

Groton Daily Independent

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GROTON AREA TIGERS SOFTBALL

MONDAY

GROTON AREA TIGERS VS. **CLARK/WILLOW LAKE CYCLONES**

BROADCAST LIVE ON GDILIVE.COM

BROADCAST SPONSORED BY LOCKE ELECTRIC (605) 397-2440 9 N. 3rd St., Groton

Monday Schedule:

- 🕒 **VARSITY GAME** AT 3:00 P.M.
- ★ **SENIOR RECOGNITION** TO FOLLOW VARSITY GAME
- 🏆 **JUNIOR VARSITY GAME** TO FOLLOW

Monday, May 4

Senior Menu: Taco salad with chips, Mexican rice with beans, fruit, biscuit.

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.

School Lunch: Oriental chicken, rice.

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

MS Track Meeting at Sisseton, 3:30 p.m.

Girls Fastpitch Softball in Groton vs. Clark/Willow Lake, varsity at 3 p.m. followed by JV (senior recognition between games)

Postponed to Tuesday: High School Baseball at Groton vs. Clark Area. Varsity at 6 p.m. followed by JV.

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

FFA Banquet, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 5

Senior Menu: Hot turkey combination, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, fruit.

School Breakfast: Breakfast sliders.

School Lunch: Tater tot hot dish, mixed vegetables.

St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid LWML, 1:30 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

High School Baseball at Groton vs. Clark Area. Varsity at 6:30 p.m. followed by JV.

Valley Queen Track Meet at Milbank, 1:30 p.m.

Biogirls, 3:45 p.m., Elementary Gym

JVT Practice, 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., Arena

Wednesday, May 6

Senior Menu: Kielbasa with mac and cheese, California blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Omelets.

School Lunch: Chicken alfredo, cooked broccoli.

Groton Chamber meeting, noon, City Hall

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Yard cleanup, 10:30 a.m.

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

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

JVT Practice, 6 p.m., Arena

Thursday, May 7

National Day of Prayer

Senior Menu: Meatloaf, baked potato, green beans,

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

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1440

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

Spirit Airlines Shuttles

Spirit Airlines shut down over the weekend after failing to secure a \$500M rescue package, officially ceasing operations around 3 am ET Saturday morning. Weekend travelers were told not to go to the airport, and the decision leaves around 17,000 employees out of work.

Launched as a commercial passenger service in 1992, Spirit grew into the seventh-largest airline in the US, shuttling 44 million travelers annually. Known for pioneering ultra-low-fare pricing with numerous added fees in the US, including becoming the first carrier in the country to charge for carry-on bags (in 2010). Spirit experienced a series of failed and blocked mergers and bankruptcy filings following the COVID-19 pandemic. Officials cited soaring jet fuel costs—which account for close to 30% of airline costs and have roughly doubled since the war in Iran—as a final insurmountable challenge.

Zippering Through Miami

Italian driver Kimi Antonelli won the F1 Miami Grand Prix yesterday, edging out reigning world champion Lando Norris by just over three seconds. It was the third straight win for the 19-year-old Antonelli, son of former driver Marco Antonelli, and the fourth straight win for Mercedes. Watch highlights (including a flipover during lap six).

The international (but Eurocentric) sport has exploded in popularity in the US, fueled in part by the soap opera-esque Netflix show "Drive to Survive." Formula 1 now hosts annual races in three cities across the country, with premium tickets routinely exceeding \$1,000 (and \$150 hot dogs). The next US race will be held in Austin, Texas, in October, followed by November's Las Vegas Grand Prix.

The intense speeds and changes in acceleration require F1 drivers to be in peak physical condition, including a focus on building their neck muscles.

Meta Lawsuit (Pt. II)

Part two of a landmark lawsuit over Meta's failure to shield children from online dangers begins today in New Mexico, in a case that may potentially force the company to institute reforms for minors on its platforms.

Originally filed in December 2023, a jury levied a \$375M penalty against Meta last month, finding the company knowingly violated the state's consumer protection laws and exposed children to sexual exploitation and other harms. In the second "remedies" phase, a judge will decide to what extent Meta must comply with reforms sought by New Mexico officials. These include instituting strict age verification, banning infinite scroll, and limiting minors to 90 hours per month. The company has suggested it could shut down access to Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp in New Mexico, pending the outcome.

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Longshot Golden Tempo wins Kentucky Derby in near-photo finish over co-favorite Renegade; Cherie DeVaux becomes first woman trainer to win the Derby.

2026 Met Gala to be held tonight, with sponsors Jeff and Lauren Sánchez Bezos acting as honorary chairs; this year's theme is "costume art".

Detroit Pistons, Cleveland Cavs advance to NBA playoff quarterfinals after winning in their respective Game 7 showdowns; see full bracket and matchups.

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Science & Technology

Federal analysis finds DeepSeek V4 Pro is China's leading AI model and trails behind the top US frontier models by about eight months.

Are large language models really just guessing at the next word? Listen to our interview with a top computer scientist.

Eta Aquarid meteor shower, originating from the debris of Halley's Comet, to peak overnight tomorrow; see diagram and how to spot them.

Yellowstone's subsurface volcano likely fueled by plate tectonics heating up underground magma, study finds; could help predict the next supereruption, which last occurred around 630,000 years ago.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close Friday mixed (S&P 500 +0.3%, Dow -0.3%, Nasdaq +0.9%), with Nasdaq and S&P 500 ending at all-time highs.

Oil prices fall slightly to \$102 per barrel, national gas average at \$4.43 per gallon.

Elon Musk lawsuit claiming OpenAI breached charitable trust by abandoning its original nonprofit status enters week two, with Sam Altman and Greg Brockman to testify; see recap so far.

New Berkshire Hathaway CEO Greg Abel leads first annual meeting since taking over for famed investor Warren Buffett.

Politics & World Affairs

Rudy Giuliani hospitalized in critical but stable condition, according to reports; reason not publicly disclosed as of late last night.

Federal court temporarily blocks mail-order prescriptions of common abortion drug mifepristone amid legal challenges; decision appealed to Supreme Court.

Strait of Hormuz blockade has reportedly cost Iran \$4.8B in blocked oil shipments, Pentagon officials say; the amount would be around 2% of Iran's 2025 GDP.

Tiger Tracks of Faith
DAILY INSPIRATION FOR HEARTS OF FAITH

MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU... AND WITH YOU, GOD IS ALWAYS!
No matter where life takes you, God is your guide, your strength, and your ultimate protector.

..OR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU, DECLARES THE LORD, "PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE."
JEREMIAH 29:11

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS. DO NOT BE AFRAID; DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED, FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL BE WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO.
JOSHUA 1:9

FAITH THE FORCE THAT GUIDES OUR HEARTS!

TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING; IN ALL YOUR WAYS SUBMIT TO HIM, AND HE WILL MAKE YOUR PATHS STRAIGHT.
PROVERBS 3:5-6

GOD IS OUR GUIDE. He leads us on the right path. PSALM 32:8

GOD IS OUR SHIELD. He protects us every day. PSALM 18:2

GOD IS OUR LOVE. His love never fails us. 1 JOHN 4:16

GOD IS OUR HOPE. He gives us hope for tomorrow. ROMANS 15:13

GOD IS OUR STRENGTH. He empowers us in all we do. PHILIPPIANS 4:13

MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU... AND MAY GOD BE WITH YOU ALWAYS!
HAVE A FAITH-FILLED DAY! GOD IS GOOD... ALL THE TIME!

Names Released in Davison County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash

Where: Interstate 90, mile marker 331, Mitchell, SD city limits

When: 5:12 p.m., Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Vehicle 1: 2018 Dodge Ram

Driver 1: Shane Tyler Willis, 34-year-old male from Pierre, SD, fatal injuries

Seat belt Used: Yes

Passenger 1a: Melynda Jean Willis, 38-year-old female from Pierre, SD, fatal injuries

Seat belt Used: Yes

Passenger 1b: 1-year-old female from Pierre, SD, minor injuries

Seat belt Used: Yes

Passenger 1c: 3-year-old male from Pierre, SD, minor injuries

Seat belt Used: Yes

Davison County, S.D. – Two people died Wednesday afternoon in a single-vehicle crash on Interstate 90 near mile marker 331 in Mitchell, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates that a 2018 Dodge Ram driven by Shane Tyler Willis was traveling eastbound on Interstate 90 between the two Mitchell, SD exits when the vehicle entered the south ditch and struck a guard cable near an upcoming bridge over Rowley Street. The vehicle fell onto Rowley Street where it struck a retaining wall, and came to rest on its side.

Shane Willis and his wife, Melynda, sustained fatal injuries. Two infant passengers sustained minor injuries.

All occupants were wearing a seat belt.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. All information released so far is preliminary.

The Highway Patrol is an agency of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

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Deuel wins NEC Softball Tournament

The first ever Northeast Conference girls fast pitch softball tournament was held Saturday. Redfield was the host team. Deuel won the tournament, beating Groton Area in the first game, 16-0, Milbank in the second game, 15-0, and then defeated Clark-Willow Lake in the title game, 8-0.

Clark-Willow Lake came from behind to beat Redfield in a game that went six innings, 11-9. They then defeated Sisseton in the second game, 20-1, to advance to the title game.

Redfield took third place with a 16-13 win over Milbank in a game that also went six innings. Redfield also defeated Sisseton, 20-3. Milbank defeated Groton Area, 15-1. In the fifth place game, Groton Area defeated Sisseton, 15-0.



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f **ig**

A Bump in the Crossroads of the Body

When was the last time you thought about your neck?

It's easy to overlook, but your neck is a remarkably busy place. It houses the spinal cord, carrying signals between your brain and the rest of your body. It allows food to travel from your mouth to your stomach. It delivers blood to your brain. It contains muscles that support and move your head, along with your vocal cords, thyroid, and parathyroid glands.

In many ways, the neck is a crossroads of vital structures, and it can offer clues when something is not quite right elsewhere in the body.

Take a moment and gently feel your neck. Become familiar with what is normal for you. If you notice a lump or something that does not feel right, it's worth paying attention.

Many neck lumps are not dangerous. Some are simply swollen lymph nodes reacting to an infection. A cold, flu, sinus infection, strep throat, dental issue, or even a skin infection can cause lymph nodes in the neck to enlarge. These typically improve over a couple of weeks as the body recovers.

However, as with any area of the body, if you feel a new lump or bump, consider an appointment with your provider to have it examined.

As a general rule, if a neck lump persists beyond two to three weeks in an adult, it should be evaluated. In children, lymph nodes may remain enlarged a bit longer and still be harmless, but in adults, persistence deserves a closer look.

The feel of a lump can also provide clues. Lymph nodes from infection are often soft, movable, and a bit rubbery. In contrast, a hard, fixed, or rapidly growing lump is more concerning and should be checked promptly. Lumps that continue to enlarge or change over time also warrant evaluation.

Other symptoms also matter. Fever, unexplained weight loss, night sweats, or difficulty swallowing are important signals that should not be ignored. Swelling in multiple areas of the body may suggest a more widespread process, such as some infections or, less commonly, a cancer like lymphoma.

Another common finding is a thyroid nodule, located in the front of the neck. These are fairly common and usually benign, but they are often evaluated with ultrasound to better understand their size and appearance and to determine if follow-up is needed.

Some people experience a "globus sensation" which is the feeling of something stuck in the throat when nothing is actually there. This can be related to acid reflux, post-nasal drip, muscle tension, or even stress and anxiety. Once again, persistent symptoms should be checked out.

The bottom line is simple: if you notice a lump or bump in your neck, do not ignore it. While many causes are minor and temporary, some require further attention. When in doubt, have it evaluated.

A quick check today can provide reassurance, or catch something early when it matters most.



Andrew Ellsworth, MD

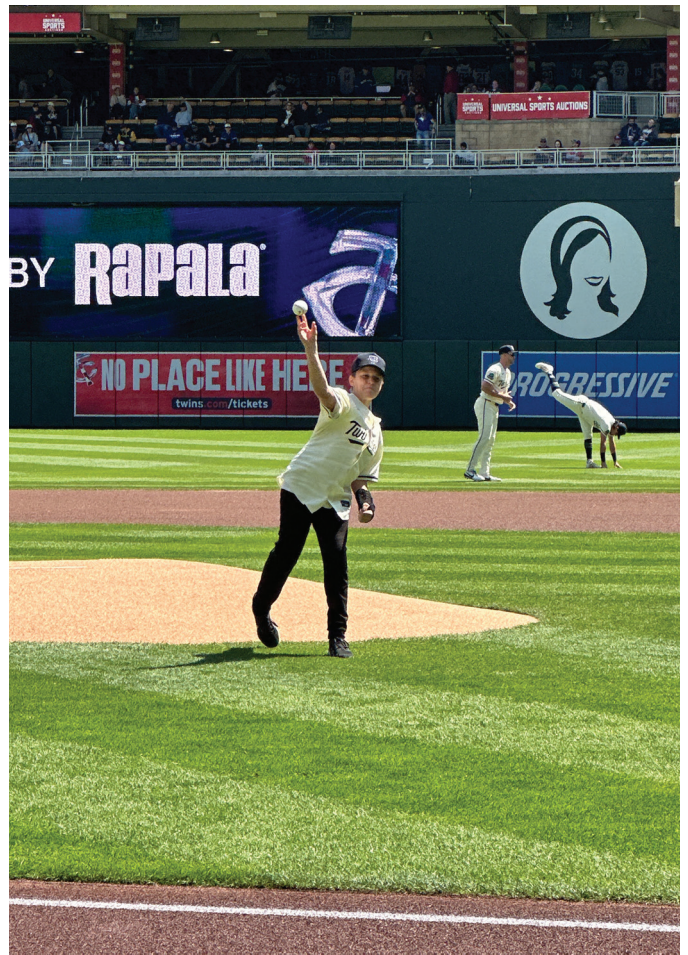
Dr. Andrew Ellsworth is a Family Medicine Physician at Avera Medical Group Brookings in Brookings, SD. He serves as one of the Prairie Doc Volunteer Hosts during its 24th Season providing Health Education Based on Science, Built on Trust. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB, YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).

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Five local Groton boys attended last Saturday's MN Twins home game vs the Blue Jays. Pictured on Target Field L-R Hank Hill, Rylan Blackwood, Gradyn Rowen, Knox Mulder, and Blake Malsom. (Courtesy photo Bruce Babcock)



Knox Mulder threw out the first pitch! (Courtesy photo Bruce Babcock)

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MacKenna Tietz leads her 300m Intermediate Hurdles heat in the opening event of day two of the Howard Wood Dakota Relays in Sioux Falls SD. She place 10th in the multi state field. She also set a new Groton Area school record by beating her previous record by one second! (Courtesy photo Bruce Babcock)



Groton Area girls in SMR 1600m relay placing 11th. Makenna Krause, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy, and Ryelle Gilbert. (Courtesy photo Bruce Babcock)

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Day 2 and the stands are full at the Howard Wood Dakota Relays. (Courtesy photo Bruce Babcock)



Groton Area boys SMR 1600m relay placed overall 11th place. Lincoln Krause, JJ Muller, Jorden Schwan, and Jayden Schwan. (Courtesy photo Bruce Babcock)



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Senior Keegen Tracy places 11th in the all class 400m run. (Courtesy photo Bruce Babcock)



Lincoln Krause hands off to Jordan Schwan in opening leg of the 4x100m relay. Ryder Schwan and Keegen Tracy not pictured. (Courtesy photo Bruce Babcock)

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Groton Area girls 4x400m relay placing 15th in multi state race. MacKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen, Ashlynn Warrington, and Kella Tracy. (Courtesy photo Bruce Babcock)

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The graphic features a central illustration of a pink and white ice cream truck with a red awning. Above the truck is a sign that says "Ice Cream" in white text on a pink background, with a small ice cream cone icon. The truck is flanked by two large ice cream cones, each with three scoops of different colors (yellow, pink, and blue). The background is light blue with colorful confetti. The text "ICE CREAM" is written in large, bubbly pink letters with black outlines, and "605 Scoops" is written in a yellow, cursive font across the middle of the letters.

ICE CREAM
605 Scoops

Ice Cream

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EARTHTALK

Thrifters Are Environmentalists Too by Vicky Zhang

Dear EarthTalk: Is thrifting a form of environmental activism?

—Jane Jackson, New Orleans, LA

Thrifting is more than the act of buying used items; it's a lifestyle adopted by people who share a distinct set of values. They are promoting a model of circular fashion, which "encourages the reuse, repair and recycling of garments." Beyond simply being eco-friendly by extending the lifespan of clothing, thrifting also allows people to creatively express themselves, embrace their individuality, and save money.



With regard to demographics, there are two main groups: thrift-seekers and Creativists. Thrift seekers seek the best bargains. Creativists shop used items for eco-friendly reasons or to find one-of-a-kind items. Creativists are typically Millennials, born between 1981 and 1996, and Gen Z, born between 1997 and the early 2010s. Thrift-seekers are more traditional thrifters and tend to have lower incomes.

In the early 20th century, thrift stores began to become more mainstream and welcomed by the public. However, their primary goal was to encourage consumption rather than promote sustainable practices. From the mid to late 20th century, various outcast groups of society, including Hippies and Bohemians, began to embrace thrifting as a way to rebel against overconsumption and materialism. By the start of the 21st century, the thrift and vintage vibe had gained significant popularity in society. It was not until the late 2010s that thrifting became a form of environmental activism as people, especially the younger generation, became more concerned for the environment and the ethicality of the fast fashion industry. In particular, social media platforms, especially Instagram and TikTok, were crucial to influencing people to support thrifting for both fashion purposes and climate activism.

Thrifting undoubtedly has several eco-advantages over fast fashion—the rapid production of inexpensive clothing that moves quickly from design to retail to meet fleeting trends, encouraging a "disposable" consumer culture—it also further encourages consumers to overconsume. Hence, many low-income consumers are at increased risk of being priced out due to the influx of those thrifting. The environment, social and corporate governance club at McGill University furthered the claim by writing, "Thrifting does present a sustainable alternative to fast fashion...but might not stop clothes' overproduction and its dependency on consumerist culture." To fix the long-term environmental issue of overconsumption in the fashion industry, consumers must understand and want to change their buying patterns.

Nevertheless, increasing education and access to thrifting can be the crucial first step towards building more sustainable practices. More importantly, consumers should become more mindful of their purchasing habits to combat the overconsumption norm in society.

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SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

COMMENTARY

Closed Republican primary locks out too many South Dakota voters by Dana Hess

In the June primary, many of the openings in the state House and Senate will be filled by Republicans. Those of us who choose not to belong to a political party will get to pay for the election, but will not get to cast our ballots.

Running in a primary election seems to have become a rite of passage for Republicans in South Dakota. This year there will be 23 Republican primaries for positions in the Senate and 25 GOP House primaries.

Democrats, on the other hand, have one state Senate primary and an exceedingly difficult job of getting anyone at all to run for office. This year they have fielded 13 Senate candidates — with two facing off in a primary — and 33 House candidates. Without a November ballot being cast, Democrats' inability to field candidates has once again allowed Republicans to maintain their majorities in the Legislature.

South Dakota Democrats' traditional indifference about getting people to run for office adds all the more importance to the Republican primary. In many cases, for Republican candidates, the primary is the only election they will have.

Many of us will be left on the sidelines on June 2 because the Republicans hold a closed primary. Only voters registered as Republicans are allowed to vote in the primary. Democrats are more open about the process, allowing independents and non-affiliated voters to participate in their primary. That turns out to be an empty offer since Democratic primaries are so rare in this state.

The Secretary of State's Office is pretty good about keeping voter registration numbers updated, so offering a current view of the numbers is like trying to hit a moving target. At this writing, the SOS website shows 137,696 registered Democrats, 318,491 Republicans, 2,820 Libertarians, 88,123 independents, 69,206 with no political affiliation and 1,134 with "other" political affiliations.

That's more than 157,000 South Dakota voters shut out of a primary that will dictate the make-up of the Legislature for the next two years.

Opening South Dakota's primaries is not a new idea. In 2024 voters rejected Amendment H, which would have created what is known as a "jungle" primary with the top candidates, regardless of party affiliation, going on to the November election. Voters decided that a jungle primary is not what we need out here on the prairie, with only 34% of voters in favor. A simple move to an open primary would likely have been more palatable.

To no one's surprise, both political parties came out against Amendment H. Democrats were worried, and rightfully so, about having their few candidates overwhelmed by the deluge of Republican candidates. As it stands in the current election environment, one of the easiest ways to get on a South Dakota ballot is to be a Democrat.

The Republican argument against Amendment H was all about purity. Only Republicans, it seemed, should choose Republican candidates. That argument ignores the notion that an open primary opens up the possibility of interesting more citizens in the process and the party. Perhaps more importantly for a political party, there's the prospect of getting the previously unaffiliated interested in making a donation.

If, as they say, only Republicans should decide on Republican candidates, there are other options available. They could choose their candidates in caucuses or the state convention.

Recently in Brookings there was a presentation about "250+ Years of American Civics and News" hosted

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by South Dakota News Watch CEO Carson Walker and Jon Ruff, an assistant professor of political science at South Dakota State University. At one point they noted that all citizens are held accountable for obeying laws and paying their taxes. Good citizens, they said, are held to a higher standard. They're responsible for staying informed on the issues of the day and regularly going to the polls to vote.

Maybe Walker and Ruff need to amend their presentation, because the current system shuts out good citizens who choose not to be affiliated with a political party. South Dakota's closed primary elections ensure that a large chunk of its population is not allowed a voice in choosing its next set of legislators. They do, however, get to see their tax dollars used to pay for the purely political exercise of conducting a primary election.

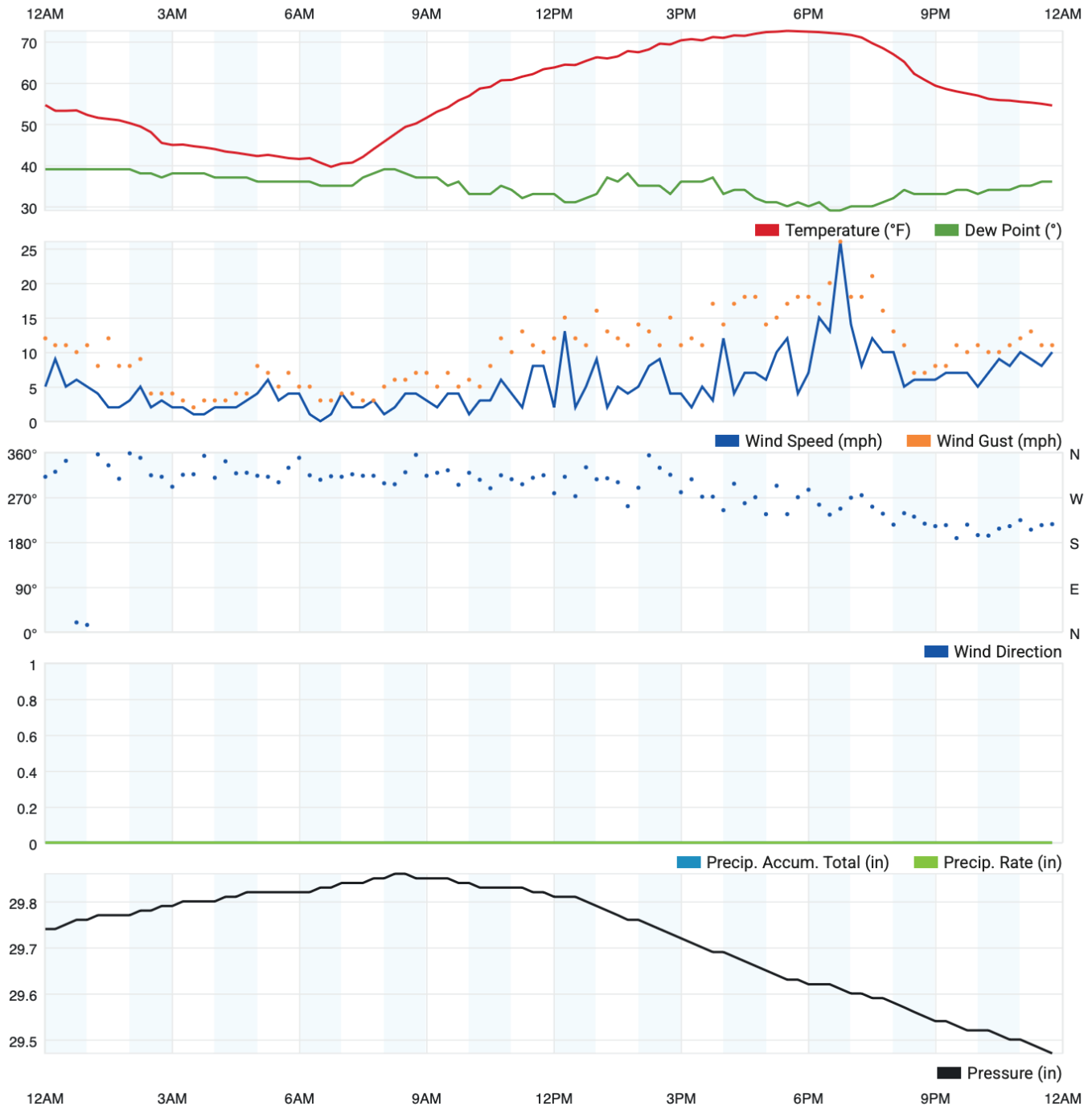
Dana Hess spent more than 25 years in South Dakota journalism, editing newspapers in Redfield, Milbank and Pierre. He's retired and lives in Brookings, working occasionally as a freelance writer.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

May 3, 2026



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Today



High: 57 °F

Decreasing
Clouds and
Breezy

Tonight



Low: 30 °F

Mostly Cloudy
and Blustery
then Partly
Cloudy

Tuesday



High: 51 °F

Mostly Sunny

Tuesday Night



Low: 28 °F

Mostly Cloudy

Wednesday



High: 52 °F

Mostly Sunny



Gusty Winds and Cooler Temperatures

May 4, 2026
2:43 AM CDT

15-20 percent chance for widely scattered showers or sprinkles today

- Below normal temps return today into Tuesday with **Highs in the 40s & 50s** and **Lows in the 20s to low 30s**.
- Strong **Northwest Winds** will gust between **30-40+ mph** today.

Temperature (°F) & Maximum Wind Gust (mph) Forecast																							
		5/4 Mon						5/5 Tue															
		6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	
Aberdeen	Temp	49	51	55	58	56	46	38	33	29	37	47	50	50									
	WindGust	25	33	36	36	33	24	16	14	16	22	25	25	24									
Miller	Temp	52	54	58	59	57	47	39	35	32	38	47	51	51									
	WindGust	25	35	38	38	35	23	16	15	16	23	26	26	24									
Mobridge	Temp	47	47	55	57	55	44	38	35	31	35	45	50	49									
	WindGust	26	32	36	36	33	23	16	14	16	23	25	25	24									
Murdo	Temp	49	52	57	58	57	49	42	37	35	38	46	49	49									
	WindGust	26	33	36	36	33	24	16	14	14	21	23	23	22									
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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 73 °F at 5:06 PM

Low Temp: 40 °F at 6:44 AM

Wind: 27 mph at 6:46 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 98 in 1926

Record Low: 20 in 2005

Average High: 66

Average Low: 39

Average Precip in May.: .44

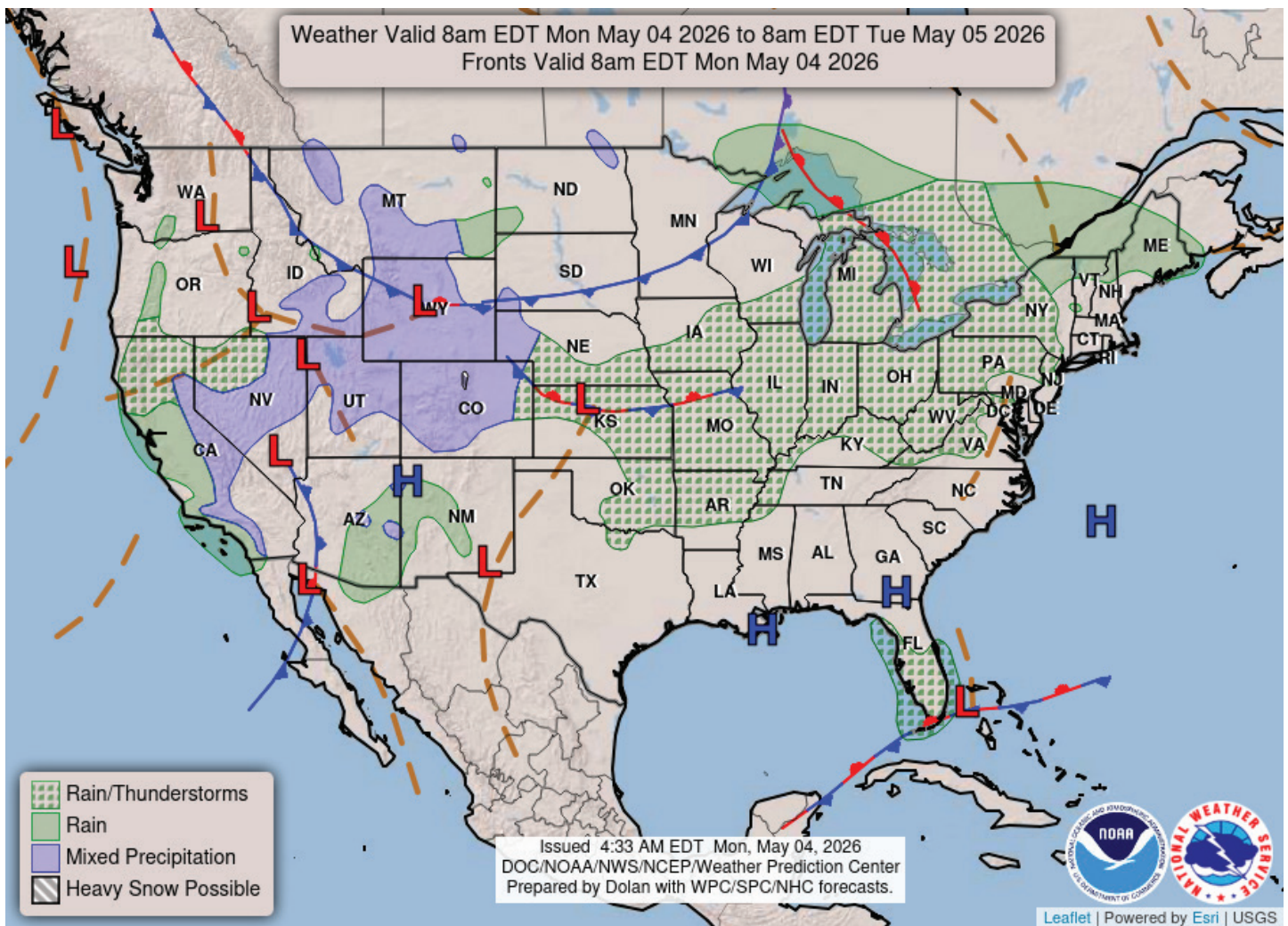
Precip to date in May.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 4.41

Precip Year to Date: 3.12

Sunset Tonight: 8:42 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:14 am



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Today in Weather History

May 4, 1964: A tornado touched down southwest of Kadoka, causing damage of \$25,000.

1812 — A storm produced snow from Philadelphia to Maine. A foot of snow fell near Keene NH, and in Massachusetts, nine inches fell at Waltham, located near Boston. (David Ludlum)

1917 — A late season snowstorm in northwest Texas produced up to eight inches of snow in Potter County and Armstrong County. (David Ludlum)

1922 — Austin, TX, was hit twice by tornadoes which struck within thirty minutes of each other. Twelve persons were killed in the tornadoes. (The Weather Channel)

1977 — A tornado 500 yards in width struck Pleasant Hill, MO, severely damaging the high school and grade school. Only minor injuries were reported among the more than 1000 teaches and students due to excellent warnings and prior tornado drills. (The Weather Channel)

1987 — Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the southeastern U.S., with South Carolina hardest hit. Thunderstorm winds toppled trees seventy feet high in Spartanburg County SC, and knocked homes off their foundations near Bishopville SC. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 — Thunderstorms produced large hail in North Carolina, but brought welcome rains to much of the rest of the eastern U.S. Residents of New England finally saw sunshine after about a week of clouds and rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 — Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Southern Plains Region and the Lower Mississippi Valley. Thunderstorms spawned fifteen tornadoes, and there were 340 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Hail three inches in diameter, and 9.39 inches of rain, resulted in more than 130 million dollars damage at Monroe LA. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 100 mph at Epps LA and Fort Worth TX. A thunderstorm north of Mineral Wells TX produced high winds which unroofed a nightclub, turning it into a "topless club." (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 — Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Lower Ohio Valley to Virginia and the Carolinas. A tornado at Augusta Springs VA killed two people and injured ten others, and another tornado caused 1.7 million dollars damage at Colonial Heights VA. Temperatures soared into the 90s in northern California. The high of 98 degrees in downtown Sacramento was their hottest reading of record for so early in the season. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Daily Devotion

How to Walk Wisely

**o make God-honoring decisions, spend time daily in
Scripture and attune your heart to the Holy Spirit's voice.**

Proverbs 28:26: 26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But he who walks wisely will be delivered.

As believers, we are to walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7). However, it is sometimes a struggle to hear and apply God's wisdom. For example, Ephesians 4:32 calls us to forgive each other, but that can be difficult when we've been hurt.

Godly wisdom is the capacity to view things as the Lord does and to respond according to biblical principles. This discernment isn't automatic. Yes, God's Spirit lives inside believers to guide us, but each individual chooses whether to pursue the wise way.

If we are going to walk in a way that honors the Lord, we must commit to pursuing Christ. Resolving to honor Him transforms the way we make decisions. Instead of following instincts or impulses, we choose to seek God's viewpoint in a given situation, searching Scripture and listening for the Holy Spirit. As a result, the Spirit's quiet voice becomes easier to discern, and those worldly distractions fade.

We have a loving heavenly Father who honors the heartfelt commitment to walk according to His will. God assumes responsibility for offering His children wisdom and enabling them to keep walking on the right path. That's why following Him is always the best decision.

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

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The Groton Independent

Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
05.03.26

5 8 15 32 51 3

TOP PRIZE:
\$1,000,000/year

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 33 Mins 51
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
05.01.26

16 21 27 41 61 24

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$195,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 18
Mins 51 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
05.02.26

4 18 35 43 50 8

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$24,390,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 33 Mins 52
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
05.02.26

6 11 21 22 34

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$79,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 16 Hrs 48
Mins 52 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
05.02.26

5 13 35 53 54 7

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 17 Mins 52
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
05.02.26

25 37 42 52 65 14

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$20,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 17 Mins 52
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Tribes sue to halt exploratory drilling in Black Hills near sacred ceremonial site

By SARAH RAZA Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Nine Native American tribes in South Dakota, North Dakota and Nebraska are suing the federal government in a bid to stop exploratory drilling for graphite near a sacred site in the Black Hills.

A small group of demonstrators has been protesting at the drilling location and at the mining company's headquarters since they learned ground was broken on the drilling project in late April.

The tribes filed their federal lawsuit Thursday in South Dakota against the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Department of Agriculture, alleging that the agencies violated federal law by greenlighting a project near a site called Pe'Sla, a meadow in the central Black Hills used for tribal ceremonies, prayer and youth camps year-round.

The project is the latest point of tension between tribes and mining interests in the lush pine-covered Black Hills, which encompass over 1.2 million acres (485,000 hectares), rising from the Great Plains in southwest South Dakota and extending into Wyoming.

The region is a yearly destination for millions of tourists boasting such attractions as Mount Rushmore and wildlife-filled state parks. Yet for even longer, it has been sacred to Sioux tribes who call the area He Sapa and consider it "the heart of everything that is," according to the complaint.

Some of the landscape has already been altered by the gold rush of the 1870s that developed the region and displaced Native Americans. And in recent years, a new crop of miners driven by rising gold prices have sought to return to the landscape.

The complaint said the project by Rapid City-based mining company Pete Lien & Sons would impact the use of Pe'Sla for traditional, cultural and religious purposes by the tribes, and that the Forest Service did not consult with the tribes before approving the project.

Parts of Pe'Sla are owned by Sioux tribes after they bought the land in 2012, 2015 and 2018, and an agreement between the tribes and the Forest Service established a two-mile (three kilometer) buffer zone on public lands around the site, according to the complaint.

Because Pe'Sla was not included as an affected area and no environmental review was conducted, the approval violates the National Historic Preservation Act and National Environmental Policy Act, the lawsuit alleges.

Pete Lien & Sons, which supplies materials like limestone, sand and gravel, did not return email requests or voicemails for comment Thursday and Sunday.

Frank Star Comes Out, president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, said in a statement that the lawsuit is "a historic demonstration of unity" between the nine tribes. The tribes are separate, distinct federally recognized tribes sharing cultural and linguistic roots, but each with its own government and land base.

"We as Lakota people have been coming and praying and holding ceremony at these places for over 2,000 years," said Wizipan Garriott, president of Indigenous advocacy group NDN Collective and a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. "And so us being here is a continuation of countless generations before us. And it's important that these sacred places be protected for future generations to come."

The project was granted a permit from the Forest Service in February without conducting an environmental review because the agency said it met the requirements for a categorical exclusion, like having a duration of less than a year and not posing impacts to environmental and cultural sites.

But tribal opponents disagree that those requirements were met and said drilling projects are often a first step leading to future mines.

Besides the lawsuit from the tribes, NDN Collective and other environmental groups filed a request for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction to halt the project.

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Some of the drilling pads are in the buffer zone around the site, according to NDN Collective. The project calls for the company to drill up to 18 holes down some 1,000 feet (300 meters) into the Earth to collect samples.

On Thursday, opponents demonstrated with signs reading "Protect Pe'Sla" and "Sacred ground not mining bound" near two drilling pads to block access. NDN Collective said the Forest Service told them drilling was paused for the rest of the day and the contractors were sent home.

The Forest Service said in a statement that it had no comment on the project when asked for a response. "The Forest Service does not comment on the specifics of the case or on issues that are part of ongoing legal proceedings," the statement said.

It is unclear when drilling began, but NDN Collective said it noticed drilling pads in operation last week. The group said protest actions will continue as needed to protect Pe'Sla.

"As Lakota, we pray as long as we need to," Garriott said.

US-led task force tells ships to reroute on first day of new effort to reopen the Strait of Hormuz

By ADAM SCHRECK and SAM METZ Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United States said Monday it is ready to "guide" commercial ships through the Strait of Hormuz in a new effort to end the blockade wreaking havoc on the global economy.

The U.S.-led Joint Maritime Information Center advised ships to cross the strait in Oman's waters, saying it had set up an "enhanced security area." The American military has said the initiative might involve guided-missile destroyers, more than 100 aircraft and 15,000 service members but has not specified what kind of assistance or escorts it would provide ships.

That has left open the question of whether shipping companies, and their insurers, will feel comfortable taking the risk given that Iran has fired on ships in the waterway and vowed to keep doing so.

Iran's control of traffic through the crucial artery for the world's oil and gas supplies has proved a major strategic advantage in its war with the U.S. and Israel, allowing Iran to inflict tremendous pain on the global economy despite being outgunned on the battlefield.

US offers to guide ships through the Strait of Hormuz

The effort to revive traffic risks unraveling the fragile ceasefire that has held for more than three weeks.

U.S. President Trump in a social media post on Sunday promised that the U.S. would "guide" ships out of the strait, warning that Iranian efforts to block them "will, unfortunately, have to be dealt with forcefully."

He described part of what he called "Project Freedom" in humanitarian terms, designed to aid stranded seafarers, many on oil tankers or cargo ships, have been stuck in the Persian Gulf since the war began. Crews have described to The Associated Press seeing intercepted drones and missiles explode over the waters as their vessels run low on drinking water, food and other supplies.

Iran's state-run IRNA news agency later called Trump's "Project Freedom" part of his "delirium." Iran's military command said on Monday that ships passing must coordinate with them.

"We warn that any foreign military force — especially the aggressive U.S. military — that intends to approach or enter the Strait of Hormuz will be targeted," Major General Pilot Ali Abdollahi told state broadcaster IRIB.

It was unclear as of Monday morning whether any vessels, many of which have become essentially stranded by the standoff, were attempting to cross or whether ships were staying put.

The Joint Maritime Information Center said the U.S. has set up an "enhanced security area" near the Oman side of the strait. It urged mariners to coordinate closely with Omani authorities "due to anticipated high traffic volume."

It warned that passing close to usual routes, known as the traffic separation scheme, "should be considered extremely hazardous due to the presence of mines that have not been fully surveyed and mitigated."

Iran stands firm

The disruption of the waterway has become one of the most enduring consequences of the war that the

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U.S. and Israel launched Feb. 28, squeezing countries in Europe and Asia that depend on Persian Gulf oil and gas and raising gasoline, food and other prices far beyond the region.

Iran has put particular pressure on Trump, who promised to bring down gas prices and faces midterm elections this year, and has called U.S. moves to dislodge its grip over the strait ceasefire violations. They have vowed not to return the strait to prewar conditions and moved to impose charges on transiting ships.

The U.S. has warned shipping companies they could face sanctions for paying Iran and enacted a naval blockade on Iranian ports since April 13, telling 49 commercial ships to turn back, U.S. Central Command said Sunday.

The blockade has deprived Tehran of oil revenue it needs to shore up its ailing economy.

U.S. officials hope the blockade helps break the deadlock, forcing Iran back to the negotiation table under pressure. Yet thus far negotiations are still in the proposal and review phase, with no publicly announced talks between the U.S. and Iran underway.

"We think that they've gotten less than \$1.3 million in tolls, which is a pittance on their previous daily oil revenues," U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told Fox News on Sunday, adding that Iran's oil storage is rapidly filling up and "they're going to have to start shutting in wells, which we think could be in the next week."

Iran's 14-point proposal made public over the weekend calls for the U.S. lifting sanctions on Iran, ending the U.S. naval blockade of Iranian ports, withdrawing forces from the region and ceasing all hostilities, including Israel's operations in Lebanon, according to the semiofficial Nour News and Tasnim agencies, which have close ties to Iran's security organizations.

Iranian officials said they received and were reviewing the U.S.'s response, Mizan, the news agency of Iran's judiciary reported Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei saying Sunday.

But "at this stage, we have no nuclear negotiations," Baghaei said. Iran's nuclear program and enriched uranium have long been the central issue in tensions with the U.S., but Tehran would rather address it later.

Iran's proposal wants other issues resolved within 30 days and aims to end the war rather than extend the ceasefire, according to Iran's state-linked media. Trump on Saturday said he was reviewing the proposal but expressed doubt it would lead to a deal.

Iranian crew taken off seized tanker

Pakistan said Monday it has facilitated the transfer of 22 crew members from an Iranian vessel seized by the U.S., describing the move as a confidence-building measure as Pakistan attempts to revive talks between the two sides.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the crew members, who had been aboard the Iranian container ship MV Touska, were evacuated and flown to Pakistan overnight. They are expected to be handed over to Iranian authorities.

The vessel will be brought into Pakistani territorial waters for necessary repairs before being returned to its original owners, the ministry said, adding that the process is being coordinated with the support of Iran and the U.S.

European leaders see Trump's troop drawdown from Germany as new proof they must go it alone

By MARK CARLSON and LORNE COOK Associated Press

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP) — European leaders on Monday said that U.S. President Donald Trump's snap decision to pull thousands of U.S. troops out of Germany came as a surprise but is a fresh sign that Europe must take care of its own security.

The Pentagon announced last week that it would pull some 5,000 troops out of Germany, but Trump told reporters on Saturday that "we're going to cut way down. And we're cutting a lot further than 5,000."

He offered no reason for the move, which blindsided NATO, but his decision came amid an escalating dispute with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz over the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran, and Trump's anger that European allies have been reluctant to get involved in the conflict in the Middle East.

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Asked about the decision to pull out 5,000 troops from Germany, Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre said: "I wouldn't exaggerate that because I think we are expecting that Europe is taking more charge of its own security."

"I do not see those figures as dramatic, but I think they should be handled in a harmonious way inside the framework of NATO," he told reporters in Yerevan, Armenia, where European leaders are holding a summit.

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Kaja Kallas, said "there has been a talk about withdrawal of U.S. troops for a long time from Europe. But of course, the timing of this announcement comes as a surprise."

"I think it shows that we have to really strengthen the European pillar in NATO," she said.

Asked whether she believes that Trump is trying to punish Merz, who said that the U.S. has been humiliated by Iran in talks to end the war, Kallas said: "I don't see into the head of President Trump, so he has to explain it himself."

Over the weekend, NATO spokesperson Allison Hart said that officials at the 32-nation military alliance "are working with the U.S. to understand the details of their decision on force posture in Germany."

European allies and Canada have known since just after he came to office again last year that Trump would pull troops out of Europe — indeed some left Romania in October — but U.S. officials had pledged to coordinate any moves with their NATO allies to avoid creating a security vacuum.

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte played down the move, saying that "there has been at this point disappointment on the U.S. side" about European support for the war on Iran.

Notably France, Spain and the U.K. have declined to give U.S. forces free rein to use bases on their territory to attack Iran. Spain has denied them the use of its airspace and bases there for the war.

But Rutte, who has championed Trump's leadership at NATO despite the U.S. president's criticism of the majority of the allies, said: "I would say the Europeans have heard a message. They are now making sure that all the bilateral basing agreements are being implemented."

Rutte added that European nations "have decided to pre-position assets, key assets, close to the theater for the next phase."

He provided no details, but the Europeans have insisted they would not help police the Strait of Hormuz, a key energy trade route, until the war is over.

French President Emmanuel Macron said "if the United States is ready to reopen Hormuz, that's great. That's what we've been asking for since the beginning." But he underlined that the Europeans are not ready to get involved in any operation "that does not seem clear to us."

In another sign of friction with Merz, Trump has accused the EU of not complying with its U.S. trade deal and announced plans to increase tariffs next week on cars and trucks produced in the bloc to 25%, a move that would be particularly damaging to Germany, a major automobile manufacturer.

Without mentioning Trump or the United States, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen listed recent trade deals that the bloc has sealed with Australia and India, and is now working on with Mexico.

"With like-minded friends, you have stable, reliable supply chains and Europe has the biggest network of free trade agreements," von der Leyen, who is from Germany, told reporters.

Trump says the US will 'guide' stranded ships from the Strait of Hormuz, starting on Monday

By ADAM SCHRECK, MELANIE LIDMAN and CARA ANNA Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United States will launch an effort on Monday to "guide" stranded ships from the Iran-gripped Strait of Hormuz, President Donald Trump said, as two ships around the strait reported attacks.

Trump gave few details about what could be a sweeping attempt to help hundreds of vessels and some 20,000 seafarers. Iran quickly denounced the move as a ceasefire violation.

Trump said in a social media post on Sunday that "neutral and innocent" countries have been affected by

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the Iran war, and "we have told these Countries that we will guide their Ships safely out of these restricted Waterways, so that they can freely and ably get on with their business."

"Project Freedom" would begin on Monday morning in the Middle East, Trump said, adding that his representatives are having discussions with Iran that could lead to something "very positive for all."

U.S. Central Command said the initiative would involve guided-missile destroyers, more than 100 aircraft and 15,000 service members. The Pentagon did not immediately answer questions about how they would be deployed.

Iran's effective closure of the strait, imposed after the U.S. and Israel launched the war on Feb. 28, has shaken global markets.

Ships and seafarers, many on oil and gas tankers and cargo ships, have been stuck in the Persian Gulf since the war began. Crew members have described to The Associated Press seeing intercepted drones and missiles explode over the waters as their vessels run low on drinking water, food and other supplies. Many sailors come from India and other countries in South and Southeast Asia.

"They are victims of circumstance," Trump wrote, and described the effort as a humanitarian gesture "on behalf of the United States, Middle Eastern Countries but, in particular, the Country of Iran." But he sounded a warning: "If, in any way, this Humanitarian process is interfered with, that interference will, unfortunately, have to be dealt with forcefully."

Iran's state-run IRNA news agency called Trump's announcement part of his "delirium," and Ebrahim Azizi, head of the national security commission of Iran's parliament, said on X that any interference in the strait would be seen as a ceasefire violation.

Trump spoke hours after Iran said it was reviewing the U.S. response to its latest proposal to end the war and made clear these are not nuclear negotiations. The fragile three-week ceasefire appears to be holding.

Cargo ships attacked near the strait

Earlier Sunday, a cargo ship near the Strait of Hormuz said it was attacked by multiple small craft, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center reported, while another ship was hit by "unknown projectiles." They were the latest in at least two dozen attacks in and around the strait since the Iran war began, and a reminder of the risks if the new U.S. effort goes forward.

No injuries were reported.

They were the first reported attacks in the area since April 22. Tehran has effectively closed the strait by attacking and threatening ships, and the threat level in the area remains critical.

The first ship was an unidentified cargo ship traveling north near Sirik, Iran, east of the strait, the British monitor said. Iranian officials have asserted that they control the strait and that ships not affiliated with the United States or Israel can pass if they pay a toll, challenging the freedom of navigation guaranteed by international law.

Iran denied an attack, the semiofficial Iranian outlets Fars and Tabnak reported, and said a passing ship had been stopped for a documents check as part of monitoring.

Iranian patrol boats, some powered only by twin outboard motors, are small, nimble and hard to detect. Trump last month ordered the U.S. military to "shoot and kill" small Iranian boats that deploy mines in the strait.

The second ship was a tanker that reported being struck around 11:40 p.m. Sunday while off Fujairah, United Arab Emirates.

The British military monitor also said Sunday that ships near Ras al-Khaimah, the northernmost emirate in the United Arab Emirates and close to the strait, reported receiving radio warnings to move from anchorages. It was not clear who sent the VHF messages.

Iran reviews US response to its latest proposal

Tehran is reviewing the U.S. response to its latest proposal to end the war, Iran's judiciary Mizan news agency cited Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei as saying.

But "at this stage, we have no nuclear negotiations," Baghaei said. Iran's nuclear program and enriched uranium have long been the central issue in tensions with the U.S., but Tehran would rather address it later.

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Iran's proposal wants other issues resolved within 30 days and aims to end the war rather than extend the ceasefire, according to Iran's state-linked media. Trump on Saturday said he was reviewing the proposal but expressed doubt it would lead to a deal.

Iran's 14-point proposal calls for the U.S. lifting sanctions on Iran, ending the U.S. naval blockade of Iranian ports, withdrawing forces from the region and ceasing all hostilities, including Israel's operations in Lebanon, according to the semiofficial Nour News and Tasnim agencies, which have close ties to Iran's security organizations.

Pakistan's prime minister, foreign minister and army chief continue to encourage the U.S. and Iran to speak directly, according to two officials in Pakistan who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media. Pakistan hosted face-to-face talks last month and has passed messages between the two sides.

Iran stands firm on Strait of Hormuz

Trump has offered a plan to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, where about a fifth of the world's trade in oil and natural gas typically passes, along with fertilizer badly needed by farmers around the world and other petroleum-derived products.

Tehran "will not back down from our position on the Strait of Hormuz, and it will not return to its prewar conditions," Iran's deputy parliament speaker, Ali Nikzad, said earlier Sunday.

The U.S. has warned shipping companies they could face sanctions for paying Iran in any form, including digital assets, to transit the strait safely.

Meanwhile, the U.S. naval blockade since April 13 is depriving Tehran of oil revenue it needs to shore up its ailing economy. The U.S. Central Command on Sunday said 49 commercial ships have been told to turn back.

"We think that they've gotten less than \$1.3 million in tolls, which is a pittance on their previous daily oil revenues," U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told Fox News on Sunday. He said Iran's oil storage is rapidly filling up and "they're going to have to start shutting in wells, which we think could be in the next week."

Cunningham and Harris help Pistons finish comeback for first playoff series win in 18 years

By DAVE HOGG Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Cade Cunningham had 32 points and 12 assists, Tobias Harris added 30 points and the Detroit Pistons beat the Orlando Magic 116-94 in Game 7 on Sunday to win a playoff series for the first time in 18 years.

Cunningham averaged 32.4 points for Detroit, which last won a postseason series by beating Orlando in the second round in 2008. The Pistons advance to play the winner of Sunday night's Game 7 between the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Toronto Raptors. Game 1 will be Tuesday at Little Caesars Arena.

"We were pushed to the limit," Cunningham said. "And it made us really reflect on how we were playing, what got us to this position and what made us win as many games as we won in the regular season. And it got us back to playing the basketball that we knew we were capable of."

The Pistons became the 15th team in NBA history to overcome a 3-1 deficit and the second in the last two nights, after the Philadelphia 76ers came back to eliminate Boston.

"I mean, it's expected," Pistons coach J.B. Bickerstaff said of his team's resiliency. "And that's the amount of belief that we have in this group. This is a special group. And you can't count us out. No matter the circumstances, no matter the situation, I like our chances to fight our way back."

They trailed by 24 points in Game 6 in Orlando before rallying to take the series at home. Orlando only scored 113 points in the final six quarters of the series — an average of 18.8 per period.

Cunningham and Harris became the first Pistons teammates to score 30 points in a playoff game since Bob Lanier (33) and Howard Porter (30) against the Golden State Warriors on April 17, 1977.

"We really bonded this season," Cunningham said. "This group is super tight. We think we can do any-

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thing. We've had our backs against the wall at times in the regular season, but we stuck together and we found our way out of it."

Paolo Banchemo scored 38 for the Magic.

Each team needed a second scoring option in Game 7. Cunningham had carried the Pistons while Banchemo was Orlando's only weapon after Franz Wagner was injured in Game 4.

Harris filled that role for Detroit, but Orlando only had one other player reach double figures in the first three quarters, as Desmond Bane had 10.

"We just couldn't find the basket," coach Jamahl Mosley said. "We were playing well on defense, but we couldn't put the ball in the hole."

The Pistons also got a big game from All-Star center Jalen Duren. He was outplayed by Wendell Carter Jr. in the first six games, but put up his first double-double of the series with 15 points and 15 rebounds.

Harris scored 17 points in the second quarter as the Pistons finished the half on a 9-2 run to take a 60-49 lead.

The Pistons' surge continued into the second half, as they opened the third quarter with a 11-2 run to go up 71-51. Nine of the points came from Cunningham and Harris.

The Magic finished the third quarter with 15 points — the third time in their last five periods they couldn't reach 20 points.

Daniss Jenkins hit a buzzer-beating 3-pointer to give Detroit a 83-64 lead going into the fourth, and the Magic never threatened down the stretch.

"They fought and battled the whole way," Mosley said. "We just didn't get the job done."

A suspected outbreak of the rare hantavirus on a cruise ship in the Atlantic kills 3 people

By GERALD IMRAY Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — A suspected outbreak of the rare hantavirus infection on a cruise ship in the Atlantic Ocean killed three people, including an elderly married couple, and sickened at least three others, the World Health Organization and South Africa's Department of Health said Sunday.

In a statement to The Associated Press, WHO said an investigation was underway but that at least one case of hantavirus had been confirmed. One of the patients was in intensive care in a South African hospital, the U.N. health agency said, and it was working with authorities to evacuate two others with symptoms from the ship.

The Dutch company that operates the cruise said the ship was now sitting off the coast of Cape Verde, an island nation off Africa's west coast, and local authorities were assisting but had not allowed anyone to disembark. It said the two sick people onboard requiring urgent medical care were crew members.

Hantavirus infections are spread mainly by rodents

Hantaviruses, which are found throughout the world, are a family of viruses spread mainly by contact with the urine or feces of infected rodents like rats and mice. They gained attention after the late actor Gene Hackman's wife, Betsy Arakawa, died from hantavirus infection in New Mexico last year.

Hackman died around a week later at their home from heart disease.

Hantaviruses cause two serious syndromes, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, a severe disease that effects the lungs, and hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome, a severe disease that affects the kidneys.

While rare, WHO said hantavirus infections can be spread between people. There is no specific treatment or cure, but early medical attention can increase the chance of survival.

"WHO is aware of and supporting a public health event involving a cruise vessel sailing in the Atlantic Ocean," the organization said. "Detailed investigations are ongoing, including further laboratory testing, and epidemiological investigations. Medical care and support are being provided to passengers and crew. Sequencing of the virus is also ongoing."

The weekslong cruise started in Argentina

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South Africa's Department of Health said the ship, the Dutch-flagged MV Hondius, had left Argentina around three weeks ago for a cruise that included visits to Antarctica, the Falkland Islands and other stops. It was due to ultimately head to Spain's Canary Islands on the other side of the Atlantic.

The first victim was a 70-year-old man who died on the ship and whose body was removed in the British territory of Saint Helena in the South Atlantic, the South African health department said in a statement. The man's wife collapsed at an airport in South Africa trying to take a flight to her home country of the Netherlands, the department said. She died at a nearby hospital.

The department identified the patient in intensive care in a hospital in Johannesburg as a British national. It said that person fell ill near Ascension Island, another remote island in the Atlantic, after the ship left Saint Helena and was transferred from there to South Africa.

Around 150 passengers were onboard

Around 150 tourists were onboard at the time of the outbreak, South Africa's health department said. Several online tour operators said the Hondius, which is described as a specialist polar cruise ship, usually travels with around 70 crew members.

Oceanwide Expeditions, the company that runs the cruise, said the third victim's body was still onboard the ship in Cape Verde and its priority was to ensure the two crew members who were ill received medical care.

"Local health authorities have visited the vessel to assess the condition of the two symptomatic individuals," the company said. "They are yet to make a decision regarding the transfer of these individuals into medical care in Cape Verde."

WHO said it was working with national authorities and the ship's operators to conduct a "full public health risk assessment" and provide support for those still onboard.

South Africa's National Institute for Communicable Diseases, meanwhile, was conducting contact tracing in the Johannesburg region to identify if other people were exposed to the infected passengers in South Africa.

1,500 beagles will get new lives, warm laps after release from research facility

By DAVID FISCHER Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — The first beagles removed from a Wisconsin dog breeding and research facility that was the site of recent protests seemed to know right away that they were safe.

"They started within an hour or so coming up to us, wanting attention. Some crawled in people's laps. Every single one of them are super sweet," Lauree Simmons, president and founder of Big Dog Ranch Rescue, said Sunday. "I think they are loving the attention. I just know they know they're safe."

Big Dog Ranch Rescue and the Center for a Humane Economy negotiated a confidential agreement to purchase the 1,500 dogs for an undisclosed price from Ridgman Farms, where police used tear gas and pepper spray to repel activists trying to take beagles from the facility last month. Protesters also broke into the facility in March and took 30 dogs. Sixty-three people were referred by the sheriff's department to the district attorney for potential charges related to that break-in.

Talks to purchase the animals began months before the April disturbance, and Simmons said her group wasn't connected to the protests. Now, Big Dog Ranch Rescue is working with partners all over the country to find homes for 1,000 of the dogs, while the Center for a Humane Economy is taking the rest.

Simmons said her group has received over 700 adoption applications, but it might take some time before the hounds are ready for their new homes as the organization screens potential dog parents, moves the animals to shelters around the country and ensures the beagles are housebroken.

The first 300 dogs were taken from Ridgman on Friday, with more scheduled for removal over the next week. The animal groups have set up a staging area with play yards in Wisconsin, where the dogs are being vaccinated, microchipped, spayed or neutered and prepared for transport, Simmons said. Big Dog Ranch Rescue has already started moving dogs to its location in western Palm Beach County, Florida.

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"The younger dogs will adjust quicker, and the older dogs will take time," Simmons said. "A lot of them are more willing to accept love and want to be with people."

Ridgland Farms didn't immediately respond to messages seeking comment.

Beagles are the most common breed of dog used for animal testing, primarily because of their smaller size and gentle temperament, Simmons said.

"A Belgian Malinois is not going to put up with being tested on, being confined in a kennel their whole life," Simmons said of the athletic shepherd dogs commonly used by police and the military. "Beagles are just so trusting and docile and calm and forgiving, so they are the most chosen dogs for animal testing. And so we're going to take one of the sweetest, kindest, most trusting breeds and abuse them? This is wrong. This needs to stop."

Ridgland Farms agreed in October to give up its state breeding license as of July 1 as part of a deal to avoid prosecution on felony animal mistreatment charges. The firm has denied mistreating animals, but a special prosecutor determined that Ridgland Farms was performing eye procedures that violated state veterinary standards.

About 1,000 activists from across the country came to Ridgland Farms in the rural village of Blue Mounds, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) southwest of Madison, on April 18 in an attempt to take the beagles. They were met by police who used tear gas, rubber bullets and pepper spray. The Dane County Sheriff's Department said 29 people were arrested and five face felony burglary charges.

Activists have filed a federal lawsuit in Wisconsin alleging that police used unnecessary force. Ridgland has said those who tried to break in were a "violent mob" who launched "an assault on a federally licensed research facility."

Agent hit by buckshot from the gun of man charged in correspondents' dinner attack, prosecutor says

WASHINGTON (AP) — Authorities have determined that buckshot from the gun of the man charged with trying to storm the White House Correspondents' Association dinner in an attempt to kill President Donald Trump struck a Secret Service agent, according to the federal prosecutor overseeing the investigation.

Jeanine Pirro, the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, said last week there was no evidence the agent was hit by friendly fire during the incident at a Washington hotel on April 25, but she went beyond that Sunday in saying a shot from one of Cole Thomas Allen's weapons hit the officer's bullet-resistant vest.

"We now can establish that a pellet that came from the buckshot from the defendant's Mossberg pump-action shotgun was intertwined with the fiber of the vest of the Secret Service officer," she told CNN's "State of the Union." "It is definitively his bullet."

Allen, who remains behind bars for now pending his trial, was injured during the attack but was not shot. The officer survived.

His attorneys on Sunday filed a document with the court saying they learned he was no longer on suicide watch and sought to withdraw a motion formally seeking to remove him from such supervision.

On Thursday, Pirro posted a video on social media showing the moment that authorities say a man with guns and knives attempted to storm the media gala. Questions have lingered about whose bullet struck the officer as the suspect ran through security with a long gun toward the ballroom packed with journalists, administration officials and others.

A phone call to lawyers representing Allen went unanswered on Sunday.

Allen has been charged with attempted assassination of the president, as well as two additional firearms counts, including discharging a weapon during a crime of violence. He faces up to life in prison if convicted of the assassination count alone.

Allen, 31, is from Torrance, California. He worked as a part-time tutor for a test preparation company and is an amateur video game developer.

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Kimi Antonelli wins the Miami Grand Prix for his third straight F1 victory

By JENNA FRYER AP Auto Racing Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Kimi Antonelli made history as the first driver to win his first three Formula 1 races from the pole when the 19-year-old Mercedes driver won the Miami Grand Prix on Sunday.

It was the third consecutive victory for Antonelli, the current points leader who is proving early this season to be a legitimate championship contender.

"It is just the beginning, the road is still long, but we're working super hard," Antonelli said. "The team is doing an incredible job and without them I wouldn't be here. I'm going to enjoy this one and then get back to work."

The Italian and teammate George Russell have won the first four races of this season for Mercedes and all four poles to date. They were blocked from the podium in Saturday's sprint race, which was a 1-2 finish for Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri of McLaren in the only thing the Mercedes drivers have not won this season.

"Kimi, that was very, very impressive. You know I like to complain, but there was nothing to complain about today," Mercedes boss Toto Wolff told his young driver. "Very good."

Antonelli holds a 20-point lead over Russell in the championship standings.

Antonelli started from the pole but had a slick start on a damp surface at the Miami International Autodrome. Threats of heavy rain led F1 to move up the start of the race by three hours, and there was an early morning thunderstorm with lightning strikes directly over the Hard Rock Stadium, but it cleared by the time the event began.

Still, the first 25 laps were attacked by the drivers as if the rain could return at any moment, and that led to early chaos, even for Antonelli.

Charles Leclerc of Ferrari had a spectacular start from third and surged to the lead when Antonelli went wide off course trying to defend. A split-second later, Max Verstappen spun trying to hold off Leclerc when the two cars made contact.

The contact caused Verstappen, who started a season-best second, to plummet to ninth after the spin.

Antonelli recovered and reclaimed the lead on the fifth lap, and the leaders briefly swapped positions as Leclerc moved back to the front before reigning world champion Norris took over on Lap 14.

Verstappen worked his way through the field and briefly took the lead as others pitted, but Antonelli beat Norris off pit lane and reclaimed the lead for good once everything cycled out.

Norris finished second, 3.2 seconds behind Antonelli.

"A mixed bag, really. We just got undercut (in the pits). There's no excuses other than that," Norris said. "We should have boxed first. Kimi did a good job. Hats off to Merc and Kimi. They drove a good race."

Leclerc was poised to finish third until Oscar Piastri of McLaren passed him on the final lap. Leclerc spun and settled for sixth.

Russell was fourth and Verstappen finished a season-best fifth for Red Bull. Lewis Hamilton of Ferrari was seventh.

Cadillac, in its first race in the United States, had an unimpressive weekend on the track even as it splashed its way through Miami with appearances and events. Sergio Perez finished 16th and Valtteri Bottas was 18th — the last car to finish in the 22-driver field.

Messy start

Isack Hadjar had been disqualified after qualifying and started last, but his race lasted five laps before he drove his Red Bull into the wall. Hadjar was openly angry at the result as he pounded his helmet before climbing from his car and angrily stomping away.

Seconds later, Pierre Gasly and Liam Lawson made contact that caused Gasly's car to do a full rollover. The Frenchman's car ended stuck with its rear tires atop a barrier and he climbed from the half-suspended BMW on his own.

Up next

The Canadian Grand Prix is next for F1 at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal on May 24. That date was traditionally held by the Monaco Grand Prix but a tweak to the schedule shifted it to Canada, and F1 will no longer be the opener for what had traditionally been the most prolific day in motorsports.

The F1 race typically opened the morning ahead of the Indianapolis 500 and then NASCAR's Coca-Cola 600. Because the race is in Canada and not Monaco, it has a late afternoon start time and will follow the Indy 500 and end during the NASCAR race.

Israeli raid in the West Bank leaves 1 Palestinian dead and 4 wounded

By AREF TUFFAHA Associated Press

NABLUS, West Bank (AP) — One Palestinian man was killed and four others seriously wounded during an Israeli military raid in the Israeli-occupied West Bank city of Nablus on Sunday, the Palestinian Red Crescent said.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said the man's wife was in labor at a local hospital when she was informed of his death.

The Red Crescent said five people were hit by gunfire during an Israeli military operation. Nayef Firas Ziad Samaro, 26, was killed, according to the Health Ministry, and his body was brought to the hospital where his wife was giving birth. Additionally, a 12-year-old was shot in the shoulder, according to the Red Crescent.

The raid took place as schools were letting out for the day, in an area crowded with civilians, witnesses said.

Israel's military in a statement said it responded to a confrontation in the Nablus area in which several "terrorists" threw rocks toward soldiers. Soldiers fired and "several hits were identified."

Palestinians, rights groups and international observers are warning about the worsening violence, where young Palestinian men are being killed with increasing regularity amid a broader climate of arson, vandalism and the displacement of farming communities near Jewish settlements and outposts in the West Bank.

At least 42 Palestinians have been killed since the start of the year, according to the United Nations humanitarian office. Armed settlers were responsible for at least 11 of those fatalities.

Austrian police detain suspect in case of rat poison found in baby food jars on supermarket shelves

VIENNA (AP) — Police in eastern Austria say a 39-year-old suspect has been arrested after rat poison turned up in some HiPP baby food jars on supermarket shelves in central Europe.

HiPP, which recalled some of its baby food jars in Austria, Slovakia and the Czech Republic after the case came to light last month, said in a statement Saturday it was "greatly relieved" by the arrest, and would provide further updates as verified details come in.

The Burgenland State Criminal Police Office, under the direction of prosecutors, said a probe was launched after poison turned up in a baby food jar purchased at a supermarket in the city of Eisenstadt on April 18.

It said the suspect was being questioned, and that no further details would be immediately provided. The Burgenland public prosecutor's office has announced an investigation into suspected "intentional endangerment of the public."

In an email to The Associated Press on Sunday, the Burgenland police office said the suspect was arrested in Salzburg state, to the west.

The Austrian Press Agency reported that an expert report on the toxicity of the poison was pending. A total of five tampered baby food jars were seized before they could be consumed, APA reported.

Authorities said previously they believe the tampering occurred in 190-gram (6.7-ounce) jars of baby food made with carrots and potatoes for 5-month-olds that were sold from SPAR supermarkets in Austria.

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HiPP responded by recalling all of its baby food jars sold at SPAR supermarkets — which include SPAR, EUROSPAR, INTERSPAR and Maximarkt stores — in Austria as a precaution. Vendors in Slovakia and the Czech Republic also removed all of the brand's baby jars from sale.

The company said the recall was not due to any product or quality defect on its part, and said the jars left its facility in "perfect condition."

Police said a customer at the time of the discovery had reported that a jar appeared to have been tampered with, but no one had consumed the baby food.

Pfaffenhofen, Germany-based HiPP said it has been a "victim of extortion," adding that an unspecified "blackmailer" sent a message to a shared mailbox in the case, prompting it to immediately inform police.

Trump keeps us up in the air with his hints of what's coming in a new batch of UFO files

By COLLIN BINKLEY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump says the Pentagon is preparing to release some "very interesting" UFO files uncovered by his administration, generating a mix of buzz and skepticism as he hints at new revelations around questions of alien life.

Trump started stoking interest in the extraterrestrial in February, directing federal agencies to release their records related to extraterrestrial life and UFOs. Since then, he has built suspense with tantalizing updates, teasing an imminent release of documents never before shared by the U.S. government.

"We're going to be releasing a lot of things that we haven't," Trump said Wednesday at a White House event celebrating NASA astronauts. "I think some of it's going to be very interesting to people."

Trump has relished in portraying himself as the president who spills the secrets. In the first week returning to office, he ordered the release of records related to the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. The disclosures revealed little beyond what was already known.

In the buildup to that release, Trump said "the American people deserve transparency and truth." Now, as he turns to the sky, the president has struck a similar tone, suggesting answers to decades-old questions may be on the way. His February directive on social media called for transparency around "alien and extraterrestrial life, unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP), and unidentified flying objects (UFOs)."

"The first releases will begin very, very soon," he told supporters in April at a Turning Point USA event in Phoenix. "So you can go out and see if that phenomena is correct. You'll figure it out."

An expert cautions against raising expectations

Even before Trump's directive, the Pentagon was years into a process to declassify and release government documents related to UFOs, now often referred to as unexplained anomalous phenomena, or UAP.

Citing concerns over national security, Congress created an office in 2022 to investigate UAP and declassify as much material as possible. The office's 2024 debut report revealed hundreds of new UAP incidents but found no evidence that the U.S. government had ever confirmed a sighting of alien technology. A second report covering more recent sightings is expected to come soon.

That agency, the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office, is now working with the White House to release "never-before-seen UAP information," according to a Pentagon statement.

The office's previous director, however, said Trump's promises were bluster, a "shiny object" to distract Americans from the war with Iran. Sean Kirkpatrick, a physicist and former career intelligence officer who led the office until 2023, said he has seen the government's records and believes there are no bombshell revelations to be found.

"Readers should not get their hopes up that there's going to be some document with photos, interviewing the aliens when they came down," he said. "Because that just doesn't exist."

Videos purporting to show alien technology tend to have mundane explanations, he said. Modern infrared cameras used by the U.S. military often capture jet engines and other hot objects in a long thermal bloom, which, Kirkpatrick said, explains viral videos of speedy, pill-shaped objects.

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Pentagon not forthcoming on UAP reports, GOP-led panel says

On Capitol Hill, those types of videos have caught the attention of a small group of Trump-aligned Republicans who insist the Pentagon is holding back secrets.

The Task Force on the Declassification of Federal Secrets has been conducting its own investigation into reports of mysterious aircraft near U.S. military installations, which the panel says pose a threat to national security and the armed forces.

Last fall, the task force heard testimony from current and former service members who described UAP encounters. In one case, a senior Navy officer said he was off the coast of California in 2023 when he saw a glowing "Tic Tac" shaped object emerge from the ocean and link up with three similar objects. They sped away in an instant, he said.

Trump's interest in the subject has energized congressional Republicans, including Florida Rep. Anna Paulina Luna, an Air Force veteran who co-chairs the task force. Luna has criticized what she calls "less than adequate" transparency from the Pentagon.

In a March letter to Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, Luna demanded dozens of UAP videos identified by whistleblowers and labeled with names such as "Spherical UAP in clouds." Her deadline for Hegseth came and went, and no videos were produced.

Trump's entry to the UFO fray drew applause from Luna, who last year told podcaster Joe Rogan that she has seen evidence of "interdimensional beings." The Pentagon "can't hide from our docs request anymore!" Luna said on social media after Trump's directive.

Vance professes to be 'obsessed' with UFO files

Trump appears skeptical about the existence of extraterrestrial life. Addressing the Turning Point USA crowd in Phoenix, he said, "I figured this was a good crowd because I know you people, you're really into that. I don't know if I am."

Why he made the revelation at that event, held at a megachurch, is unclear. A day earlier, Trump had spoken in Las Vegas, not far from Area 51, a top-secret Cold War test site that has fueled UFO conspiracy theories.

Vice President JD Vance has described himself as "obsessed" with UFO files. In March, he said he has been trying to find time to investigate Area 51 since he took office.

"I've still got three more years as vice president," Vance told conservative podcaster Benny Johnson. "I will get to the bottom of the UFO files." Invoking his Christian faith, Vance said he believes sightings reported to be aliens are actually the work of spiritual demons.

Even before Trump tackled the topic, alien buzz was already in the air.

It's back in Hollywood with an upcoming Steven Spielberg movie, "Disclosure Day." Former President Barack Obama made a splash in February when he declared on a podcast that aliens are real. He later clarified that he had seen no evidence but that "the odds are good there's life out there."

Trump is hardly the first president drawn to UFO mysteries. President Bill Clinton has said he once ordered a review of the Roswell Incident — something had crashed in 1947 at a New Mexico ranch and officials later said the debris was the remnants of a high-altitude weather balloon — around its 50th anniversary in 1997. Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan claimed to have seen UFOs before their time in the White House.

The U.S. government has been investigating UFO reports since the 1940s, in part to determine if they represent advanced technology from competing nations or "evidence of off-world technology," according to the Defense Department's 2024 report.

In online communities devoted to UFOs, some see Trump's promise as a step in the right direction; others believe it will come to nothing. For people who follow the topic closely, promises of big revelations have never lived up to the hype, said Greg Eghigian, a Pennsylvania State University professor who wrote a book on the history of UFO sightings.

"There is almost no satisfaction that is possible for many of the really die-hard folks," he said. "So in a sense, I think disappointment can almost be guaranteed to be expected no matter what comes out of this."

Ukraine hits key Russian oil-loading port and 3 'shadow fleet' tankers

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine on Sunday launched a wave of strikes against Russian oil targets, hitting a key loading port on the Baltic Sea and two tankers that Ukraine alleges were illegally used to transport Russian crude.

A nighttime drone strike sparked a blaze at Russia's largest oil exporting port on the Baltic Sea, the port of Primorsk, according to Russian regional Gov. Alexander Drozdenko.

The port, operated by Russia's state oil firm Transneft, is capable of handling hundreds of thousands of barrels per day. Primorsk, which was targeted multiple times in March, lies over 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) from Ukraine, between the Russian-Finnish border and Russia's second-largest city of St. Petersburg.

Local Gov. Drozdenko said that the drone strike did not cause an oil spill, but gave no immediate further comment regarding casualties or damage.

But Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Ukrainian forces destroyed several military and other targets, while also inflicting significant damage on oil port infrastructure.

"One more Russian carrier of Kalibr missiles is out of action. Major General Yevhen Khmara reported on the successful destruction of targets in the Primorsk port," Zelenskyy wrote in a Telegram post on Sunday.

According to Zelenskyy, Ukrainian drones also hit a Karakurt missile ship, a patrol boat, and a tanker belonging to Russia's so-called shadow oil fleet, used to evade Western sanctions and price caps on Russian energy.

In a separate post earlier on Sunday, Zelenskyy said that Ukrainian forces had struck two more "shadow fleet" tankers near the entrance of the Russian Black Sea port of Novorossiysk.

"These tankers were actively used to transport oil. Now they won't," he said. He added the operation was led by the chief of Ukraine's general staff, Andrii Hnatov.

Moscow did not immediately acknowledge Zelenskyy's claims regarding either strike.

Kyiv has recently stepped up its attacks on Russia's oil export infrastructure. Ukrainian officials argue that oil revenue directly funds Moscow's full-scale invasion of the country, now in its fifth year.

Drone strikes kill civilians near Odesa and Moscow

Elsewhere, two people were killed and three others wounded as Russian drones struck Ukraine's southern Odesa region overnight into Sunday, Ukraine's Emergency Service reported. It said the attack damaged three residential buildings.

The drones also hit port infrastructure, causing a fire that was later extinguished by emergency teams, the emergency service reported.

Nighttime Russian strikes also wounded six people in the Dnipropetrovsk region in central Ukraine, the agency said. A passenger bus transporting 40 children was damaged, but no one inside was injured, it added.

In Russia, a Ukrainian drone strike west of Moscow killed a 77-year-old man, local Gov. Andrei Vorobyov reported on the Telegram messenger app. He said the fatal attack occurred near the town of Volokolamsk, some 120 kilometers (75 miles) from central Moscow.

Vorobyov added that six drones were shot down in the Moscow region, which surrounds but does not include the Russian capital. At least five more drones were downed on the approach to Moscow itself, according to mayor Sergei Sobyenin.

Separately, in Russia's western Smolensk region, a man, woman and child were injured after Ukrainian drone debris flew into an apartment block, according to local Gov. Vasiliy Anokhin.

Russia's Defense Ministry reported on Sunday that a total of 334 Ukrainian UAVs were downed overnight over Russia and occupied Crimea.

Also overnight into Sunday, Russia attacked Ukraine with 269 drones and ballistic missiles, according to the Ukrainian Air Force. Ukrainian forces shot down and repelled 249 drones, while hits from ballistic

missiles and 19 drones were recorded in 15 locations, the air force said in a Facebook update.

76ers eyeing much more as they move on to second round after Game 7 win over Celtics

By KYLE HIGHTOWER AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — The Philadelphia 76ers didn't know how many games, if any, they could count on from Joel Embiid in their first-round playoff series against the Boston Celtics.

It turned out to be just enough.

After debuting in Game 4 following appendectomy surgery last month, the former MVP played some of the best playoff basketball of his career over the final four games of the series to lead the 76ers to a 109-100 Game 7 victory over a Celtics team that had looked like a potential NBA title contender.

The No. 7 seed's reward is an Eastern Conference semifinals matchup with the No. 3 seed New York Knicks that begins Monday.

In leading Philadelphia to just its second road Game 7 victory ever and first since 1982 against Boston, Embiid finished with 34 points, 12 rebounds and six assists to become the first player in NBA history to score 100 points in a playoff series despite missing the first three games.

"Sometimes I've been in those positions where I've come up short," Embiid said. "I've always said it, you can't win alone. You need a team. ... The way we're playing right now, we're so in sync, offensively, defensively."

He and Tyrese Maxey (30 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists) also became the third duo in league history to each have 25 points, 10 rebounds and five assists in a Game 7.

Maxey said this series demonstrated how he now knows when to be assertive and when to defer to Embiid.

"It's a growth, because I had to learn when to be aggressive, when not to be aggressive," Maxey said. "It got a little bit difficult in the middle of this season. I was basically being first option every single night. Then he comes back and I've got to find a way to do both. And he does a really good job of just keeping me engaged and keeping me confident and keep me like, 'Hey I need you to do what you do.'"

The 76ers will need everything Embiid gave and more to compete with a Knicks team that plays a much more physical game than Boston.

Nurse said he believes Embiid is up for the challenge. He was limping at times in Game 7 but then got extra treatment while on the bench just to be able to contribute late.

He had reason to be fatigued because even though nine 76ers players touched the floor in Game 7, only six logged double-digit minutes. Embiid played 39 minutes, tying his series high.

"He was doing everything he could to stay in the game," Nurse said. "Obviously, we ran a lot of things through him and we did just enough."

Nurse said being able to come out the hostile environment of TD Garden with a victory will serve his team well going forward.

"It's really good for us to go through that and respond to it," Nurse said. "It's going to be like that in the playoffs. You're going to be in tight games and it's going to be super loud. ... And you just have to play through it."

Nurse said he believes the difference was making Boston play halfcourt sets over the final three minutes after the Celtics were able to play in transition for about 12 straight minutes in the third and fourth quarters.

That's a lesson he hopes can be applied to New York.

"In the last two (games) and portions of this one, we just guarded really well," Nurse said.

While there was satisfaction in beating Boston, Embiid said they have loftier goals.

"One series. Got more to go," he said.

Did the founders create a Christian nation? No, but religion did

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shape their thinking

By PETER SMITH Associated Press

When he talks about the role of religion in the founding of the United States, historian Gregg Frazer does not attract eager audiences.

"Neither side really wants to hear what I say," says Frazer, a professor of history and political studies at The Master's University, a Christian school in Santa Clarita, California.

The founders, Frazer says, did not create a Christian republic. Several key founders either rejected core Christian doctrines or were vague enough to keep historians debating. For Frazer, that often disappoints audiences of his fellow Christians.

But, he says, nor were the founders a cluster of rationalist deists — believers in a God who set the universe in motion like a clockmaker and then left it alone — and anti-religious skeptics, as they are sometimes portrayed. That disappoints audiences who favor a high firewall between church and state. Most of the founders were religious in one form or another.

The long-running debate over the founders' intentions about religion has been turbocharged with the approaching 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4. Amid the America 250 celebrations, some Christian activists and authors are redoubling claims that the U.S. had a Christian founding.

They have an ally in the White House. President Donald Trump is promoting "America Prays," culminating in a May 17 gathering on the National Mall in Washington. Cabinet officials are issuing Christian messages in their official capacity. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth proclaimed that "America was founded as a Christian nation ... in our DNA."

Countering the Christian nation narrative

Critics and advocacy groups are pushing back.

"Most — nearly all — serious historians agree that America was not founded as a Christian nation in any meaningful legal, philosophical, or constitutional sense," says the group Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Six in 10 U.S. adults surveyed said they believed the founders originally intended America to be a Christian nation, according to a 2022 Pew Research Center report.

Why do the founders' beliefs and intentions matter?

"Everyone's looking for what we historians call a usable past," says John Fea, author of "Was America Founded as a Christian Nation?"

"We go into the past looking for what we want in order to advance a particular political or cultural agenda," says Fea, a fellow at the Lumen Center, a Christian research institute and study center in Madison, Wisconsin.

Public officials and others did indeed offer prayers on behalf of the new republic at important historical moments. But he said other issues — such as taxation and representation — were more central to the Revolution.

Church and state in the new nation

Historian Mark David Hall argues that Christianity did strongly impact the founding. While core founders did not hold traditional Christian beliefs, he contends that many other founders did, and this shaped their thinking about how to form the new republic.

"There's plenty of evidence Christianity had an influence," says Hall, author of "Did America Have a Christian Founding?"

He says founders' attention to human dignity harmonizes with the Bible's teaching of humanity created in God's image. The system of checks and balances — to prevent the concentration of power — reflects teachings about human sin that would have permeated a largely Protestant culture, he says.

He also notes that some early presidents and Congresses issued proclamations for prayer and thanksgiving, though some drew opposition and controversy. Some states sponsored churches for decades after the Constitution was ratified, indicating that the founders didn't believe religion should be absent from public life.

The believed that faith was important in forming moral, responsible citizens of the new republic. They

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promoted "toleration without eliminating the importance of real religious commitment on the part of differing adherents," Frazer wrote in his book, "The Religious Beliefs of America's Founders."

There's no reference to any specific religion in the Constitution beyond the date — "in the year of our Lord" 1787. It forbids religious tests for officeholders. The First Amendment guarantees religious freedom and forbids "establishment" of a national religion.

Twentieth-century Supreme Court rulings applied the First Amendment to the states on the basis of the Fourteenth Amendment, which prohibits states from denying citizens' rights.

Frazer argues that the Bible is not cited as a source for any governing principles in the documented proceedings of the Constitutional Convention or in the influential Federalist Papers. He says the founders drew on influences such as Enlightenment thinking for such concepts as human equality, accountable government and freedom of religion. Early critics faulted the Constitution's lack of religious content.

The Declaration of Independence does have religious language, declaring that rights come from the "Creator." It appeals to the "Laws of Nature and of Nature's God."

Thomas Jefferson and other founders — adroitly, Frazer says — used terms acceptable to Christians as well as followers of other religious and philosophical movements.

The founders' diverse beliefs

At the time of the Revolution, most colonists were Protestant, though church participation had been in decline.

Rationalistic approaches to religion strongly influenced many college-educated and propertied elite men, such as those who produced the Declaration of Independence and Constitution, Frazer wrote. So did Freemasonry, a fraternal order based on beliefs in a universal God and morals.

Some founders were devout Christians such as John Jay, Samuel Adams and Patrick Henry. Others believed in God but not in Jesus' divinity, including key founders like Jefferson, John Adams and Benjamin Franklin. The enigmatic Washington kept active in his Episcopal church but avoided sacraments and also was an active Freemason.

Challenging misconceptions about deist founders

But contrary to popular belief, most founders were not deists.

Frazer instead describes many founders as "theistic rationalists." George Washington believed that divine "Providence" saved his life in battle and intervened on America's behalf. He was far from alone.

"They did believe in an active God," Frazer says.

Even the skeptics thought religion was important in forming virtuous citizens. Many scholars believe the First Amendment created a sort of religious free market in which Christianity and other faiths have flourished to this day.

Did the founders create a Christian nation? No, but religion did shape their thinking

By PETER SMITH Associated Press

When he talks about the role of religion in the founding of the United States, historian Gregg Frazer does not attract eager audiences.

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approaching 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4. Amid the America 250 celebrations, some Christian activists and authors are redoubling claims that the U.S. had a Christian founding.

They have an ally in the White House.

President Donald Trump is promoting "America Prays," culminating in a May 17 gathering on the National Mall in Washington. Official participants include many Christian organizations and individuals, some who champion the idea of a Christian founding. Cabinet officials are issuing Christian messages in their official capacity. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth proclaimed that "America was founded as a Christian nation ... in our DNA."

In short: The long-standing debate — secular government on one hand, faith on another — rages and matters still.

Countering the Christian nation narrative

Critics and advocacy groups are pushing back.

"Most — nearly all — serious historians agree that America was not founded as a Christian nation in any meaningful legal, philosophical, or constitutional sense," says the group Americans United for Separation of Church and State. It decries efforts "to redefine America according to the Christian Nationalist disinformation and then reshape our law accordingly."

Six in 10 U.S. adults surveyed say they believed the founders originally intended America to be a Christian nation, according to a 2022 Pew Research Center report.

Why do the founders' beliefs and intentions matter?

"Everyone's looking for what we historians call a usable past," says John Fea, author of "Was America Founded as a Christian Nation?"

"We go into the past looking for what we want in order to advance a particular political or cultural agenda," says Fea, a fellow at the Lumen Center, a Christian research institute and study center in Madison, Wisconsin.

Advocates often skirt history's nuances. For example, public officials and others did indeed offer prayers on behalf of the new republic at important historical moments.

"But are those prayers the central part of the story of what happened when we, in the United States, declared independence?" Fea wonders. "Last time I checked, it was about taxation and representation and shutting down the port of Boston and all these more economic and political things."

Church and state in the new nation

Historian Mark David Hall argues that Christianity did strongly impact the founding. While core founders did not hold traditional Christian beliefs, he contends many other founders did, and that this shaped their thinking about how to form the new republic.

"There's plenty of evidence Christianity had an influence," says Hall, author of "Did America Have a Christian Founding?"

He says founders' attention to human dignity harmonizes with the Bible's teaching of humanity created in God's image. The system of checks and balances — to prevent the concentration of power — reflects teachings about human sin that would have permeated a largely Protestant culture, he says.

He also notes that some early presidents and Congresses issued proclamations for prayer and thanksgiving, though some drew opposition and controversy. Some states sponsored churches for decades after the country's Constitution was ratified, indicating the founders did not believe religion should be absent from public life.

They believed that faith was important in forming moral, responsible citizens of the new republic. They promoted "toleration without eliminating the importance of real religious commitment on the part of differing adherents," Frazer wrote in his book, "The Religious Beliefs of America's Founders."

There is no reference to any specific religion in the Constitution beyond the date — "in the year of our Lord" 1787. It forbids religious tests for officeholders. The First Amendment of the Bill of Rights guarantees religious freedom and forbids "establishment" of a national religion.

Twentieth-century Supreme Court rulings applied the First Amendment to the states on the basis of the Fourteenth Amendment, which prohibits states from denying citizens' rights. The court cited founder

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Thomas Jefferson's metaphor of a "wall of separation between church and state." Courts have since wrestled with how to apply that principle in areas such as school prayer, healthcare, labor law and crosses on public lands.

Frazer argues that the Bible is not cited as a source for any governing principles in the documented proceedings of the Constitutional Convention or in the influential Federalist Papers, which advocated for the Constitution. He says the founders drew on influences such as Enlightenment thinking on such concepts as human equality, accountable government and freedom of religion. Early critics of the Constitution faulted it for lacking religious content.

The Declaration of Independence does have religious language, declaring that rights come from the "Creator." It appeals to "divine Providence" and to the "Laws of Nature and of Nature's God."

Thomas Jefferson and other founders — adroitly, Frazer says — used terms acceptable to Christians as well as followers of other religious and philosophical movements.

America's complicated religious history

Even the seemingly straightforward question, "Did the founders intend America to be a Christian nation?" raises questions: Who were the founders? When was the actual "founding"?

Some see the founding as the original colonial settlements — a century and a half before 1776. Colonial charters for Massachusetts Bay and Virginia declared the spread of the Gospel as a fundamental purpose. Puritan Boston endeavored to be a Christian "city upon a hill."

In practice, the religious nature of the colonies varied. They had economic and territorial ambitions alongside heavenly ones. State religious persecution of religious minorities in Virginia and Massachusetts drew pushback.

The religious values of a colonial system that decimated Native communities and imported enslaved Africans has also come under enduring scrutiny.

Decades before the American Revolution, an evangelical revival known as the Great Awakening reached many colonists. Church membership and attendance declined steadily throughout the 18th century, according to studies, even as the colonies remained mostly Protestant.

The Protestant label also covered a range of beliefs, as some churches shifted toward Unitarian views that esteemed Jesus as a prophet or sage, not divine.

By the Revolution, rationalistic approaches to religion strongly influenced many college-educated and propertied elite men, such as those who produced the Declaration of Independence and Constitution, Frazer wrote. So did Freemasonry, a fraternal order based on beliefs in a universal God and morals.

Some founders were devout Christians such as John Jay, Samuel Adams and Patrick Henry. Others believed in God but not in Jesus' divinity, including key founders like Jefferson, John Adams and Benjamin Franklin. The enigmatic Washington kept active in his Episcopal church but avoided sacraments and also was an active Freemason. He spoke about God in terms most people at that time could accept, such as "Providence" or "Supreme Ruler."

Challenging misconceptions about deist founders

But contrary to popular belief, most founders were not deists.

Frazer instead describes many founders as "theistic rationalists." George Washington believed that divine "Providence" saved his life in battle and intervened on America's behalf. He was far from alone.

"They did believe in an active God," Frazer says. "Therefore, prayer matters, because there's someone listening."

Even the skeptics thought religion was important in forming virtuous citizens. Franklin donated toward building projects for various churches and a synagogue in Philadelphia. Many scholars believe the First Amendment created a sort of religious free market in which Christianity and other faiths have flourished to this day.

At speaking engagements, Frazer hands out a flyer with 12 points on why the Christian America view is dangerous for both church and state.

"It's mostly dangerous for Christianity," Frazer contends. By claiming people or ideas as Christian if they aren't, it "muddies the waters in terms of what Christianity is all about."

Landlords want to be paid for pandemic losses and hope to reach a deal with the Trump administration

By MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Just months into the pandemic, Matthew Haines, like landlords across the country, learned he was barred from evicting tenants who didn't pay their rent under a federal eviction moratorium that lasted almost a year — costing him and his investors over \$1 million.

Now, the 57-year-old Texan is hoping to get some relief.

Haines is among more than 1,500 property owners who filed a federal lawsuit arguing the moratorium enacted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention violated the Fifth Amendment by unlawfully denying them compensation. Plaintiffs range from those who lost thousands of dollars to one who lost over \$14.5 million.

After initially losing in the Court of Federal Claims in 2022, the plaintiffs won on appeal and are now in settlement discussions with the Justice Department. Landlords are hoping to recoup as much as \$1.5 billion — a fraction of what the industry lost.

"It's important for us to stand up when a group like the CDC unilaterally, functionally, decides that they have a right to oversee our business," said Haines, who owns three rental communities with 240 units in Arlington and Irving, Texas.

"What I hope that we will accomplish and, to some extent, we already have, is vindication for ourselves," he said. "But what's more important to me is that hopefully my investors will recover some of that money that they should have had coming in over the last six years."

The federal eviction moratorium lasted from September 2020 through July 2021, and was among the pandemic's most divisive policies. It ended after the Supreme Court ruled the CDC lacked authority to impose the ban without congressional authorization.

The Justice Department, responding to Associated Press questions about the landlords' case, said it does not comment on ongoing litigation.

Landlords say moratorium was bad for business

Moratoriums were also imposed in 43 states and scores of cities, which lasted longer than the federal ban because states and cities have broader regulatory powers than federal agencies like the CDC.

Landlords say the bans devastated their businesses. Unable to collect rent, many were forced to take on debt, lay off staff, delay repairs and, in some cases, sell their property. They say the impact lingers, with longer delays for evictions, tighter screening for riskier tenants and growing numbers of owners getting out of the rental business altogether.

Tenant advocates counter that eviction bans were a lifesaver. They credit them with keeping millions of tenants housed during the pandemic and slowing the spread of the coronavirus. They also argue landlords were already paid — in the form of tens of billions of dollars in rental assistance.

From the moment the pandemic hit, Haines said he knew he was in trouble: Many tenants lost their jobs, so he didn't require new leases and tried to be flexible with those who couldn't pay.

But when the moratorium took hold, it was the biggest threat he'd faced in 30 years in real estate.

"It was terrifying," Haines said. "We knew almost immediately that we were going to a massive deficit in cash flow that we probably weren't going to be able to cover."

A survey by the National Rental Home Council, a trade association, published weeks after the federal moratorium ended, found that half of small landlords had tenants who missed rent and a third sold or planned to sell properties. The moratorium and backlog of eviction cases cost owners \$57 billion, according to the lawsuit, with more than 10 million delinquent renters in just the ban's first four months.

"Public health measures like this, they may be well intentioned," said Creighton Magid, a lawyer for the plaintiffs. "But when the government imposes this type of moratorium, the financial burden should be borne by the government, not individual property owners."

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Liz Leone, who has 52 apartments in Las Vegas and is part of the lawsuit, said the moratorium almost forced her out of business. She lost over \$250,000, she said, and borrowed \$60,000 from the federal Small Business Administration "just to keep my nose above water." She's still paying it off.

"I was definitely questioning whether I would survive," said Leone, who's been in the business for 35 years. "You delay all the expenses you can, but we still had to pay our property taxes. We still have to pay our utilities. ... So that's what you did: I borrowed."

Moratorium prevented homelessness

Housing advocates maintain the policy kept families housed, noting a significant spike in evictions after the moratorium ended.

Eviction bans "were a powerful intervention to keep people in their homes," said Kathryn Leifheit, assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and lead author of a study published in April in the medical journal JAMA Network Open that found homelessness rose 11% in a typical state in 2022, and would have increased 20% without state eviction moratoriums.

That was the case for Dulcee Barnes. The 28-year-old and her two roommates lost their restaurant jobs in Miami during the pandemic. Two months behind on rent, they would have been evicted if not for the moratorium.

"It gave us breathing room. It took away the fear of having to possibly pack up within 24 hours and live in somebody's car or couch surfing," she said.

Landlords already got paid

Eric Dunn, director of litigation at the National Housing Law Project, a tenants' rights nonprofit, disputed that landlords suffered significant losses, saying they were able to collect rent and sell their properties during the moratorium.

They also benefited from \$46.5 billion in federal emergency rental assistance, which the Eviction Lab at Princeton University found in April was largely targeted to areas where landlords filed the most evictions before the pandemic.

Landlords said rental assistance never fully compensated them for their losses, contending programs were often mired in red tape and poorly run. States were slow to spend the money, struggled to set up programs and, in the case of Arkansas and Nebraska, didn't accept all federal funding.

Landlords also complained some tenants took advantage of the moratorium to live rent free. "They were doing things like buying cars," Leone said. "They didn't have to pay rent, and here I was driving a car that was 18 years old."

Lingering effects of moratorium

Despite the moratorium ending five years ago, landlords say fallout from the policy remains. They are taking fewer risks and being more cautious about renting to tenants with checkered rental histories.

Rick Jones, vice chairman of Management Services Corporation, which owns 4,000 apartment units in Virginia and is party to the lawsuit, said that's partly due to increasing fraud. Applicants fake employment records and payroll checks, he said, adding: "There are companies that just advertise really creating a whole new identity for you."

"Most property owners and managers realize that it's more important to keep that unit vacant than to put a bad resident in. That's probably what the eviction moratorium reinforced," said Jones, whose company lost more than \$230,000 in unpaid rent during the pandemic.

"When you have somebody that's bad and you can't get them out, you're helpless."

Haines said he's increased tenant screenings and turns away some low-income applicants he might have accepted before the pandemic. That's partly because evicting a tenant takes months longer than before the pandemic, he said.

"It's done more harm," he said, to low-income people "that we might have considered leasing an apartment to that now we simply can't take the risk."

Groton Daily Independent

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Today in History: May 4

Four killed during anti-war protest at Kent State University

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, May 4, the 124th day of 2026. There are 241 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On May 4, 1970, Ohio National Guardsmen opened fire on student demonstrators during an anti-war protest at Kent State University, killing four students and wounding nine others.

Also on this date:

In 1886, at Haymarket Square in Chicago, a labor demonstration for an 8-hour workday turned into a deadly riot when a bomb exploded, killing seven police officers and at least four civilians.

In 1904, the United States took over construction of the Panama Canal from France.

In 1942, the Battle of the Coral Sea, the first naval clash fought entirely with carrier aircraft, began in the Pacific during World War II. (The outcome was considered a tactical victory for Japan, but ultimately a strategic victory for the Allies.)

In 1961, the first group of "Freedom Riders" left Washington, D.C., to challenge racial segregation on interstate buses and in bus terminals.

In 1998, Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski was given four life sentences plus 30 years by a federal judge in Sacramento, California, under a plea agreement that spared him the death penalty.

In 2006, a federal judge sentenced Zacarias Moussaoui to life in prison for his role in the 9/11 attacks, telling the convicted terrorist, "you will die with a whimper."

In 2011, President Barack Obama said he had decided not to release death photos of Osama bin Laden because their graphic nature could incite violence and create national security risks. Officials told The Associated Press that the Navy SEALs who stormed bin Laden's compound in Pakistan shot and killed him after they saw him appear to reach for a weapon.

In 2023, former Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrio and three other members of the far-right extremist group were convicted of orchestrating a plot to attack the U.S. Capitol seeking to keep Donald Trump in power after the Republican lost the 2020 presidential election. (Tarrio was later sentenced to 22 years in prison but was pardoned by Trump when he began his second elected term in January 2025.)

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Ron Carter is 89. Pulitzer Prize-winning political commentator George Will is 85. Actor Richard Jenkins is 79. Country singer Randy Travis is 67. Comedian Ana Gasteyer is 59. Actor Will Arnett is 56. Basketball Hall of Famer Dawn Staley is 56. Rock musician Mike Dirnt (Green Day) is 54. Designer and TV personality Kimora Lee Simmons is 51. Sportscaster/TV host Erin Andrews is 48. Singer Lance Bass (NSYNC) is 47. Actor Ruth Negga is 45. Golfer Rory McIlroy is 37. Singer-songwriter Rex Orange County is 28. Actor Navia Robinson is 21. Soccer player Kenan Yildiz is 21.