

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 1 of 78

[1- Upcoming Events](#)  
[2- We the People Column: The State of War in Iran Demonstrates Need for Freedom of the Press](#)  
[3- Weber Landscaping Greenhouse Ad](#)  
[4- GHS Graduation held](#)  
[5- Weber Landscaping Greenhouse Ad](#)  
[6- EarthTalk: Koalas' Future](#)  
[7- Sunday Extras](#)  
[25- Gov. Rhoden's Weekly Column](#)  
[26- Thune's Weekly Column](#)  
[27- Rep. Dusty John's Column](#)  
[28- Rev. Snyder's Column](#)  
[30- South Dakota Average Gas Prices](#)  
[31- Drought Monitor](#)  
[32- SD SearchLight: Biden announced as keynote speaker for South Dakota Democratic event](#)  
[33- Weather Pages](#)  
[38- Daily Devotional](#)  
[39- Subscription Form](#)  
[40- Lottery Numbers](#)  
[41- News from the Associated Press](#)

## Sunday, May 17

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.  
St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m., at Zion, 11 a.m.  
United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Groton Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.  
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.  
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.  
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.  
Sign up for swimming lessons at the pool, 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
North Super Region High School Baseball Tournament

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

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## Monday, May 18

Senior Menu: Spanish Rice with hamburger, broccoli, fruit, vanilla pudding, whole wheat bread.  
School Breakfast: Cook's choice.  
School Lunch: Chicken strips, potato squares.  
Track at Warner, 9:30 a.m.  
NEC Girls Golf at Groton, 10 a.m.  
Softball at Redfield (JV at 4:30 p.m. followed by varsity)  
Pickleball at Elementary Gym, 5:30 p.m.  
JVT Practice at Arena, 7 p.m.  
Senior Citizens meet at Community Center, potluck at noon.  
Sign up for swimming lessons and pass pre-sale at the pool, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.  
St. John's Lutheran: Christian Literature Circle, 7:30 p.m.  
North Super Region High School Baseball Tournament

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 2 of 78

*We the People*

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



By David Adler

## The State of War in Iran Demonstrates Need for Freedom of the Press

Since the beginning of the Iran War, the Trump Administration has been clear in its view that news organizations have an obligation to report developments as characterized by governmental officials. It's part of what Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth has said is the duty of a "patriotic press." President Donald Trump's frequent attacks on media for stories questioning the progress of the war, framed as "Fake News" by "Corrupt Media Outlets" that hate America, reflect his contempt for a free and independent press as well as reporting of facts that undermine his narrative that the war is going "very well."

President Trump, as readers know, has engaged in an unrelenting campaign against media organizations since his first term in office. He has called reporters "human scum," and attacked the press in general as "enemies of the people," typical tripe uttered by other authoritarian leaders who despise freedom of the press. A free press, after all, is the worst nightmare for an authoritarian leader who fears scrutiny, investigation and, most of all, factual reporting. Yet, freedom of the press is essential to the rights and liberties of citizens in a constitutional democracy.

President Trump's increasingly intemperate criticisms of the press, however, have reached a fever pitch. In a Truth Social Post on May 13, Trump accused media outlets of committing "treason" for reports that Iran is doing well, militarily, against the United States and Israel. The administration's portrayal of a decimated Iranian military is belied by what Trump's own intelligence agencies have told policymakers behind closed doors. According to classified assessments, Iran has regained access to most of its missile sites, launchers and underground facilities. Apparently, Iran has restored operational access to 30 of the 33 missile sites it maintains along the Strait of Hormuz, which it could use to threaten American warships and oil tankers transiting the waterway. Iran also has features 70 percent of its mobile launchers across the country and 70 percent of its prewar missile stockpile.

These intelligence reports are not at all consistent with the characterizations of Iran's military standing from Trump officials who have said that Iran is "no longer a threat" because its military has been "decimated." And let's be clear about the administration's blatant misrepresentation of the state of the war. Trump and Hegseth are informed about the trajectory of the war by the same intelligence agencies that have informed policymakers behind closed doors. They are not independent observers or collectors of information about the status of war by means beyond reports from the intelligence agencies. This means, of course, that they are choosing to offer a false narrative, one that is not commensurate with the facts on the ground.

American citizens, indeed, the very taxpayers who are footing the bill for Trump's war of choice, now listed at \$29 billion and climbing, are rightly distressed about the administration's portrayal of the war. Recent polls show that 60 percent of Americans disapprove of Trump's war. And why not? At a moment when gasoline prices have skyrocketed and food prices are rising daily, and inflation increased nearly four percent in April, American families are coming to grips with the fact that Trump's unilateral decision to initiate war against Iran has come at a very high cost. The end of the war is not in sight and economic



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 3 of 78

conditions will continue to worsen.

When Congress in 1789 drafted the First Amendment, with a special emphasis on the importance of freedom of the press, members did so because they knew that the citizenry required news gathered and reported, by a free and independent press. History was fraught with episodes of governmental censorship. A people who intended to govern themselves by being active participants in the newly minted republic could not be reduced to dependence on governmental officials eager to spin a false narrative to control public opinion. This remains particularly true about the course of events in wartime. At this juncture, when there is no clear exit strategy from the war in Iran, press reports built on facts, including those supplied by US intelligence agencies, are more important than ever. The reports are a critical way for the electorate to hold governmental officials accountable for their actions and their growing list of misrepresentations.

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# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 4 of 78



**Graffiti was released at the end of the 133rd Annual Groton School Commencement Ceremony held yesterday.**



**The 2026 GHS seniors pose for one last group photo at Groton Area.**



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 5 of 78



ABERDEEN, SD | EST. 2011

WEBER LANDSCAPING  
GREENHOUSE

# FOOD TRUCK

TTT GRILL & CATERING



20  
MAY

10:45<sub>AM</sub> - 3:00<sub>PM</sub>



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## EARTHTALK

### See Them While You Can: Australia's Koalas May Have Less Than 30 Years Left by Dora Zhao

Dear EarthTalk: How are Australia's koalas doing these days?

—M.M., Wilmington, DE

Koalas are facing a serious risk of extinction within the next few decades. Experts warn that without urgent action; these beloved animals could disappear from Australia in just 20–30 years. Populations have already crashed due to major events like the 2019 Black Summer Bushfires, which killed thousands and destroyed large areas of their natural habitat. Once widespread across the eastern and southern coasts, koalas have suffered drastic population declines, with fewer than 64,000 koalas left in the wild.



Habitat loss is one of the biggest threats. Rapid urban expansion and agricultural development are replacing the eucalyptus that koalas rely on for food and shelter. Fragmented habitats make it difficult for koalas to find mates, reproduce successfully and maintain healthy populations. As their living space shrinks, they are forced into areas with greater human presence, exposing them to additional dangers.

Climate change is also worsening the situation. Rising temperatures, prolonged droughts and frequent bushfires are destroying food sources and drying up water supplies. Eucalyptus leaves, which make up almost the entire koala diet, are becoming less nutritious and more toxic under extreme climate stress. With fewer healthy trees to feed from, koalas grow weaker and more prone to disease. Bushfires like in 2019 destroy thousands of hectares of forest, killing countless koalas and leaving others with severely reduced habitats. Human-related and biological issues further threaten koalas. Disease spreads more easily and can cause blindness, infertility and death. Road strikes and domestic dog attacks are also problematic.

Conservation programs are trying to help koalas. "When we look at koala conservation...we need to take a holistic approach because disease and environmental factors are linked," said Dr. Michaela Blyton of The University of Queensland. The Wild Koala Conservation Breeding Program at Guulabaa, run along with the Taronga Conservation Society, focuses on breeding healthy wild koalas. By using natural forested enclosures, joeys can stay with their mothers for about 12 months before being released into carefully chosen wild habitats. This program aims to boost wild populations and maintain genetic diversity.

These efforts are critical to rebuilding wild populations and securing the species' future. Released koalas are scientifically monitored for health, survival and reproduction to ensure long-term success. With stronger habitat protection, climate resilience measures, and community involvement, experts believe koalas can recover. If Australians commit to restoring forests, reducing land clearing and supporting conservation efforts, future generations may still hear the soft grunts of wild koalas echoing through eucalyptus trees!



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 7 of 78



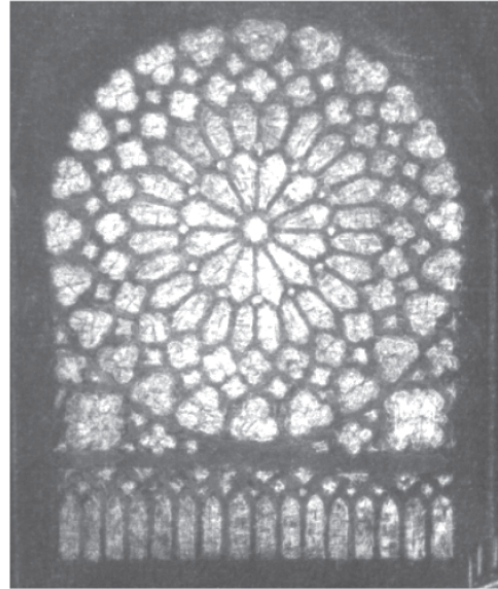
## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

“I am the rose of Sharon,  
and the lily of the valleys.”

“Like a lily among thorns,  
so is my love among the daughters.”

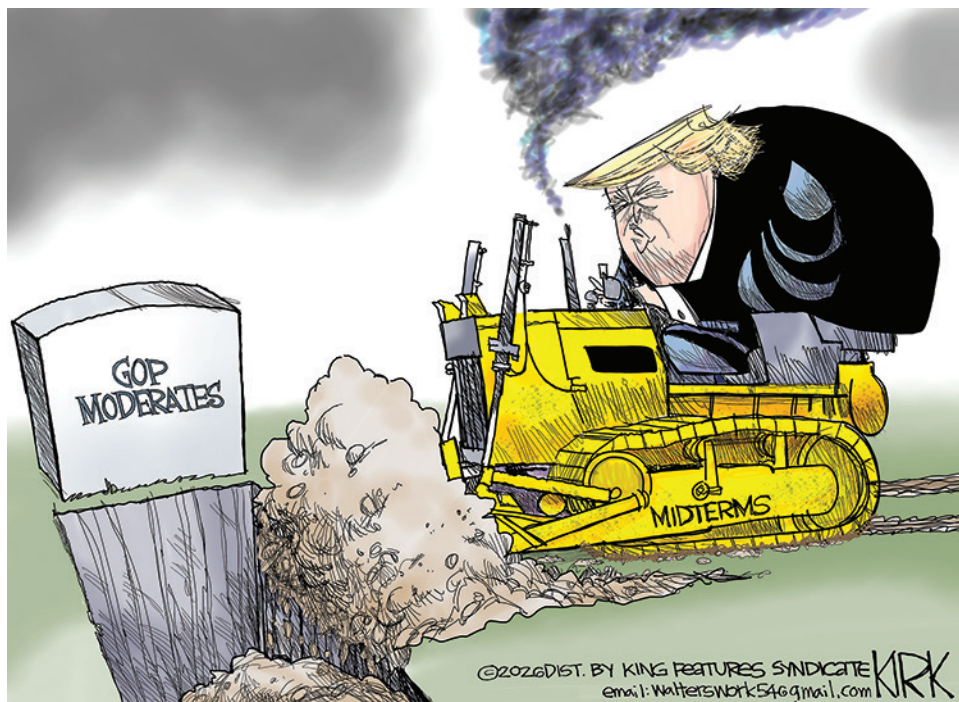
“Like an apple tree among  
the trees of the woods,  
so is my beloved  
among the sons.”

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:1-3



*Detail of “Rosette in Notre Dame”  
by T.F. Simon (1877-1942)*

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## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 2 Timothy (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. From Ruth 1, who called herself Marah, a name meaning “bitter”?  
*Priscilla, Miriam, Naomi, Deborah*

3. What did Malachi say the people of Judah were stealing from God?  
*Servants, Unrighteous miracles, Holy Grail, Owed tithes*

4. Which was a city of Ephraim and home of the Ark of the Covenant? *Ai, Sardis, Gaza, Shiloh*

5. What Old Testament word means “anointed”? *Bishop, Messiah, Jehovah, Salvation*

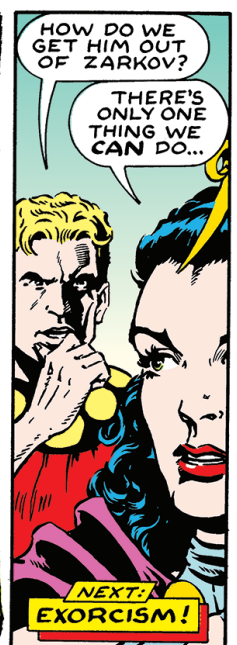
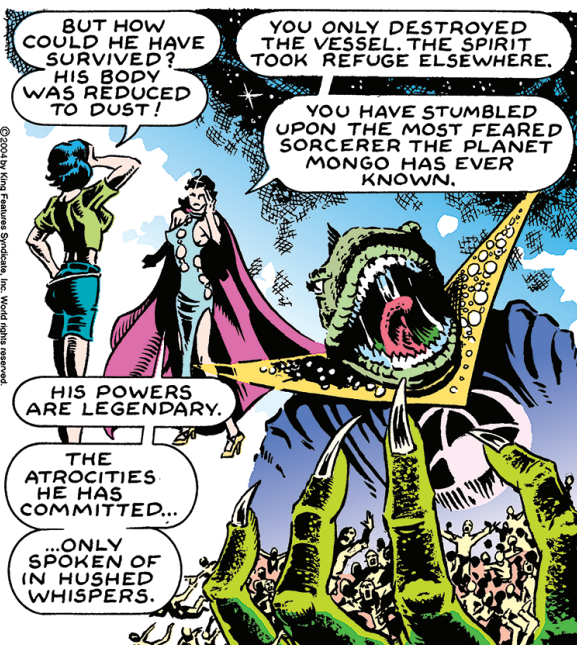
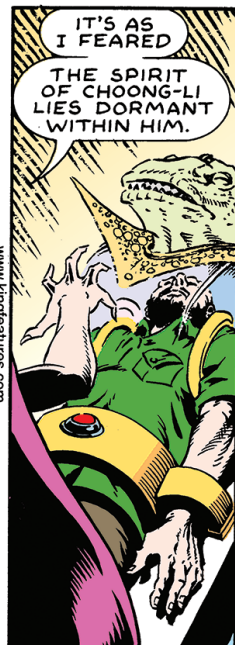
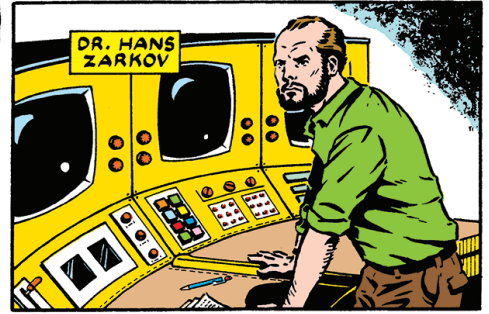
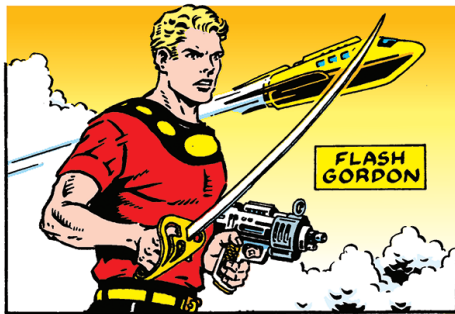
6. Ahasuerus was also known as ...  
*Noadiah, Agrippa, Joash, Xerxes*

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Naomi, 3) Owed tithes, 4) Shiloh, 5) Messiah, 6) Xerxes

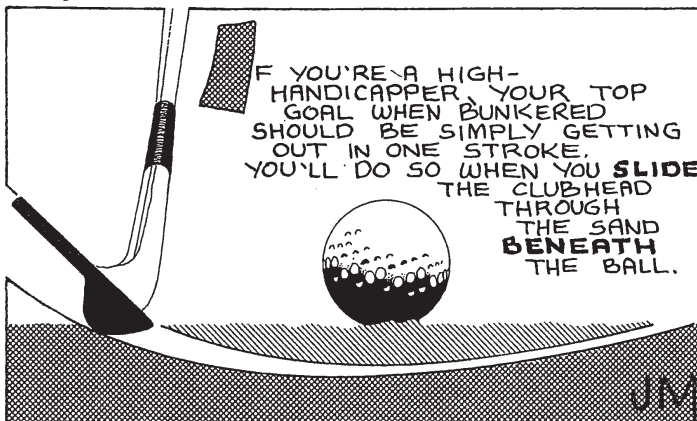
*Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy). FREE TRIAL!*

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 9 of 78



## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 10 of 78



## How Laws Prevent Doctors From Receiving Perks off the Books

DEAR DR. ROACH: Your recent column said that the law prohibits doctors from getting money from prescriptions. However, they get perks from pharma reps like dinner, golf, etc., and many push supplements on TV. Many "doctors" across the country make their income from prescribing supplements to patients for chronic fatigue syndrome or COVID. -- D.K.

ANSWER: There are statutes that prevent physicians from directly profiting from prescribing certain medications. The Stark Law prevents doctors from referring their patients to entities where the physician has a financial interest. The Federal Anti-Kickback Statute prevents any remuneration (including not only cash but dinners, trips, flights on private planes, and

anything else of value) for referrals or for generating business of any sort that is payable by Medicare or Medicaid. While it's possible that some physicians may be doing so illegally, the potential penalties include large fines and prison time.

However, drug companies do sponsor educational meetings, which often include free food and travel. They also pay the speaker's fees for the lecturers. By law, these payments must be disclosed, and Medicare allows the public to look up these payments by the individual provider, teaching hospital or drug company (OpenPaymentsData.CMS.gov). As I believe that these meetings do have the potential for conflicts of interest, I don't participate, but many physicians do. Medical ethics guidelines don't permit the acceptance of cash gifts.

A recent research letter in the Journal of the American Medical Association used the previously mentioned website to identify \$1.28 billion in industry payments to physicians. The median general internist received \$30 in payments, but the top 0.1% of orthopedic surgeons received an average of \$4.8 million each over the 10-year duration of the study.

I also don't agree with physicians who make an income through advertising, marketing, or directly selling supplements (in office or through their website). To me, there's a clear conflict of interest in doing so. Physicians are supposed to put their patients' interests above their own (including financial interests).

\*\*\*

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have recently been diagnosed with pan-disaccharidase deficiency. I was referred to a dietitian. She was familiar with the disorder but never actually had a patient with it. I've been relying on AI for advice. Where do I turn? -- M.K.

ANSWER: Most people have heard of lactose intolerance, which is caused by the loss of the enzyme lactase. Lactose is a type of sugar that is found in milk, and it's a disaccharide, meaning that it's two simple sugars put together (in this case, glucose and galactose). The body has an easy time dealing with simple one-ring sugars, but some people don't have the enzyme to break the disaccharide into its two components.

There are three other major disaccharides (sucrose, maltose and palatinose), and all of them need to be broken down into two. There are also deficiencies in the enzymes that break down each of them. A person with pan-disaccharidase deficiency lacks all the enzymes to break down disaccharides, so this person will have more symptoms such as abdominal pain, bloating, diarrhea and weight loss.

The hardest part of managing a pan-disaccharidase deficiency is making the diagnosis. One critical person to help you manage these symptoms is a registered dietitian who has extensive training. Even if your dietitian hasn't seen this rare condition before, she should be able to help nonetheless. Of course, a dietitian who does have experience with this deficiency is ideal, but I still recommend a trained human being who can confirm or refute the advice that is given to you by AI.

While there are sucrase and lactase tablets, there aren't enzyme replacements available for maltase and palatinase, so dietary restriction is the key to treatment.

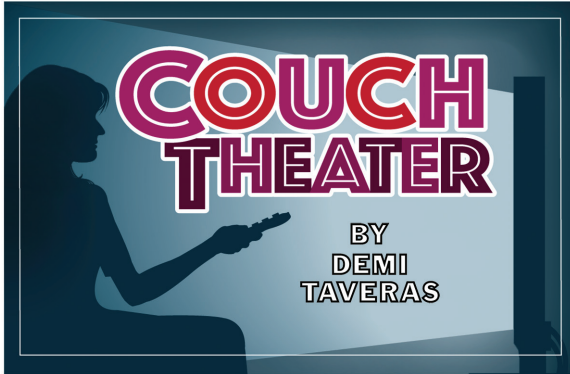
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).

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# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 11 of 78



"Project Hail Mary" (PG-13) -- This sci-fi film starring Ryan Gosling ("The Actor") became the second highest-grossing film of the year, pulling in \$656.3 million at the box office. It's now available to rent and buy on demand following its successful



## Bob Odenkirk stars in "Normal."

(Courtesy of MovieStillsDB)

theatrical run, which should make a lot of fans happy now that they can watch Grace and Rocky in action from the comfort of their homes! Originally a novel written by Andy Weir, the film follows middle school science teacher Ryland Grace (Gosling), who gets the opportunity of a lifetime to go on a one-way space flight for research that could potentially save humanity. The catch is that he wakes up on the interstellar spacecraft without his crew -- and with amnesia. Luckily, he encounters a friendly alien named Rocky, and together the two fight to get the other back to their home planet. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Ladies First" (R) -- Inspired by the French film "I Am Not an Easy Man," this comedy film premiering May 22 flips the patriarchy on its head by asking, "What if the power dynamics between men and women were reversed?" Sacha Baron Cohen ("Balls Up") stars as a chauvinistic executive who gets bonked on the head after walking into a pole. Upon awakening, he realizes that he's somehow transported himself into a matriarchal alternate reality. A woman who originally was his subordinate (Rosamund Pike) is now his boss; he suddenly lives alone in a smaller apartment with a cat; and he gets told by women to smile as he walks down the street. The only way for him to exit this reality is to change his misogynistic ways. Now, if you'll excuse me, I'll be outside trying to find a pole ... (Netflix)

"Normal" (R) -- This action/comedy film is led by Bob Odenkirk ("Better Call Saul"), who co-wrote the story alongside screenwriter Derek Kolstad. Odenkirk plays Ulysses, an interim sheriff who gets hired to serve the fictional town of Normal, Minnesota. Shortly after Ulysses starts the job, a robbery occurs at the local bank, whereupon he finds out that Normal's law enforcement is corrupt and connected to a Japanese criminal operation. Little did Ulysses know that a small town could hold such dark conspiracies within its buildings, but it's now up to him to invoke the law. Look out for Henry Winkler ("American Horror Stories") and Lena Headey ("Ballistic"), who star as important townsfolk. It's available to rent starting May 19. (Apple TV+)

"In the City" (TV-MA) -- The spin-off of the Bravo reality series "Summer House" hits streaming this week with its pilot episode premiering on May 20! Naturally, fans will tune in to see some of their favorite cast members, like Kyle Cooke and Lindsay Hubbard, navigate their daily lives in New York City, rather than the Hamptons where they vacation and shoot "Summer House." CEO and founder (of what?) Danielle Olivera is back again on the Bravo network, this time starring alongside her boyfriend/hotelier Eoin Heavey. Meanwhile, Andrea Denver from season six of "Summer House" also makes his return for the spin-off, with his wife, Lexi Sundin, joining the cast as well. Hopefully this episode holds off Bravo fans until the long-awaited "Summer House" reunion! (Peacock)

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# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 12 of 78



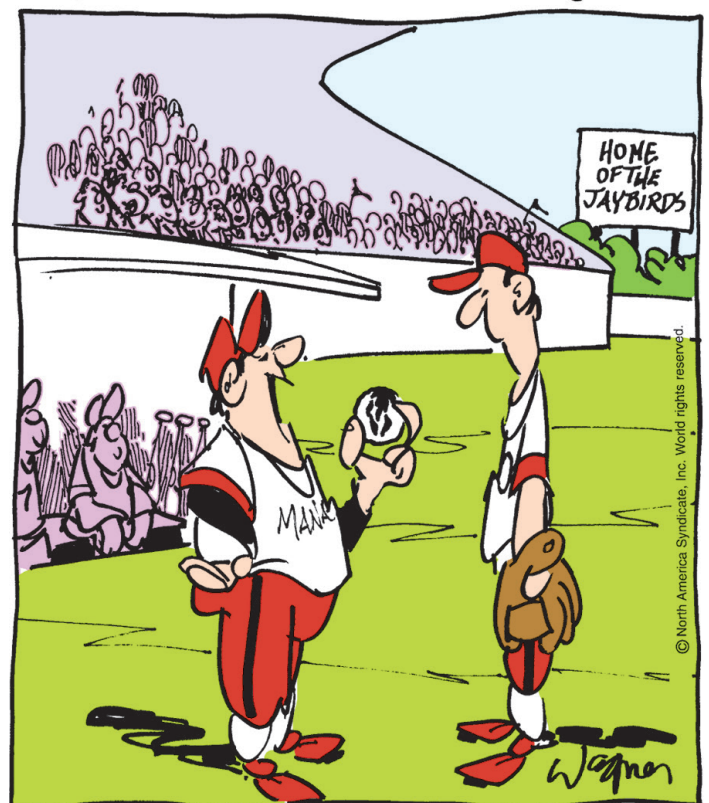
1. Who released the most successful version of "Teen Angel"?
2. Who was John Henry Deutschendorf Jr?
3. Name Kris Kristofferson's only No. 1 chart-topper.
4. Who wrote and released "Wild World"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I've traveled far, the land and the sea, Beautiful places I happened to be, One little town I'll never forget."

Answers

1. Mark Dinning, in 1959. Many radio stations tried to ban the teen tragedy song from airplay, but Dinning's version managed to climb the charts anyway, ending up as No. 1 on the Hot 100. It was used in the "American Graffiti" film in 1973.
2. John Denver. He died in 1997 when his plane crashed into Monterey Bay. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) later concluded that the crash was a result of Denver not switching fuel tanks.
3. "Why Me Lord," in 1973 on the country chart.
4. Cat Stevens, in 1970.
5. "The Village of St. Bernadette," by Andy Williams, in 1960. Bernadette Soubirous, also known as Bernadette of Lourdes, was a French girl who experienced apparitions that asked her to have a chapel built in a cave.

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**GRIN and BEAR IT** *Wagner*



"Nice try, Lank, but painting flames on the ball doesn't make it go faster."

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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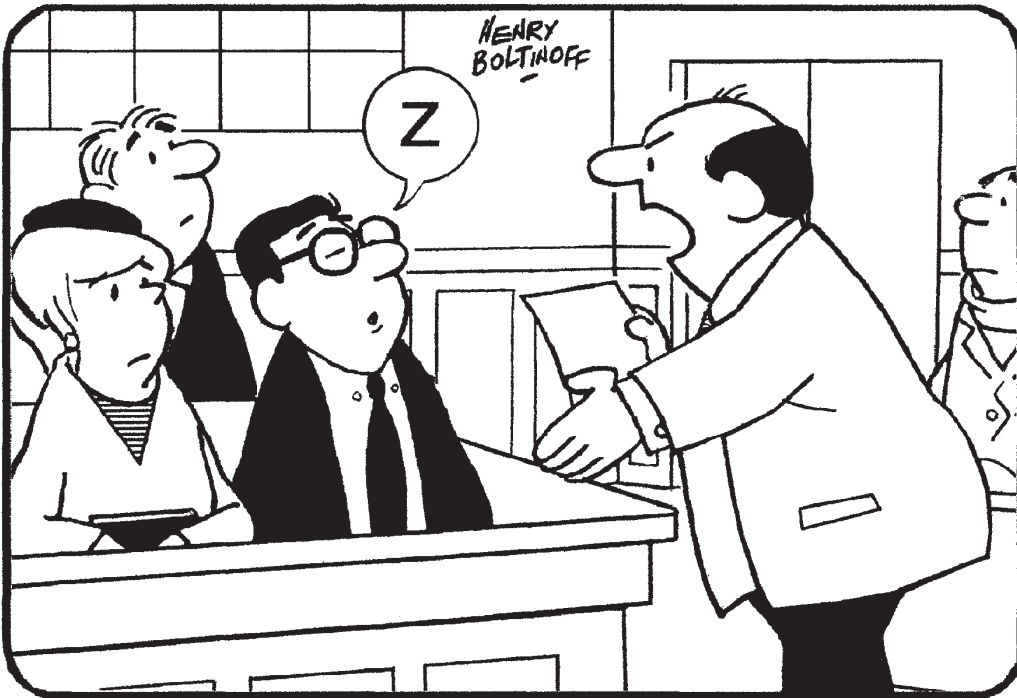
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# Groton Daily Independent

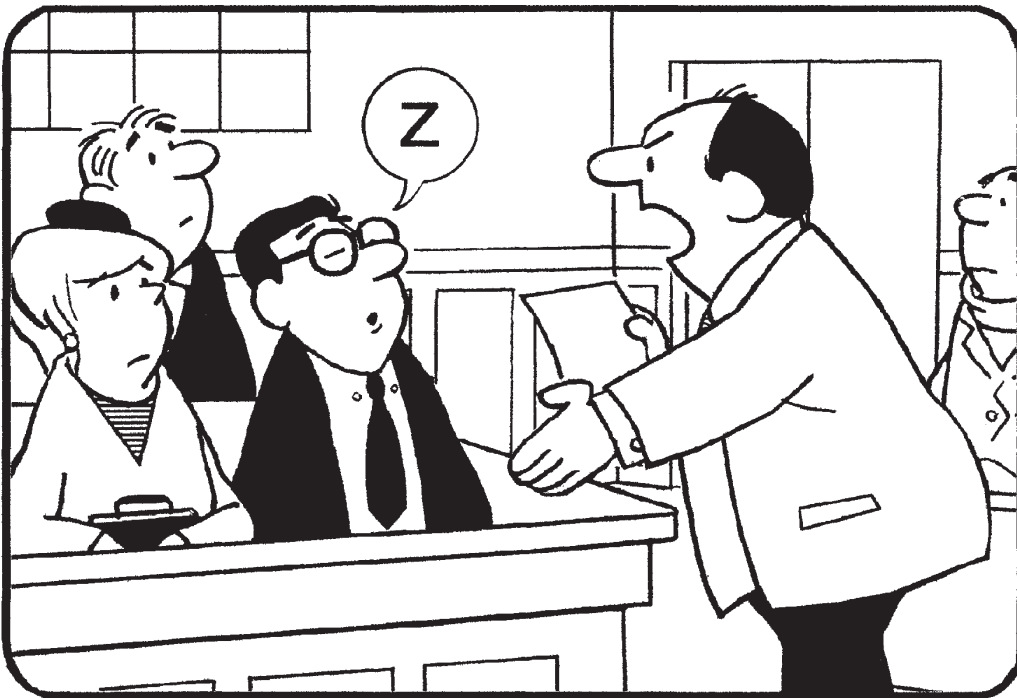
**Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 13 of 78**

# HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



**Find at least six differences in details between panels.**



Differences: 1. Tie is different. 2. Hat is smaller. 3. Handle is added to purse. 4. Window is not as wide. 5. Man has more hair. 6. Arm is longer.

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# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 14 of 78



\* Need a patch for old woodwork? Try mixing paint (whatever color you are using) and flour. Make a paste, fill in the holes and let dry. It's hard like cement, and can be sanded into shape if necessary.

\* When you get near the end of a roll of paper towels, save it to put in your car. Put together a kit to keep in the car with the following items: a small bottle of Windex or other cleaner, a squeeze bottle of water, some wet wipes and the short roll of paper towels. You will always be ready for a quick on-the-road cleanup.

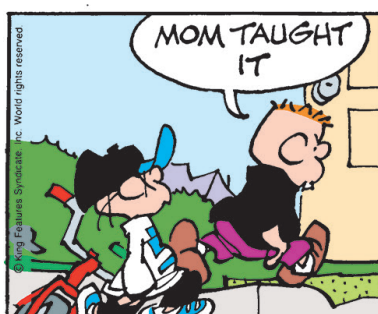
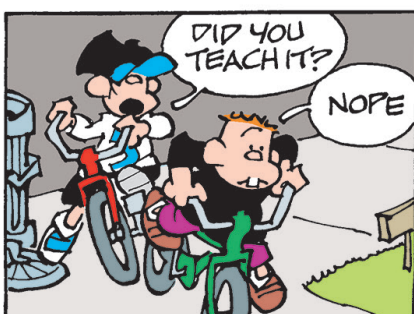
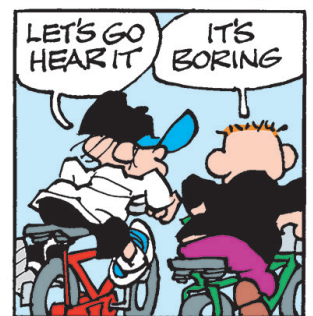
\* You can use baking soda to scrub away stuck-on food on your grill. Sprinkle it on the metal brush, and scrub away. If your grate is beyond the power of fire and baking soda, remove it and lay it on the ground on some newspaper. Spray with oven cleaner and let sit (keep pets and kids away from it). Rinse with a garden hose and replace on the grill.

\* "I have a plastic cup that changes color when the drink is hot. Oddly enough, it changes at the perfect temperature for a baby's bath. So, I fill the tub and toss in the cup. When the cup starts to change back to its original color (blue), I know the bathwater is not too hot." -- P. in Idaho

\* Sprinkle baby powder in dish gloves to help them slide on in an instant.

\* "To remove muffins or rolls from a pan, set it on an old, damp towel for a minute. The steam must loosen the bottoms, because they just slide right out. I thank my mom for this tip." -- Janey R. via email  
Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 1800 Pembroke Dr., Suite 300, Orlando, FL 32810.  
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## TIGER



by BUD BLAKE

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 15 of 78

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Detox center  
6 Gives up  
12 Swiss metropolis  
13 Unexpected  
14 Ingratiate  
15 Stahl of "60 Minutes"  
16 Disposition  
17 "La — Bonita"  
19 Casual shirt  
20 Third son  
22 Capote nick-name  
24 Canine greeting  
27 Furnace fuel  
29 Branches  
32 President of South Africa, 1994-1999  
35 Pronto  
36 Monumental  
37 Half dozen  
38 Fannie —  
40 Former Laker Lamar  
42 Sashimi fish  
44 Neatnik's nightmare  
46 Jazzy James  
50 Legislative group  
52 Camelot king  
54 Aerie new-born  
55 Organize an art show

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50			51				52	53				
54							55					
56							57					

- 56 Pueblo structures  
57 Recognizes  
**DOWN**  
1 Nevada city  
2 Within (Pref.)  
3 Obeys  
4 "Selma" director DuVernay  
5 Male singing voice  
6 Humpty's perch  
7 Skip — (flutter)  
8 Tax-collecting org.  
9 Birds of prey  
10 Duel tool  
11 Ocular woe  
12 Tiara jewel  
18 Rug cleaner  
21 — -friendly  
23 "Awesome, dude!"  
24 Navarro of "The View"  
25 Scale members  
26 Pink wading bird  
28 Relaxed  
30 Roman 1051  
31 Coltrane's instrument  
33 Aromatherapy spot  
34 Sgt., e.g.  
39 Lauder of cosmetics  
41 Paris subway  
42 Cruising  
43 Lettuce unit  
45 Reply to "Shall we?"  
47 Spring meltdown  
48 Mild rebukes  
49 "How — you?"  
51 Cleric's tunic  
53 Scamper



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 16 of 78

## King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

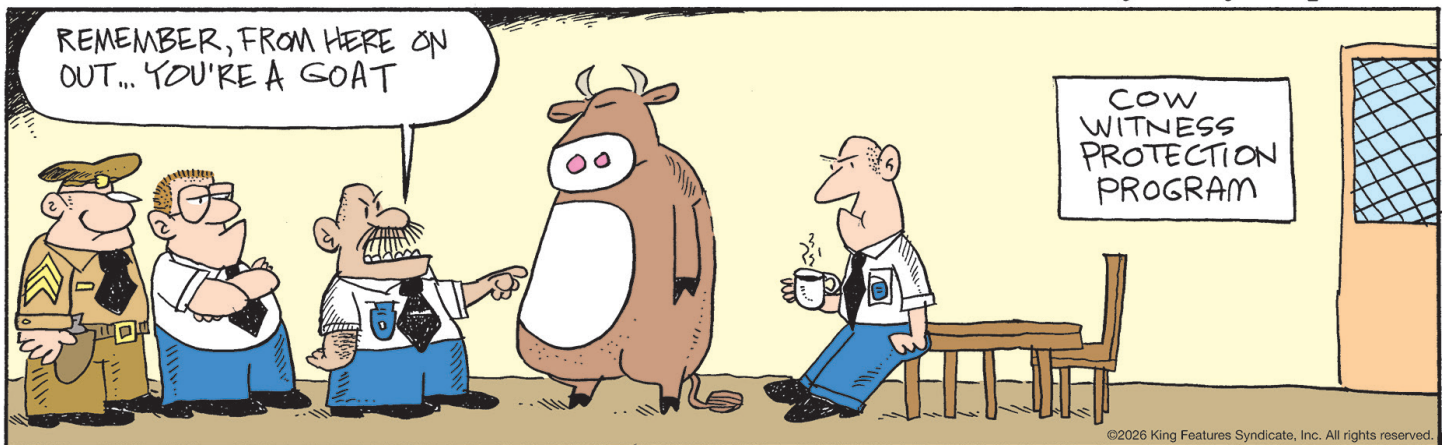
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Olive



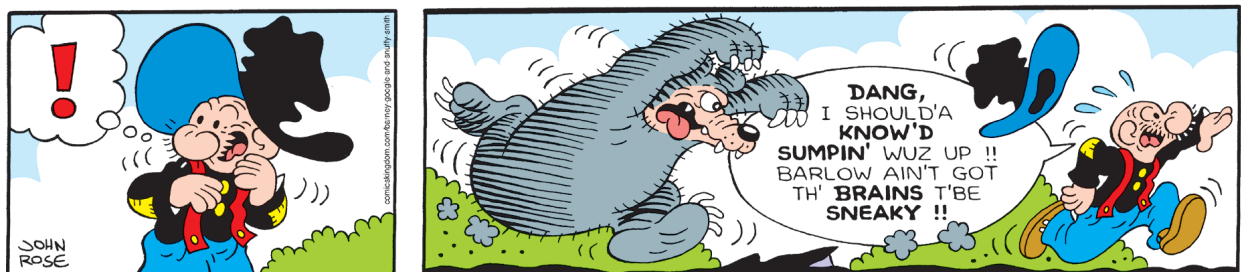
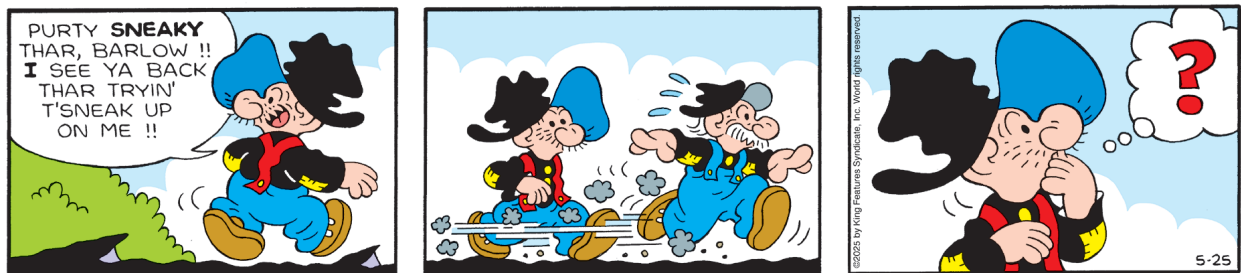
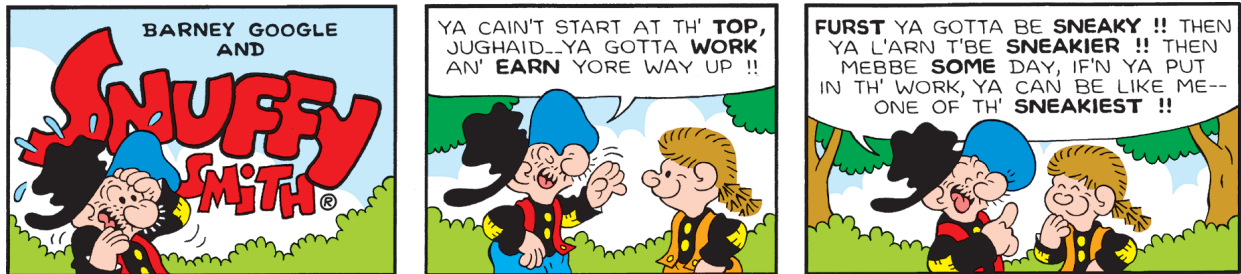
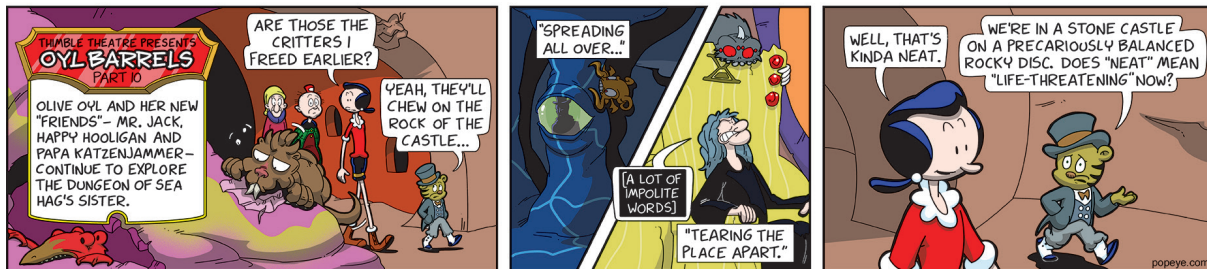
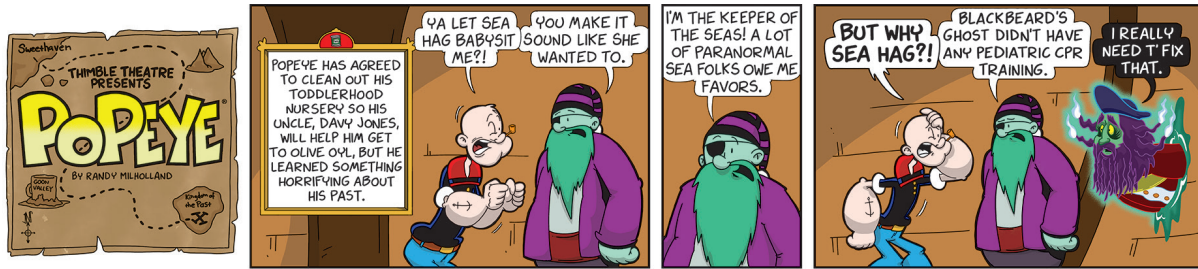
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 17 of 78





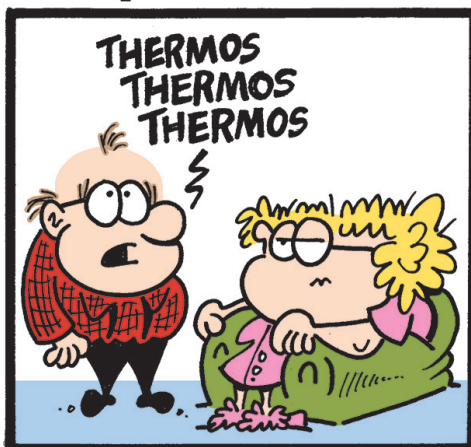
# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 18 of 78

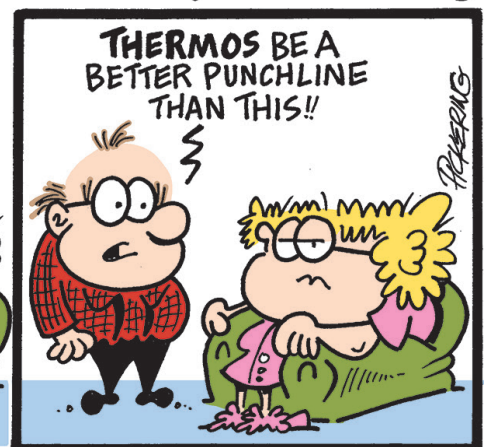
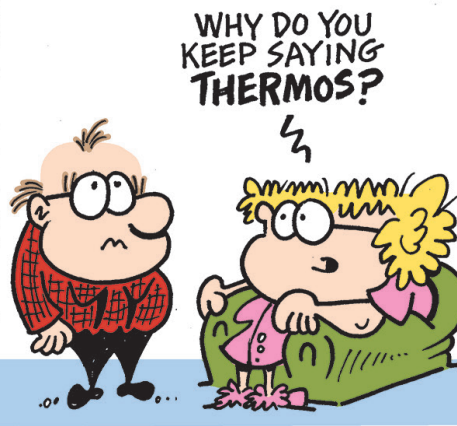


## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 19 of 78

## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Recalls to note

Once again we have a long list of recent recalls, ranging from food to medical appliances to dog treats. In a recent month, the number of recalls jumped up 44%. And for our own safety, we need to pay attention. Here are just a few:

A blood glucose monitoring system left a tiny piece of information out of the user manual: If the monitor gives an E-5 error code at the same time the user has symptoms of high glucose, get immediate medical attention.

An anti-anxiety medication was recalled for failure to dissolve, potentially making them ineffective.

A drug manufacturer was flagged for not having "good manufacturing practices" and had 40 drugs recalled, ranging from blood pressure to cholesterol drugs.

Then there is the long list of snack mixes that tested positive for salmonella, distributed under different names at different stores. With 2027 expiration dates, it's possible these snacks are still on home shelves.

And continuing that theme, we have salmonella in pork rinds, beverage mixes, frozen pizza, dog treats, hot cocoa mix and potato chips.

Then there are all the undeclared ingredients that make their way into our foods: undeclared almonds in cream cheese, egg in a dietary supplement, milk in iced tea and fruit punch, hazelnuts in candy, milk in potato chips and wheat in BBQ sauce.

Even more serious, we have pesticide in soup mix, toxins in baby formula, microbial contamination in alcohol prep pads and chloroform in nail polish remover. And metal in ground beef.

To keep track of recalls, spend an hour once a week looking at the government website that covers all the various recalls: [www.recalls.gov](http://www.recalls.gov). You can sign up for email notices in any or all of the categories they cover.

As an alternate to the government sites, keep an eye on [www.health.com](http://www.health.com) and put "recalls" in the search box.

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# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 20 of 78

1. Two soccer players combined to win 10 Ballon d'Or awards between 2008 and 2017. Who are they?

2. Between Hockey Hall of Fame brothers Phil and Tony Esposito, who has more Stanley Cup championships as a player?

3. Psychologist Dr. Joyce Brothers won the top prize on TV game show "The \$64,000 Question" in 1955 by displaying her vast knowledge of what sport?

4. Who compiled a 13-15 regular season record as head coach of the NFL's New York Giants from 2016 to 2017?

5. Former University of Oregon Ducks women's basketball star Sabrina Ionescu holds the NCAA Division I record for career triple-doubles with how many?

6. A Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2018 wide receiver shares a name with a horse racing handicapper/analyst. What's their name?

7. At the 1963 Phoenix Open, which golfer inspired the 1964 "10-second rule" change in the Rules of Golf after he waited seven minutes for a ball on the edge of the hole to drop?



by Ryan A. Berenz

## Answers

1. Argentina's Lionel Messi and Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo.

2. Phil, with two (1970, 1972). Tony has one (1969).

3. Boxing.

4. Ben McAdoo.

5. 26.

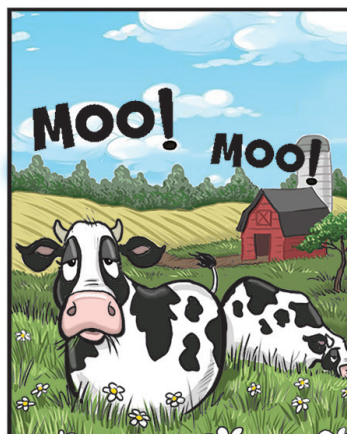
6. Randy Moss.

7. Don January.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 21 of 78



## Think your dog doesn't need a leash? Think again!

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: On long hikes in the woods behind my house, I let my dog run off leash. Yesterday, a neighbor ran up yelling that I need to put "Skip" on a leash, because it's dangerous for my dog in bear country. I told him where to shove it. What do you think?  
-- Carl in Asheville, North Carolina

DEAR CARL: This is a sensitive topic for some pet owners, but keeping your pet on leash can keep them safe -- as well as local wildlife, other hikers and their pets.

If your dog is well-trained, instantly returns when calls and stays within visual range while you're hiking, that might be a different matter. However, I have rarely met

an owner in the U.S. who trains their dog so well.

Your neighbor is right: You're in black bear country, and while most bears prefer to leave when a big yappy dog bounds into their view, some may get aggressive. What's even more likely is that your dog will run into another dog out in the woods, or another person. Loose dogs make many people nervous, and an interaction that you consider to be innocent or harmless could cause a lot of grief. Say their dog lunges at your dog, and their owner falls or gets between them. You could be looking at a lawsuit, even if there are no leash requirements in those particular woods.

Make life easier for yourself and Skip and keep him on a leash. Reinforce his basic obedience training as well, just in case he escapes your grasp.

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

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# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 22 of 78

## Strange BUT TRUE

\* John Wycliffe's first translation of the Bible from Latin Vulgate into English so angered the Catholic Church (because it bypassed priests) that it had his corpse exhumed and burned.

\* A year on Neptune lasts approximately 165 Earth years.

\* For six months, filmmakers Jenny Rustemeyer and Grant Baldwin survived on food salvaged from dumpsters, finding so much that friends were invited to help them consume it, and recorded their experience in "Just Eat It: A Food Waste Story."

\* The Hopi consider the Grand Canyon to be the gateway to the afterlife.

\* Polar bear mamas gain around 400 pounds during pregnancy. If the mother doesn't double her weight, her body will simply reabsorb the fetus.

\* Research has suggested that when a twin engages in criminal activity, it increases the likelihood that the other twin will do the same.

\* The orbicularis oris muscle allows lips to pucker for a kiss.

\* Words in tonal languages such as Mandarin and Hmong can have up to eight meanings, depending on their tone and pitch.

\* Zeng Jinlian, of China, holds the world record for tallest woman in history, measuring an astounding 8 feet 1 3/4 inches tall -- more than a foot taller than basketball star Shaquille O'Neal.

\* Globally, male babies are 25% more likely to die in infancy than girls.



\* In December 1955, artist Salvador Dali borrowed a friend's Rolls Royce, filled it to the roof with cauliflower, and drove it to the Sorbonne in Paris, where he delivered a lecture titled "Phenomenological Aspects of the Paranoiac Critical Method."

\* The Leaning Tower of Pisa was already sinking on one side when the second floor was added.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "Work eight hours and sleep eight hours, and make sure that they are not the same eight hours." -- T. Boone Pickens

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If you choose to propagate wild violet plants, divide an established "clump" in spring or fall by gently separating the rooted stems from each other within the group, then replant them separately. Also, their seeds can be collected and sown in the fall, if you desire spring blooms. Other than watering following planting, and occasional watering throughout the growing season, wild violets require very little care. Their foliage is occasionally affected by spider mites in dry weather.

– Brenda Weaver

Source: [gardeningknowhow.com](http://gardeningknowhow.com)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 23 of 78



by Freddy Groves

## Reducing veteran suicide rates

The VA has gone a long way toward addressing the epidemic of veteran suicide. Just recently they reported that they've now set a record for the number of veteran suicide prevention screenings and evaluations completed.

In one recent month alone, of all veterans who'd received VA care over the past year, 88% had an annual suicide risk screening.

Of those veterans who were at risk for suicide, 96% had a comprehensive evaluation and a support plan put in place within 24 hours.

It hasn't always been this way. Statistics were grim in the past: 60% of veteran suicides weren't getting VA care.

In 2024 the VA's Office of Inspector General issued a report showing that there had been a systemic failure to follow up with veterans at risk for suicide. After a national review of the VA's suicide risk screening and evaluation training, as well as adherence to the program and oversight, they concluded that staff training for suicide prevention screening was severely lacking.

For one thing, not all staff were trained in using the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (aka Risk ID). Not only does the scale identify people at risk, but also the severity level and how to interpret it. The big problem, it seems, was that while the training was available, it was optional. Additionally, there was no system to follow up to ensure staff had taken the training.

The VA OIG made several recommendations, and apparently those are working.

One positive step the VA has taken is to connect with veterans who haven't been enrolled in VA health care. Now, in 2026, they've enrolled over 125,000 veterans -- who will get the risk evaluations.

If you're in trouble (or know a veteran who is), reach out to the Veterans Crisis Line. People are there 24/7. Just dial 988 and Press 1. Or text 838255. Or chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net). You don't need to be receiving VA health care or benefits to get help.

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# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 24 of 78

## Wishing Well®

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

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

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1. FOOD & DRINK: When fish eggs are served as food, what are they called?

2. LITERATURE: Which Dr. Seuss book about trying new foods has a character called Sam-I-Am?

3. GEOGRAPHY: What is the most populated country in Africa?

4. U.S. STATES: Which state's nickname is The Pine Tree State?

5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What kind of animal produces mohair?

6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many times does a standard dinner fork have?

7. FOOD & DRINK: In what year was Kool-Aid introduced?

8. TELEVISION: Which animated TV show features a baby named Stewie?

9. MOVIES: What is the name of the character played by John Travolta in "Saturday Night Fever"?

10. SCIENCE: What is a googol?

### Answers

1. Roe.

2. "Green Eggs and Ham."

3. Nigeria.

4. Maine.

5. Angora goats.

6. Four.

7. 1927.

8. "Family Guy."

9. Tony Manero.

10. The digit "1" followed by 100 zeroes.

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# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 25 of 78

South Dakota Governor



**Larry Rhoden**



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

## Reflections on Leadership

I have been blessed to serve in many leadership capacities in my life. Even after serving in the South Dakota National Guard, Majority Leader in the State Legislature, or as Lt. Governor and now Governor, there is still much to learn. My service to our state has afforded me even more exposure to leaders I would like to emulate, and some I'd rather not.

In my first week as Governor, I shared my desire for South Dakota to show how public service can and should be conducted. I laid out that one of the pillars of my administration would be civility, and I believe we've lived up to that. And along the way, I've realized that civility is a foundation of four qualities of leaders who get results: Stewardship, Temperament, Judgement, and Integrity.

Stewardship. Leaders should not be dictators. After all, "Under God, the People Rule." Our authority is given in trust to serve the people. A governor has to make tough calls between right and wrong with people and policy. The goal is always to leave things better than I found them. Sometimes, that is an exciting announcement that will change the future of our state, like new opportunities for downtown development or reducing crime by double-digits. But vision requires less exciting behind-the-scenes work that can be best described as "maintenance." I am working every day to pour solid, heavy, and level footings for the next generation to rise from. Plans are fine, but I prefer to lean on my results, large and small.

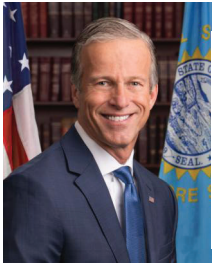
Temperament. Leaders need to have the mental, emotional, psychological, and physical strength to remain calm – all while acting clearly and decisively during good times and bad. Early on in my career, I learned to be a person who keeps their focus even if everyone else around me is losing theirs. I have tried to adhere to the words of 2 Timothy 1:7, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

Judgment. A leader is called on to make hundreds of decisions daily. The stress does not come from the number of them, but for me it is the desire to ensure I am making these decisions thoughtfully – no matter how comparatively small. Thankfully, I have a capable team of principled public servants who discuss civilly and help me make the best choices to keep South Dakota strong, safe, and free. And building that team requires good judgment of character.

And last, but most important, is integrity. It almost feels patronizing to point this out, but a good leader must be honest with thoughts, words, and actions that match. Elected leaders should not have a pass on this characteristic. Above everything else, I will continue to be a Governor who tells the truth with care, even when it is difficult or unpopular. I most respect people who are honest with me, and I care too much about the people of South Dakota to have anything less than full integrity.

We make and keep South Dakota strong when we work together. Growing up in rural South Dakota, I learned about the importance of community. South Dakotans are rugged and fiercely independent – but we look out for our neighbors, and we are grounded in humility. I hope to reflect that same selflessness and fortitude as your Governor.





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

## Funding Law Enforcement Isn't Optional

We need law enforcement officers to patrol our borders, to prevent criminals and illegal drugs from entering our country, and to take dangerous illegal aliens off of our streets. This may seem obvious, but unfortunately, my Democrat colleagues think funding law enforcement is optional – and right now they're opting to defund Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Republicans will not allow that to happen. We're moving forward with a bill to fund ICE and Border Patrol without assistance from Democrats, and once we pass this bill, we will ensure that Democrats cannot again jeopardize our nation's security with their "defund law enforcement" agenda.

Democrats are refusing to fund any physical presence at our borders. They're refusing to fund operations to take criminal illegal immigrants off of our streets. And why? To ask the Senate Democrat leader, it's because Democrats think nobody respects ICE and Border Patrol. Apparently, the fact that there are men and women putting their lives on the line to ensure dangerous individuals don't enter our country does not merit respect from Senate Democrats.

I suppose this comes as no surprise given Democrats' history of failing to respect our immigration laws. The Biden administration clearly didn't believe in enforcing our immigration laws, and the result was four years of record-breaking illegal immigration. Long before the Biden border crisis, Democrat-led cities and states implemented sanctuary policies that prevented their law enforcement agencies from working with federal law enforcement, and those policies have had tragic consequences.

Democrats may want to return to this chaos and reopen America's borders, but Republicans won't allow that to happen. Last year, we worked with President Trump to secure the border. Now, Republicans are moving forward with a bill that funds ICE and Border Patrol through the rest of the Trump administration to ensure the border stays secure and to prevent Democrats from threatening our nation's security by trying to defund these agencies in the years ahead.

It wasn't long ago that President Biden and Democrats allowed a crisis to rage on our southern border. Last year, President Trump and Republicans cleaned up that mess, restored order, and secured America's borders. The police chief in Sioux Falls has said that "some of the measures taken within the southern border are paying dividends within our community." That's the case in Sioux Falls and in other communities around the country. That's the kind of progress that Democrats want to reverse by defunding law enforcement. But Republicans will not let them.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 27 of 78



## Powering America from the Plains

### BIG News

Many South Dakotans would agree – I'd rather have American energy dominance be driven by what's happening in South Dakota's corn fields rather than Iranian oil fields. More E15 fuel is an opportunity to rely more on American energy production, grown right here in the heartland.

All cars model year 2001 or newer are suitable for E15, which is becoming a more popular option for drivers. On average, drivers save 20-40 cents per gallon when filling up with E15 compared to E10 (traditional gasoline).

This week, the House passed a bill to allow the sale of E15 year-round, which I voted for to strengthen our fuel supply chain, give consumers a cheaper option at the pump, and support American agriculture.

I've been working for years to secure permanent year-round E15 sales. I hope the Senate will act soon and send this bill to President Trump's desk.

### BIG Idea

Volunteer firefighters and EMS workers play an invaluable role in saving lives in rural America. I met with the South Dakota Firefighters Association to discuss how to best support local fire departments with equipment and training. The 2026 Farm Bill, which I helped get passed out of the House, expands the eligibility for volunteer fire departments who fight wildfires, which we are no stranger to in the Black Hills. I'm advocating for more resources for our rural firefighters to purchase equipment and better combat substance abuse in rural South Dakota.

### BIG Update

It's National Police Week, which is a time to recognize and thank the men and women who step up every day to protect our communities. I'm committed to ensuring law enforcement have the resources and tools they need to do their jobs effectively. Just this week, I voted to keep violent offenders off our streets to keep the public safe and our police officers focused on catching the next bad guy.

Our tribal reservations face some of the most difficult challenges when it comes to law enforcement. Some tribes have faced ratios of 33 officers to cover more than three million square miles and response times of thirty minutes. I'm working in Congress to better support tribal officers by leading bills like the Tribal Police Department Parity Act and fighting for more federal funding for tribal officers. While we've secured some increases in funding, it's not enough. I'll continue to advocate for more dollars for Indian country law enforcement.



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 28 of 78



Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

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## Soap Isn't Always Soap

After several months of mayhem in our house, things began to quiet down. It was beginning to get back to our normal way of life.

Of course, because of the mayhem, many things that needed to be done did not get done. That made The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage jump in line to try to catch up with everything around the house. If there's one thing undone, she cannot sit down.

I was able to get into my office and begin working on projects. I sure missed all that time working on my favorite projects. But I was committed to getting up to date with everything in my office. Of course, my up-to-date definition does not compare with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's.

I noticed there were a lot of dishes to be cleaned, so I went up to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and said, "Would you like me to do the dishes today?"

After a long period of laughing, she looked at me and said, "Do you remember the last time you did dishes for me?"

My memory isn't always up to date, and I had to think a little bit about what she was talking about. Then it occurred to me.

About 20 years ago, I did the dishes for her. I think she was away shopping or something, so I decided to step in and help her with some of these kitchen chores.

I packed all of the dishes into the dishwasher. It took me quite a while because I couldn't figure out where they all went. Eventually, I got them all in.

Now I had to find soap to clean these dishes. I looked everywhere, and I couldn't find any soap in the kitchen. I finally went back to the laundry area and found a big box of soap there. I took that soap, went to the kitchen, opened the dishwasher, and just poured it all on those dishes. My goal was to make them cleaner than they've ever been.

I made sure every dish and utensil had a little soap on it. I was going to make The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage proud of her husband's work in the kitchen.

I put everything in the dishwasher, along with the soap, then closed the door and turned it on. I smiled as I heard it working there before me. I then went back to my office to do a bit of work while the dishwasher ran.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 29 of 78**

While I was in the office, I began to hear a lot of noise from the kitchen that I couldn't explain. It could be the dishwasher, since I've never heard it make that kind of noise before. What was happening in the kitchen?

I got up from my desk and went into the kitchen, and just as I entered the kitchen, I stopped in great shock. Soap from the dishwasher was pouring onto the kitchen floor.

That kitchen floor was being cleaned by the dishwasher, which I've never seen before.

That soap kept coming out of the dishwasher. I didn't know what to do. I've never been in a situation like this before. I've never washed dishes before.

I ran over to the dishwasher and turned it off. In a minute or two, the flow of soap ceased coming out of the dishwasher. I looked all over the kitchen floor, and it was soaked with soap.

I did not know what to do, and as I stood there, I heard the front door open, and in walked The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She came into the kitchen, stopped, and yelled as I'd never heard her yell before.

"What have you done?" She said to me rather strongly.

I looked at her with some puppy-dog eyes and confessed, "I thought I could help you by doing the dishes today."

She looked at me, looked at the kitchen floor, then looked back at me.

I'm not sure how to resolve this situation. Still, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me firmly and said, "Why don't you just go to your office and do your work, and I'll stay here in the kitchen and do my work?"

Not knowing what to do, but knowing I was in a great deal of trouble, I did what she said and went back to my office. It took her most of the morning to clean up that mess I created.

That was 20 years ago, and I've never had that incident happen again. So, when I ask The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage if I could help her in the kitchen, I began to realize that the best help I could do for her was to get out of the way and go to my office.

I later found out that the soap I used was not for dishes but was for something completely different. How did I know there was a different soap for each project?

While in my office, I was reminded of a verse of scripture.

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord" (Psalm 27:14).

In my Christian life, the best thing I can do is get out of God's way and let Him do His work His way. If I don't, I mess up everything in my life.



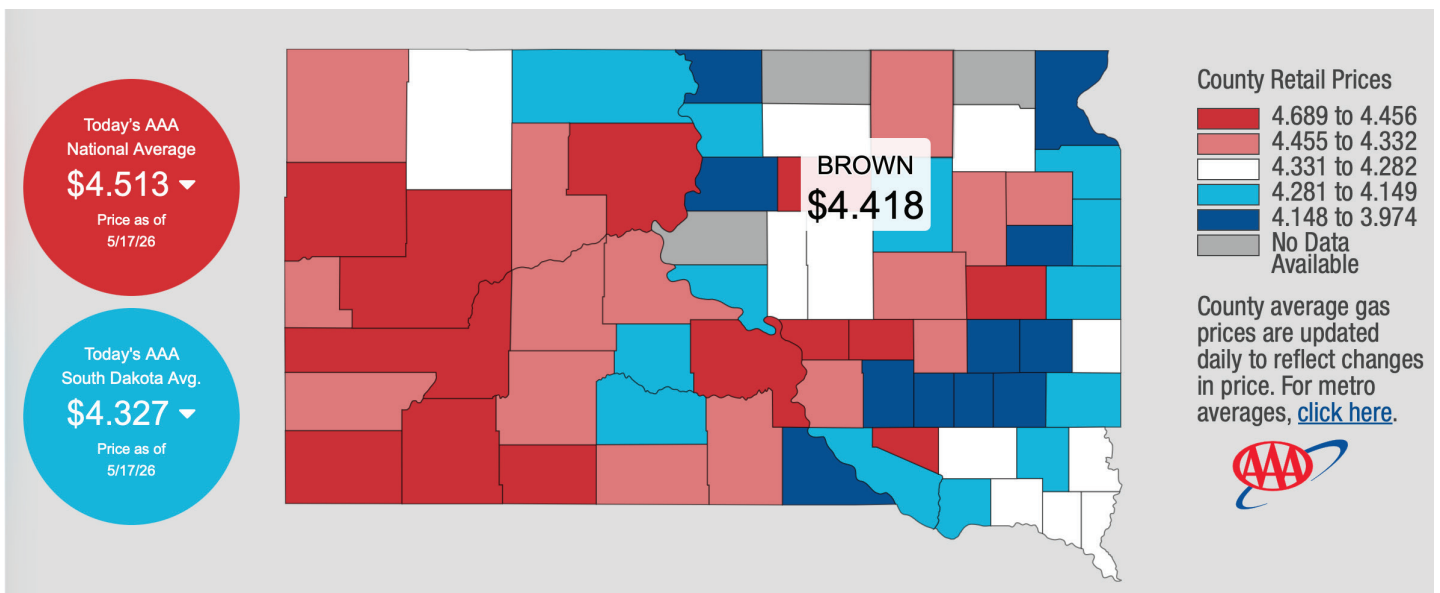
# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 30 of 78

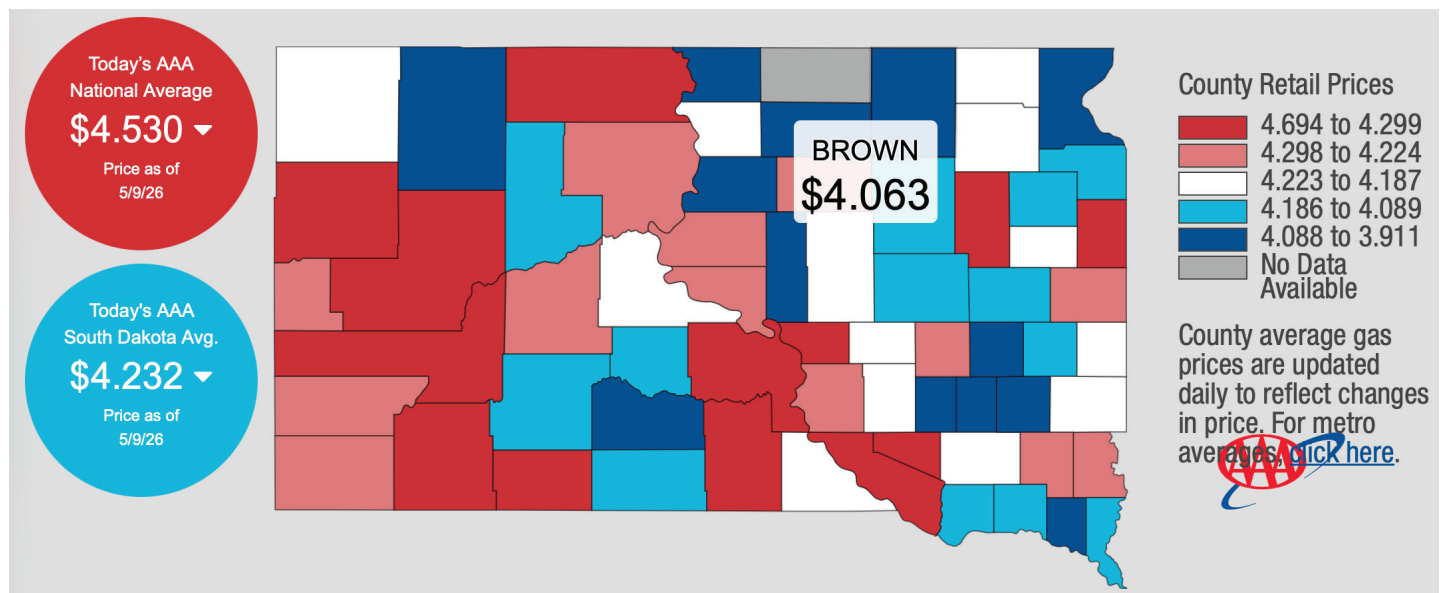
## South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$4.327	\$4.532	\$5.003	\$5.166
Yesterday Avg.	\$4.338	\$4.510	\$4.989	\$5.170
Week Ago Avg.	\$4.223	\$4.411	\$4.877	\$5.175
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.674	\$3.855	\$4.325	\$4.826
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.022	\$3.212	\$3.693	\$3.231

### This Week



### Last Week



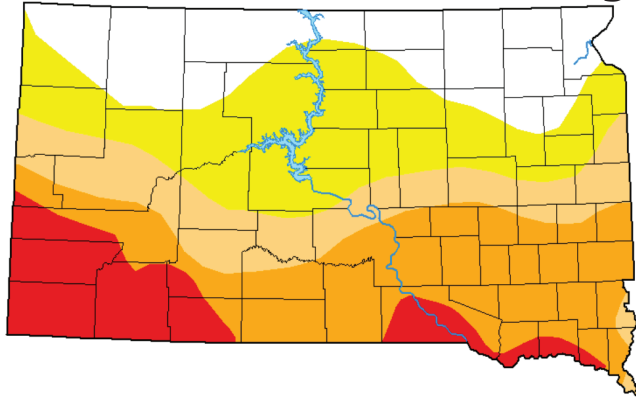
# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 31 of 78

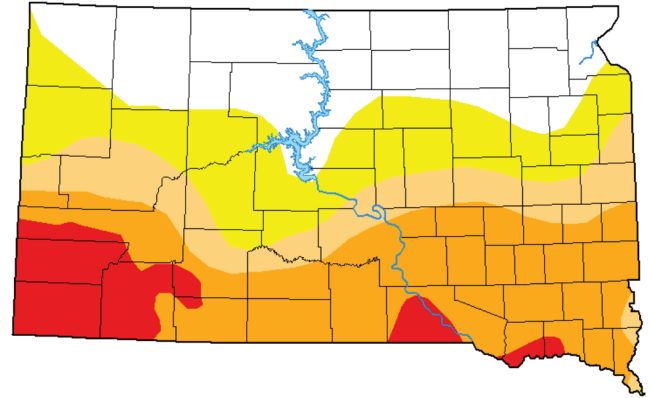
## Drought Classification



## Drought Monitor



May 12



May 5

Anomalous warmth dominated most of the High Plains this week, while precipitation was defined by a significant east-west gradient. The eastern portions of the region, remained under a persistent late-spring chill with average temperatures falling 4°F to 10°F below seasonal norms. This area was also exceptionally dry, receiving less than 0.05 inches of rain, which resulted in precipitation deficits of 0.6 to 1.2 inches. Persistent dryness resulted in the expansion of exceptional (D4) drought in Nebraska, while moderate (D1) to extreme (D3) drought were expanded in northeastern Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. In contrast, the western High Plains across Wyoming, much of Colorado, and western portions of South Dakota and Nebraska, experienced unseasonable warmth, with departures ranging from 2°F to 6°F above normal. This warmth was accompanied by an active moisture corridor through the southern High Plains; while northern and eastern reaches were dry, portions of Colorado and adjacent areas of Wyoming and Kansas recorded 0.7 to 1.6 inches of precipitation, ranging from 0.3 to 0.9 inches above normal. This above-normal precipitation resulted in the removal of exceptional (D4) and reduction of extreme (D3) drought in Wyoming, and improvements to severe (D2) to exceptional (D4) drought in Colorado and severe (D2) to extreme (D3) drought in western Kansas.





## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### **Biden announced as keynote speaker for South Dakota Democratic event**

**BY:SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT STAFF**

Former President Joe Biden will be the keynote speaker June 5 at the South Dakota Democratic Party's McGovern Day Dinner, the party announced Saturday.

"It is an honor to welcome President Biden to South Dakota, especially during such a critical time for our country," said Shane Merrill, the state party chairman, in a news release.

The fundraiser event will be at the Best Western Plus Ramkota Exhibit Hall in Sioux Falls. It will include a VIP reception at 5:30 p.m. with a presidential meet and greet for photo opportunities at 6 p.m. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m., and the dinner will start at 7. Tickets are \$125 apiece for the dinner and \$250 apiece for the meet and greet, and are available for purchase online. Proceeds benefit the state party.

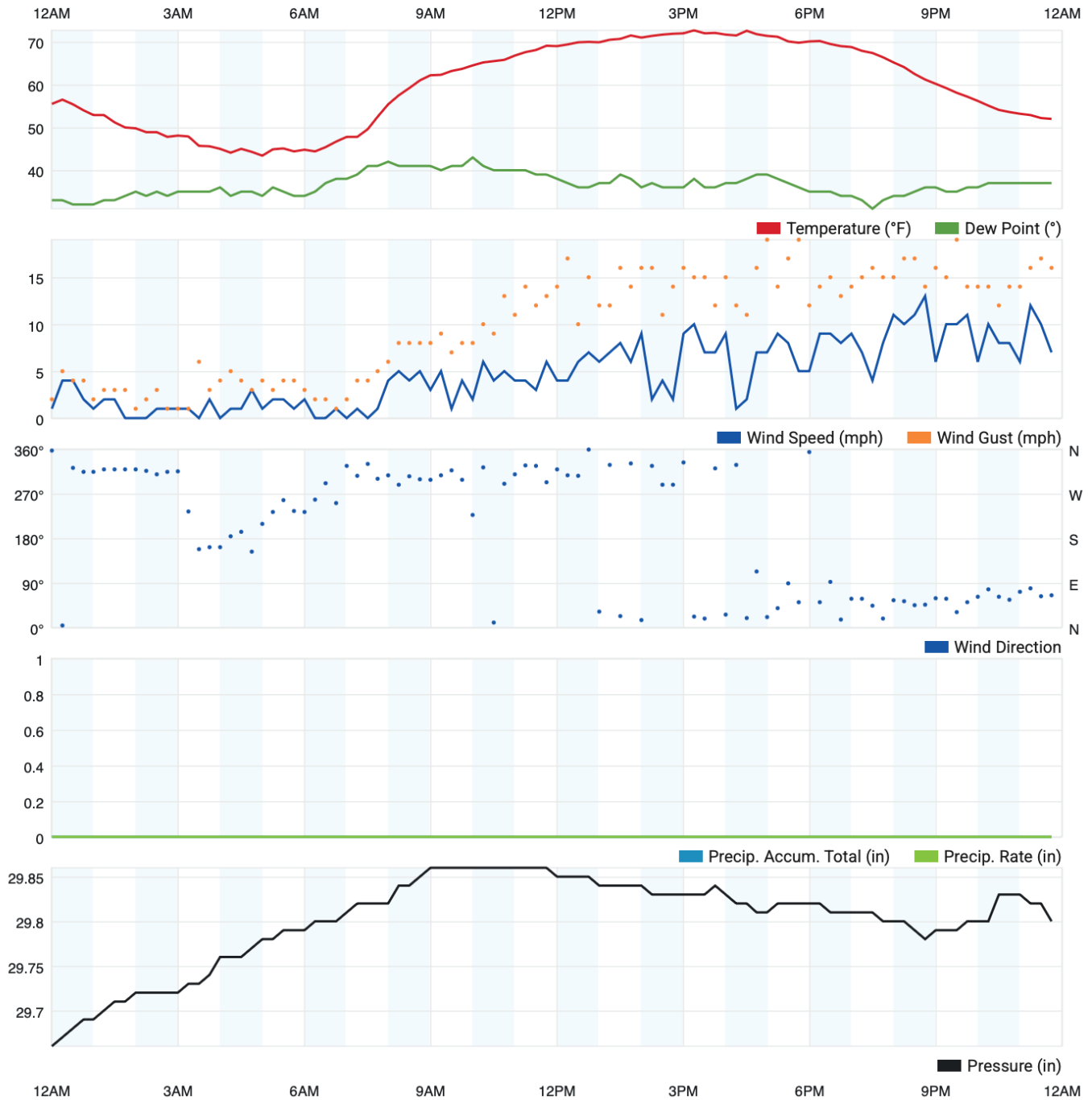
Other speakers at the event will include the state party's candidate for U.S. Senate, Julian Beaudion, its candidate for U.S. House, Nikki Gronli, and its candidate for governor, Dan Ahlers. The dinner fundraiser is named for the late George McGovern, who was the 1972 Democratic presidential nominee and represented South Dakota in Congress.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 33 of 78

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

May 16, 2026

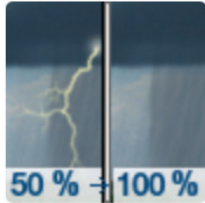




# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 34 of 78

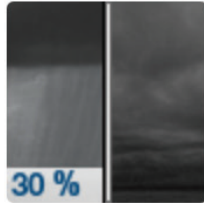
Today



High: 59 °F

Chance  
T-storms then  
Showers

Tonight



Low: 37 °F

Chance  
Showers then  
Cloudy

Monday



High: 53 °F

Breezy.  
Cloudy then  
Showers  
Likely

Monday Night



Low: 35 °F

Showers

Tuesday



High: 53 °F

Mostly Cloudy

## THREAT ASSESSMENT

### HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

2

WHAT THIS MEANS:  
SCATTERED severe storms  
*possible*

### TIMING

Today 1 to 8 PM

### PRIMARY THREATS



LARGE HAIL  
1.5" in diameter



DAMAGING  
WIND GUSTS  
of 60 mph

### SECONDARY THREATS

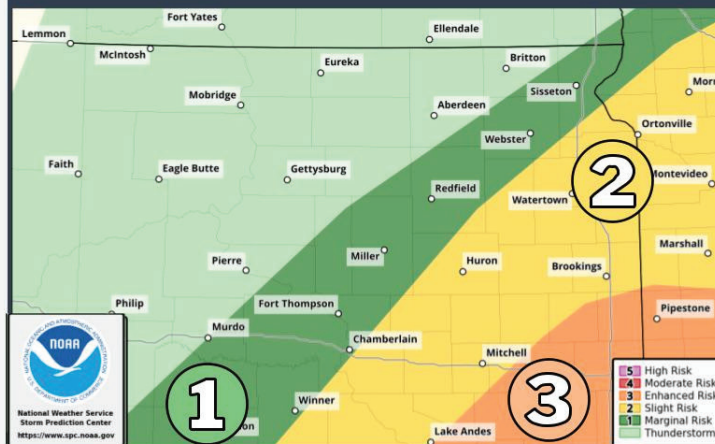


HEAVY  
RAIN



ISOLATED  
TORNADOES

## Scattered SEVERE STORMS this Afternoon into Evening



### SEVERE THUNDERSTORM RISK



### What To Expect

- Showers and a few weak storms across central SD this morning shifts into eastern SD/western MN this afternoon - some storms becoming severe
- Large Hail of 1 to 1.5" in diameter & 60 mph winds
- Lingering showers and storms exit east by midnight

### What To Do?

- Stay Weather Aware!
- Be ready to take shelter indoors when storms approach & have multiple ways to receive warnings

NWS Aberdeen, SD



Showers and a few weak storms across central South Dakota this morning will shift into eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota this afternoon. Some storms may become severe, particularly between 1 and 8 pm for areas east of a line from Pierre to Aberdeen. Large hail of 1 to 1.5" in diameter and 60 mph winds will be the main concern with the strongest storms. Lingering showers and storms will exit east into Minnesota by midnight. Stay weather aware this afternoon into the early evening hours. Be ready to get to a sturdy indoor shelter if storms approach. Have multiple ways to receive warnings.

# Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 35 of 78



## Thunderstorm Timing into this evening

May 17, 2026  
4:46 AM

### Probability of Thunder (%) Forecast

	5/17 Sun						5/18 Mon	
	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am
McIntosh	17	9	2	3	0	0	0	0
Eagle Butte	24	10	4	4	2	0	0	0
Murdo	37	23	13	15	6	4	2	2
Mobridge	20	16	5	8	3	0	0	0
Pierre	34	25	16	14	6	1	2	1
Gettysburg	25	22	13	14	6	1	0	0
Eureka	15	18	11	12	6	0	0	0
Chamberlain	25	26	24	32	24	6	6	3
Miller	23	25	21	31	25	5	2	1
Redfield	18	30	26	31	32	9	3	2
Aberdeen	17	31	27	27	23	6	1	1
Britton	12	29	28	34	24	11	4	2
Clark	15	20	25	30	38	19	11	5
Webster	13	22	25	31	34	20	8	4
Watertown	11	14	23	29	40	32	19	10
Sisseton	7	17	21	29	32	20	11	6
Milbank	7	11	19	29	39	31	22	12
Wheaton	3	12	18	25	31	22	16	11



- This Morning: Showers & a few weak thunderstorms, mainly over central SD
- This Afternoon: Showers and thunderstorms.
- Isolate to Scattered strong to severe thunderstorms east of a line from Pierre to Aberdeen possible 1 - 8 PM. **Strongest storms could produce large hail of 1 to 1.5" in diameter & 60 mph winds**
- Lingering showers and storms exit east by midnight

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

Today	Monday	Tuesday
<b>55-68°</b> lowest over north central SD  Showers and thunderstorms, ending over central SD late this afternoon. <b>Isolate to Scattered Strong to Severe Thunderstorms east of a line from Pierre to Aberdeen possible 1 - 8 PM</b>	<b>Low to mid 50s</b>  60-90% chance of mainly afternoon and evening showers. Isolated afternoon thunderstorms.	<b>50s</b> 



NWS Aberdeen, SD [weather.gov/abr](https://weather.gov/abr)



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 36 of 78

## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 73 °F at 3:12 PM**

**Low Temp: 43 °F at 5:01 AM**

**Wind: 20 mph at 5:21 PM**

**Precip: : 0.03**

## Today's Info

Record High: 103 in 1934

Record Low: 27 in 1925

Average High: 71

Average Low: 45

Average Precip in May.: 1.88

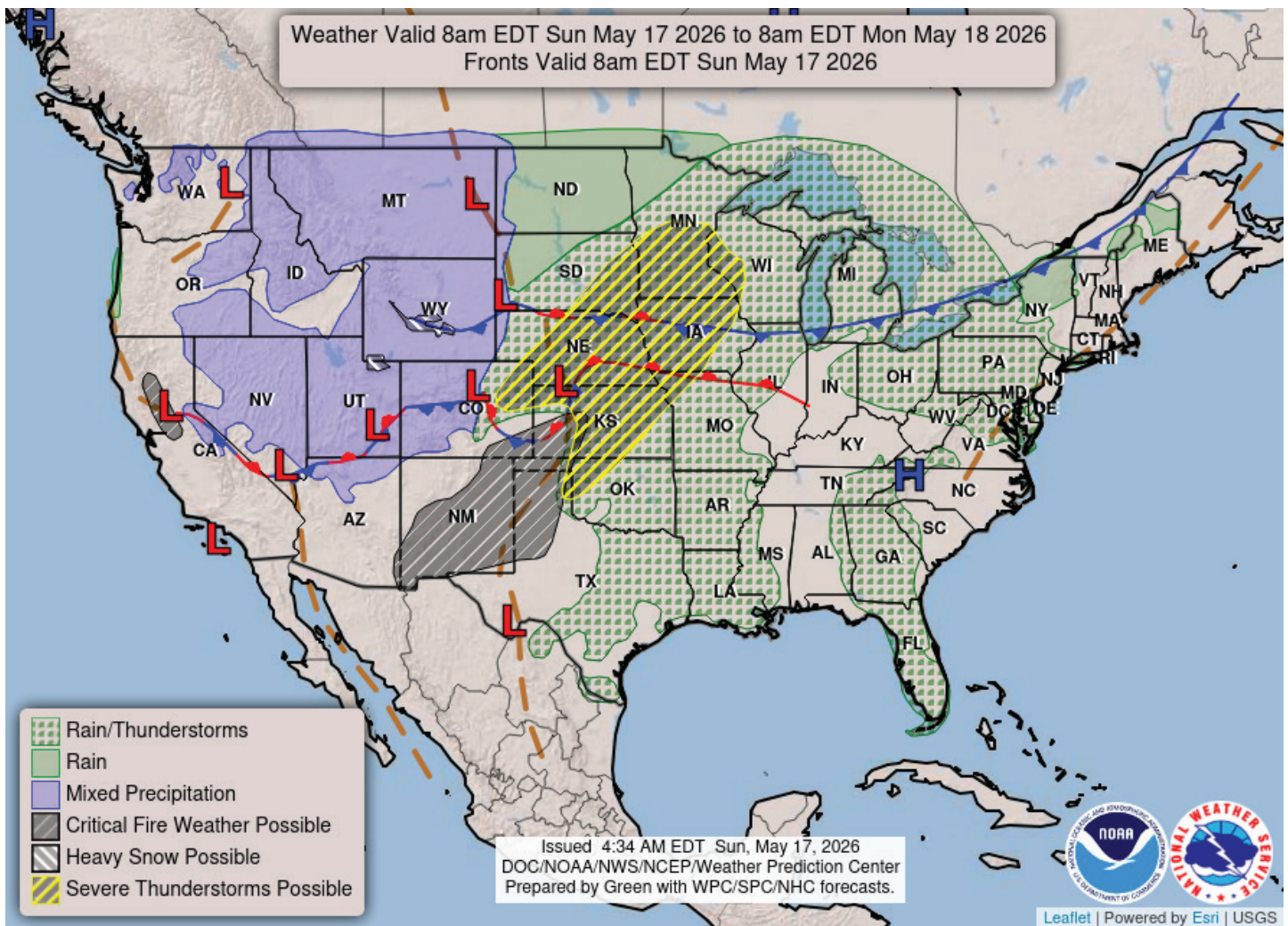
Precip to date in May.: 0.03

Average Precip to date: 5.85

Precip Year to Date: 3.15

Sunset Tonight: 8:58 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:58 am





# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 37 of 78**

## Today in Weather History

May 17th, 1902: An estimated F3 Tornado moved northeast from 6 miles southwest of Mina to south of Westport, a distance of about 25 miles. A four-year-old girl was killed in one of two farmhouses blown apart in Edmunds County. Three more homes were damaged in Brown County. There were probably two, if not three, separate tornadoes involved.

May 17th, 1937: A complex of tornadoes and downbursts skipped southeast from near Roslyn and Greenville. This storm also caused \$50,000 in damage in downtown Waubay and damaged farm property about 4 miles west of Gray, Minnesota. About 20 barns were destroyed. Sheep and horses were killed. These events traveled a distance of about 70 miles. The strongest tornado was estimated at F2 strength.

May 17th, 1996: An F1 tornado touched down 20 miles southeast of Wilmot or 5 miles northwest of Ortonville, Minnesota, at Schmidts Landing on Big Stone Lake. The roof was ripped off a house, and a garage wall was blown off its foundation. Three RVs were demolished, and a trailer was overturned and destroyed. This tornado moved into Big Stone County and intensified. An F3 tornado crossed Big Stone Lake from Roberts County, South Dakota, destroying a cabin at the Meadowbrook Resort. It also blew the roof off another cabin, and the third cabin was demolished when a tree fell onto it. Several boats on Big Stone Lake were overturned. Approximately 150 buildings were damaged or destroyed as the tornado moved northeast across Big Stone County. Southwest of Clinton, a pontoon boat and a camper were destroyed. East of Clinton, a farm lost all buildings and severely damaged their home. Estimated property damage was listed at \$1.5 million.

A 90-mph wind gust blew two garage roofs off, destroyed an antenna, blew large trees down, and also blew down a grain dryer near Dumont, Minnesota.

1883 — A three day flood in the Black Hills of western South Dakota resulted in a million dollars damage at Rapid City. (David Ludlum)

1979 — A reading of 12 degrees at Mauna Kea Observatory established an all-time record low for the state of Hawaii. (The Weather Channel)

1983 — A golfer playing the Fox Meadows Course in Memphis TN was struck by a bolt of lightning that went through his neck, down his spine, came out a pocket containing his keys, and went into a nearby tree. Miraculously, he survived! (The Weather Channel)

1987 — A summer-like weather pattern continued, with warm temperatures and scattered thunderstorms across much of the nation. A cold front in the north central U.S. produced a sharp contrast in the weather across the state of Minnesota during the afternoon. At the same time Duluth was 50 degrees with rain and fog, Mankato was 95 degrees with sunny skies. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 — Thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds over the Carolinas during the afternoon and evening. A "thunderstorm of a lifetime" in northern Spartanburg County, SC, produced hail for forty-five minutes, leaving some places knee-deep in hail. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 — Thunderstorms ravaged the south central U.S. with severe weather for the third day in a row. Thunderstorms spawned another nineteen tornadoes, for a total of fifty tornadoes in three days. A strong (F-2) tornado injured 14 persons and caused two million dollars damage at Apple Springs TX. Baseball size hail was reported at Matador TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 — Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather in New York State during the late morning and afternoon. A tornado injured one person at Warren, and wind gusts to 80 mph were reported at Owego. Evening thunderstorms over southwest Texas produced wind gusts to 80 mph at Marfa, along with golf ball size hail which accumulated to a depth of ten inches. Late night thunderstorms over southwest Texas produced up to seven inches of rain in western Crockett County. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 38 of 78



Daily Devotion

## Advancing Through Adversity

**Life's hardships are opportunities to draw closer to God and experience transformation.**

Psalms 56:3-4: 3 When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You.

4 In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me?

It is impossible to live in this world without facing moments of uncertainty, doubt, confusion, and fear. Scripture does not dismiss these concerns but instead helps us through them.

While God's Word is truthful about the adversity we all face, it promises that we have a Guide who will never leave or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5-6). That means the right response to trials is to tell God our fears and concerns—and then walk through them in faith, trusting He'll work the situation out for both His glory and our ultimate good (Psalms 56:3-4).

God can use hardships as a tool to shape us into the people He wants us to be. You see, adversity is an opportunity for Him to purify our faith. So if you are going through a challenging time, pray for discernment and ask yourself, Is this something that God may be allowing in order to bring me closer to Him? Then believe He is working in your life to bring about something beneficial—and even beautiful—that you never could have expected.

God alone is sovereign in the universe, and He desires to be recognized as sovereign in your personal life as well. So trust Him even during hard circumstances, and remind yourself of His promise to work on your behalf (Isaiah 64:4; Philippians 2:13).

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 39 of 78

## The Groton Independent

Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 40 of 78



## WINNING NUMBERS

### MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

05.16.26

7 17 24 38 45 4

TOP PRIZE:

**\$1,000,000/year**

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 11 Mins 32 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

05.15.26

17 23 25 52 61 3

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$277,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

05.16.26

1 4 24 31 46 2

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$26,730,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

05.16.26

14 16 18 32 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$94,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

05.16.26

11 21 27 41 59 18

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

05.16.26

8 37 40 44 65 18

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$100,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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

### **A drone strike causes fire outside a nuclear power plant in Abu Dhabi**

By JON GAMBRELL and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A drone strike caused a fire outside a nuclear power plant in Abu Dhabi on Sunday, authorities in the United Arab Emirates said.

The Abu Dhabi media office said in a statement that the fire broke out in an external electrical generator outside the perimeter of the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant in Al Dhafra.

There were no reports of injuries and there's no impact on radiological safety levels, it said.

The UAE's nuclear regulator said the fire didn't impact the plant safety. "All units are operating as normal," the organization wrote on X.

There was no claim of responsibility for the drone strike, and the UAE statement didn't blame any party for the attack. The Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Sunday's strike marked the first time the four-reactor Barakah Nuclear Power Plant has been targeted in the Iran war. The reactor sits in the far western deserts of Abu Dhabi, near the border with Saudi Arabia.

The \$20 billion Barakah nuclear power plant was built by the Emirates with the help of South Korea and went online in 2020. It's the first and only nuclear power plant on the Arabian Peninsula.

Nuclear power plants increasingly have found themselves targeted in wars in recent years, first during Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. During the Iran war, Tehran repeatedly claimed its Bushehr nuclear power plant came under attack, though there was no direct damage to its Russian-run reactor nor any radiological release.

There have been several instances of attacks around the Strait of Hormuz and Persian Gulf countries over the past several weeks. Talks between Iran and the U.S. are at a standstill as the shaky ceasefire threatens to collapse and tip the Middle East back into open warfare, prolonging the worldwide energy crisis sparked by the conflict.

Iran still has a chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway where a fifth of the world's oil passed through before the war, and America is blocking Iranian ports.

### **WHO declares global health emergency over Ebola outbreak in Congo and Uganda**

By CHINEDU ASADU Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — The World Health Organization declared the Ebola disease outbreak caused by a rare virus in Congo and neighboring Uganda a public health emergency of international concern on Sunday, after more than 300 suspected cases and 88 deaths.

The WHO said the outbreak does not meet the criteria of a pandemic emergency like COVID-19, and advised against the closure of international borders.

The WHO said on X that a laboratory-confirmed case has also been reported in Congo's capital, Kinshasa, which is about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) from the outbreak's epicenter in the eastern province of Ituri, suggesting a possible wider spread. It said the patient had visited Ituri and that other suspected cases have also been reported in North Kivu province, which is one of Congo's most populous and borders Ituri.

Ebola is highly contagious and can be contracted via bodily fluids such as vomit, blood or semen. The disease it causes is rare, but severe and often fatal.

The WHO's emergency declaration is meant to spur donor agencies and countries into action. By the WHO's standards, it shows the event is serious, there is a risk of international spread and it requires a coordinated international response.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 42 of 78**

The global response to previous declarations has been mixed. In 2024, when the WHO declared mpox outbreaks in Congo and elsewhere in Africa a global emergency, experts at the time said it did little to get supplies like diagnostic tests, medicines and vaccines to affected countries quickly.

It's hard to treat a variant of Ebola

Health authorities say the current outbreak, first confirmed on Friday, is caused by the Bundibugyo virus, a rare variant of the Ebola disease that has no approved therapeutics or vaccines. Although more than 20 Ebola outbreaks have taken place in Congo and Uganda, this is only the third time the Bundibugyo virus has been detected.

Congo accounts for all except two of the cases, both of which were reported in Uganda, the WHO said.

The Bundibugyo virus was first detected in Uganda's Bundibugyo district during a 2007-2008 outbreak that infected 149 people and killed 37. The second time was in 2012, in an outbreak in Isiro, Congo, where 57 cases and 29 deaths were reported.

Conflict and migration complicate effort to track outbreak

Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention Director-General Dr. Jean Kaseya said Saturday that a high number of active cases remain in the community, particularly in Mongwalu, where the first cases were reported, "significantly complicating containment and contact tracing efforts."

Violent conflict with militants, some backed by the Islamic State group, as well as constant population movement due to mining, both within Congo and across the border in Uganda, have also posed a major challenge to response efforts.

Officials first reported the spread of the disease in Ituri province, close to Uganda and South Sudan, on Friday. On Saturday, the Africa CDC reported 336 suspected cases and 87 deaths in Congo.

"There are significant uncertainties to the true number of infected persons and geographic spread associated with this event at the present time. In addition, there is limited understanding of the epidemiological links with known or suspected cases," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

The two cases in Uganda include one person whom officials said had traveled from Congo and died at a hospital in Uganda's capital, Kampala, and another the WHO said had also traveled from Congo.

The WHO said the high percentage of positive cases among samples tested, the spread to Kampala and Uganda and the clusters of deaths across Ituri "all point toward a potentially much larger outbreak than what is currently being detected and reported, with significant local and regional risk of spread."

Congo outbreak killed 50 before it was detected

Kaseya said slow detection delayed the response and gave the virus time to spread.

"This outbreak started in April. So far, we don't know the index case. It means we don't know how far is the magnitude of this outbreak," Kaseya said, using a term for the first detectable case of an epidemic.

The earliest known suspected case, a 59-year-old man, developed symptoms on April 24 and died at a hospital in Ituri on April 27.

By the time health authorities were first alerted to the outbreak via social media on May 5, 50 deaths had already been recorded, the Africa CDC said.

The WHO said at least four deaths have been reported among healthcare workers who showed Ebola symptoms.

Diagnostics and vaccines have been a major problem for Africa

Shanelle Hall, principal adviser to the head of Africa CDC, told reporters Saturday that there were four therapeutics under consideration for the Bundibugyo virus, but no vaccine was being actively considered.

A bigger issue is that even existing vaccines and therapeutics for other Ebola viruses are not manufactured in Africa. Africa's struggle to get vaccines from richer countries during the COVID-19 pandemic spurred different efforts to accelerate its capacity to manufacture shots, but resources remain scarce.

Kaseya said the demand for a vaccine for a rare virus like Bundibugyo, which is not as deadly as the Ebola Zaire prominent in Congo's past outbreaks, has been the recurring issue in discussions with pharmaceutical companies over vaccine manufacturing,

"If we are serious in this continent, we need to manufacture what we need," he said. "We cannot every single day look for others to come to tell us what they are doing."



## At least 4 people killed in one of the largest Ukrainian drone strikes on Russia

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — At least four people, including three near Moscow, died in one of the largest Ukrainian overnight attacks against Russia since the start of the war, according to Russian local authorities.

A woman was killed after a drone hit her home in Khimki, a city just northwest of Moscow, and two men died in the village of Pogorelki 10 km (6 miles) north of the capital, according to local Gov. Andrei Vorobyev. In social media updates, Vorobyev said Ukrainian drones had also damaged unspecified “infrastructure” and several high-rises. In Moscow itself, at least 12 people were wounded in the nighttime strike, mostly near the entrance to the city’s oil refinery, mayor Sergei Sobyenin reported. Sobyenin reported the “technology” of the refinery has not been damaged.

Russian defenses shot down 81 drones headed for Moscow overnight, state agency Tass reported, citing Sobyenin, marking one of the largest attacks on the Russian capital since Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022.

One man was also killed as a drone struck a lorry in the Belgorod region, which borders Ukraine, according to local authorities. Russian air defenses destroyed 556 drones over Russia overnight, the country’s defense ministry said Sunday morning. Shortly after midday local time, it reported that over 1,000 had been shot down or jammed in the previous 24 hours.

Russia’s largest airport — Moscow’s Sheremetyevo — said drone debris had fallen on its premises without causing damage.

Russia attacked Ukraine with 287 drones overnight on Sunday, 279 of which were shot down or jammed, the Ukrainian air force reported.

According to Ukraine’s estate emergency service, the strikes injured 8 people in Ukraine’s central Dnipropetrovsk region: three in the regional capital of Dnipro, four in President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s hometown of Kryvyi Rih, and one in the district of Synelkove.

Residential buildings were damaged in all three locations, the service said.

## Young Kyiv couple killed in a fierce Russian airstrike hoped to start a family, mourners say

By VASILISA STEPANENKO Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Like many Ukrainians, Maryna Homeniuk fled her homeland after Russia’s full-scale invasion four years ago. She managed to complete her degree in the Czech Republic, adding Vietnamese to her impressive list of languages, before returning home the following year and meeting her beloved, Yurii Orlov.

Homeniuk and Orlov, who captained the Kyiv Floorball Club after playing hockey for teams in the Ukrainian capital, were among the 24 people killed Thursday during a terrifying wave of Russian airstrikes that Ukrainian military officials described as the biggest barrage of the war. A cruise missile flattened their apartment building.

On Saturday, friends and family paid their final respects to Homeniuk, a 24-year-old English teacher. They had hoped to pay tribute to Orlov, too, but his body wasn’t ready for burial yet.

“She was a very caring person. I feel very sorry, because she had so many dreams. She worked with children and wanted to have children herself someday, when times were safer,” her friend Olesia Yukhnovych told The Associated Press.

The couple met on a dating app after Homeniuk returned to Ukraine in 2023 from the Czech Republic, where she studied Vietnamese. Friends say she spoke about 10 languages, including fluent Korean and Chinese.

A sensitive soul, she took in abandoned animals, friends said. She also loved seeing the world and would save up for adventures in new countries.

“This is a young person. This is a girl who had absolutely the whole future ahead of her,” said Anastasiia

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 44 of 78**

Petrushyna, a friend and colleague. "This future will no longer exist — our youth basically can't have it. You never know what trouble awaits you."

Friends said they were glad Homeniuk met Orlov, who was 30 years old when they died. Despite their differences — he loved sports and she loved art — it was obvious to everyone that they cared deeply for one another.

Homeniuk went to every one of his games on Sundays, it was their tradition. He taught her how to play floorball, a version of floor hockey, and she taught him how to speak English.

"It's a shame. I should have been helping prepare for the wedding and I ended up helping prepare for the funeral," said Yukhnovych. "It's horrible."

Their deaths followed a very difficult winter of relentless Russian attacks on Kyiv. Yukhnovych said they often spoke about wanting to relocate from their neighborhood, Darnytsia, in Kyiv's left bank, where power cuts were restored later than in other parts of the city, but couldn't afford to do so.

Yukhnovych said she texted Homeniuk after Thursday's attack but got no reply.

"You never think something could happen to someone close to you, and you just message them as a precaution," she said. "I never thought this would be one of those times when the message would remain unread."

## **A look at major Ebola outbreaks and when the disease was first identified**

By GERALD IMRAY Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — Health authorities say there is a new Ebola outbreak in the Central African country of Congo, with more than 300 suspected cases and at least 88 deaths. Cases have also been reported in neighboring Uganda.

The outbreak was declared a public health emergency of international concern by the World Health Organization on Sunday.

The severe disease that is often fatal was first identified in 1976 after two outbreaks in quick succession in what is now South Sudan and Congo, according to the WHO.

All the major Ebola outbreaks have been in sub-Saharan Africa, where the viruses that cause it are native. The worst have been in West and Central Africa.

Ebola disease is caused by different viruses

Ebola disease is caused by a group of viruses. Three of them are known to cause large outbreaks: Ebola virus, Sudan virus and Bundibugyo virus, the WHO says. The current outbreak is caused by the Bundibugyo virus, which is rare and has been responsible for only two previously reported outbreaks.

A family of fruit bats is believed to be the natural hosts of the viruses that cause Ebola, and other animals like apes and monkeys can also be infected, according to the WHO.

People can be infected by these animals, and the viruses can spread from person to person through contact with the body fluids like the blood, feces or vomit of an infected person, or surfaces that have been contaminated by body fluids.

Symptoms appear from two days to three weeks after exposure, though they usually emerge within about a week, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Illnesses begin with flu-like symptoms, including fever, aches, fatigue and sore throat. Later, patients can experience gastrointestinal problems, rashes, seizures and bleeding.

The average fatality rate for Ebola is around 50%, according to the WHO, with rates varying from 25% to 90% in previous outbreaks.

There are approved vaccines and treatments only for the Ebola virus.

2013-2016: The worst outbreak on record

An outbreak a decade ago across several countries in West Africa is the worst on record.

There were more than 28,000 cases and more than 11,000 deaths as the highly contagious disease spread widely in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone and spilled over into nearby nations. A small number of

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 45 of 78**

cases were also reported in the United States, the U.K., Italy and Spain linked to travelers from Africa or health workers returning home after helping with the outbreak.

The epidemic linked to the Ebola virus type was believed to have started in southeastern Guinea when a child — “patient zero” — came into contact with infected fruit bats, according to researchers.

2018-2020: Congo and Uganda

The second-biggest outbreak in history occurred soon after in Congo’s North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri provinces, with some cases in neighboring Uganda. The latest outbreak announced Friday is also in Ituri, on the border with Uganda.

The outbreak eight years ago had more than 3,400 reported cases and more than 2,200 deaths with a fatality rate of 66%, according to the CDC.

Like the 2013-2016 outbreak, it was also caused by the Ebola virus.

Congo has had more than a dozen significant previous outbreaks, including one as recent as late 2025.

2007-2008: Uganda

An outbreak of Ebola disease in 2007 in western Uganda on the border with Congo was the first reported occurrence of the Bundibugyo strain.

There were 131 reported cases and 42 deaths, according to the U.S. CDC, which said that the fatality rate for the Bundibugyo strain appeared to be lower than the others. However, there is still no specific treatment or vaccine for the Bundibugyo virus.

Uganda has also had several Ebola outbreaks.

1976: The first known outbreaks

The first known outbreak of Ebola occurred 50 years ago in towns in what was then Sudan and now part of South Sudan. Scientists believe it originated in a cotton factory where workers had contact with bats in warehouses, though the source has not been confirmed. It was caused by what later became known as the Sudan virus.

At least 151 people died and 284 cases were reported, many after sick people were taken to hospitals and spread the disease to health workers and others while it was still unknown, according to later studies.

An outbreak months later in northern Congo — which was then called Zaire — had 280 deaths and an extremely high fatality rate and first led scientists to identify the Ebola virus. That outbreak started in a remote village near the Ebola River, which the disease was named after.

The first known Ebola infection outside Africa occurred the same year when a British laboratory technician accidentally pricked himself with a needle while studying samples. He recovered.

Very few cases have been recorded outside Africa since Ebola was identified.

## **Researchers stunned by a forgotten medieval book in Rome hiding the oldest English poem**

By ANDREA ROSA Associated Press

ROME (AP) — The researchers in Ireland looked at their computer screen, marveling at a medieval book tracked down in a Roman library. They flipped through its digitized pages and found their sought-after treasure: the oldest surviving English poem.

“We were extremely surprised. We were speechless. We couldn’t believe our eyes when we first saw that,” Elisabetta Magnanti, a visiting research fellow at Trinity College Dublin’s school of English, told The Associated Press.

What’s more, she said, the poem was within the main body of Latin text: “It was extraordinary.”

Composed in Old English by a Northumbrian agricultural worker in the 7th century, “Caedmon’s Hymn” appears within some copies of the “Ecclesiastical History of the English People,” written in Latin by a monk and saint known as the Venerable Bede. His history is one of the most widely reproduced texts from the Middle Ages, with almost 200 manuscripts, according to Magnanti’s colleague Mark Faulkner, an associate professor of medieval literature at Trinity.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 46 of 78**

He considers Caedmon's poem to be the start of English literature.

The manuscript he and Magnanti found is one of the oldest, dating from the 9th century. Two earlier copies contain the poem in Old English, but as afterthoughts — translated from Latin and scrawled into the margin by later scribes or appended but not within the text's main body, according to the researchers.

The discovery sheds light on the English language's wide diffusion, long before what was previously understood, Faulkner said in Rome, where the duo had traveled to view the text in person for the first time.

"Prior to the discovery of the Rome manuscript, the earliest one was from the early 12th century. So this is three centuries earlier than that. And so it attests to the importance that was already being attached to the English in the early 9th century," Faulkner said.

And it's something of a miracle they uncovered it at all.

The book had a long and twisted provenance

Caedmon is said to have composed the poem while working at Whitby Abbey in North Yorkshire, after guests at a feast began reciting poems, Faulkner said.

"Embarrassed that he didn't know anything suitable, Caedmon left the feast and went to bed," he said. "A figure then appeared to him in his dreams telling him to sing about creation, which Caedmon miraculously did, producing the nine-line hymn."

Some 1,400 years later, this copy of his poem resurfaced in Rome's main public library — but not before crossing the Atlantic Ocean at least twice and changing hands even more times.

Monks transcribed this copy of Bede's history in the scriptorium of the Benedictine abbey of Nonantola, one of the most important transcription centers during the Middle Ages, located near modern-day Modena in northern Italy, according to Valentina Longo, curator of medieval and modern manuscripts at Rome's National Central Library.

In the 17th century, as the abbey's importance declined, its vast collection of manuscripts was shifted to another abbey in Rome, then moved to the Vatican and finally on to a small church.

Along the way, some of the texts went missing, only to emerge in the early 19th century in the possession of famous international collectors, Longo said.

This copy of Bede's history went to renowned English antiquarian Thomas Phillipps. He fell on hard times, selling off bits and pieces of his collection, and Swiss bibliophile Martin Bodmer secured the book. From there, somehow, it arrived in New York City, in the trove of Austrian-born rare bookseller H.P. Kraus during the 20th century.

Italy's culture ministry was scouring the world for the Nonantola abbey's missing manuscripts, snapping them up in auctions and from collectors around the world. It bought the copy of Bede's history from Kraus in 1972, Longo said, and since then the illustrious text has remained in Rome's library — but received scant notice.

Enter Magnanti, who had spent over four years studying Bede's history and was compiling a catalog of extant copies.

"I knew that the book was listed in the library's catalog, so I was almost certain that the book was, in fact, still here," she said. "I realized that, because of the very complex history of this book, no big scholar had really looked at it. So it had been virtually unstudied."

She emailed the library, which confirmed the book was in its stacks. Three months later, she received digital images of the entire manuscript.

The text of the poem (translated from old English)

Now we must praise the guardian of the heavenly kingdom,  
the might of the creator and his intention,  
the work of the father of glory, in that he of each wonder,  
eternal lord, established the beginning.

He first created the earth for men,  
heaven as a roof, the holy creator,  
then the middle earth, the guardian of mankind,  
the eternal lord, afterwards created

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 47 of 78

for men on earth, the almighty lord.

The library is making more rare books available

The library has digitized the entire Nonantolan collection and it is freely accessible through the website, Longo said.

It's part of a massive project by the library to make thousands of rare books and manuscripts available to researchers around the world, according to Andrea Cappa, the library's head of manuscripts and the rare books reading room.

"The discovery made by the experts of Trinity College is just one starting point, a single manuscript that might pave the way for countless other discoveries, in countless other fields, through international cooperation like this," Cappa said.

## Rwandan genocide suspect Kabuga dies in custody in The Hague

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — Félicien Kabuga, accused of bankrolling the Rwandan genocide, died on Thursday in a hospital in The Hague while in custody, a U.N. court said.

Kabuga, whose exact birthday is not known but was over 90, was suffering from dementia and has been stranded in legal limbo since 2023 when judges ruled that he was not fit to stand trial.

He was one of the last fugitives charged in connection with the 1994 genocide, accused of encouraging and financing the mass killing of Rwanda's Tutsi minority. After years of evading international efforts to track him down, Kabuga was arrested near Paris in May 2020.

In a statement, the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, which deals with remaining cases from the now-closed U.N. tribunals for Rwanda and the Balkan wars, said it would "conduct an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of Kabuga while in custody."

His trial began nearly three decades after the 100-day massacre left some 800,000 dead. He pleaded not guilty to charges including genocide and incitement to commit genocide.

At the opening of his trial, prosecution lawyer Rashid Rashid described Kabuga as an enthusiastic supporter of the Tutsi slaughter who armed, trained and encouraged murderous Hutu militias known as Interahamwe.

The mass killing of Rwanda's Tutsi minority was triggered on April 6, 1994, when a plane carrying President Juvénal Habyarimana was shot down and crashed in the capital, Kigali, killing the leader who, like the majority of Rwandans, was an ethnic Hutu. Kabuga's daughter was married to Habyarimana's son.

The Tutsi minority was blamed for downing the plane. Bands of Hutu extremists began slaughtering Tutsis and their perceived supporters, with help from the army, police, and militias.

Rashid described Kabuga as a wealthy businessman with close links to the Hutu political elite who incited genocide through the RTLM broadcaster he helped fund and establish. In some cases, it provided locations of Tutsis so they could be hunted down and killed, he said.

Yolande Mukakasana, a genocide survivor and writer who lost her entire family in the genocide, told The Associated Press when the trial opened that the case had come too late for many survivors who have died since the slaughter.

"Men and women of Kabuga's age were found in bed and murdered. Shame (upon) his sympathizers who cite his old age as a reason not to (stand) trial," she said.

Kabuga had remained at a United Nations detention center after the trial was halted because authorities failed to find a country willing to take him in. Kabuga did not want to return to Rwanda — which offered to take him — out of fear he would be mistreated.

"A man whom international judges had themselves recognised as unfit to stand trial died in prison, although his continued deprivation of liberty no longer served any judicial purpose," Kabuga's lawyer, Emmanuel Altit, said in a statement.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 48 of 78

## It's official: Wes Streeting of the Labour Party wants to be Britain's next prime minister

By BRIAN MELLEY and JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Wes Streeting's ambition to head the British government was one of the worst-kept secrets in U.K. politics.

But if anyone was unaware, it's now official — the former health secretary announced on Saturday his intention to oust Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

"We need a proper contest with the best candidates on the field, and I'll be standing," Streeting said.

Streeting is the first member of Parliament to say he will take on Starmer in what is likely to be a bruising internal contest for the reins of the Labour Party, which has seen its fortunes fall in the two years since its historic landslide victory swept out Conservatives after 14 years in power.

Streeting is likely to face other challengers, including Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham, if the latter can win a special election for a seat in the House of Commons that is expected to take place within the next few weeks.

Starmer has vowed to fight on despite being widely unpopular after a series of setbacks, policy U-turns and questions over his judgment for appointing a friend of the sex offender Jeffrey Epstein as U.S. ambassador. The government is facing weeks of chaos after he rejected calls to resign following the party's disastrous results in the May 7 local and regional U.K. elections, in which Nigel Farage's anti-immigrant Reform UK made huge gains.

"The voters did more than send Labour a message last week," Streeting said on Saturday. "They issued a warning: that unless we change course, we risk being the handmaidens of Nigel Farage and the breakup of the United Kingdom."

From working-class roots to a prestigious university

The boyish-looking Streeting, 43, is widely regarded as one of the party's best communicators and has been an outspoken voice on issues that include the war in Gaza.

His rise in the ranks of the Labour Party from roots in London's working-class East End, where he grew up in public housing, is charted in his memoir, "One Boy, Two Bills and a Fry Up: A Memoir of Growing Up and Getting On."

The title refers to two grandfathers both named Bill: The one on his mother's side was associated with gangsters and served prison time for armed robbery; he credits the one on his father's side with leading him on the path to Cambridge University.

Streeting got into politics at a young age, leading the Cambridge student union and becoming president of the National Union of Students. He later worked for Stonewall, an LGBTQ+ group, and has spoken of his struggle coming out as gay and reconciling his sexuality with his Anglican faith.

He served as a councilor in local government and later deputy leader of the council in the east London borough of Redbridge before being elected to Parliament in 2015.

He was a backbench lawmaker under Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, a veteran socialist whose time in charge saw the party lose two elections and face allegations of antisemitism in its ranks. Streeting, long critical of Corbyn, was promoted after Starmer took over as leader in 2020.

A Cabinet minister with a personal mission to save public health care

Streeting's Cabinet position became a personal mission to fix an ailing National Health Service because of his own battle with kidney cancer.

"The NHS saved my life," he said when he was named health secretary. "Today, I can begin to repay that debt by saving our NHS."

Even as Streeting was said to have an eye on a higher office, he stood by Starmer and denied having designs on replacing him.

But with Starmer on the ropes, maintaining that line became difficult last week.

On Wednesday, as King Charles III was delivering the government's blueprint for the next couple of years during the ceremonial opening of Parliament, talk of a coup dominated headlines.



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 49 of 78

"Streetering to ignite Labour day of anarchy," the Daily Mail blared in all caps. "Finally, a move to bring down 'Zombie' Keir?" asked the Daily Express.

Streetering quit the Cabinet the following day — becoming the first to do so — saying he had lost confidence in Starmer and sharply criticized him for lacking vision and direction. But he didn't immediately announce an anticipated showdown with Starmer.

He resigned on the same day he touted that waiting lines for medical appointments — one of his signature priorities — fell for the fifth straight month.

Streetering distances himself from a party figure with ties to Epstein

Generally regarded as being in the moderate wing of the left-leaning party, Streetering was friendly with Peter Mandelson, the once-influential Labour figure now in disgrace over his friendship with Epstein. Starmer appointed — and later sacked — Mandelson as U.S. ambassador, a decision that continues to haunt him.

As controversy over the appointment was reignited earlier this year, Streetering preemptively released a clutch of email exchanges he'd had with Mandelson in an attempt to show they were not close friends.

"Contrary to what has been widely reported, I was not a close friend of Peter Mandelson, but I am not going to wash my hands of my actual association with him either," he wrote in The Guardian.

In one of the emails, he was critical of Starmer's leadership, writing that "there isn't a clear answer to the question: why Labour?"

Streetering will begin to lay out his answer to that question in the coming weeks.

## **Steven Soderbergh used AI in a documentary about John Lennon. And he wants to talk about it**

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

CANNES, France (AP) — The day John Lennon was shot, on Dec. 8, 1980, he and Yoko Ono gave an interview to a San Francisco radio crew from their home in New York's Dakota Apartments.

They were promoting their new album "Double Fantasy," but the two-hour conversation was wide ranging. Though the interviewers had been warned "no Beatles questions," Lennon and Ono were thrillingly open. That day, Annie Leibovitz also shot the famous portrait of a clothes-less Lennon wrapped around Ono.

The interview is similarly naked. The two, particularly Lennon, riff on love, their relationship, creativity, life after the Beatles, raising their toddler son, writing songs in bed and much more. At the age of 40, Lennon sounds like someone who has found real clarity.

"I feel like nothing happened before today," said Lennon.

In "John Lennon: The Last Interview," Steven Soderbergh turns those surviving tapes into a documentary that does as much to demystify Lennon and Ono as "Get Back" did to the Beatles. The film debuted Saturday at the Cannes Film Festival.

"I was just so compelled by their generosity of spirit throughout the conversation," Soderbergh explained in an interview Saturday in Cannes. "It's like the world took place in one day, in this apartment."

Making it posed an acute problem. Soderbergh was resolved to let the audio play. He could find ways to visualize much of the film, but that still left a large gap where the conversation grows more philosophical.

"I worked on everything that could be solved except that for as long as I could," Soderbergh says. "Then there was the inevitable moment of: OK, but really what are we going to do? We just started playing and ran out of time and money. That's where the Meta piece came in."

Soderbergh accepted an offer to use Meta's artificial intelligence software to conjure surreal imagery for those sections, which make up about 10% of the film. When Soderbergh let the news out earlier this year, it prompted an uproar. One of America's leading filmmakers was using AI? In a film about a Beatle, no less?

The AI parts (overwhelmingly slammed by critics in Cannes) are fairly banal and don't differ greatly from special effects — there are no deepfakes of Lennon. But they put Soderbergh at the forefront of an industrywide debate about the uses of AI in moviemaking. It's a conversation the director, who has made movies on iPhones, is eager to have.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 50 of 78**

AP: At a time when AI in film is under much debate, you've been very forthright about your use of it here. Why?

SODERBERGH: Transparency is so important in the world outside of the creative context, we're not aware of the extent that this is being used and used to manipulate us. We don't know because they're not telling. We find out after, by accident, by some whistle blower. I'm like my own whistle blower: "This is what he's doing."

AP: Did you expect such a strong response?

SODERBERGH: I knew what was coming. I take it very seriously, and I understand why people have an emotional response to this subject. As I've said before, I feel like I owe people the best version of whatever art I'm trying to make and total transparency about how I'm doing it. But, yeah, you don't say yes to Meta offering you these tools and offering to finish the film and not know you're going to come in for some heat. That was part of the deal.

AP: Some fear generative AI will tear apart the film industry. You don't see it as a bogeyman, though.

SODERBERGH: I think most jobs that matter when you're making a movie cannot be performed by this tech and never will be performed by this tech. As it becomes possible for anybody to create something that meets a certain standard of technical perfection, then imperfection becomes more valuable and more interesting. We haven't seen yet someone with a certain amount of creative credibility go full-metal AI on something, and see how people react. I think it's necessary. How do you know where the line is until somebody crosses it? I don't think what I'm doing crosses it. Some people may disagree. I don't know where my line is yet. I'm waiting to see.

AP: What kind of prompts did you give the program to create the animations?

SODERBERGH: Circles of light that come out of nowhere, things like that. A black rose that turns into a Busby Berkeley thing and then a red rose. I wasn't very articulate to the people I was working with. It was hard to describe the things I wanted to see. The good part about this technology was at least ability to have something in front of me quickly that I could respond to.

AP: Did your experience give you any kind of framework that you think this technology should be limited to?

SODERBERGH: I've determined my rule is: It has to be necessary. Is it the only way to accomplish what I want to see? Is it truly the best way to do it? That's the real question. You're going to see a lot of people doing stuff with AI that fail those two challenges.

AP: There's the ethical debate but also an aesthetic one. This is otherwise a naked human dialogue.

SODERBERGH: I needed a way to follow them in flight visually, or I'm not doing my job. It's hard to judge how long it will take us to find homeostasis with this technology. I think we will. Just looking at this technology in the movie making business, each department has or will have a very different relationship with it. I'll have a different relationship than a writer, than an actor, than the costume designer, the production designer, the sound effects people.

Each creative person is going to have their own prism and be affected by it in different ways. Our inherent desire to have a simple template for how this is to be approached is part of the problem. I don't think that's possible. I don't think there's a one-size fits all.

AP: Regardless, the conversation in the film is deeply inspiring.

SODERBERGH: Especially his burning desire to destroy the male rock star myth — at a time when that was not the mood anyone else was in. That's inspiring. What I hope young people who see it get out of it is: This guy told the truth about everything from the jump, right up through the last day of his life. He just was built that way. And he was constructive. He was very opinionated but also very thoughtful and all in the aid of: Can we do this better? Can we do a better version of human beings on this planet?

## What to know about the Ebola outbreak that the WHO has declared a global health emergency

By CHINEDU ASADU Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — The World Health Organization declared Sunday the Ebola disease outbreak in Congo and Uganda a public health emergency of international concern.

Africa's top public health body first confirmed a new Ebola outbreak in Congo's Ituri province on Friday. By Saturday, it had reported 336 suspected cases and 88 deaths. All the cases are in Congo, except for two recorded in neighboring Uganda.

Health authorities say the current outbreak is caused by the Bundibugyo virus, a rare variant of the Ebola disease that has no approved therapeutics or vaccines, making it much harder to fight.

Although more than 20 Ebola outbreaks have taken place in Congo and Uganda, including 17 in Congo since the disease first emerged in the country in 1976, this is only the third time the Bundibugyo virus has been reported.

Here's what to know about the health crisis:

What does the WHO's emergency declaration mean?

The WHO says the latest Ebola outbreak does not meet the criteria for a pandemic emergency, such as COVID-19, and advises against closing international borders.

Its emergency declaration is meant to spur donor agencies and countries into action. However, the global response to previous declarations has been mixed.

In 2024, when the WHO declared mpox outbreaks in Congo and elsewhere in Africa a global emergency, experts at the time said it did little to get supplies like diagnostic tests, medicines and vaccines to affected countries quickly.

The outbreak in Congo started in a remote locality

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said the first cases were reported in Mongwalu health zone, a high-traffic mining area in eastern Congo's Ituri province. Cases there subsequently migrated to Rwampara and Bunia health zones as patients sought medical care, the Africa CDC said, "enabling spread across three health zones."

Those other two zones are Mongwalu and Bunia, the province's capital city.

Ituri is in a remote eastern part of Congo, with poor road networks, and is more than 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) from the nation's capital, Kinshasa.

One major concern, the Africa CDC said, is the proximity of affected areas to Uganda and South Sudan. Bunia, Ituri's main city, is near the border with Uganda.

The agency said there's also a risk of further spread due to intense population movement and attacks by armed groups that have killed dozens and displaced thousands in parts of Ituri in the past year.

There are also gaps in contact tracing, Africa CDC said, as local authorities race to find those who might have been exposed to the virus.

An unusual strain

The Bundibugyo virus, which health authorities say is responsible for the outbreak, is rare and different from the Ebola Zaire strain that has been dominant in all of Congo's past 17 outbreaks except one.

The virus was first detected in Uganda's Bundibugyo district during a 2007-2008 outbreak that killed 37 people out of 149 cases. The second time was in 2012 in an outbreak in Isiro, Congo, where 57 cases and 29 deaths were reported.

The World Health Organization says the Ebola disease is caused by a group of viruses, and that three of them are known to cause large outbreaks: Ebola virus, Sudan virus and Bundibugyo virus.

Dr. Gabriel Nsakala, a professor of public health who has been involved in past Ebola outbreak responses in Congo, said treatments for viral infections like Ebola are often directed at symptoms.

He said Congo has extensive experience managing Ebola outbreaks, but response efforts could be complicated by the unusual strain.



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 52 of 78

Urgent efforts to contain the outbreak

When the outbreak was confirmed on Friday, the Africa CDC convened an urgent high-level coordination meeting with health authorities from Congo, Uganda and South Sudan, together with key partners including U.N. agencies and other countries.

The meeting, the agency said, focused on immediate response priorities, cross-border coordination, surveillance, safe and dignified burials and resource mobilization, among other areas.

On Saturday, Africa CDC Director-General Dr. Jean Kaseya said several key response measures have been put in place to address the outbreak, including mobilization of resources from partners, deployment of multidisciplinary teams at official and nonofficial border crossing points, isolation of high-risk contacts, enhancement of surveillance, and contact listing and follow-up.

Possible logistical challenges in Congo

Congo is Africa's second-largest country by land area and often faces logistical challenges in responding to disease outbreaks due to bad roads and long distances.

During last year's three-month outbreak, the WHO initially faced significant challenges in providing vaccines, with delivery taking a week after the outbreak was confirmed.

Funding has also been problematic.

WHO said Friday that it has released \$500,000 to support the response to the Ebola outbreak. Africa CDC also said Saturday that it has mobilized \$2 million, but added that it's only a small fraction of the urgently needed funds.

During last year's outbreak, health officials were concerned about the impact of U.S. funding cuts by the Trump administration.

The U.S. had supported responses to Congo's past Ebola outbreaks, including in 2021, when the U.S. Agency for International Development provided up to \$11.5 million to support efforts across Africa.

How Ebola is transmitted

The Ebola virus is highly contagious and can be transmitted to people from wild animals. It then spreads in the human population through contact with bodily fluids such as vomit, blood or semen, and with surfaces and materials such as bedding and clothing contaminated with these fluids.

The disease it causes is a rare but severe and often fatal illness in people. Symptoms include fever, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle pain and at times internal and external bleeding.

The virus was first discovered in 1976, near the Ebola River in what is now Congo. The first outbreaks occurred in remote villages in Central Africa, near tropical rainforests.

## **Bulgaria wins the 70th Eurovision Song Contest with upbeat party anthem 'Bangaranga'**

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — Bulgarian singer Dara won the 70th Eurovision Song Contest on Saturday with her infectious party anthem "Bangaranga," giving the southeast European country its first-ever victory in the competition.

Israeli competitor Noam Bettan came second after a contest in Vienna clouded by protests and a boycott over the country's participation.

Dara beat 24 other competitors during Saturday's grand final of the sequin-drenched pop music competition. The song's infectious beats and tightly choreographed dance routine proved a hit with both national juries in participating countries and viewers around the world, whose votes together decide the winner.

"This is unbelievable," Dara said at a post-show news conference early Sunday. "I don't even know what's going on."

She thanked "everyone who felt the bangaranga and felt connected to the force."

The 27-year-old performer is an established name in her homeland, but had not been among the favorites to win. Still, "Bangaranga" is the sort of pop banger that Eurovision does so well, with its irresistible exhortation: "Surrender to the blinding lights. No one's gonna sleep tonight. Welcome to the riot."

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 53 of 78**

Dara has spoken about battling with anxiety, and described bangaranga as an inner force that allows people to “drop this mask of chasing perfection.” She has said the song draws on Bulgaria’s kukeri, elaborately costumed men who perform ritual dances to ward off evil spirits.

Romania’s Alexandra Căpitănescu came third in the contest with the rock song “Choke Me.” Australian star Delta Goodrem was fourth with the slick midtempo ballad “Eclipse,” and Italian crooner Sal Da Vinci came fifth with “Per Sempre Sì,” or “Forever Yes.”

The Finnish duo of pop star Pete Parkkonen and classical violinist Linda Lampenius, who were strong favorite on betting markets, ended up in sixth place.

Eurovision historian Dean Vuletic said the contest often produces surprises.

“Eurovision has never really been a contest for big stars,” Vuletic said. “People like to see the underdog on stage. They like to see the artist-in-the-making on stage or an artist from a smaller, poorer country on stage.”

Eclectic and outrageous acts

Acts from 25 countries, whittled down from an initial 35, took the stage at the Wiener Stadthalle arena in Vienna to battle for the continent’s pop crown. A fiery Finnish violinist, a Moldovan folk rapper and a Serbian metal band were among the contenders in a campy, colorful contest that has been likened to the World Cup with songs instead of soccer.

And like global sports, it often becomes entangled in politics. The contest has been clouded for a third year by calls for Israel to be excluded over its conflicts in Gaza and elsewhere, with five longtime participants — Spain, the Netherlands, Ireland, Iceland and Slovenia — boycotting in protest.

The political tensions have clouded a contest that over the decades has given the world the perfect pop of ABBA’s “Waterloo” and the ageless “Nel blu, dipinto di blu” — better known as “Volare” — along with a host of Euro-pop party anthems.

The contestants had just 3 minutes to win over viewers. Jets of flame, glitter guns and wind machines worked overtime in a show that celebrated Europe’s eclectic musical tastes.

Serbian metal band Kravina offered hard rock angst, there was brooding choral rock from Albania’s Alis, and Cypriot contestant Antigoni had the crowd on its feet with dance floor filler “Jalla.”

Female solo artists dominated: There was an empowering power ballad from Germany’s Sarah Engels, gospel-tinged R&B from Poland’s Alicja, ethereal beauty from Ukraine’s Lelëka, techno-pop from Sweden’s Felicia and opera-pop from France’s Monroe.

Male soloists were well represented too, by the likes of Aidan from Malta, Denmark’s Søren Torpegaard Lund, rock-edged singer Jonas Lovv from Norway and Austria’s techno-pop performer Cosmo.

Party rap with a political edge was in the house thanks to Satoshi’s ebullient “Viva, Moldova” and Greek artist Akylas’ playful “Ferto.”

British act Look Mum No Computer came last with the jokey novelty song “Eins, Zwei, Drei,” winning just a single point. Bulgaria gained 516 points in the contest’s convoluted voting system, and Israel received 343.

Protests express opposition to Israel

Tension over Israel’s participation in Eurovision looks unlikely to subside.

This is the second year in a row that Israel has come second, largely because of a huge vote from the public. Eurovision organizers tightened voting rules this year after allegations the country had mounted an intense lobbying campaign to get votes for its competitor.

Bettan was loudly cheered, though there was a smattering of boos as he performed “Michelle,” a rock ballad in Hebrew, French and English. Earlier in the week, four people were ejected for trying to disrupt his semifinal performance.

Hundreds of protesters against Israel’s inclusion marched near the contest arena before Saturday’s final, some holding placards saying “Block Eurovision.” Pro-Palestinian groups also staged an outdoor concert on Friday under the banner “No stage for genocide.”

“Inviting Israel on such a beautiful stage as the Eurovision Song Contest stage is an affront to all the people who believe in humanity, who believe in love and togetherness,” said Congolese-Austrian artist Patrick Bongola, one of the organizers.

Despite blow to Eurovision's finances and viewership from the boycott, the contest is eyeing expansion, with a spinoff Eurovision Song Contest Asia due to take place in Bangkok in November.

Vuletic said political controversy is nothing new. The first Eurovision boycott was in 1969 — by Austria, which refused to send a delegation to Spain under dictator Francisco Franco.

"We've seen very politicized editions of the contest in the recent past," Vuletic said. "All of them were very much mired in political controversy, yet Eurovision continues."

## **Ronda Rousey stops Gina Carano with an armbar 17 seconds into their double comeback bout**

By GREG BEACHAM AP Sports Writer

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — When Ronda Rousey finally got back into a mixed martial arts cage after 9 1/2 years away from her sport, she couldn't wait even one more minute to collect another arm — and to have her own arm raised one last time.

Rousey stopped Gina Carano with her signature armbar just 17 seconds into the two iconic fighters' double comeback bout Saturday night.

After finishing the 44-year-old Carano with a ferocity that evoked her famous heyday, the 39-year-old Rousey reaffirmed that this was only the epilogue on her historic MMA career. She insists she is headed into retirement after ending on a dominant victory.

"I was hoping to come out as unscathed as possible," Rousey said. "I didn't really want to hurt her. Luckily it was beautiful martial arts, that's what I think that was. It was art."

Rousey (13-2) didn't waste an instant after the opening bell, immediately charging and tackling Carano. Rousey quickly moved into position and applied her famous finishing move, wrenching Carano's arm as the fight was stopped.

Rousey famously won eight fights in less than a minute during her meteoric rise through MMA in the 2010s. When asked if she considered waiting a bit longer to go for the finish in this comeback fight, since it was so many years in the making, Rousey laughed.

"Hell no," she said. "My husband and my kids are watching me. I don't want to put them through anything more than I have to."

Carano, who hadn't fought in 17 years, was all smiles even after the swift end to one of the longest layoffs in pro sports history. Rousey and Carano hugged and shared warm words after the finish, raising each other's arms in victory.

"I wanted that to last longer," Carano said. "I felt so ready. I've never felt that good. But I haven't been here for 17 years ... and I wanted to hit her."

This improbable double comeback bout united two of the most important fighters from MMA's past two decades.

Rousey became one of the world's most famous athletes as she won the first women's title in the UFC, which only began to promote women's MMA because of Rousey's undeniable talent and star power.

Rousey first became interested in MMA because of Carano, whose athleticism and star power made her into a television headliner when the nascent sport was still fighting for legitimacy and acceptance in the late 2000s.

Rousey left the sport after consecutive losses, while Carano moved on to an acting career after taking her first loss.

After having two children and settling into post-fighting life on her farm in Riverside, Rousey seriously began to consider an MMA return last year. She immediately focused on a fight with Carano, whose long-thriving career as an actor abruptly ended in 2021 with her series of controversial social media posts.

Carano was happy to finally accept the comeback she had occasionally considered, saying she used her preparations as a way to overcome multiple health problems from recent years.

"Getting in here after 17 years was a victory," Carano said. "Fighting a legend was a victory. I feel great."



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 55 of 78

But she trained. She had her game plan. I have so much love and respect for her.”

The show at Intuit Dome was the first live MMA event on Netflix, which is moving steadily into combat sports.

Rousey had repeatedly said this will be her final fight, while Carano has said she doesn’t know what the future holds. Afterward, Carano said she hasn’t closed the door on another bout, and promoter Nakisa Bidarian said he would be eager to put Carano on another show.

“I think 17 years (off) was a lot,” Carano said. “(Being) 44 is a lot. But I’m going to go look at this. I didn’t get anything out I expected to get in this fight.”

## **Demand for cruises appears undimmed despite hantavirus and other onboard outbreaks**

By DEE-ANN DURBIN and MAE ANDERSON AP Business Writers

Recent outbreaks of hantavirus and norovirus on cruise ships are making headlines, but they’re unlikely to dim the growing popularity of vacation cruises, according to industry representatives and travel experts.

In fact, many within the industry still expect a record number of people worldwide to take cruises this year despite three passengers aboard the MV Hondius dying from hantavirus after the ship stopped in Argentina and a recent norovirus outbreak aboard a British ship docked in Bordeaux, France.

“The cruise consumer seems to be somewhat Teflon when it comes to stories like this,” said Rob Kwortnik, an associate professor at Cornell University’s Nolan School of Hotel Administration who closely watches the cruise industry.

In mid-April, an annual forecast by the Cruise Lines International Association, an industry trade group, estimated that 38.3 million people would travel on ocean-going ships this year, 4% more from a record 37.2 million passengers last year.

Industrywide sales figures are closely held. Asked about potential impacts from what happened aboard the MV Hondius, the trade association said it doesn’t comment or speculate on bookings. Several big cruise companies didn’t respond to questions from The Associated Press about customer demand, including Royal Caribbean, Norwegian and Carnival.

Oceanwide Expeditions, the Dutch company that owns the MV Hondius, said it doesn’t foresee any changes to its operations. It has a cruise setting sail from Keflavik, Iceland, on May 29.

Veteran cruisegoers said the outbreak would not affect their plans.

“I have eight cruises booked, and I’ll absolutely be booking another,” said Jenni Fielding, who blogs and posts social media videos about cruise trips under the moniker Cruise Mummy. “Cruising is as safe as any other type of holiday, provided travelers follow sensible health advice and stay aware of official guidance.”

Scott Eddy, a hospitality influencer, is currently on a cruise and docked in Monaco. Fellow passengers have not mentioned the hantavirus outbreak, he said.

“The average traveler understands that this is an isolated health situation and not something unique to cruise travel itself,” Eddy said.

CruiseCompete.com, an online marketplace where consumers making vacation plans can compare offers from travel agents, booked 31.7% more cabins in the first half of May compared to the same period last year, CEO Bob Levinstein said.

“I can categorically say that we have not seen any drop in demand,” Levinstein said.

Levinstein said that norovirus — an extremely contagious stomach bug that thrives in crowded environments — is conflated with cruises in the minds of many Americans because the U.S. Centers for Disease Control requires ships to disclose when 3% or more passengers report symptoms.

On a ship with 5,000 passengers, an illness impacting 3% of them “goes completely unnoticed by the vast majority of vacationers, and experienced cruisers know this,” he said.

Current news cycles rarely impact passengers’ decisions to join a cruise because the trips generally are booked at least 6 months — and often as much as a year — in advance, Kwortnik said.

“People who are booking cruises tomorrow are thinking about the holidays,” he said.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 56 of 78**

During a conference call Thursday with investors, Switzerland-based cruise line Viking said demand for its river cruises softened briefly during the first three months of this year after the Iran war began but then quickly rebounded.

Viking said 92% of its 2026 cruises and 38% of its 2027 cruises were booked. The company didn't mention hantavirus or norovirus.

Andrew Coggins, a cruise industry analyst and professor in Pace University's Lubin School of Business, said even if travelers set to embark on a cruise soon are unnerved by the latest news, they're unlikely to get a refund.

"I think if there's any impact on demand, it would be in the long term. If you're cruising in the next few months, you're past the point at which you can get your money back," he said.

Coggins said he thinks the hantavirus story got a lot of attention because it reminded people of the Diamond Princess, which was quarantined off Japan for two weeks in early 2020 after the coronavirus that grew into a global pandemic was detected on board.

The COVID-19 pandemic devastated the cruise industry, shutting down many smaller operators. Cruises didn't see an upswing in passengers again until 2022, Coggins said.

There are still fewer cruise passengers from China and Japan than there were before COVID, according to CLIA. But Coggins said demand elsewhere is booming.

"There are new ships on order out to 2037. The cruise lines are bullish. They see demand growing and they want to offer new bells and whistles, new ports, new destinations," he said.

One reason for cruising's growth is broad appeal across generations and income levels. In a recent U.S. survey, Bank of America found that Generation Z respondents and millennials were the most likely to say they planned to cruise over the next 12 months.

The survey also found that cruise spending rose for lower-income households even as those households spent less on airfare and lodging. Cruise lines have been wooing those passengers in recent years with shorter, more affordable itineraries.

Kwortnik said cruising also offers travelers value for their vacation dollars.

"On average, it costs more just to stay at a hotel in Miami than it does to sail on a cruise out of Miami – and the cruise includes lodging, multiple destinations, food, entertainment, and transportation all in the fare," he said.

## **Sen. Cassidy knocked out of Louisiana Republican primary as Trump-backed Letlow, Fleming make runoff**

By THOMAS BEAUMONT, JACK BROOK and STEPHEN SMITH Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Sen. Bill Cassidy was decisively defeated in Saturday's Republican primary in Louisiana, unable to convince voters that he deserved another term five years after voting to convict President Donald Trump during an impeachment trial over the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol.

He finished behind U.S. Rep. Julia Letlow, who capitalized on the power of Trump's endorsement as the president continues purging his party of people he views as disloyal, and John Fleming, the state treasurer. Letlow and Fleming will compete in a runoff on June 27.

The result was the latest example of Trump's unrivaled power over the Republican Party as he approaches the twilight of his second term with persistent inflation, sagging approval ratings and dissatisfaction over the war with Iran. Unlike some other senators who declined to run again after crossing Trump, Cassidy pushed hard for reelection and spent nearly double the combined amount of his opponents.

But none of that was enough for Cassidy to qualify for a runoff, let alone win a third term.

"Our country is not about one individual," he told supporters after his loss. "It is about the welfare of all Americans, and it is about the Constitution."

Letlow, on the other hand, swiftly embraced Trump's central role when she spoke at her victory party.

"I want to say thank you to a very special man who you all know, the best president this country has ever had, President Donald Trump," she said while flanked by her two young children.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 57 of 78**

Asked about Cassidy's vote at the impeachment trial, Letlow called it "a sign that he had turned his back on the Louisiana voters."

Trump cheered the victory on social media, saying "that's what you get by voting to Impeach an innocent man."

Trump has been purging his party

Trump unloaded on Cassidy the morning of the election, calling him "a disloyal disaster" and "a terrible guy." Later that night, the senator made a thinly veiled reference to the attacks.

"Insults only bother me if they come from somebody of character and integrity, and I find that people of character and integrity don't spend their time attacking people on the internet," Cassidy said.

The Louisiana primary comes in the middle of a month of campaigns by Trump to exact retribution on politicians who have crossed him. On May 5 he helped dislodge five of seven Indiana state senators who rejected his redistricting plan.

Next Tuesday, U.S. Rep. Thomas Massie of Kentucky will face a Trump-backed challenger, Ed Gallrein, in another Republican primary. Massie angered Trump by opposing his signature tax legislation over concerns about the national debt, pushing for the release of the Jeffrey Epstein files and opposing his decision to go to war with Iran.

After Cassidy's defeat, Trump wrote on social media that "Tom Massie, a major Sleazebag, is even worse." He encouraged voters to "get this LOSER out of politics in Tuesday's Election."

It's a striking amount of intraparty turmoil as Republicans face the possibility of losing control of Congress in November's midterm elections.

The runoff between Letlow and Fleming, a former U.S. House member and Trump administration official, will likely determine Louisiana's next senator because of the state's Republican leanings.

On the Democratic side, Jamie Davis advanced to a runoff, but the second spot remained too close to call between Nicholas Albares and Gary Crockett.

Election changes stir concern

The election was scrambled by a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision gutting a part of the Voting Rights Act that affects how congressional maps are drawn. Although the Senate primary went forward, Louisiana leaders decided to delay House primaries until a future date to allow them to redo district lines ahead of time, a shift that raised the possibility of confusion for voters on Saturday.

Cassidy also complained that a new primary system enacted last year confused voters by requiring them to ask for a partisan ballot instead of the all-party primary previously in place. He said some called his office to say they had been unable to vote for him.

"The process that was set up was destined to be confusing," Cassidy told reporters Friday.

Dadrius Lanus, executive director of the state Democratic Party, said his team fielded hundreds of calls from voters who said the changes undermined their ability to vote as they planned.

"A lot of the information should have gotten to voters well in advance," Lanus said. "It's literally been a whirlwind of confusion."

Incumbent senator tried to hang on

Cassidy waged an aggressive campaign to convince voters he should not be counted out.

His campaign was expected to have spent roughly \$9.6 million on advertising through May 16, according to the ad-tracking firm AdImpact. And Louisiana Freedom Fund, a super PAC supporting him, was on track to spend \$12.3 million.

By comparison Letlow's campaign, which launched Jan. 20, spent roughly \$3.9 million, while a super PAC backing her, the Accountability Project, spent about \$6 million.

Fleming's campaign spent about \$1.5 million.

Cassidy and Louisiana Freedom Fund ran ads attacking Letlow for supporting diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, which Trump has tried to eliminate.

Letlow, a college administrator before her election to the House, said she supported DEI while interviewing for the position of president of University of Louisiana-Monroe in 2020.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 58 of 78**

Targeted by Trump

Cassidy's vote in favor of convicting the president after his 2021 impeachment has shadowed him since.

John Martin, a 68-year-old retired engineer in south Louisiana, said he would vote for Letlow because he was still upset by Cassidy's decision. He waved a campaign flyer showing her standing alongside the president.

"I know a lot more about Cassidy than I do about her," Martin said. "But if she's endorsed by Trump, I'm going to believe that."

Cassidy steered clear of Trump's ire last year, supporting Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to lead the Department of Health and Human Services despite his public reservations about the nominee's anti-vaccine views.

But as chair of the Senate health committee, Cassidy has been more publicly critical of Kennedy, including over funding cuts for vaccine development.

Trump also blamed Cassidy for the failed nomination of his second choice for surgeon general, Casey Means, who raised doubts about vaccinating newborns for hepatitis B, a practice Cassidy supports. Trump withdrew the Means nomination and criticized the senator.

Letlow waited for Trump's backing

Letlow considered running for Senate last year but only entered the race after Trump announced his endorsement in January.

By that time Fleming, who was elected treasurer in 2023, had already jumped in and pitched himself as a Trump devotee. But Landry was looking for a better-known challenger, and he suggested Letlow to the president.

Letlow had an unconventional and tragic entry into politics.

In 2020, while she was a college administrator, her husband Luke was elected to the U.S. House but died of COVID-19 before he could be sworn in. Letlow ran for and won the seat in a March 2021 special election and was reelected in 2022 and 2024.

## **As electric bills rise, some states are focusing on the growing profits of utilities**

By MARC LEVY Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — The artificial intelligence boom is leading to fights in some states over growing utility profits, as governors, attorneys general and others protesting rising electricity bills say cash-strapped residents are stuck in a broken system.

Officials and lawmakers in at least six states — including Arizona, Indiana, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania — are going to new lengths to try to block rate increases proposed by utilities. Some are pressing utilities to completely change their model for financing major system upgrades.

The push comes during a midterm election year in which affordability is the leading theme in Democrats' attempts to loosen Republicans' control of Washington.

Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes, a Democrat who is seeking reelection this year, is challenging two utility rate increase requests in front of the state's utility regulatory board.

"I felt like it's never been more important to stand up against the blatant corporate greed of our monopoly utilities in Arizona," Mayes said in an interview.

The fights are getting noticed on Wall Street

The voracious energy demands of AI data centers have driven up electric prices in some regions and launched a moneymaking energy-sector construction boom.

For years, consumer advocates have tried to challenge the size of a utility's investment return in front of regulators. But maybe not like this, consumer advocates say.

"We've entered into this era of expensive energy and (demand) growth, and we're seeing utility profits at record highs and rising utility bills," said Matt Kasper of the Energy and Policy Institute, which pushes utilities to keep rates low and use renewable energy sources.

Utilities were long viewed as a stable haven for investors, with a reliable source of income and predict-

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 59 of 78**

able demand. Because of that lower risk, the utility's sector investment returns are typically on the low end compared to other sectors, analysts say.

However, utilities — many of which are owned by multibillion-dollar, for-profit parent companies — have seen share prices perform particularly well during the data center expansion.

The investment returns that utilities get from regulators aren't the sole reason consumers' bills are rising, but researchers suggest they are a contributing factor. In March, the Energy and Policy Institute issued a report that said the profits of 110 for-profit utilities rose from just under \$39 billion in 2021 to over \$52 billion in 2024.

Mark Ellis, a former utility executive-turned-consumer advocate, said about 10% of the typical customer bill is what he called a for-profit utility's "excess profit," above what might be considered reasonable under long-standing Supreme Court precedent.

Instead of regulators setting returns above what the market might require, utilities should instead shop for the lowest-cost investor cash, much like someone might shop for the lowest interest rate on a loan, Ellis said.

Paul Ferraro, an economics professor at Johns Hopkins University, said that targeting utility investment returns is a political action, not an economic action.

"That's an action that's aiming to address the deep social disagreements we have about who should benefit from essential infrastructure," Ferraro said. "But it's not going to address the key challenges that the electricity sector is facing."

That includes investment in modernization, expansion, renewable energies and distributed sources of power, Ferraro said.

'Affordability' has reached corporate earnings calls

Travis Miller, an energy and utilities analyst for Morningstar, said utility executives on earnings calls are emphasizing efforts to cut costs or protect residential customers from the cost to supply electricity to data centers.

"Affordability is probably the number one issue that executives and investors are thinking about right now in the utility sector," Miller said.

If rates aren't affordable currently, there's no way that utilities can get the rate increases they need to boost earnings and dividends for investors, Miller said.

Utilities point to federal data showing that home electricity bills as a proportion of household income have fallen in the past couple decades. They defend the investment returns they are granted by state regulators as critical to raising the cash they need to appropriately maintain electric grids and ensure reliability for millions of people.

They also warn that investors will simply send their cash to utilities in other states that promise higher returns.

Critics call that fearmongering.

Earlier this month, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities launched what its president, Christine Guhl Sadovy, called one of the most consequential regulatory reviews in a generation, to question how utilities "should earn revenue in a modern energy system."

In recent weeks, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro pressured PECO, the Philadelphia-area utility subsidiary of Exelon Corp., to withdraw a 12.5% rate increase, or \$20 per month extra for the average residential customer. Shapiro, a Democrat running for reelection this year, then issued a letter to utility executives, taking a whack at utility profits and saying that the "20th century utility model is broken."

"We can no longer simply prioritize corporate profitability to drive infrastructure development," Shapiro wrote.

In a note to investors, one analyst called it "Quaker State Sticker Shock," and the share prices of companies that own Pennsylvania-based utilities lagged their peers in the following days.

For its part, Exelon — the Chicago-based parent of Commonwealth Edison, PECO, Baltimore Gas and Electric and several other utilities — emphasized that it recognizes the importance of affordability.

Calvin Butler, Exelon's president and CEO, told analysts on its first-quarter earnings call May 6 that it was

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 60 of 78

committed to justifying what it spends and keeping energy bills as low as possible. Its decision to withdraw its rate increase request came after conversations with "stakeholders" who said, "Hey, if you could partner with us to address the affordability issue and lean in, timing is not the best right now," Butler said.

In Indiana, Republican Gov. Mike Braun appointed a new slate of utility commissioners with a mission to face down rate increases.

Their first big test is a request by AES Indiana for a 10.1% increase, or \$193 million a year more from ratepayers, said Ben Inskeep, program director for the Indianapolis-based consumer advocate Citizens Action Coalition.

As part of it, AES Indiana — whose parent company is being taken private in a \$33.4 billion deal led by private investment giant BlackRock — sought a 10.7% return on its cash.

Inskeep said an 8% return — instead of 10.7% — would slash the proposed rate increase nearly in half.

In Arizona, Mayes is challenging a pair of 14% proposed increases that she said could be dramatically reduced if the companies are simply paid the cost to maintain reliable service.

"It's becoming unbearable for the people in Arizona," Mayes said. "And I think we have to fight back."

## Hawaii's worst flooding in 20 years leaves farmers struggling and fewer veggies at the market

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER Associated Press

WAIALUA, Hawaii (AP) — The reddish-brown mud that smothered Bok Kongphan's Hawaii farm has hardened in the tropical sun. Irrigation tubes lie in a tangle where his lemongrass, cucumber and okra once flourished.

His niece, Jeni Balanay, lost her crops too — a mustardy green called choy sum, bitter melon, tomato. The leaves of her recently planted banana, coconut and mango have gone yellow, the trees unlikely to survive.

Across Oahu's North Shore, an area famed for its big-wave surfing, the small farms that help supply the island's food are struggling after back-to-back storms in March brought the state's worst flooding in two decades. Officials are pleading with farmers not to give up, stressing that local agriculture is crucial for the isolated archipelago.

"In some cases entire farms have been wiped out," said Brian Miyamoto, executive director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau. "These are farmers who were just days or weeks away from harvesting and now they have to start over."

According to data collected by farming advocates, more than 600 of Hawaii's 6,500 farms reported nearly \$40 million in damage, including to crops, livestock and machinery. But Miyamoto said the farm bureau estimates that the full extent of the destruction is much broader — \$50 million at close to 2,000 farms.

A particular type of agriculture

For most of the late 19th and 20th centuries, plantation-style agriculture dominated Hawaii, as companies like Dole and conglomerates founded by missionary descendants grew immense fields of sugarcane or pineapple for export. The operations drew large numbers of immigrants, primarily from Asia and Portugal.

But that large-scale monoculture faded by the 1990s amid international competition, and officials began to promote smaller farms — some, like Kongphan's, just a few acres — with a wider array of crops that could be sold to local grocery stores or at farmers markets.

Worldwide shipping disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic reinforced the importance of having a local food supply in Hawaii, and the state in recent years has offered additional support to the farms. That includes money for infrastructure, a farm-to-school program and loans for those who have been denied credit from banks.

But they still face challenges. Unlike many of their counterparts on the mainland, Hawaii farms are often too small and diversified to be able to afford or qualify for crop insurance.

Many of the farmers are immigrants who were barely eking out a living even before the storms, Miyamoto noted.



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 61 of 78

The majority of Hawaii's farms report less than \$10,000 in annual sales, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The flooding, along with high winds and power outages, killed or stressed livestock and destroyed equipment, vehicles and infrastructure.

Farmers in despair

Without insurance, Kongphan, an immigrant from Thailand, has been trying to obtain government aid and figure out how to level earth moved by the floodwaters. His niece has been helping him and other Thai farmers navigate the process. Available help includes federal disaster relief, one-time \$1,500 emergency grants and long-term loans from the state, and a charitable fund that raised about \$850,000 in the weeks after the floods. Many farmers also have online fundraising pages.

In an interview interpreted by Balanay, Kongphan called the floods "very devastating," but said he will continue working the 5-acre (2-hectare) plot he's leased for five years, growing vegetables he sells at farmers markets, a swap meet, and at shops and stalls in Honolulu's Chinatown.

Kongphan pointed to a faint, thigh-high line on a plywood wall showing where the water reached inside his home, which he built from a shipping container. Inside, there's now a donated tent, but he usually sleeps outside.

Flies swarmed as he carried a dirt-caked generator he hopes to salvage. Nearby sat a Toyota Yaris, covered inside and out in the same dried sludge.

Balanay, who learned farming from her mom after the family immigrated to Hawaii, isn't sure she wants to keep at it. She recalled the torrent rising to her waist in seconds and wiping out her crops in the middle of the night.

"Will it happen again?" she asked. "When you look at the land and it's all destroyed, you want to give up."

The flooding is the latest crisis for Hawaii's farmers, on top of wildfires, pests and volcanic tephra — ash and debris ejected by an erupting Big Island volcano, said the state's top agriculture official, Sharon Hurd.

"These are the farms that we really need to get started again," Hurd said. "We cannot have them give up."

Officials have been conducting tests to assure farmers that their soil is safe and providing them with seeds and plant starts, she said.

Sparser offerings at farmers markets

Some farmers have been unable to make it to farmers markets, a key source of their income. Many who do have less to offer, Miyamoto said.

Farmer Kula Uli'i said her family has been bringing roughly one-quarter of their usual output. Instead of 200 pounds (90.7 kilograms) of tomatoes at weekend farmers markets, they might sell 60 pounds (27.2 kilograms).

They lost starts that were due to be planted this month and face months of limited harvest, she said. She's unsure about the status of her farm's contracts with grocery stores, given that it can't meet demand.

Even the taro, which thrives in water, is lost, she said, after it was submerged in the contaminants carried by the floods.

"It's all gone," Uli'i said. "We can't use any of it."

## Senate parliamentarian deals blow to \$1 billion security proposal for White House

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A proposal to fund \$1 billion in security additions for the White House campus and the president's new ballroom fails to meet procedural rules, according to the Senate parliamentarian, dealing a blow to Republican plans to include it as part of a bill to fund immigration enforcement agencies for the next three years.

The parliamentarian's ruling, described late Saturday by Senate Democrats, said that funding for a project as large and complex as President Donald Trump's massive East Wing renovation is too broad to be included in the narrow GOP budget bill, which cannot be filibustered and only needs a simple majority to pass.

It's unclear if Republicans will be able to immediately salvage any part of the billion-dollar Secret Service

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 62 of 78

proposal, which would fund security for Trump's ballroom along with other parts of the White House, including a new visitor screening center, additional training for agents and extra reinforcements for large events. Republicans said Saturday night that they are revising the legislation based on the parliamentarian's advice.

Ryan Wrasse, a spokesman for Senate Majority Leader John Thune, wrote in a post on X that "none of this is abnormal" during the complicated budget process that Republicans are using to try and pass the immigration enforcement and White House security money on a partisan basis.

"Redraft. Refine. Resubmit," Wrasse said in the post.

Democrats celebrate and say they will stop it again

Democrats have seized on the security request, accusing Republicans of dedicating precious federal resources to the ballroom effort instead of focusing on helping Americans with rising costs. Republicans have insisted that private donations will be used to build the ballroom and that the federal dollars are focused just on much-needed security enhancements.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., took credit for the ruling after Democrats argued to the parliamentarian that the security money doesn't belong in the bill.

"Republicans tried to make taxpayers foot the bill for Trump's billion-dollar ballroom," Schumer said Saturday evening. "Senate Democrats fought back — and blew up their first attempt."

Schumer added that Democrats "will be ready to stop them again" as Republicans say they will revise the bill.

The ruling from the Senate parliamentarian is just advisory, but such rulings are rarely if ever ignored when lawmakers put together legislation that can pass with a simple majority. Most bills are subject to a filibuster and thus need 60 votes for passage — meaning Republicans must find some Democratic support in the 53-47 Senate.

White House security money is part of a larger immigration bill

Republicans are looking to approve a roughly \$72 billion package to fund Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection until the end of Trump's term after Democrats have blocked the money for months.

As part of that package, Republicans included \$1 billion for White House security enhancements, part of it connected to Trump's new ballroom. The Secret Service had requested the money after a man was charged with trying to assassinate Trump at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner last month.

The overall budget package is providing another boost of funding for Trump's immigration and deportation agenda, fueling operations through September 2029. It comes on top of ICE and Border Patrol funds Congress provided last year in the big tax breaks bill Trump signed into law.

The parliamentarian kept most of the immigration portion of the legislation intact, though some minor provisions were blocked, including Customs and Border Patrol funds to hire, train and pay Border Patrol agents. Republicans said those were only technical fixes.

Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley, the top Democrat on the Senate Budget Committee, said Saturday evening that "Democrats are prepared to challenge any change to this bill."

Americans shouldn't spend "a single dime" on Trump's "Louis XIV-style ballroom and throw tens of billions more at two lawless agencies," Merkley said.

## In the birthplace of Civil Rights Movement, groups rally to defend Black political representation

By KIM CHANDLER Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Thousands of people rallied Saturday in the city considered the crucible of the modern Civil Rights Movement to push back against conservative states' efforts to dismantle congressional districts that helped secure Black political representation.

The gathering in Montgomery, Alabama, was put together in response to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that weakened the Voting Rights Act and the resulting rush by southern states to redraw lines. Speakers

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 63 of 78**

said they returned to the city, famous for the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights march, because the fight that began there is continuing for later generations.

The Rev. Bernice King, speaking near the spot where her father, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., addressed voting rights marchers in 1965, said the dedication and sacrifice of that generation changed the trajectory of the country.

"Sixty-one years later, we come back as new generations to this same hallowed place to reclaim and redeem that legacy because the recent Supreme Court decision demands our presence. It was not only a legal decision, y'all, it is a moral disgrace and a shameless assault on Black political power," King said.

She said the decision strikes "at the very heart of my father's and my mother's sacrifice" and is a direct attack on the generations who faced "dogs and batons and bombs and billy clubs so that Black people and all marginalized communities could participate fully in this democracy."

Civil rights leaders, Democratic members of Congress from across the country, union leaders and pastors spoke at the rally titled "All Roads Lead to the South."

The crowd gathered in front of the Alabama Capitol, the place where the Confederacy was formed in 1861 and where the elder King spoke in 1965 at the end of the voting rights march. The stage stood in front of Capitol statues of Confederate President Jefferson Davis and civil rights icon Rosa Parks, tributes erected nearly 90 years apart and reminders of the state's complex history.

U.S. Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey called Montgomery "sacred soil" in the fight for civil rights. U.S. Rep. Terri Sewell of Alabama said the gathering was not a protest, but "a call to action." Speakers called upon voters to show their numbers at the ballot box.

"They think they can draw us out of power. They do not know the sleeping giant that they just awakened," said U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a Democrat from New York.

Attendees stood for hours in summerlike temperatures for the rally that stretched on for more than four hours. The crowd was led in chants of "we won't go back" and "we fight."

Some in the crowd said the effort to redraw lines has echoes of the past.

"We lived through the '60s. It takes you back. When you think that Alabama's moving forward, it takes two steps back," said Camellia A Hooks, 70, of Montgomery.

The recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling involving Louisiana hollowed out the voting rights law that was already weakened by a separate decision in 2013 and then narrowed further over the years. That helped clear the way for stricter voter ID laws, registration restrictions, and limits on early voting and polling place changes, including in states that once needed federal preclearance before they could change voting laws because of their historical discrimination against Black voters.

Veterans of the Civil Rights Movement are alarmed by the speed of the rollbacks, noting that protections won through generations of sacrifice have been weakened in little more than a decade.

Kirk Carrington, 75, was a teen in 1965 when law enforcement officers attacked marchers in Selma on what became known as "Bloody Sunday." A white man on a horse wielding a stick chased Carrington through the streets.

"It's really just appalling to me and all the young people that marched during the '60s, fought hard to get voting rights, equal rights and civil rights," Carrington said. "It's sad that it's continuing after 60-plus-odd years that we are still fighting for the same thing we fought for back then."

City will be affected by Supreme Court ruling

Montgomery is home to one of the congressional districts that is being altered in the wake of the Supreme Court ruling.

A federal court in 2023 redrew Alabama's 2nd Congressional District after ruling that the state intentionally diluted the voting power of Black residents, who make up about 27% of its population. The court said there should be a district where Black people are a majority or near-majority and have an opportunity to elect their candidate of choice.

But the Supreme Court cleared the way for a different map that could let the GOP reclaim the seat. While the matter remains under litigation, the state plans special primaries Aug. 11 under the new map.

U.S. Rep. Shomari Figures, who won election in the district in 2024, said the dispute is not about him



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 64 of 78

but rather people's opportunity to have representation.

"People tell us that we are not who we once were," Figures said of the South. "That is true, but we certainly aren't where we need to be," he said.

Alabama House Speaker Nathaniel Ledbetter, a Republican, said that the Louisiana ruling provided an opportunity to revisit a map that was forced on the state by the federal court.

"People tend to forget what happened. When this thing went to court, the Republican Party had that seat, congressional seat two," Ledbetter said last week. "There's been a push through the courts to try to overtake some of these red state seats, and that's certainly what happened in that one."

Shalela Dowdy, a plaintiff in the Alabama redistricting case, said the fight will continue inside and outside of the courtroom. A three-judge panel has scheduled a May 22 hearing on a request to try and stop Alabama from switching maps.

"We are not going down without a fight. We are not going back to Jim Crow maps," Dowdy said.

## Napoleon Solo holds off Iron Honor by 1 1/4 lengths to win the Preakness at Laurel Park

By NOAH TRISTER AP Sports Writer

LAUREL, Md. (AP) — Napoleon Solo reemerged as a colt to watch with a victory in the Preakness Stakes.

Now trainer Chad Summers wants a shot at Kentucky Derby winner Golden Tempo, whose absence left an underwhelming field at Laurel Park this weekend.

"We wish he was here in the Preakness. We were rooting for them when they were thinking about it," Summers said. "Unfortunately they didn't make it here. That's fine. Hopefully we can see him down the road somewhere."

Napoleon Solo held off Iron Honor down the stretch on Saturday, rebounding from a pair of fifth-place showings for his first victory of the year. Golden Tempo was held out of the race, leaving a wide-open field of 14 horses to contest the middle jewel of the Triple Crown, which was held at Laurel Park this year because Pimlico in Baltimore is being rebuilt.

Taj Mahal was the top choice at 9-2 — the longest odds for a Preakness favorite since the race moved to its current distance of 1 3/16 miles in 1925. Iron Honor had been the morning line favorite at 9-2, but he was an 8-1 shot by the time the horses entered the starting gate.

Taj Mahal broke to the lead early and covered the first quarter-mile in 22.66 seconds, but the pace quickly slowed and trainer Brittany Russell's unbeaten colt couldn't hold on. He was passed by Napoleon Solo (7-1) near the top of the stretch. Iron Honor was a threat late but came up 1 1/4 lengths short.

"He was a bit wide on both turns and it probably took the starch out of him a little bit when it mattered late," said Chad Brown, Iron Honor's trainer.

Chip Honcho (11-1) was third.

Previously a rowdy event with throngs of fans and live music on the infield, the Preakness was contested in a subdued atmosphere this year at Laurel, with attendance capped at 4,800. The track's future is uncertain — it may be converted into a training facility.

"It's a shame and it's a tragedy that racetracks like Aqueduct and Laurel are no longer going to be around, because they're foundation racetracks," Summers said. "I would just hope that we get the opportunity as an industry to rally and save some of these tracks. We can't allow this to keep happening, and there's only going to be three or four tracks left at the end of the day."

The Preakness has long served multiple purposes: It's obviously a necessity for a horse to win the Triple Crown, but it's also a second chance of sorts for those that didn't make it to the Derby for one reason or another. This time, it was primarily the latter when only three horses that ran in the Derby showed up.

So it came to be that Napoleon Solo and Iron Honor, who hadn't raced since finishing fifth and seventh in the Wood Memorial in early April, went head to head again for much higher stakes.

Third-place Chip Honcho was coming off its own fifth-place finish in the Louisiana Derby in March.

Napoleon Solo finished in 1 minute, 58.69 seconds and paid \$17.80 on a \$2 bet. It was the first victory

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 65 of 78

in a Triple Crown race for both Summers and jockey Paco Lopez.

The colt won his first two starts last year by impressive margins, prevailing in the Champagne Stakes by 6 1/2 lengths in October. He couldn't maintain that form, however, finishing fifth in both the Fountain of Youth and Wood Memorial this year.

"All year long, fifth place, fifth place. Everyone said he wasn't as good as he was in the Champagne," Summers said. "This was a win here. People will say it wasn't against the best of the best. We'll find out the rest of the year."

Now Napoleon Solo is being pointed toward the Haskell Stakes at Monmouth Park in July.

The three horses who did race in both the Derby and Preakness this year — Ocelli (7-1), Incredibolt (5-1) and Robusta (25-1) — finished fourth, fifth and ninth Saturday.

The race included its maximum of 14 horses, marking its largest field since 14 also ran in the 2011 edition.

Taj Mahal had run all three of his races at Laurel, which likely played a role as bettors made him the slight favorite over Incredibolt. Russell was trying to become the first female trainer to win the Preakness — two weeks after Cherie DeVaux achieved that milestone at the Derby — but Taj Mahal fell back to 10th after leading much of the way.

"He got away good, and they were moving along fine, but the winner also sat right on his flank," Russell said. "He did what we thought he would do. He just didn't kick on."

## Venezuela says it deported a close ally of Maduro to face criminal proceedings in US

By JOSHUA GOODMAN Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Venezuela's government said Saturday it deported a close ally of Nicolás Maduro facing several criminal investigations in the U.S. less than three years after the businessman was pardoned by President Joe Biden as part of a prisoner swap.

The decision marks a stark reversal for Alex Saab, who Maduro fought tooth and nail to bring home after his previous international arrest in 2020. Now, the Colombian-born insider, long described by U.S. officials as Maduro's "bag man," may be asked to testify against his former protector, who is awaiting trial on drug charges in Manhattan after being captured in a shock raid by the U.S. military in January.

The Venezuelan immigration authority in a short statement Saturday did not explicitly say where it had sent Saab but said the decision was made based on several ongoing criminal investigations in the U.S. The statement's reference to Saab only as a "Colombian citizen" appeared to be a nod to Venezuelan law, which prohibits the extradition of its nationals. Following his last arrest, Venezuela's government submitted a copy of what it said was Saab's Venezuelan passport to a U.S. court, with then Vice President Delcy Rodríguez — now acting President — claiming he was an "innocent Venezuelan diplomat" who had been illegally "kidnapped" while on a humanitarian mission to Iran to circumvent the "immoral, imperial blockade" imposed by the United States.

A fortune built from government contracts

Saab, 54, amassed a fortune through Venezuelan government contracts. But he fell out of favor with the country's new leadership that took power following Maduro's ouster. Since taking over from Maduro on Jan. 3, Rodríguez demoted Saab, firing him from her Cabinet and stripping him of his role as the main conduit for foreign companies looking to invest in Venezuela. For months conflicting news accounts have circulated that he was imprisoned or under house arrest.

His removal to the United States is likely to deepen divisions inside Rodríguez's fragile ruling coalition of Chavistas, named for the movement started by the late Hugo Chávez.

Rodríguez has generated enormous goodwill in Washington and successfully stalled any talk of new elections as she bends to the Trump administration's demands to open up its oil and mining industries to American investment.

But those concessions to what Chavistas have long decried as the U.S. "Empire" have angered many of her more radical, ideologically driven allies, some of whom, like Interior Minister Diosdado Cabello, wield

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 66 of 78

great influence inside the Venezuelan security forces and face criminal charges themselves in the U.S.

US investigation into food corruption

The Associated Press reported in February that federal prosecutors have been digging for months into Saab's role in an alleged bribery conspiracy involving Venezuelan government contracts to import food.

The investigation stems from a 2021 case the Justice Department brought against Saab's longtime partner, Alvaro Pulido, a former law enforcement official said. That prosecution, out of Miami, centers around the so-called CLAP program set up by Maduro to provide staples — rice, corn flour, cooking oil — to poor Venezuelans struggling to feed themselves at a time of rampant hyperinflation and a crumbling currency.

Saab is identified in the indictment as "Co-Conspirator 1" and allegedly helped set up a web of companies used to bribe a pro-Maduro governor who awarded the business partners a contract to import food boxes from Mexico at an inflated price.

Saab was first arrested in 2020 after his private jet made a refueling stop in Cape Verde en route to Iran on what the Venezuelan government described as a humanitarian mission to circumvent U.S. sanctions.

Rodríguez celebrated Saab's return in 2023 as a "resounding victory" for Venezuela over what she called a U.S.-led campaign of lies and threats. But several Republicans criticized the deal, including Sen. Chuck Grassley, of Iowa, who wrote a letter to then-Attorney General Merrick Garland saying history "should remember (Saab) as a predator of vulnerable people."

Over the objections of law enforcement, Biden in 2023 agreed to free Saab in exchange for the release of several imprisoned Americans and Venezuela's return of a fugitive foreign defense contractor known as "Fat Leonard." The deal came as part of an effort by the Biden White House to roll back sanctions and lure Maduro into holding a free and fair presidential election.

Biden's pardon of Saab was narrowly tailored to a 2019 indictment — the case number is cited in the pardon itself — related to a contract he and Pulido allegedly won through bribes to build low-income housing units in Venezuela that were never built.

A possible witness against Maduro

Should Saab be returned to U.S. custody, he could become a valuable witness against Maduro.

The businessman secretly met with the Drug Enforcement Administration before his first arrest and, in a closed-door court hearing in 2022, his lawyers revealed that the businessman, for years, helped the DEA untangle corruption in Maduro's inner circle. As part of that cooperation, he forfeited more than \$12 million in illegal proceeds from dirty business dealings.

Saab's Miami-based attorney, Neil Schuster, declined to comment. The Justice Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

## Aaron Rodgers agrees to a 1-year deal to return to the Pittsburgh Steelers, AP sources say

By WILL GRAVES AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Aaron Rodgers is running it back with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Two people with knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press that the four-time NFL MVP agreed to a one-year deal to return to Pittsburgh on Saturday, ending a protracted decision-making process. The people spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the deal had not been announced.

The 42-year-old Rodgers guided Pittsburgh to an AFC North title last year, throwing for 24 touchdowns and seven interceptions. He seemed to embrace playing for a team whose football roots run deep, much as he did in Green Bay earlier in his career, and now he'll be a Steeler for his 22nd and perhaps final season.

Rodgers reunites with former Packers coach Mike McCarthy, hired to lead the Steelers in January after Mike Tomlin stepped down following 19 seasons.

Rodgers and McCarthy spent 13 years together in Green Bay, where Rodgers blossomed into one of the game's biggest stars after becoming the starting quarterback in 2008. Green Bay won its fourth Super Bowl and Rodgers earned two of his four MVPs with McCarthy calling the plays.

The arrangement will be much the same with the Steelers, though both player and coach are in differ-



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 67 of 78

ent phases of their respective careers. This figures to be Rodgers' last ride, and the 64-year-old McCarthy is almost certainly ending his coaching journey a few miles from the Greenfield neighborhood where he grew up.

The Steelers made it clear they would welcome Rodgers back, though a couple of artificial deadlines — first the start of free agency in March, then the NFL draft last month in Pittsburgh — came and went with Rodgers unsigned.

The club made the somewhat unusual decision to place an unrestricted free agent tender on Rodgers, a paperwork move that gave the Steelers a bit of protection should Rodgers have opted to sign with another team before training camp opened in late July.

It's uncertain if a market for Rodgers existed, not that it matters. A year ago, he waited until early June to join the Steelers, then spent the next seven-plus months embracing the experience, earning raves from his teammates for his buy-in and his leadership.

Rodgers joins a quarterback room that expanded while he made up his mind. The Steelers selected Penn State's Drew Allar in the third round of the draft. He joins veteran Mason Rudolph and Will Howard, a sixth-round choice in 2025.

Howard and Allar figure to be longer-term projects, and Rodgers' presence will give them time to develop while also gleaning whatever lessons they can from a quarterback who spent three seasons backing up Hall of Famer Brett Favre in Green Bay before becoming the starter.

Pittsburgh also added receivers Michael Pittman Jr. and Germie Bernard in the offseason. The trade for Pittman and the drafting of Bernard could provide Rodgers with more big-play options after teams loaded up to stop DK Metcalf last year.

While it seemed the question surrounding Rodgers wasn't if he would re-sign, but when, it's still uncertain when he might actually take the field with his teammates. Pittsburgh begins organized team activities on May 18.

Though OTAs are typically voluntary in name only in most places — particularly with a first-year coach — Rodgers' familiarity with McCarthy's offense and the opportunity for Pittsburgh to use OTAs as a chance to give Allar and Howard plenty of reps mean Rodgers could stay home in Malibu, California, until mandatory minicamp from June 2-4.

Either way, when the team reports for training camp at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe in late July, Rodgers will run out with the starters with the goal of leading the Steelers back to the playoffs while eyeing the franchise's first postseason victory in a decade.

## North America's largest commuter rail system shuts down as workers strike

By PHILIP MARCELO and MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Long Island Rail Road, North America's largest commuter rail system, was shut down Saturday after unionized workers went on strike for the first time in three decades.

The railroad, which serves New York City and its eastern suburbs, ceased operations just after midnight after five unions representing about half its workforce walked off the job.

The unions and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the public agency that runs the railroad, have been negotiating for months on a new contract, with talks stalled over the question of workers' salaries and healthcare premiums. President Donald Trump's administration tried to broker a deal, but the unions were legally allowed to strike starting at 12:01 a.m.

Kevin Sexton, national vice president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, said no new negotiations have been scheduled.

"We're far apart at this point," Sexton said early Saturday. "We are truly sorry that we are in this situation."

MTA Chairman Janno Lieber said the agency "gave the union everything they said they wanted in terms of pay" and that to him it was apparent the unions always intended to walk out.

First LIRR walkout since 1994

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 68 of 78**

The walkout, the first for the LIRR since a two-day strike in 1994, promises to cause headaches for sports fans planning to see the Yankees and Mets battle this weekend or to watch the Knicks' playoff run at Madison Square Garden, which is located directly above the railroad's Penn Station hub in Manhattan.

The station was devoid of its usual weekend bustle in the afternoon. Only a few dozen people were seen traversing the main concourse, many dragging rolling luggage from departing or arriving Amtrak trains, which are not affected by the strike.

Departure boards normally showing upcoming trains by destination instead listed ghost trains marked "No Passengers." A few signs affixed to customer service windows explained that the railroad was shut down because of a strike.

Access to platforms was blocked off with bicycle-rack style barricades and roll-down gates as MTA police officers stood sentry, directing people to alternative transportation.

Shutdown could severely disrupt weekday commuting

If the stoppage continues into the workweek, the roughly 250,000 people who ride the system each weekday will be forced to find other routes to the city from its Long Island suburbs. For many that likely means navigating the region's notoriously congested roads.

Gov. Kathy Hochul, a Democrat, blamed the Trump administration for cutting mediation short and pushing the negotiations toward a strike. Trump, a Republican, responded on his Truth Social platform, saying he had nothing to do with the strike and "never even heard about it until this morning."

"No, Kathy, it's your fault, and now looking over the facts, you should not have allowed this to happen," Trump said, renewing his endorsement of Long Island politician Bruce Blakeman, who is challenging Hochul's reelection bid. "If you can't solve it, let me know, and I'll show you how to properly get things done."

Hochul urged Long Islanders to work from home if possible. The MTA has said it would provide limited shuttle buses to New York City subway stations, but that contingency plan was not envisioned to handle all the riders the system normally carries on a workday.

And while remote work options greatly expanded during the COVID-19 pandemic, many people still need to show up in person, said Lisa Daglian, executive director of the Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA, a commuter advocacy group.

"You work in construction, you work in the healthcare industry, you work at a school or you're about to graduate from school, that's not always possible," she said. "People need to get where they need to go."

Dave Sumner, a locomotive engineer of 32 years, said he anticipates that Trump or Congress will step in before the strike goes on much longer.

"We're pretty vital to this area," he said.

The MTA has said the unions' initial demands to raise salaries would have led to fare increases and impacted contract negotiations with other unionized workers.

The unions, which represent locomotive engineers, machinists, signalmen and other train workers, have said more substantial raises were warranted to help workers keep up with inflation and rising living costs.

Duane O'Connor, who picketed in the morning at Penn Station, said that while he regrets the impact on commuters, workers are simply asking for fair pay.

"I feel terrible. Terrible. This is going to hurt. This is going to hurt the island, this is going to hurt the city. ... All we are asking for is fair wages," he said.

"We're pretty much three years without a contract," said Karl Bischoff, a locomotive engineer with LIRR for 29 years. "If they did their contracts for their construction stuff like that, this place would be in worse condition."

If the unions get the pay increases they are looking for, "it will come at the expense of our riders who will see next year's 4% fare increase doubled to 8%," Gerard Bringmann, chair of the rider advocacy group LIRR Commuter Council, said in a statement. "Like the union workers, we too are burdened by the increase in the cost of living here on Long Island."

With Hochul running for reelection, the pressure might be on the MTA to strike a deal to end the shut-down, said William Dwyer, a labor relations expert at Rutgers University in New Jersey, where commuter rail workers staged a three-day strike last year.

"She's up for reelection, and Long Island is a critical vote for her," Dwyer said. "So if there's a significant fare hike, that does not bode well for her on Election Day."

## **Congolese report constant burials as deaths in new Ebola outbreak reach 87**

By The Associated Press undefined

BUNIA, Congo (AP) — At least 87 deaths have been reported in Congo's new Ebola disease outbreak in eastern Ituri province, the Africa CDC said Saturday, warning of an "active community transmission" as health workers raced to intensify screening and contact tracing to contain the disease.

Meanwhile, Associated Press journalists in Ituri's capital, Bunia, interviewed locals who recounted their fears and constant burials.

"Every day, people are dying ... and this has been going on for about a week. In a single day, we bury two, three or even more people," said Jean Marc Asimwe, a resident of Bunia. "At this point, we don't really know what kind of disease it is."

Ebola is highly contagious and can be contracted through bodily fluids such as vomit, blood, or semen. The disease it causes is rare, but severe and often fatal.

Officials first announced the latest outbreak in Congo on Friday with 65 deaths and 246 suspected cases. By Saturday, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention reported 336 suspected and 13 confirmed cases. Four people have died among the confirmed cases.

At an online briefing on Saturday, Africa CDC Director-General Dr. Jean Kaseya said the first cases were reported in Mongwalu health zone, a high-traffic mining area. "Cases subsequently migrated to Rwampara and Bunia as patients sought medical care, enabling spread across three health zones," he said.

A high number of active cases remain within the local community, particularly in Mongwalu, Kaseya said, "significantly complicating containment and contact tracing efforts."

Insecurity in Ituri, where Islamic State-backed militants carry out rampant deadly attacks, continues to restrict surveillance and rapid response operations, he added.

Of the 87 deaths, 57 are in the Mongwalu health zone, 27 in the Rwampara health zone and three in Bunia, Ituri's main city.

Congolese Health Minister Samuel-Roger Kamba said late Friday that test results confirmed the Bundibugyo virus, a variant of the disease that has been less prominent in Congo's past outbreaks. This is Congo's 17th outbreak since Ebola first emerged in the country in 1976.

The suspected index case in the latest outbreak is a nurse who died at a hospital in Bunia, Kamba said. He said the case dates back three weeks to April 24.

He did not say whether samples from the nurse were tested, but said the person presented symptoms suggestive of Ebola.

The outbreak has spread to neighboring Uganda

Uganda confirmed Friday an Ebola case that authorities said was "imported" from Congo. The person died at the Kibuli Muslim Hospital in Uganda's capital, Kampala, on May 14.

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention had said it is concerned about the risk of further spread due to the proximity of affected areas to Uganda and South Sudan.

The body of the patient who died in Kampala was later taken back to Congo and no other local case has been confirmed, Uganda's Health Ministry said.

On Saturday, people were being screened at the entrance of the Kibuli Muslim Hospital.

Ismail Kigongo, who resides in Kampala, said the new outbreak reminded him of his father, whom he lost during the COVID-19 pandemic. "I really get scared because I remember burying my father without looking at his body," he said.

Kenya, Uganda's neighbor, said Saturday that there is only a "moderate risk of importation" of the Ebola virus due to regional travel. Kenya's government said it has formed an Ebola preparedness team and has strengthened surveillance at all points of entry.



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 70 of 78

Congo is a large country that often faces logistical challenges. Congo has experience managing Ebola outbreaks but often faces logistical challenges in delivering expertise and supplies to affected regions.

As Africa's second-largest country by land area, Congo's provinces are far from one another and mostly battling conflict. Ituri, for instance, is around 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) from the nation's capital, Kinshasa, and is ravaged by violence from Islamic State-backed militants.

Only 13 blood samples have been tested at the National Institute of Biomedical Research; 8 tested positive for the Bundibugyo strain. The remaining five could not be analyzed due to insufficient sample volume, the health minister said.

In Bunia, Ituri's main city, businesses and regular activities in public places appeared normal on Friday. Resident Adeline Awekonimungu said she hopes the outbreak is quickly contained. "My recommendation is that the government take this matter seriously and that it takes charge of the hospitals so that this matter can be brought under control," she said.

## **Driver plows into pedestrians in Modena, 8 injured as driver detained after attempted escape**

By GIADA ZAMPANO Associated Press

ROME (AP) — A driver plowed into pedestrians in the northern Italian city of Modena on Saturday, injuring eight people, four of them critically, before trying to flee and being detained by police, local authorities said. They said the man was known to officials for having mental disorders.

Authorities identified the driver as Salim El Koudri, a 31-year-old second-generation Italian born in Bergamo and living in the province of Modena. El Koudri, who holds a degree in economics, is unemployed, authorities said. He was detained and questioned at police headquarters in Modena as investigators tried to determine whether he acted deliberately.

Investigators said at a press conference Saturday evening there was no immediate indication the man was under the influence of drugs or alcohol. His home was searched as part of the investigation.

Modena Prefect Fabrizia Triolo said el Koudri had been known to local mental health services for schizoid disorders, while officials stressed that early findings pointed to possible mental instability but required further verification. No links to extremist groups emerged.

Mayor Massimo Mezzetti said no one was killed in the dramatic crash but four victims were in serious condition. He said a woman was pinned against a shop window and required the amputation of both legs.

Mezzetti said the vehicle entered one of the city's main streets and the man "drove onto the sidewalk, sending several people flying," before crashing into the shop window.

Victims were taken to hospitals in Modena and Bologna, including by helicopter for the most critical cases.

El Koudri attempted to flee but was stopped first by some of the citizens involved in the crash and then by police and taken to headquarters for questioning.

Witnesses reported the man was holding a knife, but he did not manage to stab anyone, the mayor said, adding that investigators are still working to determine whether the act was deliberate or linked to other causes.

"Whatever the nature, it is a very serious act," Mezzetti said. "If it were an attack, it would be even more serious."

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni called the incident "extremely serious" in a social media post and expressed solidarity with the victims and their families.

Meloni thanked citizens who intervened to help stop the suspect and praised law enforcement, adding she was in contact with local authorities and expected the suspect to be held fully accountable.

Emergency services, including police, carabinieri and financial police, responded to the scene, which was cordoned off as ambulances treated victims in the street.

## Canadian cruise passenger gets a presumptive positive hantavirus test result after ship outbreak

By JIM MORRIS Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — One of four Canadians who returned home from a cruise ship where there was a hantavirus outbreak received a “presumptive positive” test result for the virus, Canadian officials said Saturday.

Results from the National Microbiology Lab in Winnipeg to confirm the case are expected to come over the weekend, said Dr. Bonnie Henry, the public health officer for the province of British Columbia.

“Clearly this is not what we hoped for, but it is what we planned for,” Henry said.

The person, one member of a couple in their 70s, began showing mild symptoms, including a fever and headache, two days ago. Both are in a hospital in Victoria.

“The patient is stable, the symptoms remain mild at this point,” said Henry. “They are still in hospital, in isolation, being monitored and receiving care as needed.”

The second person showed “very minor symptoms” and tests were negative, she said.

“It is encouraging that symptoms were identified early, supportive care can be provided, and they will be monitored carefully over the next few days,” Henry said.

Three people have died since the hantavirus outbreak began on the MV Hondius. If confirmed, the Canadian patient would be the 10th person from the ship to test positive. The outbreak on the ship has reached 12 cases, nine of which have been confirmed. Among those who died are a Dutch couple who health officials believe were the first exposed to the virus while visiting South America.

The four Canadians returned to British Columbia on May 10. Besides a couple in their 70s from the Yukon, there was a person in their 70s from Vancouver Island and a B.C. person from British Columbia in their 50s who lives abroad.

All were in isolation.

Henry said the hantavirus is different from COVID-19 and is not considered to have “pandemic potential.”

“I want to reassure everybody in (British Columbia) that for most of us the situation has not changed,” she said. “We’ve had infection control precautions in place from the moment these people arrived in British Columbia.”

“I’m confident there’s no additional risk. We are well prepared to respond carefully and appropriately to keep everyone safe.”

## USS Ford returns home after 11-month deployment supporting the Iran war and Maduro’s capture

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — The USS Gerald R. Ford, the world largest aircraft carrier, returned home to Virginia on Saturday after an 11-month deployment, the longest since the Vietnam War, that saw it support the U.S. war with Iran and the capture of Nicolás Maduro when he was Venezuela’s president.

The most advanced U.S. warship and two accompanying destroyers docked at Naval Station Norfolk with about 5,000 sailors waiting to see their families for the first time since June. Besides combat operations and traversing continents, the sailors aboard the carrier faced a noncombat-related fire that left hundreds without places to sleep and forced lengthy repairs on the Greek island of Crete.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth was on hand for the arrival of the warships, which included the destroyer USS Bainbridge.

Hegseth commended the crew of the Bainbridge for a “job well done.”

“You didn’t just accomplish a mission, you made history,” Hegseth said on the destroyer’s deck. “You made a nation proud.”

Hegseth also spoke to the crews of the USS Mahan, a destroyer, and the Ford.

In recognition of their service during the Iran war, the Ford and the accompanying ships were awarded the prestigious Presidential Unit Citation, lauded for “outstanding performance in action” against “a

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 72 of 78

determined enemy.” It’s the highest award a unit can receive and one typically reserved for significant achievement in combat.

The Ford’s 326 days at sea are the most for an aircraft carrier in the past 50 years and broke the record for the longest post-Vietnam War deployment, according to U.S. Naval Institute News, a news outlet run by the U.S. Naval Institute, a nonprofit organization. The only longer deployments were the 1973 deployment of USS Midway at 332 days and the 1965 deployment of USS Coral Sea at 329 days.

The Ford’s long time at sea has raised questions about the impact on service members who are away from home for long periods as well as about increasing strain on the ship and its equipment beyond the fire, which started in one of the carrier’s laundry spaces.

When the Ford first left Virginia’s coast in June, it headed to the Mediterranean Sea. It was then rerouted to the Caribbean Sea in October as part of the largest naval buildup in the region in generations.

The carrier took part in the military operation in January to capture Maduro. Then it would see more battle, heading toward the Middle East as tensions with Iran escalated. The Ford participated in the opening days of the Iran war from the Mediterranean Sea before going through the Suez Canal and heading into the Red Sea in early March.

Technically, the crew of the USS Nimitz was on duty and away from home for a total of 341 days in 2020 and 2021. However, that included extended isolation periods ashore in the U.S. meant to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

## **Israeli strike kills Hamas’ military wing leader, who Israel says was an architect of Oct 7 attacks**

By SAMY MAGDY and SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — An Israeli airstrike in Gaza killed the leader of Hamas’ military wing who was one of the last surviving architects of the attacks that triggered the war in late 2023, the Israeli military said Saturday. Hamas confirmed the death.

Izz al-Din al-Haddad was killed on Friday, Israel’s army said, describing him as one of the senior Hamas military commanders who directed the planning and execution of the Hamas-led attacks on Oct. 7, 2023, which killed around 1,200 people in southern Israel and saw more than 250 taken hostage.

A Hamas spokesperson, Hazem Qassem, confirmed the killing on social media.

The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas remains fragile, and the top diplomat overseeing it says it has stalled because of the deadlock over disarming Hamas. Both sides have traded accusations of violations. Gaza has seen near-daily Israeli fire with more than 850 people killed in the Palestinian territory since the ceasefire went into effect in October, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry.

The ministry is part of Gaza’s Hamas-run government, but staffed by medical professionals who maintain and publish detailed records viewed as generally reliable by the international community. The ministry overall says Israel’s retaliatory strikes in the war have devastated the Palestinian enclave and killed more than 72,700 people.

Israel said that al-Haddad had assumed the role of Hamas commander after his predecessor, Mohammed Sinwar, was killed. The army said that al-Haddad had surrounded himself with Israeli hostages during the war as a shield against an attack.

Al-Haddad’s family confirmed his death in Friday’s strike to The Associated Press. Six other people, including his wife and daughter, were also killed. His two sons were killed earlier in the war.

His body was wrapped in Hamas and Palestinian flags as it was carried by mourners at Saturday’s funeral in Gaza City.

Al-Haddad joined Hamas when it was established in the 1980s, and was a member of the Qassam Brigades’ Majd section tasked to go after collaborators with Israel. He was also a member of Hamas’ Military Council, the highest group of commanders that played a key role in the attacks that sparked the war.

Israel’s army chief of staff called his killing a significant operation, and said that Israel would continue



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 73 of 78

pursuing its enemies to hold them accountable.

Palestinian man killed in West Bank

Violence flared Saturday in the occupied West Bank, where Israeli troops shot and killed a 34-year-old Palestinian in the Jenin refugee camp, according to the Palestinian Health ministry.

Hassan Fayyad was fatally shot in a thigh, the Palestinian Red Crescent said. Israel's military said that troops first fired warning shots at a person trying to infiltrate the camp and shot him when he didn't comply. They provided him with medical treatment as he was transferred to a hospital, it said.

Israeli troops on Thursday shot and killed a 15-year-old boy in Eastern Lubban town in Nablus, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. Israel's military said that it identified three people hurling rocks toward Israeli vehicles and "endangering lives," and troops fired at them, killing one.

On Friday, settlers set fire to a mosque and vehicles in the village of Jibiya, northwest of Ramallah, Palestinian religious authorities said. Security camera footage showed people pouring flammable material on the mosque and at least two vehicles, said Sabir Shalash, the head of Jibiya's municipal council. Spray-painted Hebrew slogans were found on the mosque's walls, he said.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs described the attack as "a cowardly terrorist act" and criticized the international community's inaction over mounting Jewish settler attacks against Muslim and Christian sites in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The Israeli military and police said that they were deployed to the area and didn't locate any suspects, but were investigating. The army said that it "strongly condemns" attacks on religious institutions.

## Maldives suspends search for 4 Italians in underwater cave after military diver dies

By KRISHAN FRANCIS and GIADA ZAMPANO Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Maldivian authorities on Saturday suspended the search for the bodies of four Italian divers believed to be deep inside an underwater cave, after a military diver died during a perilous mission to try to reach them.

The group of five Italian divers is believed to have died while exploring a cave at a depth of about 50 meters (160 feet) in Vaavu Atoll on Thursday, according to Italy's Foreign Ministry. The recreational diving limit in the Maldives is 30 meters (98 feet).

Maldives presidential spokesman Mohamed Hussain Shareef said the search was suspended after Mohamed Mahudhee, a member of the Maldivian National Defense Force, died of underwater decompression sickness after being transferred to a hospital in the capital.

Authorities are awaiting the arrival of three Finnish divers, experts in deep and cave diving, on Sunday, to rethink their search strategy, he said.

Mahudhee will be buried with military honors in a funeral attended by President Mohamed Muzzu on Saturday night. The diver was part of the group that had briefed Muizzu on the rescue plan when he visited the search site on Friday.

"The death goes to show the difficulty of the mission," Shareef said.

Rough weather has repeatedly hampered rescue efforts.

Search operations on Saturday involved eight local divers who worked in shifts to locate the missing Italians, the Italian Foreign Ministry said. Initial teams had already dived to identify and mark the entrance to the cave system where the Italians disappeared. The cause of the deaths remains under investigation.

Italy's Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said everything possible would be done to bring the victims home. He offered his condolences for the death of the Maldivian diver during the rescue efforts.

The victims are described as experienced divers

The victims have been identified as Monica Montefalcone, an associate professor of ecology at the University of Genoa; her daughter, Giorgia Sommacal; marine biologist Federico Gualtieri; researcher Muriel Oddenino; and diving instructor Gianluca Benedetti, according to the Maldivian government.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 74 of 78

Benedetti's body was recovered on Thursday. His body was found near the mouth of the cave and authorities believed the remaining four had entered the cave.

Montefalcone and Oddenino were in the Maldives on an official scientific mission to monitor marine environments and study the effects of climate change on tropical biodiversity, the University of Genoa said in a statement Friday. However, the scuba diving activity during which the deadly accident occurred was not part of the planned research and was "undertaken privately," it said.

The statement also said the two other victims — student Sommacal and recent graduate Gualtieri — were not involved in the scientific mission.

Carlo Sommacal, Montefalcone's husband and Giorgia's father, expressed doubts over the accident, saying that "something must have happened down there" given his wife and daughter's extensive experience.

Speaking to Italian TV, he described Montefalcone as a careful and highly disciplined diver who would never put her daughter or other colleagues at risk.

Tour operator says it didn't authorize deep dive

The Italian tour operator that manages the Maldives' diving trip denied authorizing or knowing about the deep dive that violated local limits, its lawyer told Italian daily Corriere della Sera on Saturday.

Orietta Stella, representing Albatros Top Boat, said the operator "did not know" the group planned to descend beyond 30 meters. That threshold requires special permission from Maldivian maritime authorities and the tour operator "would have never allowed it," she said.

The dive far exceeded what was planned for a scientific cruise focused on coral sampling at standard depths, Stella added. The victims were experienced divers, but the equipment used appeared to be standard recreational gear rather than technical equipment suited for deep cave diving, she said.

She also clarified that Albatros only marketed the cruise and neither owned the vessel nor employed the crew, which was hired locally.

Cave diving is a highly technical and dangerous activity that requires specialized training, equipment and strict safety protocols. Risks increase sharply in environments where divers cannot head straight up and at depth, particularly when conditions are poor. Experts say it's easy to become disoriented or lost inside caves, particularly as sediment clouds can sharply reduce visibility.

Diving at 50 meters also exceeds the maximum depth recommended for recreational divers by most major established scuba certifying agencies, with depths beyond 40 meters (131 feet) considered technical diving and requiring specialized training and equipment.

The Italian Foreign Ministry said the cave is divided into three large chambers connected by narrow passages. Recovery teams explored two of the three chambers on Friday, but the search was limited due to considerations over oxygen and decompression.

Italian officials said that around 20 other Italians on the same expedition aboard the vessel "Duke of York" were safe. Italy's embassy in Colombo was providing assistance to those onboard and had contacted the Red Crescent, which offered to deploy volunteers to help provide psychological aid.

The Maldives Tourism Ministry said it suspended the operating license of the "Duke of York" pending an investigation.

## Trump's description of Taiwan as a 'good negotiating chip' with China raises anxieties

By SIMINA MISTREANU Associated Press

Recent comments by U.S. President Donald Trump that arms sales to Taiwan are a "very good negotiating chip" in the United States' dealings with China are heightening anxieties on the island democracy that Beijing claims as its own.

Trump made the comment in a Fox News interview with Bret Baier that aired right after the U.S. president wrapped up a high-stakes visit to China on Friday.

China sees Taiwan as a breakaway province, to be retaken by force if necessary. The U.S., like all countries that have formal ties with Beijing, doesn't recognize Taiwan as a country but has been the island's

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 75 of 78**

strongest backer and arms supplier.

Trump is now suggesting that is open to negotiation.

Asked if he would approve a \$14 billion arms package to Taiwan that has been held up for months, Trump said that's up to China.

"I'm holding that in abeyance and it depends on China," he said. "It's a very good negotiating chip for us, frankly. It's a lot of weapons."

The U.S. is bound by its own laws to provide Taiwan with the means to defend itself and sees all threats to the island as a matter of grave concern.

By conditioning U.S. arms sales to Taiwan on his negotiations with China, Trump may play into one the island's "nightmare scenarios," said William Yang, a Northeast Asia senior analyst for International Crisis Group: that Taiwan, instead of being at the negotiating table, is on the menu.

Although Trump didn't say specifically what he would want from China in return for denying Taiwan the weapons, he has been pressing Beijing to buy more American goods and to help put pressure on Iran.

Trump and the U.S. Congress already approved in December a separate \$11 billion arms sales package to Taiwan. Beijing reacted furiously by staging live fire drills around the island.

China warned of 'clashes and even conflicts' over Taiwan

China has framed Taiwan as "the most important issue in China-U.S. relations" during Chinese President Xi Jinping's recent summit with Trump. The visit is to be followed next week by a trip by Russian President Vladimir Putin to Beijing.

In one of his strongest statements to date, Xi on Thursday warned Trump of "clashes and even conflicts" if the issue of Taiwan is not handled properly.

Taiwan's presidential office on Saturday sought to smooth over the tensions by highlighting "that the consistent U.S. policy and position toward Taiwan remain unchanged."

"The Republic of China is a sovereign, independent, democratic country; this is self-evident, and Beijing's claims are therefore without merit," said Presidential Office Spokesperson Karen Kuo, referring to Taiwan's official name. She added that the island remains grateful to Trump for his support and stressed that U.S. arms sales to Taiwan are stipulated by law.

Trump wants Taiwan's microchip makers to move to the U.S.

Another statement that raised concerns on the island was Trump's call for Taiwan's microchip sector — the world's largest and most advanced — to pick up and move to the U.S.

"I'd like to see everybody making chips over in Taiwan come into America," Trump told Fox News, describing such a move as "the greatest thing you can do."

Trump has long pressed Taiwanese chipmakers, which produce more than 90% of the world's most advanced chips, which are used for artificial intelligence, smartphones and military equipment, to base some of their production in the U.S.

Taiwan's leading chipmaker, TSMC, has committed an investment of \$165 billion in a mega-campus in Arizona. The island's government, in a sweeping trade agreement with the U.S. earlier this year, pledged \$250 billion in investment in the U.S. microchip sector, which included TSMC's previous commitment.

Trump also reiterated older accusations that Taiwan "stole" its chipmaking sector from the U.S. decades ago.

Trump seems to embrace Xi's narrative on Taiwan

While Trump during his summit with Xi did not alter U.S. policy wording on Taiwan — which many observers had feared he would — he did seem to adopt some of the Chinese president's own narrative about the island's government.

Beijing has branded Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te as a "Taiwan independence diehard," and warned that he would bring war and destruction to the island.

Trump and other top U.S. officials don't usually communicate with Taiwanese leaders but have shown support in the past for example by allowing former Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen to transit on U.S. soil en route to visiting Latin American countries. Lai, who is about to reach his presidency's two-year



mark, has yet to set foot on the U.S. mainland, and some observers have interpreted that as a rollback of support by the Trump administration.

In his interview with Fox News, Trump stressed that he didn't want to see a change of status quo between Taiwan and Beijing. "But they have somebody there now that wants to go independent," he said, likely referring to Lai.

"They're going independent because they want to get into a war and they figure they have the United States behind them." He added that he is not looking to fight a war thousands of miles away.

Trump's worrying statements about Taiwan may be another instance of "his transactional rhetoric being turned up to the max," said Wen-Ti Sung, a fellow with the Atlantic Council. "What matters more is the substance, which Taiwan is holding its collective breath for."

## When should you get a mammogram? Conflicting advice makes it hard to know

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Deciding when to get routine mammograms is confusing. Some health groups recommend women begin at age 40 or 45 while another recently opted for age 50. They also differ on whether yearly or every other year is best.

The conflicting advice is at least partly because guidelines for breast cancer screening are designed for women at average risk and with no possible cancer symptoms. But breast cancer is so common that it is hard to know who is really "average" and how to balance the pros and cons of screening.

"Breast cancer is not one disease," said Dr. Laura Esserman of the University of California, San Francisco. "So how in the world does it make sense to screen everybody the same when everyone doesn't have the same risk?"

Esserman is leading research to better understand the nuances of who is at low or high risk or somewhere in between and eventually offer more tailored screening advice.

More than 320,000 women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, according to the American Cancer Society. Death rates have been dropping for decades, thanks largely to better treatments. But it is still the second-most common cause of cancer death in U.S. women -- and diagnoses are inching up.

For now, here are some things to know.

When to get a mammogram

The newest guidance comes from the American College of Physicians, which recommends that average-risk women ages 50 to 74 get an every-other-year mammogram. For those 40 to 49, the guideline says to discuss pros and cons with a doctor and if they choose screening, to go every other year.

That advice, issued last month, was a surprise. Most other U.S. health groups have urged women to start earlier, in their 40s. The influential U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recently switched its guidance to start every-other-year mammograms at age 40 instead of 50.

The American Cancer Society has long recommended yearly mammograms for 45- to 54-year-olds -- but says they can choose to start at 40. For those age 55 and older, the cancer society says women can switch to every other year or choose to keep going for yearly checks.

The new American College of Physicians guidelines also say doctors can ask if women 75 or older wish to stop routine screening. In contrast, the cancer society says there is no reason to stop if they are still healthy.

Why don't experts agree?

The higher a woman's risk of eventually developing breast cancer, the more benefit she will derive from more frequent screenings. But beyond some well-known factors like the cancer-causing BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes, it is hard for women to know their true risk. Age has long been a proxy because the risk of breast cancer rises as women get older.

Mammograms aren't perfect. Sometimes they miss cancer or an aggressive tumor pops up after a routine

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 77 of 78**

mammogram. But guidelines seek to balance the benefits of catching cancer early with possible harms, such as stress and pain from investigating suspicious spots that don't turn out to be cancerous.

"We're not saying there's no benefit" from mammograms in the 40s, cautioned Dr. Carolyn Crandall of the University of California, Los Angeles, who chaired the American College of Physicians report. But "there's a narrower balance between the benefits you could get and the harms in 40- to 49-year-olds."

The American Cancer Society recommends starting yearly mammograms at 45 because it found breast cancer incidence in 45- to 49-year-olds was higher than in the early 40s – more like what 50- to 54-year-olds experience, said public health researcher Robert Smith, the society's expert on early cancer detection.

What is missing is a way to tell if someone is more likely to develop an aggressive breast cancer or a slow-growing one, Smith noted.

How dense breasts affect mammogram advice

Nearly half of women over 40 have dense breast tissue, which can make it harder to spot a tumor on a mammogram and can slightly increase the risk of developing cancer.

After a mammogram, women are notified about their breast density. Many experts say it is not yet clear if women with dense breasts would benefit from adding ultrasounds or MRIs to their screening. But the new American College of Physicians guidance advises considering 3D mammography – what doctors call digital breast tomosynthesis or DBT.

What's next for breast cancer screening

In the future, adding a gene test — one that looks at more than just those well-known BRCA genes — along with broader risk factors may help refine women's optimal mammogram schedule.

A recent study of nearly 46,000 women, called the WISDOM trial, used age, genetic testing, lifestyle, health history and breast density to classify women as low, average, elevated or high risk. That risk level determined if they waited to start mammograms at 50, went every other year or every year – and the highest-risk group was told to screen twice a year, once with a mammogram and again with an MRI scan. Risk-based scans were compared to standard yearly mammograms.

Risk-based screening worked as well as yearly screening, Esserman's team reported in the medical journal JAMA. One surprise: About 30% of women whose gene testing indicated increased risk didn't report relatives with breast cancer. While more research is underway, Esserman hopes the early findings will start influencing guidelines soon.

Also in the pipeline are AI tools being crafted to assess a woman's risk of developing breast cancer in the next few years based on clues in her mammogram, another possible way to identify who might qualify for more or less frequent screening.

For now, women can talk with their doctors about close relatives who have had cancer, their own overall health and other risk factors such as whether they have had children and at what age.

Whatever mammogram age and interval they choose, the best advice is to stick with it, the cancer society's Smith said: "Breast screening works best when it's done regularly."

## **Today in History: May 17, Supreme Court strikes down school segregation**

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, May 17, the 137th day of 2026. There are 228 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On May 17, 1954, a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court handed down its Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka decision, which held that racially segregated public schools were inherently unequal and therefore unconstitutional.

Also on this date:

In 1792, the Buttonwood Agreement, a document codifying rules for securities trading, was signed by 24 New York stockbrokers, marking the formation of the New York Stock Exchange.

In 1875, the first Kentucky Derby was held; the race was won by Aristides, ridden by jockey Oliver Lewis.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, May 17, 2026 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 346 ~ 78 of 78**

In 1946, President Harry S. Truman seized control of the nation's railroads, delaying — but not preventing — a threatened strike by engineers and trainmen.

In 1973, a special committee convened by the U.S. Senate began its televised hearings into the Water-gate scandal.

In 1980, rioting that claimed 18 lives erupted in Miami after an all-white jury in Tampa acquitted four former Miami police officers of fatally beating Black insurance executive Arthur McDuffie.

In 1987, 37 American sailors were killed when an Iraqi warplane attacked the U.S. Navy frigate Stark in the Persian Gulf. (Iraq apologized for the attack, calling it a mistake, and paid more than \$27 million in compensation.)

In 1995, Army veteran Shawn Nelson took a 57-ton M-60 tank from a California National Guard armory and terrorized San Diego for 23 minutes, barreling down residential streets, smashing into cars, street lights and fire hydrants on a miles-long path of destruction. Police ultimately forced the tank hatch open and fatally shot Nelson.

In 2004, Massachusetts became the first U.S. state to allow same-sex marriages.

In 2015, a shootout erupted between members of rival motorcycle clubs, followed by police gunfire, outside a restaurant in Waco, Texas, leaving nine of the bikers dead and 20 people injured.

In 2024, the Dow Jones Industrial Average just closed above 40,000 for the first time, the latest pop in a surprisingly good year for Wall Street in which the Dow gained 19.7% over the previous 12 months.

Today's Birthdays: Musician Taj Mahal is 84. Boxing Hall of Famer Sugar Ray Leonard is 70. Sports announcer Jim Nantz is 67. Singer-composer Enya is 65. TV host-comedian Craig Ferguson is 64. Musician Trent Reznor (Nine Inch Nails) is 61. Actor Sasha Alexander is 53. Singer-actor Kandi Burrus is 50. Basketball Hall of Famer Tony Parker is 44. Screenwriter-actor-producer Lena Waithe is 42. Dancer-choreographer Derek Hough is 41. Former NFL quarterback Matt Ryan is 41. Actor Nikki Reed is 38. Singer-songwriter AJ Mitchel is 25.