

Groton Daily Independent

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Monday, May 25

MEMORIAL DAY

See ad on page 5 for Groton Legion Schedule.

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

Tuesday, May 26

Senior Menu: Goulash, green peas, fruit, whole wheat bread.

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

Wednesday, May 27

Senior Menu: Teriyaki chicken, wild rice, oriental blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.

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

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.

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



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1440

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

Memorial Day

Overview

Memorial Day is a federal holiday observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the US military. Its origins trace to the aftermath of the Civil War, when communities across the country began holding local ceremonies to decorate the graves of fallen soldiers. The first national commemoration was held at Arlington National Cemetery on May 30, 1868.

Over time, the holiday has come to be both a solemn day of remembrance and the unofficial start of summer. Congress moved it from May 30 to the final Monday in May in 1971, creating what is now one of the biggest travel and cookout weekends of the year in the United States.

Today, traditions include visiting cemeteries, attending parades, and the National Moment of Remembrance at 3 pm, when Americans are asked to pause and honor the fallen.

The devastation of the American Civil War led to the establishment of Memorial Day

Tracing its origins to the post-Civil War era, Memorial Day began as local tributes to those who lost their lives in the war. Originally taking place annually on May 30, it was moved to the final Monday in May in 1971.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is located in Arlington National Cemetery

Dedicated on Armistice Day in 1921, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier serves as a symbolic memorial for unidentified fallen service members. It has been guarded continuously since 1937 at Arlington National Cemetery.

One of the earliest Memorial Day ceremonies was held by newly freed Black Americans in South Carolina

On May 1, 1865, roughly 10,000 people, mostly freed slaves, paraded around a Charleston racetrack where Union prisoners had been buried, predating the first national commemoration at Arlington National Cemetery by three years.

The American Battle Monuments Commission maintains 26 overseas military cemeteries in 16 countries

The cemeteries honor more than 218,000 American war dead, with the majority of sites located in France and Belgium, where some of the heaviest fighting of both World Wars took place.

Memorial Day weekend is one of the biggest travel weekends of the year in the United States

In 2026, AAA estimated over 45 million Americans planned to travel over the long weekend, with approximately 87% of those trips made by car.

Cookout and barbecue culture boomed in post-war 1950s America

Magazines like "Life" fueled the outdoor cooking craze, and by 1955, barbecue had grown into a \$100 million industry. American Studies scholar Kristin L. Matthews explains that the trend fit neatly with Cold War-era consumerism and the emphasis on home ownership.

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At 3 pm on Memorial Day, Americans are asked to pause for one minute of silence

President Bill Clinton first called for the National Moment of Remembrance in 1999, and Congress made it law in 2000. The time was chosen because most Americans are in the middle of holiday activities.

Arlington National Cemetery was built on land seized from Robert E. Lee's family during the Civil War

Established in 1864 on a plantation once owned by Lee's wife, Arlington now spans 639 acres and is home to more than 400,000 veterans and their eligible dependents. The cemetery conducts as many as 27 funerals every weekday.

The Indianapolis 500 has been tied to Memorial Day weekend since the very first race in 1911

Organizers chose Decoration Day (now Memorial Day) because local farmers had finished haying and the holiday drew big crowds. The race has run around Memorial Day ever since, with the only exceptions being a few weather delays, the two World Wars, and the 2020 pandemic.

Thousands of musicians play 'Taps' simultaneously at 3 pm on Memorial Day

Taps Across America launched in 2020 when pandemic closures canceled parades and ceremonies. Tens of thousands of musicians now participate each year, playing the 24-note bugle call from porches and lawns across the country.

Americans' love of combining freedom and charred meat began in the 1800s

In the 19th century, politicians (particularly in Virginia) hosted large public barbecues to celebrate Independence Day and, of course, boost their own campaigns. When personal grills became common in the 20th century, the tradition moved into backyards and block parties, where it's still going strong today.

George Washington was a fan of barbecue

The first US president celebrated laying the cornerstone of the US Capitol by hosting a barbecue, the centerpiece of which was a 500-pound ox. By the 19th century, barbecue was a standard component of public celebrations, including Independence Day and Memorial Day.



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In what has now become an annual event, the NFL released the 2026 schedule last week. Teams have turned this into a spectacle, with each team's media relations department trying to

outdo each other with increasingly creative videos. The Vikings used kicker Will Reichard at a restaurant for their video, and you can check it out on YouTube or Vikings.com.

Let's dig in, starting with the preseason then turning to the games that actually count.

Preseason week 1 (8/15) - @ NY Giants

The first time we'll see the Vikings take the field for the 2026 season. This isn't the team's only trip to the Big Apple.

Preseason week 2 (8/22) - VS Baltimore Ravens

The Vikings will host the Ravens in joint practice sessions the week before this game.

Preseason week 3 (8/28) - @ Denver Broncos

The Vikings close out their preseason with a trip to the Rocky Mountains.

Week 1 (9/13) - VS Green Bay Packers

The 2026 regular season kicks off with a home matchup against the rival Packers. This will be the 132nd meeting between the two teams.

Week 2 (9/20) - @ Chicago Bears

The second week of the season. The second straight divisional game. This one will be on the road, and by the sounds of it, may be one of the last games at Soldier Field.

Week 3 (9/27) - @ Tampa Bay Buccaneers

I'm sure the Vikings would've preferred to travel to Florida later in the season, but this will be a fun matchup against an old NFC Central foe.

Week 4 (10/04) - VS Miami Dolphins

A second-straight Florida team, but this one will be in the friendly confines of U.S. Bank Stadium.

Week 5 (10/11) - @ New Orleans Saints

I still haven't forgiven the "Saints" for the 2009 NFC Championship game.

Week 6 - Bye

This is an early bye week, unfortunately.

Week 7 (10/25) - VS Indianapolis Colts

After a week of rest, the Vikings stay home and welcome the Colts.

Week 8 (11/01) - @ Detroit Lions

Two seasons ago the Vikings and Lions were battling for the top spot in the NFC North. Last season they tied at the bottom. What will 2026 have in store?

Week 9 (11/09) - VS Buffalo Bills

The first nationally televised game for the Vikings will be against the Buffalo Bills on Monday Night Football.

Week 10 (11/15) - @ Green Bay Packers

The second matchup between the Vikings and Packers, this one in Green Bay.

Week 11 (11/22) - @ San Francisco 49ers

The Vikings travel to Mexico this week, battling the 49ers on Sunday Night Football. This will be their first time in Mexico, but the Vikings are 9-1 in international games.

Week 12 (11/29) - VS Atlanta Falcons

The highly anticipated matchup of Kirk Cousins' former teams.

Week 13 (12/06) - VS Carolina Panthers

The final NFC South team.

Week 14 (12/10) - @ New England Patriots

After two of the easiest games on the schedule, the Vikings travel to New England for a Thursday Night Football matchup.

Week 15 (12/20) - VS Detroit Lions

A second-straight prime time game, this time it'll be Sunday Night Football against the Lions.

Week 16 (TBD) - VS Washington Commanders

We don't have a firm date or time yet for this game against the Commanders.

Week 17 (1/03) - @ NY Jets

The Vikings' second trip to New York, but this game will actually count.

Week 18 (TBD) - VS Chicago Bears

The final week of the 2026 season will be a divisional matchup against the Bears. Another "to be determined" game.

As always, the NFL schedule looks manageable in May. We'll see how it looks in December.

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MEMORIAL DAY

★ HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ★

GROTON POST #39 MEMORIAL DAY SCHEDULE

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

| | |
|----|-----------------------------|
| ★ | 7:30 A.M. HUFTON |
| 🏷️ | 8:15 A.M. JAMES |
| 🏠 | 8:45 A.M. VERDON |
| 🌿 | 9:15 A.M. BATES-SCOTLAND |
| 🇺🇸 | 10:00 A.M. FERNEY |
| ✝️ | 11:00 A.M. ANDOVER CATHOLIC |

GROTON AT NOON

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AARON WALBERG,
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★ ★ HONOR ★ REMEMBER ★ NEVER FORGET ★ ★

"Adverse Childhood Experiences: From Public Health Crisis to Clinical Opportunity"

Since the landmark 1998 study conducted by the CDC and Kaiser Permanente, it has been understood that Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), traumatic events occurring before age 18, have a profound and lasting impact on adult health. These experiences, ranging from abuse and neglect to household dysfunction like substance misuse or mental illness, are remarkably common. Approximately 62% of adults have experienced at least one ACE, and one in six report four or more.

The evidence for a dose-response relationship between ACEs and negative health outcomes is striking. Individuals with high ACE scores (four or more) face significantly increased risks for nine of the ten leading causes of death in the United States. This includes a 2.1-fold increased risk of heart disease, 2.3-fold for cancer, and 3.1-fold for chronic lower respiratory disease. The impact on behavioral health is even more acute, with high ACE scores associated with a 4.7-fold increase in depression, a 10.2-fold increase in substance dependence, and a staggering 37.5-fold increase in suicide attempts.

The biological mechanism driving these outcomes is the toxic stress response. When significant adversity is experienced without the buffering protection of safe, stable relationships, it leads to prolonged activation of the body's stress response systems. This disruption to neuro-endocrine-immune-metabolic (NEIM) function, alters gene expression via epigenetic markers, and accelerates cellular aging through the shortening of telomeres.

However, the most critical takeaway for clinicians is that ACEs are not destiny. The brain and body remain malleable throughout the life course, and targeted interventions can improve outcomes even for adults with high ACE scores. A modern clinical response requires moving beyond isolated medical treatments toward a multidisciplinary "Network of Care" that leverages the expertise of Community Health Workers (CHWs).

CHWs are essential mitigating factors because they are uniquely positioned to solve for social determinants of health (SDOH). Because ACEs often co-occur with challenges like housing instability, food insecurity, and economic hardship, CHWs help patients secure these basic needs. By addressing these external stressors, CHWs effectively lower the "cumulative dose" of adversity the patient experiences, which is necessary for the body to return to a state of homeostasis. Furthermore, as culturally congruent navigators, they build the trust needed to coach patients in self-care and "stress-busting" strategies.

Robust evidence suggests that seven key evidence-based strategies can mitigate NEIM disruptions and enhance neuroplasticity:

1. Supportive Relationships: Buffering stress through strong emotional connections.
2. Quality Sleep: Improving immune regulation through healthy sleep habits.
3. Balanced Nutrition: Counteracting pro-inflammatory states with anti-inflammatory diets.
4. Regular Physical Activity: Promoting neurogenesis and metabolic health.
5. Mindfulness Practices: Reducing stress hormones and improving emotional regulation.
6. Access to Nature: Lowering blood pressure and calming the stress response.
7. Mental and Behavioral Healthcare: Trauma-informed therapies to reverse cellular "wear and tear".

Implementing trauma-informed care (TIC) allows providers to move the clinical inquiry from "What is wrong with you?" to "What happened to you?". By recognizing toxic stress as a treatable health condition and utilizing CHWs to address underlying social needs, we can offer genuine healing. In doing so, we not only improve individual adult outcomes but also interrupt the intergenerational transmission of adversity, providing a healthier foundation for the next generation.



By Christina Young
Director for the Center for the Prevention of
Child Maltreatment

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SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Widow of Vietnam War veteran encourages more nominees for In Memory program

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR

A South Dakota woman wants more families of Vietnam veterans to know about a national program honoring those who came home from war and later died.

Bonnie Bjork's husband, Timothy, died on March 3. She said he suffered from health problems related to Agent Orange exposure. This year, he is being honored through the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's In Memory program.

"I believe very few individuals know about this program," Bjork told South Dakota Searchlight. "And these men deserve to be honored."

Agent Orange was a herbicide used by the U.S. military during the Vietnam War to remove jungle cover and destroy crops. It's also highly toxic, and many Vietnam-era veterans later developed illnesses that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs now treats as connected to Agent Orange exposure, including several cancers, diabetes, Parkinson's disease and more.

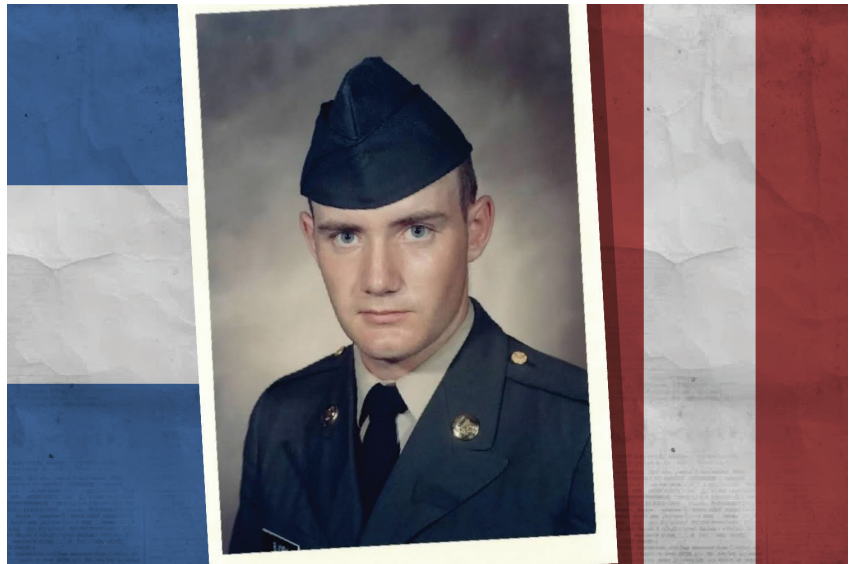
Timothy Bjork served in the Army and completed two tours in Vietnam. He later earned a biology degree from Dakota State University, worked for the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and served as executive director of the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

The In Memory program was created in 1993. It honors veterans whose names are not inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial — having been fortunate enough to come home — but who later died. More than 7,000 veterans have been added to the online In Memory Honor Roll since the program began, including 36 South Dakotans.

Those honorees will be recognized when The Wall That Heals, a three-quarter-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, comes to the Fishback Soccer Complex in Brookings June 11-14. The exhibit includes the digital photos of all In Memory honorees from the state where the exhibit is on display. Brookings is the traveling exhibit's only South Dakota stop this year.

Having a veteran honored by the In Memory program also includes an invitation to the In Memory Weekend in Washington, D.C., and an invitation to join a Facebook group that gives family and friends an online community to connect and share their stories.

The 2026 In Memory ceremony is scheduled for June 20. The ceremony will be streamed live on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's website.



Timothy Bjork served in the Army, completing two tours in Vietnam. He died in 2025 and is now being honored by the In Memory program. (Photo courtesy of Bonnie Bjork; illustration by Joshua Haiar/South Dakota Searchlight)

Data center battles started in the states. Now it's Congress under siege.

BY: DAVID LIGHTMAN

WASHINGTON — Higher electric rates? Massive data centers looming over neighborhoods? Ugly political fights over what to do about them?

The future of data centers and their huge appetite for electricity is quickly escalating as a political flashpoint from coast to coast, moving from cities and states now to the nation's capital.

Bills are under debate in Congress. The Trump administration has weighed in. Lobbying is intensifying. The Environmental Protection Agency is proposing changes.

But finding consensus on how to proceed in D.C. is tough, with the industry spreading around millions to make its case, some lawmakers pushing a moratorium, and others looking for ways to ease the burden on Americans without halting development.

At the grassroots, intense opposition continues breaking out. In early May, community members screamed and booed when commissioners in Box Elder County, Utah, unanimously approved two resolutions in support of a 40,000-acre data center campus proposed for an unincorporated site in the county.

Asked if he sees any momentum in Congress to do anything significant about the potential spread of data centers, Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., said in an interview, "Only with voters."

Hawley and Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., are pushing a plan to assure consumers they will pay no increases in utility rates because of data centers.

Getting Congress to act is more complicated. "Some communities may have too many, but some would like the opportunity to have one of these data centers that pay a lot of local taxes," Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., who represents a state embroiled in its own fight over the issue, said in an interview.

There is general agreement that the issues need exploring, and fast.

"Demand for reliable energy is rising faster than at any point in history. Clearly, we will need more generation and transmission, and a great deal more of it," said House Energy Subcommittee Chairman Robert Latta, R-Ohio, at a May 13 hearing.

The Data Center Coalition, the industry's membership association, says it's eager to work with lawmakers and consumers.

"Data centers power modern life—from telehealth and digital classrooms to banking, air travel, financial transactions, and online shopping. With the average household using more than 20 connected devices, this infrastructure is not optional; it is foundational," said Cy McNeill, coalition senior director of federal affairs.

"The data center industry is committed to being a good neighbor in communities where it operates, which includes the responsible use of key resources like water and energy," he said



Community members protest ahead of a special Box Elder County Commission meeting to discuss the Stratos project, a massive data center proposed for an unincorporated area in Box Elder County, Utah, on May 4, 2026.

(Photo by Alixel Cabrera/Utah News Dispatch)

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What are data centers?

Data centers in 2023 used about 4.4% of total U.S. electricity, according to a report from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

It predicted that percentage could double or triple by 2028 to meet the needs of growing amounts of data, notably artificial intelligence.

A data center is "a physical facility that houses and runs large computer systems," said a report from the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service.

As AI needs grow, CRS said, so have hyperscale data centers. These tend to contain at least 5,000 computer servers and at least 10,000 square feet of space, roughly four to five times the size of a standard single family home.

All this can impact consumers. A ratepayer's bill is generally determined by how much it costs to generate electricity and to deliver it. Rates are generally set by state or local regulators.

CRS found in its May 12 report that in most areas of the country, "little evidence existed that data center demand was affecting electricity rates nationwide."

Can data center development be stopped?

Sen. Bernie Sanders, a Vermont independent, and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., are sponsoring moratorium legislation.

Their plan would bar new AI data centers until "strong national safeguards are in place" that ensure AI is safe and effective and the economic benefits of AI and robotics will benefit workers.

The government would also have to guarantee that AI does not increase electricity or utility prices or harm the environment.

That idea has gained little traction. A moratorium "would be suicidal for the country," said Rep. Gary Palmer, R-Ala., a House Energy Subcommittee member.

Kaine explained the concern: "The idea of a moratorium basically would be saying to all our competitors in the world we have an edge on this now but we're going to let you catch up and race ahead of us."

One area where he thought lawmakers could find common ground involved permitting reform. Data centers now can need different permits, depending on their location, function and other factors.

Tackling permit reform could be complex, as most of the process falls to states. As CRS wrote, "Data centers require permits for various aspects of their construction — such as roads, buildings, telecommunications, and utilities"

That can include permits for connections to the local electric grid, any on-site electricity generation, and backup electricity facilities, CRS said, as well as connections to the local natural gas pipeline system.

The Environmental Protection Agency on May 11 took one step, proposing making it easier for data centers and other projects to start construction even though they haven't yet received federal clean air permits.

"The change will support the development of Artificial Intelligence infrastructure and power generation" an EPA statement said.

It called the proposal "a significant step forward in the Trump EPA's efforts to provide affordable baseload power for American families and to advance the data centers essential to making the U.S. the AI capital of the world."

In addition, the White House in March announced a "Ratepayer Protection Pledge" aimed at companies involved with centers. Major tech companies agreed to its points.

It says that "Companies will build, bring, or buy the new generation resources and electricity needed to satisfy their new energy demands, paying the full cost of those resources whether by building, or buying from, new or otherwise additive power plants."

Where possible, these companies will also add more capacity that serves the broader public by increasing supply.

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Congress wants more guardrails

Saying "a handshake and a promise from these tech companies is not enough" Rep. Greg Landsman, D-Ohio, last month introduced legislation to guarantee data centers "pay the full cost of their energy demands and infrastructure needs (and) studies the environmental impacts of data centers."

Other legislative initiatives include:

–The Energy Bills Relief Act. With 148 Democratic sponsors, led by Reps. Mike Levin, D-Calif., and Sean Casten, D-Ill., it would ensure that "facilities like data centers are paying for their own costs because it's not fair for their expenses to be pushed onto your household if one opens in your area."

–The Guaranteeing Rate Insulation from Data Centers (GRID Act). The Hawley-Blumenthal plan would guarantee no increase in consumer utility prices due to data centers, and make sure that new data centers "use energy from power generation sources that are separate from the grid."

–The Power for the People Act, which has Democratic support in the House and Senate. It would direct the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to make sure data centers pay for local transmission upgrades they need.

The bill "balances the need for data center development without pushing those costs onto consumers," said Rep. Paul Tonko, D-N.Y., its chief House sponsor.

–The Fair Allocation of Interstate Rates Act. Sponsored by Rep. Julie Fedorchak, R-N.D., It would "prevent households from being forced to subsidize transmission projects built to satisfy another state's green energy goals."

Currently, regional transmission groups spread costs of big interstate lines to consumers throughout the region.

Latta, the subcommittee chairman, called it "a practical solution to place the burden of renewable portfolio standard costs on the states that choose to adopt those requirements."

What's standing in the way?

Politics and, as Hawley put it, "M-o-n-e-y."

OpenSecrets, a nonpartisan organization that tracks money in politics, found "The electric manufacturing and equipment sector, including firms like Microsoft and Oracle, has poured more than \$226 million into lobbying activity in 2025."

That spending is aimed in part at backing what OpenSecrets called "the rapid growth of data centers and to address the resulting strain on the nation's power grid."

The Data Center Coalition's McNeill said the industry "is committed to working with communities, local officials, and state and federal leaders to ensure the continued responsible development of this critical industry while protecting families and businesses."

The Data Center Coalition, he said, "will continue to provide education on the data center industry and look forward to continued engagement with the administration, Congress, and other key stakeholders."

Also, the data center issue has become bound with other incendiary matters.

Discussing the moratorium idea, Rep. August Pfluger, R-Texas, said in an interview, "Of course they (Democrats) are pushing for that. They're anti-building, they're anti-American, they're anti-everything. They'd rather see Iranian oil be sold in the United States."

Democrats charge that Republicans are resisting meaningful regulation.

At one of the House hearings, Rep. Jenn McClellan, D-Va., tied the problems to the war in Iran.

"Not until the Trump administration carelessly ensnared the United States in a reckless and costly war of choice with Iran pushing energy prices up even higher," she said, "that we focused a hearing specifically addressing the alarming impact that data centers could have on energy affordability going forward."

David Lightman has been a reporter or editor for more than 50 years. He's worked for the Hagerstown (Md.) Morning Herald, Riverside (Calif.) Press Enterprise, and then 10 years at the Baltimore Evening Sun, covering local news and, for six years, state government and the legislature. He spent 23 years as the Hartford Courant's Washington Bureau Chief, and 18 years at McClatchy's Washington bureau, where he covered the White House and Congress. He also served as regional editor, supervising the bureau's seven regional reporters. He was president of Washington's Gridiron Club in 2018 and won the David Lynch award for regional reporting in 2007.

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Standing Rock anniversary event to include music, speakers, celebrity visitors

Pipeline that sparked protests remains operational, but organizer says movement has inspired change

BY: JOHN HULT

Climate activists and Indigenous and cultural leaders will join A-list celebrities and musicians for a festival and conference Sept. 16-18 on the Standing Rock Reservation to mark the 10th anniversary of the Dakota Access Pipeline protests.

"People of the Sun" is a ticketed celebration organizers aim to hold each year near Cannonball, North Dakota, the site of what became a massive encampment of opponents to the pipeline. The camp drew visitors from across the globe and inspired a host of environmental and community activism in the years that followed.

The protesters opposed the crude oil pipeline over concerns about possible leaks and water supply contamination.

The phrase "water is life," popularized by the protest, has become shorthand for environmental concerns by those opposed to natural resource extraction projects in and outside of South Dakota.

On Tuesday, opponents to a Black Hills uranium exploration project placed a sign that read "water is life" on a chair in the venue of a Hot Springs permit hearing.

The lineup for the inaugural "People of the Sun" event includes actors Mark Ruffalo and Shailene Woodley, the latter of whom was arrested at the protest camp in 2016, as well as the band Mumford and Sons, and Taboo, of the Black Eyed Peas.



An anti-pipeline camp near Cannonball, North Dakota, in 2016. (Courtesy of Indigenized Energy)

'What comes next'

The event is a presentation of Indigenized Energy – a Native American-led, nonprofit solar energy company that got its start in 2017, in the wake of the protests. Its founder, Cody Two Bears, was the elected representative for Cannonball on the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council at the time of the protests.

"After No DAPL happened, people went out there and started taking those seeds from the movement and planting them in different parts of the world," Two Bears said. "You're starting to see a lot of great things flourishing out there now."

On the conference side, the event will include awards for energy sovereignty to a tribe that's led the way in its pursuit of clean energy, Two Bears said, as well as individual awards for teaching, workforce development and mentorship.

The idea is to celebrate "what we've been doing, but also what comes next," he said, and to "realign" the various groups involved initially or spawned since the protests with the values that animated them.

Picking up the pieces after funding cancellation

Indigenized Energy was chosen in 2024 to guide \$135.6 million in funding awarded to the Northern Plains Tribal Coalition by the Biden administration for solar energy. The Trump administration canceled

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that funding, but Two Bears said the tribes involved have largely continued to pursue the projects through philanthropy, albeit at a smaller scale.

"It's at the scale of trying to pick up the pieces to preserve what we can," said Two Bears, whose company finished a solar project for the Chippewa Cree Tribe in Montana and a home solar project in Porcupine, South Dakota, before the federal funding stream stopped.

The company also completed, without Biden administration funding, an off-grid solar energy project for the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana that powers a buffalo processing facility on the same land that hosts the tribe's buffalo herd.

Part of the goal for the gathering in September, Two Bears said, is to generate interest and connect energy sovereignty backers with philanthropists and funders to "enjoy some high-level speakers" and entertainment.

Attendees of People of the Sun, he said, will be invited to see the in-progress installation of a solar system at Standing Rock, and to learn how such infrastructure can serve more than one purpose.

"That's going to be a buffalo sorting unit, which is also going to provide, at some point, buffalo processing of their meat," he said. "But most importantly, it's a big solar array for when they kind of corral them up that provides shade for those buffalo."

Ticket prices have yet to be set, and Two Bears said the lineup could grow in the weeks and months ahead.

'Can't get our heads down'

In late 2016, the Obama administration denied a permit for Energy Transfer Partners, the company that controls the Dakota Access Pipeline. President Donald Trump reversed that decision and cleared a path for completion of the now-operational pipeline shortly after taking office for his first term. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has continued legal challenges, but the pipeline company has withstood them, earning a permit Thursday to continue operations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

That the Dakota Access Pipeline is operational remains a disappointment for those who opposed it, Two Bears said, but "there's a lot of great things that have happened."

Lawsuits and protests shrouded Pete Lien and Sons' exploratory drilling for graphite, used in electric vehicle batteries, lubricants and pencils, in a Black Hills area considered sacred by Lakota people known as Pe' Sla.

A judge granted a temporary restraining order against the project earlier this month, in response to lawsuits filed by nine Native American tribes and a coalition of nonprofits. The company sent a letter to the Forest Service on May 7 announcing it had halted the project.

"We can't put our heads down because of one particular thing," Two Bears said. "Maybe there's 20 other different things that have happened."

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

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EARTHTALK

Solar Powered Trains Show Promise For Short Hops by Marium Zahra

Dear EarthTalk: Is anybody working on solar-powered trains, and if so, when will they be ready for prime time?

-- Paul Best, Los Angeles, CA

Solar-powered trains run on the Sun's energy to operate, via solar panels placed on train stations, on the roofs of trains, or most commonly, from the rail tracks. They also often gain indirect energy from the sun, using electricity from solar farms that is sometimes stored in batteries to facilitate auxiliary functions other than propulsion, including lighting, ventilation and GPS systems. Most solar train travel as of 2026 has been for short distances, optimal for tourism and urban shuttles, like the Byron Bay Train in Australia.



Solar powered trains are becoming a reality in the UK and India, but why not in the U.S. as well?

However, there are significant plans to achieve long-term solar train travel across the world. Unlike traditional diesel-powered trains, solar-powered trains are highly sustainable and offer an improved climate future because they rely on clean and renewable energy. Like other renewable energy sources, solar power improves the environment because it decreases environmental tensions and pollutants that arise with the use of fossil fuels.

In 2019, the International Earth Agency predicted that the global rail network could expand to almost 2.1 million kilometers by 2050. In 2024, Argentina unveiled its first solar-powered tourist train with a range of about 41 kilometers. Since introducing their first solar-powered train in 2017, India has also joined the effort. Indian Railways plans to develop 20 gigawatts of solar energy in vacant lands by 2030. The U.K. and Switzerland have also made efforts to introduce solar energy in train travel.

In 2017, Alice Bell, co-director at the U.K. climate change group Possible, wrote in The Guardian, "We think solar could power 20 percent of the Merseyrail network in Liverpool, as well as 15 percent of commuter routes in Kent, Sussex and Wessex...trains and trams all over the world could be running on sun in a few years' time." Approved in 2008, California's solar-powered high-speed train will run approximately 1287.5 kilometers and is the first of its kind across the world. This train is set to be completed in 2030 and hopes to connect to cities like Vancouver, San Diego and Los Angeles.

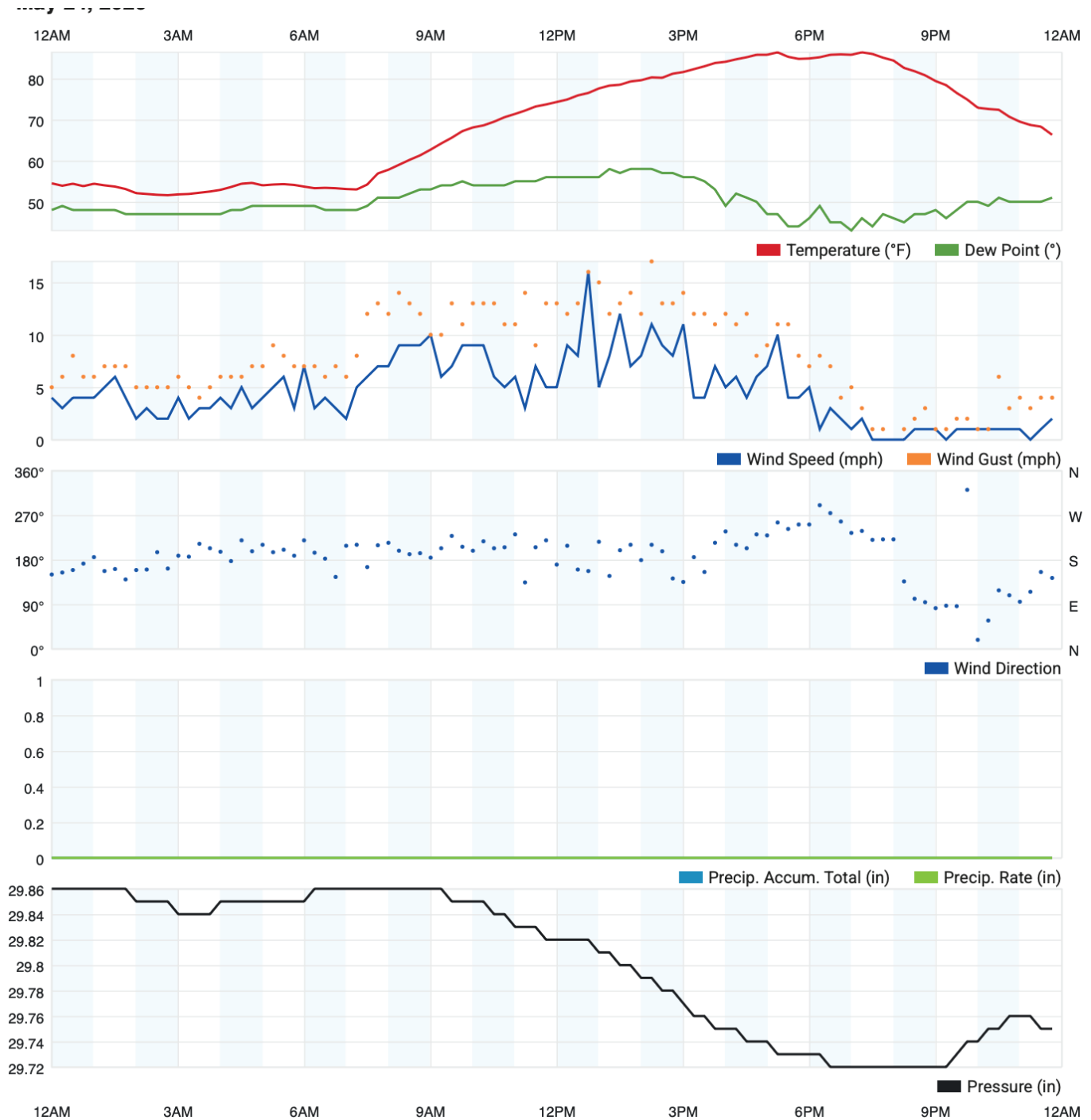
While solar-powered train projects are promising, they still face financial, operational and timing challenges. Many have to do with train maintenance and durability, which can impact the safety of train operations. Nevertheless, solar trains could completely shift the current state of climate-conscious transportation.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Memorial Day

Tonight

Tuesday

Tuesday Night

Wednesday



High: 92 °F

Hot



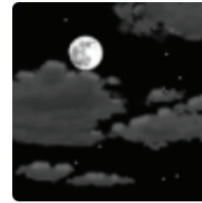
Low: 56 °F

Mostly Clear



High: 92 °F

Hot



Low: 57 °F

Partly Cloudy



High: 90 °F

Hot

Hot Temperatures This Week!

Today

Tuesday

Wednesday



88 to 92°



88 to 95°



85 to 92°

Limited chances for precipitation
through much of the week

May 25, 2026

3:36 AM



A warm/hot air mass will overspread the region through much of the week, bringing above normal temperatures in the 80s and 90s. Precipitation chances look somewhat limited through the week.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 87 °F at 5:09 PM

Low Temp: 51 °F at 2:38 AM

Wind: 17 mph at 2:16 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 94 in 2018

Record Low: 29 in 1924

Average High: 74

Average Low: 48

Average Precip in May.: 2.70

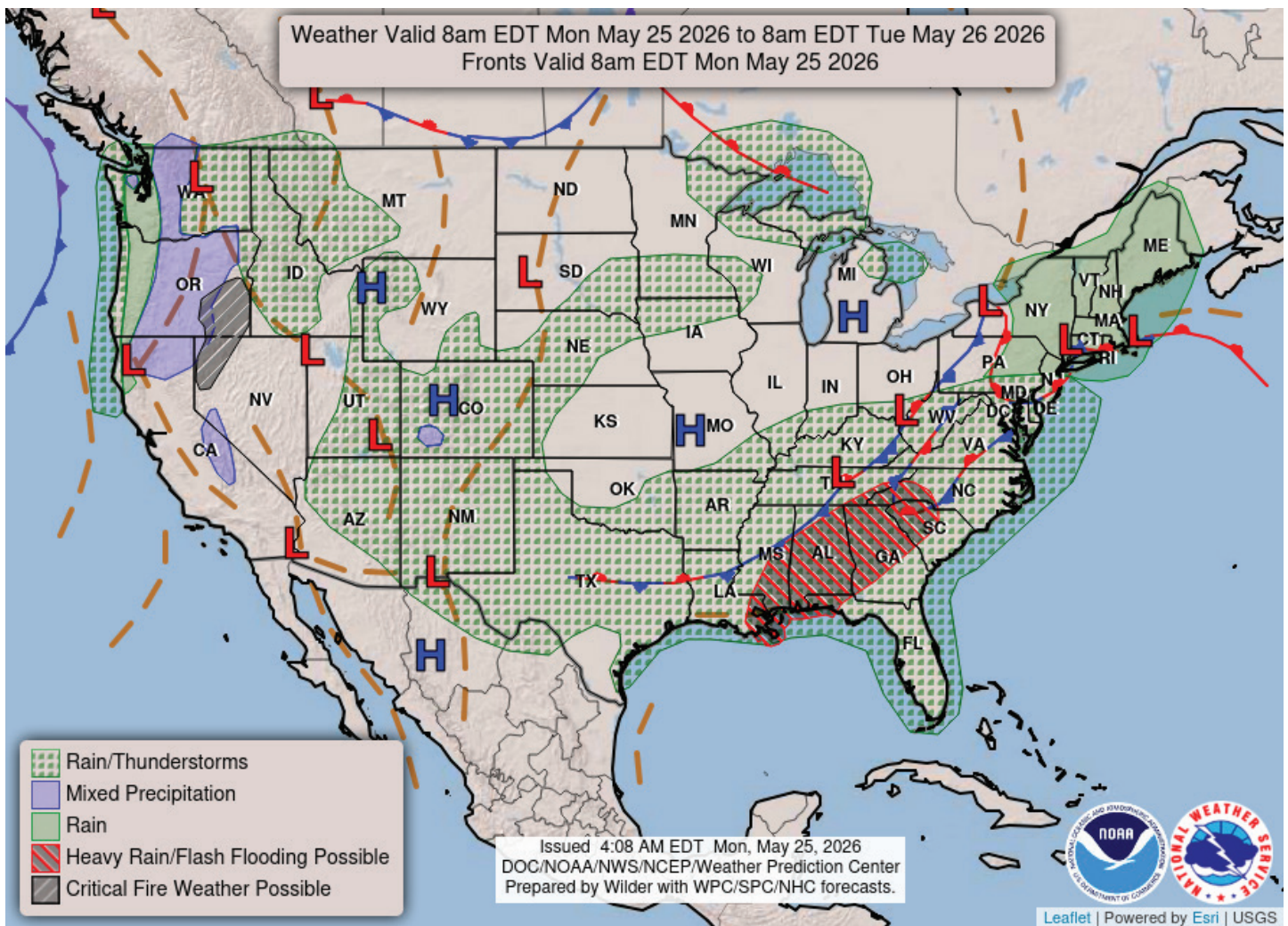
Precip to date in May.: 1.73

Average Precip to date: 6.67

Precip Year to Date: 4.85

Sunset Tonight: 9:06 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:51 am



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Today in Weather History

May 25th, 1880: An estimated F2 tornado moved northeast through the town of Mitchell. Two men were killed when they ran out the back door of a saloon to reach the cellar entrance. The caulk stone saloon, two homes, and several businesses were destroyed. This tornado was one of the first significant tornadoes on record for South Dakota.

May 25th, 1985: During the afternoon, thunderstorms developed along the east side of the Black Hills. The storms produced quite a bit of lightning and, over 2 hours, started 18 small fires in the Black Hills. Fortunately, most of the fires were small and quickly contained. One unfortunate firefighter was struck by lightning as he was helping to extinguish a blaze that burned some 50 acres of grassland and forest. Thankfully, the man lived, but he did suffer several broken bones, burns, and major damage to his ears. The strike was so powerful that a man over 150 feet away was dropped to his knees.

1917 — A tornado ripped through southeast Kansas, traveling 65 mph. The average speed was a record for any tornado. (The Weather Channel)

1955 — Two tornadoes struck the town of Blackwell, OK, within a few minutes time during the late evening. The tornadoes killed 18 persons and injured more than 500 others. Early the next morning a tornado virtually obliterated the small community of Udall KS killing 80 persons and injuring 270 persons. More than half the persons in the community were killed or injured by the tornado. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 — Thunderstorms spawned fifteen tornadoes in West Texas. One thunderstorm spawned a powerful tornado near Gruver, TX, along with golf ball size hail and 75 mph winds. A man on a boat on Lake Bistineau in northwest Louisiana was struck and killed by lightning, while the other three persons in the boat were unharmed. The man reportedly stood up in the boat and asked to be struck by lightning. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 — Unseasonably cool weather prevailed in the Upper Midwest. Marquette, MI, reported a record low of 26 degrees. Thunderstorms in the north central U.S. produced wind gusts to 62 mph at Idaho Falls, ID, and produced 4 inches of rain in less than four hours in northern Buffalo County. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 — Thunderstorms developing ahead of a strong cold front produced severe weather from Oklahoma to Ohio through the day and night. Thunderstorms spawned nine tornadoes, and there were 155 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Hail three and a half inches in diameter was reported at Dittmer, MO, and thunderstorm winds gusting to 90 MPH caused twenty million dollars damage at Rockville IN. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 — Evening thunderstorms spawned four tornadoes in Kansas and Missouri, and there were three dozen reports of large hail or damaging winds. Thunderstorms produced hail two inches in diameter at Cole Camp, and wind gusts to 72 mph at Rosebud. Heavy thunderstorm rains produced flash flooding in central Missouri. Flood waters swept through Washington State Park southwest of Saint Louis, and nearly one hundred persons had to be rescued from water as much as twenty feet deep. The flood waters swept away a number of vehicles, some were carried as much as four miles away. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Daily Devotion

Our God of Comfort

No mistake can diminish God's love—He meets every failure with comfort and grace.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4: 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

4 who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Consider how God's tender care was demonstrated through Jesus' life. The Gospels repeatedly mention that the Lord was moved by compassion when He saw pain and need.

Jesus not only healed people suffering from illness but also offered something greater: new life through the forgiveness of sins. Even to His enemies, Jesus left the door open for repentance.

The Lord also had compassion on those who struggled because of their mistakes. Notice how Peter's betrayal of Christ was met with forgiveness and restoration (John 21:15-17) and Thomas's doubts were answered by Jesus Himself (John 20:27).

Today, God's compassion is still available and personal. He knows when we hurt and offers comfort through His Spirit, who dwells within us (John 14:16-17 KJV). When our afflictions remain, He strengthens us to endure them (2 Corinthians 12:7-9). What's more, our mistakes in no way diminish His love for us.

No situation places us beyond God's reach. His comfort meets us in every circumstance we face—whether illness, financial strain, or family crisis. And once we've experienced His divine consolation, we're to become bearers of comfort to others (1:4). Since people everywhere are in desperate need of His compassion, that's a powerful way to spread the good news of Christ.

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

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The Groton Independent

Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

05.24.26

1 30 31 46 55 2

TOP PRIZE:

\$1,000,000/year

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 36 Mins 50 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

05.22.26

3 22 34 54 61 8

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$311,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 21 Mins 50 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

05.23.26

5 16 24 32 41 4

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$27,550,000

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 36 Mins 51 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

05.23.26

2 5 7 10 16

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$104,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 14 Hrs 51 Mins 51 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

05.23.26

36 42 53 57 63 17

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 20 Mins 50 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

05.23.26

4 16 41 48 66 26

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$141,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 20 Mins 50 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Muslims begin the annual Hajj in sweltering heat against a backdrop of war concerns

By BARAA ANWER and MARIAM FAM Associated Press

MECCA, Saudi Arabia (AP) — The annual Hajj pilgrimage, one of the Five Pillars of Islam, officially began Monday.

More than 1.5 million pilgrims have arrived in Saudi Arabia from outside the country, Saleh bin Saad Al-Murabba, commander of the Hajj passport forces, said Friday. The faithful have been pouring into the country for the Hajj against the backdrop of a tenuous ceasefire in the Iran war and related regional tensions and uncertainty.

Egyptian pilgrim Samya Abdul Moneim said she was grateful to God that she made it to the Hajj, which is required once in a lifetime of every Muslim who can afford it and is physically able to make it.

"I am in a state of blessing and happiness," she said in Mecca on Sunday. "It's an indescribable feeling, truly. I mean, thank God, I am in a blessing."

Typically on the first day, many pilgrims in Mecca converge on a vast tent camp in the nearby desert. Ahead of that, pilgrims have been circling the cube-shaped Kaaba in the Grand Mosque in sweltering temperatures. For pilgrims, Hajj can be a deeply moving spiritual experience and a chance to seek God's forgiveness and the erasure of past sins. Pilgrims perform the Hajj rituals over several days.

Pilgrims brave intense heat

Some spend many years hoping and praying to one day perform the Hajj or saving up money and waiting for a permit to embark on the trip.

As they brave the intense heat to perform religious rituals, many pilgrims have been using umbrellas for shade and carrying handheld fans. Volunteers hand out water bottles to help them stay hydrated and large fans spray fine mists of water.

On Saturday, U.S. President Donald Trump said a deal with Iran on the war, including opening the Strait of Hormuz, has been "largely negotiated" after calls with Israel and other allies in the region. He described it as a "Memorandum of Understanding pertaining to PEACE" that still must be finalized by the United States, Iran and the other countries that participated in the calls. That capped a week in which the U.S. weighed a new round of attacks on Iran.

Ahead of the trip for Hajj, some have said they were leaning on their faith as they embark on the journey amid the tensions and that they were feeling immense gratitude for the opportunity to go.

Hajj brings together large numbers of Muslims of diverse races, ethnicities, languages and economic classes, creating a sense of unity for many.

Regional tensions and Hajj travel plans

With uncertainty and global concerns high, authorities in Indonesia, home to the world's largest Muslim population, have in the run-up to the Hajj season emphasized contingency planning for the pilgrimage and issued instructions to ensure that additional travel costs not be passed on to Indonesian pilgrims.

In India, home to a large Muslim minority, pilgrimage planning has proceeded largely as normal, but high fuel prices have pushed up travel costs for pilgrims.

A reopening of the strait would begin to ease a worldwide energy crisis sparked by the U.S. and Israeli attacks on Iran on Feb. 28, which led Tehran to effectively close the waterway. Prices have spiked for oil, gas and several related products, jolting the world economy. The U.S. has blockaded Iranian ports for over a month, and Trump on Sunday said the blockade "will remain in full force and effect until an agreement is reached, certified, and signed."

In response to the U.S.-Israeli attacks, Iran has launched retaliatory strikes and the conflict widened; a fragile ceasefire was then reached in April.

In Saudi Arabia, pilgrims have been doing the ritual circuit around the Kaaba since arriving in Mecca over

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recent days. Pilgrims who make their way to Mina will camp in the vast tent city and pray and worship.

On Tuesday, in what is considered the pinnacle of the pilgrimage, the pilgrims will stand on the plain of Arafat, where they praise God, plead for forgiveness and make supplications. Many carry prayer requests from loved ones and raise their hands in worship with tears streaming down their faces.

The origins of Memorial Day and how it has evolved

By The Associated Press undefined

Memorial Day is a U.S. holiday that is officially about mourning the nation's fallen service members, but it has come to signal the unofficial start of summer and a long weekend of travel and discounts on anything from mattresses to lawn mowers.

Here is a look at the holiday and how it has evolved:

When is Memorial Day?

It falls on the last Monday of May. This year, it is May 25.

Why is Memorial Day celebrated?

It's a day of reflection and remembrance of those who died while serving in the U.S. military, according to the Congressional Research Service.

The holiday is observed in part by the National Moment of Remembrance, which encourages all Americans to pause at 3 p.m. for a moment of silence.

What are the origins of Memorial Day?

The holiday's origins can be traced to the American Civil War, which killed more than 600,000 service members, Union and Confederate, between 1861 and 1865.

The first national observance of what was then called Decoration Day occurred May 30, 1868, after an organization of Union veterans called for decorating war graves with flowers that were in bloom.

The practice was already widespread. Waterloo, New York, began a formal observance on May 5, 1866, and was later proclaimed to be the holiday's birthplace.

Yet Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, traced its first observance to October 1864, according to the Library of Congress. And women in some Confederate states decorated graves before the war's end.

David Blight, a Yale history professor, points to May 1, 1865, when as many as 10,000 people, many of them Black, held a parade, heard speeches and dedicated the graves of Union dead in Charleston, South Carolina.

A total of 267 Union troops had died at a Confederate prison and were buried in a mass grave. After the war, members of Black churches buried them in individual graves.

"What happened in Charleston does have the right to claim to be first, if that matters," Blight told The Associated Press in 2011.

When did Memorial Day become a source of contention?

As early as 1869, The New York Times wrote that the holiday could become "sacrilegious" and no longer "sacred" if it focused more on pomp, dinners and oratory.

In an 1871 Decoration Day speech at Arlington National Cemetery, abolitionist Frederick Douglass said he feared Americans were forgetting the Civil War's impetus: enslavement.

"We must never forget that the loyal soldiers who rest beneath this sod flung themselves between the nation and the nation's destroyers," Douglass said.

His concerns were well-founded, said Ben Railton, a professor of English and American studies at Fitchburg State University in Massachusetts.

Although roughly 180,000 Black men served in the Union Army, the holiday in many communities would essentially become "white Memorial Day," especially after the rise of the Jim Crow South, Railton told the AP in 2023.

In the 1880s, then-President Grover Cleveland was said to have spent the holiday going fishing, and "people were appalled," Matthew Dennis, an emeritus history professor at the University of Oregon, told the AP.

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But when the Indianapolis 500 held its inaugural race on May 30, 1911, an AP report made no mention of the holiday, or any controversy.

How has Memorial Day changed?

Dennis said Memorial Day's potency diminished somewhat with the addition of Armistice Day, which marked the end of World War I on Nov. 11, 1918. Armistice Day became a national holiday by 1938 and was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

In 1971, Congress changed Memorial Day from every May 30 to the last Monday in May. Dennis said the creation of the three-day weekend recognized that Memorial Day had been transformed into a more generic remembrance of the dead, as well as a day of leisure.

A year later, Time Magazine wrote that the holiday had become "a three-day nationwide hootenanny that seems to have lost much of its original purpose."

Why is Memorial Day tied to sales and travel?

Even in the 19th century, grave ceremonies were followed by leisure activities such as picnicking and foot races, Dennis said.

The holiday also evolved alongside baseball and the automobile, the five-day work week and summer vacation, according to the 2002 book "A History of Memorial Day: Unity, Discord and the Pursuit of Happiness."

In the mid-20th century, a small number of businesses began to open defiantly on the holiday.

Once the holiday moved to Monday, "the traditional barriers against doing business began to crumble," authors Richard Harmond and Thomas Curran wrote.

These days, Memorial Day sales and traveling are deeply woven into the nation's muscle memory.

What we know and don't know about the emerging deal to end the Iran war

By SAMY MAGDY, DARLENE SUPERVILLE and CARA ANNA Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — A deal appears to be emerging between the United States and Iran to end the war and open the Strait of Hormuz, and U.S. President Donald Trump over the weekend said it had been "largely negotiated."

It is not clear when or how the deal might be finalized and when its various parts will take effect. Trump spoke after calls with allies in the Middle East, including a separate call with Israel. Details come from two regional officials and a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive negotiations.

Here's what we know and don't know:

The war would end

In the 12 weeks since the U.S. and Israel launched the war with attacks on Iran that killed senior officials including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Tehran has insisted that any deal focus on ending the fighting on all fronts. That includes Lebanon, where the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group has been fighting Israel since two days into the war.

A fragile ceasefire has held since April 7. An end to the war would ease concerns throughout a region that saw Gulf havens and travel hubs like the United Arab Emirates struck by Iranian missiles and drones. It would allow for global shipping, including an estimated 20% of the world's oil and natural gas, to begin flowing through the Strait of Hormuz again. It also would allow the rebuilding of energy and other infrastructure in the region.

Both regional officials said the draft deal includes an end to the war between Israel and Hezbollah, as well as a commitment to not interfere in the domestic affairs of countries in the region including Iran. That's a critical reference to Iran's support for proxies, which also include the Houthi rebels in Yemen, Hamas militants in Gaza and Shiite armed groups in Iraq.

The U.S. wants Israel to have a free hand to respond to what it views as threats in Lebanon while Iran rejects it, one regional official said. The U.S. official said the deal would guarantee Israel's right to act against imminent threats in self-defense.

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The Strait of Hormuz would reopen gradually

Iran's nuclear program, missile program and support for armed proxies were the stated reasons for the U.S. and Israel attacking Iran. But Tehran's retaliatory grip on the Strait of Hormuz quickly shot to the top of global concerns as hundreds of ships carrying oil, natural gas, fertilizer and other supplies were stranded.

Under the emerging agreement, the strait would gradually reopen in parallel with the U.S. ending the blockade of Iran's ports it launched on April 17, the regional officials said. The blockade has limited Iran's ability to ship its oil and bring in badly needed cash for its long-suffering economy.

The U.S. would allow Iran to sell its oil through sanctions waivers, said one of the officials, who has been briefed on the negotiations. Sanctions relief and the release of Iran's billions of dollars in frozen funds would be negotiated during a 60-day period, the official said.

Iran would give up its stockpile of highly enriched uranium

Iran's nuclear program and international concerns over its possible pursuit of a nuclear weapon underlie all tensions, and the U.S. and Israel have considered highly complex military operations to go in and take out its highly enriched uranium.

Under the potential deal, Tehran would agree to give up that stockpile of highly enriched uranium, according to the regional officials. One official, with direct knowledge of the negotiations, said how Iran would give it up would be subject to further talks over the 60-day period. Some would likely be diluted and the rest transferred to a third country, potentially Russia, the official said. Russia has offered to take it.

A U.S. official confirmed the 60-day period and said if Iran doesn't give up its stockpile, there will be no sanctions relief.

Iran has 440.9 kilograms (972 pounds) of uranium that is enriched up to 60% purity, a short, technical step from weapons-grade levels of 90%, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Iran says it has an "inalienable" right to nuclear technology while insisting its program is peaceful. On Sunday, President Masoud Pezeshkian told state TV they were ready "to assure the world that we are not after a nuclear weapon."

Trump on Sunday on social media said that "our relationship with Iran is becoming a much more professional and productive one. They must understand, however, that they cannot develop or procure a Nuclear Weapon or Bomb."

What appears to be missing

Other issues have not been mentioned in descriptions of the emerging deal, including the status of Iran's uranium enrichment.

Another is Iran's missile program, which Israel in particular has sought to destroy.

And while the United States and Israel entered the war with stated ambitions of seeing Iranians rise up against their government after nationwide protests early in the year, any discussion of leadership change in Tehran appears to be out.

As for Iran's past stated aims during negotiations, there appears to be no mention of any withdrawal of U.S. forces from the region, or for reparations for the damage the war has caused.

Rubio's visit to India focuses on US trade tensions, the Quad alliance and sightseeing

By SHEIKH SAALIQ Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to India marks an effort by Washington and New Delhi to steady strained relations as the two countries seek to reinforce strategic and economic ties despite recent trade tensions.

In meetings Sunday with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Rubio stressed cooperation on trade, energy, defense and maritime security. Rubio said the countries remained strategically aligned and expressed optimism about a broader trade deal.

Rubio's four-day trip also includes talks with members from the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, the Indo-Pacific alliance more commonly known as the Quad.

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Here is what Rubio's visit means for India-U.S. ties:

India-US ties strained by tariffs

Relations between India and the U.S. have strained in recent months after the Trump administration imposed steep tariffs on Indian exports, partly over New Delhi's continued purchases of Russian oil. The move angered Indian officials and fueled concerns in the Indian government over Washington's reliability.

The two countries later reached an interim trade arrangement that eased some tariffs and expanded Indian purchases of U.S. goods, including energy products. But talks on a broader trade deal remain unresolved.

Despite the tensions, India and the U.S. continue to strengthen defense and technology ties, with Washington viewing India as a key counterweight to China in the Indo-Pacific region.

During his talks with Jaishankar on Sunday, Rubio described India as one of Washington's most important strategic partners and said he was optimistic the two countries would finalize a bilateral trade deal soon. Rubio also conveyed an invitation from U.S. President Donald Trump for Modi to visit Washington later this year.

Questions over the Quad's role

Rubio's visit also is expected to include talks on Tuesday with foreign ministers from India, Australia and Japan, which are member nations of the Quad alliance along with the United States.

The grouping has become a key platform for cooperation on maritime security, supply chains and regional strategy as China expands its military and economic influence in the Indo-Pacific.

The Quad has repeatedly criticized China's actions in the South China Sea, accusing Beijing of militarizing disputed waters. The Chinese government has accused the Quad of trying to contain China's rise and regional influence.

Recent trade tensions between Washington and New Delhi, along with Trump's recent visit to China, have prompted renewed attention to the grouping.

Praveen Donthi, a senior analyst at the International Crisis Group, said India's growing global influence has been largely tied to its role in balancing China's power in the region and any shift in U.S. policy toward Beijing could affect New Delhi's strategic value to Washington.

"If the U.S. changes its approach towards China, it will diminish India's importance," Donthi said.

Iran war adds pressure on India

The Iran war has added to India's energy concerns, raising worries about shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, a vital route for the country's crude imports. Rising fuel costs have increased pressure on the Indian economy.

Jaishankar said Sunday that India would continue expanding energy imports, including from the U.S., while diversifying suppliers to keep markets stable and prices affordable. He said New Delhi wants energy markets to remain open and unconstrained to support global economic growth.

India's purchase of discounted Russian crude since the start of the Ukraine war has at times strained relations with the U.S.

Washington has urged India to increase purchases of U.S. oil and gas as part of broader efforts to diversify energy supplies, with Rubio emphasizing stronger energy cooperation during meetings in New Delhi.

Sightseeing in India

Alongside official meetings, Rubio's visit also has included cultural engagements.

He began the trip in eastern city Kolkata and visited the Missionaries of Charity headquarters founded by Mother Teresa. He also attended a gala reception in New Delhi marking the 250th anniversary of U.S. independence.

Rubio's itinerary includes stops in the cities of Agra and Jaipur, two of India's most visited tourist destinations known for monuments, forts and palaces.

Southern California officials trying to prevent explosion or leak from damaged chemical tank

By PHILIP MARCELO Associated Press

A damaged chemical tank in Southern California cracked over the weekend, which authorities were hopeful would relieve pressure and reduce the risk of an explosion.

Some 50,000 residents in Garden Grove, a city of roughly 170,000 about 40 miles (60 kilometers) south of downtown Los Angeles, have been evacuated and are waiting for a resolution. The tank overheated Thursday and began venting vapors, leaving local and state officials scrambling to evade a worst possible scenario at the aerospace company site.

No injuries have been reported.

Fire officials planned to send in a team overnight to determine if the pressure has been relieved, which would reduce the worst-case scenario of an explosion, Orange County Fire Authority interim chief TJ McGovern said in a video posted late Sunday to the agency's X account.

Atmospheric modeling showed an active leak from the tank as of Sunday night, McGovern said.

Firefighters have repeatedly sprayed the tank with water in an attempt to cool the chemical inside, methyl methacrylate, which is used to make plastic parts. The tank's interior reached 100 degrees (37.7 Celsius) Sunday, an increase of 10 degrees Fahrenheit (5.5 Celsius) since Saturday, according to Democratic state Sen. Tom Umberg.

Fire officials over the weekend discovered the tank had cracked, lowering the potential for a devastating blast.

Officials working to prevent a disaster

Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency Saturday and said he asked President Donald Trump to issue an emergency declaration to bolster federal support for local and state officials.

The tank at GKN Aerospace Transparency Systems, which makes parts for commercial and military aircraft, holds 6,000 to 7,000 gallons (22,700 to 26,500 liters) of methyl methacrylate used to make plastic parts.

Monitoring tests found air pollution around the evacuation zone was within normal limits and specialized equipment is being used to ensure gas is not released, state and federal environmental officials said Saturday.

The first goal of firefighters is to cool off the chemical inside the tank to prevent a leak or explosion.

Drones were monitoring temperatures at 10-minute intervals to watch for any spikes. Containment barriers have been set up to prevent the chemical from getting into storm drains or reaching creeks or the nearby ocean in the event of a spill, Orange County Fire Authority division chief Craig Covey said on social media.

As the interior temperature rises, methyl methacrylate converts from a liquid to a gas and increases the pressure, according to Purdue University engineering professor Andrew Whelton, who said the crack could mean product or pressure is being released, reducing the chance of explosion.

"Think of a soda can. If you leave it in a hot car it can explode," Whelton said. "But if you put a hole in the can, the product is released and the can itself doesn't explode."

Firefighters are unlikely to consider making a hole in the tank, fearing a spark that might ignite the volatile and flammable gas. An explosion that could spread the chemical over a broad area and send shrapnel flying would be the worst-case scenario, he said.

Dealing with displacement and health concerns

Aerial photos taken by The Associated Press showed streets in the area were empty Sunday, while several evacuation shelters were open. At a high school in neighboring La Palma, people slept in cars or on mats and sleeping bags on the asphalt.

Garden Grove is next to Anaheim, home to Disneyland's two theme parks, which were not under evacuation orders. Park officials said they were monitoring the situation.

Exposure to methyl methacrylate can cause serious respiratory problems, neurological problems and irritation to the skin, eyes and throat, according to fact sheets about the chemical.

Whelton said if an explosion occurs, it will be crucial to conduct detailed air monitoring specifically for

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methyl methacrylate and not just generic tests for volatile organic compounds as officials did after a 2023 train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, which released more than 115,000 gallons (435,000 liters) of vinyl chloride after officials blew open five tank cars and burned the chemical.

Orange County health officials said the chemical is easy to smell and people may notice it over a large area without being harmed.

Residents taking legal action

Some Garden Grove residents filed a class-action federal lawsuit Saturday against GKN Aerospace Transparency Systems, which operates the facility where the tank is located. Lawyers for the residents argued that regardless of what happens, property values in the surrounding community are sure to be impacted.

GKN Aerospace did not comment on the lawsuit but has apologized to residents and businesses forced to evacuate. It said Sunday it was "working around the clock to mitigate the risk of a leak."

GKN Aerospace agreed in 2025 to pay state regulators more than \$900,000 to settle violations involving recordkeeping, permitting issues and nitrogen oxide emissions, according to a report on the South Coast Air Quality Management District website.

Norway-set drama about political polarization 'Fjord' wins Palme d'Or at Cannes

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

Cristian Mungiu's Norway-set drama about political polarization, "Fjord," has won the Palme d'Or, handing the Cannes Film Festival's top honor for the second time to Mungiu, the Romanian director of "4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days."

At a 79th Cannes Film Festival that saw few films cause a stir, "Fjord" found wide admiration for its engrossing tale of what Mungiu called "left-wing fundamentalism." It stars Sebastian Stan and Renate Reinsve as Romanian Evangelicals who move to Norway, but soon after have their children taken from them by child services for spanking them.

"Today the society is split. It's divided. It's radicalized," said Mungiu. "This film is a pledge against any type of fundamentalism. It's a pledge for these things we quote very often, like trauma and inclusion and empathy. These are lovely words but we need to apply them more often."

Mungiu becomes just the 10th filmmaker to win the Palme d'Or twice. His "4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days," a Romanian abortion drama, won the award in 2007.

The win for "Fjord" extends one of the movies' most extraordinary streaks. Neon, the specialty label, has now taken seven Palme d'Or winners in a row. "Fjord" adds to its unparalleled run, including last year's champion, Jafar Panahi's "It Was Just an Accident," and the 2024 winner, "Anora." The latter went on to win best picture at the Oscars.

'Minotaur' wins Grand Prix

The Grand Prix, or second prize, went to "Minotaur," Andrey Zvyagintsev's domestic thriller set against Russia's war with Ukraine. Loosely based on Claude Chabrol's 1969 film "The Unfaithful Wife," "Minotaur" is about a Russian businessman suspicious of his wife's indiscretions. At the same time, he's tasked with conscripting 150 of his workers for Vladimir Putin's war machine.

"The only person who can stop this butchery is you, Mr. President of the Russian Federation," Zvyagintsev said, accepting his award. "Put an end to this slaughter. The whole world is waiting for this."

By wide consensus, it wasn't a banner festival. Hollywood largely sat out this year's edition. Many of the selections struggled to bowl over critics. The global buzz that Cannes typically generates was fitful at best.

But the awards handed out Saturday as the 79th Cannes drew to a close will significantly raise the international profiles of the winners. Last year's Cannes produced a long string of Oscar nominees, including "Sentimental Value" and "The Secret Agent."

The nine-member jury that decided the awards was headed by Korean filmmaker Park Chan-wook. Demi Moore, Chloé Zhao and Stellan Skarsgård were also jurors. Park, a Cannes regular including last year with his satirical thriller "No Other Choice," joked that he preferred not to give away the Palme.

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"To be honest, I didn't want to award the Palme d'Or to any of the films, because it's an award I myself have never gotten," Park told reporters after the ceremony. "But I had no other choice."

Awards are split and shared

Two films won for best director: the Polish filmmaker Pawel Pawlikowski, for his postwar drama "Fatherland," and the Spanish creative duo Javier Ambrossi and Javier Calvo for "The Black Ball," a generation-spanning queer epic "The Black Ball."

It was Pawlikowski's second time winning the same Cannes prize in as many films, following his "Cold War" in 2018. But the award marked a breakthrough for Ambrossi and Calvo in their first Cannes entry.

"No one knew us. Thierry didn't know us," Ambrossi told reporters, referring to Thierry Fremaux, Cannes artistic director. "It was just that the movie spoke."

Virginie Efira and Tao Okamoto, the two stars of Ryusuke Hamaguchi's "All of a Sudden" shared the best actress award. In the elegantly empathetic drama, the two play women brought together in friendship out of their mutual sense of care for others.

The jury also split the best actor prize. They chose Emmanuel Macchia and Valentin Campagne, the two stars of "Coward," Lukas Dhont's drama about young Belgian men sent to the front lines of World War II.

The prize for best screenplay was awarded to Emmanuel Marre for "A Man of His Time," a French drama about a Nazi collaborator in Vichy France. Marre based it on the experiences of his own great-grandfather.

The jury prize, or third place, went to German filmmaker Valeska Grisebach's "The Dreamed Adventure," a crime drama set in a Bulgarian border town.

Saturday's ceremony was missing its tribute honoree. Barbra Streisand was to receive an honorary Palme d'Or, but a knee injury prevented her from attending. Isabelle Huppert nevertheless celebrated Streisand during the ceremony, and Streisand appeared in a taped video message.

The Camera d'Or, Cannes' award for best first film, went to Marie Clémentine Dusabejambo's post-genocide drama "Ben'Imana," the first Rwandan film to be officially selected for the festival.

Trump says not to rush as details emerge of a potential Iran deal

By SAMY MAGDY, DARLENE SUPERVILLE and MELANIE LIDMAN Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The United States is close to reaching a deal with Iran that would end the war, reopen the Strait of Hormuz and see Iran give up its stockpile of highly enriched uranium, regional officials told The Associated Press on Sunday, though U.S. President Donald Trump said he told representatives "not to rush into a deal."

Trump said negotiations were "proceeding in an orderly and constructive manner," and the relationship with Iran was becoming "much more professional and productive." He pushed back against criticism by some fellow Republicans seeking a tougher approach.

The agreement would not be signed Sunday, according to a person familiar with the status of negotiations who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly. The sides have previously seemed close to a deal in recent weeks, only to falter.

The strait's reopening would ease a worldwide energy crisis sparked by the U.S. and Israeli bombardment of Iran on Feb. 28, which led Tehran to effectively close the waterway. Prices have spiked for oil, gas and related products. Experts say it would take several weeks or even months for shipping and prices to recover once the strait reopens.

The U.S. has blockaded Iranian ports for over a month, and Trump said it "will remain in full force and effect until an agreement is reached, certified, and signed."

The emerging deal would include Iran giving up uranium

Under the potential deal, Tehran would agree to give up its stockpile of highly enriched uranium, according to the two regional officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive negotiations.

One official, with direct knowledge of the negotiations, said how Iran would give up the uranium would be subject to further talks during a 60-day period. Some would likely be diluted, while the rest would be transferred to a third country, the official said. Russia has offered to take it.

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A U.S. official confirmed the 60-day period and said if Iran doesn't give up its stockpile there will be no sanctions relief. The official spoke on condition of anonymity about the emerging deal because it has not been made public.

Iran has 440.9 kilograms (972 pounds) of uranium that is enriched up to 60% purity, a short, technical step from weapons-grade levels of 90%, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Iran has not publicly committed to giving up its uranium, a key Trump demand. President Masoud Pezeshkian told state TV they were ready "to assure the world that we are not after a nuclear weapon."

Iran has always insisted its program is peaceful while enriching uranium to near weapons-grade levels, and asserts its right to nuclear technology.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio, on a visit to India, said that "significant progress, although not final progress, has been made" in negotiations, and the world would no longer need to fear Iran getting a nuclear weapon.

Rubio told India Today that the "first stage" ahead would be the full reopening of the strait. "The second is that Iran needs to enter into serious negotiations on three topics: their pledge never to have nuclear weapons, restrictions long-term on their enrichment capabilities, and what do you do with the highly enriched uranium?"

Trump has sought greater concessions from Iran than those required under a 2015 Obama-era agreement that the U.S. later withdrew from under Trump.

On Saturday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei told the state-run news agency there are "narrowing differences" between the Iranian and U.S. positions, but Iran is cautious after being attacked twice in the past year during nuclear negotiations.

The strait would reopen and Iran would be able to sell oil

Under the emerging agreement, the Strait of Hormuz would gradually reopen in parallel with the U.S. ending its blockade, the two regional officials and the U.S. official said. The U.S. official said the strait would be demined, though a U.S. official on Friday said the military has not found any mines there.

The U.S. would allow Iran to sell its oil through sanctions waivers, said the second official, who has been briefed on the negotiations. Sanctions relief and the release of Iran's frozen funds would be negotiated during the 60-day period, the official said.

Both officials said the draft deal includes an end to the war between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon that began two days after the Iran war started.

Twelve weeks have passed since the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran, killing its supreme leader and other top officials. A ceasefire has held since April 7, though the sides have exchanged fire on occasion.

Israel remains concerned over Hezbollah

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a social media post said he and Trump agreed that "any final agreement with Iran must eliminate the nuclear danger," and that Trump had reaffirmed Israel's right to defend itself "on every front, including Lebanon."

The U.S. official said the deal would guarantee Israel's right to act against imminent threats in self-defense.

Israeli officials are concerned that Hezbollah remains a serious threat to Israel and that Lebanon is ill-equipped to disarm it.

A fragile, U.S.-brokered ceasefire took effect in Lebanon on April 17, but fighting has continued, mainly in the south. Hezbollah has launched daily drone and rocket attacks on Israeli forces and northern Israel, and Israel has struck targets across Lebanon while its troops remain in large swaths of the south.

More than 3,000 people have been killed in the latest fighting, according to the Lebanese Health Ministry. Additionally, 22 Israeli soldiers and a defense contractor have been killed in or near southern Lebanon, and two civilians have been killed in northern Israel, according to Netanyahu's office.

A suicide bombing near a railway track in southwest Pakistan kills at least 23 people

By ABDUL SATTAR and MUNIR AHMED Associated Press

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP) — A suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden vehicle near a railway track as a passenger train passed through the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta on Sunday, killing at least 23 people and wounding over 70 others, officials said.

The force of the explosion caused two of the train cars to overturn and catch fire, sending thick black smoke into the air, according to footage shared online.

The attack happened in an area where security forces are usually stationed, badly damaging several nearby buildings and smashing more than a dozen vehicles parked along the road, according to witnesses and images circulating on social media.

Doctors at local hospitals said they had received the wounded, with 20 in critical condition. Three security officials told The Associated Press the bodies were transported to hospitals following the attack. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to be able to speak to the media.

The outlawed Baloch Liberation Army, or BLA, which demands independence from Pakistan's central government, has claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement sent to reporters. The militant group said it targeted a train carrying security personnel.

Quetta is the capital of insurgency-hit Balochistan province. The oil- and mineral-rich region has long been the scene of a low-level insurgency. The insurgents have frequently targeted security forces, government installations and civilians in the province and elsewhere in the country.

"We strongly condemn the targeting of innocent civilians and are deeply saddened by the loss of precious human lives. Terrorist elements deserve no leniency," said Shahid Rind, Balochistan provincial government spokesman.

He said following the explosion, a medical emergency was declared at hospitals in Quetta, and an investigation has been launched.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the attack, calling it a "cowardly act of terrorism" in a post on X and offering condolences to the families of the victims.

Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti strongly condemned the attack in Quetta, saying the militants targeted "innocent civilians, including women and children," vowing to "hunt (them down)" in a post on X.

Bugti and the federal government in Islamabad often use the phrase "Fitna al-Hindustan" to refer to the BLA, which they allege is backed by India. New Delhi denies the allegation.

Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari denounced the bombing, saying militants and their backers sought to undermine Pakistan's role in regional and international peace efforts.

The attack came a day after Pakistan said the United States and Iran were close to reaching a memorandum of understanding to end the war in the Middle East that began on Feb. 28 after the U.S. and Israel attacked the Islamic Republic, upending global travel and spiking oil prices. U.S. President Donald Trump had said a deal related to the conflict had been "largely negotiated" following calls with regional allies, including Pakistan.

Zardari promised in a statement that his country "will defeat terrorists, their facilitators, financiers and those providing them safe havens."

Pakistan and India have long had strained relations and have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir, which is claimed by both in its entirety.

Although Pakistani authorities say they have quelled the insurgency, violence in Baluchistan has persisted.

At least 26 people, including soldiers, were killed in 2024 when a suicide bomber attacked a train station in Balochistan.

Building under construction in Philippines collapses, leaving 1 dead and 21 trapped

By JIM GOMEZ, AARON FAVILA and JOEAL CALUPITAN Associated Press

ANGELES, Philippines (AP) — A nine-story building under construction in a city north of the Philippine capital collapsed before dawn on Sunday, leaving at least one Malaysian tourist dead and at least 21 mostly workers trapped in the rubble, officials said. Two were located alive but could not be immediately extricated.

At least 24 workers either managed to dash out of the building, where they mostly slept on the ground floor, or were rescued after the it crumbled to the ground around 2:30 a.m. in a crowded neighborhood of budget hotels, cafes, spas and rural houses outside a former U.S. Air Force base, officials said.

A Malaysian tourist died and another guest was injured in a lodging house, which was partly hit by debris from the collapsing building in Angeles City in Pampanga province, Fire Superintendent Maria Lea Sajili said.

Relatives of those trapped under concrete slabs, twisted iron bars and aluminum scaffoldings and other debris prayed and wept as they waited for word from about 700 rescuers gingerly scouring the rubble pile to create space for them to safely move into the collapsed structure.

"This is the worst day of our lives," Joamel Angcao, an 18-year-old student, told The Associated Press as she and other siblings waited for word on their parents, who were among those trapped.

Her parents were tending to their food and coffee cart positioned beside the building when it tumbled down. The parents had struggled through poverty to send her and another sibling to school, Angcao said, tears welling in her eyes.

John Carlo Villarente, a young plumber, said that he stepped out of the building about two hours before it collapsed after heavy rains and fierce wind to have a drink.

"I was so shocked, there were people inside, including my nephew," Villarente told The AP. "We ran and tried to help but we were not allowed to get near because people said it was very dangerous."

Randy Alapide, a 41-year-old plumber who was off-duty when the accident unfolded, said he rushed back to the scene and helped rescuers locate trapped workers by drawing a map to pinpoint their location. "I know three of the missing. They are breadwinners and they have families waiting for them," Alapide said.

Sajili said two of the trapped workers were located alive by rescuers but it was taking time to pluck them out safely. Ambulance vans, firefighters and police lined up waiting for the two to be extricated.

Nearly 200 police officers were helping in the rescue, which would proceed overnight "until all are accounted for," regional police director Brig. Gen. Jess Mendez said.

Angeles City hosted one of the largest U.S. Air Force bases outside of the American mainland until it closed in the early 1990s, helping develop Angeles and outlying cities and towns into entertainment and commercial hubs in the main northern Philippine region of Luzon.

The former American air base, now a bustling industrial and tourism enclave called the Clark Freeport Zone, lies about about 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of Manila.

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Today in History: May 25

George Floyd killed by Minneapolis police

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, May 25, the 145th day of 2026. There are 220 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a Black man, was killed when a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee on Floyd's neck for 9 1/2 minutes while Floyd was handcuffed and pleading he couldn't breathe; Floyd's death, captured on video by a bystander, would lead to worldwide protests, some violent, and a reexamination of racism and policing in the U.S.

Also on this date:

In 1787, the Constitutional Convention began at the Pennsylvania State House (Independence Hall) in Philadelphia after enough delegates arrived for a quorum.

In 1935, at Forbes Field in Pittsburgh, Babe Ruth, then playing for the Boston Braves, hit his 714th and final home run; his career home run record would stand for almost 40 years.

In 1946, Transjordan (now Jordan) became a kingdom as it proclaimed its new monarch, Abdullah I.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy told Congress: "I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth."

In 1964, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Griffin v. County School Board of Prince Edward County, ordered the Virginia county to reopen its public schools, which officials had closed in an attempt to circumvent the Supreme Court's 1954 Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka desegregation ruling.

In 1977, "Star Wars" was released by 20th Century Fox; it would become the highest-grossing film in history at the time.

In 1979, 273 people died when an American Airlines DC-10 crashed just after takeoff from Chicago's O'Hare Airport.

In 2008, NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander arrived on the Red Planet to begin searching for evidence of water; the spacecraft confirmed the presence of water ice at its landing site.

In 2012, the private company SpaceX made history as its Dragon capsule became the first commercial spacecraft to dock with the International Space Station.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Ian McKellen is 87. Country singer Jessi Colter is 83. Actor-singer Leslie Uggams is 83. Filmmaker and puppeteer Frank Oz is 82. Actor Karen Valentine is 79. Actor Jacki Weaver is 79. Rock singer Klaus Meine (Scorpions) is 78. Actor Patti D'Arbanville is 75. Playwright Eve Ensler is 73. Actor Connie Sellecca is 71. Musician Paul Weller is 68. Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota is 66. Actor-comedian Mike Myers is 63. Actor Octavia Spencer is 56. Actor Cillian Murphy is 50. Football Hall of Famer Brian Urlacher is 48. Olympic gymnastics gold medalist Aly Raisman is 32. Actor Brec Bassinger is 27. NFL quarterback Cam Ward is 24.