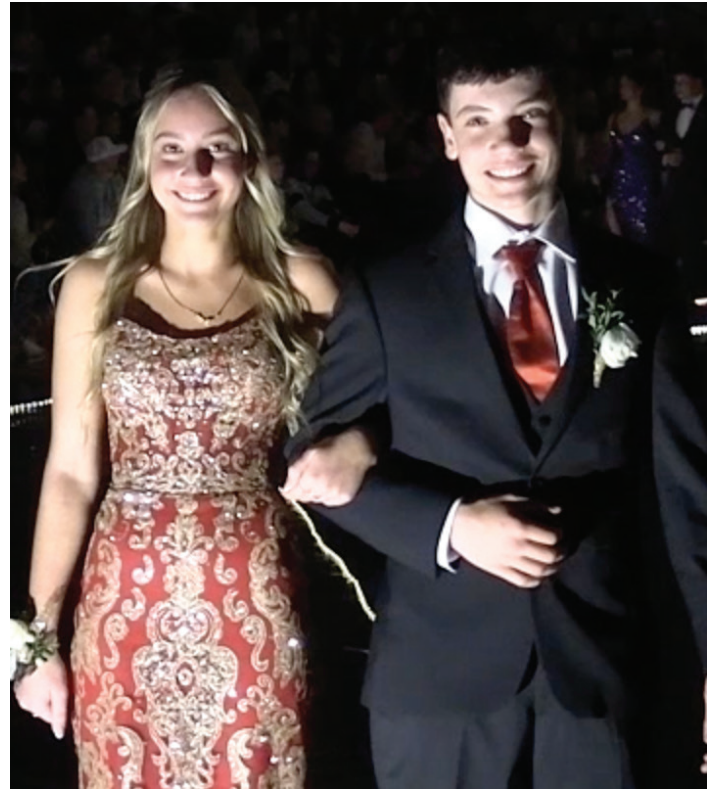
Halee Harder escorted by Payton Mitchell.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 6 of 69



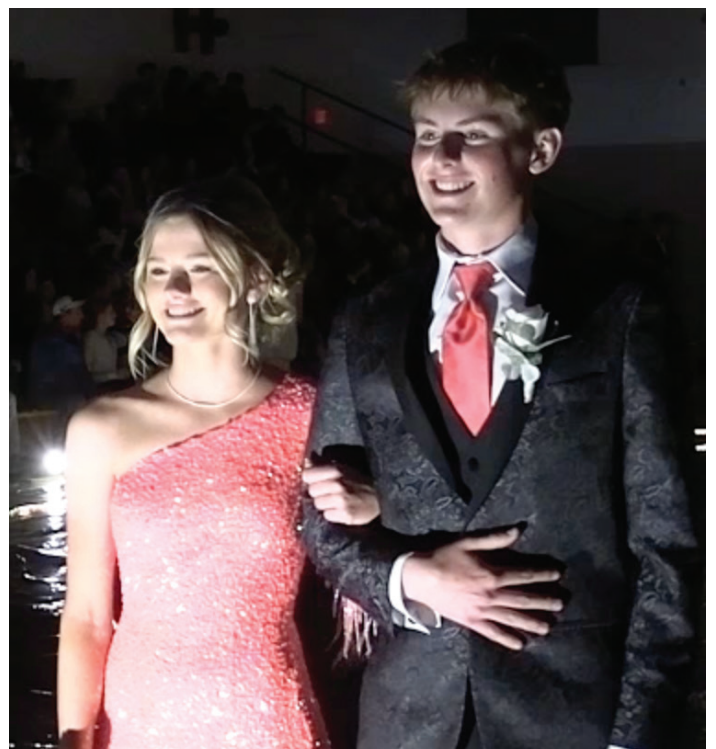
Olivia Reinbold escorted by Tristan McGannon.



Amy Lange escorted by Aiden Strom.



Liby Althoff escorted by Zach Fliehs.



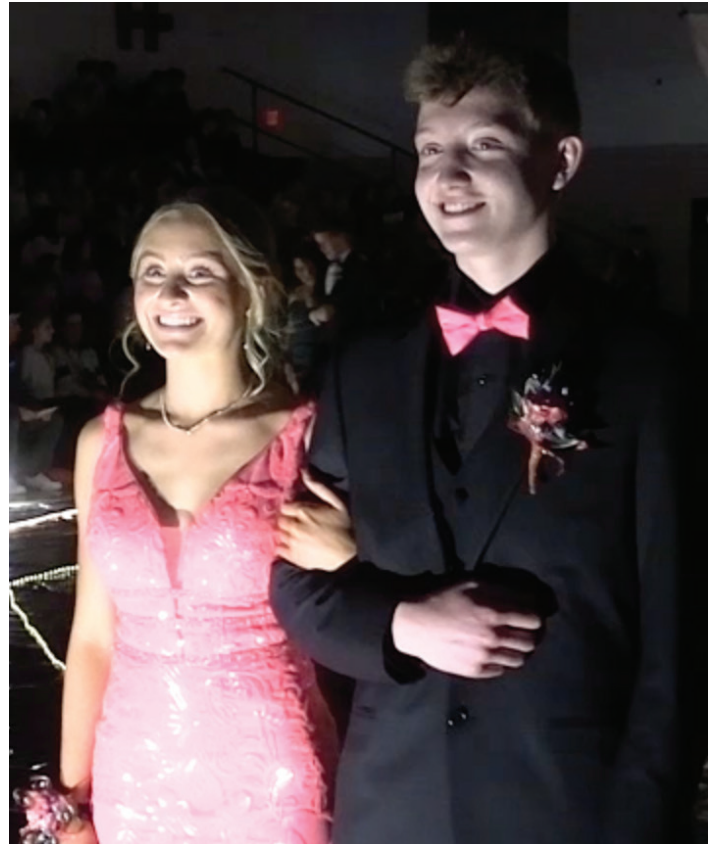
Hailey Pauli escorted by Jace Johnson.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 7 of 69



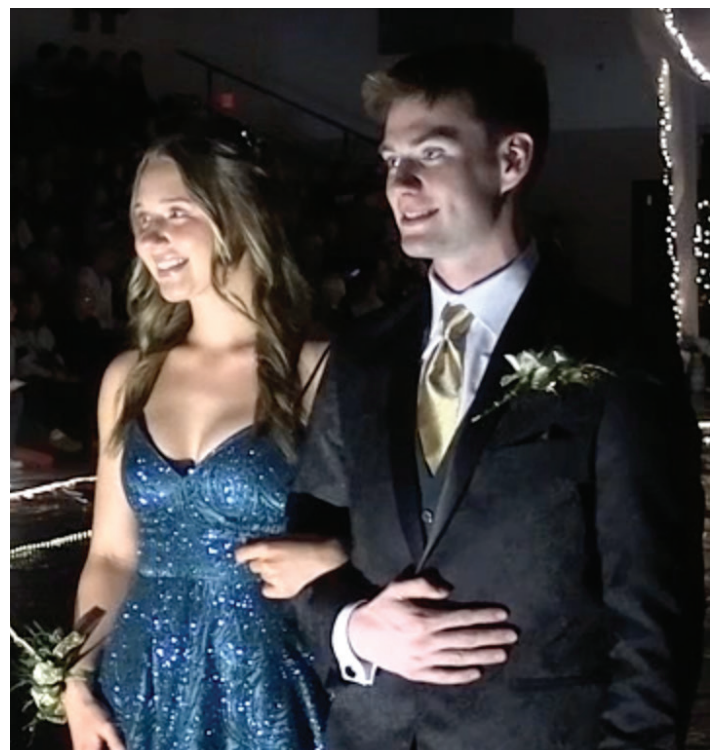
Kella Tracy escorted by Brennan Wolf-Donat.



Ashlynn Warrington escorted by Blake Lord.



Avery Crank escorted by Brody Lord.



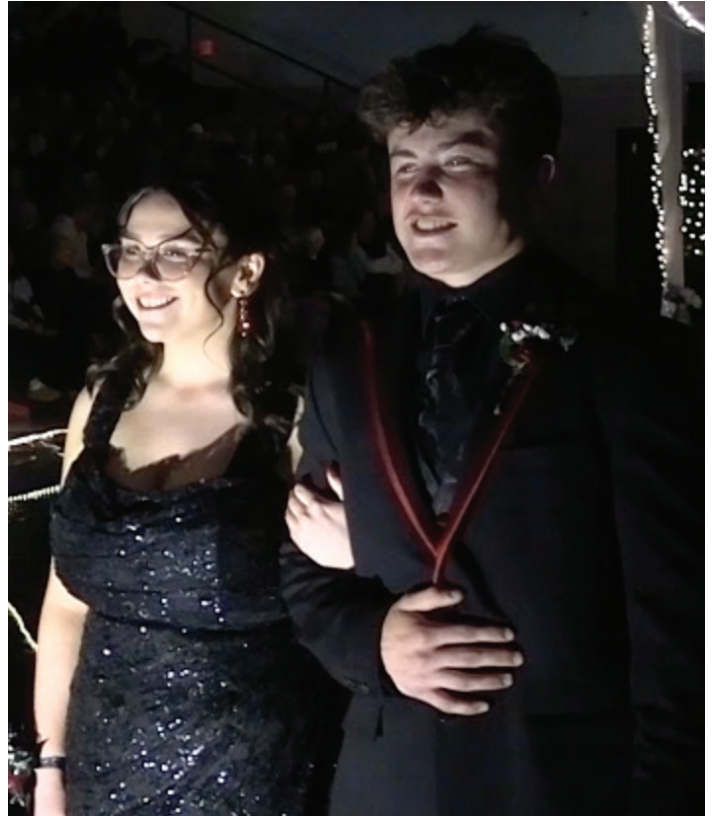
Emerlee Jones escorted by Ben Bradley.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 8 of 69



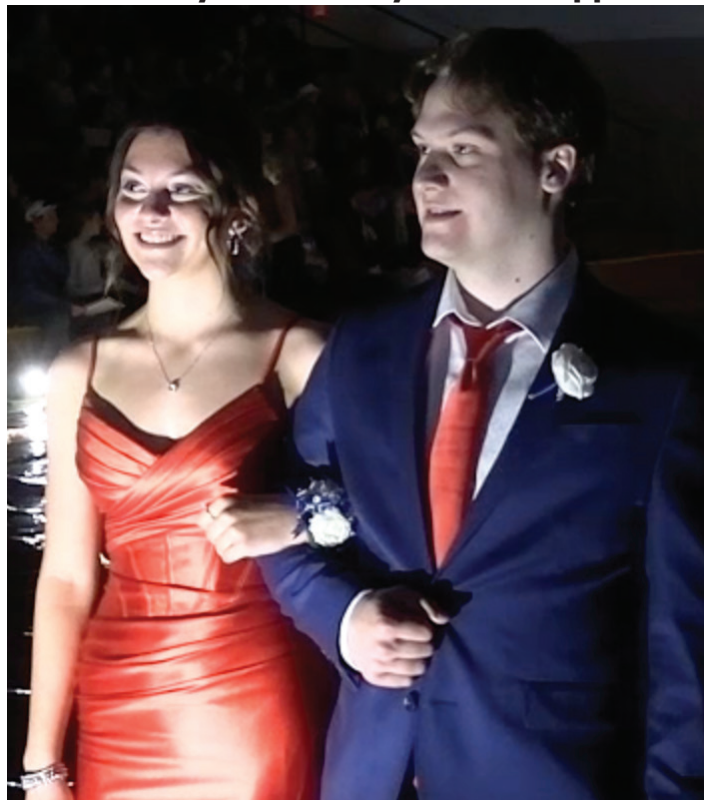
Kimber Demery escorted by Isaiah Scepaniak.



Raelee Lilly escorted by Michael Opp.



Addison Hoffman escorted by Gavin Kroll.



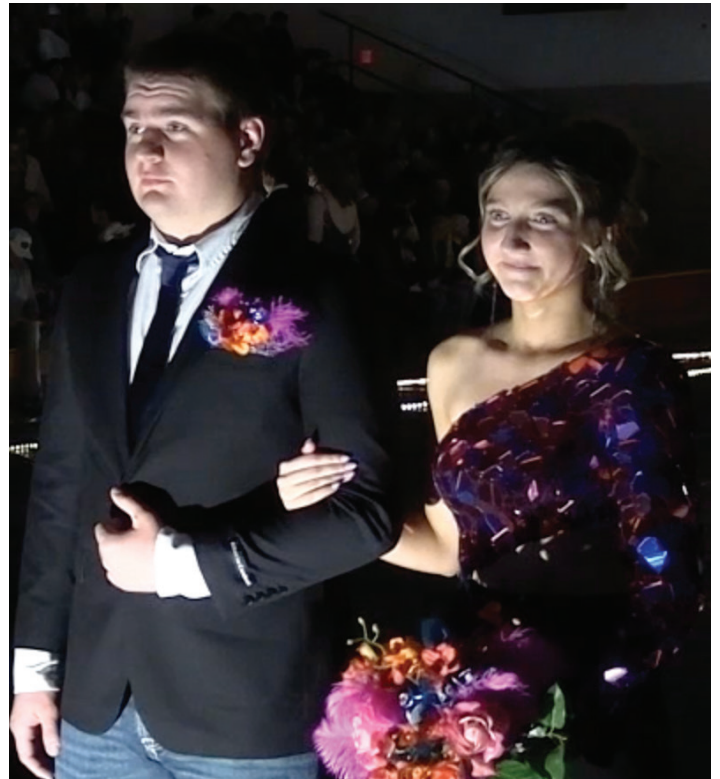
Natalia Warrington escorted by Carter Kraft.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 9 of 69



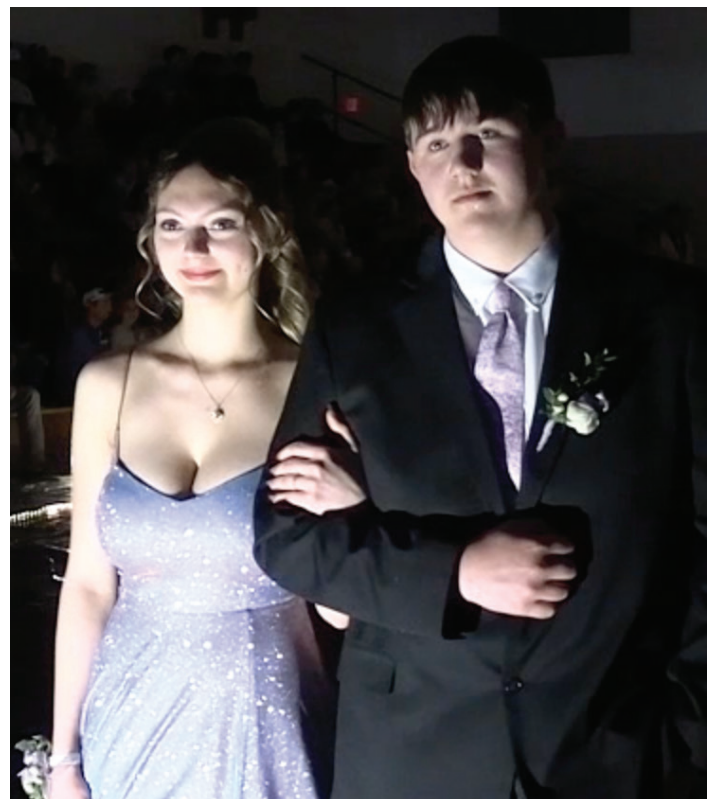
Liza Krueger escorted by Gavin Englund.



Gracelynn Decker escorted by Charlie Frost.



Kiera Weismantel escorted by Hayden Zoellner.



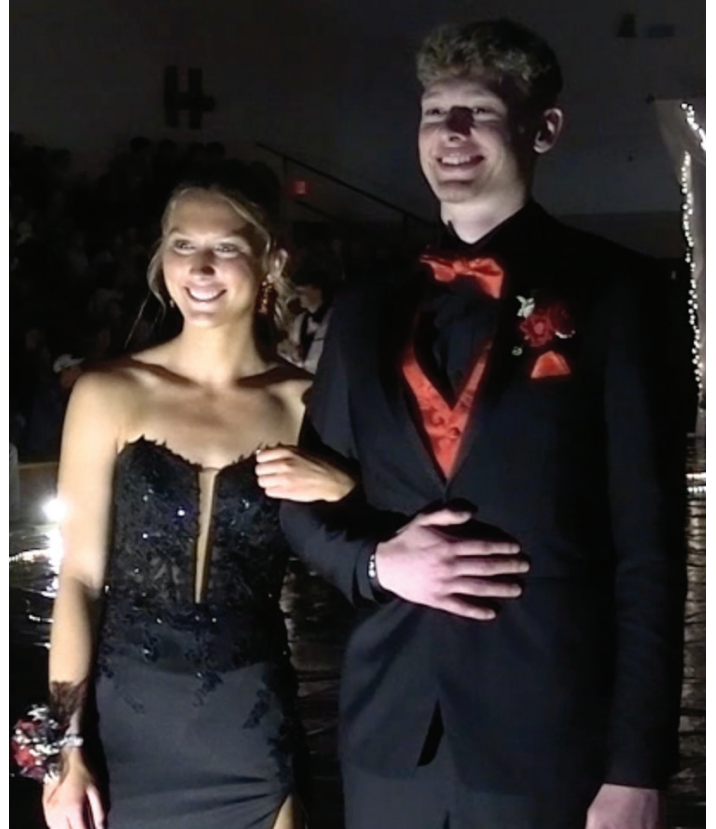
Maddeline Pigors escorted by Dylan McGannon.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 10 of 69



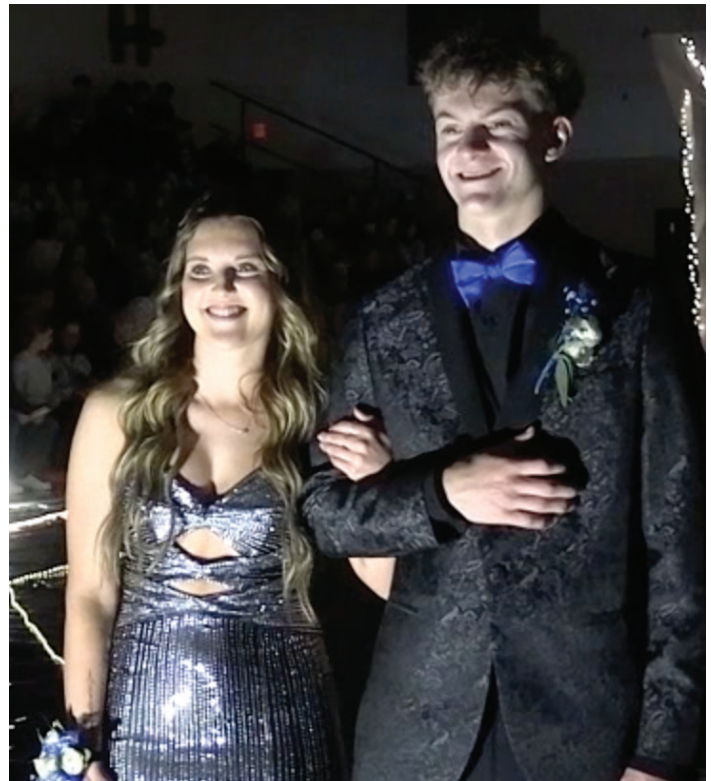
Jacey Rossow escorted by Walker Zoellner.



Taryn Traphagen escorted by Gage Sippel.



McKenna Tietz escorted by Jace Thorpe.



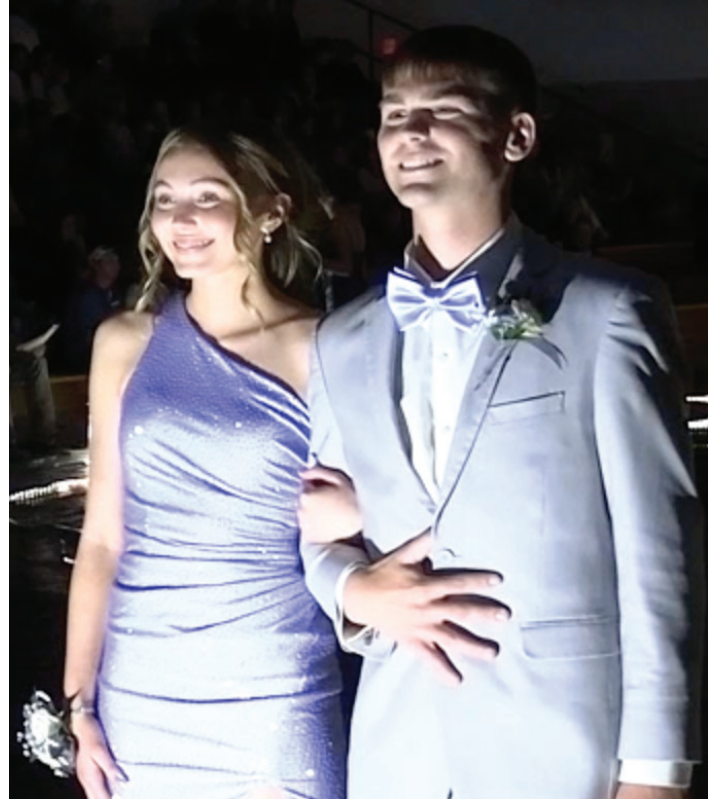
Brooklyn Hansen escorted by Ryder Johnson.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 11 of 69



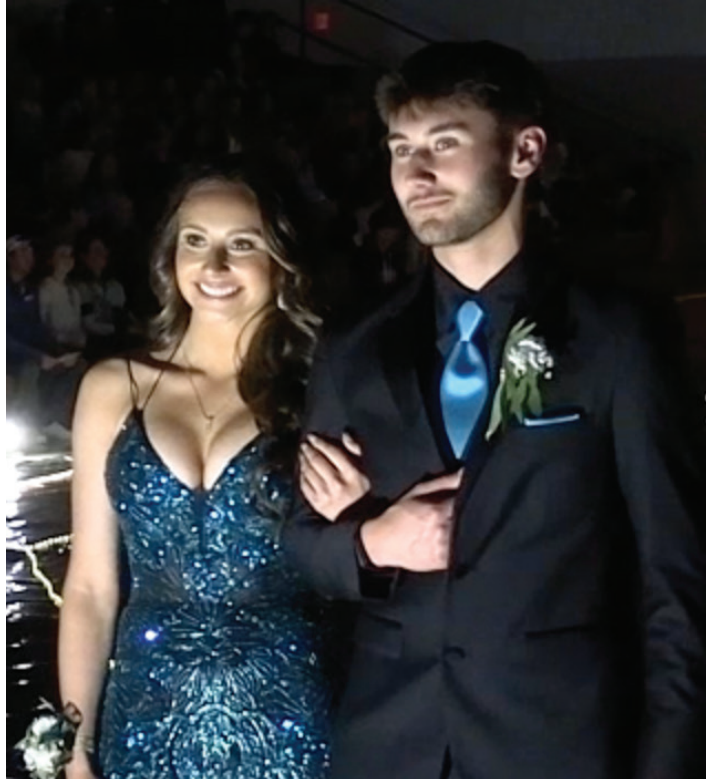
Jerica Locke escorted by Keegen Tracy.



Makenna Krause escorted by Karsten Fliehs.



Cambria Bonn escorted by Hayden Mof-fenbirr.



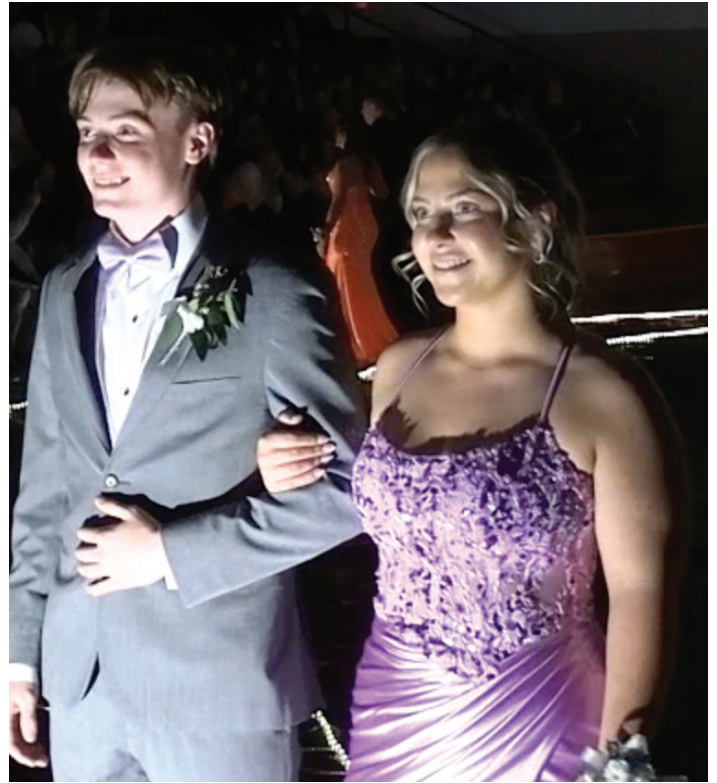
Taryn Thompson escorted by Jarrett Erd-mann.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 12 of 69



Mia Crank escorted by Milo Sumption.



Carly Gilbert escorted by Lincoln Krause.



Hannah Sandness escorted by Logan Warrington.



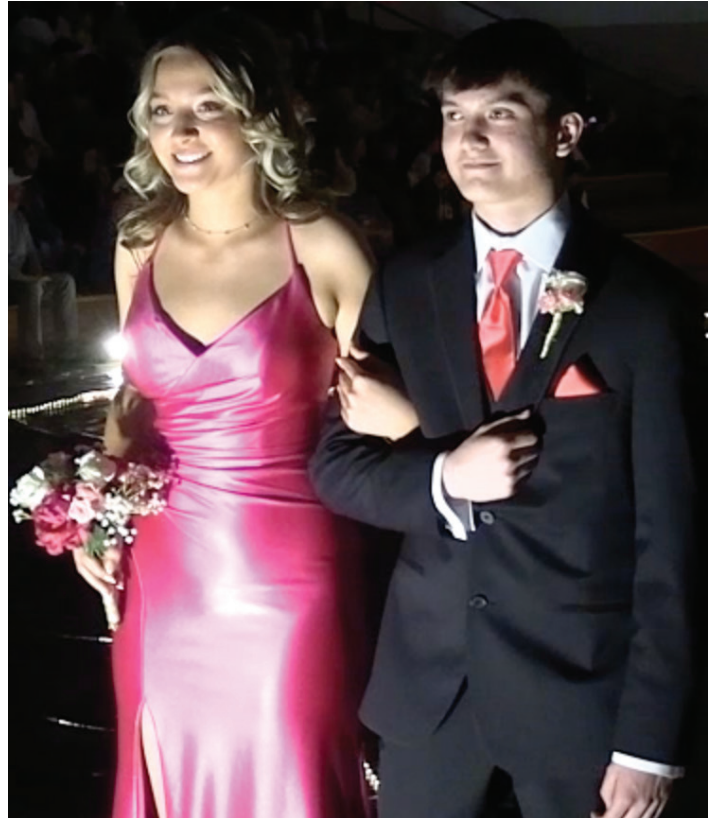
Rylee Dunker escorted by Becker Bosma.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 13 of 69



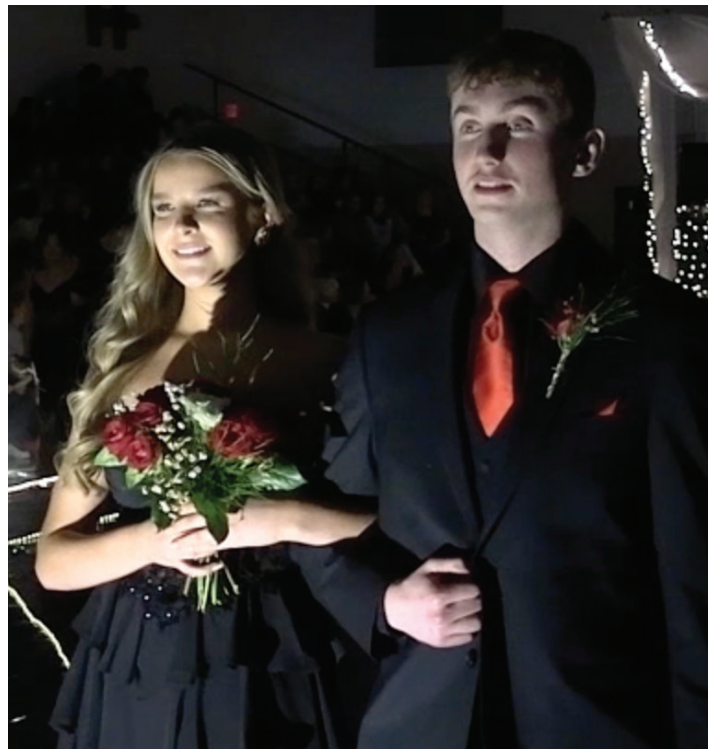
Talli Wright escorted by Aiden Frankenstein.



Kyleigh Kroll escorted by Zander Harry.



Mataya Knecht escorted by Jayden Schwan.



Addison Hoeft escorted by Garrett Schultz.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 14 of 69



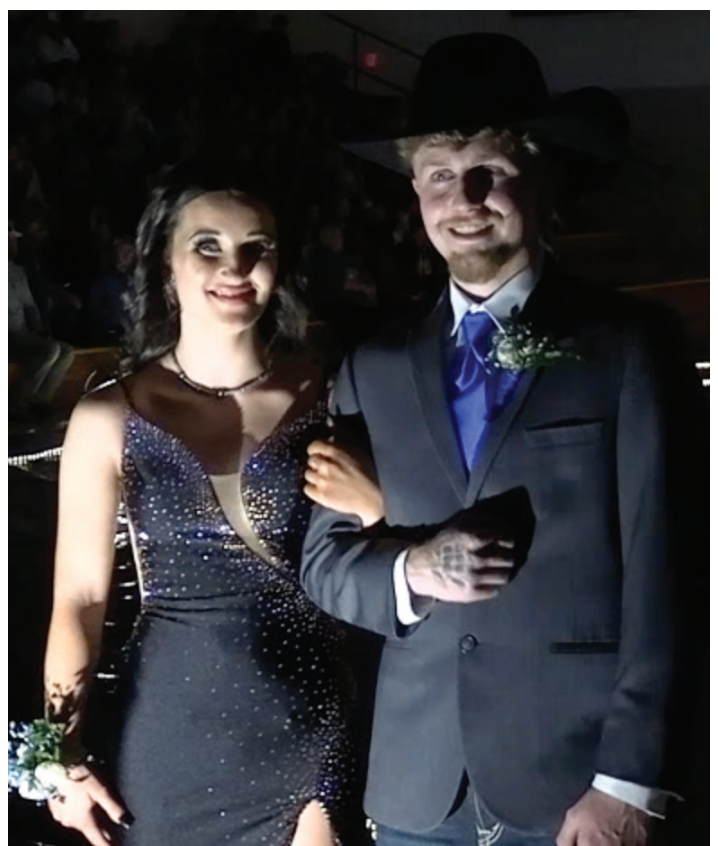
Emma Davies escorted by Keegan Mix.



Suri Jetto and De Eth Tha Say.



Gentry Pigors and Autumn Wegleitner.



Delayne Jones escorted by Austin Marion.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 15 of 69



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

...If a woman has long hair,
it is a glory to her;
for her hair is given to her
for a covering.

❧ 1 Corinthians 11:15 ❧

"Francoise" by Pablo Picasso (1946)



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THE WEST'S
AIR DEFENSE
SYSTEM



IRAN'S AIR
DEFENSE
SYSTEM



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BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. In 2 Kings 13, what prophet ordered a king to shoot arrows out of a window? *Paul, Job, Elisha, David*

3. How many books of the Bible are only three letters long when spelled? *0, 1, 2, 3*

4. What prophet saw “the tents of Cushan in affliction”? *Japheth, Noah, Hezekiah, Habakkuk*

5. Who said, “Lord, increase our faith”? *Jonah, Apostles, Moses, Israelites*

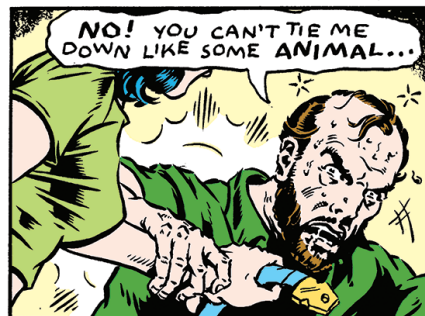
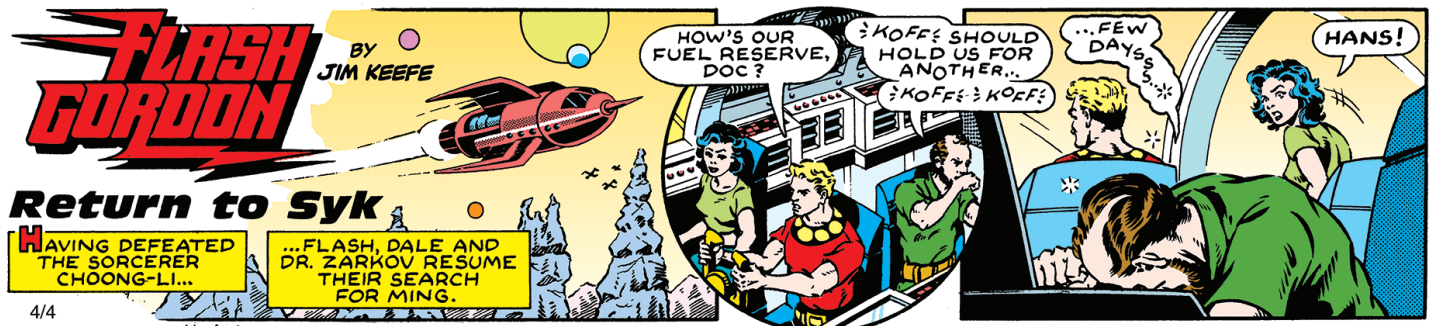
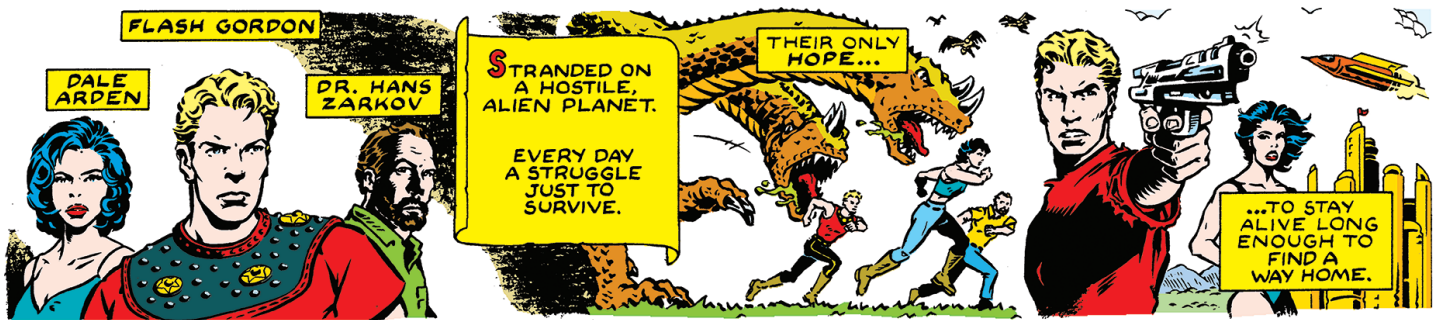
6. From Joel 2:6, what shall all faces gather? *Sunlight, Blackness, Fear, Warmth*

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Elisha, 3) One, 4) Habakkuk 5) Apostles, 6) Blackness

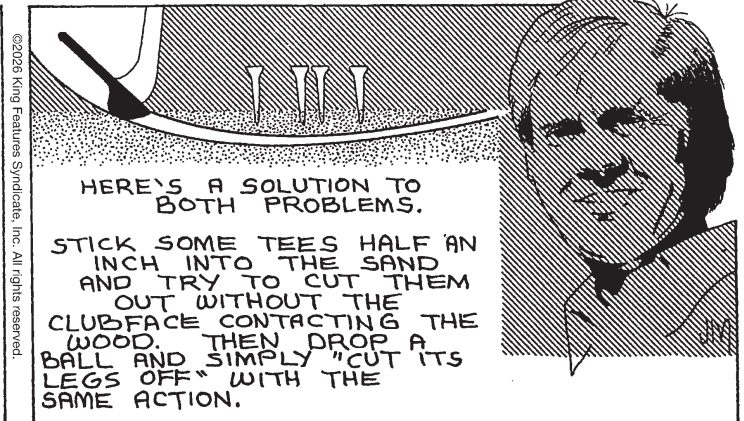
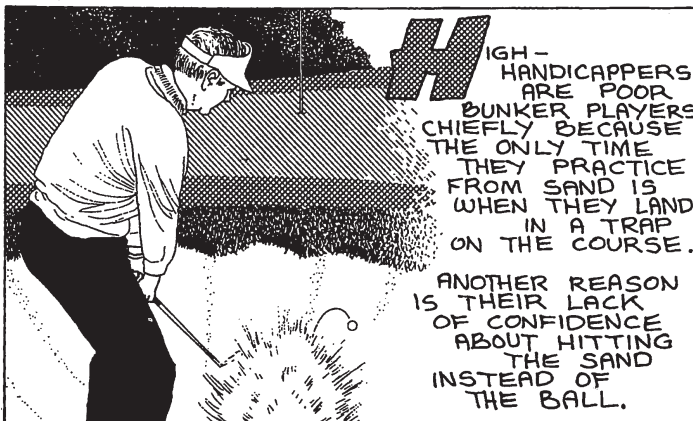
Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at www.patreon.com/triviaguy. FREE TRIAL!

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 17 of 69



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Looking at Alternatives for Osteoporosis Meds

DEAR DR. ROACH: At age 48, I underwent a lumpectomy, chemo and radiation for stage I breast cancer. All is good so far, but I started experiencing osteopenia in my mid-50s, perhaps earlier than I would have because of the chemo and estrogen-blocking meds. My mother also had osteoporosis.

For the osteoporosis in my hip, I took alendronate for five years, but it didn't stop the bone loss. I am now on Prolia, which has helped. I am healthy and fairly active. How long can one take Prolia with breaks in between, and what are your thoughts on alternatives? I am concerned about "running out" of strong, effective alternatives to treat my osteoporosis. I walk 3-5 miles most days. -- A.M.L.

ANSWER: You are right that the estrogen-blocking drugs you needed for your breast cancer caused accelerated bone loss and early osteoporosis. Given your family history and young age, it's very important to think about the future. Keeping up your exercise is excellent for your bones, for your overall health, and to reduce your risk of cancer.

Prolia works similarly to alendronate by slowing down the cells that break down bone, called osteoclasts. Unlike alendronate and similar drugs, Prolia stops working as soon as you stop taking it, so people who are on it need to take it continuously.

This is different from alendronate, where people can take "drug holidays" for years sometimes in order to keep the bone from becoming "frozen" and brittle, which can then put them at risk for atypical femur fractures. Between 8% and 10% of people who stop Prolia will get a fracture the following year unless they transition to a different treatment.

Bisphosphonate drugs like alendronate are often the choice for people once they stop Prolia, but they didn't work for you. I'd be concerned about the absorption of the medicine since taking the medicine with any food (even with mineral water) can reduce absorption to the point that it isn't effective.

In addition, you need enough calcium and vitamin D for bisphosphonate drugs (and Prolia) to work properly. But if you've been careful about these issues, it may just be that you are one of the people for whom bisphosphonate drugs aren't a good option.

Anabolic agents like PTH analogues (teriparatide) are another good choice since these directly build up bone. Romosozumab both builds bone and decreases breakdown. However, one option that might be a particularly good choice for you is raloxifene, which decreases the risk of breast cancer and helps keep bones strong. I suggest you ask your prescribing physician about these alternatives.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have a high-fiber diet, but I'm also adding specifically psyllium husks to my diet daily. Will this, along with my dietary oats, grains and beans, reduce my LDL cholesterol levels? How much psyllium needs to be taken daily to make a difference with LDL cholesterol? -- R.P.

ANSWER: Psyllium is a common supplement to increase dietary fiber. High-fiber foods such as the grains and legumes you mentioned are part of a healthy diet, with many benefits such as the reduction of heart disease and some cancers. Fiber supplementation has been shown to improve gastrointestinal symptoms, especially constipation and diarrhea, but it's also been shown to reduce LDL cholesterol.

In a study from years ago, psyllium husks at a dose of 10 grams per day (approximately 4 teaspoons, but it can vary with different brands) reduced LDL cholesterol levels by 6% to 15% on average. This is a significant drop. For people who take statins, this has about the same effect on their LDL levels as doubling their statin dose.

I strongly recommend starting slowly and building up the dose over weeks. Most people will experience bloating and discomfort if they start at such a high dose.

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.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 19 of 69



Chase Infiniti, left, and Lucy Halliday star in "The Testaments." (Courtesy of MovieStillsDB)

"Regretting You" (PG-13) -- Colleen Hoover's novels keep getting cranked out as film adaptations, and although these films usually receive subpar reviews from critics, they still seem to pull in casual filmgoers. The latest adaptation,

of Hoover's 2019 novel "Regretting You," features an interesting cast that includes Allison Williams ("Get Out"), McKenna Grace ("Scream 7"), Dave Franco ("Together"), and Mason Thames ("How to Train Your Dragon"). The film follows Morgan (Williams) and her daughter, Clara (Grace), who experience tragedy firsthand when Chris, Morgan's husband and Clara's father, passes away. The two ladies grapple with their sudden grief in very similar ways, which causes them to clash, but what they don't realize is that they are both being quietly pushed toward their happily ever after. Premieres April 24. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Stranger Things: Tales from '85" (TV-14) -- If you weren't disappointed by the "Stranger Things" finale and still yearn for more from its universe, look no further than this animated sci-fi spinoff to give you the fix that you need! Set during the winter of 1985, the 10-episode series is coined to be more "entry level" than the original show, with brighter visuals and a family-friendly tone. All of our favorite characters are back in animated form, including Eleven, Jim Hopper, Mike Wheeler, and Dustin Henderson (to name a few), but they're all voiced by different actors than their live-action counterparts. Actors whose voices you might recognize in the series are Odessa A'zion ("Marty Supreme"), who voices Nikki Baxter, and Jeremy Jordan ("Hazbin Hotel"), who voices Steve Harrington. Premieres April 23. (Netflix)

"The Testaments" (TV-MA) -- Based on the 2019 novel by Margaret Atwood, this dystopian drama series is a continuation of "The Handmaid's Tale" series that gave Elisabeth Moss ("Imperfect Women") her breakout role. And who better than 25-year-old powerhouse Chase Infiniti, a Golden Globe nominee for "One Battle After Another," to follow in Moss' footsteps? Infiniti plays a young teenager named Agnes who studies at a preparatory school that will train her to become a future wife within the Gilead society. Meanwhile, breakout star Lucy Halliday ("California Schemin'") portrays Daisy, a convert from outside of Gilead. The first four episodes are out now to stream, with subsequent episodes premiering every Wednesday. (Hulu)

"The Miniature Wife" (TV-MA) -- Elizabeth Banks ("Skincare") and Matthew Macfadyen ("Succession") take on this 10-episode sci-fi/drama series with a romantic spin! They respectively play Lindy and Les Littlejohn, a married couple who take turns at being the breadwinner within the relationship. When we meet the couple, it's Les' turn to support his wife, and as an inventor, he has his sights on creating a miniaturization device. But Les' project goes desperately wrong when Lindy accidentally gets sprayed by the device and shrinks down to 6 inches tall! Ronny Chieng ("Crazy Rich Asians") and O-T Fagbenle ("The Handmaid's Tale") co-star in the series, which is out now to binge! (Peacock)

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 20 of 69



1. Name the group that released "Glad All Over."
2. What was the name of Gene McDaniels' biggest hit?
3. Which artist released "Blue Velvet" and "Mr. Lonely"?
4. Which group wrote and released "Help Me, Rhonda"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Who's that gigolo on the street with his hands in his pockets and his crocodile feet hanging off the curb."

Answers

1. The Dave Clark Five in 1963. It topped the chart in the U.K. after displacing a Beatles song in the No. 1 slot. In 1964 the song started being played during home games at the Crystal Palace Football Club in South London, with fans singing along.

2. "A Hundred Pounds of Clay" in 1961. Before his death in 2011, McDaniels began recording YouTube videos, which can still be found online, including ones from many years ago.

3. Bobby Vinton, in 1963 and 1964. Vinton wrote "Mr. Lonely" while serving in the Army.

4. The Beach Boys, in 1965.

5. "Buffalo Stance," in 1988, by Neneh Cherry on her debut album. The song was about needing to have an attitude to survive in the city, buffalos being the models, musicians and photographers for the Buffalo fashion house.

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GRIN and BEAR IT *Wagner*



"They don't like the decor of the jury room!"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



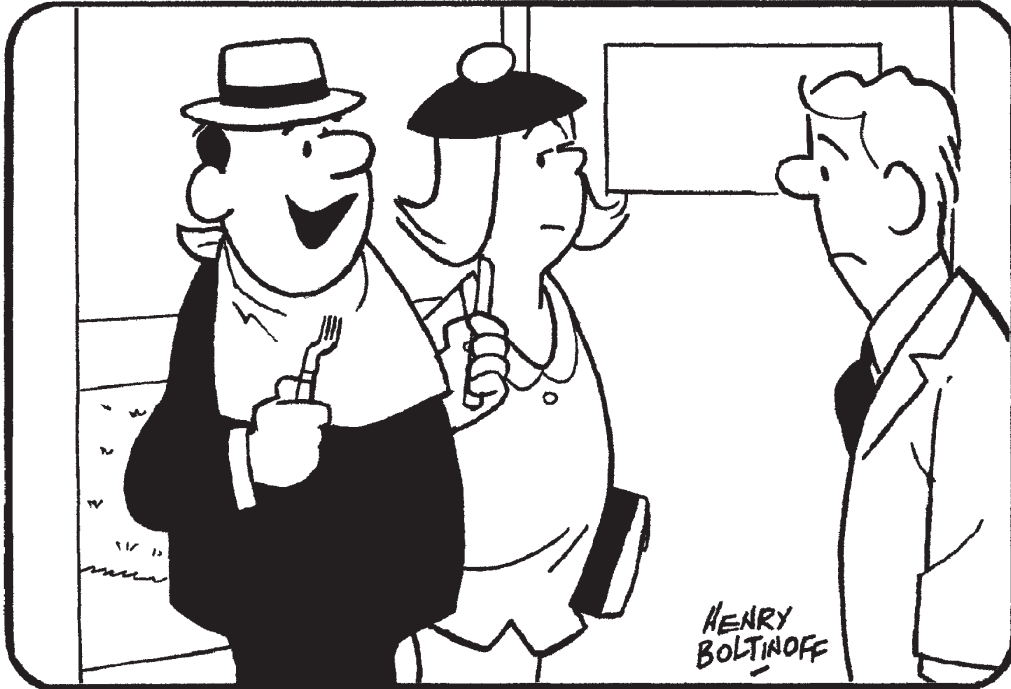
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Groton Daily Independent

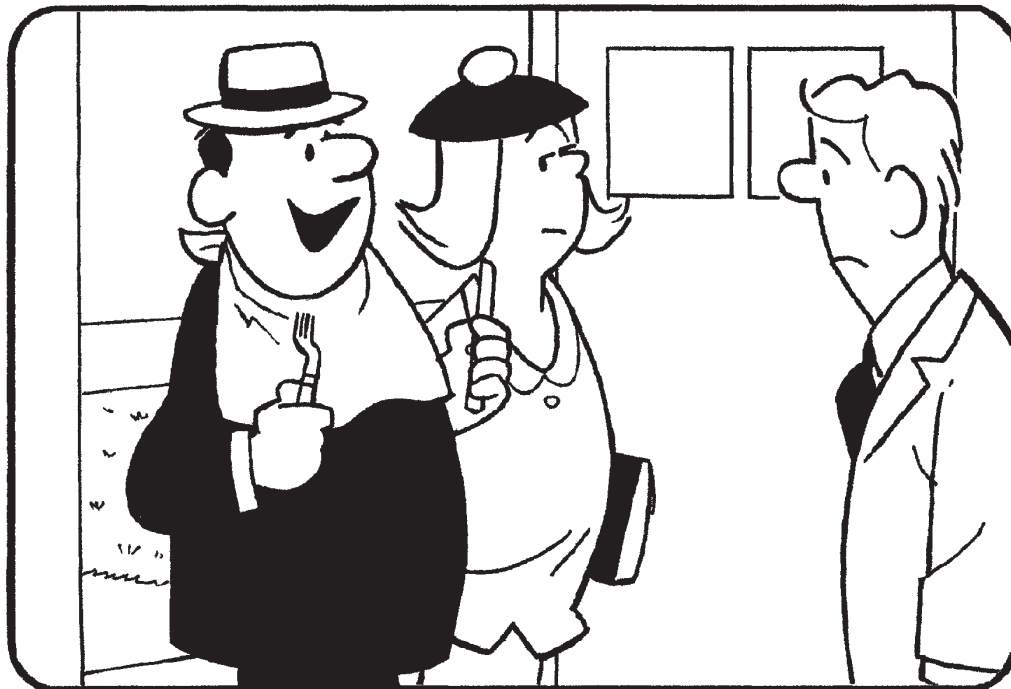
Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 21 of 69

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Purse is moved. 2. Fork is reversed. 3. Napkin is different. 4. Doorway opening is not as wide. 5. Window in door is different. 6. Jacket is longer.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 22 of 69



* "If you add a teaspoon of sugar to your biscuit mix or to the dough for rolls, it will help them to brown well and they will come out of the oven with golden tops." -- J.R. in Michigan

* Two ways to save money on laundry expenses: First, spring and summer are an excellent time to get into line drying clothes -- especially towels and jeans, which take longer to dry thoroughly in a dryer. Then, clean out and shorten your dryer's vent hose to make machine drying more energy efficient. It cuts down drying time, too, saving you time AND money.

* "Got an odd job coming up? Before you go out and purchase an expensive limited-use tool, check with your friends and neighbors to see if you can borrow instead of buying. Check with local hardware stores to see if it's cheaper to rent it, too."

-- S.L. in Kentucky

* Add a small bit of boiling water to a glass of iced tea to clear it up if it is cloudy. You can do this to a pitcher just before serving.

* "Call and schedule your chimney service for a date in the next couple of months. Prices drop during the summer and the sweeps are not as busy." -- C.C. in New York

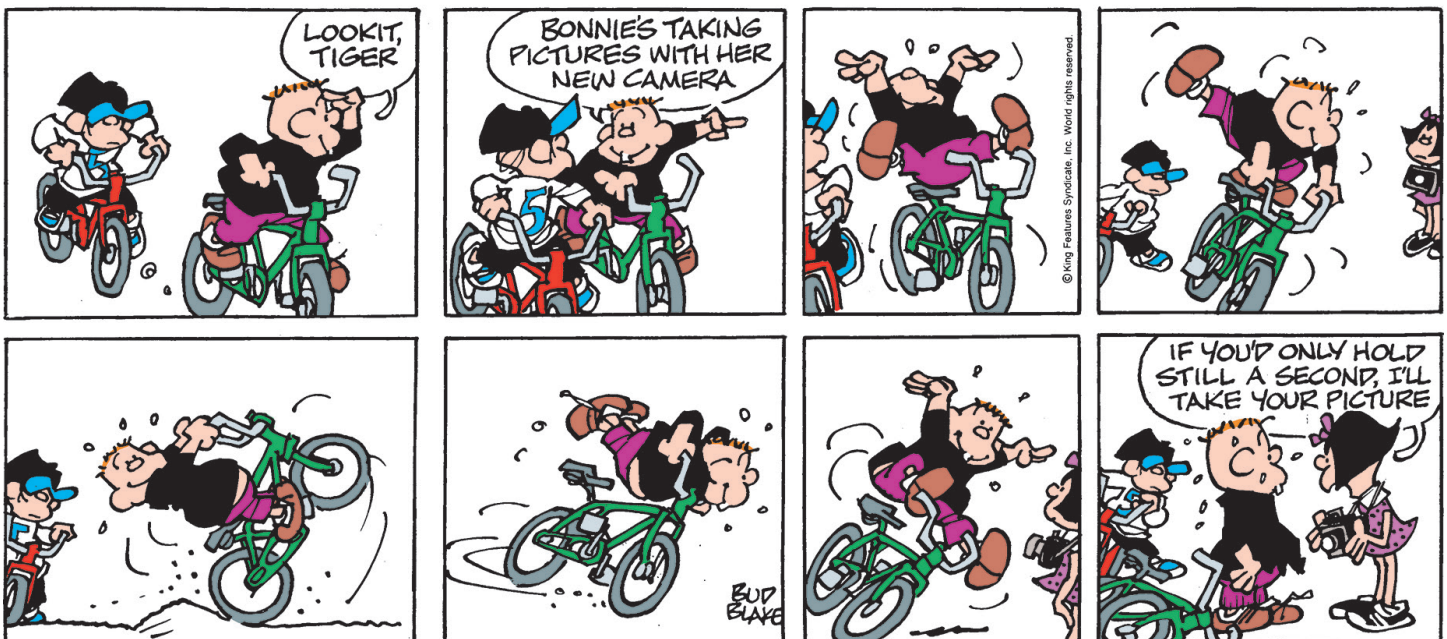
* "I have pets that leave hair and dirt on the couch. When I wash my cushion covers, one thing I always do is put them back on the pillows when they are not quite dry. They stretch better when they are a little bit damp. I had a terrible time a few years ago, when I let them dry all the way and couldn't get them back on!" -- H.P. in Arizona

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, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 23 of 69

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Spruced up
5 Comedian
Margaret
8 Arduous journey
12 Taj Mahal city
13 Unprocessed
14 Conceal
15 Buffets with Mexican food
17 Rocker — Pop
18 Yoko from Tokyo
19 Astern
20 Unravels
21 Blaster's need
22 Tease
23 Neighbor of Chad

- 26 Wilma and Fred's kid
30 Piglet's pop
31 Author Fleming
32 Ethereal
33 Rabbi's religion
35 Fall bloom
36 Buddy
37 Canonized Fr. woman
38 Prima donnas
41 Carnival city
42 Co. that created Watson
45 Pizza cooker
46 Home to the Buccaneers
48 Social standing

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
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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			

- 49 Wall St. wheeler-dealer
50 Deadly septet
51 Picnic invaders
52 Pot pie morsel
53 Whispered "Hey!"

DOWN

- 1 Post-WWII alliance
2 "The Candy House" author Jennifer
3 Not pizzicato
4 Eastern "way"
5 Make by hand
6 Male red deer

- 7 Pained sounds
8 Baseball diamond stop
9 Latvia's capital
10 Jittery
11 Lock openers
16 "Troy" actor Eric
20 Little lie
21 "America's Next Top Model" host
22 "Community" actor Jeong
23 JFK's veep
24 Chit
25 Abysmal
26 Shriver of tennis

- 27 Topsy
28 Before
29 Aleppo's land (Abbr.)
31 Equi-
34 1040 org.
35 On
37 "The Lion King" lion
38 TV explorer
39 Author Turgenev
40 Air outlet
41 Scarce
42 Nile wader
43 Proscribes
44 Island in a computer game
46 Spigot
47 Nile biter

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 24 of 69

King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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

Olive



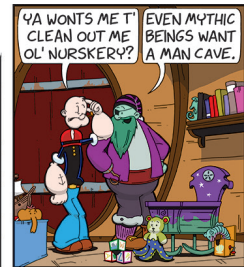
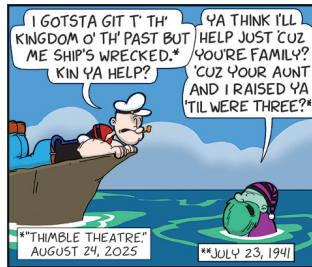
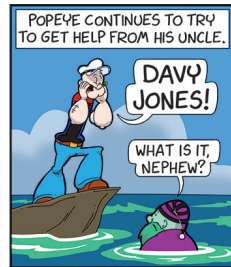
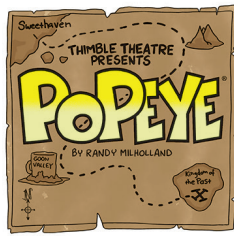
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 25 of 69



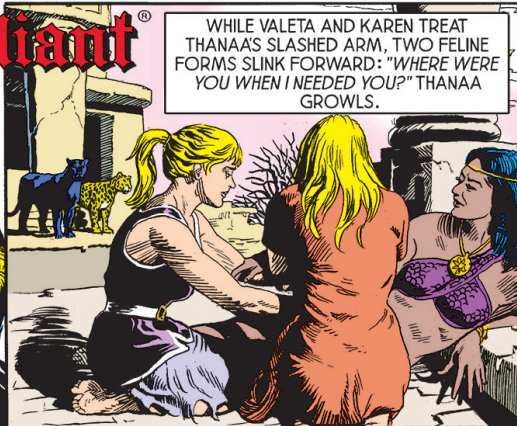
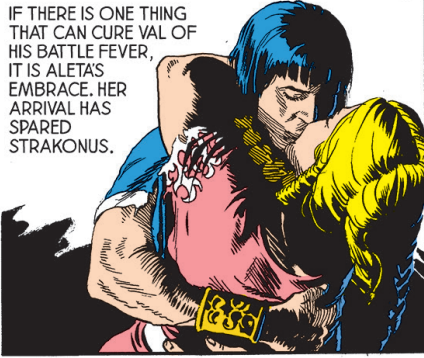
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 26 of 69

Hal Foster's
BY SCHULTZ
AND YEATES

Prince Valiant®

IF THERE IS ONE THING THAT CAN CURE VAL OF HIS BATTLE FEVER, IT IS ALETAS' EMBRACE. HER ARRIVAL HAS SPARED STRAKONUS.



WHILE VALETA AND KAREN TREAT THANAAS SLASHED ARM, TWO FELINE FORMS SLINK FORWARD: "WHERE WERE YOU WHEN I NEEDED YOU?" THANAAS GROWLS.

4072

YEATES 2/23/15

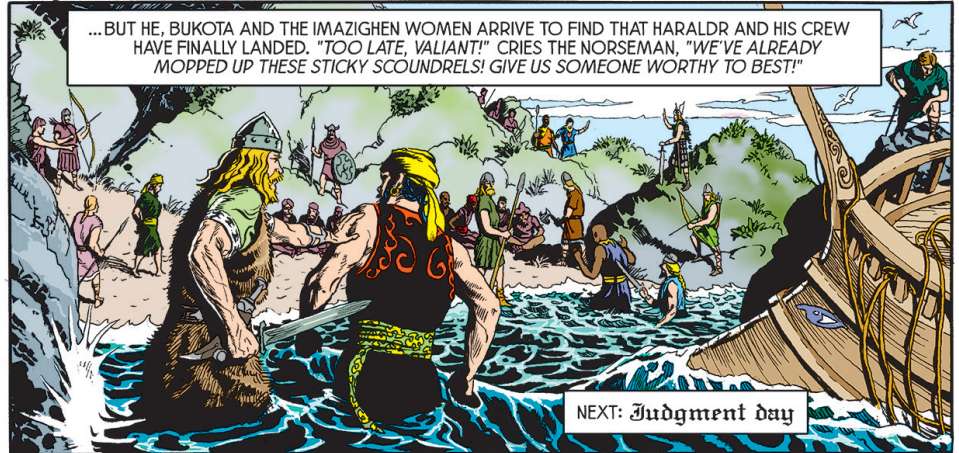


AND STRAKONUS, NOW IN THE HANDS OF THOSE HE WOULD HAVE SOLD ON THE SLAVERS' BLOCK - OR WORSE - RAVES MADLY AND PLEADS FOR A NOBLE DEATH INSTEAD OF THE HUMILIATION AN UNFAIR UNIVERSE HAS HEAPED ON HIS CURSED HEAD.



WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HIS FAMILY AND COMPANIONS ARE SECURE, AND WITH THE MAIN BODY OF PIRATES DESTROYED, VAL CAN NOW CONCENTRATE ON THE SLAVERS' BEACHHEAD...

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...BUT HE, BUKOTA AND THE IMAZIGHEN WOMEN ARRIVE TO FIND THAT HARALDR AND HIS CREW HAVE FINALLY LANDED. "TOO LATE, VALIANT!" CRIES THE NORSEMAN, "WE'VE ALREADY MOPPED UP THESE STICKY SCOUNDRELS! GIVE US SOMEONE WORTHY TO BEST!"

NEXT: Judgment day

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 27 of 69

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Starting the year again

I'm doing things a little differently this year. Having made New Year's resolutions in January, and having kept nearly none of them, I've decided to make some mid-year resolutions and try again.

One task where I failed was in keeping a regular schedule for online French lessons. I'd told myself I would devote 15 minutes a day to this, long enough to complete one small lesson section. Didn't happen. Duolingo, a free online program (duolingo.com), has 40 different language courses, ranging from Japanese, German, Polish and Russian to Scottish Gaelic, Chinese, Welsh and Greek. By signing up, the website (with very cute animated graphics) keeps track of daily progress -- or the lack of it. I'm going to try again.

Another area where I failed to stick to a schedule was daily walking. This wasn't entirely my fault, however. Weekly winter storms kept a coating of snow and ice on the roads, and the rec center kept closing for repairs. Now, with no more snow expected, I can (theoretically) keep up with walking.

I'd promised I would take an online course, and didn't. The range of offerings on the internet is vast, so there's no excuse. Coursera, MIT OpenCourseWare, Harvard, FreeCampus, Stanford, The Open University and others host free courses across a wide variety of interests. I'm going to start with a few short introductory courses in the arts and humanities sections.

How about you? Do you need to "reset" your activities and perhaps make some new goals for the rest of the year? Knowing where to start isn't difficult. Do a search online for "resolutions for seniors," and you'll find lists of ideas. Or you might narrow it down to topics like "mental health goals for seniors" or "self-improvement goals."

If you made resolutions already this year and have managed to stick with them, good for you! Perhaps add one to your list?

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Call/Text Paul: 605-397-7460
Call/Text Tina: 605-397-7285



Living Heart Fitness Center

Senior Citizens 65+

Physical Therapy.

\$20 a month

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 28 of 69

1. Name the Carolina Panthers wide receiver who scored two punt return touchdowns and caught one touchdown pass in a 52-31 win over the Cincinnati Bengals in 2002.

2. What was the name of the Czechoslovakian wolfdog who ran onto the course during the women's cross-country skiing team sprint qualifiers at the 2026 Milan Cortina Winter Olympics? (Hint: It's inspired by a J.R.R. Tolkien novel.)

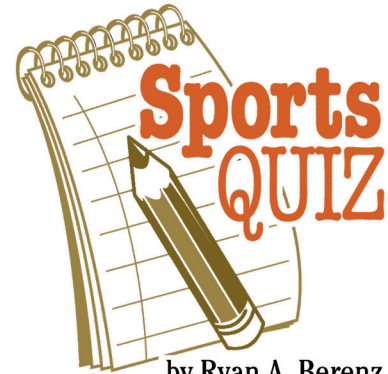
3. The Ekstraklasa is highest level of professional association football in what European country?

4. What was the nickname of the slow, high-arcing pitch thrown by New York Yankees reliever Steve Hamilton in the late 1960s?

5. Two-sport athlete Gene Conley won a World Series in 1957 and three NBA championships from 1959-61 with what teams?

6. What sports comedy on the Hulu streaming service debuted in 2025 and starred Glen Powell as a disgraced former college quarterback who changes his name and appearance to restart his college football career?

7. What IndyCar Series race uses a runway and taxiways at Albert Whitted Airport as part of its street course?



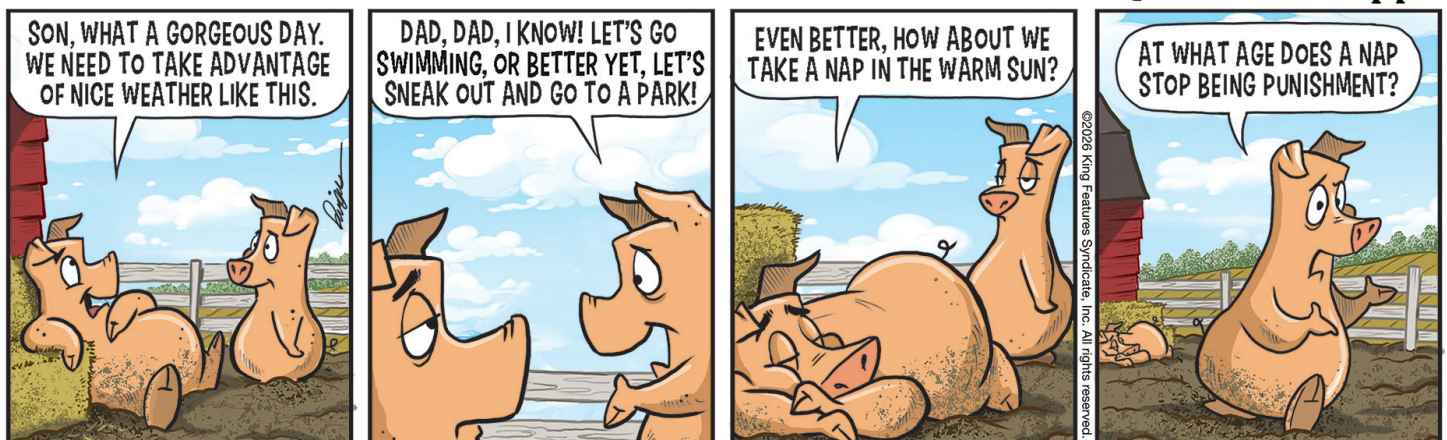
by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. Steve Smith.
 2. Nazgul.
 3. Poland.
 4. "The Folly Floater."
 5. The Milwaukee Braves and Boston Celtics.
 6. "Chad Powers."
 7. The Grand Prix of St. Petersburg.
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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





What happens when my dog gets Lyme?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I want to take my 2-year-old dog, "Halley," on hikes this summer, but I'm terrified that she will get Lyme disease. What will happen to her?
-- Jim T., Hyde Park, New York

DEAR JIM: I commend you for being concerned about the risk of contracting Lyme disease. However, I don't want you to change your hiking plans with Halley. As with any jaunt outside, preparation and awareness are the key to keeping your dog healthy.

Lyme disease is transmitted through tick bites, with the deer tick as the biggest culprit. The tick latches onto the skin and can transmit the bacteria that cause Lyme in 12 to 24 hours.

A Lyme-infected dog may show symptoms immediately, or months after the bite. Lameness that goes

away and returns is a key symptom that Lyme is affecting their joints. Dogs may also run a high fever, be lethargic, lose weight due to appetite loss or vomit, especially if Lyme is affecting their kidneys.

Prevention is important. Here is what to do:

- Treat your dog with a topical or chewable flea and tick preventative on schedule.
- Keep your dog on a sturdy leash at all times when hiking.
- Avoid walking through tall grasses or past low-drooping trees. If that's unavoidable, run your hand along your dog's coat as soon as you're clear of the area to brush away any crawling ticks. (Yes, it's icky. Just do it.)
- After the hike, thoroughly check your dog's coat and skin for ticks. Remove any latched-on ticks with a tick removal tool and monitor for symptoms.
- If your dog begins showing symptoms, get testing and treatment immediately.

Lyme is treatable with antibiotics. An annual vaccine is also available through your veterinarian. And a vaccine for humans is currently in development. So don't change your plans -- just be prepared.

Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 30 of 69

Strange BUT TRUE

* Composer Domenico Scarlatti wrote a piano piece, "Cat's Fugue," based on notes his cat walked across.

* Butcher Chris McCabe's life was saved in a rather unusual fashion when he accidentally shut himself into a walk-in freezer in 2017. The door release button was iced over and McCabe was alone, so he seized a 3.3-pound black pudding and bashed the button until he was able to safely exit.

* Pupaphobia is the irrational and persistent fear of puppets, dummies and marionettes.

* Prior to the creation of antibiotics, some syphilis patients were deliberately infected with malaria, resulting in such high fevers that the syphilis bacteria was often killed off. Once that disease was under control, doctors would then treat the malaria with quinine.

* Michael Phelps's total of 28 Olympic medals places him ahead of more than 160 nations in the all-time gold medal rankings.

* To celebrate the end of France's war with Russia, Napoleon organized a massive rabbit hunt. Things backfired when the thousands of animals acquired for the occasion swarmed toward him and his guests upon release from their cages, until even the legendary general was forced to beat a retreat to his carriage.

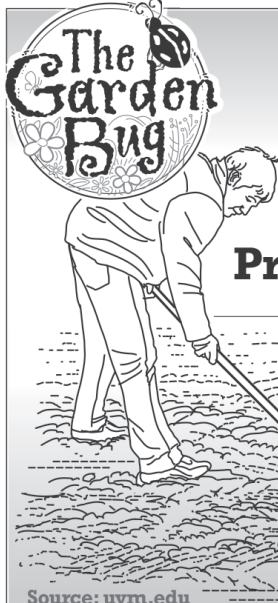
* A three-dollar bill issued by the Cook Islands features a topless Polynesian woman riding a shark.

* Due to his fear of flying, actor Sean Bean would hike for two hours to the set of "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" in full costume while the rest of the cast took a helicopter.

* Cuscuta (witch's hair) is a parasitic plant that lacks chlorophyll and feeds off other plants, using smell to identify the best hosts.

Thought for the Day: "Our greatest fear should not be of failure but of succeeding at things in life that don't really matter." -- Francis Chan

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Prepping soil

Prepping your soil for the demands of the growing season ahead is key to the success of your garden this year. You want to add in what might be lacking in your soil as your plants begin their growth. If the soil crumbles when you work it around in your hands, then it is ready to till; if it's sticky, it may be too wet. Use a soil-testing kit to see what nutrients should be added to your soil, then work the needed amounts into the soil before planting. — Brenda Weaver

Source: uvm.edu

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 31 of 69



by Freddy Groves

Supporting the Honor Flights

Honor Flights for 2026 are in full swing now, with veterans from around the country making the trip already this year.

Honor Flights (www.honorflight.org) are free trips to Washington, D.C., for veterans to visit all the memorials (Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Korean War Memorial, World War II Memorial and others) and be honored at special ceremonies.

Part of the success of each flight is due to the volunteers who step up. Whether it's pushing a wheelchair, managing logistics, aiding with visits to memorials and meals, helping with buses

and elevators, maneuvering through airports -- they are crucial to the success of each trip. Click on the "Find a Hub" link on the website and navigate to your state. You'll find your local groups there with all of the contact information.

Honor Flight trips are free for the veterans, and a lot goes on behind the scenes. Sponsorship, for example, is what pays for the trips and hotel stays. Check the list of corporate sponsors on the website.

Want to donate as an individual to a worthwhile Honor Flight program? Read about the TLC flights, trips meant for seriously ill veterans who have one year left to live. Sponsorship covers a three-day trip to all the memorials for the veteran and a caregiver. Think about that.

You can donate in others way besides a cash donation. If you have a Southwest Airline account, you can donate your rewards points. If you're sailing on a Norwegian Cruise Line trip, a portion of each stateroom is donated to Honor Flight.

Since the beginning, there have been 339,000 veterans who have been able to make the Honor Flights. And, at this point, there are in excess of 37,000 veterans who are on a wait list.

To learn more about the Honor Flights, see the website, contact them at 937-521-2400 or email them at info@honorflight.org.

Charity Navigator gives Honor Flight a 4 out of 4-star rating.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 32 of 69

Wishing Well®

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

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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1. TELEVISION: What was the title of the final episode of "M*A*S*H"?
2. GEOGRAPHY: The Red Sea is an inlet of which ocean?
3. INVENTIONS: Which English scientist invented the color wheel?
4. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What do pandas mostly eat?
5. MOVIES: What is the name of the fictional college where "Animal House" is set?
6. HISTORY: What was the last Chinese imperial dynasty?
7. GEOMETRY: What is the distance around a circle called?
8. SCIENCE: The world's first vaccine was developed to prevent which disease?
9. LITERATURE: Where is Stephen King's novel "It" set?
10. BUSINESS: What is the Disney logo based on?

Answers

1. "Goodbye, Farewell and Amen."
2. Indian Ocean.
3. Sir Isaac Newton.
4. Bamboo.
5. Faber College.
6. Qing.
7. Circumference.
8. Smallpox.
9. Derry, Maine.
10. The signature of Walt Disney.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 33 of 69

South Dakota Governor



Larry Rhoden



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Freedom Drives Opportunity

In South Dakota, we believe in protecting our freedom, defending our constitutional rights, and putting common sense policies into action. That's a big reason why South Dakota remains strong, safe, and free. But one right exists to protect all other rights – and that's the Second Amendment.

We have the results to prove that South Dakota is the most pro-Second Amendment state in America.

Last year on my Open for Opportunity tour, I had the chance to visit Western Dakota Technical College. When I met with President Ericson, she shared the opportunity to bring a gunsmithing program to South Dakota. I went back to the office and immediately got to work to make it happen.

South Dakota is home to many growing and thriving firearm businesses, and in the last few years, we've brought even more of them here. That didn't happen by accident. While other states were taking away Second Amendment rights, South Dakota said, "Not here." We chose a different path. We chose to stand up for our freedoms and welcome these businesses with open arms.

Finally, this week, I was proud to announce a \$4 million Future Fund grant to bring the gunsmithing program to Western Dakota Tech. We helped them purchase equipment and curriculum and acquire the gunsmithing school in Colorado.

Ryan Lishner, the president of the Colorado school, said gun policies in Colorado are starting to impede what firearms dealers and firearms manufacturers can do, and it's impacting their educational process.

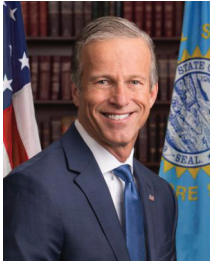
That won't happen in South Dakota. This is the freest state in a nation founded on the principle of freedom – and other states are taking notice.

We're proud to be the most Second Amendment-friendly state in the nation. We don't just say that – we back it up. I've fought for the Second Amendment my entire career. This year, we became the first state to remove silencers from the list of controlled weapons. In fact, other states have already followed our example!

The very first bill that we signed during the Noem-Rhoden Administration was Constitutional Carry to guarantee the Second Amendment rights of every law-abiding South Dakotan. We became the first state to eliminate fees for concealed carry permits. And our leadership in this area goes back decades. In fact, when I was in the Legislature, I was the prime sponsor of a bill to eliminate the 48-hour waiting period to purchase a pistol, among other strong pro-2A laws.

The Second Amendment exists to protect all other rights, so my administration will always protect it. And we will welcome with open arms those who will help us advance the Second Amendment.

This new gunsmithing school is a win for our students, our workforce, our businesses, and our firearms industry. We aren't putting up roadblocks; we're opening doors. We're keeping our young folks here at home and helping our businesses find the skilled workers they need. We're proving that South Dakota is Open for Opportunity – and we're keeping it the most pro-Second Amendment state in America.



JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

Democrats Want to Bring Back Open Borders, Republicans Won't Let Them

Democrats have made it clear that they are the party of open borders and defunding law enforcement. They kept the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shut down for nearly two months, repeatedly moved the goalposts on negotiations to fund the agency, and ultimately walked away from bipartisan talks. Then, just before Easter, every Democrat in the Senate showed their true colors by refusing to fund the law enforcement and border security components of DHS.

Needless to say, Democrats' extreme position is unacceptable for Republicans, and I would think for most Americans too. So while Democrats embrace open borders and defunding law enforcement, the Republican majority will move ahead to fund these critical agencies without their support through the budget reconciliation process.

It is shameful what Democrats have done to Homeland Security. Since October, Democrats have subjected this department to not one but two record-breaking shutdowns, forcing some department employees to go without pay for extended periods of time. Republicans tried to work with Democrats; we tried to negotiate with them on reforms to immigration enforcement that they said that they wanted. But time and again, Democrats blocked our attempts, moved the goalposts in bipartisan negotiations, and eventually just walked away.

But that won't be the end of the story. First, thanks to our foresight in the Working Families Tax Cuts bill, immigration enforcement and border security are funded through the end of this fiscal year. Now that it's clear that we can't trust Democrats to fund law enforcement, Republicans are going to take up a bill through budget reconciliation that will allow us to fund these missions through the remainder of the Trump administration without Democrats.

Democrats have once again shown their embrace of open borders and defunding law enforcement. They refuse to fund the deportation of criminal illegal aliens. They refuse to fund drug interdiction and border security. They refuse to fund the agency that investigates drug smugglers and human traffickers. And they refuse to fund Border Patrol. Apparently, the Biden administration's four years of record-breaking illegal immigration weren't enough for Democrats. Based on their present position, they're perfectly willing to allow the border crisis of the last administration to return. Republicans won't let that happen.

It's mindboggling, but Democrats don't really believe in securing our borders and enforcing our immigration laws. It's now clear that Democrats were never interested in a solution, they were just interested in a political talking point. But I don't think "defund law enforcement" is a winning message for my Democrat colleagues.

Republicans are in complete agreement that we need to ensure law enforcement and border security are fully funded, and we're going to ensure that they are funded quickly and completely to keep our border secure and America safe.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 35 of 69



Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

Back in the Saddle Finally

After about three months of wrestling with a variety of bug thingamajigs, I ended up with a case of acute bronchitis. Believe me; it was not really cute at all.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I, during that time, competed in a coughing and sneezing contest. Unfortunately, she won the contest. Now, as a result of her winning, whenever she says anything to me next year, I have to respond, "Yes, dear."

Oh well, now that it is over, it will be well worth it. I have learned, over 50 years of marital bliss, that saying "Yes, dear" makes my life that much more blissful.

With all that in the past, I now start a new chapter in my life. I am now back in the saddle again and picking up where I left off a couple of months ago.

I have suffered many physical problems throughout the years, but I have noticed now that I am older, it takes me longer to get back in the saddle. I could choose to moan and groan in bed, but what in the world would that accomplish?

The importance of getting "back in the saddle" reminds us that having the right support-like a good horse-is key to moving forward, especially for those facing setbacks.

When I was young, I would visit my grandfather at his farm in the mountains of central Pennsylvania and sometimes spend the summer up there. He had a large horse he used on his farm to plow the fields and other work.

My cousin and I would ride that horse, but grandpa did not have any saddles for us to use. We had to climb up on the bareback of that horse, and believe me, it was a huge horse. But we enjoyed riding it as much as we could. Of course, our grandmother was the one who led the horse as we rode it. Why she did that, I will never know.

But it was the horse that led the way. I can get any saddle I want, but if I do not put it on a horse, what good is it really?

Now that I'm back in the saddle, I need to understand the power of that saddle, which is the horse. Which is going to empower me to get back to my normal life?

Of course, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage always questions me about that. "What is normal for you?" She would always ask me. I never had a really good answer for that.

What is normal to one person is a fit of craziness to someone else.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 36 of 69

It does not matter to me about my normal; if it is crazy, I am going to accept that and incorporate it into my life. What is wrong with being crazy? After all, I have been crazy all my life, so why should I change now?

Now that I'm back in the saddle, I can get into my office and begin working on projects I haven't been able to work on for the last several months. It is a good feeling to be back in my office again.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage thinks my office is a mess. She has been tempting me to get into my office, straighten everything out and organize it to her satisfaction.

The last time she suggested that I replied by saying, "Okay, you organize my office and I will organize your craft room. How does that sound?"

I haven't heard from her since about that.

As I look around my office, I cannot see any mess at all. My office is so organized that I know exactly where to find whatever I need at any given time. I have learned through life that if I can't find something, it means that I really don't need it. That has been the saddle on my horse for many years.

Getting back on the saddle is a very challenging proposition. First, I have to know where to start. After about three months of not doing much of what I need to do, I need to find out where to start.

To find out where to start, I have to sit in my office with a nice hot cup of coffee, look around, and take in all the books I have, the computers, the printer and my desk. To The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, this looks like a mess. But, to her adoring husband, all of this inspires me to get back on the saddle and go charging forward.

It is going to take me a week or so to readjust my priorities. What is really the top priority as I get started?

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage always has her priorities in focus. She is the kind of person who can multitask. I have never been able to multitask in my life.

That is why it takes me a little bit longer to get my priorities lined up. Now that I'm back in the saddle, I can go forward and get everything in line to become productive again.

I could not help but think of a Bible verse on this subject. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17).

As a Christian, my focus is not on my past, but forward on Christ.

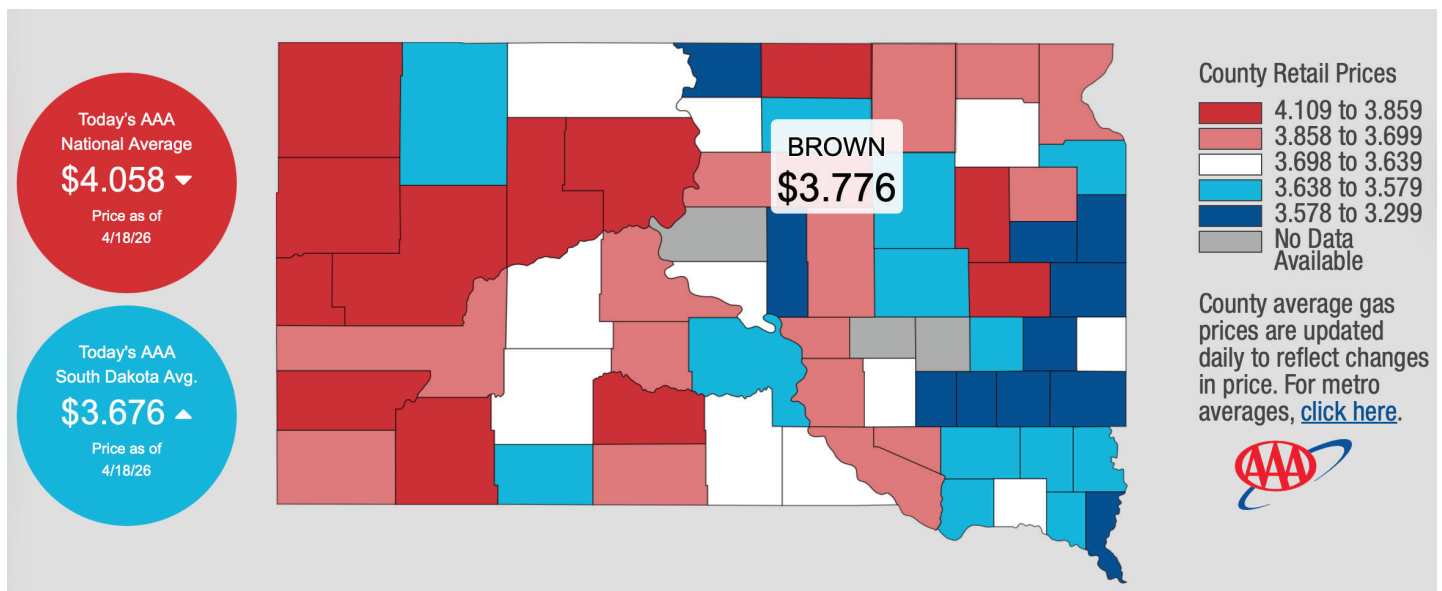
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 37 of 69

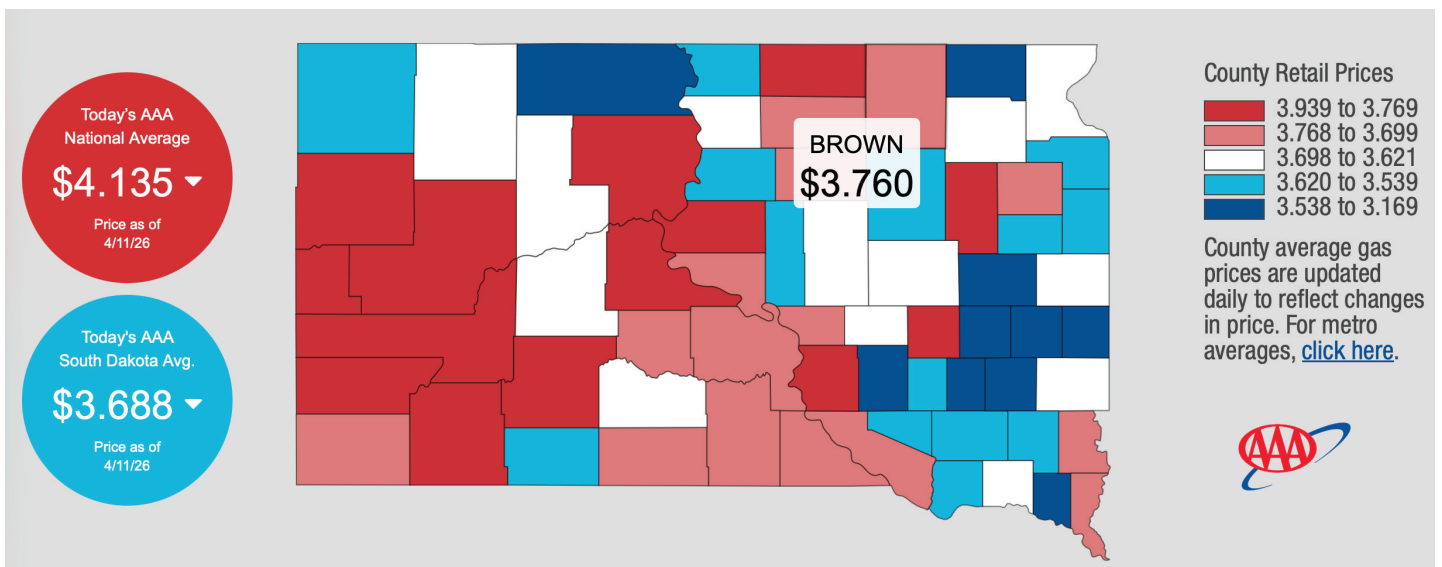
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$3.676	\$3.842	\$4.346	\$4.815
Yesterday Avg.	\$3.674	\$3.855	\$4.325	\$4.826
Week Ago Avg.	\$3.688	\$3.857	\$4.343	\$4.871
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.333	\$3.491	\$3.986	\$4.421
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.074	\$3.264	\$3.693	\$3.258

This Week



Last Week



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 38 of 69

Drought Classification

None

D0 (Abnormally Dry)

D1 (Moderate Drought)

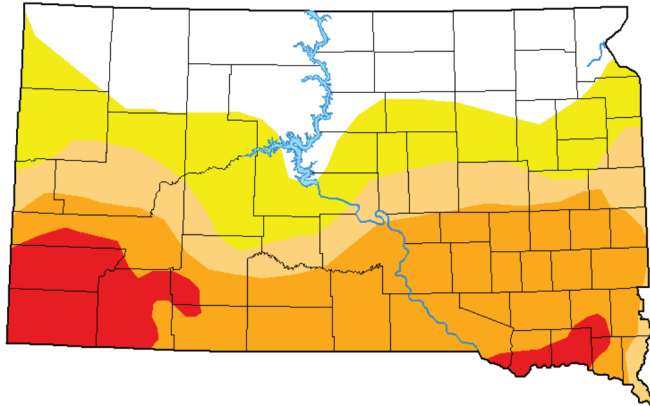
D2 (Severe Drought)

D3 (Extreme Drought)

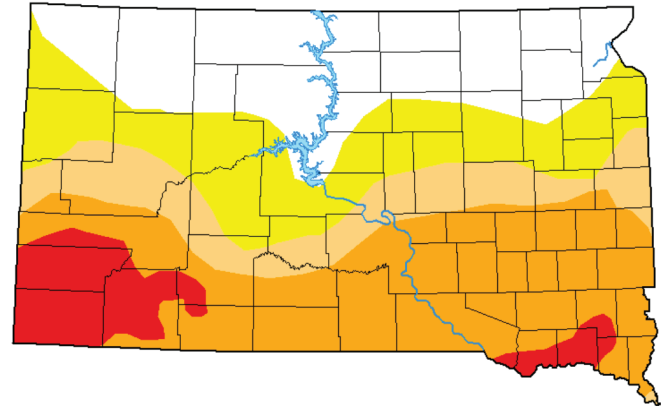
D4 (Exceptional Drought)

No Data

Drought Monitor



April 14



April 7

Temperatures were mostly above normal, with only eastern North Dakota and northeast South Dakota near or below normal. The greatest departures occurred in central Kansas, where temperatures were 12–15 degrees above normal. Above-normal precipitation was observed in southwest and northern North Dakota.

Kansas experienced the most active weather, with southwest and eastern areas of the state and southeast Nebraska recording above-normal precipitation. Some areas of northeast Kansas received more than 400% of normal precipitation. These rains led to improvements in abnormally dry and moderate drought conditions across southeast Nebraska and northeast Kansas. Some areas of eastern Nebraska and south-central Kansas also saw improvements.

Extreme drought expanded across southwest Nebraska and northwest Kansas, while severe drought expanded across southwest Kansas. The plains of eastern Colorado experienced nearly a full-category degradation, with expansion of moderate, severe, and extreme drought.

SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

National Guard 'follows the Constitution,' general says of troops possibly deployed to polls

BY: JONATHAN SHORMAN

The National Guard's top general told Congress on Friday that it would follow the Constitution and the law when he was asked about the possibility President Donald Trump would order troops to polling places for the midterm elections.

The remarks at a U.S. House Appropriations subcommittee hearing came as Democratic lawmakers also voiced unease over the continuing deployment of nearly 2,500 National Guard members in Washington, D.C.

Rep. Joe Morelle, a New York Democrat, asked Gen. Steven Nordhaus, chief of the National Guard Bureau, what assurances he could provide to Americans concerned about the deployment of troops at the polls.

"The National Guard, obviously, always follows the Constitution, law, policy and guidance, both at the federal and the state level," Nordhaus said.

Federal law prohibits the deployment of the military to polling places unless necessary "to repel armed enemies of the United States" and violations are punishable by up to five years in prison.

Trump has said that he should have ordered the National Guard to seize ballot boxes during the 2020 election, which he falsely maintains was stolen. Steve Bannon, a former Trump adviser, has publicly urged the president to send the military and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, agents to patrol the polls.

Trump last year deployed National Guard members to several Democratic-led cities, in some instances federalizing them against the will of governors, who typically command National Guard members. He also sent active-duty Marines into Los Angeles. Opponents of the deployments expressed fears that they represented a test run for intimidating voters.

While the deployment to the District of Columbia continues, Trump withdrew troops from other cities after the Supreme Court in December left in place a lower court decision barring a deployment in Chicago.

Rep. Betty McCollum, a Minnesota Democrat, questioned how long the D.C. deployment is sustainable. She also referred to reporting by ABC News that the Pentagon intends to keep troops in D.C. through the end of Trump's term in January 2029.

"Picking up waste in the District of Columbia does not prepare anyone for conflicts that could arise in Europe, Asia and the Middle East," McCollum said.

Jonathan Shorman covers democracy for States Newsroom. Based in Kansas City, his coverage area includes elections and voting rights, fights over state and federal power, civil liberties and more. An alumnus of the University of Kansas, he previously covered politics for The Kansas City Star.

Milbank goes out on a limb to save ash trees from invasive beetle City leaders hope herd immunity strategy slows infestation, becomes roadmap for other South Dakota cities

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER

It would cost up to \$4 million to cut down Milbank's ash trees, after state and city officials detected a beetle last summer that threatens to decimate the northeastern South Dakota city's tree canopy.

It'll cost roughly 60% of that price, or \$2.4 million over 12 years, to reach herd immunity against the emerald ash borer — and the city of roughly 3,500 people will keep most of its trees, said city administrator Steve Pendergrass.

Herd immunity, a term commonly used in public health, happens when a large percentage of a population becomes immune to a disease, either through vaccination and treatment or previous infection, making it difficult for the disease to spread.

Ash trees comprise over 50% of Milbank's public tree canopy — 1,657 trees throughout the city's parks, cemeteries and public right-of-way. The emerald ash borer, an eastern Asian beetle first detected in the United States in 2002, burrows under ash tree bark and eats the tree from the inside out. A chemical injection, applied with a needle-like device after drilling a hole into the tree, kills adult insects, preventing another generation of larvae and protecting the tree.

Many communities across the country — including Sioux Falls, the first place emerald ash borers were found in South Dakota in 2018 — have opted to remove a majority or all of their public ash trees. Pendergrass hopes to avoid that.

"We're dealing with tax dollars. We need to make sure we're practicing due diligence while also taking care of public safety and while taking care of as many trees as possible," Pendergrass said.

Milbank's approach can serve as an example for other cities across the state, said John Ball, forestry specialist with South Dakota State University Extension. Ash trees typically comprise one-third of a public tree canopy in cities.

"Herd immunity could be a technique applicable in slowing the spread of the insect, controlling the damage it does, and providing long-term survival," Ball said.

Instead of halving its tree canopy, Milbank is removing about a third of its public ash trees in the next decade — those already too infested, planted too closely together or too small to be worth saving. Officials plan to treat one-sixth of the remaining trees every year, leaving the remainder untreated until they cycle through and treat the remaining trees over the next 12 years.

"Ash trees are tough and can tolerate a low population of emerald ash borer," Ball said. "The problem is when you end up with incredibly high populations with an epidemic, which is what kills the tree."

Emerald ash borer is slowly making its way across the state. Watertown in Codington County, just west of Milbank's Grant County, is the farthest west the insect has been detected in the state so far. Ball



Ash trees make up more than 50% of Milbank's public tree canopy, including parks and its cemetery. (Photo courtesy of city of Milbank)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 41 of 69



Emerald Ash Borer larva (Photo courtesy of John Ball/South Dakota State University)

The treatment effort in Milbank will begin this spring, after ash trees leaf out in May. Hired tree care companies will treat another random one-third of trees two years after the initial treatment. The cycle will continue for over a decade until the beetle population declines. Removals of damaged trees will continue through 2030.

The result will save a majority of the city's canopy, Pendergrass said. It contrasts with Sioux Falls' effort to fell every public ash tree in the city. The city has removed 17,000 public ash trees, and it plans to have residents remove or treat the remaining 45,000 trees on private property.

In Milbank, more than 950 ash trees are in boulevards throughout the city, which Pendergrass said homeowners will be responsible for treating. Boulevards — the strip of grass between a street and sidewalk — are technically city property but are cared for by property owners.

"If residents don't do their part with treatment, all we did was buy ourselves time," Pendergrass said. "Ideally it buys us our trees and herd immunity works, but if nothing else, it buys us time to remove and replant."

Milbank will plant about 30 trees every year for the foreseeable future, Pendergrass said. It'll cost about \$20,000 this year.

The selection of the new trees must be diverse, Ball said. Because there will likely be a new threat.

"I don't know what's out there and coming. But if only 5% of a tree canopy is affected, that's almost a yawn compared to 30% or 50%," Ball said. "One of the things we all need to learn from the emerald ash borer, and that people failed to learn with Dutch elm disease that wiped out a large portion of elm trees in the '70s, is that we want to plant diversity."

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

expects the insect will infest ash trees throughout South Dakota by 2035.

Ball said other mitigation efforts have helped slow the spread, including firewood quarantines in affected counties.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department has been removing ash trees from developed areas of state parks for over a decade. Dakota Dunes benefited from conducting an inventory of their ash trees before emerald ash borer was identified there. The city gradually replaced young or damaged ash trees with new trees before emerald ash borers arrived. The strategy helped the community deal with the infestation without significantly impacting the overall tree canopy.

"They were well along on their plan before we confirmed emerald ash borer there. They're one of the best in terms of getting on it early," Ball said.



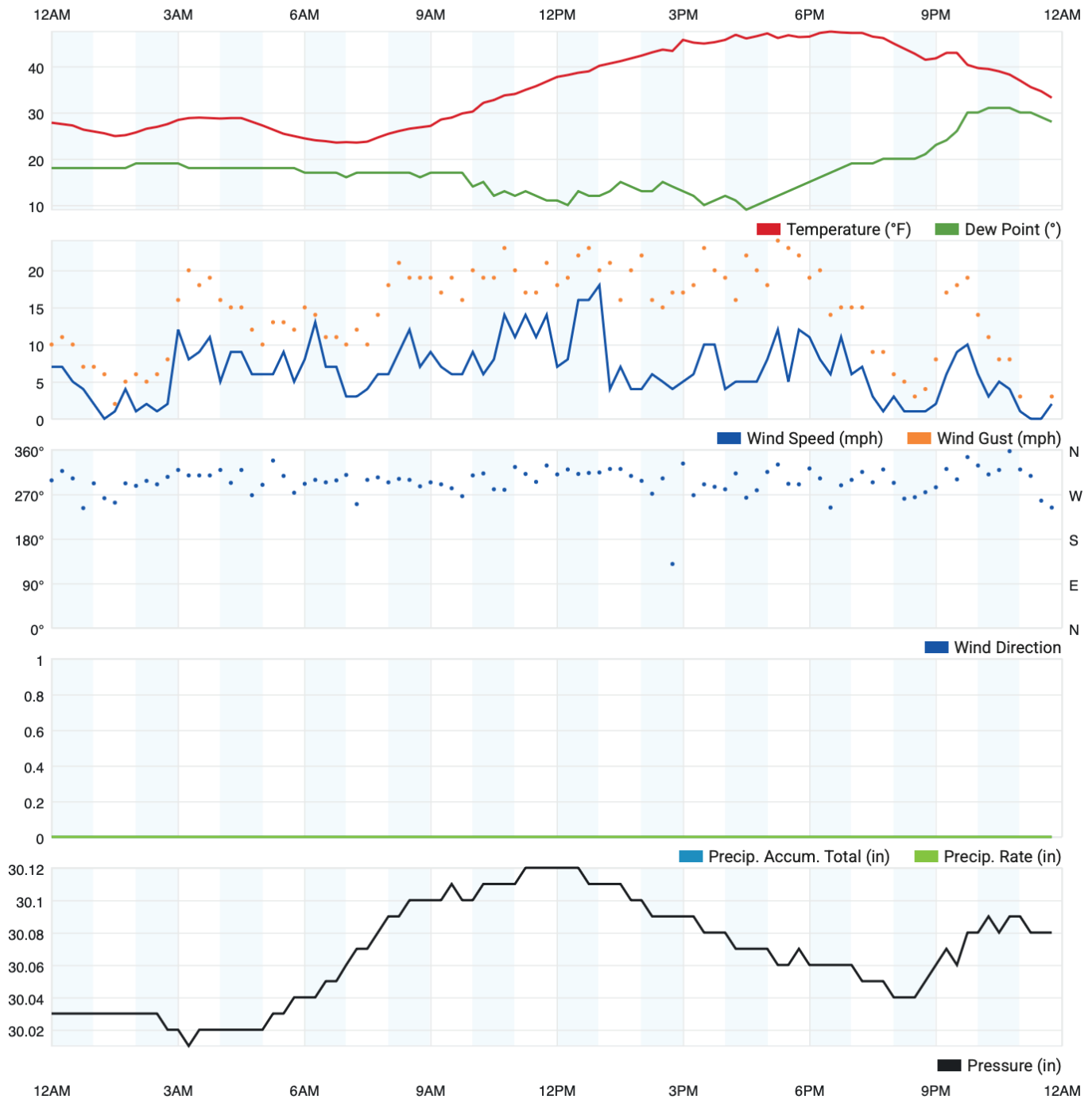
Emerald Ash Borer (Photo by Leah Bauer/USDA Forest Service)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 42 of 69

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

April 18, 2026



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 43 of 69

Today



High: 46 °F

Sunny

Tonight



Low: 28 °F

Mostly Clear

Monday



High: 71 °F

Mostly Sunny
and Breezy

Monday Night



Low: 38 °F

Mostly Clear

Tuesday



High: 74 °F

Sunny

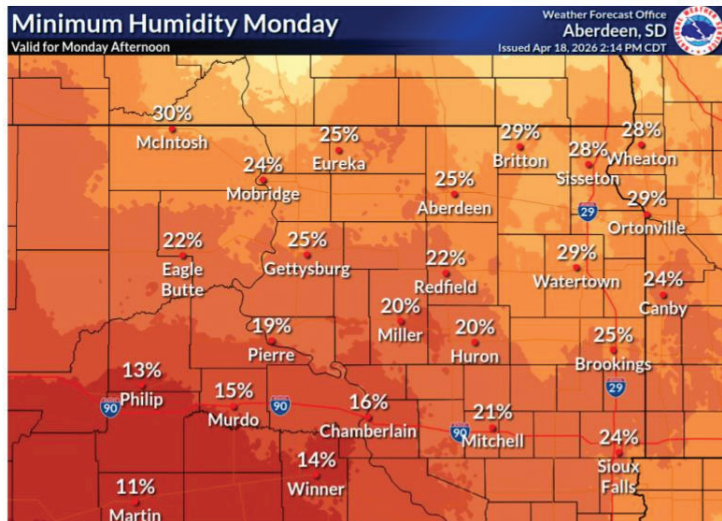


Elevated Fire Weather Concerns Monday

April 18, 2026
2:50 PM CDT

Dry and Windy conditions will be present Monday afternoon

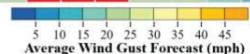
- Dry and windy conditions will be present Monday afternoon, with the highest gusts located over northeastern South Dakota and western Minnesota.
- The combination of dry and windy will create **elevated fire weather concerns Monday afternoon.**



Average Wind Gust (mph) Forecast

	4/19 Sun		4/20 Mon						4/21 Tue	
	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm
Wheaton	13	9	13	17	22	28	30	27	20	14
Milbank	12	8	10	15	19	24	30	27	20	14
Sisseton	10	8	12	18	23	29	33	31	20	15
Watertown	11	10	13	17	22	30	34	31	22	14
Webster	11	12	16	20	24	31	36	31	22	15
Clark	11	13	18	23	27	33	36	31	20	14
Britton	9	11	16	20	25	33	38	32	20	14
Aberdeen	10	12	15	20	23	31	34	28	17	12
Redfield	12	14	18	23	27	34	36	27	16	13
Miller	13	15	18	23	27	33	33	26	15	12
Chamberlain	13	15	16	18	20	25	26	24	16	12
Eureka	9	14	19	24	28	31	29	24	15	12
Gettysburg	12	16	22	25	29	31	28	21	14	12
Pierre	12	15	17	19	20	23	21	16	11	7
Mobridge	11	14	19	23	26	27	24	19	14	12
Murdo	17	22	24	26	25	27	24	22	17	12
Eagle Butte	17	21	24	27	28	26	21	18	15	14
McIntosh	16	20	24	29	29	28	24	22	17	14

WindGust >= 25



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

A combination of dry conditions and strong southerly wind gusts will create elevated fire weather concerns Monday afternoon. The driest conditions are expected over central South Dakota, while the strongest wind gusts are expected over northeastern South Dakota and western Minnesota. Still, the combination is enough to create High to Very High Grassland Fire Danger over much of the area.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 44 of 69

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 48 °F at 6:55 PM

Low Temp: 23 °F at 6:44 AM

Wind: 24 mph at 5:11 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 90 in 1923

Record Low: 12 in 1988

Average High: 59

Average Low: 33

Average Precip in April.: 0.97

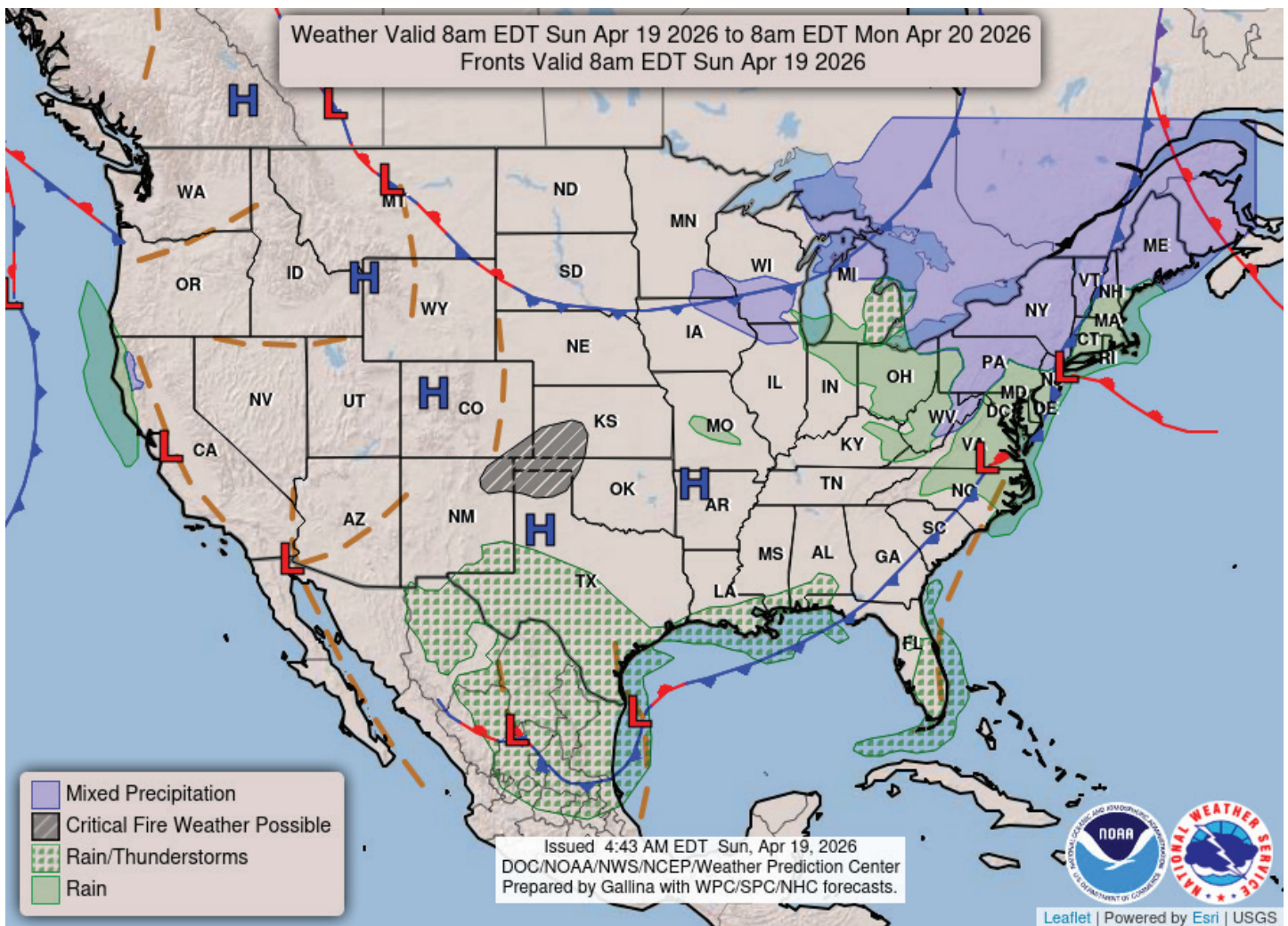
Precip to date in April.: 0.95

Average Precip to date: 3.03

Precip Year to Date: 2.57

Sunset Tonight: 8:22 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:38 am



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 45 of 69

Today in Weather History

April 19th, 1955: An F2 tornado moved NNW from 16 miles southwest of Aberdeen in the Townships of Good Hope and Highland. Only the houses were left intact on the four torn farms. Also, an F2 tornado destroyed barns 8 miles Southeast of Gettysburg, causing \$8,000 in damage. In Corson and Dewey Counties, two F0 tornadoes touched down, one after the other, causing over \$3,000 worth of damage and injuring two people. An additional F2 tornado moved NNW in Clear Lake and Richland Townships. Buildings were destroyed on five farms.

April 19th, 1971: An unofficial rainfall amount of 6 inches in 24 hours was reported at White River. An official number of 4 plus inches was reported at Murdo, causing the washout of a railroad and derailment of a freight train. The Ghost Hawk Dam broke on the Rosebud Indian Reservation, and the flood waters damaged a trailer home and two cars. Flooding occurred along the Bad, White, Little White Rivers and Pine Creek.

April 19th, 2006: An intense spring snowstorm swept across the Dakotas, dumping up to 5 feet of snow. The heaviest snow fell in the Black Hills, 59.4 inches at Lead, SD. Bowman, ND, reported 18 inches. The storm closed highways, including I-94 in North Dakota, cutting power to thousands, and was responsible for at least four deaths. Further west, 1 to 3 feet of snow and 50 to 60 mph winds caused drifts up to 10 feet, widespread power outages, and livestock losses.

1775 — The first engagement of the Revolutionary War took place under clear crisp weather at Lexington-Concord. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1941 — The temperature at Sodus, NY, soared to 95 degrees. The next day Albany, NY, reported a record for April of 93 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1973 — Glenrock, WY, received 41 inches of snow in just 24 hours, and a storm total of 58 inches, to establish two state records. (18th-20th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1976 — The northeastern U.S. was in the midst of an early season heat wave, and the Boston Marathon took place in 90 degree heat. At Providence RI the mercury hit 98 degrees. (David Ludlum)

1987 — Forty cities in the central U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date as readings soared into the 80s and lower 90s for Easter Sunday. Fort Smith AR reported a record high of 95 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 — Severe thunderstorms over the southeastern U.S. early in the day spawned a strong (F-3) tornado which destroyed seventeen homes and severely damaged thirty houses near Madison FL killing four persons and injuring eighteen others. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 — A dozen cities in the southwestern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 98 degrees at Hanksville UT equalled their record for April. Tucson AZ reported their earliest 100 degree reading of record. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 — Five cities in the northeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date as readings dipped into the 20s and upper teens. Elkins WV reported a record low of 20 degrees. Thunderstorms over the Southern Plains produced golf ball size hail at San Angelo TX, and up to four inches of rain in southwestern Oklahoma. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1996 — One of the most memorable tornado outbreaks in Illinois history occurred on April 19, 1996. During the day, 33 tornadoes were reported as supercells erupted and moved across the state during the afternoon and evening hours. Wind estimates in excess of 170 mph were associated with some of the stronger tornadoes, one of which ripped through nearby Ogden, IL. (University of Illinois WW2010)



Seeking Guidance: The First Step

Through humble confession, the barriers that keep us from hearing God's guidance are cleared away.

1 John 1:8-10: 8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

By forsaking the worldly way, believers choose a narrow path (Matthew 7:13). However, we're not meant to wander blindly on it. The Holy Spirit is our guide. But have you ever struggled to discern His divine guidance?

Seeking God's direction involves a pattern that begins with cleansing—in other words, the first place to look is at ourselves. Ask, "Father, do You see anything in my life that might interfere with my understanding what You are saying?" Sin hinders the process: It clouds our judgment and how we experience the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible teaches that God cleanses us from unrighteousness when we confess our sins (1 John 1:9). It also contains a clear warning for those who refuse to relinquish a wrong habit or attitude—the Lord doesn't heed their cries (Psalm 66:18). But even when mistakes are made, God will never forsake those who call Him Father (Hebrews 13:5).

Cleansing is woven into the process of gaining divine guidance. The Holy Spirit brings sin to our attention and equips us to deal with it. So on the way to receiving His clear direction, we may revisit this first step of cleansing often. The result is, we can continually experience a time of rich spiritual growth and renewal.

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, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 47 of 69

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 48 of 69



WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

04.18.26

17 19 47 48 55 4

TOP PRIZE:

\$1,000,000/year

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 36 Mins 46 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

04.17.26

38 43 44 49 62 8

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$140,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

04.18.26

18 21 22 32 42 10

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$22,430,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

04.18.26

11 14 17 25 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$60,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

04.18.26

2 38 45 53 63 21

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

04.18.26

24 25 39 46 61 1

Power Play: 5x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$87,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Iran doubles down on closing the Strait of Hormuz as the ceasefire nears expiration

By SAM METZ and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Iran doubled down on its pledge to restrict ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz as long as the U.S. blockade of Iranian ports remains in place, as mediators scrambled to extend the ceasefire set to expire on Wednesday.

The dueling blockades have complicated Pakistani-led mediation attempts and raised questions about whether the two-week truce can be extended.

"It is impossible for others to pass through the Strait of Hormuz while we cannot," Iranian parliamentary Speaker Mohammed Bagher Qalibaf said in an interview aired on state television late Saturday.

Qalibaf, who is Iran's chief negotiator in talks with the United States, slammed the U.S. blockade as a "naive decision made out of ignorance." He said Iran still was seeking peace despite deep-seated distrust of the United States.

"The gaps remain wide and some fundamental issues are still unresolved," he said.

Iran had announced the strait's reopening after a 10-day truce between Israel and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon took hold on Friday. But after U.S. President Donald Trump said the U.S. blockade of Iran's ports "will remain in full force" until Tehran reaches a deal with the United States, Iran said it would continue enforcing its restrictions in the strait.

After a brief uptick in transit attempts on Saturday, vessels in the Persian Gulf held their positions, wary after two India-flagged ships were fired on mid-transit and forced to turn around. Their retreat returned the strait, through which roughly one-fifth of the world's oil trade normally passes, to its pre-ceasefire status quo, threatening to deepen the global energy crisis and push the parties toward renewed conflict as the war entered its eighth week.

With days until the ceasefire in place between the U.S. and Iran runs out, Iran on Saturday said it had received new proposals from the United States, and Pakistani mediators were working to arrange another round of direct negotiations.

For Iran, the strait's closure — imposed after the U.S. and Israel launched the war on Feb. 28 during talks over Tehran's nuclear program — is perhaps its most powerful weapon, threatening the world economy and inflicting political pain on Trump. For the United States, the blockade squeezes Iran's already weakened economy and pressures its government by denying it long-term cash flow.

Though the ceasefire has held, the standoff in the strait threatens to plunge the region back into a war that has killed at least 3,000 people in Iran, more than 2,290 in Lebanon, 23 in Israel and more than a dozen in Gulf Arab states. Fifteen Israeli soldiers in Lebanon and 13 U.S. service members throughout the region have been killed.

Reopening hopes sink as ships come under fire

Revolutionary Guard gunboats opened fire on a tanker and a projectile hit a container vessel, damaging some containers, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said. India's Foreign Ministry said it summoned Iran's ambassador over the "serious incident" of firing on two India-flagged merchant ships, especially after Iran earlier let several India-bound ships through.

"Americans are risking the international community, risking the global economy through these, I can say, miscalculations," Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh told The Associated Press, adding that the U.S. is "risking the whole ceasefire package."

Iran's Supreme National Security Council issued a statement calling the blockade a violation of the ceasefire and said Iran would prevent "any conditional and limited reopening" of the strait. The council has recently acted as Iran's de facto top decision-making body.

Since most supplies to U.S. military bases in the Gulf region come through the strait, "Iran is determined

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 50 of 69

to maintain oversight and control over traffic through the strait until the war fully ends," the council said. That means Iran-designated routes, payment of fees and issuance of transit certificates.

Pakistan pushes for progress toward a new deal

The renewed standoff over the strait came hours after Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said his country was working to "bridge" differences between the U.S. and Iran. Pakistan is expected to host a second round of negotiations early next week.

Iran's Supreme National Security Council said "new proposals" from the U.S. had been put forward during a visit to Iran by Pakistan's army chief and were being reviewed.

But Khatibzadeh said the Iranians were not ready for a new round of face-to-face talks because the Americans "have not abandoned their maximalist position."

He also said Iran will not hand over its stock of 970 pounds (440 kilograms) of enriched uranium to the United States, calling the idea "a nonstarter." Khatibzadeh did not address other proposals for the enriched uranium, saying only that "we are ready to address any concerns."

Trump said Saturday that Iran "got a little cute" but that "very good" conversations were happening, and more information would come by day's end. "They can't blackmail us," he added.

Pope Leo XIV challenges Angola's leaders while delivering a message of encouragement for its people

By NICOLE WINFIELD and GERALD IMRAY Associated Press

LUANDA, Angola (AP) — Pope Leo XIV challenged Angola's leaders to break the "cycle of interests" that have plundered and exploited Africa for centuries as he arrived in the southern African country on Saturday with a message of encouragement for its long-suffering people.

Leo's arrival in Angola, the oil-and-mineral rich former Portuguese colony, marked the third leg of his four-nation African voyage. En route from Cameroon, he spoke again of the ongoing back-and-forth with U.S. President Donald Trump over the Iran war.

Leo, history's first U.S.-born pope, said that it was "not in my interest at all" to debate Trump, but that he would continue preaching the Gospel message of peace, justice and brotherhood in Africa.

U.S. Vice President JD Vance later wrote on social media that "I am grateful to Pope Leo for saying this." Vance, a Catholic convert, suggested earlier in the week that Leo "be careful" when speaking about theology.

In Angola, Leo met with President Joao Lourenco and delivered his first speech to Angolan government authorities, in which he referred repeatedly to Angola's tortured history of colonial plunder and civil war.

"I desire to meet you in the spirit born of peace and to affirm that your people possess treasures that cannot be bought or stolen," he said. "There dwells within you a joy that not even the most adverse circumstances have been able to extinguish."

A long-suffering people

Angola, which has a population of around 38 million, gained independence from Portugal in 1975. But it still bears the scars of a devastating civil war that began straight after independence and raged on and off for 27 years before finally ending in 2002. More than a half-million people are believed to have been killed.

For years, the civil war was a Cold War proxy conflict, with the United States and apartheid South Africa backing one side and the Soviet Union and Cuba backing the other.

Angola is now the fourth-largest oil producer in Africa and among the world's top 20 producers, according to the International Energy Agency. The country is also the world's No. 3 diamond producer and has significant deposits of gold and highly sought after critical minerals.

But despite its varied natural resources, the World Bank estimated in 2023 that more than 30% of the population lived on less than \$2.15 a day.

"You know well that all too often people have looked — and continue to look — to your lands in order to give, or, more commonly, in order to take," Leo told the Angolan authorities.

The pontiff said: "It is necessary to break this cycle of interests, which reduces reality, and even life itself, to mere commodities."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 51 of 69

While in Cameroon, Leo had railed against the “chains of corruption” that were hindering development, as well as the “handful of tyrants” who were ravaging Earth with war and exploitation. He raised similar points in Angola.

“How much suffering, how many deaths, how many social and environmental disasters are brought about by this logic of extractivism! At every level, we see how it sustains a model of development that discriminates and excludes, while still presuming to impose itself as the only viable option.”

Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the late former president who led Angola for 38 years from 1979 to 2017, was accused of diverting billions of dollars of public money to his family, largely from the country’s oil revenue, as millions struggled in poverty.

After Lourenco took over as president, his administration estimated that at least \$24 billion was stolen or misappropriated by dos Santos. Lourenco’s administration has vowed to crack down on corruption and has worked to recover funds allegedly stolen during the dos Santos era.

But critics note that Angola still has deep problems with corruption and have questioned if Lourenco’s actions were more aimed at political rivals so as to consolidate his power.

In his speech Saturday, Lourenco said that the Angolan government was committed to improving the lives of its people, but it was a “complex and difficult challenge.” He also called for an end to the Iran war and asked the pope to continue using his “moral authority” to push for peace and understanding among people.

A legacy of slavery

Angola, on the southwest coast of Africa, was considered to be the epicenter of the trans-Atlantic slave trade as a Portuguese colony. More than 5 million of the roughly 12.5 million enslaved Africans were sent across the ocean on ships departing from Angola, more than any other country, though not all of them were Angolans.

The highlight of Leo’s visit to Angola is expected to be his visit on Sunday to Muxima, south of Luanda. It’s a popular Catholic shrine in a country where around 58% of the population is Catholic.

The Church of Our Lady of Muxima was built by Portuguese colonizers at the end of the 16th century as part of a fortress complex and became a hub in the slave trade. It remains a reminder of the inextricable link hundreds of years ago between Roman Catholicism and the exploitation of the African continent.

Leo has Black and white ancestors who included both enslaved people and slave owners, according to genealogical research. He’s going to Muxima to pray the rosary, in recognition of the site becoming a popular pilgrimage destination after believers reported an appearance by the Virgin Mary around 1833.

Powerful winds and reported tornadoes rip through the Midwest, leaving heavy damage but no deaths

FREIDA FRISARO Associated Press

A trail of damaged homes and buildings dotted a wide swath of the U.S. on Saturday after a burst of destructive winds and reported tornadoes tore off roofs, uprooted trees and rendered rural roads impassable with debris.

No deaths were reported following Friday’s storms, which barreled through the Upper Midwest and delivered the latest round of severe weather to batter the region. Officials braced residents for a long recovery in some rural communities.

“We are extremely fortunate that this storm did not result in loss of life or serious injury,” Stephenson County Sheriff Steve Stovall said of the storm that hit Lena, Illinois.

Officials in Wisconsin and Minnesota echoed those sentiments.

In central Wisconsin, a reported tornado that tore through the cities of Kronenwetter and Ringle left behind damaged homes and some residents briefly trapped in their basements, Ringle Fire Chief Chris Kielman told reporters.

Marathon County Sheriff Chad Billeb said he had not seen this much devastation during his 34 years in law enforcement.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 52 of 69

"A lot of people are going to need a lot of help," Billeb said.

In Kronenwetter, neighbors were helping each other clear debris from their properties, and Wisconsin Public Service was working to restore power. Police Chief Terry McHugh said it could be a lengthy process.

He noted that the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin has partnered with United Way of Marathon County to help residents whose homes were damaged.

In Olmsted County, Minnesota, sheriff's officials said tornadoes caused "multiple levels" of damage. At least 30 homes were damaged in Marion Township, with a number of those sustaining damage that was described as significant. Officials went door to door to check on people.

The National Weather Service said the damage was likely caused by tornadoes and surveys of the affected areas would be conducted over the weekend.

On Friday in Illinois, Leo Zach, 14, had just gotten to the high school band room for a music competition when the building started shaking and the power went out. The room was packed with students, and some were very scared and had panic attacks.

"I'm definitely on the luckier side of how that could've happened," he said. "I was just trying to stay calm, help other people."

When they got outside, they found some of the windows blown out in the gym and part of the school's roof ripped off.

Photos and video posted online showed a garage totaled, bricks torn from buildings and fences demolished.

Lena is a village of nearly 3,000 people, located about 117 miles (188 kilometers) northwest of Chicago.

Rachel Nemon was going to pick up her stepson from Lena's middle school when she had to pull into a car wash to take cover from the storm. She watched a large tree get ripped from the ground and sparks fly feet in front of her.

"This is something that you see online, not in real life, especially in a small town in Illinois," she said.

Indiana primary will test Trump's control over Republican Party after redistricting defiance

By THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP) — The only thing standing between President Donald Trump and his revenge on Indiana state senators are people like Julie Wise.

She's 48 years old, works at a hospital, describes herself as a conservative and voted for Trump in the last election. But that doesn't mean she's going to vote out her Republican state senator just because he defied the president's demand to redraw Indiana's congressional map.

"I'm not going to say that 'because this is what the president wants, this is how I'm going to vote,'" Wise said from her front step on a sunny, springtime afternoon.

Indiana's primary on May 5 has become an unlikely test of Trump's grip on the Republican Party. After state senators defied White House pressure by opposing redistricting, Trump has endorsed seven primary challengers in races that rarely attract any attention from Washington.

The campaign, backed by national organizations such as Turning Point Action and pro-Trump groups that have spent more than \$4.2 million on advertising, has no precedent in recent memory. Gov. Mike Braun and U.S. Sen. Jim Banks, both Republicans, are also working against incumbent state senators in a display of deference to Trump.

One of their targets is Spencer Deery, a first-term state senator who knocked on Wise's door while canvassing her West Lafayette neighborhood via electric scooter.

"This is about one thing only," he told The Associated Press. "And that's control."

An avalanche of campaign spending

Deery represents the 23rd Senate District, a seven-county swath of farmland that borders Illinois to the west, runs north to West Lafayette and touches the outskirts of Terre Haute to the south.

Four years ago, Deery's campaign spent \$142,000 to win his seat in a race where fewer than 11,000

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 53 of 69

people voted. One of the primary candidates he defeated was Paula Copenhaver, a veteran Republican activist and local party chair.

Now Trump has endorsed Copenhaver, an aide to Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith, and Deery is facing a nearly \$1 million avalanche of spending. One television advertisement declared that "State Sen. Spencer Deery voted against President Trump's agenda."

"It's about sending a message that any state that does not get in line or any lawmakers that do not get in line with the political forces in D.C. should be on the lookout," Deery said. "That should concern you in a constitutional democracy."

Deery has spent \$167,000 so far, and he hasn't had any help from outside groups.

A Trump-backed opponent

Copenhaver declined to respond to telephone calls and text messages from The Associated Press after originally saying she was willing to discuss the campaign. Trump endorsed her in January by calling her a "MAGA Warrior" — a reference to Trump's "Make America Great Again" movement — and "a terrific Candidate for Indiana's 23rd State Senate District."

He wrote on social media that Copenhaver was "running against an incompetent and ineffective RINO incumbent named Spencer Deery who, for whatever reason, betrayed his voters by voting against Redistricting in Indiana." RINO means "Republican in name only."

The White House leaned heavily on Indiana lawmakers last year to break with precedent and adopt a new congressional map, part of an unusual nationwide cascade of redistricting that Trump hopes will help Republicans protect their thin U.S. House majority in November's elections. Vice President JD Vance met with Indiana politicians in Washington and Indianapolis, and Trump weighed in by conference call.

Some opponents of the proposal faced threats. Deery was targeted by a false police report intended to provoke a dangerous situation by sending a SWAT team racing to his home.

But the Republican-controlled state Senate voted against redistricting in December, a defeat for the president.

Trump tried to brush it off afterward, telling reporters in the Oval Office that "I wasn't working on it very hard."

Making the rounds on the campaign trail

As Deery moved from door to door in the neatly manicured suburb at the edge of a clover field in northwest West Lafayette, a pair of motorcyclists out on a Saturday ride stopped to encourage him.

"I wanted to thank you for having the courage to vote against the redistricting," one of them said.

Annette and Curtis Williams politely chatted with Deery at their door. Curtis said Trump's threat to unseat Deery is "inappropriate." Neither he nor his wife would say how they planned to vote.

Beckie Eikenberg, a quality assurance associate at an Indiana pharmaceutical company, has seen the advertisements targeting Deery, but she does not trust them. The 47-year-old who calls herself "libertarian on the conservative side," spoke with the state senator at the end of her cul-de-sac.

She voted for Trump but wrinkled her brow when asked if the president should have a say in Indiana's congressional map.

"He doesn't necessarily know what's going on within our state. He's not here. He doesn't see the day to day," she said.

Governor stays allied with Trump

The campaign to oust incumbents is also intended to dislodge Indiana Senate President Pro Tem Rodrick Bray, who helped block redistricting and has faced criticism from Trump.

Bray is not up for reelection this year, but Braun wanted primary challengers to commit to opposing him as Senate leader, according to three people familiar with the demand. The people were not authorized to publicly discuss private conversations and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump political aides said they were monitoring the campaigns. Representatives for Banks, the U.S. senator allied with the White House, did not return messages seeking comment.

Braun, the Republican governor, said he is backing the primary challengers not because of redistricting

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 54 of 69

but because he needs help to advance his agenda. For example, he was at odds with Bray over property taxes earlier in his term.

Braun is putting \$500,000 from his political action committee into state Senate races.

"Whether you supported this or that, my goal is to get enterprising senators and representatives," Braun said Monday. "So when it comes to what you do to either support or not support certain legislators, for me, it's going to mostly be based on, 'Are you willing to help me take Indiana into places that all states would want to be?'"

One of Braun's predecessors is working against him in the primary. Former Gov. Mitch Daniels, a Republican who stepped away from politics after leaving office in 2015, has been quietly working to protect incumbents targeted by Trump.

Daniels recorded a video and helped raise money for Deery, who was chief of staff to the former governor when he became president of Purdue University.

Deery said his vote against redistricting was not about defying Trump or the president's allies.

"I don't work for them," Deery said. "I work for my voters, my constituents."

Iran fully closes Strait of Hormuz over US blockade and fires on ships

By SAM METZ and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The standoff over the Strait of Hormuz escalated again Saturday as Iran reversed its reopening of the crucial waterway and fired on ships attempting to pass, in retaliation after the United States pressed ahead with its blockade of Iranian ports.

The strait is closed until the U.S. blockade is lifted, Iran's Revolutionary Guard navy said Saturday night, warning that "no vessel should make any movement from its anchorage in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, and approaching the Strait of Hormuz will be considered as cooperation with the enemy" and be targeted.

New attacks on the strait, through which roughly one-fifth of the world's oil normally passes, threatened to deepen the global energy crisis and push the countries into renewed conflict as the war entered its eighth week.

A fragile ceasefire is due to run out by Wednesday. Iran said it had received new proposals from the United States, and Pakistani mediators were working to arrange another round of direct negotiations.

Iran's joint military command earlier said "control of the Strait of Hormuz has returned to its previous state ... under strict management and control of the armed forces."

Revolutionary Guard gunboats opened fire on a tanker and an unknown projectile hit a container vessel, damaging some containers, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said. India's foreign ministry said it summoned Iran's ambassador over the "serious incident" of firing on two India-flagged merchant ships, especially after Iran earlier let several India-bound ships through.

For Iran, the strait's closure — imposed after the U.S. and Israel launched the war on Feb. 28 during talks over Tehran's nuclear program — is perhaps its most powerful weapon, threatening the world economy and inflicting political pain on President Donald Trump. For the United States, the blockade keeps up pressure and could strangle Iran's already weakened economy.

Iran's new supreme leader, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, issued defiant remarks on Saturday, saying the navy stands "ready to inflict bitter defeats on its enemies." He has not been seen in public since being elevated to the post following his father's death in Israel's opening barrage.

A turnaround a day after Iran said the strait was open

On Friday, Iran announced the strait's reopening to commercial vessels after a 10-day truce was announced between Israel and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon. The reopening caused oil prices to fall.

Trump, however, said the U.S. blockade of Iran's ports "will remain in full force" until Tehran reaches a deal with the United States. Trump had imposed the blockade after a round of historic face-to-face talks

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 55 of 69

in Pakistan between the countries ended without an agreement.

U.S. forces have sent 23 ships back to Iran since the blockade began on Monday, U.S. Central Command said Saturday. Trump's comments triggered an outcry.

"Americans are risking the international community, risking the global economy through these, I can say, miscalculations," Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh told The Associated Press, adding that the U.S. is "risking the whole ceasefire package."

Iran's Supreme National Security Council issued a statement calling the blockade a violation of the ceasefire and said Iran would prevent "any conditional and limited reopening" of the strait. The council has recently acted as Iran's de facto top decision-making body.

Since most supplies to U.S. military bases in the Gulf region come through the strait, "Iran is determined to maintain oversight and control over traffic through the strait until the war fully ends," the council said. That means Iran-designated routes, payment of fees and issuance of transit certificates.

The Revolutionary Guard navy statement later indicated that no vessel should attempt a transit at all.

Pakistan pushes for progress toward a new deal

The renewed standoff over the strait came hours after Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said his country was working to "bridge" differences between the U.S. and Iran. Pakistan is expected to host a second round of negotiations early next week.

Iran's Supreme National Security Council said "new proposals" from the U.S. had been put forward during a visit to Iran by Pakistan's army chief and were being reviewed.

But Khatibzadeh said the Iranians were not ready for a new round of face-to-face talks because the Americans "have not abandoned their maximalist position."

He also said Iran will not hand over its stock of 970 pounds (440 kilograms) of enriched uranium to the United States, calling the idea "a nonstarter." Khatibzadeh did not address other proposals for the enriched uranium, saying only that "we are ready to address any concerns."

Trump said Saturday that Iran "got a little cute" but that "very good" conversations were happening, and more information would come by day's end. "They can't blackmail us," he added.

On Friday, Trump said the U.S. will go into Iran and "get all the nuclear dust," referring to the enriched uranium, which is believed to be buried under nuclear sites badly damaged by U.S. military strikes last year.

French peacekeeper is killed in Lebanon

French President Emmanuel Macron said a French soldier was killed and three others were wounded Saturday during an attack on U.N. peacekeepers in southern Lebanon. "Everything suggests that responsibility for this attack lies with Hezbollah," Macron wrote on social media. The UNIFIL peacekeeping force also blamed Hezbollah.

Hezbollah denied involvement.

Pakistan's foreign minister said fighting between Israel and Hezbollah had been a key sticking point in U.S.-Iran talks, and the declaration of a ceasefire in Lebanon was seen as a boost to efforts for an Iran agreement.

It was unclear to what extent Hezbollah would abide by a truce it didn't play a role in negotiating, especially with Israeli troops still occupying a stretch of southern Lebanon.

In Beirut, displaced families began moving toward southern Lebanon and the capital's southern suburbs despite warnings by officials not to return home until it was clear whether the ceasefire would hold.

The Iran war has killed at least 3,000 people in Iran, more than 2,290 in Lebanon, 23 in Israel and more than a dozen in Gulf Arab states. Thirteen U.S. service members have been killed.

What consumers can do as the Iran war impacts the cost and availability of flights

By RIO YAMAT AP Airlines and Travel Writer

As the U.S. and Israel's war with Iran squeezes global oil supplies, travelers have valid reasons to worry about the cost and availability of flights as they plan their late spring and summer trips.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 56 of 69

The head of the International Energy Agency has warned that European countries could run low on jet fuel within weeks, forcing the continent's airlines and carriers that fly to Europe to significantly reduce flights. Many airlines have already raised checked bag fees or added fuel surcharges as the global price of jet fuel increased from about \$99 per barrel at the end of February to as high as \$209 a barrel at the beginning of April.

In a sign of the conflict's ongoing repercussions for travel, Air Canada said Friday it planned to suspend its service to New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport from June 1 until Oct. 25 to lower its fuel costs. Other airlines, ranging from U.S. carriers like United and Delta to Air France-KLM, SAS, Philippine Airlines and Cathay Pacific in Europe and Asia, have reduced routes and either increased ticket prices or said they would hike them if the war keeps oil from passing through the Strait of Hormuz.

"It's very hard for the airlines to make predictions in this environment, so they're going to be conservative, and that's why it's likely that their prices will remain elevated for some time until things really stabilize," said Shye Gilad, a former airline captain who now teaches at Georgetown University's business school.

With airfares and fees on the rise, consumers still can make choices that determine how much of their travel budgets will get taken up by paying to get to and from their destinations.

Act quickly

While consumers may be tempted to see if the war ends before buying airline tickets, the "wait-and-see" approach to booking flights is riskier this year, travel experts say, especially the longer the war goes on and the closer to summer and other peak travel periods it gets.

"Presuming there is a lasting ceasefire — or better yet, peace agreement — it will take a few months for normal levels of jet fuel production and delivery to resume," airline industry analyst Henry Harteveldt, president of Atmosphere Research Group, said.

Iran's reversal on Saturday of its decision to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and President Donald Trump's insistence on maintaining a U.S. blockade of Iranian ports illustrated the shakiness of prospects for oil flowing reliably again from the Persian Gulf and with it, an easing of the price pressure on airlines and their customers.

"My advice to travelers is this: If you find a flight whose schedule fits yours, with a fare you can afford, and on an airline you can at least tolerate, book it," Harteveldt said. "But — and I cannot emphasize this enough — do not book a Basic Economy fare," the cheapest but also the most restrictive airline ticket class.

Along with charging for checked bags and seat selection, most North American airlines do not give refunds or travel credits to passengers with Basic Economy tickets if they don't cancel their trips within 24 hours of purchase. Policies may vary, but spending more for a Standard Economy ticket provides more flexibility, according to Harteveldt.

Paying more up-front for a refundable ticket also prove advantageous because "if the prices start to dramatically change, you can cancel and rebook for the better price," Gilad said.

Travel experts say that for now, longstanding booking guidance offers a baseline for how early to reserve a flight to get the lowest airfare: international flights are typically the cheapest about two to five months in advance, and domestic trips about three to six weeks out.

Last-minute bookings and other situations that typically command higher prices are likely to keep climbing, Gilad said.

"Remember, especially if you're traveling on the major airlines, they're going to have more ability to adjust fares. If you book too close to your travel date, you're going to pay more," he said. "The farther out you can book, the better."

Keep an open mind

Travelers who don't want or need to reach a specific place at a specific time can find it easier to save on airfare. Shifting departure or return dates by a day or two — especially from peak weekends and holidays to midweek — often yields big price differences.

Choosing a different destination also may pay off. A flight from the U.S. may be significantly cheaper to one European city than another. Since budget airlines and trains connect much of Europe, and trains, an airport it cost less to get to can still provide easy access to a lot of other places.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 57 of 69

Consumers not set on a certain arrival destination can try tools like Skyscanner's "Explore Everywhere" feature to look for less-expensive options.

Looking beyond the closest airport for departures also can make a meaningful difference. Major hubs tend to offer more flights and lower fares than smaller regional airports.

In some cases, booking a separate short flight or train to a hub will unlock a cheaper long-haul airfare — think Milwaukee versus Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

Travel light

Sticking to a carry-on bag, when possible, can help avoid the higher fees for checking luggage that many major U.S. airlines introduced recently, including Delta, American, United, Southwest and JetBlue.

If packing light is not an option, plan ahead because airlines typically charge more to add bags closer to departure, especially within 24 hours of a flight.

Redeem your points

While fares are going up, the number of airline points needed for many flights has not increased at the same pace, said Adam Morvitz, CEO of points.me, a loyalty rewards redemption search platform.

Airlines still need to fill seats, Morvitz said, and offering more of them for fewer points is one way to do it.

Customers without enough frequent-flyer miles or credit card points for a round-trip ticket still can redeem their travel rewards for one leg of a journey and free up cash for other travel expenses.

Many travelers redeem points directly through their credit card's booking portal, where they're typically worth about 1 cent each, Morvitz said. Transferring points to airline loyalty programs often unlocks significantly better value because most major credit card issuers partner with a range of airlines.

Take American Express, whose points can be transferred to Air France's Flying Blue program. Travelers who don't want to book with Air France still can use those points with the airline's partner carriers, such as Delta, Morvitz said.

"Points are a form of wealth, and consumers should recognize that those points increase spending power," he said.

Explore travel credit cards

For those new to travel credit cards, sign-up bonuses may yield benefits that can be put to use as soon as this summer. Some bonuses are large enough to cover a flight after meeting a minimum spending requirement.

"Even if you were to travel the entire year, taking one trip per month, you would still earn more points simply by signing up for the card than actually sitting on a seat and flying," Morvitz said.

Points and rewards can add up through everyday spending on groceries, dining and gas. Some cards include perks like free or discounted checked bags.

While Trump lashes out at Spain, US Democrats join a progressive rally in Barcelona

By JOSEPH WILSON Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Progressive leaders from around the globe gathered in Barcelona on Saturday to try and galvanize their forces and defend a rules-based world order.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, an outspoken critic of U.S. President Donald Trump and the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran, hosted two overlapping events about democracy and progressive politics in Spain's second-largest city.

Democrats U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz were present alongside the leaders of Brazil, South Africa and high-ranking officials from other left-leaning governments.

While no foreign leader criticized Trump by name in public, the staunchly unilateral position of the American president that breaks with decades of U.S. foreign policy, including his derision of NATO and the United Nations, hung over the meetings.

"We all see the attacks against the multilateral system, the repeated attempts to undermine international

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 58 of 69

law and the dangerous normalization of the use of force," Sánchez said.

Trump again lashed out on Saturday on social media at Sánchez, who has faced Trump's scorn for not allowing the U.S. to use jointly operated military bases in Spain for operations related to the Iran war and for refusing to raise military spending from 2% to 5% of GDP.

"Has anybody looked at how badly the country of Spain is doing. Their financial numbers, despite contributing almost nothing to NATO and their military defense, are absolutely horrendous. Sad to watch!!!" Trump posted on Truth Social.

Sánchez says the right's time is running out

Spain, like the U.S. and other developed countries, is in debt, but it has one of the world's leading economies under Sánchez.

Sánchez told the rally of progressive politicians and party members held later on Saturday that the populist right "screams and shouts not because they are winning but because they know their time is running out.

"They know their vision of how the world should be ordered is falling apart due to the tariffs and wars," he said. "Their embrace of climate change denial, of xenophobia, or sexism is their greatest error.

"They have tried again and again to make us embarrassed of our beliefs. That ends now. From now on they can be the ones who feel ashamed."

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Colombian President Gustavo Petro, and other leaders and officials, including Cabinet members from the United Kingdom and Germany, were in attendance at the IV Meeting in Defense of Democracy that kicked off Saturday's double-header of political events at the Barcelona convention center.

Later in the day, Sánchez, Lula and Ramaphosa stayed put to attend the inaugural Global Progressive Mobilization, where some 6,000 left-leaning elected officials, policy analysts and activists exchanged ideas.

"The far right is international, so we must be too," German Vice Chancellor and Finance Minister Lars Klingbeil told a crowd of activists.

Democrats join rally

Sen. Murphy, a Democrat from Connecticut, spoke at the progressive rally and he didn't shy away from blasting Trump while celebrating the loss of power of Trump's ally Viktor Orbán in elections in Hungary last week.

"Donald Trump is out to end our democracy," Murphy said. "We are not on the verge of a totalitarian takeover, we are in the middle of it."

But, he said, "Americans are watching what is happening across the world, and the victory in Hungary just one week ago lifted our sails."

Walz, Kamala Harris' vice presidential candidate who has faced a violent U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement migration crackdown in Minnesota, threw barbs at U.S. Vice President JD Vance, who campaigned for Orbán and has backed far-right parties in Europe.

"Unlike our current vice president, I'm not here to arrogantly lecture or scold you, I am not here to pick a fight with the Pope or host a rally for any local wannabe authoritarians," Walz said.

New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani, former U.S. presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders all sent video messages played at the rally.

Progressives exchange ideas

Among concrete proposals to come from the events, Ramaphosa said South Africa will present a draft resolution to establish an International Panel on Inequality, aiming to tackle the growing wealth gap both within and between nations, to the U.N. General Assembly in September.

Sheinbaum plugged her idea that governments commit to spending the equivalent of 10% of their military budgets on reforestation projects.

"Each year, instead of planting the seeds of war, we will plant the seeds of life," she said.

Sánchez argued for the importance of regulating social media to stop the spread of hate speech and disinformation. His government also said that it is working with Lula's Brazil on a tax for the ultrarich.

Lula, who met with Sánchez in a bilateral summit on Friday in Barcelona, kept the focus on how to invigorate the progressive moment. He avoided naming Trump except when he called for U.N. Security

Council members to "fulfill their obligation and guarantee peace."

"Stop this madness of war because the world cannot bear any more wars," Lula said.

French soldier killed and 3 others wounded in an attack on peacekeepers in Lebanon, Macron says

By BASSEM MROUE and SAMUEL PETREQUIN Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A U.N. peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon came under attack with small arms fire Saturday morning, leaving one French peacekeeper dead and three others wounded, two of them seriously, France's president and the force known as UNIFIL said.

Both President Emmanuel Macron and the UNIFIL force blamed Hezbollah, but the Lebanese militant group denied involvement.

The attack near the southern Lebanese village of Ghandouriyeh came after a 10-day ceasefire went into effect at midnight Thursday between Israel and Hezbollah.

The latest Israel-Hezbollah war began on March 2 when the Iran-backed group launched rockets into Israel after the U.S. and Israel launched joint strikes against Iran, killing top officials including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The war, in which Israel invaded parts of Lebanon, left nearly 2,300 people dead in Lebanon, more than 1 million people displaced and caused widespread destruction.

"Everything suggests that responsibility for this attack lies with Hezbollah," Macron wrote on social media. "France demands that the Lebanese authorities immediately arrest those responsible and assume their responsibilities alongside UNIFIL," the U.N. mission in southern Lebanon.

Investigation launched

In Beirut, three judicial officials said that Lebanon's Military Tribunal opened an investigation over the attack and is in contact with the army's intelligence department to work on identifying the perpetrators. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Hezbollah denied links to the attack, calling in a statement for caution in assigning blame and judgment until the Lebanese army completes its investigation to determine the full circumstances. Hezbollah said that peacekeepers should coordinate with the Lebanese army in their operations.

Hezbollah expressed surprise in the statement at the hasty accusations leveled against it, especially given the silence of these same parties "when the Israeli enemy attacks UNIFIL forces."

Macron identified the dead soldier as Staff Sgt. Florian Montorio of the 17th Parachute Engineer Regiment from Montauban. He said that three of Montorio's "comrades in arms were injured and evacuated."

"The nation bows in respect and extends its support to the families of our soldiers and to all our military personnel engaged for peace in Lebanon," he said.

His death came nearly a month after a drone attack on March 12 targeted a Kurdish military base in Iraq's Erbil region, killing French Chief Warrant Officer Arnaud Frion and wounding six others.

French Armed Forces Minister Catherine Vautrin said Saturday that the soldier was killed during an ambush. She said he was on a mission to open a route toward a UNIFIL post that had been isolated for several days, because of fighting in the area between Hezbollah and Israeli forces.

The ceasefire took effect in Lebanon on Friday, but it wasn't clear to what extent Hezbollah would abide by a truce that it didn't play a role in negotiating.

"He was caught in an ambush by an armed group at very close range," she said on X. "Immediately hit by a direct shot from a light weapon, he was pulled back under fire by his comrades, who were unable to resuscitate him."

UNIFIL said that a patrol that was clearing explosive ordnance along a road in the village of Ghandouriyeh on Saturday to reestablish links with isolated UNIFIL positions came under small arms fire from non-state actors. UNIFIL said that one peacekeeper succumbed to his wounds and three others were wounded, two of them seriously.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 60 of 69

Macron demands clarification

Macron spoke with Lebanese President Joseph Aoun and Prime Minister Nawaf Salam following the attack "in order to call on the Lebanese authorities to shed full light on this incident, to identify and prosecute those responsible without delay, and to do everything possible to ensure the safety of UNIFIL soldiers, who must under no circumstances be targeted," Macron's office said.

Salam posted on X that he ordered an investigation into the attack and to bring the perpetrators to justice. Aoun and Lebanon's parliamentary Speaker Nabih Berri condemned the attack.

The Lebanese army condemned the attack in a statement adding that it will continue its "close coordination" with UNIFIL. The army said that it's working to detain the perpetrators.

Macron also reiterated "the importance of full respect for the ceasefire by all parties and reaffirmed France's commitment to Lebanon's sovereignty, for the benefit of all Lebanese people and regional stability.

Israel strikes on Lebanon

Earlier Saturday, the Israeli military said it had conducted aerial and ground strikes in southern Lebanon after it identified several incidents in which militants "violated the ceasefire understanding" by approaching areas close to where Israeli troops are located.

The military mentioned for the first time what it called a "Yellow Line," saying militants tried to approach it from the north.

There is no mention of a "Yellow Line" in the ceasefire agreement, which was announced by U.S. President Donald Trump.

The U.S. State Department said Thursday that according to the ceasefire agreement, Israel reserves the right to defend itself "at any time, against planned, imminent or ongoing attacks."

Senior Hezbollah official Mahmoud Qammati told Lebanon's Al-Jadeed TV on Saturday that the group won't tolerate any Israeli strikes like those which happened after the November 2024 truce, when Israel continued to carry out almost daily airstrikes.

"This time we will not practice the strategic patience policy," Qammati said.

Trump signs bill extending controversial surveillance powers until April 30

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Saturday signed a bill extending a controversial surveillance program until April 30, a short-term renewal that sets up another showdown in Congress.

The bill was approved by the Senate on Friday in a last-minute scramble to prevent the authority from expiring within a matter of days. Trump and Republican leaders have pushed for its renewal, calling it a matter of national security. Critics are concerned about its impact on civil liberties.

At the center of the debate is Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which permits the CIA, National Security Agency, FBI and other agencies to collect and analyze vast amounts of overseas communications without a warrant. In doing so, they can incidentally sweep up communications involving Americans who interact with foreign targets.

Extending the program has become a recurring fight.

Trump and GOP leaders have been pushing for a clean 18-month renewal, while the House Republicans on Thursday came out with a five-year extension with revisions to appease skeptics. After both of those bills collapsed, leaders pivoted to the stopgap measure.

Critics want changes including a requirement for warrants before authorities can access the emails, phone calls or text messages of Americans.

Trump signed the bill Saturday without any immediate comment. The authority was set to expire on Monday.

Trump signs order to speed review of psychedelics, including the controversial drug ibogaine

By MATTHEW PERRONE and SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Saturday directed his administration to speed up reviews of certain psychedelic drugs, including ibogaine, which recently has been embraced by combat veterans and conservative lawmakers despite having serious safety risks.

Ibogaine and other psychedelics remain banned under the federal government's most restrictive category for illegal, high-risk drugs. But the administration is taking steps to ease restrictions and spur research on using the drugs for medical purposes, including conditions like severe depression.

"Today's order will ensure that people suffering from debilitating symptoms might finally have a chance to reclaim their lives and lead a happier life," Trump said as he signed an executive order on the drugs. The Republican president said his directive will help "dramatically accelerate" access to potential treatments. "If these turn out to be as good as people are saying, it's going to have a tremendous impact," he said.

Veteran organizations and psychedelic advocates have long contended that ibogaine, which is made from a shrub native to West Africa, has great promise for hard-to-treat conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder and opioid addiction.

Trump's announcement follows pledges by Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and other administration officials to ease access to psychedelics for medical use, an issue that has won rare bipartisan support.

Joining Trump in the Oval Office were his top health officials, conservative podcaster Joe Rogan and Marcus Luttrell, the former Navy SEAL whose memoir about a deadly mission in Afghanistan was the basis of the film "Lone Survivor." Rogan said he texted Trump information on ibogaine and the president responded: "Sounds great. Do you want FDA approval? Let's do it."

"You're going to save a lot of lives through it," Luttrell told Trump during the ceremony. "It absolutely changed my life for the better."

The Food and Drug Administration next week will issue national priority vouchers for three psychedelics, which the agency's commissioner, Marty Makary, said will allow certain drugs to be approved quickly "if they are in line with our national priorities." The vouchers can cut review times from several months to a period of weeks. It is the first time the FDA has offered that fast-tracking to any psychedelics.

The FDA is also taking steps to clear the way for the first-ever human trials of ibogaine in the U.S.

Trump's action surprised many longtime advocates and researchers in the psychedelic field, given that ibogaine is known to sometimes trigger potentially fatal heart problems. The National Institutes of Health briefly funded research on the drug in the 1990s, but discontinued the work due to ibogaine's "cardiovascular toxicity."

"It's been incredibly difficult to study ibogaine in the U.S. because of its known cardiotoxicity," said Frederick Barrett, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Psychedelic and Consciousness Research. "If the executive order can pave the way for doing objective, scientific research with this compound, it would help us understand whether it is truly a better psychedelic therapy than others."

No psychedelic has been approved in the United States, but a number of them are being studied in large trials for various mental health conditions, including psilocybin, MDMA and LSD. All those drugs remain illegal, classified as Schedule I substances alongside drugs such as heroin. Two states — Oregon and Colorado — have legalized psychedelic therapy with psilocybin.

Ibogaine was first used by members of the Bwiti religion in African nations like Gabon during their religious ceremonies.

In recent years, U.S. veterans have reported benefiting from the drug after traveling to clinics in Mexico that administer it.

Backing from veterans groups and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry led to a law last year providing \$50 million for ibogaine research in that state. Perry, who co-founded a group called Americans for Ibogaine, recently appeared on Rogan's podcast, making the case for reducing federal limits on the drug. It was his second time talking about ibogaine on the popular podcast in the past two years.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 62 of 69

Trump's order calls on the Department of Health and Human Services to direct at least \$50 million to states that have enacted or are developing programs to advance psychedelic drugs for serious mental illness. It's described as a federal-state partnership to provide funding, technical assistance and data sharing.

Ibogaine is known to cause irregular heart rhythms and has been linked to more than 30 deaths in the medical literature, according to the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies, a nonprofit that conducted some early studies in patients outside the U.S.

The group's co-executive director, Ismail Lourido Ali, said Trump's order might encourage other states to follow the Texas model.

"The stigma around Schedule I drugs is significant," Ali said. "It feels like this would give pretty substantial cover for Republican governors and legislatures to step into the ring in terms of funding research programs at their universities."

Owners of ibogaine clinics said the impact of the order will not be immediate.

"There will be no insurance coverage, it will still be considered unapproved and non-covered care," said Tom Feegel of Beond Ibogaine, which operates a clinic in Cancun, Mexico. "But what it does mean is that ibogaine shifts from being fringe and underground to being federally acknowledged."

Feegel says his clinic treated 2,000 people with ibogaine last year for between \$15,000 and \$20,000 per person. The company also gave free treatment to about 100 veterans.

Clinics that use the drug typically monitor patients' heart readings and have emergency medical equipment on hand.

One of the only recent studies conducted by U.S. researchers found that veterans treated with ibogaine showed improvements in symptoms of traumatic brain injury, including PTSD, depression and anxiety. The Stanford University study was small — enrolling 30 veterans who received the drug in Mexico. It did not include a placebo group for comparison, an essential feature of rigorous medical research. Patients in the study received a combination of ibogaine mixed with magnesium intended to reduce heart risks.

Trump's dyslexia barbs stir anguish and anger, perpetuating a myth about the learning disability

By COLLIN BINKLEY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lauryn Muller was scrolling on social media when she saw a clip of President Donald Trump belittling California Gov. Gavin Newsom for having dyslexia. It stirred a well of emotion for the 18-year-old Muller, bringing back memories of her own struggles learning to read and the times she felt something was wrong with her.

Trump called Newsom "stupid," "low IQ," "mentally disabled" and unfit to become president. Muller knew it was part of a political feud — Trump is a Republican and Newsom is a Democrat who is expected to run for the White House in 2028 — but Trump's words felt personal.

"We've had to overcome so many deficits, and for someone to, on a national stage, say, yeah, they will never be like us — that definitely came as an emotional sting to me," said Muller, an incoming student at Auburn University whose dyslexia was identified as a child.

It was one more entry in Trump's history of denigrating the intelligence of his foes and mocking those with disabilities. Yet this time he was maligning tens of millions of people, calling their abilities into question and undermining years of progress fighting stigma around dyslexia.

Among those with dyslexia, his remarks aroused feelings from anguish and anger to dismay. It cut across politics, drawing a rebuke from supporters and critics alike.

Muller's mother, Marilyn, voted for Trump three times and says she still supports his politics. But she was hurt when Trump linked dyslexia with low intelligence — a dated myth that she has spent years trying to dispel.

"It works against everything I do on a daily basis," said Marilyn Muller, a literacy advocate in Florida. "It was probably one of the more ignorant comments I have ever heard come from his mouth."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 63 of 69

A learning disability often misunderstood

Trump's comments clash with a large body of research finding that dyslexia and IQ are unrelated. They also conflict with statements he issued during his first term for national awareness months, heaping praise on the "extraordinary contributions" of those with dyslexia and noting that their ranks include top industry executives and inventors.

Often misunderstood, dyslexia affects the link between the brain and printed language, making it difficult for people to read. Dyslexia often emerges in childhood as kids learn to read and write. It is estimated to affect up to 20% of the world population.

"All of a sudden, you're not doing so well in school and then people will tell you, oh, you're not trying, you're not smart or whatever, and none of that's accurate. You just have this difference in that bridge from language to print," said John Gabrieli, a neuroscientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Newsom has for years discussed his dyslexia, including in a children's book he wrote in 2021 as well as a new memoir. On his recent book tour, he talked about memorizing speeches because he is unable to read them. He described it as a struggle and a gift, saying it forced him to develop other skills.

Trump latched on to some of Newsom's comments. "He can't read a speech, he can't do almost anything," Trump said during a Cabinet meeting in March. "He's actually a very stupid person."

He added: "I think a president should not have learning disabilities."

Trump acknowledged his departure from decorum, saying it's "highly controversial to say such a horrible thing." He went on to say it at least four more times.

Newsom's office declined to comment for this story and referred to the governor's social media posts. "Learning differences don't define your limits, they shape your strengths," Newsom wrote in one post. "And no one, not even the President of the United States, gets to decide your worth."

Little GOP pushback to Trump's comments

In Utah, Lia Beatty said she has become inured to Trump's brash behavior, but she still sees danger in his latest tirades. People listen to the president, and young people with dyslexia might hear those comments and believe they count for less, said Beatty, 27, who has dyslexia and runs a university neurobiology lab.

"The harm isn't necessarily in the headline. It's what happens quietly," she said. "It's the student in the classroom who stops raising their hand, the college applicant who hides how they learn, the employee who doesn't pursue a promotion that they're more than qualified for."

Until she saw his comments circulating on social media, Beatty had been keeping quiet about her acceptance to a doctoral neuroscience program at Dartmouth College. She made it public in a social media post aiming to undercut Trump.

"I think it's important to acknowledge that, yeah, the rooms — they weren't made for us, but we're still getting in them," Beatty said.

On Capitol Hill, there is a strong history of bipartisan support for people with dyslexia. A House caucus is devoted to the issue, with vocal champions from both parties. Yet there has been little Republican pushback to Trump's comments.

Trump's remarks did not come up Wednesday at a congressional roundtable on dyslexia, organized by Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La., whose daughter has dyslexia and whose wife runs a school for children with dyslexia. After the event, Cassidy refused to respond directly to Trump's remarks.

"All I can say is that a child with dyslexia will grow to be, often times, a very talented adult," Cassidy, who is up for reelection but did not get Trump's endorsement, told The Associated Press. "There's people who have self-identified as dyslexic who have become CEOs of hospitals and of great businesses."

There has been no comment from Rep. Bruce Westerman, R-Ark., co-chair of the dyslexia caucus.

Some in Trump's circles have detailed struggles with dyslexia

Advocates have noted that some past presidents probably did have dyslexia.

Woodrow Wilson wrote about his difficulty learning to read and he became an early adopter of the typewriter as one of many workarounds, said John M. Cooper, a presidential historian and Wilson biographer.

Some in Trump's circles have spoken about difficulties with dyslexia.

Gary Cohn, the architect of Trump's signature tax bill from his first term, has talked at length about strug-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 64 of 69

gling with dyslexia as a child. He went on to become a business titan and president of Goldman Sachs.

Advocates say Trump's words threaten to reverse years of progress unwinding stereotypes. His comments also raise questions about promises his administration has made to protect students with disabilities even as Trump dismantles the Department of Education, which oversees the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Jacqueline Rodriguez, CEO of the National Center for Learning Disabilities, said it will be hard for families to trust Trump's education appointees "when their boss is making these really stigmatizing and really inaccurate statements."

In Decatur, Georgia, Meagan Swingle said Trump's comments made her sick to her stomach. She brought it up with her 15-year-old son, Enrique, who has dyslexia, knowing he might hear about the remarks at school. Enrique, who excels in math and science, brushed it off, she said.

But it stuck with her.

"I don't know that he remembers a time like I do when, whether you were a Democrat or a Republican or an independent, you could expect a higher standard from the president of the United States," she said. "We build people up, we don't tear them down."

Pope Leo XIV says 'not in my interest at all' to debate Trump but will keep preaching peace

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE (AP) — Pope Leo XIV said Saturday that it was "not in my interest at all" to debate U.S. President Donald Trump about the Iran war, but that he would continue preaching the Gospel message of peace.

Leo spoke to reporters aboard the papal plane flying from Cameroon to Angola as part of his 11-day tour of Africa.

He addressed the spiraling back-and-forth saga of Trump's critiques of his peace message, which have dominated news headlines this week. But the American pope also sought to set the record straight, insisting that his preaching isn't directed at Trump, but reflects the broader Gospel message of peace.

"There's been a certain narrative that has not been accurate in all of its aspects, but because of the political situation created when, on the first day of the trip, the president of the United States made some comments about myself," he said.

"Much of what has been written since then has been more commentary on commentary, trying to interpret what has been said."

Trump launched the criticism on his social media platform Truth Social on the night of April 12, when he criticized Leo's preaching about peace as the war, which began with joint U.S.-Israeli strikes on Feb. 28 and was followed by Iran's retaliation, raged on. Trump accused Leo of being soft on crime, cozy with the left and said that the first American pontiff owed his election to Trump.

Leo has issued consistent calls for peace and dialogue, and has denounced the use of religious justification for war. Specifically, he called Trump's threat to annihilate Iranian civilization "truly unacceptable."

The Vatican has stressed that when Leo preaches about peace, he is referring to all wars ravaging the planet, not just the Iran conflict. The Russian Orthodox Church, for example, has justified Moscow's invasion of Ukraine as a "holy war."

Speaking to reporters on Saturday, Leo referred specifically to his remarks earlier this week to a peace meeting in Bamenda, Cameroon. The city is the epicenter of a separatist conflict that has been raging in the western, Anglophone region of the country for nearly a decade.

Leo said that his remarks, in which he blasted the "handful of tyrants" who were ravaging Earth with war and exploitation, were written two weeks ago, long before Trump's criticisms began.

"And yet as it happens, it was looked at as if I was trying to debate again the president, which is not in my interest at all," he said.

Looking ahead, however, he said that he would continue preaching the Gospel.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 65 of 69

"I primarily come to Africa as a pastor, as the head of the Catholic Church to be with, to celebrate with, to encourage and accompany all the Catholics throughout Africa," he said.

He drew attention to some upcoming liturgical readings about what it means to be Christian and to follow Christ, promote fraternity and brotherhood, "but also looking for ways to promote justice in our world, promote peace in our world," he said.

Leo arrived later Saturday in Angola, the third stop on his four-nation tour. A message of peace would be especially relevant for the southern African country, which was ravaged by a 27-year civil war that ended in 2002 but has left deep scars.

Leo will meet with Angolan President Joao Lourenco and deliver his first speech before government authorities, when he hopes to bring joy and encouragement to Angola's long-suffering people.

Inside the Numbers: Some notes going into the NBA playoffs

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

A winning season usually gets you to the NBA playoffs. Not this year.

There were a record-tying three teams — Charlotte at 44-38, Miami at 43-39 and the Los Angeles Clippers at 42-40 — that finished over .500 this season but failed to qualify for the playoffs.

The only other years when that happened were 1971 and 2022.

In NBA history, teams with records over the .500 mark have gone to the playoffs just over 95% of the time. For teams going at least 43-39 (or the equivalent in shorter seasons), that in-the-playoffs rate was 97.3%, until this season.

Miami now has finished over .500 in 25 of its 38 seasons. Of the first 24 Heat teams with winning records, 100% wound up going to the playoffs.

"My first year as a head coach, we won 43 games and we were the fifth seed," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "We were the 10th seed this year with 43."

If playoff teams only counted ...

If the playoff teams were their own 16-team league, counting only their games against one another in the standings, the top overall seed in these playoffs would be Detroit.

The Pistons went 30-12 against the other playoff clubs, just ahead of Oklahoma City (31-14) and San Antonio (29-14).

The Thunder had the biggest point differential in games against other playoff teams (8.4 per game), while the Thunder and the Spurs both had the most double-digit wins (18 apiece).

The money matters

The playoff pool for this season is the most in NBA history, with \$35,740,226 to be divided up among the 16 teams.

As the team with the NBA's best record, the Oklahoma City Thunder are already assured \$2,161,408 from that pool. If the Thunder win the NBA title, they will claim more than one-third of the pool — \$12,805,503.

Teams get shares for finishing with a top-six record in their conference, plus for making the playoffs and the size of the shares increase for advancing to later rounds. There's about a \$5 million difference between winning and losing the NBA Finals.

Hawks hit 50

Atlanta is in the playoffs for the 50th time, the Hawks becoming the fourth franchise to hit that total.

The other three? The Los Angeles Lakers (66), Boston (63) and Philadelphia (55).

It'll be at least four more years before the 50-playoff-appearance club grows. New York has made 46 appearances, including this year's.

It's 17 and counting for James Harden

James Harden has yet to win an NBA championship. But at least he gets into the playoffs — every single year.

That's right: 17 years in the league, 17 playoff trips for Harden.

He and the Cleveland Cavaliers will take on the Toronto Raptors in Round 1 of the Eastern Conference

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 66 of 69

playoffs. The Cavs will be the sixth team that Harden appears with in the postseason, after stints with Oklahoma City, Houston, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, the Los Angeles Clippers and now Cleveland.

Harden enters the series with the Raptors 14th on the league's career playoff scoring list, two points behind No. 13 Larry Bird. He's 59 points behind No. 12 Dwyane Wade, and if the Cavs make any sort of deep run would figure to have a chance to reach the top 10 in playoff scoring sometime this spring.

Lots of minutes

Houston had three players (Amen Thompson, Kevin Durant and Jabari Smith Jr.) finish among the top five in minutes played during the regular season. Thompson was first, Durant second, Smith fifth.

— It was the first time that a team had three of the top five in minutes played.

— It was the fourth time in the last decade that teammates finished first and second on that list. New York's Mikal Bridges and Josh Hart finished in those spots last year, the Knicks' Julius Randle and RJ Barrett did in 2020-21 and Minnesota's Andrew Wiggins and Karl-Anthony Towns did in 2016-17.

— Durant played more minutes this season than he has in any season since 2013-14.

Milestones await

Some stat milestones that could await in these playoffs:

— Houston's Kevin Durant is 15 points shy of 5,000 for his playoff career. He'll be the seventh player to hit that number.

— The Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James — who already holds league records for playoff games, games won, games lost, points scored, field goals made, field goals attempted and steals, among other things — needs seven more steals to get to 500. Nobody else even has 400.

— If New York gets to the Eastern Conference finals, Mike Brown (who has 50 playoff wins) would pass Tyronn Lue (57) and move into the top 20 all-time for coaching playoff victories.

Nuggets playing? Take the over. Celtics? Take the under

When the Denver Nuggets play, you're going to see a lot of points.

How many points? Well, probably more than what oddsmakers tell you to expect.

Denver's games went over the Vegas over-under total — the number of total points expected in the game from both teams — 63.4% of the time this season. That's the second-highest rate in the last 12 seasons, topped only by Indiana's games going over the total 65.3% of the time in the 2020-21 season.

Other betting nuggets from this season:

— Among the 16 playoff teams, Boston (59.8%) covered more often than any other team, followed by San Antonio (57.3%). Charlotte covered in 61% of its games but missed the playoffs.

— Speaking of the Celtics, only 36.6% of their games went over the total. That's the lowest rate in the NBA in at least 12 years.

— Oklahoma City was favored in 78 of its 82 games, as would probably be expected.

A Game 1, in Detroit

It's been a long time since Pistons fans can say this: Game 1 is at home.

The opener of the Detroit-Orlando series on Sunday will be the first time the Pistons open any playoff series on their home floor since 2008 — an Eastern Conference semifinal matchup, also against the Magic.

Detroit wound up winning in five games before falling to Boston in that season's East finals.

A big midterms year in Arizona kicks off with the state's largest county embroiled in election drama

By JOSH KELETY Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Arizona is expected to have at least two competitive U.S. House races in November while Democrats will be defending their seats for governor, attorney general and secretary of state.

Yet so far, it's been the office running elections in the state's most populous county that has commanded much of the spotlight.

Republican Justin Heap is an election skeptic who will be overseeing his first statewide election in Maricopa County. He has been engaged in a bitter legal feud with the county board of supervisors over elec-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 67 of 69

tion procedures, has put in place a controversial system for checking signatures on mail ballots and has run voter records through a federal system to check for noncitizens despite questions about its accuracy. Heap also has made overtures to the Trump administration in its quest for voter and election records.

His actions have drawn heated comments from members of that board, which splits election oversight with Heap's office, and rebukes from the attorney general and secretary of state. A ruling this week in the legal case will give Heap more authority over election operations.

The turmoil has created an air of uncertainty about how the midterm elections will go in a county that has been a regular target of election conspiracy theorists and is pivotal for deciding statewide races in one of the nation's most important political battlegrounds.

State Sen. Lauren Kuby, a Democrat who sits on a legislative elections committee and represents part of Phoenix, said the discord between the recorder and county board is sowing confusion and distrust.

"We're one of the biggest counties in the country, and we have all of our election administrators fighting right now," she said. "So I imagine if you're a voter, you're pretty confused and worried."

The Maricopa County Recorder's Office, which Heap runs, did not provide a response to questions despite multiple requests for comment. Heap did issue a statement in response to the court ruling, saying it "restores both the authority and the resources necessary for my office to do its job."

A power struggle and heated accusations

Heap took office after defeating the incumbent in the 2024 Republican primary. He quickly began challenging the board of supervisors, which is majority Republican.

He sued them in June 2025 with the backing of America First Legal, a conservative group founded by Stephen Miller, now a deputy chief of staff in the White House. The lawsuit accused the board of negotiating an agreement with Heap's predecessor to transfer money, information technology staff and certain election functions away from his office, including management of ballot drop boxes, processing of early arriving ballots and placement of sites used for early voting.

A Maricopa County Superior Court judge ended up largely siding with Heap in the case. The board's chair, Kate Brophy McGee, said the board will consider an appeal.

Before the ruling, supervisors had called Heap's lawsuit frivolous and "full of falsehoods" as part a power struggle that at times has boiled over. A budget meeting in January devolved into heated accusations, with Supervisor Thomas Galvin, a Republican, saying Heap "continues to lie over and over again." In a statement issued afterward, Heap dismissed the incident as a "juvenile temper tantrum."

The board proposed a settlement earlier this year but did not receive a counteroffer from Heap.

New way to check voter signatures

Once in the job, Heap changed the process for checking voters' signatures on their mail ballot envelopes.

The new procedure involves workers of both political parties reviewing signatures and more workers conducting additional reviews of signatures deemed to be questionable, Heap told the board during a meeting last fall.

But some elected officials and observers say they are concerned the new policy could lead to otherwise eligible ballots being rejected. Galvin said the rejection rate in the November 2025 local election was "huge" relative to past elections.

He has said he worries the new signature verification process is a "looming disaster" and expressed concern that many people "who legally and validly voted last November saw their ballots be rejected for arbitrary reasons."

Heap says the new policy is faster and more secure. "In the end, the signatures either match or they don't," he told the board.

Checking citizenship, but accuracy is a question

Heap has promoted his office's use of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's SAVE system to identify people on the voter rolls who may not be citizens.

The office said that through the system, it found "137 registered voters who are not U.S. citizens" and that 60 of those "voted in prior elections." The Maricopa County attorney's office has said it received 207 names from the recorder's office to review for voting eligibility.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 68 of 69

Voting by people who are not U.S. citizens is rare, and the SAVE system has been criticized by some election officials and experts who say it frequently identifies eligible voters as noncitizens. Arizona's secretary of state, Democrat Adrian Fontes, said in an interview that the program is unreliable.

"The SAVE system is notoriously inaccurate," he said. "You can't depend on that to take somebody off the voter rolls or to start the removal proceeding."

The recorder's office announced its use of the SAVE system the same day Heap attended a news conference outside Phoenix, where then-DHS Secretary Kristi Noem was promoting a congressional bill that would require documented proof of citizenship to register and vote.

Fontes said his office has not received any additional information from the recorder about the alleged noncitizen voters and that the timing of the announcement makes it seem like "more of a headline grab than anything without more information."

Fears of undermining confidence in elections

Heap's presence at Noem's February news conference was not the only instance when the recorder has appeared close with the Trump administration.

Correspondence obtained from the recorder's office through a public records request shows a willingness to defer to the U.S. Department of Justice. This year the department seized ballots and other records related to the 2020 election from Georgia's Fulton County, which includes Atlanta.

Meanwhile, the FBI subpoenaed similar Maricopa County records from the state Senate president.

Harmeet Dhillon, who oversees the department's Civil Rights Division, wrote to Fontes, Heap and county officials in September seeking preservation of county election records. Heap replied the next day, stressing in his letter that his office is "committed to full cooperation with the Department of Justice as it conducts its investigation," before adding: "We share your goal of safeguarding election integrity."

As it has done in other states, the department sued Arizona months later for failing to comply with its request for detailed voter information.

The state's attorney general, Democrat Kris Mayes, told a local media outlet that Heap is "trying to undermine Arizonans' trust in our election system" and warned him not to provide voter lists to the federal government.

With the state's July primary approaching, some observers are concerned that Heap's feuding with the board and other actions could undermine public confidence in elections.

"The voters need to have a sense that this county is well-run, that the recorder and the board of supervisors have the best interest of every voter," said Pinny Sheoran, state advocacy chair with the League of Women Voters of Arizona. "And that is frayed with this discord."

The Lyrid meteor shower is visible now and peaking soon.

Here's how to spot it

By ADITHI RAMAKRISHNAN AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — This year's Lyrid meteor shower is getting a boost thanks to a dim crescent moon. Skywatchers could see 10 to 20 shooting stars per hour soar across the spring sky, according to NASA, when the fiery display peaks Tuesday night into Wednesday morning.

The show will be visible across the globe, but views will be best in the Northern Hemisphere. And there's no risk of the crescent moon photobombing the Lyrid shower. It'll set before the fun starts.

Meteor showers happen when the Earth plows through debris trails left behind by space rocks. Those stray bits get hot as they enter the atmosphere, producing fiery streaks that are also known as shooting stars.

Contrary to the name, most meteor showers are actually debris from comets. The Lyrids are the leftovers from an icy ball called comet Thatcher.

"We only get to see the actual comet once every 415 years. But we pass through the grains that have been left in its wake every year around the same time," said Maria Valdes, who studies meteorites and works at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

A handful of random meteors are visible on any given night. At predictable times throughout the year,

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 19, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 318 ~ 69 of 69

enough can be seen at once to make a more exciting spectacle. The Lyrids are one of the oldest recorded meteor showers, with reported sightings dating back over 2,500 years.

To see the Lyrids, go outside after midnight and venture away from tall buildings and city lights. It'll take at least 15 to 30 minutes for your eyes to adjust to the nighttime sky and remember to resist looking at your phone.

Bring lawn chairs or a sleeping bag and be patient until the meteors reveal themselves. They'll appear to come from the constellation Lyra in the northeastern sky.

"A meteor looks like a trail of light in the sky. What you tend to detect is the motion against the background," said astronomer Lisa Will with San Diego City College.

The next major shower is soon approaching in early May: the Eta Aquarids, debris from Halley's comet.

Today in History: April 19, the American Revolutionary War begins

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, April 19, the 109th day of 2026. There are 256 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On April 19, 1775, the American Revolutionary War began with the Battles of Lexington and Concord — the start of an eight-year armed conflict between American colonists and the British Army.

Also on this date:

In 1897, the first Boston Marathon was held. Winner John J. McDermott ran the course in 2 hours, 55 minutes and 10 seconds.

In 1943, during World War II, tens of thousands of Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto began a valiant but ultimately futile uprising against Nazi forces.

In 1977, the Supreme Court, in *Ingraham v. Wright*, ruled 5-4 that even severe spanking of schoolchildren by faculty members did not violate the Eighth Amendment ban against cruel and unusual punishment.

In 1989, 47 sailors were killed when a gun turret exploded aboard the USS Iowa during training exercises in the Caribbean.

In 1993, the 51-day siege at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, ended when the Davidians set fire to the compound following an FBI tear gas attack. Seventy-five people, including 25 children and sect leader David Koresh, were killed.

In 1995, Timothy McVeigh, seeking to strike at the government he blamed for the Branch Davidian deaths two years earlier, destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people. (McVeigh was convicted of federal murder charges and executed in 2001.)

In 2005, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Germany was elected pope in the first conclave of the new millennium; he took the name Benedict XVI.

In 2013, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, a 19-year-old college student wanted in the Boston Marathon bombings, was taken into custody after a search that the city virtually paralyzed. His older brother and alleged accomplice, 26-year-old Tamerlan, was killed earlier during an attempt to elude police capture.

In 2015, Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old Black man, died a week after suffering a spinal cord injury in the back of a Baltimore police van while he was handcuffed and shackled, prompting weeks of violent protests and unrest. (Six police officers were charged. Three were acquitted and the city's top prosecutor eventually dropped the three remaining cases.)

In 2020, a gunman disguised as a police officer began a two-day series of shootings across Nova Scotia that left 22 people dead in Canada's worst mass killing incident. The suspect, Gabriel Wortman, 51, was shot and killed by police on April 20.

Today's Birthdays: Singer-songwriter Roberto Carlos is 85. Actor Tim Curry is 80. Motorsports Hall of Famer Al Unser Jr. is 64. Actor Ashley Judd is 58. Latin pop singer Luis Miguel is 56. Actor James Franco is 48. Actor Kate Hudson is 47. Actor Hayden Christensen is 45. Football Hall of Famer Troy Polamalu is 45. Actor-comedian Ali Wong is 44. Baseball Hall of Famer Joe Mauer is 43. Former WNBA star Candace Parker is 40. Former tennis player Maria Sharapova is 39. Actor Simu Liu is 37. Singer Loren Gray is 24.