

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 1 of 52

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
- [3- Land for Sale](#)
- [4- NVC Open House](#)
- [5- Names Released in Day County Fatal Crash](#)
- [6- EarthTalk: Warming Stripes](#)
- [7- Weekly Vikings Roundup](#)
- [8- Prairie Doc: "The Critical Need for More Nurses in the State of South Dakota"](#)
- [9- Garretson rallies late to edge Groton Jr. Legion 6-5](#)
- [11- SD SearchLight: State leaders mourn loss of 'greatest philanthropist in South Dakota history'](#)
- [13- Weather Pages](#)
- [18- Daily Devotional](#)
- [19- Subscription Form](#)
- [20- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [21- News from the Associated Press](#)

Monday, July 20

Senior Citizens meeting at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.

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

St. John's Lutheran: Vacation Bible School, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 21

Senior Legion Region at Milbank

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Tiger Skills Workouts, GHS Arena, 7:30 a.m.

JVT Practice, 6 p.m., Arena.

St. John's Lutheran: Quilting, 9 a.m.; Vacation Bible School, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 22

Senior Legion Region at Milbank

JVT Practice, 6 p.m., Arena.

St. John's Lutheran: Vacation Bible School, 5:30 p.m.



Thursday, July 23

Senior Legion Region at Milbank

Story Time at Wage Memorial Library, 10 a.m.

Tiger Skills Workouts, GHS Arena, 7:30 a.m.

Friday, July 24

State B Legion 14U at Vermillion

10U Baseball State at Hartford/Beresford

Groton Daily Independent
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Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 2 of 52

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.

La Furia Roja

Spain topped Argentina 1-0 in the World Cup final yesterday, winning the global tournament for the second time and the first since 2010. The win denied Argentina back-to-back titles, a feat that hasn't happened since Brazil in 1958-62.

The Spaniards frustrated star Lionel Messi for most of the match, winning time of possession 65%-35% and forcing five yellow and one red card. Argentina had just two shots—neither of which was on goal—while Spain took 20 shots and put 12 on goal. Despite the dominance, Argentina forced Spain into extra time, with the winning shot coming at minute 106.

Separately, England topped France in Saturday's high-scoring third-place match, 6-4. French star Kylian Mbappé became the all-time World Cup top scorer (22 goals across three tournaments) at just 27 years old. Spain, Portugal, and Morocco will serve as the main hosts for the 2030 World Cup.

US Service Members Killed

Three US service members were killed in Iranian strikes since Friday—two in a strike Friday in Jordan and a third in northern Iraq Saturday. One service member based in Jordan is still missing as of this writing.

The attacks raised the US death toll to at least 17 service members since the war began in February, with more than 430 wounded. The Iranian death toll is believed to exceed 3,600, with at least 50 people reported killed in strikes over the past several weeks. The US confirmed it is sending more fighter jets to the Middle East. The buildup comes after President Donald Trump last week warned that he intended to strike Iranian infrastructure targets in the coming days, including bridges and power plants.

Some oil-rich Gulf nations have restricted US access to their airspace in recent months. Jordan, which relies heavily on US foreign aid, has allowed the US military to operate freely and has recently seen an uptick in Iranian strikes.

Tate Brothers Arrested

Influencer Andrew Tate and his brother Tristan were arrested Saturday in Miami as British authorities announced 38 new charges and efforts to extradite them.

The alleged crimes date from 2010 to 2017 and cover rape and sex trafficking charges, as well as crimes related to child sexual abuse images. The UK says four victims are tied to the latest allegations, separate from 21 charges filed against the brothers last year for crimes linked to three other unnamed victims. The dual US-British citizens separately face sexual exploitation charges in Romania, where they lived from 2016 to 2025, though that case is stalled.

Andrew Tate was a kickboxing champion who amassed a broad audience in 2016 as a contestant on the UK's "Big Brother." Tate has since gained more than 10 million followers on X as a self-styled misogynist.

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

British runner Josh Kerr runs a mile in 3 minutes, 42.66 seconds, breaking a 27-year-old world record by less than one second.

New Zealand's Ryan Fox wins the British Open, his first major title, defeating the US' Cameron Young. "The Odyssey" earns \$124.5M in box office debut, third-best opening weekend this year after "Toy Story 5" and "The Super Mario Galaxy Movie".

Science & Technology

Nobel Prize winner Rudy Marcus dies five days before turning 103; Marcus won the 1992 prize in chemistry for discovering how electrons move between molecules.

Fossil analysis suggests Tyrannosaurus rex was able to begin hunting soon after it hatched from its egg.

Scientists develop new type of glue that bonds strongly to nonstick surfaces but can be easily wiped away with ethanol.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close down Friday (S&P 500 -1.0%, Dow -0.8%, Nasdaq -1.4%), as AI competition from China fuels sell-off of chip stocks.

Trump Media, owner of conservative social media platform Truth Social, reportedly offered Wall Street firms instant access to President Donald Trump's posts for \$100K monthly fee.

SEC filings show GameStop owns nearly 10% of eBay, a signal CEO Ryan Cohen is continuing his bid to acquire the online marketplace; shares are worth \$5B, or half GameStop's market cap.

Politics & World Affairs

Maine's Democratic Senate candidate Troy Jackson is estimated to have support from more than 300 party delegates, the threshold needed to secure nomination Saturday.

Tanzanian-flagged tanker is allegedly taken hostage by Somali pirates near Yemen's coast.

Russia strikes Kyiv and other cities, killing at least six people in one of the largest barrages since the start of the war.

Land for Sale

**800 Acres Spink
& northern
Clark County
646 tillable acres,
133 pasture**

**For more info, visit:
www.keminklandco.com**



**Rod Kemink, Broker
605-880-2112
Watertown, SD**



NVC

Open House

234 E 1st Ave, Groton

Tuesday, July 21st 10am-4pm

Refreshments Served ★ Door Prizes

 Join us for an Open House as we
celebrate our newly remodeled space.

Names Released in Day County Fatal Crash

What: Single-vehicle, pedestrian fatal crash

Where: 130th Street and 412th Ave, 7 miles west of Pierpont, South Dakota

When: 10:43 p.m., Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Driver 1: Simon Lee Pies, 21-year-old male from Summit, South Dakota, no injuries

Vehicle 1: 2021 International MV607

Seat Belt Used: Yes

Passenger 1: Rylie Marie Mitchell, 19-year-old female from Summit, South Dakota, no injuries

Seat Belt Used: Yes

Pedestrian 1: Timothy Allen Smith, 51-year-old male from Rochester, Minnesota, fatal injuries

Pedestrian 2: Kimberly McDeid, 53-year-old female from Bath, South Dakota, no injuries

Day County, S.D.- A Rochester, Minnesota man died Wednesday in a single-vehicle, pedestrian crash near Pierpont, South Dakota.

Preliminary crash information indicates Timothy Allen Smith and Kimberly McDeid were driving westbound on 130th Street in a 2026 Kia earlier in the evening when they struck a deer. They returned in a second vehicle, a 1998 Honda CR-V, and parked in the westbound lane facing east. They exited the Honda, leaving the headlights on. At the same time, Simon Lee Pies, the driver of a 2021 International MV607 commercial truck, was driving westbound on 130th Street when he approached the parked Honda. Pies tried to avoid the vehicle and struck Smith, who was standing in the road, before striking the Honda. Smith sustained fatal injuries. McDeid, Pies and passenger Rylie Marie Mitchell were not injured.

The investigation is ongoing. All information released is preliminary.

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

Groton Daily Independent

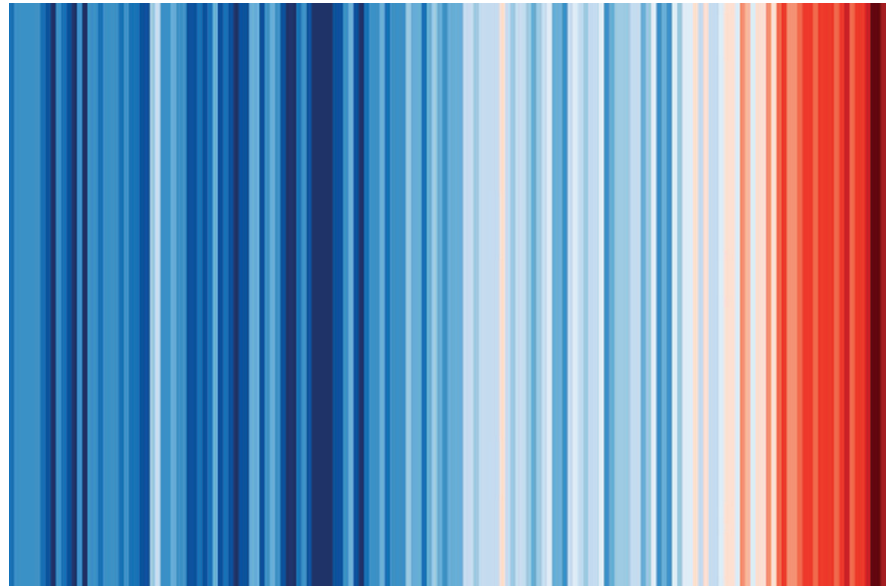
Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 6 of 52

EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: What's the backstory on the so-called "Warming Stripes" visual display of climate change?

-- H.L., via email

In the past decade, warming stripes have become increasingly well-known data visualization graphics representing abnormalities of annual, monthly or historical temperatures for a given location. The vertical or occasionally horizontal stripes each represent a month or a year, and the color signifies the direction of deviation of the temperature from the average, with blue as cooler and red as warmer. The color's darkness shows the size of deviation of the actual temperature from the baseline average. Much of the warming stripes' popularity is due to their easy-to-understand yet enticing appearance.



The warming stripes is a data visualization showing the change in surface temperatures year over year as a result of global warming.

The story of warming stripes began in 2017 when Professor Ellie Highwood of the University of Reading crocheted and posted her global warming blanket on Twitter. Each row represented the average temperature change from a baseline average. The stripes contained many more colors, including pink, green, and yellow, than the current model. A year later, Highwood's coworker Ed Hawkins narrowed down the colors to mostly blue and red to simplify the model. Hawkins later tested his model at the Hay Festival in the U.K. and received widespread support, prompting him to launch a website in 2019.

When the website first launched, there were over a million downloads within the first week, allowing ordinary people to participate in the climate action campaign. Co-founder of Cycling for Climate, an organization using cycling to raise awareness of climate change, Joost Brinkman said, "It's an easy conversation starter, and people are always shocked when they understand the story." The company has since adopted the stripes as their uniform pattern. Additionally, renowned climate activist Greta Thunberg used the stripes as the cover of her work, *The Climate Book*. Some issues of *The Economist* also feature warming stripes as the front page. Warming stripes were also displayed at the Reading & Leeds music festival in 2021.

The popularity of the warming stripes culminated in the celebration of Show Your Stripes Day, an annual observance around the 21st of June that encourages people to post their region's stripes across various social media platforms. It raises awareness of climate changes and encourages people to take action, whether on a large-scale or a small community level. Readers can participate in the warming stripes movement by posting our region's stripes on Show Your Stripes Day each year. At the same time, we can engage with other people's posts to start conversations, capture more attention, and encourage friends and family to participate as well.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 7 of 52



Every NFL offseason brings optimism. Every fanbase convinces itself the rookies will hit, the free agents will work out, and this is finally the year everything comes together. But before the season starts and hope takes over, it's worth taking a hard look at the roster as it actually exists today.

Over the next ten weeks, we'll break down every position group on the Vikings' roster and rank them from the group I have the most confidence in to the one I trust the least entering the 2026 season. We'll look at the projected starters, depth pieces, offseason additions, and biggest questions each group faces.

Coming in at number 4: cornerback

Confidence level: 52%

Current projected starters: Byron Murphy Jr., Isaiah Rodgers, James Pierre

Current depth: Dwight McGlothern, Charles Demmings

Competing for a roster or practice squad spot: Zemaiah Vaughn, Marcus Allen, Da'Veawn Armstead, Tyreek Chappell

Why I'm confident: Byron Murphy Jr. is one year removed from being named to the Pro Bowl, and since joining the Vikings in 2023, he's only missed three games. Isaiah Rodgers played in all 17 games last season, started 15 of them, and had one of the greatest games by a CB I've ever seen (week 3 against Cincinnati, when he had an 87-yard pick-six and two forced fumbles, one of which he returned 66 yards for a touchdown). James Pierre was one of only a few free agents the Vikings signed this offseason, and although he's never been a full-time starter in the league, Brian Flores liked him enough to bring him in to compete.

The biggest reason for confidence in the CB position, however, is Flores. In a league that puts a premium on cornerbacks, Flores has designed a scheme that allows players to slide in and play well. So as crazy as it sounds, cornerback isn't nearly as important in Brian Flores' defense as it is for most NFL teams.

Cause for concern: While I like Murphy, Rodgers, and Pierre, I feel like they are all playing one step above where they should. Ideally, Murphy would be the team's CB2, Rodgers would play in the slot as CB3, and Pierre would be the first one off the bench while also playing in dime formations when the team has four CBs on the field at the same time.

One of the reasons Flores was able to get away with not asking too much from his cornerbacks is because the team relied heavily on their safeties. However, with Harrison Smith retiring, that position is a huge question mark heading into the 2026 season. How will Flores adjust? Will more be asked of the cornerbacks, and will the Vikings' CBs be able to rise to the challenge, or will they reveal a weakness opposing offenses can exploit?

Another cause for concern is the depth. The primary backups are Dwight McGlothern and rookie Charles Demmings. McGlothern has only played 50 total snaps on defense over the past two seasons, and Demmings is a rookie who played college ball at Stephen F. Austin State. Neither player instills much confidence if they're forced to play extended snaps.

Potential upgrades: If the Vikings want to bring in a player or two to beef up the cornerback room, which I highly recommend they do, there are a few names available who could come in and make a difference. Marshon Lattimore (four-time Pro Bowler) and Trevon Diggs (two-time Pro Bowler) are two players who could immediately challenge for a starting role, while players like Kenny Moore, Tre'Davious White, and Adoree' Jackson would all be solid depth pieces.

Ultimately, this group comes down to one person: Brian Flores. If anyone can get quality play out of an average cornerback room, it's him. That's the biggest reason this position avoided the bottom of the list.

"The Critical Need for More Nurses in the State of South Dakota"

As a registered nurse (RN) in South Dakota for the past 35 years, I can honestly say that it has been one of the greatest blessings in my life and yet is a profession in dire need of more, especially in our rural areas. According to Kliniski (2025), South Dakota is projected to have the third-worst nursing shortage in the United States by 2030, needing an additional 1,900 registered nurses (a 14% deficit). The state faces an estimated 1,000 nursing job openings annually as rural healthcare systems struggle with an aging workforce and geographic challenges.

I have had the honor of working as an RN in South Dakota in a multitude of areas, all with similar, yet different, benefits. I have worked in home health nursing, critical care, progressive care, the emergency department at Monument Health, a small rural critical access hospital, and currently, as a nurse educator at the University of South Dakota. I have been involved in the birth of a newborn baby, the peaceful death of a terminal client dying at home, the tragic deaths of children in the emergency department, the joy of discharging a patient who received life-saving treatments, the sense of pride when my nursing students have graduated and everything in between. Don't get me wrong- it's not all good. There are days that are incredibly sad, days that are exhausting, patients that are challenging and days I have left in tears. Fortunately, those days are far and few between compared to the days that are filled with joy and a great sense of accomplishment.

With nursing being such a rewarding career with so many different areas to work in, and with the extreme nursing shortage, it is important to share how people can become a nurse. South Dakota is fortunate to have multiple nursing programs available. People can become a licensed practical nurse (LPN) in approximately one year, with multiple vocational schools in South Dakota offering the degree. A second option is to become a registered nurse (RN) with an associate degree, taking approximately two years to complete, and offered at a number of vocational schools and universities. The third option is to become an RN with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. The BSN degree takes approximately four years to complete, often times opens the doors to more leadership positions, and is offered at many universities in South Dakota.

Living in South Dakota has many benefits and challenges all at the same time. We are blessed to live in beautiful wide open spaces, but with that comes the challenges of sparse healthcare resources and a lack of nurses to staff them. It is not uncommon for a farmer in South Dakota to have to drive two hours one way to get basic healthcare, and further to get advanced care. Despite this challenge, for those who choose to practice as a nurse in rural underserved facilities, it can be extremely rewarding. While working at Dell Rapids hospital, I had the honor of caring for women in labor, pediatrics, medical surgical patients, trauma victims in our ER, patients with mental health needs and more, all while enjoying the culture of a small rural town where everyone truly cared about each other.

It is my overall hope that more people in South Dakota will look into the many benefits of being a nurse, especially rural South Dakota, and that they will choose to get educated at one of the many excellent nursing programs our state offers.

Dawn has had the honor and privilege of being a registered nurse for 35 years. She earned her BSN in 1991, her Master of Science in Nursing Education in 2000, and her Doctor of Education in 2016. Dawn's areas of expertise as an RN are critical care nursing, emergency nursing and in nurse education at the University of South Dakota. Dawn and her husband have two sons, both of whom are in college studying to become nurses. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB, YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).



By Dawn R. Warren
Ed.D., MSN, BSN, RN, University of
South Dakota Department of Nursing

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 9 of 52

Garretson rallies late to edge Groton Jr. Legion 6-5

CLARK – Garretson Post 23 erased an early four-run deficit and scored the winning run in the top of the seventh inning to hand Groton Post 39 Junior Legion a 6-5 setback Sunday in Clark.

Groton came out swinging in the opening inning, building a 4-0 advantage. T.C. Schuster delivered a two-run double, Lincoln Shilhanek added an RBI single, and another run scored on a Garretson error.

Garretson chipped away before taking advantage of a Groton error in the fifth inning to pull even at 4-4.

The tie didn't last long. Groton regained the lead in the bottom of the fifth when Schuster singled home a run to make it 5-4.

Garretson answered again in the sixth as Chase Costello lined an RBI single up the middle to knot the score at 5-5.

In the seventh, Garretson pushed across the decisive run when Colton Buchholz drew a bases-loaded walk, giving Post 23 the 6-5 victory.

Schuster paced the Groton offense, finishing 2-for-4 with three RBIs from the No. 3 spot in the lineup.

Kason Oswald started on the mound for Groton, striking out nine while allowing five runs, three earned, on nine hits over 5½ innings. Zach Fliehs took the loss in relief after allowing the winning run, which was unearned, over one inning while yielding one hit and four walks.

Blake Benson earned the complete-game victory for Garretson, allowing five runs, four earned, on five hits while striking out five and walking two.

Garretson finished with 10 hits. Jackson Collins, Costello and Gavin Coburn each collected two hits, while Buchholz drove in two runs. Post 23 also showed patience at the plate, drawing nine walks. Cade Risty, Coburn and Buchholz each walked twice.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 10 of 52

Post 23 Junior Legion 6 - 5 Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion

📍 Home 📅 Sunday July 19, 2026

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
PST2	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	6	10	3
GRTN	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	5	3

BATTING

Post 23 Junior L...	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
C Costello #32 (CF)	4	1	2	1	0	0
C Risty #27 (LF)	2	1	0	0	2	2
C Arend #35 (SS)	4	0	1	0	0	2
C Smith #23 (1B)	3	1	1	0	1	1
T Zell #33 (C)	4	1	0	0	0	0
G Coburn #36 (3B)	2	1	2	0	2	0
C Smith #26 (2B)	3	0	1	1	1	1
C Buchh... #28 (RF)	2	0	1	2	2	1
B Benson #29 (P)	3	1	0	0	1	1
J Collins #21	4	0	2	0	0	2
Totals	31	6	10	4	9	10

2B: J Collins, **TB:** C Smith, C Smith, C Arend, C Buchholz, C Costello 2, J Collins 3, G Coburn 2, **SB:** C Costello, B Benson, **LOB:** 13

PITCHING

Post 23 Ju...	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
B Bens... #29	7.0	5	5	4	2	5	0
Totals	7.0	5	5	4	2	5	0

W: B Benson, **P-S:** B Benson 90-60, **WP:** B Benson, **BF:** B Benson 31, **E:** G Coburn 3

Groton Post 39...	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
A Abeln #5 (C)	3	1	1	0	1	0
J Schwan #11 (CF)	4	2	1	0	0	1
T Schuster #3 (SS)	4	1	2	3	0	0
B Fliehs #19 (3B)	3	1	0	0	1	1
R Schelle #6 (DH)	2	0	0	0	0	0
K Oswald #12 (P)	0	0	0	0	0	0
L Shilhan... #17 (1B)	3	0	1	1	0	0
W Borg #1 (2B)	3	0	0	0	0	1
J Bisbee #15 (LF)	3	0	0	0	0	0
X Ellenbe... #8 (RF)	2	0	0	0	0	1
Z Fliehs #23 (P)	1	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	28	5	5	4	2	5

2B: T Schuster, **TB:** J Schwan, T Schuster 3, A Abeln, L Shilhanek, **SAC:** R Schelle, **SB:** J Schwan, L Shilhanek, **LOB:** 5

Groton Pos...	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
K Oswald #12	5.2	9	5	3	5	9	0
Z Fliehs #23	1.0	1	1	0	4	0	0
A Abeln #5	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	7.0	10	6	3	9	10	0

L: Z Fliehs, **P-S:** K Oswald 106-63, A Abeln 2-2, Z Fliehs 33-11, **WP:** K Oswald 2, **BF:** K Oswald 30, A Abeln, Z Fliehs 9, **E:** T Schuster, B Fliehs, W Borg



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

State leaders mourn loss of 'greatest philanthropist in South Dakota history'

T. Denny Sanford dies at age 90 after more than \$4 billion in charitable giving

BY SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT STAFF

South Dakota Gov. Larry Rhoden said this weekend that the state "will forever be impacted" by the legacy of businessman and philanthropist T. Denny Sanford.

Rhoden issued his comments after First Premier Bank, Premier Bankcard and Sanford Health announced on Saturday that Sanford, age 90, had died. He owned the two companies and became the namesake of Sanford Health — formerly called Sioux Valley — in 2007 when he donated \$400 million to the organization.

Sanford's total philanthropic contributions to numerous organizations in South Dakota and elsewhere totaled more than \$4 billion.

"It is with great sadness that Sandy and I mourn the loss of T. Denny — a man who has so generously and intentionally invested in the great state of South Dakota," Rhoden said in a news release. "His contributions will not be forgotten, and South Dakota will forever be impacted by his legacy. Put simply, he was the greatest philanthropist in South Dakota history."

Sanford's major donations in South Dakota included support for the Sanford Underground Laboratory at the former Homestake Mine in Lead, the Build Dakota and Premier/Freedom scholarships, the Sioux Falls Development Foundation's future redevelopment of the downtown Smithfield pork plant site, Children's Home Society of South Dakota, and Crazy Horse Memorial, among others.

"Denny Sanford was a significant donor to practically every charitable campaign in Sioux Falls, and many others throughout the state," said Lt. Governor Tony Venhuizen. "Beyond his high-profile gifts, Denny was a key reason that Sioux Falls has such a strong culture of philanthropy, and many important community improvements benefited from his support."

Sanford was born Dec. 23, 1935, in St. Paul, Minnesota. He lost his mother to breast cancer when he was 4, and he began working at his father's garment shop at the age of 8. After graduating from the University of Minnesota in 1958 with a degree in psychology, he began a career in sales, marketing and materials distribution. His experiences led him to establish Contech Inc., a Minneapolis-based company that manufactured sealants, coatings and adhesives.

After selling the company, he purchased a bank in Sioux Falls in 1986. He renamed it First Premier Bank and expanded into the credit card sector with Premier Bankcard. The success of those businesses made Sanford a billionaire and allowed him to focus on philanthropy.

First Premier Bank, Premier Bankcard and Sanford Health issued joint statements on Sanford's death. Dana Dykhouse, CEO of First Premier Bank, said Sanford told him "many people live a life of success, but



Billionaire philanthropist T. Denny Sanford died July 18, 2026, at age 90.

(Photo courtesy of First Premier Bank, Premier Bankcard and Sanford Health)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 12 of 52

you should try to live a life of significance where you can make an impact on people." Miles Beacom, CEO of Premier Bankcard, said Sanford "could have done many things with his money, yet he reinvested it in South Dakota."

"Our universities are stronger today because of Denny," Beacom said. "Our health care is stronger today because of Denny. He believed in working harder to help someone other than yourself."

Bill Gassen, president and CEO of Sanford Health, described Sanford as a "driving force in modern medicine, empowering researchers and clinicians to think big and pursue bold, innovative endeavors at a pace not otherwise possible."

"We are able to provide care for more patients in their time of need because of his generosity," Gassen said.

Sanford, who was twice divorced, is survived by his sons Scott and Bill, their wives, three grandchildren, and a brother, Charles "Chuck" Sanford and his wife.

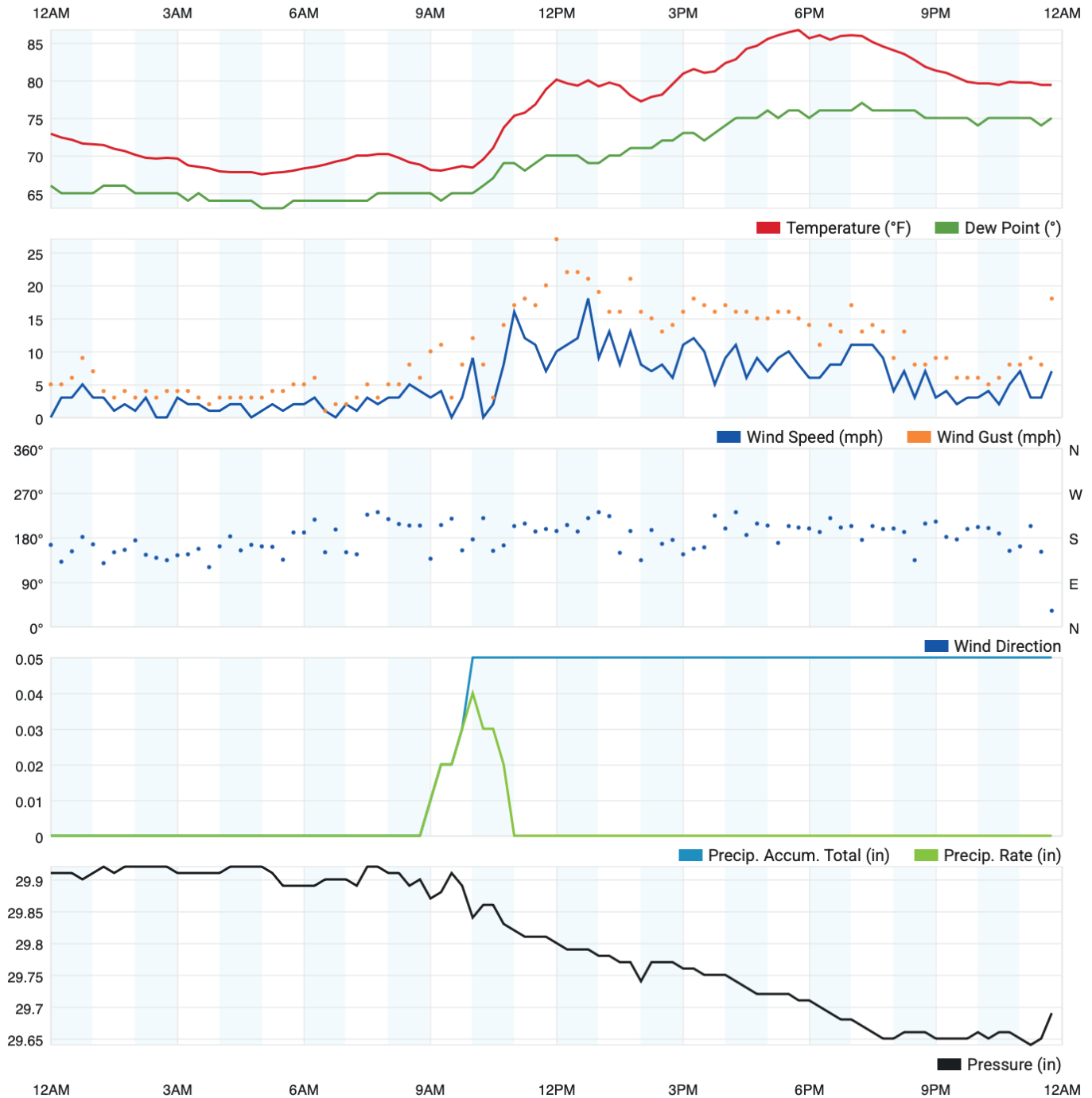
Arrangements for a family service followed by a community celebration are pending.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 13 of 52

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

July 19, 2026



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 14 of 52

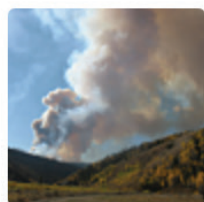
Monday

Monday Night

Tuesday

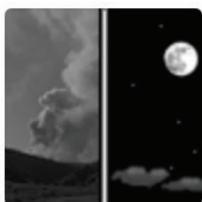
Tuesday Night

Wednesday



High: 93 °F

Patchy Smoke
and Breezy



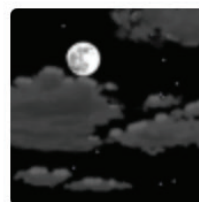
Low: 63 °F

Patchy Smoke
and Breezy
then Mostly
Clear



High: 82 °F

Sunny



Low: 56 °F

Partly Cloudy



High: 84 °F

Mostly Sunny

TODAY

Highs: 89-97°F

Lows: 62-66°F

Winds across northern SD
will gust 30-40 mph

Smoke from western
wildfires will move across
the area from north to south
creating minor visibility
reductions



Today will be a little cooler with highs generally in the 90s. Smoke from western wildfires will move across the area today creating minor reductions to visibility. Winds across northern SD are expected to gust to 30 to 40 mph.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 15 of 52



Red Flag Warning Monday

July 20, 2026
3:45 AM

In effect from 3 PM CDT / 2 PM MDT through 9 PM CDT / 8 PM MDT Monday

- A **Red Flag Warning** has been issued for parts of north central South Dakota this afternoon.
- Humidity in the afternoon will be as low as 20 percent.
- Northwest winds of 15 to 25 miles per hour will be in place during the afternoon.
 - ◆ Gusts up to 40 miles per hour will be possible.
- ***Any fires that develop will spread rapidly. Outdoor burning is not recommended.***



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

A Red Flag Warning is in effect for portions of north central SD this afternoon. Humidity values will fall as low as 20% with winds gusting 30 to 40 mph. Any fires that develop will spread rapidly. Outdoor burning is not recommended.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 16 of 52

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 87 °F at 5:39 PM

Low Temp: 67 °F at 4:58 AM

Wind: 27 mph at 11:54 AM

Precip: 0.05

Today's Info

Record High: 111 in 1934

Record Low: 43 in 1970

Average High: 85

Average Low: 60

Average Precip in July.: 2.18

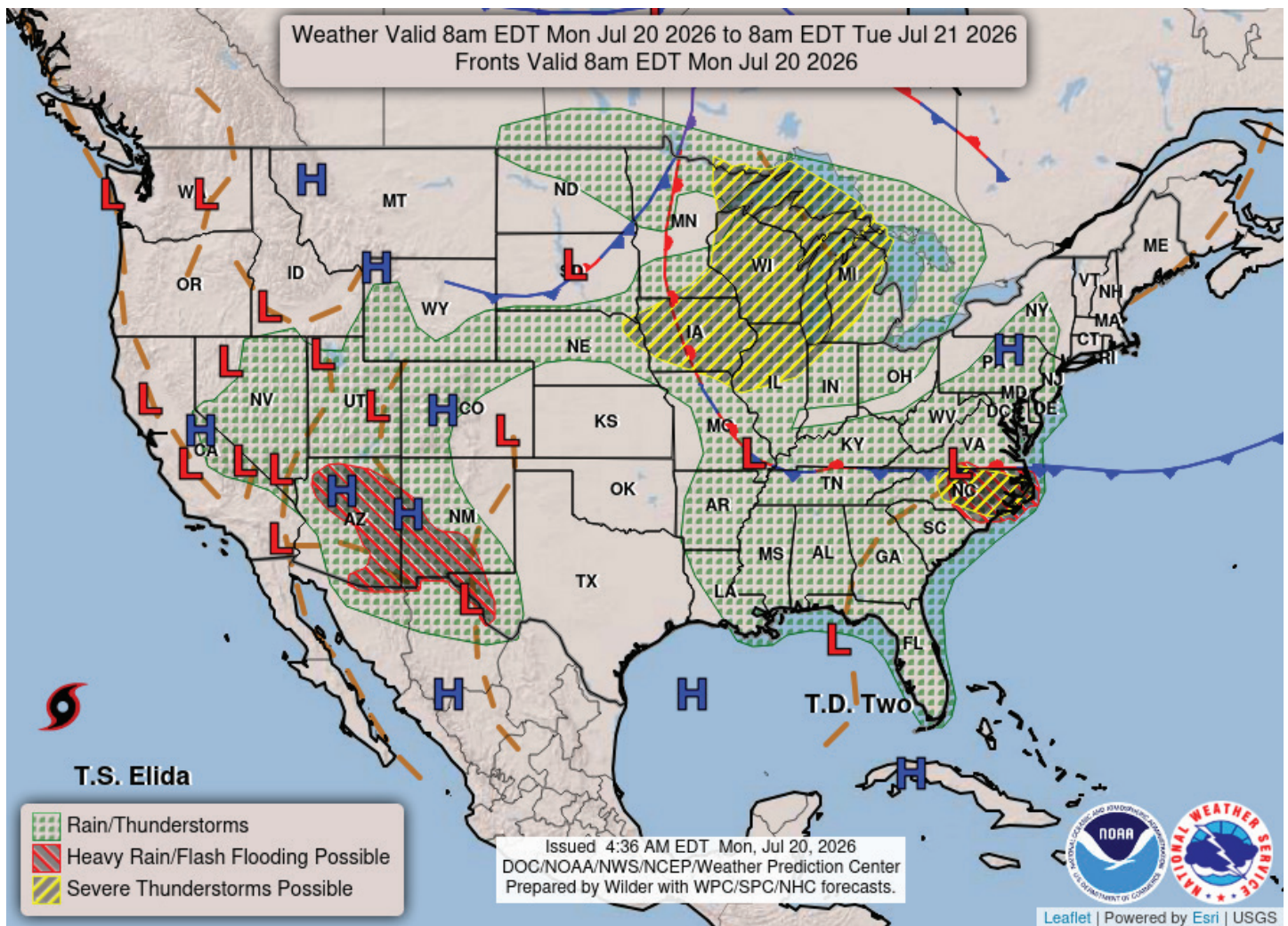
Precip to date in July.: 4.77

Average Precip to date: 13.19

Precip Year to Date: 14.24

Sunset Tonight: 9:13 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:04 am



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 17 of 52

Today in Weather History

July 20, 1951: From the southeast residential section of Watertown, an estimated F2 tornado moved east, passing near Kranzburg and Goodwin. The storms destroyed one home and several barns.

July 20, 2002: A powerful severe thunderstorm moved over Rapid City and across the adjacent plains east of town. Downburst winds and the associated gust front caused damage along a nearly 30-mile long path. Extensive tree damage occurred throughout the eastern half of the city with countless trees and branches more than 24-inch diameter fell. Two roofs were torn off by the winds. Flying debris damaged numerous cars and buildings. The NWS office in downtown Rapid City measured an 80 mph wind gust, with meteorologists noting winds were sustained at 60 to 70 mph for 5 minutes. Ellsworth AFB wind equipment measured a 106 mph wind gust from the thunderstorm as it passed.

1915: A record high temperature of 115 degrees occurred in Yosemite Valley at the National Park Headquarters, California (around 4,000 feet elevation). This reading was the warmest day in a streak of 7 consecutive days of 110 degrees or higher at Yosemite Valley from the 19th through the 25th.

1930 — The temperature at Washington D.C. soared to an all-time record of 106 degrees. The next day Millsboro reached 110 degrees to set a record for the state of Delaware. July 1930 was one of the hottest and driest summers in the U.S., particularly in the Missouri Valley where severe drought conditions developed. Toward the end of the month state records were set for Kentucky with 114 degrees, and Mississippi with 115 degrees. (David Ludlum)

1934 — The temperature at Keokuk, IA, soared to 118 degrees to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1953 — Twenty-two inches of hail reportedly fell northeast of Dickinson, ND. (The Weather Channel)

1977: A flash flood hits Johnstown, Pennsylvania, on this day in 1977, killing 84 people and causing millions of dollars in damages. This flood came 88 years after the infamous Great Flood of 1889 that killed more than 2,000 people in Johnstown.

1986 — The temperature at Charleston, SC, hit 104 degrees for the second day in a row to tie their all-time record high. (The Weather Channel)

1987 — Thunderstorms produced severe weather across Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 87 mph at Mosinee, WI, and strong thunderstorm winds capsized twenty-six boats on Grand Traverse Bay drowning two women. Thunderstorms produced nine inches of rain at Shakopee, MN, with 7.83 inches reported in six hours at Chaska, MN. Thunderstorms in north central Nebraska produced hail as large as golf balls in southwestern Cherry County, which accumulated to a depth of 12 inches. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 — The temperature at Redding, CA, soared to an all-time record high of 118 degrees. Showers and thunderstorms produced much needed rains from New England to southern Texas. Salem, IN, was deluged with 7.2 inches of rain resulting in flash flooding. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 — Showers and thunderstorms in the Middle Atlantic Coast Region soaked Wilmington, DE, with 2.28 inches of rain, pushing their total for the period May through July past the previous record of 22.43 inches. Heavy rain over that three month period virtually wiped out a 16.82 inch deficit which had been building since drought conditions began in 1985. Thunderstorms in central Indiana deluged Lebanon with 6.50 inches of rain in twelve hours, and thunderstorms over Florida produced wind gusts to 84 mph at Flagler Beach. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2005: Hurricane Emily made landfall in northern Mexico. When the central pressure fell to 29.43 inches of mercury, and its sustained winds reached 160 mph on the 16th, Emily became the strongest hurricane ever to form before August, breaking a record set by Hurricane Dennis just six days before. It was also the earliest Category 5 hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic basin, beating Hurricane Allen's old record by nearly three weeks.



Faithful Through It All

**True partnership is revealed in those who
stick by others through both triumph and tragedy.**

Acts 19:23-31: 23 About that time there occurred no small disturbance concerning the Way.

24 For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, was bringing no little business to the craftsmen;

25 these he gathered together with the workmen of similar trades, and said, ``Men, you know that our prosperity depends upon this business.

26 ``You see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away a considerable number of people, saying that gods made with hands are no gods at all.

27 ``Not only is there danger that this trade of ours fall into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis be regarded as worthless and that she whom all of Asia and the world worship will even be dethroned from her magnificence.”

28 When they heard this and were filled with rage, they began crying out, saying, ``Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

29 The city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed with one accord into the theater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul’s traveling companions from Macedonia.

30 And when Paul wanted to go into the assembly, the disciples would not let him.

31 Also some of the Asiarchs who were friends of his sent to him and repeatedly urged him not to venture into the theater.

It’s wonderful to celebrate with others, sharing in the happiness of those we care about. But true partnership reveals itself in times of both rejoicing and challenge.

In the book of Acts, Paul is the most prominent apostle. But there were also others who traveled with him—faithful companions who deserve our attention. One example is Aristarchus. He’s at a riot in Ephesus, where he’s dragged into the theater alongside Paul. Later, he boards a ship with Paul, who is a prisoner bound for Rome. They suffer together through a storm and shipwreck. The final times he’s mentioned, we see him as Paul’s fellow prisoner and coworker (Colossians 4:10; Philemon 1:24).

Aristarchus didn’t show up only for Paul’s successful moments; he stayed present through imprisonment, persecution, and physical danger. His faithfulness reminds us that genuine partnership is tested and proven in difficult seasons.

Most of us won’t face riots or shipwrecks, but we will encounter opportunities to stand with others through their struggles. A friend facing illness. A church going through transition. A ministry that becomes demanding. These moments reveal how deep our commitment runs. Genuine partnership means always staying faithful, whether in celebration or crisis.

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

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 19 of 52

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WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.19.26

6 22 35 40 52 4

TOP PRIZE:

\$1,000,000/year

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 41 Mins 31 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.17.26

22 34 45 48 55 14

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$707,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 26 Mins 31 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.18.26

13 17 22 28 40 3

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 41 Mins 31 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.18.26

1 13 27 28 29

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$20,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 16 Hrs 56 Mins 32 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.18.26

5 11 25 26 64 11

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 25 Mins 32 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.18.26

9 14 44 50 56 3

Power Play: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$544,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 25 Mins 32 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the **AP** Associated Press

US gas prices hit an average of \$4 a gallon again as the US and Iran launch attacks

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. gas prices jumped to an average of \$4 a gallon again Monday as the U.S. and Iran launched more attacks.

According to motor club federation AAA, the national average for a gallon of regular gasoline is now back to \$4. The average price a year ago was \$3.14 a gallon.

The price is a national average, meaning drivers in some states have been paying well over \$4 a gallon for a while now, while others pay less. Prices vary between states due to factors ranging from nearby supply to differing tax rates.

People around the world are also dealing with high gas prices as a result of the war.

Gas prices first went over \$4 a gallon on average at the end of March. They dipped below that in mid-June and continued to fall as crude oil prices eased when the U.S. and Iran reached an interim deal. Even then, President Donald Trump expressed frustration that gas prices weren't falling as quickly as oil prices.

Affordability is likely to be a key issue for voters in the U.S. midterm elections, and higher gas and oil prices can help push up prices for groceries and other goods.

Oil prices have climbed again in recent days as the U.S. and Iran move closer to resuming an all-out war.

Brent crude, the international standard, rose 3.2% to \$90.95 per barrel Monday and benchmark U.S. crude climbed 2.8% to \$84.04 per barrel.

US bombing of Iran expands as American troops killed and Tehran retaliates against the Gulf states

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United States conducted a new round of airstrikes early Monday targeting Iran after announcing the death of another American service member, hitting around a northwestern city believed to be home to underground missile bases. Iran responded by launching an attack targeting Bahrain, the home of the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, and Kuwait.

The latest attacks again showed how, step by step, the U.S. and Iran have inched closer to all-out war as last month's interim deal meant to permanently end the fighting has crumbled and shipping traffic in the Strait of Hormuz has largely stalled. Both sides have targeted civilian infrastructure relied on by millions of people.

Meanwhile, benchmark Brent crude rose Monday above \$90 a barrel, further fueling a global energy crisis sparked by the conflict. An average gallon of regular gasoline in the U.S. also rose to \$4, a key metric for Americans that puts more pressure on their wallets ahead of midterm elections this fall.

The U.S. military said the service member was killed in Iraq on Saturday during the "controlled detonation" of a downed Iranian drone.

"We hit them very hard again tonight," U.S. President Donald Trump said. "And we did that in honor of the" soldiers killed, he said.

US launches ninth night of Iran strikes

The U.S. military's Central Command announced a new round of strikes early Monday, now into their ninth straight night. Central Command said it targeted "Iranian military command centers, air defense and coastal surveillance sites, maritime capabilities, missile and drone launch sites and communications networks."

Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported that the American strikes killed at least one person around Tabriz, a northwestern city about 520 kilometers (325 miles) from the capital, Tehran. Tabriz is believed to host underground missile bases run by Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 22 of 52

U.S. strikes likely also hit Bandar Imam Khomeini in Khuzestan province, Sirik and Jask in Hormozgan province and Konarak and Chahbahar in Sistan and Baluchistan province, IRNA reported.

As the strikes began, a vessel caught fire early Monday in the Strait of Hormuz after being hit by a projectile near the coastline of Oman, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said. The crew abandoned the vessel, which was adrift and still ablaze hours later, the UKMTO said.

The route around Oman has been the one the U.S. military has encouraged ships to travel to avoid Iran's control. The Guard later claimed it was targeting tankers in the strait.

Tehran has retaliated by hitting U.S.-allied countries throughout the Middle East. Bahrain sounded its missile alert sirens Monday morning, while Kuwait said its air defense were firing at an incoming Iranian barrage.

The Strait of Hormuz remains key to the conflict

Trump has threatened to target Iran's power stations and bridges to try to compel Tehran to loosen its hold on the Strait of Hormuz, which saw one-fifth of traded global oil supplies transit before the war. Recent attacks suggest the U.S. military is carrying out that plan.

The U.S. in the past week reimposed a naval blockade on Iranian ports to halt its shipments of crude oil. The military on Saturday said it had redirected six ships and disabled one since then.

The halfway point has passed in the 60 days the deal set out to negotiate the permanent end of the war and other issues, including Iran's nuclear program.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters that the U.S. is still open to negotiating with Iran but that "it has to be real."

"We're going to continue to respond. If the door opens to diplomacy — if the guys that want to do something productive for Iran win and take control of that system, or take control of the negotiations — that'll be a very positive development," Rubio said. "That's not where we are tonight, unfortunately."

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei hours later acknowledged that "proposals conveyed through mediators have been communicated to us," but he declined to elaborate on their substance.

Mohammad Javad Zarif, a former Iranian foreign minister who helped elect the country's reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian, acknowledged in an essay published Monday by Foreign Policy that the interim "deal could never survive such dissonance" over the Strait of Hormuz.

"As the current conflict makes clear, Washington cannot eliminate the Iranian government," Zarif wrote. "Only diplomacy, a new peace agreement, and a new security framework produced by regional states and for regional states will allow the United States to turn its attention elsewhere."

However, Zarif did warn the country's theocracy that "if Iran repeatedly threatens maritime traffic, it could turn much of the world against it."

Iranian authorities on Sunday said at least 50 people have been killed and 517 wounded in the latest rounds of U.S. strikes. Since the war began on Feb. 28, 17 U.S. service members have been killed.

At least 930 people have died in Congo's Ebola outbreak

BUNIA, Congo (AP) — At least 930 people have died in Congo's Ebola outbreak, the country's Ministry of Health said Monday, with 37 new deaths recorded in a 24-hour span Friday into Saturday, one of the highest totals.

The deaths were recorded out of the 2,344 cases confirmed as of Saturday, the health ministry said.

The Ebola outbreak that was declared in eastern Congo on May 15 is the fastest-growing Ebola outbreak on record. The Bundibugyo virus responsible for the outbreak is less common than others that cause Ebola disease, and there is no approved vaccine or treatment.

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

The surge in deaths comes as safety fears have restricted the response in the worst-affected province of Ituri. A total of five provinces have been affected, all in the eastern region where rebel violence is rampant.

At least 12 attacks — mostly fueled by skepticism and rumors — have been recorded against health facilities and teams since the outbreak was declared in mid-May, authorities said Saturday. Many health workers meanwhile have walked off their jobs as they protest lack of payment.

At least 36 health workers infected with the virus have died.

The World Health Organization last week expressed concerns that 80% of new Ebola cases were emerging from unknown chains of transmission, a sign the outbreak is spreading faster than health officials can track despite an expanding response.

Congo's Health Ministry said in its latest update that 724 patients are currently in isolation and in hospitals, and that it is intensifying response efforts in affected health zones.

"Patient care and support capacities are consolidating, with 22 new recoveries recorded in 24 hours," the ministry said.

In one of Kyiv's most frequently bombed neighborhoods, residents choose to stay

By SAMYA KULLAB and ILLIA NOVIKOV Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Residents of Kyiv's historic Lukianivka neighborhood share a dark joke: Russian strikes hit the area so frequently, they ought to be issued military service documents as though they are living on the front line of the war.

Real estate agent Dmytro Zhekov acknowledges the danger up front when he tries to draw prospective renters to one of the Ukrainian capital's most frequently bombed areas. In his sales pitch on social media, he highlights the neighborhood's many virtues: affordable rents, easy access to the city center, a well-connected metro line and historic landmarks.

"From the beginning I tell them, 'This is a place in the danger zone. It gets hit regularly. If you are all right with that, then we can see it,'" he said.

The district includes a Soviet-era weapons plant that has become one of Russia's most frequent targets in Kyiv, with its roof blackened by repeated strikes. Across the street, the Lukianivka metro station, which gives the neighborhood its name, has been hit at least eight times. During air raids, it also serves as a shelter for residents. Craters have become a permanent part of the urban landscape.

Residents no longer ask whether Lukianivka will be hit again, only when. Living in the neighborhood means reopening businesses beside the charred ruins of a market, cutting hair in buildings scarred by shrapnel, moving theater performances underground and choosing to rebuild rather than leave.

Between strikes, people sweep up shattered glass, board up blown-out windows and try to carry on. After another Russian missile barrage on Sunday, the routine began again.

"After every attack, I walk down the main street, and it feels like watching a wound widen," resident Vladyslav Darmohrai said.

Main thoroughfare traces an ancient trade route

Lukianivka's main thoroughfare, Dehtiarivska Street, follows part of the ancient Via Regia, the medieval trade route that carried merchants into Kyiv for centuries.

The neighborhood later grew into a working-class district of factories, markets and the Lukianivka prison, whose inmates have included former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who was incarcerated for 2½ years for striking a gas deal with Russia in a case that was largely viewed as retribution by her political rival, then-President Viktor Yanukovich.

Successive eras, from the Soviet industrial period to Ukrainian independence and, now, the repeated Russian bombardment, have continued to shape the neighborhood, which now includes renters displaced by the war.

Ukraine's first McDonald's, which opened in Lukianivka in 1997, became an early symbol of that postindependence rebirth. Today, customers eat there beneath a plastic sign permanently warped by the heat of Russian strikes.

"It's part of our history now," said historian Kyrylo Stepanets.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 24 of 52

The neighborhood's role as a crossroads gave rise to Lukianivka's iconic market, which had served residents since the late 19th century until it was destroyed in a Russian strike on May 24.

It's now a charred maze of kiosks, frozen in the moment of the attack. Blackened loaves of bread still sit on the shelves of what was once a bakery.

For many residents, the market lives on in childhood memories of parents and grandparents leading them hand in hand through its crowded aisles to buy fruit, flowers and everyday necessities.

Alyona Lukianets, 32, spent 11 years building her produce business there. After the strike, she returned to find her stall reduced to ashes. Weeks later, she went back to work.

Her new stall, assembled from wooden pallets and tarpaulins outside the market's ruins, bears little resemblance to the one she lost. Every morning she still lines up baskets of berries and fresh vegetables with the same care. The acrid smell of the destroyed market behind her sometimes still hangs in the air.

"I don't know what it will take for us to leave this place," Lukianets said. "We are unmovable."

Weapons factory draws Russian fire

Julia Sosnovska had wanted a dog ever since she moved into her apartment in Lukianivka in 2022.

For years, her landlords refused. But after a devastating Russian strike in May, they finally relented, and a brown dog named Perry entered the young professional's life.

Displaced when Russia took control of the southern city of Mariupol, Sosnovska chose Lukianivka for its affordable rents, despite knowing her apartment overlooked the Artem weapons factory.

Rents in Lukianivka start at less than \$200 for a studio apartment. The cheapest one- and two-bedroom units can be had for around \$270 and \$310, respectively.

Founded in the late 19th century as an industrial machinery plant, the Artem plant evolved into one of the Soviet Union's leading arms manufacturers before becoming an important part of Ukraine's defense industry after independence. It expanded production after Russian-backed forces began seizing territory in eastern Ukraine in 2014.

Following the Kremlin's full-scale invasion, the factory became one of Moscow's top targets in the capital. Russia believes the factory is still producing weapons. Ukraine has not confirmed that claim, and wartime restrictions bar officials from discussing military manufacturing.

If weapons are still made there, residents wonder whether it would be safer to move the production line elsewhere. But few people believe relocating to another part of Kyiv would make much difference because Russian missiles have struck all of the city's districts.

Instead, people have grown accustomed to cleaning up after strikes. Some property owners even keep spare panes of glass in storage, said Zhekov, the real estate agent.

When the latest Russian strikes landed, Sosnovska awoke Sunday to a blinding flash outside her bedroom window, followed by the crash of shattering glass.

Her first instinct was to find Perry, who had bolted from her bed in panic. Clutching the trembling dog, along with her documents and laptop, Sosnovska joined neighbors sheltering in the basement parking garage as more explosions reverberated.

By dawn, her apartment windows had been blown out and her car damaged. She considered herself fortunate. "Glass is the least you can lose in these attacks," she said.

She chooses to stay in Lukianivka.

"Where else would I go? You never know which place will be next," she said.

Vitalii Zhdaniuk opened a barber school in Lukianivka because he loved the neighborhood. The building is pockmarked with shrapnel, and a chunk of brick hurled from a neighboring auto repair shop during a Russian strike last year remains embedded in the wall.

"No matter how many missiles fly here," he said, "I'll stay."

In the basement, the show goes on

Tucked behind Lukianivka metro station is the Mala Opera, a theater that has long shaped Kyiv's cultural life. The risk of missile strikes has pushed performances underground, leaving the grand auditorium empty.

It is here that Director Mykhailo Miskun is staging his latest production.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 25 of 52

"When the war began, we set ourselves one task: to perform comedies," Miskun said. "We want to lift the spirits of the people who come to us."

His latest play revolves around sex, relationships and feuding neighbors, subjects chosen deliberately to offer audiences a brief escape from the war.

The company has adapted to the attacks by holding rehearsals online and gathering in smaller spaces. After a recent Russian strike, the troupe briefly considered leaving.

They decided to stay "despite everything," Miskun said.

Outside, theatergoers queue to descend into the basement, where the evening's performance is about to begin.

"We live. We create. We give birth," Miskun said. "Just like any part of Ukraine, Lukianivka is also being restored and continues to live."

Black teen found dead after July 4 boat trip to be remembered at funeral led by the Rev. Al Sharpton

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ Associated Press

Nolan Xavier Wells, an 18-year-old found dead after taking a July 4 boat trip with friends to a Gulf Coast island, will be remembered Monday by his family and civil rights leaders at a church in his hometown of Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

The funeral will be officiated by the Rev. Al Sharpton, with a call to justice delivered by the family's lawyer, Ben Crump, a prominent civil rights attorney. Wells' mother, Christine Wonsley, said they would use the occasion to celebrate the life of their son, who she described as a "bright light" and a "sensitive soul."

"He would not want us to be sitting around crying and eating, and so what we're gonna do is kind of have a party to celebrate him," she said last week.

Wells' death has captured national attention, galvanizing Black leaders and touching off fraught discussions of racial tension and mistrust of law enforcement in the Deep South.

The teenager, who was Black, had traveled by boat to Horn Island, a popular Fourth of July destination, with a group of friends from high school, all of whom were white. He did not return with his friends to the mainland that evening, officials said. His body was found two days later off the island's coast.

Jackson County Sheriff John Ledbetter has said Wells' friends are cooperating with the investigation, which remains ongoing. He said that initial interviews suggested Wells chose to stay on the island and that his friends believed he would get a ride with someone else.

But the still-unknown circumstances leading to Wells' disappearance have fueled rampant online speculation, along with questions from his parents about why he was left behind.

Crump has said that another witness reported Wells planned to leave on the boat with his friends, contradicting the sheriff's statement. He also alleged that messages appeared to have been deleted from the phone, which was found with Wells' friends, along with his keys.

The attorney, who is leading his own investigation into the death, said he would work alongside the local prosecutor to inspect the device. The prosecutor agreed last week to present the results of the investigation to a grand jury once it is completed, Crump said.

"Our lived experiences tell us that we must question everything, everybody's role, law enforcement's role," Crump said. "That is the lived experience as Black people in America."

Wells, who would have turned 19 next month, played wide receiver on the football team at Southwest Mississippi Community College in Summit, Mississippi, and had aspirations of playing at a high-level Division I program.

"He was very sociable with everyone, didn't meet a stranger," his coach, Les George, told WAPT-TV. "He would pop up at my office and come sit on the couch just to hang out and talk."

His death has drawn support from high-profile members of the Black community. Actor and producer Tyler Perry is helping pay for Wells' funeral. Former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick is helping pay for

his independent autopsy, and filmmaker Spike Lee attended a news conference last week in support of Wells' family.

In a joint statement last week, members of the Congressional Black Caucus called for an independent and transparent investigation into Wells' death, adding that "too many questions remain unanswered."

"We hope the outpouring of concern and support from people across the country in recent days brings them some comfort in the days ahead," they added.

Andy Burnham will become UK prime minister after a meeting with King Charles III

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The moment for Andy Burnham has finally come.

After weeks as U.K. prime minister-in-waiting, Burnham will take office on Monday, succeeding the departing Keir Starmer, and Britain's political turbulence will give way, at least temporarily, to smooth choreography.

Burnham will become the seventh U.K. prime minister since 2016 in a now well-rehearsed handover after replacing Starmer as leader of the center-left governing Labour Party on Friday.

A spokesperson said Burnham will say in his first speech as prime minister he's "acutely aware" of how many changes of leader the country has been through in the past decade, and will pledge to restore stability.

Starmer said much the same when he took office two years ago. Last month he announced he would resign after missteps and judgment errors that eroded his standing with his party and the public.

Burnham was the only candidate in a contest to become the party's new leader, securing nominations from 379 of the 403 Labour lawmakers in the House of Commons.

On Monday morning Starmer will travel the mile from Downing Street to Buckingham Palace to formally tell King Charles III that he's resigning. Soon after, Burnham will go to the palace and Charles will ask him to form a government. He will officially become prime minister in a ceremony known as "kissing hands."

The king's role harkens back to a time when the monarch exercised supreme power and chose a prime minister to run the government. Today, the king has no political power, but the monarch still officially offers the job to the leader of the party that can command a majority in the House of Commons. No hand-kissing is involved.

Britain's parliamentary democracy allows governing parties to change leaders, and thus prime ministers, without the need for a general election. The next national poll doesn't have to be held until 2029, though Burnham can call one sooner if he wants.

Burnham will head from the palace to Downing Street, where it's customary for new prime ministers to make a short speech outside the prime minister's residence.

The former mayor of Greater Manchester has pledged to make politics "less toxic," improve living standards across the country and "bring back the hope we have all been missing."

"I will work to build a new politics," he said after becoming Labour leader on Friday. "The country is crying out for it."

Critics and supporters alike will soon be clamoring for details of how Burnham plans to fulfill his pledges.

"Fundamentally, it only will work if you can generate significant economic growth, because it's the lack of growth that's really holding the country back," said Joshi Herrmann, who has followed Burnham's career as founder of Manchester news site The Mill.

Attention will quickly turn to who Burnham will appoint to his Cabinet. He's expected to make changes to Starmer's top team, especially to the biggest jobs of Treasury chief, foreign secretary and home secretary.

He said Friday that he hadn't made a final decision about who to install in his Cabinet.

In his first speech as Labour leader, Burnham praised Starmer's achievements, saying he would "build on the foundation laid" by his predecessor.

Starmer became Labour leader in 2020 after the party's worst-ever election loss, and led it to a landslide victory four years later. But he was soon defeated by the challenges of governing.

At his final Prime Minister's Questions session in Parliament on Wednesday, Starmer defended his gov-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 27 of 52

ernment's record on the international stage — especially its support for Ukraine — and its domestic policy achievements. He mentioned stronger protections for working people, a reduction in child poverty, a law designed to stop official cover-ups after tragedies, and higher defense spending.

"I am proud to leave this country in a better shape than I found it," he said.

Social media influencers Andrew and Tristan Tate expected in Miami court

MIAMI (AP) — Influencer brothers Andrew and Tristan Tate are scheduled to appear before a federal magistrate in Miami on Monday after they were arrested to face rape and sex trafficking charges in the United Kingdom.

The Tates are being held in federal detention following their arrest on Saturday. In the coming weeks, a U.S. district judge will consider whether they meet the conditions for extradition.

An attorney for the brothers, Joseph McBride, blasted the latest charges as "filth and slander." On Sunday, McBride said he was confident the extradition request would be denied.

Prosecutors in Britain said the new charges relate to four further victims and were brought after authorities received evidence from Bedfordshire Police in southeastern England. The charges that span alleged incidents between 2010 and 2017 include rape, assault, trafficking and offenses relating to "indecent images of a child and extreme pornography."

The brothers already face previous charges of rape, bodily harm, human trafficking and controlling prostitution for gain relating to three other alleged victims in the U.K. between 2012 and 2015.

The new allegations are the latest in a long-running international legal saga involving the Tates that has spanned the U.S., Britain and Romania. The brothers have repeatedly denied wrongdoing.

Their social media empire promoting wealth, male dominance and misogyny has made them among the world's most polarizing internet personalities.

The dual U.S. and British citizens moved to Romania in 2016. They were arrested there in 2022, accused of participating in schemes to lure women for sexual exploitation. They denied those allegations and the Romanian case hasn't gone forward because of legal and procedural problems.

Last year, they were allowed to leave Romania and flew to Florida.

US launches more airstrikes against Iran after announcing another death of a service member

By JON GAMBRELL, SAM METZ and BEN FINLEY Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United States conducted a new round of airstrikes early Monday targeting Iran after announcing the death of another American service member, and Iran fired missiles toward Jordan that risked widening the conflict into neighboring Israel.

Step by step, the U.S. and Iran have inched closer to all-out war as last month's interim deal meant to permanently end the fighting has crumbled and shipping traffic in the Strait of Hormuz has largely stalled. Both sides have targeted civilian infrastructure relied on by millions of people, while benchmark Brent crude rose Monday above \$90 a barrel, further fueling a global energy crisis sparked by the conflict.

The U.S. military said the service member was killed in Iraq on Saturday during the "controlled detonation" of a downed Iranian drone.

"We hit them very hard again tonight," U.S. President Donald Trump said. "And we did that in honor of the" soldiers killed, he said.

US launches ninth night of Iran strikes

Earlier, the military said its strikes targeted Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard to retaliate for Friday's killing of troops in Jordan. One service member was missing after that attack, and the military's new statement said "unidentified remains" were found Sunday and were being examined. Since the war began, 17 U.S. service members have been killed.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 28 of 52

The renewed exchanges of fire, now in their second week, have seen the U.S. target bridges and electrical facilities in Iran.

The U.S. military's Central Command announced a new round of strikes early Monday, now into their ninth straight night. Central Command said it targeted "Iranian military command centers, air defense and coastal surveillance sites, maritime capabilities, missile and drone launch sites and communications networks."

There was no immediate word from Iran on any casualties or damage from the attacks. Iranian state media reported explosions being heard in southern and northwestern Iran.

As the strikes began, a ship caught fire early Monday in the Strait of Hormuz near the coastline of Oman, the British military said. It was unclear what sparked the blaze off Oman, which has been a route the U.S. military has encouraged ships to travel to avoid Iran's control. The Guard later claimed it was targeting tankers in the strait.

Tehran has retaliated by hitting U.S.-allied countries throughout the Middle East.

Bahrain, Jordan and Kuwait again activated air defenses for incoming Iranian drones and missiles. Early Monday, the U.S. Embassy in Bahrain issued a warning saying "Iran may seek to target unspecified locations in central Manama," the capital, without elaborating.

Iran says a nuclear site under construction was hit

Footage released Sunday by the U.S. military appeared to show strikes carried out by fighter jets and by Tomahawk cruise missiles launched from the sea. One target site appeared to be in a valley of a mountainous region. The Guard often has missile bases and other military equipment tucked into mountain ranges.

Iran's atomic energy agency said U.S. strikes targeted the construction site of a planned nuclear power plant in the southwest, state television reported.

Satellite images from Planet Labs PBC of the Darkhovin nuclear plant site showed earth clearing but little construction as of July 9. Iran did not previously announce it as being targeted.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said the site, in the "very early stages of construction," contained no nuclear material when the U.N. watchdog last visited.

Jordan and nearly every Gulf Arab state have been targeted

Jordan's military said it shot down several Iranian missiles. The country hosts major U.S. bases and relies on U.S. air-defense systems. The missiles did not cause casualties or damage, according to Jordan's military.

Israel's military said Iranian missiles launched toward the Jordanian port city of Aqaba just across the border could spill over, warning Israelis to expect the first air-raid sirens in weeks.

Eilat, the Israeli city that neighbors Aqaba, cited security officials as saying two interceptors were launched from its outskirts to prevent the fall of debris.

During the latest fighting, Iran has focused attacks on U.S.-allied Arab states rather than Israel, which launched the war with the U.S. on Feb. 28.

Kuwait said one of its power and water desalination plants was attacked for the second time in two days, causing fires. Its Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy said the power grid remains stable. In Kuwait, about 90% of drinking water comes from desalination.

International humanitarian law generally protects civilian infrastructure such as bridges and power plants from attack, but such sites can lose protections if used for military purposes. In such cases, attacks must be proportionate and minimize civilian harm.

The Strait of Hormuz remains key to the conflict

Trump has threatened to target Iran's power stations and bridges to try to compel Tehran to loosen its hold on the Strait of Hormuz, which saw one-fifth of global oil supplies transit before the war. Recent attacks suggest the U.S. military is carrying out that plan.

The U.S. in the past week reimposed a naval blockade on Iranian ports to halt its shipments of crude oil. The military on Saturday said it had redirected six ships and disabled one since then.

The halfway point has passed in the 60 days the deal set out to negotiate the permanent end of the war and other issues, including Iran's nuclear program.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters that the U.S. is still open to negotiating with Iran but

that "it has to be real."

"We're going to continue to respond. If the door opens to diplomacy — if the guys that want to do something productive for Iran win and take control of that system, or take control of the negotiations — that'll be a very positive development," Rubio said. "That's not where we are tonight, unfortunately."

Iranian authorities on Sunday said at least 50 people have been killed and 517 wounded in the latest rounds of U.S. strikes.

Trump celebrates the World Cup as a US victory as he presents trophy to the winner, Spain

By SEUNG MIN KIM and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — President Donald Trump presented the World Cup trophy to Spain, the winner of Sunday's final against Argentina. But to him, the real victor of soccer's premier tournament just might be the United States.

"It turned out we were a soccer country, and I think it's going to remain," Trump said Friday at a FIFA reception at Trump Tower in New York City. "This has really brought the world together."

For the White House, Sunday's match was the culmination of well over a year of navigating a litany of logistical challenges alongside co-hosts Canada and Mexico for what would be the biggest World Cup in history. It had to balance the Trump administration's hard-line migration policies that barred fans from some World Cup qualifier countries from entry into the United States.

Spain won the tournament with a 1-0 victory over defending champion Argentina.

After Trump and FIFA President Gianni Infantino presented them with the trophy, Trump stood alongside the team as they jumped up and down and gold confetti shot out of a cannon.

Later, speaking to reporters at Joint Base Andrews, Trump said he took pride in the country's success as a host, adding that "all over the world, people have come and they love our country." He described the final as a close and exciting match, praising Spain for a dominant performance.

He arrived at Sunday's final with a flyover in the presidential helicopter, Marine One. Before the game even kicked off, Trump was already proposing another U.S. bid to host the tournament, sending a nudge to Infantino.

"I had a great idea for Gianni: You have to do two countries. Announce us again next time, and then announce another country after that. It'll take out some of the anger and the shock," Trump said on Fox Sports. "Based on the numbers, we will be requesting it again immediately."

The president declined to pick sides in the final but said it would be difficult to beat Argentine superstar Lionel Messi. Trump got a close look at the World Cup trophy when it was presented to him at his box seat during the first half. Video footage showed the president smiling and patting the gold trophy as it was held up to him. Also in the box were first lady Melania Trump and Infantino, among others.

Soccer fans enjoy US culture despite warnings

The White House faced warnings from human rights groups, and the tournament confronted backlash over high ticket prices. For months, Trump flirted with the idea of moving games out of cities that did not cooperate with federal immigration authorities, and in the weeks before the tournament's start, local authorities sparred with FIFA over high transit costs, heightening tensions even more.

As the first games were preparing to begin, the administration continued to find itself under global scrutiny for its visa decisions, such as denying entry to a referee from Somalia who had won accolades for his officiating. The pressure increased after Trump launched a war with Iran, leaving the administration to grapple with an Iranian team whose fans and some supporting personnel were barred from the U.S., and that ultimately was based across the border in Tijuana.

But the broader story of the World Cup eventually shifted. Social media was flooded with tales of soccer fans from around the world enjoying the treats and traditions of the U.S., from beer to ranch dressing. Some fears about the Trump administration that circulated beforehand, such as the threat of immigration

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 30 of 52

enforcement raids near the games, never materialized.

"One of the things that we talked about beforehand was, if we're talking about what happened on the pitch, then we've done our job," Andrew Giuliani, the executive director of the White House FIFA Task Force, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "But I think it's even better than that. We're not just talking about only the incredible, athletic feats on the pitch, but we're talking about all these incredible, incredible cultural moments."

Still, Trump did create controversy with a phone call he made to Infantino earlier this month in which he asked for a review of a controversial referee call in Team USA's match against Bosnia and Herzegovina. The referee gave a red card to U.S. star forward Folarin Balogun, meaning he wouldn't be able to play in the subsequent match against Belgium.

Trump says he simply asked Infantino, who has cozied up to the U.S. president and faced backlash for doing so, to review the call. FIFA then reversed the call, and Trump told Infantino at the FIFA reception on Friday that "you made another great decision, if you think about it," because it allowed the U.S. to keep a key player on the field even though the team lost the match to Belgium 4-1.

Giuliani said the administration had a "duty" to ask questions and raise concerns about the officiating process, which drew scrutiny because of the use of video review and slow-motion replay to issue the red card. He noted that the Trump administration invested billions in federal funding to ensure that the World Cup was "not just a safe and secure event, not just where we welcomed the world, but an event that was filled with integrity."

More global sporting events coming to the US

The Trump administration was under considerable pressure to pull off a successful World Cup tournament because the U.S. will soon host the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles and the 2034 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

The U.S. is also largely expected to be awarded the 2031 Women's World Cup, although Giuliani said in the AP interview that part of getting those hosting duties will be "ensuring that, in fact, women and only women will play in that 2031 Women's World Cup" — an allusion to the Trump administration's fierce opposition to transgender women participating in women's sports.

The U.S. faced broader tensions with its World Cup co-hosts of Canada and Mexico. Trump announced stiff tariffs on both countries in his return to the White House, and he has chosen not to renew a trade pact among the three countries, setting up a new period of negotiations.

On Friday, Trump threatened to tariff Canada over its wildfires, which have hurt air quality in parts of the U.S., including northern New Jersey where the World Cup final is being held. He joked on Friday that FIFA should choose the U.S. for the World Cup soon again, and "this time, we'll leave Mexico and Canada out."

Still, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney attended the final at Trump's request, in a sign that soccer can overcome some geopolitical tensions.

Trump, as is generally customary for heads of state hosting the tournament, presented the trophy to the eventual winner. But he didn't tip his hand beforehand about whether he had a preferred team.

Spain is a known irritant to Trump, with its reticence to meet NATO defense spending goals and its refusal to let the U.S. launch strikes against Iran from its bases. Meanwhile, Argentine President Javier Milei is a favorite of the Trump administration, with the U.S. president going as far as to threaten to cut aid to the country if Milei's coalition didn't prevail in legislative elections.

Spain's King Felipe VI, Queen Letizia and Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez attended the game, although Milei — citing superstition — stayed home.

Shakira, Madonna and many Muppets take the World Cup stage, along with BTS and Bieber

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

Madonna, Justin Bieber, BTS and Shakira each brought a bit of one of their hits to the World Cup's first halftime show in a whirlwind performance Sunday that also squeezed in Burna Boy, Ted Lasso and many

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 31 of 52

Muppets.

The show at what's otherwise known as MetLife Stadium, outside New York, was an attempt to bring Super Bowl vibes to the World Cup, but the 11-minute performance was considerably more packed than the usual one-headliner, 13-minute American football counterpart. Each headliner here spent about two minutes performing.

Madonna opened the show with her 2000 dance-pop hit "Music," joined by star Brazilian soccer players of yesteryear, Ronaldo and Ronaldinho. It started with an apparently prerecorded piece in a roller rink before she rode into the stadium on a dune buggy, singing, "Music, makes the people come together."

Venezuelan conductor Gustavo Dudamel led an orchestra through the White Stripes' sports anthem "Seven Nation Army," while the Muppets house band — including drummer Animal in lieu of Meg White — provided furry shakes in the background.

K-pop sensations BTS took to the field in variations of red and black moments later singing "Dynamite" following a nod to Norway's Viking row.

Promoting the upcoming season of "Ted Lasso," Jason Sudeikis and Brendan Hunt, in character, pumped up Justin Bieber, who changed the tempo with "Everything Hallelujah," performed with an acoustic guitar and a casual feel.

"Alright young man, let's go! It's your big shot!" Sudeikis said to Bieber. "Go out there, don't be nervous, nobody's watching."

Shakira and Burna Boy followed with their official World Cup anthem "Dai Dai," heard before all 104 kick-offs during this tournament. The Colombian superstar was barefoot, wearing a dress of yellow and pink feathers and surrounded by similarly clad dancers — including a group of children — before the Afrobeats icon joined her in the song whose refrain is an Italian version of "Let's go!"

Shakira has virtually made a genre out of World Cup songs, including 2010's "Waka Waka (This Time for Africa)."

The show wrapped with the PS22 Chorus of elementary-school students from Staten Island, backed by Dudamel and joined by Chris Martin — the Coldplay singer who curated the performance — along with Shakira and many more Muppets and "Sesame Street" characters, including Kermit, Miss Piggy, Count von Count and Cookie Monster.

Dudamel and about 40 musicians — about half from the New York Philharmonic and half from Venezuela's Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra — were on the field, though their music was prerecorded Wednesday at the Manhattan Center.

Afterward, Javier Bardem was among the Spanish fans at the stadium celebrating their home country's second World Cup win. Bardem danced and pumped his fist as he celebrated the win.

Other stars at the game included Beyoncé and Jay-Z, Timothée Chalamet and Kylie Jenner, and Matt Damon, who was having a big weekend with the epic opening of "The Odyssey." He was with his wife, Luciana Barroso Damon, who wore the colors of her native Argentina.

Jennifer Hudson, Post Malone and Tom Cruise opened with closing ceremony

Jennifer Hudson, Robbie Williams and others performed a slew of anthems, Post Malone brought an old hit and a new tune and Tom Cruise gave an earnest hype-'em-up speech in the pre-match closing ceremony.

British singer and former Take That member Williams performed his FIFA anthem "Desire," wearing a blue bedazzled track suit. He was joined by Pussycat Dolls member Nicole Scherzinger and Italian singer Laura Pausini in blue spangled gowns. Williams had released the song a year ago but dropped a new version with the two women earlier in the week.

The streamer IShowSpeed took the field first to perform his World Cup-themed song "Champions," atop an image of the Empire State Building. Next was Post Malone, who walked on to the New York/New Jersey Stadium pitch covered with a tarp showing the New York skyline. He sung a brand new song, "Chrome Heartbreaker," and was joined by Swae Lee to perform their 2018 duet "Sunflower" on a hexagon-heavy stage in the center of the field.

Cruise, who was also part of the Paris Olympics' closing ceremony, followed them with a speech deliv-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 32 of 52

ered in polo shirt and jeans.

"Today only two teams remain: España!" Cruise said, pausing for cheers before adding, "y Argentina!"

"Let us celebrate a tournament that brought the world together," he said.

Most of the national anthems were piped in during the tournament, but they were performed live on Sunday. EGOT winner and talk show host Jennifer Hudson sang "The Star-Spangled Banner." Wearing a white suit with red, white and blue trim, she stood in front of a bank of flags of the world, singing a capella before being joined by a brass band.

Spanish Brass played Spain's instrumental "La Marcha Real," followed by Argentina's "Himno Nacional Argentino," sung by pop star María Becerra, clad in a flowing dress reminiscent of the Argentine flag.

JD and Usha Vance welcome a baby boy, the first child born to a sitting VP in more than 150 years

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President JD Vance and his wife, second lady Usha Vance, on Sunday announced the birth of their fourth child, the first born to a sitting vice president in more than 150 years.

Born Sunday, Alec Neel Vance joins older siblings Ewan, 9; Vivek, 6; and Mirabel, 4.

Vance announced the birth on social media with a statement signed by him and his wife.

"We are excited to announce that our baby boy, Alec Neel Vance, was born this morning. Usha and the baby are happy and healthy, and our kids are overjoyed to meet their little brother," the statement said.

They thanked doctors and staff at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and with the White House medical team.

The Republican vice president's growing family is in keeping with his passionate advocacy for Americans to have more children. He has also suggested that the 2025 killing of conservative activist Charlie Kirk, who was his friend, factored into the decision to have another child.

Vance, a former U.S. Marine, repeatedly expressed alarm about declining birth rates in America as he launched his political career in 2021 with a bid for a U.S. Senate seat from Ohio. As vice president, he said in Washington at the 2025 March for Life anti-abortion rally, "I want more babies in the United States of America."

The vice president, who's 41, has been accompanied on overseas trips by Usha Vance, 40, and their children, with the kids often pajama-clad as they board Air Force Two for the overnight flights.

Usha Vance, the daughter of immigrants from India, had already been the subject of some public fascination because of her husband. Her pregnancy, which was announced in January, amplified that spotlight since it is rare for occupants of the United States' highest public offices to add to their families while serving.

The last time a sitting vice president became a new father was in the 1800s.

Schuyler Colfax and his second wife, Ellen Wade, had a son, Schuyler Colfax III, in 1870 when Colfax was serving as vice president, according to the White House Historical Association. Decades before that, John C. Calhoun and his wife, Floride Bonneau, had a son, William, in 1829 when Calhoun was vice president, the association said.

The newest addition to Vance's family was part of a recent mini baby boom among top members of President Donald Trump's administration. White House deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller's wife, Katie Miller, recently gave birth to the couple's fourth child, and White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt had her second child with her husband, Nicholas Riccio, in May.

Usha Vance recently came under scrutiny after The New York Times' fashion critic called attention to the stomach-hugging, coral maternity dress she wore for a Father's Day episode of "Storytime with the Second Lady," a video podcast she launched during the pregnancy.

The Times wrote that the attention that Vance, Miller and Leavitt had put on their pregnancies offered "an image of idealized womanhood that gives literal shape to the pronatalist movement," which encourages couples to have as many children as possible to counter declining birth rates.

The second lady responded on social media, writing, "Now that we know the political significance of my

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 33 of 52

\$8.75 coral maternity dress from Old Navy, can't wait to hear what the New York Times has to say about my elastic-waistband pants and compression socks! In the meantime, enjoy my pregnancy fashion (or lack thereof) and a good story with your kids on Storytime with the Second Lady." She later shared the receipt for the dress, and her husband applauded her frugality.

"She bought a \$50 dress for \$8.75. America: meet your next director of the federal budget!" the vice president wrote on social media.

JD Vance has said it was Kirk's widow, Erika Kirk, telling them that she wished she'd had more than two children with her husband before he was assassinated last September in Utah that led him and the second lady to decide to grow their family. Usha Vance, a former attorney who once clerked for Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, concurred — in part.

"It was very powerful, what (Erika) said about her own family, and certainly very moving to both of us. I think I had already started to open my mind to the possibility," Usha Vance said during a joint interview with her husband for "CBS Sunday Morning" that aired in June. "I wouldn't say that this was, for me in any way, the decisive factor. But it came in the middle of a conversation that we were already having."

Ryan Fox wins the British Open with a birdie on the final hole

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

SOUTHPORT, England (AP) — The hard work for Ryan Fox was just getting to the 18th hole in the British Open with a share of the lead. Still to come was the toughest hole at Royal Birkdale, which had yielded only four birdies to the 76 players who had already come through Sunday.

For a 39-year-old from New Zealand, the son of an All Blacks rugby star who once only dreamed of having a card on any tour, this was no time to back down.

"I did say to my caddie Dean (Smith) that we were going to take it on, that I was going to try to win the tournament, and I'd live with the consequences if I stuffed it up," Fox said.

It turned out to be the stuff of major champions.

The drive was powerful and pure. The 9-iron from 175 yards looked good in the air and even better on the ground when it settled 12 feet below the hole. The birdie putt was the biggest of his life.

Fox closed with four birdies over his last six holes — and one bogey that felt equally important — for a 2-under 68 and a one-shot victory over hard-luck Cameron Young for his first major title.

This was pure theater to cap off a week of so much drama — three record-tying rounds of 62, Bryson DeChambeau's animated protest over a two-shot penalty, Tommy Fleetwood thrilling and teasing his hometown crowd to massive ovations on every hole.

Four players had a share of the lead at some point in the final round. Young was atop the leaderboard for two hours without hitting a shot anywhere but the range because he finished his astonishing 6-under 64 as the last few groups were on the front nine.

Young was on the range when he heard the massive roar and knew it was over. He bowed his head, lifted his driver and tapped the ground before packing up when Fox made his final birdie.

"Everyone practices on the green — you've got a putt to win a major championship, to win The Open. It's not like that in real life. It's not a very comfortable feeling," Fox said. "It's certainly very enjoyable when you see it go in."

He thrust those powerful arms into the air and was on the phone with his family moments later and was heard telling them, "You asked me to bring a trophy home, and I am, aren't I?"

His name will go on the base of that shiny claret jug along with another Kiwi, Bob Charles, who won the British Open in 1963. Michael Campbell is the other New Zealand man to win a major at Pinehurst No. 2 in the 2005 U.S. Open.

Fox's sterling moment brought more disappointment for Young. The American also finished one shot behind in the British Open at St. Andrews four years ago, and he had a Sunday lead on the front nine at the Masters until Rory McIlroy overtook him.

"I gave it everything I had all the way through," Young said when he finished. He declined interviews

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 34 of 52

when Fox ended the 154th Open.

Sam Burns, the 54-hole leader who was never planning to be at the Open until his wife gave birth to their daughter earlier than expected, lost a two-shot lead and didn't make birdie over the last 12 holes to finish two shots behind.

"I just couldn't find them today. Just didn't have my best stuff," Burns said. "Given the circumstances, I'm very pleased with the week. I'm looking forward to being home."

Defending champion Scottie Scheffler somehow managed to stick around until the end, getting two bad bounces that cost him momentum, then getting one big break for a most improbable birdie. He closed with a 67 and shared fourth with Fleetwood, who fell back early but delivered a birdie-birdie finish for a 68.

Missing from all drama, remarkably, was DeChambeau. He lost a golf ball and made triple bogey on the 11th hole and didn't make a birdie until he was well out of contention. That two-shot penalty he received Friday for improving the path of his swing wasn't an issue at the end. DeChambeau shot a 72 and tied for 14th.

Fox won for the 10th time worldwide, his biggest title before Sunday coming at the BMW PGA Championship in 2023. He is the oldest first-time major champion since Henrik Stenson was 40 at Royal Troon 10 years ago.

Fox finished at 10-under 270, got his hands on the jug and heard those magic words when he was introduced as the "Champion Golfer of the Year."

"I'm not quite sure how I hit that putt on 18. Look, it is a dream come true," Fox said. "Looking at that trophy now, it's the first time I've seen it up close. So it's pretty amazing."

Young was flawless until the final hole, his tee shot finding a pot bunker. He tried to open the face of a 6-iron but caught it thin and it smacked into the vetted wall and into the rough. He hit the next shot into a greenside bunker and nearly holed it for par. The bogey put him at 9-under 271.

Burns was losing ground quickly on the front nine with three straight bogeys, none more damaging than a pitch to the reachable par-4 fifth hole that went over the back of the green.

Si Woo Kim emerged as the leader going to the back nine until he made bogeys on the 11th and 12th holes, and he fell out of contention for good with a pair of late bogeys that added to a 40 on the back nine for 72.

That left Young at the top of the leaderboard, waiting to see if anyone could match him.

Fox's hopes took a nasty turn on the par-3 15th when his tee shot caromed off the side of a bunker and settled next to the lip, leaving him no stance and no shot. He smartly played away from the back pin to the fairway, chipped from 45 yards away to 6 feet and made bogey.

It was as big as any shot he hit until the last.

"To get that up-and-down really kept the momentum going," Fox said. "I felt a whole lot better walking off that green making bogey that way than probably even if I'd have made par."

Fox was a late bloomer, a European tour rookie at age 30 and a PGA Tour rookie when he was 37. His goal when he started was to have a tour card. Now he's a major champion.

"I said to my team last night at dinner, if you'd have given me my career up until yesterday when I turned pro, I'd have jumped at that," Fox said, speaking with the claret jug at his side. "I don't know what to think now."

5.5 magnitude earthquake hits Peru's Andes region and kills at least 6 people

LIMA, Peru (AP) — A 5.5 magnitude earthquake shook the Andes region of Peru, killing at least six people, injuring more than 30 and displacing 300, authorities said Sunday.

The U.S. Geological Survey reported the quake struck on Saturday at 9:24 p.m., with its epicenter located 2 kilometers (1.24 miles) west-southwest of the city of Sicaya in Huancaayo province. It was 10 kilometers (6.21 miles) deep.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 35 of 52

Peru's National Civil Defense Institute said in a statement the total number of missing is still unknown. Several buildings collapsed or suffered structural damage, including the historic "Santiago de León" church and former convent in Chongos Bajo, which was built in 1565 and designated as national heritage site for being a 16th century "architectural gem."

Luis Vásquez, head of the local civil defense office, told journalists that the use of rustic adobe materials in construction in that Andean area "has contributed to the greater impact and damage."

Earthquakes are frequent in Peru, which is located in the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire."

Images broadcast by local media captured the anguish of victims' relatives in one of the hardest-hit areas, the agricultural region of Chongos Bajo, where residents huddled under blankets outside severely damaged homes. Animals were also seen under the rubble.

"My home has been destroyed," Hermenegilda Guamalato told a local radio station as she sought a place to stay with her three children in the neighboring province of Huayucachi.

In 2007, a magnitude 7.9 earthquake struck the province of Pisco in the Ica region, killing nearly 600 people.

5 family members found dead after flash flood in a scenic Utah canyon, authorities say

BICKNELL, Utah (AP) — Five family members who had set out for a day of hiking were killed after a flash flood swept through canyons of southern Utah on Friday, law enforcement officials said.

The victims were a captain in the Provo, Utah, fire department, his wife and their sons, according to fire officials. A daughter who was not on the trip survived.

The family arrived Friday at Sunglow Campground in a scenic red rock canyon near Bicknell, Utah for their day excursion, the Wayne County Sheriff's Office said.

"It is believed the family fell victim to flooding caused by heavy rains," the sheriff's office said in a news release.

Although the sheriff's office did not identify the victims, the Provo Fire Department confirmed in a social media post that a fire captain, Spencer Long, and his family members were killed.

"We are absolutely heartbroken by the death of Captain Spencer Long and his family. Our thoughts are with his family, friends, and colleagues during this difficult time," officials with the fire department wrote.

Later Friday night, deputies were called to the campground after the body of a young male was found in the flood wash. The bodies of the other family members were recovered late Friday and Saturday.

Meanwhile, tributes poured into the family.

Long, his wife Katrina and their sons Reid, Thayne and Gage died in the devastating floods, according to a GoFundMe site set up by a family friend to support the Longs' daughter as she navigates the loss of her family.

"Spencer and Katrina were loving, devoted parents whose greatest joy was their family. They touched the lives of so many with their kindness, generosity, and unwavering love," Bree Nielson wrote on the page.

Katrina Long was the cofounder of a medical spa. "Our hearts are with all of their loved ones as we grieve the unimaginable loss of Katrina, her husband, and their three beautiful boys," Summit Medical Spa posted on Facebook.

A ferry carrying 133 people capsizes off Guyana's coast, leaving dozens missing

By BERT WILKINSON Associated Press

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — A government ferry carrying 133 passengers and crew capsized in Guyana with 67 people rescued so far, authorities said Sunday, as a massive search and rescue operation tried to find the dozens of people still missing.

The MV Barima was sailing from the capital, Georgetown, along the North Atlantic coast to Port Kaituma,

said Guyanese Prime Minister Mark Phillips, who is leading the government's response.

Phillips said the group that had been rescued included 41 men, 11 women and 15 children. He did not say whether authorities feared the missing passengers were dead or not. Helicopters, planes and fishing vessels are scanning a 1,000-square-mile area in search efforts.

The MV Barima departed shortly after 3 p.m. on Saturday and ran into trouble shortly before midnight, officials said. A distress call was received at 11:01 p.m. (0301 GMT), which prompted a search and rescue operation involving state and private boats, Public Works Minister Juan Edghill said on Facebook.

Authorities said the vessel, which makes weekly trips to the largely Indigenous communities near Venezuela, capsized near the Pomeroon River.

Edghill said the vessel was fitted with 250 life jackets, two rigid life rafts and six inflatable life rafts. He denied claims that it could have capsized because it was overloaded with passengers or cargo.

"It had to do with the tide," the minister said, referencing statements from rescued passengers.

What to know about the Tate brothers, social media influencers facing rape and trafficking charges

By SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Influencer brothers Andrew and Tristan Tate were arrested Saturday in Miami after U.K. prosecutors said they brought further rape and sex trafficking charges against them.

Britain's Crown Prosecution Service said the new charges relate to four further victims and were brought after authorities received evidence from Bedfordshire Police in southeastern England. The charges include rape, assault, trafficking and offenses relating to "indecent images of a child and extreme pornography."

The charges announced Saturday, which bring the total number of alleged victims in the U.K. to seven, are the latest in a long-running international legal saga involving the brothers that has spanned the U.S., Britain and Romania. The brothers have denied wrongdoing.

An attorney for the brothers, Joseph McBride, blasted the latest charges as "filth and slander." In a phone interview Sunday, he said he was confident the extradition request would ultimately be denied.

Here are some things to know about the Tate brothers:

Who the Tate Brothers are

Andrew Tate, 39, and Tristan Tate, 38, are dual U.S.-British citizens known for their social media empire promoting wealth, male dominance and misogyny.

Andrew Tate is a former professional kickboxer and self-described misogynist who has amassed more than 10 million followers, most of them boys and young men, on X. He has been banned from platforms like YouTube, TikTok and Instagram for violating hate speech guidelines.

He also runs an online academy where he says he teaches young men how to get rich and attract women. Tristan Tate is also a former kickboxer.

The brothers are avid supporters of U.S. President Donald Trump.

What the Tates are charged with

Andrew Tate and his brother have faced multiple charges in the U.K. and Romania, where they moved to in 2016.

British prosecutors said the new charges relate to alleged offenses that took place between 2010 and 2017. They said Andrew Tate was charged with seven further counts of rape, three counts of arranging or facilitating trafficking for sexual exploitation, three counts of assault and 19 charges for offenses relating to indecent images of a child and extreme pornography.

Tristan Tate was charged with one count of sexual assault, two counts of rape and three counts of arranging or facilitating sex trafficking.

The Crown Prosecution Service said in a statement it "has requested the extradition of the Tates from the U.S. They have been arrested and await extradition proceedings to the U.K."

The Tates already face previous charges of rape, bodily harm, human trafficking and controlling prostitution for gain relating to three other alleged victims in the U.K. between 2012 and 2015.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 37 of 52

In June, a U.K. High Court judge threw out a legal bid by the Tates to be told the names of their accusers. In Romania, the siblings were arrested in late 2022 along with two Romanian women. The four were accused of participating in criminal schemes to lure women for sexual exploitation. They denied those allegations and the Romanian case hasn't gone forward because of legal and procedural problems.

The case hasn't been closed, and there is also a separate legal case against the brothers in Romania. Andrew Tate has repeatedly claimed that prosecutors in Romania have no evidence against him and that there is a political conspiracy to silence him.

How the extradition process could work

The brothers are expected to appear Monday before a magistrate judge in Miami, where they are currently being held in federal detention. Bail is rarely granted to those held for international extradition, and their lawyer said he expects they will remain jailed for the time being.

In the coming weeks, a U.S. district judge will consider whether they meet the conditions for extradition.

The ultimate decision about whether to order the extradition will fall to U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio. While the State Department has some discretion to deny extradition requests from the U.K., it has granted nearly every British request since ratifying a strengthened extradition treaty in 2007.

One exception came during Trump's first term, when the U.S. declined an extradition request for the wife of a former American diplomat involved in a fatal crash in England, citing diplomatic immunity. The rejection prompted an international outcry.

Why the Tates were in the U.S.

British police previously sought the Tates' extradition to the U.K. once their legal proceedings in Romania concluded.

But in February 2025 they were allowed to leave Romania after authorities lifted travel restrictions, and they flew to Florida on a private jet.

Romania's foreign minister said at the time that a U.S. official in the Trump administration had expressed interest in the brothers' legal case in Romania.

Trump said he knew "nothing about" the case when asked if his administration pressured the Romania government to release the Tates.

Nolan's 'The Odyssey' storms the box office with a \$264.1 million global debut

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Christopher Nolan's "The Odyssey" launched with an estimated \$124.5 million in domestic ticket sales and another \$139.6 million from overseas, notching an even better debut than "Oppenheimer" and marking the filmmaker's best opening since 2012's "The Dark Knight Rises."

Nolan flexed his singular box-office might with a global debut unlike any other. Few filmmakers alive could pull off a starry, big-budget adaptation of Homer's epic poem. But in a Hollywood where intellectual property rights rule most hits, Nolan turned one of the world's oldest works of literature into an unlikely summer blockbuster.

The Universal production was no small gamble on Nolan, coming off the 2023 best picture-winning "Oppenheimer." With a production budget of \$250 million, it's among the most expensive R-rated movies ever made. Universal is spending some \$125 million to market it.

But no behind-the-camera name turns out audiences more than Nolan's. So great was the hype on "The Odyssey" that IMAX put tickets on sale for some 70 mm showtimes a full year in advance. To satisfy the extraordinary demand for Nolan's preferred format, IMAX 70 mm, some theaters added midnight and 3 a.m. screenings — and sold them out.

"It's incredibly rewarding to see the palpable excitement in theaters this weekend," said Jim Orr, head of domestic distribution for Universal. "Nolan has crafted an epic adventure. It's on a scale that audiences have responded to extraordinarily well."

IMAX drives ticket sales

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 38 of 52

Billed as Nolan's first feature shot entirely with IMAX cameras, the format drove a huge slice of ticket sales. That included \$29.6 million domestically on IMAX and \$51.8 million globally, leading to the company's best weekend ever. IMAX is dedicating its screens entirely to "The Odyssey" for three weeks. Though only 41 IMAX screens can screen "The Odyssey" in 70 mm, they accounted for \$6.3 million in ticket sales.

"The IMAX of it all helped turn it from not only a blockbuster, but a global cultural event," said Rich Gelfond, chief executive of IMAX. "We have tickets on sale for week five in some theaters and some of them have already sold out."

Since the pandemic, Nolan has been at the forefront of reviving cinemas. His "Tenet" was one of the first big releases to wade back into theaters in 2020. Three years later, "Oppenheimer" and Greta Gerwig's "Barbie" combined to create arguably the movies' signature moment of the decade. "Oppenheimer" ultimately grossed \$975 million worldwide.

"The Odyssey" arrived in theaters during Hollywood's best summer since 2019. Ticket sales are running 10.4% ahead of last year, according to Rentrak. The industry is expecting the first \$10 billion year at the domestic box office since the pandemic.

Universal sees 'The Odyssey' playing into the fall

The only question for "The Odyssey" will be how front-loaded it is, given that many moviegoers have had this weekend circled for months. The film faced no new-release competition over the weekend, and it won't next weekend, either.

Gelfond said that presales for the movie's second weekend would rank among their 10 best presales, proof that many moviegoers are waiting to see the film in their preferred format. IMAX 70mm screenings, he said, are largely sold out for the next month, except for some front row seats.

"Christopher Nolan and Tom Cruise may be the two most high-profile ambassadors for the big-screen experience," said Paul Dergarabedian, head of marketplace trends for Rentrak. "Nolan is a director who's a star as much as any movie star in front of the camera."

The audience for "The Odyssey" was notably male, accounting for 59% of tickets sold. But Orr said moviegoers were otherwise "ridiculously broad," playing across demographics and geography.

"It's delivering for a 17-year-old dude and it's delivering for a female that's 55 and up," said Orr. "It points to what I'm convinced will be a very long, very successful run throughout not only the rest of the summer but into the fall, too."

The next movie to pose any competition, ironically, also stars Tom Holland and Zendaya: Sony's "Spider-Man: Brand New Day" on July 31.

Casting controversy has no apparent effect

"The Odyssey" stars Matt Damon as Odysseus and features Holland as his son, Telemachus; Anne Hathaway as Penelope; Zendaya as Athena; Robert Pattinson as the suitor Antinous and Charlize Theron as the sea nymph Calypso.

Nolan's casting of "The Odyssey," including Lupita Nyong'o as Helen and Elliot Page as a soldier, was controversial to some conservative commentators. Elon Musk called Nolan a "coward" over Nyong'o's casting.

But that criticism had little to no effect on "The Odyssey" becoming one of the big-screen cultural events of the year. Reviews (95% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) are among the best of Nolan's career. Audiences gave it an "A" CinemaScore.

PG-rated films followed in the wake of "The Odyssey." The Walt Disney Co.'s "Moana" landed in a distant second place with \$19 million in its third weekend. Following its disappointing \$43 million launch, the live-action remake slid 56% on its second weekend. In two weeks it collected \$178 million worldwide, a poor result for a film that cost \$250 million to make.

"Moana" was trailed by Universal's "Minions & Monsters" and Disney's "Toy Story 5," both of which grossed about \$15 million.

Top 10 movies by domestic box office

With final domestic figures being released Monday, this list factors in the estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak:

1. "The Odyssey," \$124.5 million.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 39 of 52

2. "Moana," \$19 million.
3. "Minions & Monsters," \$14.8 million.
4. "Toy Story 5," \$14.8 million.
5. "Evil Dead Burn," \$5 million.
6. "The Invite," \$3.9 million.
7. "Young Washington," \$3.7 million.
8. "Obsession," \$2.5 million.
9. "Supergirl," \$1.5 million.
10. "Disclosure Day," \$1.5 million.

If history is any indication, expect some goals in the World Cup final between Argentina and Spain

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Expect some goals in the World Cup final. At least, that's what history says.

In the 22 previous World Cup men's finals (which would include the 1950 match between Uruguay and Brazil that technically wasn't a final, but decided who won the World Cup), the winning team has averaged 2.6 goals in the title matchup. The losing team has averaged 1.1 goals.

The two most recent World Cup finals have been offensive slugfests, with a combined 12 goals. France beat Croatia 4-2 in 2018, while Argentina and France tied 3-3 in 2022 (before Argentina prevailed in a penalty shootout).

Teams scoring at least two goals have won the World Cup title 17 times; there have been eight instances of a team scoring at least two goals in the final and still falling short.

There have been three 1-0 wins: West Germany over Argentina in 1990, Spain over Netherlands in 2010 and Germany over Argentina in 2014. And there was one 0-0 tie in a final; Brazil wound up winning over Italy in a penalty shootout the 1994 final, which had been the only one played on U.S. soil before now.

Scaloni looking to join elite club

If Argentina wins Sunday, Lionel Scaloni — who led the team's push to the 2022 title — would be just the second person to coach two World Cup championship clubs.

Italy went back-to-back as World Cup champions in 1934 and 1938, with both those clubs coached by Vittorio Pozzo.

Nobody else has two titles as a coach. There are three men — Brazil's Mário Zagallo, West Germany's Franz Beckenbauer and France's Didier Deschamps — to have won World Cups as both a player and a coach.

Messi matters

When he takes the field Sunday, Argentina star Lionel Messi will be the oldest field player to appear in a World Cup final.

Messi is 39. Sweden's Gunnar Gren was 37 when he played against Brazil in the 1958 final.

The only player older than Messi to play in a final was Italy goalkeeper Dino Zoff — who was 40 when his club beat West Germany for the 1982 crown. But among field players, Messi will stand alone as the oldest after Sunday.

Messi is also in position to join Brazil's Cafu as the only person to play in three World Cup men's finals. And since Cafu was a reserve in one of his appearances, Messi would be the first to start the title game on three occasions.

For Spain, youth may be served. Experience may, too.

Youth may be served by Spain in this World Cup final. And if La Roja prevails, experience would also have paid off.

It's an interesting mix.

Spain is slated to have two teenagers — Lamine Yamal and Pau Cubarsí, a pair of 19-year-olds — play Sunday against Argentina in the World Cup final, and no team has ever had more than one teen in the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 40 of 52

lineup and won the title.

So, that's the power of youth.

Here's the flip side of that: If Spain wins, coach Luis de la Fuente — who is 65 — would become the oldest World Cup-winning sideline boss, passing Vicente del Bosque, who was 59 when Spain won its first title in 2010.

For the record, teenagers enter Sunday unbeaten in World Cup finals, according to FIFA, which says only three have ever played in soccer's biggest game. Pelé was 17 when he helped Brazil win the final over Sweden in 1958, Giuseppe Bergomi was 18 when Italy beat West Germany in 1982, and Kylian Mbappé was 19 when France beat Croatia in 2018.

Spain seeking record streak

Spain is 28-0-9 in its last 37 matches, which has tied Italy for the longest unbeaten run by a European men's national team.

Italy also went 28-0-9 from October 2018 through September 2021 — before losing to Spain 2-1 on Oct. 6, 2021 in Milan.

Argentina has a streak worth noting as well. It has won seven consecutive World Cup matches, tied with Italy for the second-longest such run in men's tournament history. Only Brazil, which won 11 straight spanning 2002 and 2006, has a longer World Cup winning streak.

Argentina-Spain history

The game is just the second head-to-head meeting in a World Cup between Argentina and Spain. Argentina won 2-1 in the 1966 group stage.

Across all competitions and friendlies, the sides have played 14 times. Each has won six times and they tied twice.

Russian attacks kill 6 in Kyiv and other cities and expose gaps in Ukraine's air defenses

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia attacked Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities with ballistic missiles, drones and guided bombs Sunday, killing at least six people and wounding dozens, authorities said, again highlighting Ukraine's shortage of U.S.-made Patriot air defense systems.

Moscow has in recent weeks stepped up its use of ballistic missiles as it seeks to choke off Ukrainian strikes on oil facilities deep inside Russia that have caused critical fuel shortages affecting both the military and the civilian population.

U.S. President Donald Trump has said he is prepared to grant Ukraine licenses to produce Patriots, the most effective means of intercepting Russian ballistic missiles, potentially bolstering Kyiv's defenses. However, the details and timeline remain unclear, and full production could take years.

The latest attack on Kyiv began at around 1:30 a.m. and continued for several hours, with explosions echoing across the city.

Russia launched 41 missiles and 125 drones across Ukraine overnight, according to the Ukrainian air force. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said most of the missiles had targeted the capital.

Later Sunday, a Russian attack on a postal facility near Ukraine's second-largest city of Kharkiv killed three people and wounded at least 20, according to the regional administration.

Russian guided bombs also hit the cities of Kherson and Sumy, local authorities and Ukraine's emergency service reported, with each of the strikes leaving at least one person dead.

Ballistic missile strikes are becoming more frequent

The strikes on Kyiv sparked fires in five districts, damaging residential buildings, office and industrial sites, a dormitory and vehicles, according to Ukraine's State Emergency Service.

Viktor Shejko, 32, was taking shelter in the corridor of her apartment block with her seven children and husband when they heard the loud explosions.

"When the alarm started, we checked that there were ballistics, then went into the corridor. Then it

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 41 of 52

started exploding one missile after another," she said.

The strain of constant bombardment is "very difficult psychologically," she said. "It used to be once a week or even more rarely, but now if not every day, then every other day."

Rescuers pulled four people from a burning home in the Sviatoshynskiy district, while in the Shevchenkivskiy district, they rushed to save residents from a three-story building on fire. One person was found dead. Firefighters also responded to blazes in the Solomyanskyi, Desnianskyi and Dnipro districts.

Russia's Defense Ministry claimed the attack on Kyiv targeted sites linked to the Ukrainian military — including plants producing Flamingo drones and parts for Neptune guided missiles, as well as a postal terminal used for storing dual-use goods and assembling drones, robotic systems and electronic warfare equipment.

Oil tankers hit at key terminal off Russia's coast

Separately, a strike on two oil tankers at the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC) terminal off Russia's Black Sea halted oil loadings at the site, the CPC said Sunday.

The attack on the ASIA and NISSOS tankers in the port of Novorossiysk sparked a fire aboard the ASIA, which was extinguished. The company did not say who was responsible for the attack. It added there were no casualties or oil spills, and the tankers — sailing under the flags of Liberia and the Marshall respectively — remained afloat.

Both Russia and Ukraine have sharply ramped up strikes on ships in the Black and Azov seas over the past week. Ukraine's strikes on oil tankers there are part of its efforts to cut fuel supplies to the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia illegally annexed in 2014. Kyiv also says it targets Russia's so-called shadow fleet, which ships oil in violation of international sanctions over the Kremlin's invasion of its neighbor.

Kyiv has for months been targeting Russia's oil industry, which it says both directly fuels Moscow's war effort and funds it through export revenues, triggering acute fuel shortages in a country that is one of the world's top oil producers.

The CPC is a 940-mile (1,510-kilometer) oil pipeline connecting Kazakhstan's Caspian Sea oil deposits with Novorossiysk, where the oil is loaded and shipped by tanker to world markets. The pipeline accounts for about 80% of oil-rich Kazakhstan's crude exports, with the Russian government and Russian state oil firms holding a combined 31% stake in the enterprise.

Russia's energy sector under attack

Zelenskyy announced on Sunday that Ukrainian units struck more energy infrastructure in Russian territory.

He said units of Ukraine's Security Service agency struck three oil depots in the Stavropol region, while a separate unit of the army hit another fuel-related facility in the same region. Three Russian tankers were also struck in the Black Sea, he said.

Stavropol Gov. Vladimir Vladimirov earlier referenced Ukrainian drone attacks igniting fires at "industrial facilities" in two locations within the region. He did not specify what the facilities were, but said nobody was hurt.

Russian news outlet Astra on Sunday reported that three oil depots may be burning in Stavropol, based on its analysis of photos and videos sent in by locals after the attack.

Russian air defense systems shot down 140 Ukrainian drones over eight Russian regions, annexed Crimea, and the Black and Azov seas overnight into Sunday, Russia's Defense Ministry reported. It did not say how many were launched or reached their targets.

In Russia's Kursk region near the Ukrainian border, Ukrainian drones struck four apartment buildings, setting off a fire and injuring one person, according to local Gov. Alexander Khinshtein.

Justice Department activates untested court for 'alien terrorist' deportations

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration has filed a first-ever petition to a secretive and dormant court created 30 years ago to consider government requests to deport so-called "alien terrorists" from

the United States.

The Alien Terrorist Removal Court was established in 1996 but had never received a petition until this past Wednesday, when the Justice Department filed an application seeking the removal of an individual whose name is withheld from the single-page document posted on the court's website.

The chief judge of the five-member court, Joan Ericksen, said in a written response to the petition that a hearing was held on Thursday during which the court had "questions about the nexus that the government alleges between the actions of the respondent and the specific sections and subsections it invokes with respect to those actions.

"The answers persuaded the Court that the Government could benefit from the opportunity for more thoughtful consideration," wrote Ericksen, a federal judge in Minnesota.

She directed the Justice Department to provide more information by Wednesday.

The court's authorities emerged from the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, which permits the attorney general to file under seal applications for the deportation of a suspected "alien terrorist." If an application is granted, the court must hold a public hearing at which the government has the burden to prove that the individual satisfies that definition. Applications must be approved by the attorney general or deputy attorney general.

Federal law says that an individual could qualify as an "alien terrorist" by, among other factors, having "engaged in a terrorist activity," endorsing or espousing terrorist activities and by belonging to a political or social group that encourages terrorist activity.

The court has been dormant since its creation, having received — until last week — no applications and conducting no hearings, according to a summary posted on the Federal Judicial Center website. It is comprised of five judges selected by Chief Justice John Roberts.

The Trump administration has moved aggressively over the last year to carry out deportations, including invoking a 1798 wartime law, the Alien Enemies Act, to remove Venezuelan migrants who officials accuse of being part of a terrorist gang. During a hearing in that case last year, the Washington judge presiding over it, James Boasberg, indicated that the Alien Terrorist Removal Court would be the natural forum to consider a request for deportation on national security grounds.

"In fact, Congress has an answer for us, doesn't it? Because they created the Alien Terrorist Removal Court," he said. "So if there's a national security concern with having these hearings...you can always go to the ATRC, which would be a first, but that's what it's there for, right?"

The petition was first reported by Court Watch, an independent news site.

Mercedes to take action as George Russell fumes at loss of speed before his race-ending crash

By JAMES ELLINGWORTH AP Sports Writer

Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff said the team needs to work to restore George Russell's confidence after the British driver blamed a lack of speed for the collision that ended his Belgian Grand Prix and damaged his Formula 1 title chances.

Russell was trying to retake fourth place from Lewis Hamilton around the outside when the Ferrari driver clipped his rear wheel and sent him spinning into the gravel trap, putting him out of the race on the first lap.

In an expletive-filled message to Mercedes over the radio, Russell directed the blame at the car, not Hamilton, saying it was "unacceptable" he'd had a dramatic loss of speed on the previous straight, dropping him from third to fifth behind Hamilton.

"It was a new problem but it wasn't only on George's side. Instead, it affected all the Mercedes engines, some more, some less, and Kimi (Antonelli) too," Wolff told Sky Sport Germany, suggesting a software problem was to blame.

"We have an engine that's incredibly strong, a car that is fast but simply not stable enough and we need to get on top of that because we're losing valuable points in the constructors' championship."

Wolff added: "We just need to try to make the best possible equipment available for him. That's not

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 43 of 52

just a fast car and a good engine but something that holds up and gives him confidence in the car again.”

Antonelli went on to win the race, doubling his advantage over Russell to 50 points. Russell is now third in the standings, five points behind Hamilton, who got a five-second penalty for causing their collision.

“Car crossed over right in front of me,” Hamilton said, adding he’d lacked front-end grip to avoid the collision because he was following another car closely.

Russell has been struggling to match Antonelli’s pace in recent races and, even before Sunday’s race, had suggested an issue with the Mercedes car may be holding him back after he lost out in straight-line speed to Antonelli in qualifying.

Russell told Sky Sports he had “no words at the moment” after the incident, when asked about the impact on the title race.

“The incident shouldn’t have happened if I had the speed down the straight,” he said.

Takeaways from the AP-NORC poll of more than 1,000 Jewish Americans

By LINLEY SANDERS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Associated Press surveyed more than 1,000 Jewish adults in the U.S. to better understand their views on Israel’s military actions in Gaza, their opinions of the political parties and their experiences with prejudice in the United States.

The survey of 1,022 Jewish adults — including people who identify as Jewish by religion and religiously unaffiliated people who identify as Jewish through culture, ethnicity or family background — offers a rare detailed accounting of a key demographic that sits at the very center of some of the nation’s most divisive political debates.

Here are five takeaways from the AP-NORC survey:

Jewish adults have complicated views about Israel and the war in Gaza

Among Jews with a religious affiliation, views on Israel’s recent military actions are far from uniform or uncritical.

About 7 in 10 Jewish adults overall identify as Jewish when asked about their religious affiliation. The rest, about 3 in 10 Jewish adults, say they are atheists, agnostics, or have no particular religious affiliation, but still identify as Jewish in other ways.

While about 8 in 10 of those with a religious affiliation say Israel’s immediate military response to Hamas’ attack on October 7 was “justified,” only about half say Israel’s ongoing military operations in Gaza are justified. Among Jewish adults without a religious affiliation, only about half saw Israel’s immediate response as justifiable. Now, only about 2 in 10 say the ongoing military operations are acceptable.

About one-quarter of Jewish adults with a religious association believe Israel has committed genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, an accusation that’s been leveled by some major human rights organizations and a team of independent experts commissioned by the United Nations. That accusation has been vehemently denied by Israel and the U.S. government. Roughly 4 in 10 Jewish adults without a religious affiliation say Israel has committed genocide.

Many Jewish adults feel unsafe in the United States

About 6 in 10 Jewish adults say prejudice against Jewish people is an “extremely” or “very” serious problem in the United States today.

About one-third of Jewish adults in the survey say they feel “very” or “somewhat” safe as a Jewish person in the U.S. today, while about one-third feel “very” or “somewhat” unsafe. The remaining roughly 3 in 10 say they feel neither safe nor unsafe.

A significant share of Jewish adults, about 3 in 10, say they or someone in their household has experienced physical assault, verbal abuse, online harassment or damaged property because of their Jewish background over the last year, according to the survey.

The survey points to how Jewish adults’ attitudes toward their own personal safety have changed over a relatively short period as more Americans became critical of the United States’ close alliance with Israel

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 44 of 52

and the war in Gaza. The poll found that Jewish adults who feel a close emotional tie to Israel are particularly likely to feel unsafe in the country today.

Most American Jews don't feel politicians are supporting Jewish people

Few Jewish adults believe that President Donald Trump — or the Democratic or Republican parties — are doing a good job supporting Jewish people in the U.S.

Only about 2 in 10 Jewish adults say Trump supports Jewish people in this country "extremely" or "very" well. That's similar to the slight share who find the Republican Party and the Democratic Party highly supportive, but Jewish adults are more likely to say the Democratic Party is at least "somewhat" supportive.

Americans overall are more likely than Jewish adults to see Trump as "extremely" or "very" supportive of Jewish people in the United States. About 3 in 10 U.S. adults say Trump is highly supportive of Jewish people, compared to about 2 in 10 Jewish adults.

The poll also found most Jewish adults have negative views of Trump. About 7 in 10 Jewish adults have a "very" or "somewhat" unfavorable opinion of Trump, compared to about 3 in 10 who have a favorable view.

Jewish adults are divided over whether protesting Israel is a form of antisemitism

Protests around events conducted in support of Israel became more common following the backlash over Israel's military action in Gaza.

The war in Gaza began with Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel that killed roughly 1,200 people, most of them civilians. Israel responded with a yearslong counterattack that killed more than 73,000 people, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which is part of the territory's Hamas-run government. Its casualty figures are viewed as generally reliable by U.N. agencies and international organizations but don't distinguish between civilians and militants.

The poll found that about half of Jewish adults say protesting an event that is supportive of Israel is not a form of antisemitism, but roughly 4 in 10 say it is. About 1 in 10 are uncertain.

Jewish adults are more unified in deeming some actions as definitively antisemitic. The overwhelming majority say vandalizing synagogues or Jewish-owned businesses because of Israel's actions is antisemitism. The same goes for denying the reality or scope of the Holocaust, putting responsibility for Israel's actions on Jewish people in the United States or saying Israel shouldn't exist as a Jewish state.

Support for Israel is less of a priority for younger Jewish adults

Support for Israel is a key component of the religious identity of many older Jewish adults in the United States, but younger Jewish adults appear less likely to prioritize it.

About half of older religious Jewish adults — those 45 and older — say that supporting Israel is "extremely" or "very" important for their Jewish identity. By contrast, only about 4 in 10 younger religious Jewish adults emphasize support for Israel.

Younger Jewish adults are more likely to prioritize other forms of connection, like celebrating Jewish holidays. About 7 in 10 Jewish adults under 45 say celebrating Jewish holidays is at least "very" important to their Jewish identity, compared to about half of older Jewish adults.

Nigerian children pay the price for the Iran war as malnutrition and poverty surge

By OPE ADETAYO Associated Press

SOKOTO, Nigeria (AP) — Maryam Aminu was hardly surprised when the last of her six children was diagnosed with malnutrition in April for a second time. She was barely feeding the 18-month-old regularly, let alone with nutritious foods.

Although the family in northwest Nigeria has struggled with economic hardship, their situation deteriorated after February, when her husband, Shehu Aminu, lost his job as a taxi driver due to a spike in the retail price of petrol caused by the war in Iran.

"When she was diagnosed the second time, even though I suspected it, I was sad and angry because I knew why," Aminu said in the living area of their unvarnished two-bedroom house in the quiet town of Kware, Sokoto, as ash from the coal stove billowed into the room. "Times are tough, and the food is not

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 45 of 52

consistent.”

Children relapsing into malnutrition has become an increasingly common occurrence in the state and across northern Nigeria, according to local health and aid workers, who cite knock-on effects from the Iran war.

Northern Nigeria, one of the world’s poorest regions, is already under pressure from an insurgency crisis. Now, the conflict in the Middle East has worsened food security for millions of people living in poverty, especially children.

At the same time, Nigerian President Bola Tinubu’s vast economic reforms sparked high inflation after fuel subsidies were removed three years ago and the currency was devalued. A World Bank technical report this week stated that 139 million Nigerians are now poor or vulnerable to poverty.

If the war in the Middle East continues, up to 23.4 million additional children could fall into monetary poverty — meaning a lack of income or consumption — by the end of the year, the United Nations children’s agency UNICEF said in a report this week. It warned that at least 80% would be in Africa and Asia.

“Children are paying the price for the escalating conflict in the Middle East, including children far beyond the region,” said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell. “The longer this continues, the worse the consequences will be.”

Dangers ahead for children

Amid the Iran war, the closure of the Strait of Hormuz — through which a fifth of the world’s oil and gas passed before the war — sent a ripple effect across the world. A worldwide fuel shock drove up the prices of everything from gas and groceries to fertilizer and airline tickets.

In Nigeria, fuel pump prices jumped from 800 naira (\$0.58) per liter in February to 1,400 naira (\$1.02) in April, with a knock-on effect on the prices of food and necessities.

U.S. President Donald Trump has been trying to force Iran to fully reopen the route for months, turning to everything from airstrikes and naval blockades to negotiations and threats.

In Sokoto, where the soaring prices have brought more hardship for families, health workers told The Associated Press that they’ve been seeing more children returned to health facilities this year after falling back into malnutrition.

At a hospital in Sokoto, records shared with AP show nearly 40 children previously treated for malnutrition since February are currently under treatment again, in addition to those not documented.

“I am worried and sometimes angry about the increasing numbers we are seeing,” said health worker Halimah Muhammad.

Beyond current realities, soaring prices and economic hardship mean that children in poor households are more likely to be stunted in the long term, UNICEF’s Russell said in an interview with the AP as she was visiting Sokoto this week.

“Their development will be compromised. They are less likely to stay in school because their parents are under so much financial stress. So the long-term implications for children are absolutely terrible,” said Russell.

The war has also affected fertilizer supplies and prices, threatening the planting season and worsening the fate of mostly farming communities in northern Nigeria who have struggled to access their farmlands amid a deadly conflict with armed groups.

“I wake up every morning unhappy, seeing I can no longer provide for my family,” said Shehu, Maryam’s husband. “Then, 2,000 naira could buy you a nutritious meal for the whole family. Now, you need 5,000 naira to buy what 2,000 naira would buy.”

Most of their meals are pap, a kind of corn pudding, and rice. “There is no way to feed the children,” he said.

‘I wish she were excited and full of life’

People in northwest Nigeria are caught between regular attacks by bandit groups who specialize in kidnapping for ransom and Islamist militants who have been expanding their territory. The Iran war, analysts say, compounds the impact.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 46 of 52

"This distant war offers no relief for the north's vulnerable," Ikemesit Effiong, a partner at SBM Intelligence, a Lagos-based geopolitical risk advisory, said.

Larai Malami, a 35-year-old mother of 10, gave birth to her last child in December, but the infant has already been diagnosed with malnutrition twice.

Her family has been struggling after her husband lost his job as a motorcycle rider and crossed the border into neighboring Niger to look for work.

Malami worries about the fuel price because it keeps the price of food high and her husband away. "I worry that the child might never be fully well," she said.

That is a sentiment shared by Aminu, too. "I wish she were excited and full of life," she said.

AIPAC has spent a record amount on Michigan's Senate primary, the biggest test of its influence yet

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI Associated Press

SOUTH HAVEN, Mich. (AP) — Senate candidate Haley Stevens talks often about manufacturing, taking on President Donald Trump and why she's the Democrat best positioned to win Michigan. The congresswoman has far less to say about the pro-Israel group that has spent millions trying to get her elected.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee, or AIPAC, and its affiliated groups have spent close to \$30 million backing Stevens — their largest investment ever in a single race — as they seek to defeat progressive favorite Abdul El-Sayed in the Aug. 4 primary.

Stevens has largely avoided discussing the organization directly, even as its spending has reshaped the race. Asked twice about AIPAC during a July campaign stop in West Michigan, she responded for more than 800 words without mentioning the group a single time. Israel came up only once, when she said she "wanted to see the U.S. and Israel working together to rebuild Gaza."

"Anyone who supported me is supporting me because of my dedication to the people of Michigan, and the things that I have done for Michiganders," Stevens told The Associated Press when asked whether she welcomed AIPAC's support.

The exchange illustrates how politically fraught AIPAC has become in Democratic politics as the war in Gaza has divided the party over U.S. support for Israel. AIPAC works to elect lawmakers who support its mission of strengthening the U.S.-Israel relationship and advancing policies it says enhance the security of both countries.

AIPAC did not respond to a request for comment. The organization's super PAC, United Democracy Project, declined to comment.

The issue carries particular weight in Michigan, home to the nation's largest Arab American population. Beyond Michigan, El-Sayed's progressive allies are framing the race as a broader test of whether grassroots organizing can overcome unprecedented outside spending.

"One of the laws of nature in politics is whoever spends the most money wins," said New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who has been campaigning for El-Sayed in Michigan this weekend.

"It is an opportunity to show that things other than money can win in America."

Stevens has spent \$1 million on advertising. Her backers have spent \$50 million

The four-term congresswoman raised half of what El-Sayed did in the latest fundraising period until June 30. Her team said in a statement that the campaign "is raising the resources we need to win this race."

She spent only \$12,000 of her own campaign funds on advertising through early July, before bumping it up to close to \$1 million, according to AdImpact. Outside organizations, meanwhile, have poured close to \$50 million into boosting her candidacy. One of them, A Stronger Michigan, has spent roughly \$12 million without disclosing its donors.

El-Sayed has made AIPAC and the tens of millions of dollars spent to support Stevens a centerpiece of his campaign. He and his allies have accused Stevens as being a mouthpiece for her large donors.

"She is nothing more than an employee of these billionaires," said Sen. Bernie Sanders, who is also campaigning with El-Sayed this weekend at rallies in Detroit, Lansing and Grand Rapids.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 47 of 52

Stevens has said she supports "comprehensive campaign finance reform."

Most voters are unlikely to realize many of the ads blanketing Michigan's airwaves are funded by AIPAC. They never mention Israel, instead highlighting Stevens' work on manufacturing and featuring former President Barack Obama.

"AIPAC never runs on AIPAC. They never even talk about Israel and Palestine," said former Rep. Andy Levin, whom Stevens defeated in a 2022 Democratic primary after redistricting. AIPAC spent millions opposing Levin, who is Jewish. "If you're just a voter and you see a million ads, you don't know who paid for it."

A stark divide on Israel in a state with large Muslim and Jewish populations

The surge of spending from AIPAC comes as the Democratic candidates have taken sharply different positions on Israel's war in Gaza.

While Stevens is not Jewish, she has long been one of Congress' most outspoken supporters of Israel. She has described herself as a "proud pro-Israel Democrat" and once said during a Hanukkah celebration that "Israel comes to me in my dreams."

Stevens has criticized Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. During a recent debate, she said he "has not made us safer, has not brought us closer to peace, and he's endangered Jews here in America and around the world."

El-Sayed has embraced the contrast. The son of Egyptian immigrants, he has called Israel's military campaign in Gaza a "genocide," described the Israeli government as "evil," and repeatedly argued that AIPAC's influence distorts Democratic politics.

"The reason that we've seen this war fought is because of the impact of AIPAC in our politics," El-Sayed said during a recent debate.

The war in Gaza began after Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attacks in Israel that killed about 1,200 people and took 251 hostage. It has since waged on for over 1,000 days. Israel has killed more than 73,000 Palestinians in its retaliatory offensive, Gaza's Health Ministry said.

If elected, El-Sayed would become the first Muslim U.S. senator. He recently addressed questions about whether his faith would hurt his electability in the battleground state.

"When they raise questions about my 'electability,' they are usually pointing to the most obvious thing about me that makes me 'different' — that's my name and my Muslim faith," he wrote in an email to supporters. "Faith, to me, isn't just about an identity. It's about the choices that I make every single day about how I live my life."

El-Sayed has spent about \$3.2 million from his own campaign account on advertising, with around \$1 million in outside spending. His campaign has instead emphasized grassroots organizing, saying it has recruited more than 10,000 volunteers statewide.

Asked how many volunteers Stevens has, her campaign said it has "hundreds across Michigan."

"This election will come down to the many versus the money," El-Sayed wrote.

The Democratic divide is occurring beyond Michigan

Once-firm support for Israel has eroded within parts of the Democratic Party in the fallout from the war in Gaza. As divisions over Israel have deepened, criticism of AIPAC has intensified.

Earlier this week, 103 House Democrats voted unsuccessfully to block \$3.3 billion in U.S. aid to Israel, the clearest sign yet of the party's divide. Among them was New York Rep. Pat Ryan, who had previously voted to send aid to Israel and accepted support from AIPAC.

"I expect groups like AIPAC will not support me in my future elections and frankly, I don't want their support," Ryan said on social media, later adding that he was returning the money.

The tension also played out in 2024. In Michigan's Senate race, Democratic activists pressured now-Sen. Elissa Slotkin to take a harder line on Israel's war in Gaza. Slotkin, who is Jewish, had already distanced herself from AIPAC years earlier. She ultimately defeated Republican Mike Rogers by fewer than 20,000 votes.

Rogers is running for Senate again this year, and is unopposed in the GOP primary.

While the issue still remains divisive for Democrats, some question whether it will ultimately shape how

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 48 of 52

most primary voters cast their ballots, with concerns such as the economy carrying greater weight.

"It's not that Democratic primary voters love AIPAC. They obviously don't," said Michigan political strategist Adrian Hemond. "But this doesn't even register as an issue that's influencing voting behavior for the overwhelming majority of primary voters."

Andy Biggs and David Schweikert offer competing visions for Republican Party in Arizona primary

By JONATHAN J. COOPER, JACQUES BILLEAUD and WUFEI YU Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — As the head of the conservative Freedom Caucus in the U.S. House, Rep. Andy Biggs was one of the Republican Party's most hard-line brawlers in Washington, championing President Donald Trump's agenda while frustrating establishment leaders.

U.S. Rep. David Schweikert says those uncompromising tactics are a losing recipe in Arizona, where Republicans have watched their power erode as voters rejected nominees seen as too extreme.

After decades coexisting in the fractious Arizona Republican Party, Biggs and Schweikert are on a collision course in Tuesday's primary for governor. The race has become a clash of competing visions for reviving the once-dominant GOP to take on Katie Hobbs, the most vulnerable Democratic governor in the country.

Biggs, endorsed by Trump and backed by Turning Point Action, built his political career as a skilled Republican infighter, but he's never faced a tough campaign against a Democrat. Schweikert, meanwhile, is trying to resurrect a version of the party that is becoming increasingly anachronistic.

"Biggs lives in a district where if he were a turtle running as a Republican, you're going to win it," said Kathleen Dunbar, 75, a former member of the Tucson City Council who plans to vote for Schweikert on Election Day. "Schweikert lives in a district that's very much like the state of Arizona, where he has to win the independents. And he's done it eight times in the last 16 years."

Republicans have struggled in Arizona

Biggs' biggest asset is his alliance with Trump. But Trump's endorsement is a double-edged sword in Arizona.

No Republican has lost a statewide primary here with Trump's backing. But since 2018, only one of them, former Gov. Doug Ducey, has managed to win a statewide general election. As a result, in a state where registered Democrats are outnumbered by both Republicans and independents, the Democratic Party holds both Senate seats and the top three state offices.

In 2022, a Trump-backed slate of Republicans — led by former local news anchor Kari Lake as the party's nominee for governor — refused to moderate their message in the general election, convinced that a fired-up MAGA base would propel them to victory. They lost.

Biggs rejects comparisons to Lake, and he's been sanding down the edges of his no-compromise persona.

After backing Trump's push to block the 2020 election certification, Biggs now refuses to say whether Biden's win was legitimate. He's also talking up examples of working across the aisle.

Biggs voter Kathy Babits, 71, a retired occupational therapist from Scottsdale, said she wasn't swayed by Schweikert's warning that Biggs is too toxic for a general electorate.

"As long as people get behind him and as long as things don't change too much, I'm in favor," Babits said.

The primary reflects a changing Republican Party

Biggs and Schweikert are both fiscal conservatives from neighboring districts in Phoenix's suburban East Valley, the two whitest and wealthiest districts in Arizona.

On style, however, they're starkly different.

Biggs brags about having a direct line to Trump. He built a national profile in the House as a bulwark against compromise with Democrats, playing a key role in taking down Republican Speaker Kevin McCarthy and joining an unsuccessful rebellion against his successor, Mike Johnson.

He has taken hard-line, sometimes lonely stances against government spending. He was one of a handful of House members to vote against economic stimulus early in the COVID-19 pandemic, and as a state legislator even proposed eliminating the state's Medicaid program.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 49 of 52

He has thrived in the younger, rapidly growing, family-oriented suburbs on the sprawling fringes of metro Phoenix.

"I like his style and his policies and his mannerisms," said Don Dobie, a Biggs supporter from Scottsdale. "And he looks like a trustworthy guy."

Schweikert, meanwhile, has not been photographed with Trump. Though he's been a reliable supporter of Trump's priorities and avoids publicly criticizing him, he's strived to cultivate a public image as a budget wonk obsessed with the federal deficit.

He has persevered among the genteel, country club set in one of the nation's most highly educated congressional districts. He managed to hold onto his House seat even as many of the wealthy, highly educated Republicans in his district abandoned the party under Trump.

Schweikert needs voters like Jeff Clark, a retired telecommunications engineer from Scottsdale who has been dismayed by his party's embrace of Trump.

"Once they say they're Trump-sponsored and everything, I'm sorry, it's just not going to work," Clark said.

But Clark sat out the gubernatorial race, declining to vote for anyone because he's convinced Biggs has a lock on the nomination and didn't see Schweikert "do much of anything for anybody" in Congress.

Republicans are struggling in Arizona because they aren't aggressive enough in pushing Trump's priorities, like the SAVE America election bill, said Michael LoBello, a 79-year-old retiree from Scottsdale. He voted for Biggs.

"Stand up for the people," LoBello said. "Just stand up for us. They're forgetting who they represent, and that's the people."

Crowded primary for a battleground House district

Both parties have hotly contested primaries for Schweikert's House district, which is a top battleground in the fight for a congressional majority.

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee has controversially thrown its support behind Marlene Galán-Woods, a former television news anchor who used to be a Republican. Her late husband, Grant Woods, was the Republican attorney general in the 1990s and later became a vocal Trump critic.

Woods' chief opponent, Amish Shah, is an emergency medicine doctor and former state legislator who was the party's nominee in 2024 but lost narrowly to Schweikert.

"I like his background in medicine," said Jeff Cohen of Cave Creek, 69, an attorney who voted for Shah. "And he actually came to my door and I met him. It made a difference. Old-style politics."

On the Republican side, former Arizona Cardinals kicker Jay Feely has Trump's endorsement. He's been dogged by criticism for living outside the district — he lives in Biggs' district and originally was running there until Trump endorsed a rival.

Feely faces Joseph Chaplik, a former state legislator popular with many of the party's grassroots activists, and businessman John Trobough.

Social media influencers Andrew and Tristan Tate arrested in Miami, US Marshals Service tells AP

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

Influencer brothers Andrew and Tristan Tate, whose social media empire promoting wealth, male dominance and misogyny has made them among the world's most polarizing internet personalities, were arrested Saturday in Miami as British authorities sought their extradition on rape and sex trafficking charges.

The brothers were taken into custody by the U.S. Marshals Service on a sealed warrant, agency spokesperson Brady McCarron told The Associated Press, placing the United States at the center of an international legal saga that has stretched from Romania to Britain.

Britain is seeking their extradition on rape and trafficking charges

British prosecutors announced Saturday that they were seeking the brothers' extradition on charges alleging they raped and trafficked women between 2010 and 2017.

The dual U.S. and British citizens moved to Romania in 2016. They were arrested there in 2022, accused

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 50 of 52

of participating in schemes to lure women for sexual exploitation. They denied those allegations and the Romanian case hasn't gone forward because of legal and procedural problems.

Last year, they were allowed to leave Romania and flew to Florida on a private jet.

The brothers are expected to appear in Miami's federal court early next week, according to a person familiar with the matter who spoke to on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive law enforcement operations.

The pending charges in the United Kingdom accused the brothers of abusing women in an area north of London, where they grew up. Their lawyers had said they denied the allegations.

Joseph McBride, an attorney representing the Tate brothers, said in a phone interview Saturday evening that he has not been able to speak with his clients but called the new charges out of the U.K. "filth and slander" intended to derail defamation lawsuits filed by the brothers in the U.S.

"They're pulling out all the stops to make sure these guys never get their day in court," McBride said.

"We are confident that once a competent judge sees the facts, and once the Department of Justice confronts this egregious abuse of its own authority, Andrew and Tristan Tate will walk free. America does not do Britain's political dirty work."

Tate has been banned from social media platforms for hate speech

Andrew Tate, 39, first reached a mainstream audience as a contestant on the U.K. reality television show "Big Brother" in 2016. He was removed from the show when a video surfaced that appeared to show Tate assaulting a woman. He and his brother Tristan Tate, 38, are vocal supporters of U.S. President Donald Trump.

Andrew Tate has amassed over 10 million followers on X but has been banned from platforms like YouTube, TikTok and Instagram for violating hate speech guidelines. His most widely condemned rhetoric includes comments that women who are sexually assaulted should bear some responsibility for their attacks, graphic descriptions of how he might attack women and criticisms of people who seek treatment for mental illness.

The Tate brothers have consistently denied allegations of abuse and human trafficking, claiming that violent and misogynistic statements have been taken out of context or were intended as jokes.

In a statement Saturday, the U.K.'s Crown Prosecution Services said that in addition to the charges publicly announced against the brothers in 2025, involving alleged crimes against three women, it was bringing a total of 38 new charges related to "four further victims."

Both brothers are accused of rape and human trafficking. Andrew Tate faces an additional charge of profiting from prostitution, and 19 charges "for offences relating to indecent images of a child and extreme pornography," according to U.K. authorities.

"There is no place for male violence against women and girls, and we will continue to work tirelessly to support victims and investigate all reports made to us," said Karena Thomas, an assistant chief constable of the Bedfordshire Police, which investigated the case.

Thunderstorms will clear wildfire smoke from Northeast ahead of World Cup final, meteorologists say

By JENNIFER McDERMOTT and PHILIP MARCELO Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Smoke from Canadian wildfires that engulfed the Northeast in haze is expected to mostly clear from the New Jersey area just in time for the World Cup final on Sunday thanks to thunderstorms passing through, meteorologists said.

Still, warnings of unhealthy air remained in effect Saturday across a wide swath of the United States, and President Donald Trump continued to lay blame on Canada for the smoke crossing the border.

Trump, who planned to attend the cup final, threatened to impose tariffs in response, and Ontario Premier Doug Ford criticized that as unacceptable and shortsighted.

At MetLife Stadium, where the World Cup final is scheduled to take place, the sky was the same thick, soupy gray it has been for days, even after a drenching thunderstorm prompted warnings of flash flood-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 51 of 52

ing and forced the Spanish national team to suspend its last outdoor training session ahead of the clash with Argentina.

After the rain cleared, Netherlands tourists Joost Timpers and his two sons were among fans taking photos outside the open-air venue, which has been renamed the New York/New Jersey Stadium for the matches.

They did not have tickets to the final but biked more than an hour from their hotel just to see the arena up close. Timpers said he was certain players and fans will fare just fine even if conditions do not improve.

"We're not experts in air quality, of course, but we are experiencing the quality now," he said. "I didn't experience anything different from cycling in the Netherlands or anywhere else."

Storms will help clear the air

Saturday's storm front will largely move the smoke out of the Northeast before the final between Spain and Argentina, said Tyler Roys, a senior meteorologist at AccuWeather.

"There could be some lingering smoke that would make things hazy, but very faint," Roys said. "In terms of the thickest smoke, the smoke that has really been eye-popping and leads to poor air quality, that is not expected across New York City or much of the Northeast."

WFLA-TV Chief Meteorologist and Climate Specialist Jeff Berardelli, in Tampa, Florida, echoed Roys, saying the storm front would "sweep the atmosphere clean," leaving only a thin smoke that World Cup spectators may still smell in the air.

The air quality index shows an improvement from unhealthy air for sensitive groups on Saturday to "moderate" air quality Sunday in East Rutherford, which means little to no health risk for the general public.

"It won't be dangerous anymore," Berardelli said. "It's going to be dramatically better."

The smoke could still cause issues for people who are sensitive to particulate matter, and they should check the air quality index particularly in the morning, said Rob Shackelford, a meteorologist for The Weather Channel app and weather.com.

Air quality at the field is measured every 10 minutes, said David Lu, CEO and co-founder of Clarity Movement, an environmental technology company providing air quality monitoring services. In the past two days, the readings have swung between the level where the air is unhealthy for sensitive groups and the level where it's very unhealthy, Lu said. He said Saturday afternoon he expects to see improvement in the readings within hours because of the rain.

Temperatures are forecast to be around 80 degrees Fahrenheit (27 degrees Celsius), with light breezes and low humidity for the start of the final.

"You couldn't have asked for much better weather for the World Cup," Berardelli added.

Both Roys and Berardelli expect the heavier smoke Sunday to be concentrated closer to the fires, hanging over parts of the Midwest and the Great Lakes region.

Trump talks of new tariffs on Canada

The president made no mention of the World Cup final but said on his social media platform, "We are holding Canada responsible." He added that the U.S. "is being unnecessarily invaded by filthy, polluted, and unhealthy air, the quality of which is dangerous, and totally unacceptable!"

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney addressed the topic of U.S. officials complaining about smoke from during a news conference Thursday. Carney said climate change is the responsibility of everyone, including the United States.

Ford said Canada has contributed to fighting fires in the U.S. and offered assistance when Georgia was hit by a hurricane in 2024 because "that's what neighbors do." Ford called the rhetoric "absolutely unacceptable" when Canada is "trying to get through this."

There are hundreds of active fires in Canada

Wildfires have been igniting across Canada and northern Minnesota this month. Berardelli said they are burning longer and faster because of climate change. The Canadian Wildland Fire Information System showed hundreds of active fires Saturday. Environment Canada issued air quality warnings across the country and into the Northwest Territories.

The fires prompted evacuations, including in Nova Scotia where there's a large fire that local and pro-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 20, 2026 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 045 ~ 52 of 52

vincial crews have been fighting since Wednesday, and in northwestern Ontario, where some of the most intense fires are burning.

In Ontario, nearly 200 wildfires have already scorched more land than all of last year's fires. In Thunder Bay, Ontario, Fire Chief Dave Tarini said this fire season is unprecedented in his more than 35 years as a firefighter.

In British Columbia, about 100 fires are burning, a huge jump from the 20 firefighters were facing Wednesday. The BC Wildfire Service says the fires are largely the result of 4,000 lightning strikes that hit the province Friday.

Today in History: July 20

Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin walk on the moon

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, July 20, the 201st day of 2026. There are 164 days left in the year.

Today in History:

On July 20, 1969, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin became the first men to walk on the moon after reaching its surface in their Apollo 11 lunar module.

In 1917, America's World War I draft lottery began as Secretary of War Newton Baker, wearing a blindfold, reached into a glass bowl and pulled out a capsule containing the number 258 during a ceremony in the Senate office building.

In 1944, an attempt by a group of German officials to assassinate Adolf Hitler with a bomb in a briefcase failed as the explosion only wounded the Nazi leader.

In 1951, Jordan's King Abdullah I was assassinated in Jerusalem by a Palestinian gunman who was shot dead on the spot by security.

In 1976, America's Viking 1 robot spacecraft made a successful, first-ever landing on Mars.

In 1977, a flash flood hit Johnstown, Pennsylvania, killing more than 80 people and causing \$350 million worth of damage.

In 1990, Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, one of the court's most liberal voices, announced he was stepping down.

In 1993, White House deputy counsel Vincent Foster Jr., 48, was found shot to death in a park near Washington, D.C.; it was ruled a suicide.

In 2006, the Senate voted 98-0 to renew the landmark 1965 Voting Rights Act for another quarter-century.

In 2007, President George W. Bush signed an executive order prohibiting cruel and inhuman treatment, including humiliation or denigration of religious beliefs, in the detention and interrogation of terrorism suspects.

In 2012, gunman James Holmes opened fire inside a crowded movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, during a midnight showing of "The Dark Knight Rises," killing 12 people and wounding 70 others. (Holmes was later convicted of murder and attempted murder, and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.)

In 2015, the United States and Cuba restored full diplomatic relations after more than five decades of frosty relations rooted in the Cold War.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Famer Tony Oliva is 88. Artist Judy Chicago is 87. Country singer T.G. Sheppard is 82. Singer Kim Carnes is 81. Rock musician Carlos Santana is 79. Author and commentator Thomas Friedman is 73. Rock musician Paul Cook (Sex Pistols) is 70. Actor Frank Whaley is 63. Conservationist and TV personality Terri Irwin is 62. Rock musician Stone Gossard (Pearl Jam) is 60. Actor Josh Holloway (TV: "Lost") is 57. Singer Vitamin C is 57. Actor Sandra Oh is 55. Hockey Hall of Famer Peter Forsberg is 53. Actor Omar Epps is 53. Basketball Hall of Famer Ray Allen is 51. Hockey Hall of Famer Pavel Datsyuk is 48. Actor Percy Daggs III is 44. Actor John Francis Daley is 41. Dancer-singer-actor Julianne Hough is 38. Former MLB pitcher Stephen Strasburg is 38.