

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 1 of 76

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
- [4- Obit: Arlowene Hitchcock](#)
- [5- Obit: Arletta Peterson](#)
- [6- Netters beat Ipswich](#)
- [7- City Council Story](#)
- [9- SD SearchLight: Prison leader quits as prison vote looms](#)
- [12- SD SearchLight: Judge blocks South Dakota from enforcing earlier ballot question petition deadline](#)
- [13- SD SearchLight: Every fall there's a government shutdown warning. This time it could happen.](#)
- [15- SD SearchLight: Democratic AGs disclose FEMA failed to make grants for months to critical disaster program](#)
- [17- SD SearchLight: Judge warns of 'national police force' in ruling Trump broke the law sending Guard to LA](#)
- [19- Coming up on GDILIVE.COM](#)
- [20- Weather Pages](#)
- [25- Daily Devotional](#)
- [26- Subscription Form](#)
- [27- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [28- Upcoming Groton Events](#)
- [29- News from the Associated Press](#)



Wednesday, Sept 3

School Breakfast: Oatmeal
School Lunch: Pasta Primavera, cooked broccoli.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.
Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.
Groton Chamber Meeting, noon City Hall

Thursday, Sept 4

School Breakfast: Maple French Toast Bake.
School Lunch: Sloppy Joe, potato wedges
Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.
Volleyball: Sisseton at Groton: (Gym: 7th-5, 8th-6; Arena: C-5, JV-6, V-7:15)
Cross Country at Redfield, 10 a.m.

Friday, Sept. 5

School Breakfast: Breakfast boats.
School Lunch: Hot dogs, baked beans.
Homecoming Parade, 1 p.m.
Football hosts Winner, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept 6

Groton Fly-In/Drive-in at Groton Municipal Airport
Fall City Wide Rummage Sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Junior High Volleyball Tournament at Northwestern, 9 a.m.
Soccer hosts West Central (Girls at noon, Boys at 2 p.m.)

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

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 2 of 76

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.

National Guard Ruling

A federal judge ruled yesterday that the Trump administration illegally deployed 4,000 National Guard troops and 700 Marines to Los Angeles during June protests against immigration raids.

The San Francisco-based judge said the move violated the Posse Comitatus Act, which bars the use of federal troops for domestic law enforcement except in limited cases, such as an insurrection. The Justice Department, which is expected to appeal, argued the troops were needed to quell unrest and protect federal immigration agents. The 300 National Guard troops still stationed in Los Angeles may remain following yesterday's decision, but their duties are essentially restricted to guarding federal property.

The ruling applies only to California, not the more than 2,000 National Guard troops Trump deployed to address crime in Washington, DC. He confirmed plans yesterday to send troops to Chicago and Baltimore, but did not specify a timeline.

Ketchup Conglomerate Splits

Kraft Heinz announced yesterday that it is splitting into two companies. The move ends a decade-long merger spearheaded by investment company Berkshire Hathaway and Brazilian private equity firm 3G Capital. Shares closed down nearly 7% on the news.

When Kraft and Heinz merged in 2015, their \$46B deal was the most expensive in the food industry at the time. Since then, health-conscious American consumers have trended away from processed foods, while budget-conscious consumers have turned to store-brand alternatives. Kraft Heinz's challenges follow a broader trend of packaged food conglomerates struggling to retain their clientele, with Keurig Dr Pepper and Kellogg's similarly dividing their businesses.

Kraft Heinz plans to finalize its split next year. One company will focus on sauces and shelf-stable meals, while a second will prioritize North American staples like Oscar Mayer and Kraft Singles. Berkshire Hathaway remains Kraft Heinz's single largest investor, owning a 27.5% stake.

American Vogue Succession

Anna Wintour has named 39-year-old Chloe Malle as top editor at American Vogue, marking the first new leader at one of fashion's most influential publications in 37 years. The announcement comes roughly two months after 75-year-old Wintour stepped down as editor-in-chief.

Malle is the daughter of actress Candice Bergen and filmmaker Louis Malle. She will manage the day-to-day US operations as head of editorial content, while Wintour oversees global operations at Vogue and serves as chief content officer at Condé Nast. Malle has been with American Vogue for 14 years; she currently leads Vogue.com and cohosts "The Run-Through" podcast. She is credited with doubling Vogue.com's traffic within two years and expanding digital coverage of high-profile events like the Met Gala and Vogue World.

Malle's family background has also drawn public attention, particularly her mother's on-screen role as a Vogue editor in the hit series "Sex and the City."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 3 of 76

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

French actor Gérard Depardieu to face criminal trial over alleged rape accusations from an actress in 2018; Depardieu was found guilty in May of sexually assaulting two women in a separate case.

George Raveling, basketball Hall of Fame coach and longtime Nike exec, dies of cancer at age 88.

Ohio State tops college football AP poll after Week One, with Penn State and LSU rounding out the top three.

"Call of Duty" live-action film adaptation in the works at Paramount; the video game franchise has sold 500 million copies worldwide and brought in over \$30B in revenue.

Science & Technology

Cancer study reveals how pilocytic astrocytoma tumors, the most common form of childhood brain cancer, use a molecule called glutamate to grow.

Engineers develop rubber band capable of generating electricity from body heat; could provide passive power for health monitoring, smartwatches, and more.

Brain-computer interface allows paralyzed patient to control robotic arm via thought; device uses AI to decipher and transmit brain signals.

Business & Markets

Federal judge rules Google can keep Chrome browser but cannot forge exclusive contracts and must share search data with rivals to rectify the company's monopoly on search; parent company Alphabet's shares rose in after-hours trading.

US stock markets close down (S&P 500 -0.7%, Dow -0.6%, Nasdaq -0.8%) as President Donald Trump seeks expedited Supreme Court hearing on last week's lower court ruling that found most of his administration's tariffs illegal.

Anthropic closes \$13B funding round at a \$183B valuation, roughly triple what the AI startup was worth during its last raise in March.

Politics & World Affairs

President Donald Trump announces move of Space Command headquarters from Colorado to Alabama, following 2021 Air Force recommendation; decision is expected to bring \$1B annually to Huntsville, Alabama's local economy.

House Oversight Committee publicly posts Justice Department files on Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell, mostly containing information already publicly known.

US strikes suspected drug-carrying vessel in the Caribbean, killing at least 11 people allegedly tied to Venezuela's Tren de Aragua gang.

Second earthquake hits Afghanistan yesterday as death toll from Sunday's quake exceeds 1,400 people.

Israeli army begins ground operation in Gaza City after approving plans last month (More)

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 4 of 76

The Life of Arlowene Hitchcock

Services for Arlowene Hitchcock, 98, of Conde were held Friday, August 29, 2025, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ferney. Pastor Bob Moeller officiated. Burial followed in Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Arlowene passed away August 17, 2025 at Avantara Groton.

Arlowene Ella was born on September 16, 1926 in rural Ferney to Louie and Alice (Bahr) Dobberpuhl. She attended country school and graduated from Groton High School. Arlowene continued her education at Northern State Teachers College and taught for two years. On June 1, 1946, she was united in marriage with Maurice J. Hitchcock in Groton. Together they made their home on the farm near Ferney and were blessed with four children. Arlowene worked by her husband's side, helping in the field and milking cows. After retirement, they enjoyed traveling, taking guided tours to England, Europe, Nashville and the Northeastern United States.

Arlowene was a lifelong member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ferney. She spent countless hours compiling the history for the Church Centennial Celebration in 2001 and continued to update the records until recently. Arlowene was instrumental in growing the evergreens at the church and making many of the church banners.

She inherited the gift of sewing from her mother and made many of the girls' dresses. Her grandchildren were all given baby quilts that were either stitched or crocheted. Arlowene enjoyed crafting, gardening and crossword puzzles. Above all, she cherished time spent with her family.

Celebrating her life are her children, Dennis (Diane) Hitchcock of Minnetonka, MN, Mavis (Bob) Rossow of Conde, SD, Marilyn (Tim) Thum of River Falls, WI, 6 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and 8 great-great grandchildren and her sister-in-law, Vivian Dobberpuhl.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her husband in 2009, her daughter Marlis and three brothers, Raymond, LaWayne and Harlow.

Honorary Casketbearers were Arlowene's grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Casketbearers were Scott Rossow, Kevin Thum, Derek Miles, Dylan Miles, Roni Dobberpuhl and Rod Dobberpuhl.

Memorials may be directed to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, PO Box 835, Ferney, SD 57422



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 5 of 76

The Life of Arletta Peterson

Services for Arletta Peterson, 93, of Webster and formerly of Groton was held Tuesday, September 2, 2025, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. Rev. Michael DeKraai officiated. Burial followed in Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Arletta passed away August 24, 2025 at Sanford Hospital in Webster.

Arletta Mae was born on February 29, 1932 in Bristol to Albert and Emma Huwe. She attended school in Bristol, graduating in 1950. Arletta worked in a restaurant for several years and met her husband, DeWain, at a dance near Waubay Lake. They were married on April 29, 1951 at Bethesda Lutheran Church in Bristol. Together they made their home in numerous places in South Dakota. In 1967, they moved to Minneapolis, near Ft. Snelling, where Arletta worked at Lakeland Industries. She later was employed at Veteran's Affairs in the Canteen Office and B. Dalton General Office. In 1992, the couple moved back to Groton.

Arletta was a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton and an associate member at St. John's Lutheran in Webster. In earlier years, she enjoyed fishing with her husband, baking and decorating cakes.

Celebrating her life are her nieces and nephews, Roylene (Dennis) DeVille, Ronnie Mauritzson, Robert Peterson, John Peterson & Shirley Round, Margaret Peterson & Jeff Fahey, Pat Huwe, Linda Starks, Harry Bradstreet, Dennis Bradstreet, Bonnie Beaton, Joy Knutson, Kimberly (Randy) Saxberg and Randy (Bev-erly) Sauer. She is also survived by her adopted family, (Torrie) Suzi Oswald, Ronda Oswald, Samantha, Matt, Anna and Grace Oswald, Eric & Fiona Oswald, Abby & Benjamin Oswald, Tony & Betsy Oleson and Cody & Sierra Oleson.

To greet her in heaven, is her husband, DeWain and special friend, Delbert Leonhardt, her parents, her siblings: Burton (Joyce) Huwe, Dale Huwe, Irene (Norm) Long, Lucille (Roy) Sheldon, Lois (Harry) Bradstreet, Erma (Tommy) Knutson, Nadine (Vern) Sauer, and nieces and nephews: Bonnie (George) Dolney, Robin Sauer, Larry Huwe, Tom Bradstreet, Bruce Knutson, and Kris Knutson.

Casketbearers were Torrie Oswald, Matt Oswald, Van Kalinoski, Dru Fishgrab, Geoff Dolney and Wayne Sauer.



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 6 of 76

Groton sweeps Ipswich in conference volleyball battle

The Northeast Conference Groton Area Tigers traveled to Ipswich on Tuesday night and came away with a hard-fought 3–0 victory over the Lake Region Conference Ipswich Tigers in varsity volleyball action.

Groton opened the night strong, taking the first set 25–15 behind the hitting of Chesney Weber and the serving of McKenna Tietz. Weber put down four kills and Tietz delivered four aces, while Rylee Dunker and Jaedyn Penning each chipped in three kills. “We made a lot of errors in that first set — I think Ipswich’s 15 points, and we probably scored seven or eight of those ourselves,” said head coach Chelsea Hanson. “We’ll want to clean that up against tougher opponents, but it’s early in the season, and we’ll be fine.”

In the second set, Groton stormed out to an 11–0 lead and never looked back in a 25–16 win. Tevan Hanson powered the offense with six kills and an ace, Weber added two kills and a block, and Penning contributed two kills and an ace. Coach Hanson noted the advantage of depth even with standout Sydney Flock sidelined. “Sid got hurt in soccer over the weekend, so we knew we’d be without her,” Hanson said. “But we have a lot of depth, and no matter who’s out, we have someone who can step in and fill. It was good to be able to get some other people mixed in tonight.”

Ipswich made things interesting in the third set, which featured seven lead changes and 10 ties, including a 24–24 deadlock. Guthmiller sparked Ipswich with eight kills and an ace, but Groton leaned on Hanson’s four kills, Weber’s three, and two kills with a block from Kella Tracy to finish off the sweep. “Ipswich has always been a really solid blocking team,” Hanson observed. “Even though they’re not super big, they block so well. It was good for us to see that and have to get up and cover our hitters.”

The coach also praised her young front-line players for their composure. Hanson, a freshman, finished the night with 11 kills and an ace. “She’s learning fast,” Coach Hanson said. “She made three or four errors in a row and then came back to take big swings. That’s a sign of maturity. It’s not common for an underclassman to do that.” She also highlighted Tracy’s impact. “She’s been destroying the ball in practice, and tonight she came in and got big kills and blocks for us. She changes things for the outside hitters.”

Match leaders

Groton spread the production across its roster. Alongside Hanson’s 11 kills, Weber finished with 23 assists and seven kills, Tracy tallied five kills and two assisted blocks, and Taryn Traphagen contributed four kills and two blocks. Tietz added four aces, Penning had six kills, 14 digs, and an ace, while Dunker posted five kills. Locke anchored the back row with 13 digs, five assists, and an ace serve. The Tigers finished 62-of-70 at the line with six aces, hit 91-of-108 for 34 kills, totaled 33 assists, and dug out 56 balls.

Ipswich was led by Marley Guthmiller’s 14 kills. Josie Knutson had 12 assists, and Brianna Geditz 10 digs. Ipswich was 52-of-55 serving with five aces, hit 89-of-106 for 16 kills, and collected 37 digs with seven blocks.

Sub-varsity action

Groton also swept the junior varsity and C matches. The JV team won 25–16, 25–22 behind strong outings from Abby Fjeldheim (five kills), Elizabeth Cole (five kills), and Libby Althoff (three aces, one kill). The C team rolled to a 25–12 win in the first set, then outlasted Ipswich 28–26 in extra points.

Groton improves to 2–0 on the season after earlier knocking off Hamlin. The Tigers will travel to Siseton on Thursday, and Hanson expects a similar challenge. “They always have height, and we’ll have to adjust,” she said. “But if we keep improving, we’ll be ready.”

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Agtegra, Avantara, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Bierman Farm Service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Full Circle Ag, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, Groton Legion, Heartland Energy, John Sieh Agency, Jungle and The MeatHouse. The JV and C matches were sponsored by Sue Fjeldheim with Tastefully Simple.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 7 of 76

Council reviews zoning appeal, traffic matters

By Elizabeth Varin

A mix of planning decisions and traffic concerns highlighted the agenda at Tuesday night's Groton City Council meeting.

However, the council reaffirmed a planning and zoning commission decision, held off on discussion of a new stop sign and noted a new item for the 2026 budget.

After a month of periodic discussion, the council looked into a project on a property at the intersection of East Second Avenue and North First Street.

Karen DeBrine applied for a variance to build a porch/deck within six feet of the lot line. City ordinance requires "a front yard of not less than a depth of thirty feet."

The reason given for the variance was that the porch would not be "wider than house and does not obscure vision from North or East side."

The city Planning and Zoning Commission approved the variance after a public hearing in late July. However, Jacalyn Krueger filed an appeal of that decision, asking the City Council to reconsider the variance, calling the project a safety concern as it could block views of the corner.

"First Street is very busy as it is a straight path to the school," read the appeal. "As a previous owner of 116 North First Street, I can confirm that this intersection has a lot of traffic going to the school (north and south) and to the post office and city hall (west and east). ...I do not think it's in the best interest of the city to approve this deck to be built and, if approved, would only cause future safety concerns as others would be able to do the same."

"What's the point of a 30-foot offset if no one needs to follow it?" Krueger wrote in her appeal.

Krueger also wrote that the current owner hangs towels that block the view of the corner.

DeBrine responded to the towel point by saying she will no longer hang towels on the stair railing on the east side of her house, saying she didn't know there was an issue there.

"You don't know what you don't know, and nobody said anything," she said.

DeBrine said she would move the deck back to accommodate people's concerns.

"I just want to make sure I'm coming down so I'm not stopping at this puddle," she said, indicating a part of the walkway that she said floods easily. "It's there when we have heavy rain, and I've already slipped on the ice here."

She said the deck would not be high up, and she doesn't plan to have a railing if that is an issue.

Council members, who had previously expressed concerns about not being able to see around the corner should a deck be built, seemed to change their opinion after DeBrine presented the project with photos of the area.

"I've been over there," said Councilman Jon Cutler. "An SUV can block it (the view of the cross street) more than a railing ever will."

Councilman Kevin Nehls agreed, adding "without a railing it wouldn't be bad."

Councilman Brian Bahr, who first brought the project to the council's attention after the planning commission's vote, still expressed concerns about allowing this project to move forward.

"If we give them six feet (from the property line), everyone else is going to want six feet," he said. "...I'm just struggling with what you do for one... you have to treat everyone the same."

Councilman Cutler replied that can be taken on a case by case basis. That's why the city has variances.

The council voted unanimously to deny the appeal, reaffirming the planning commission's original vote to allow the project to be built.

Based on that vote, the council decided to hold off discussing putting in a stop sign at the intersection of East Second Avenue and North First Street.

Though on the agenda, council members indicated it is too early to tell if a stop sign is needed there.

"I think we should wait until this is built," Councilman Cutler said. "If people think we need it, then we'll talk about it."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 8 of 76

Radar signs prices reviewed

The council also discussed another traffic issue.

Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich presented some initial prices to purchase solar-powered radar-equipped speed limit signs for highways 12 and 37 in town. Prices for four signs ranged from \$12,600 to \$20,867.36 depending on the vendor.

Heinrich recommended that if the council wants to move forward with the purchase of the radar signs, it be added as an item for the 2026 budget.

Councilman Kevin Nehls said, "it doesn't hurt to budget it."

- The council accepted the resignation of Douglas Hamilton from the city's Planning and Zoning Commission. Mayor Scott Hanlon expressed appreciation for Hamilton for his time on the commission. Hanlon added that if anyone is interested in being on the planning commission, they should reach out to him, Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich or city council members.

- The council authorized city staff to begin accepting sealed bids to lease 95 acres of land at the Groton Airport. The current lease is set to expire on Oct. 31. A new lease would change the beginning and end dates of the lease (from November 1-October 31 to January 1-December 31) and would also extend the lease timeframe from two years to three years. Bids will be opened at the October 7 council meeting.

- The council gave tentative approval for an agreement to paint the interior of the Community Center. The informal quote from Sam Bahr includes painting and priming the interior of the building. The total to paint the whole building excluding the kitchen and bathroom totals \$4,800. The price including the kitchen and bathroom totals \$6,160. Both prices include the cost of paint.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Prison leader quits as prison vote looms

Governor says departure helps clear a path for \$650 million project

BY: JOHN HULT-SEPTEMBER 2, 2025 5:28 PM

South Dakota's beleaguered secretary of corrections has resigned.

Gov. Larry Rhoden told South Dakota Searchlight that Kellie Wasko delivered the letter announcing her Oct. 20 departure on Tuesday, though the letter is dated Sept. 1.

News of the secretary's resignation after 3½ years on the job came less than a day after a group of 20 lawmakers in the House of Representatives signed a letter calling on Rhoden to "clean up his Department of Corrections" before a Sept. 23 special session. That's when lawmakers will be asked to endorse construction of a \$650 million, 1,500-bed men's prison in Sioux Falls.

The timing of the lawmaker letter was coincidental and "unfortunate," Rhoden said.

"She had made up her mind, and she knew what she wanted to do," the governor said. "She knew that this wasn't getting better."

Rhoden added that only one of the letter's 20 signatories, Howard Republican Rep. Tim Reisch, had called him to express his concerns about Wasko in the past six months.

"I guarantee you, they all have my cell number," said Rhoden.

The governor added that he had faith in Wasko in spite of criticisms of her management style and a wave of security incidents and controversies since 2023.

Despite that confidence, Rhoden said he recognizes that Wasko's resignation will make it easier to convince the Legislature to back the \$650 million project.

"You're always looking for the hurdles that are going to give people a path to 'no,' and to remove those hurdles and give them more reasons to say 'yes,'" Rhoden said.

Letter authors laud resignation

Reisch, the first lawmaker to call for Wasko's resignation and a former corrections secretary himself, lauded the news as a step forward as the Legislature ponders a replacement for the oldest parts of the state penitentiary in Sioux Falls.



South Dakota Department of Corrections Secretary Kellie Wasko presents to the Legislature's Joint Appropriations Committee on Jan. 23, 2025, at the Capitol in Pierre. (Makenzie Huber/South Dakota Searchlight)

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 10 of 76

"I just hope it's a transition to a better way of doing things," Reisch said.

None of the 20 lawmakers listed on the letter hold leadership positions in the House.

But House Speaker Jon Hansen, the Dell Rapids Republican now running for governor, said Wasko "needs to be fired" on his campaign's Facebook page Tuesday morning.

House Speaker Pro Tempore Karla Lems, R-Canton, is Hansen's gubernatorial running mate. She said she wasn't asked to sign the letter. Even so, she said Wasko's leadership is "what I think rises to the top" of her list of concerns about an expensive new prison.

Resignation letter lists accomplishments

Wasko, a nurse by training who spent years working in Colorado's correctional system before coming to South Dakota in 2022 as an appointee of then-Gov. Kristi Noem, wrote that she'd spent the past few months discussing her decision with her family.

She's leaving "to pursue other opportunities," the letter says.

The two-page document has four paragraphs in total, reserving the bulk of its space for 22 bullet points listing "just a handful" of her accomplishments.

Among them are a 43% increase in correctional officer pay and a decrease in staff vacancies, creating a "comprehensive reentry program" for inmates leaving state prisons, curing 300 inmates of Hepatitis C, creating an Office of Inspector General to investigate crime behind the walls and a reduction in escapes.

"I have worked diligently for the last 3½ years to improve the Department of Corrections and I know I am leaving it far better than I found it," the letter says.

It also points to a change in the DOC's "insolence" and discipline policy, which was "highly controversial" with previous secretaries and ended the practice of placing inmates in disciplinary segregation for talking back to officers.

"It was necessary, and we have successfully corrected the process," she wrote, noting that a 2022 operations review recommended housing inmates in "the least restrictive environment necessary to maintain safe and secure facilities."

Critics: New policies made for unsafe facilities

The letter from lawmakers stopped short of demanding Wasko's resignation – it doesn't mention her by name – but Reisch said changes like that are why he's called for her ouster.

"If inmates know what the rules are and that they're enforced, the vast majority will comply with them," Reisch said. "If word gets around that they're not enforced, that word gets around pretty fast, and security goes by the wayside."

Reisch said staff assaults are up, based on conversations he's had with current correctional officers. The DOC's annual statistical report for 2024 showed assaults on staff at a five-year low, but Reisch said that could be a matter of shifting definitions of assault since Wasko came to lead the agency in 2022.

"A lot of the definitions can change," said Reisch, who also suggested that some assaults aren't logged.

Attorney General Marty Jackley told the Dakota Town Hall podcast in mid-February that his office had more than 100 open assault investigations involving inmates.

Corrections spokesman Michael Winder declined to offer the number of staff assaults to occur thus far in 2025, and said the definition of "assault" has not changed since 2022.

Not all lawmakers saw Wasko's leadership as a sticking point. Sen. Majority Leader Jim Mehlhaff, R-Pierre, scolded the House members for the letter in a Tuesday interview with South Dakota Searchlight, arguing that it was improper to "inject other issues" into a discussion about replacing a prison he called "inhumane" and "a lawsuit waiting to happen."

Mehlhaff, who served on the Project Prison Reset task force, said Wasko "has been treated more unfairly than any public official in the state," noting that she came to the job after a scandal resulting in the removal of top DOC officials under accusations of misconduct and nepotism.

"She did not come on to a DOC that was a well-oiled machine," Mehlhaff said. "It was a disaster."

Money questions

Each of the House members who signed the letter voted in February for a bill to finalize funding for what

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 11 of 76

would have been an \$825 million, 1,500-bed men's prison in southern Lincoln County.

That effort ultimately failed. In the wake of that failure, Rhoden established a Project Prison Reset task force to build consensus on the need, price and placement of a new facility to ease overcrowding at the state penitentiary in Sioux Falls.

The group voted to back a 1,500-bed facility on undeveloped land in northeastern Sioux Falls, and to cap the price at \$650 million.

The \$175 million distance between the first figure and the second was also cited as a concern in the letter.

Rhoden released a Frequently Asked Questions webpage last week on the prison that claims the prison's designers were able to hit that budgetary mark, in spite of those designers telling the task force it was "a tall order" at the group's final meeting in July.

Mortenson recalls being told in February that the state's \$825 million proposal was the lowest number possible for a 1,500-bed prison. On the House floor, Mortenson was among the lawmakers to repeat the DOC's assertion that delay would inevitably increase the prison's price.

"The same people in the administration were telling us they'd already found all the cost savings they could six months ago, and we believed them," Mortenson said. "Now it's a much different story."

Rhoden: There are answers

The governor said Tuesday that there are "quantifiable answers" to the lawmakers' questions. On the cost savings, he said the new design trims the number of buildings from seven to five, and consolidates common areas for inmates.

"We save 150,000 square feet right there," Rhoden said.

That figure is not on the prison FAQ page, however. On the price drop, the page says "contractors and designers are preparing a specific plan to meet this budget, and more detail will be added when it is available, in early September."

Rhoden said he intends to hold conference calls with lawmakers in the coming days and weeks to answer their questions in advance of the special session.

"I would really like to see this evolve into a type of deal where it's almost a formality to vote, that everybody is informed and comfortable enough that they can just go in, have their discussion and vote up or down," he said.

Assistant House Minority Leader Marty Overweg, R-New Holland, said there's a decent chance that lawmakers will be won over – if their questions are answered. Overweg still wants to know why Nebraska is building a prison for millions less than South Dakota, for example, and said the governor's office has yet to satisfy his curiosity.

The FAQ page says South Dakota's prison "will be designed and built to last 100 years, with durable materials, modern security, and full programming spaces – unlike other states that cut corners upfront, only to face higher costs later."

Overweg, echoing a refrain from lawmakers like Reps. Lems and Hansen, sees value in putting the project out for bids again to make sure.

"I don't think there's any urgency," he said. "I think the special session is crazy. There's no reason we couldn't do this first thing at the start of the next session" in January.

He also wants assurances that the price lawmakers vote on is the price that will stick. The new women's prison in Rapid City, currently under construction, came in at a final price of \$87 million. Initially, Overweg said, it was pitched at a cost a lot closer to \$30 million.

"The taste of that is still in my mouth," he said.

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

Judge blocks South Dakota from enforcing earlier ballot question petition deadline

State House speaker who's running for governor was legislation's prime sponsor

BY: SETH TUPPER-SEPTEMBER 2, 2025 12:26 PM

The state of South Dakota cannot enforce a new law that would shorten the window for circulating ballot question petitions by three months, a judge has ruled.

U.S. District Judge Camela Theeler filed a written order Friday that says the law is a violation of First Amendment rights. As a limitation on political speech, she wrote, moving the election-year deadline from May to February "arguably goes beyond merely inconvenient and enters the realm of severe."

The filing deadline dictates the amount of time petitioners have to gather the required number of signatures to put a statewide question on the ballot. Petitioners need 17,508 signatures from registered voters to propose a law, which is known as an initiative, or to put a bill passed by legislators on hold so voters can consider it, which is known as a referendum. The number of signatures required to put a state constitutional amendment on the ballot is 35,017.

A ballot question committee that has worked on numerous campaigns, Dakotans for Health, filed the lawsuit in April after the Legislature and Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden approved the shorter deadline in March. Dakotans for Health's leader, Rick Weiland, praised the judge's decision Tuesday in a news release.

"Once again, our state's Republican supermajority tried to rig the rules to keep everyday South Dakotans from having a voice in their own government," Weiland said. "And once again, a court sent them packing."

The law shortening the deadline started as legislation from state House Speaker Jon Hansen, R-Dell Rapids, who is one of several candidates for governor next year.

In a statement to South Dakota Searchlight via text message Tuesday, Hansen said Theeler "got this wrong," and he called her a "Biden appointed federal judge." While Theeler was appointed during the Democratic presidency of Joe Biden, she was confirmed 90-4 by the U.S. Senate, with yes votes from South Dakota's Republican U.S. senators John Thune and Mike Rounds.

Hansen said elected legislators should have the authority to set petition submission deadlines, not unelected federal judges.

"This law is a reasonable step to safeguard our process and ensure the validity of petition signatures," Hansen said.

He also referenced last year's fight over an abortion-rights ballot question sponsored by Dakotans for Health, which Hansen opposed in his role as a leader of the Life Defense Fund. That group's lawsuit challenging the validity of petition signatures was not resolved prior to Election Day, and Hansen has repeatedly cited that example as a reason why an earlier deadline is needed to allow more time for legal challenges. The lawsuit against the abortion measure was dismissed after voters rejected the ballot question.



Rep. Jon Hansen, R-Dell Rapids, speaks on the South Dakota House floor on March 5, 2024. Hansen was the sponsor of a 2025 bill that would shorten the time for circulating ballot question petitions, but a judge ruled it unconstitutional. (Makenzie Huber/South Dakota Searchlight)

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 13 of 76

The state Attorney General's Office — which defended the state in the petition-deadline litigation — did not immediately respond Tuesday to South Dakota Searchlight's questions. If the state chooses to appeal the ruling, its deadline to file an appeal is Sept. 29.

The legal battle is part of a broader struggle between ballot petitioners and Republican legislators over citizen lawmaking. During this year's legislative session, for example, Hansen also prime-sponsored a successful bill adding justifications for the secretary of state to reject petition signatures. He cosponsored a bill vetoed by the governor that would have required constitutional amendment petitions to have signatures from registered voters in each of the 35 state Senate districts. Existing law allows signatures to come from registered voters anywhere in the state.

Those and other Republican-led efforts to restrict citizen ballot questions in South Dakota have come in response to the passage of ballot measures that many Republican lawmakers opposed. Examples have included ballot questions that raised the minimum wage, expanded Medicaid eligibility and legalized medical marijuana.

Seth is editor-in-chief of South Dakota Searchlight. He was previously a supervising senior producer for South Dakota Public Broadcasting and a newspaper journalist in Rapid City and Mitchell.

Every fall there's a government shutdown warning. This time it could happen.

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT-SEPTEMBER 2, 2025 9:06 AM

WASHINGTON — Congress returns to Washington, D.C., this week following an uneventful August recess where little to no progress was made on government funding, even though lawmakers have just weeks left until their shutdown deadline.

Republican leaders will need the support of several Democratic senators to approve a stopgap spending bill before Oct. 1, since lawmakers have once again failed to complete the dozen full-year bills on time.

But what was once a routine bipartisan exercise has taken on heightened stakes, with Democrats and some Republicans increasingly frustrated by the Trump administration's unilateral spending decisions.

The nonpartisan Government Accountability Office has issued several reports faulting the Trump administration for impounding, or refusing to spend funds approved by Congress, in violation of the law. And dozens of lawsuits have been filed, alleging the administration has acted to supersede Congress' power of the purse.



People in New York City look at a sign informing them that the Statue of Liberty is closed on Oct. 1, 2013 due to a government shutdown. Tensions among lawmakers and President Donald Trump, combined with party leaders' increasing focus on next year's midterm elections, makes the possibility of a shutdown next month higher than it has been for years. (Photo by Spencer Platt/Getty Images)

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 14 of 76

The ongoing tension, combined with party leaders' increasing focus on next year's midterm elections, makes the possibility of a shutdown higher than it has been for years.

President Donald Trump said in mid-August he was open to meeting with Democratic leaders once they were back in town to negotiate a government funding deal but minimized the importance of talks.

"Well, I will, I guess, but it's almost a waste of time to meet because they never approve anything," Trump said.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries released a letter last week urging Speaker Mike Johnson and Senate Majority Leader John Thune to quickly begin negotiating a bipartisan stopgap bill.

"The government funding issue must be resolved in a bipartisan way," they wrote. "That is the only viable path forward."

Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Susan Collins, R-Maine, said last week that she wants to keep advancing the full-year spending bills, but that a short-term stopgap would be necessary to give lawmakers enough time.

"We need to avoid a government shutdown, which would be horrendous if that were to occur on October 1," Collins said, according to remarks provided by her office. "And we also need to avoid having a continuing resolution, by that I mean a stopgap bill that just puts government on automatic pilot for the whole year."

"We're going to have to have a short-term continuing resolution, but we're making really good progress with overwhelming bipartisan support, and I hope that will continue."

Another failure

Congress is supposed to complete work on the dozen annual appropriations bills before the start of the new fiscal year but has failed to do so for decades. This year is no different.

The House and Senate are nowhere near finishing their work on the bills, which provide funding for dozens of departments, including Agriculture, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Justice, State, Transportation and Veterans Affairs.

The bills, which make up about one-third of federal spending, also fund smaller agencies like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Science Foundation and the National Weather Service.

The House has approved two of the dozen bills — Defense and Military Construction-VA. The Senate has passed its Agriculture, Legislative Branch and Military Construction-VA bills.

The House bills have only been supported by GOP lawmakers, while the Senate's bills are broadly bipartisan, giving that chamber an upper hand if the two chambers begin conferencing full-year bills later this year.

Without a bipartisan, bicameral agreement on how much to spend on all of the bills, it's highly unlikely Congress will be able to complete its work before the Oct. 1 deadline.

Leaders will instead need to reach agreement on a stopgap spending bill that essentially keeps government funding on autopilot until lawmakers can work out a final deal on the full-year bills.

The calendar doesn't give Speaker Johnson, R-La., and Senate Majority Leader Thune, R-S.D., much time to find compromise with their Democratic counterparts.

Both chambers are in session for three weeks at the beginning of September before breaking for Rosh Hashanah. They'll return to Capitol Hill on Sept. 29 with less than two days to fund the government or begin a partial shutdown.

Thune said in mid-August at the Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce Inside Washington luncheon that he expects lawmakers will "have a big fight at the end of September."

Last shutdown stretched 35 days

It's been almost seven years since some federal departments and agencies had to navigate a shutdown, when Congress and the first Trump administration were unable to broker a funding deal before a deadline.

A shutdown this year would have substantially more impact than that 35-day debacle since, when that

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 15 of 76

funding lapse began, Congress had approved the Defense, Energy-Water, Labor-HHS-Education, Legislative Branch and Military Construction-VA spending bills.

The departments and agencies funded by those laws, including Congress, weren't affected by the shutdown.

Lawmakers have failed to send any of the full-year bills to Trump so far this year, so every department and agency would need to implement a shutdown plan if Congress doesn't approve a stopgap spending bill before Oct. 1.

Federal employees who deal with the preservation of life and property as well as national security will likely be deemed exempt and work without pay until the shutdown ends.

Workers who are not considered essential to the federal government's operations would be furloughed until Congress and the president broker some sort of funding deal.

Both categories of employees receive back pay once the lapse ends, though that doesn't extend to federal contractors.

On to the stopgap

Congress regularly approves a stopgap spending bill in September to gain more time to complete negotiations on the full-year appropriations bills.

That continuing resolution, as it's sometimes called, usually lasts until the last Friday in December when both chambers of Congress are scheduled to be in Washington, D.C.

So a September stopgap would likely last until Friday, Dec. 19, assuming the House and Senate can reach an agreement and hold floor votes in the weeks ahead.

Last year, in the lead-up to the presidential election, lawmakers approved a stopgap bill in September that funded the government through mid-December.

Following the Republican sweep of the November elections, GOP leaders opted not to negotiate the full-year bills and used a second stopgap bill to fund the government until March after a raucous 48 hours on Capitol Hill.

Speaker Johnson took a go-it-alone approach on a third stopgap spending bill, leaving Democrats completely out of the negotiations and jamming the Senate with the legislation.

Schumer and several Democrats ultimately helped Republicans get past the 60-vote legislative filibuster, but most voted against actually passing the stopgap.

The dilemma over forcing a shutdown or helping Republicans pass a stopgap bill will resurface for Schumer in the weeks ahead as he tries to navigate another shutdown deadline amid unified GOP control of Washington.

Jennifer covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include congressional policy, politics and legal challenges with a focus on health care, unemployment, housing and aid to families.

Democratic AGs disclose FEMA failed to make grants for months to critical disaster program

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT-SEPTEMBER 2, 2025 3:55 PM

WASHINGTON — Democratic attorneys general have updated their complaint against the Trump administration in a lawsuit over whether the Federal Emergency Management Agency can refuse to spend pre-disaster mitigation grants approved by Congress.

The attorneys general wrote in the new filing that FEMA hadn't made a single award to the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program between April 2 and Aug. 25.

"The BRIC program is critically important nationwide. Over the past four years, FEMA has selected nearly 2,000 projects from every corner of the country to receive roughly \$4.5 billion in funding," they wrote. "Due to the unique threats they face, coastal communities have received the largest allocations over the past four years, with California, Louisiana, Texas, New York, New Jersey, Florida, North Carolina, and

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 16 of 76



The Federal Emergency Management Agency building is seen on May 15, 2025 in Washington, D.C. (Photo

by Kayla Bartkowski/Getty Images)

Washington leading the way.

"But interior communities rely on BRIC too: Pennsylvania and Utah have received the next largest allocations, and Ohio is not far behind."

FEMA announced in April that it was "ending" the program and "canceling all BRIC applications from Fiscal Years 2020-2023."

Members of Congress from both political parties brought up their disagreement with that decision in May during a hearing on FEMA's budget request and by sending a letter signed by more than 80 lawmakers.

But that didn't appear to sway the Trump administration to reverse course and allocate the funding that had been approved by Congress.

'Devastating' delays in FEMA funding

Democratic attorneys general, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear and Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro filed their lawsuit in July and later called on the judge to block the Trump administration from moving money out of the pre-disaster mitigation account.

U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts Judge Richard G. Stearns, who was nominated by President Bill Clinton, issued a preliminary ruling in early August preventing FEMA "from spending the funds allocated to BRIC for non-BRIC purposes until the court is able to render a final judgment on the merits."

The updated 83-page complaint filed Friday argues the two people President Donald Trump has installed as acting FEMA administrator did so unlawfully because they were never formally nominated to run the agency, didn't receive Senate confirmation and didn't meet the qualifications laid out in federal law.

It also alleges that unilaterally canceling funding approved by Congress, which holds the power of the purse, violated the separation of powers laid out in the Constitution.

"The impact of the shutdown has been devastating. Communities across the country are being forced to delay, scale back, or cancel hundreds of mitigation projects depending on this funding," they wrote. "Projects that have been in development for years, and in which communities have invested millions of dollars for planning, permitting, and environmental review are now threatened. And in the meantime, Americans across the country face a higher risk of harm from natural disasters."

Each BRIC grant, the updated complaint notes, "can cover up to 75% of a project's costs, and the federal share can rise to 90% for small rural communities."

Attorneys general from Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin filed the suit, along with the Pennsylvania and Kentucky governors.

Jennifer covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include congressional policy, politics and legal challenges with a focus on health care, unemployment, housing and aid to families.

Judge warns of 'national police force' in ruling Trump broke the law sending Guard to LA

BY: JACOB FISCHLER-SEPTEMBER 2, 2025 12:48 PM

President Donald Trump's move to send National Guard troops and U.S. Marines to quell immigration protests in Los Angeles this summer violated a federal law against military members conducting domestic law enforcement, a federal judge in California ruled early Tuesday.

The ruling from Senior U.S. District Judge Charles R. Breyer represents an obstacle to any further use of National Guard troops to assist local police in more cities. Following deployments to LA and Washington, D.C., Trump has openly mused about federalizing other state National Guard troops and sending them to major cities like Chicago and Baltimore he says are overwhelmed with crime.

Breyer, whom Democratic President Bill Clinton appointed in 1997, said Trump could not use the National Guard for a wide array of police activities in California. His order goes into effect Sept. 12.

Breyer said the roughly 4,700 Guard members and Marines engaged in police activity in violation of the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878, which he said built on the constitutional framers' wariness of a centralized military force conducting police work.

"Contrary to Congress's explicit instruction, federal troops executed the laws," Breyer wrote in a 52-page opinion. "Defendants systematically used armed soldiers (whose identity was often obscured by protective armor) and military vehicles to set up protective perimeters and traffic blockades, engage in crowd control, and otherwise demonstrate a military presence in and around Los Angeles. In short, Defendants violated the Posse Comitatus Act."

National Guard expanded

The judge expressed concern about Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's statements they wanted to expand the role of National Guard troops for law enforcement.

"President Trump and Secretary Hegseth have stated their intention to call National Guard troops into federal service in other cities across the country... thus creating a national police force with the President as its chief," he wrote.

The issue itself dates much further back in U.S. history, forming part of the basis for the country's break from the English monarchy, Breyer noted.

"Indeed, resentment of Britain's use of military troops as a police force was manifested in the Declaration of Independence, where one of the American colonists' grievances was that the King had 'affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power,'" he wrote.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat who sued to block Trump's federalization of the state's National Guard, said the ruling "sided with democracy and the Constitution" and echoed Breyer's warning about Trump leading a national police force.

"No president is a king — not even Trump — and no president can trample a state's power to protect



California National Guard members stand guard at an entrance to the Wilshire Federal Building on June 13, 2025 in Los Angeles, California. (Photo by Mario Tama/Getty Images)

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 18 of 76

its people," Newsom said. "Trump's attempt to use federal troops as his personal police force is illegal, authoritarian, and must be stopped in every courtroom across this country."

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass also cheered the decision.

"The White House tried to invade the second largest city in the country," she wrote. "That's illegal. Los Angeles will not buckle and we will not break. We will not be divided and we will not be defeated."

Spokespeople for the White House did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

Return to appeals court likely

Trump is likely to appeal the ruling to the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, where he won a victory early in the case.

After Breyer issued a temporary restraining order in June calling on Trump to return control of the state's National Guard to Newsom, a 9th Circuit panel unanimously blocked it from going into effect, ruling that U.S. Supreme Court precedent allowed Trump to make the determination that the proper circumstances existed to federalize National Guard troops.

That appeals ruling dealt with Breyer's finding that Trump likely violated the president's legal authority to federalize National Guard troops.

The appeal did not consider potential Posse Comitatus Act violations, Breyer said Tuesday.

Jacob covers federal policy and helps direct national coverage as deputy Washington bureau chief for States Newsroom. Based in Oregon, he focuses on Western issues. His coverage areas include climate, energy development, public lands and infrastructure.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 19 of 76

Upcoming Events on GDILIVE.COM

GT on

Varsity Volleyball
7:15 p.m., Sept. 4, 2026
Sisseton at Groton

Groton
Area
Tigers
Groton, SD

GDILIVE



 YouTube

A production of the
Groton Daily Independent

For more info: GDILIVE.COM

GT on

Homecoming Parade
Fri., Sept. 5, 2026
1 p.m.

Groton
Area
Tigers
Groton, SD

GDILIVE



 YouTube

A production of the
Groton Daily Independent

For more info: GDILIVE.COM

GT on

Football
7 p.m., Fri., Sept. 5, 2026
Winner at Groton

Groton
Area
Tigers
Groton, SD

GDILIVE



 YouTube

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Groton Daily Independent

For more info: GDILIVE.COM

GT on

Girls Soccer
Noon, Sat., Sept. 6, 2026
West Central at Groton

Groton
Area
Tigers
Groton, SD

GDILIVE



 YouTube

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Groton Daily Independent

For more info: GDILIVE.COM

GT on

Boys Soccer
2 p.m., Sat., Sept. 6, 2026
West Central at Groton

Groton
Area
Tigers
Groton, SD

GDILIVE



 YouTube

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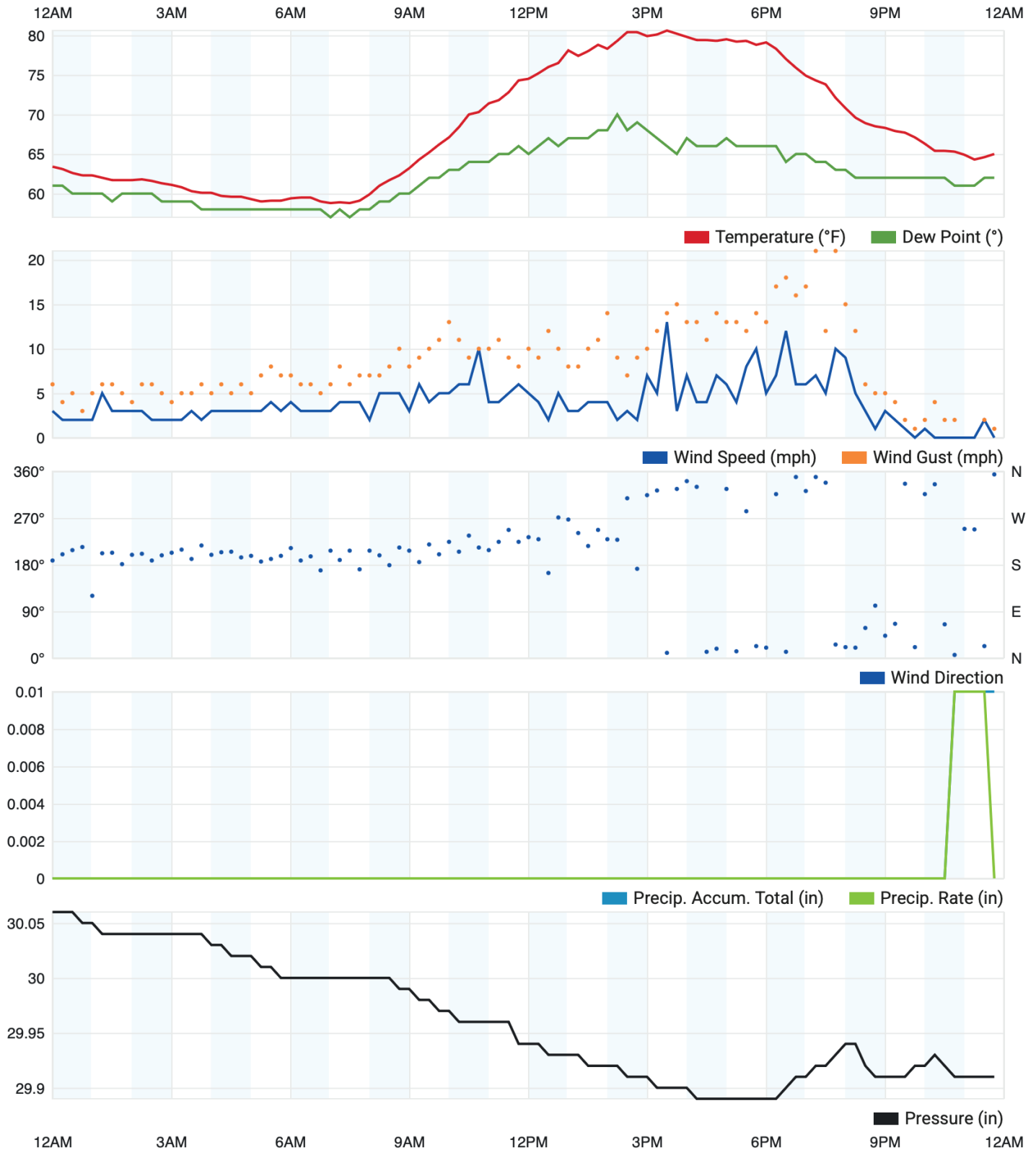
For more info: GDILIVE.COM

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 20 of 76

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

September 2, 2025



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 21 of 76

Today



High: 64 °F

Patchy Smoke

Tonight



Low: 40 °F

Partly Cloudy

Thursday



High: 71 °F

Mostly Sunny
then Slight
Chance
Showers and
Breezy

Thursday
Night



Low: 44 °F

Partly Cloudy
and Breezy
then Partly
Cloudy

Friday



High: 61 °F

Mostly Sunny



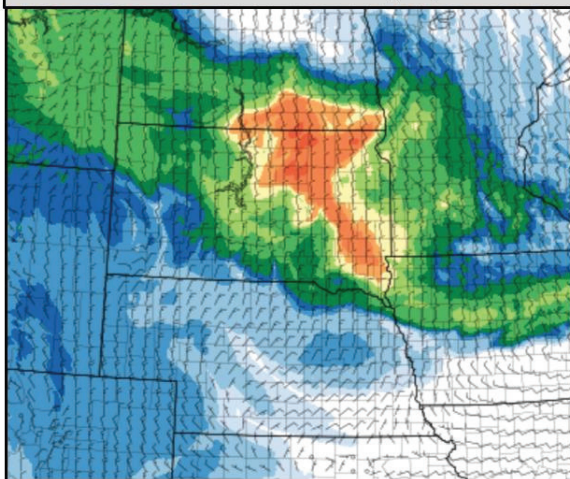
Near-Surface Smoke Today

September 3, 2025
3:25 AM

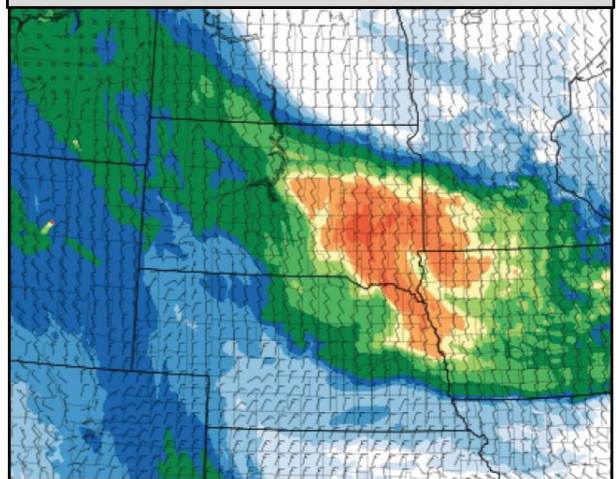
Near surface smoke will move into South Dakota this morning and continue through the evening.

- Canadian wildfire smoke will move over South Dakota today, and is expected to **reach the surface in unhealthy concentrations**.
- Highest concentrations are expected between **12 PM CDT and 6 PM CDT today**.
- Those sensitive to smoke and the general public may experience health impacts from the smoke.

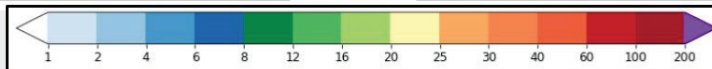
Near Surface Smoke 12PM Wednesday, September 3rd



Near Surface Smoke 6PM Wednesday, September 3rd



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Smoke from Canadian wildfires has begun to move in this morning, and is expected to increase in concentration this afternoon and evening. Smoke may cause health impacts, especially to those sensitive to smoke, and exposure should be minimized when possible. The highest concentrations are expected between 12 PM CDT and 6 PM CDT.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 22 of 76



Windy Thursday

September 3, 2025

4:04 AM

Strong northwesterly winds are expected Thursday, mainly west of the James River.

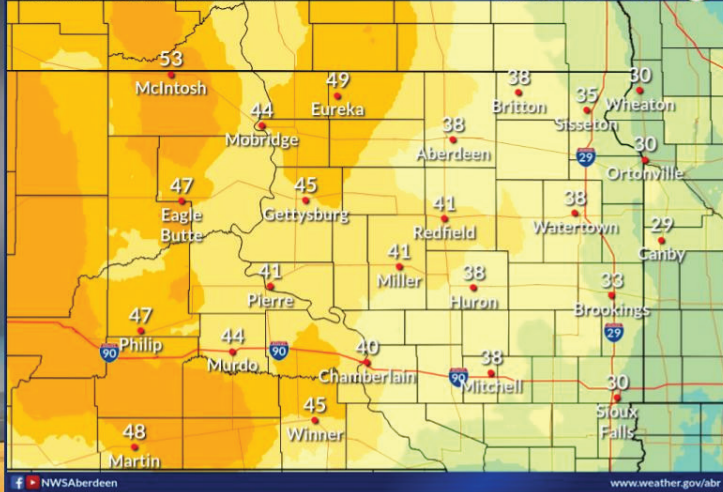
Max Wind Gust Thursday

Valid 12 AM CDT Thursday to 12 AM CDT Friday

Weather Forecast Office

Aberdeen, SD

Issued Sep 03, 2025 3:50 AM CDT



Maximum Wind Gust Forecast (mph)

9/4

Thu

	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm	11pm	Maximum
Aberdeen	20	22	23	25	29	33	36	37	36	38	37	33	30	28	38
Britton	21	23	24	25	28	31	33	35	35	38	38	35	31	28	38
Chamberlain	18	21	23	25	30	36	39	40	40	39	37	35	31	29	40
Clark	20	22	25	28	30	32	35	36	36	40	40	37	33	31	40
Eagle Butte	26	31	37	41	45	47	47	46	43	43	40	37	33	31	47
Eureka	26	30	35	38	43	47	49	48	46	46	44	40	37	33	49
Gettysburg	24	28	30	33	38	43	45	44	41	43	41	37	33	31	45
McIntosh	32	38	44	48	52	53	53	52	48	48	46	41	37	33	53
Milbank	14	16	17	20	21	23	24	26	28	31	32	31	29	28	32
Miller	22	24	26	29	32	37	39	40	39	41	40	37	32	30	41
Mobridge	26	30	33	37	40	43	44	44	43	44	43	38	35	32	44
Murdo	22	25	30	33	38	41	44	44	41	40	38	35	31	29	44
Pierre	18	22	26	30	35	39	41	41	39	39	37	35	31	29	41
Redfield	20	22	25	28	32	36	39	40	39	41	40	36	31	29	41
Sisseton	17	18	20	21	23	25	28	30	31	35	35	32	29	26	35
Watertown	18	21	23	24	26	29	31	32	33	37	37	36	32	30	37
Webster	21	23	25	26	29	31	33	35	35	38	38	37	33	31	38
Wheaton	13	15	16	18	20	22	23	24	26	30	30	29	26	25	30

Maximum Wind Gust Forecast (mph)



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Strong northwesterly winds will impact the forecast area on Thursday, with some places seeing up to 50 mile per hour gusts or better. Wind will be strongest west of the James River Valley, and the strongest gusts are expected to be in the late afternoon to early evening.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 23 of 76

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 81 °F at 2:51 PM

Low Temp: 59 °F at 6:57 AM

Wind: 22 mph at 7:07 PM

Precip: : 0.01

Today's Info

Record High: 102 in 1897

Record Low: 31 in 1974

Average High: 79

Average Low: 52

Average Precip in Sept.: 0.21

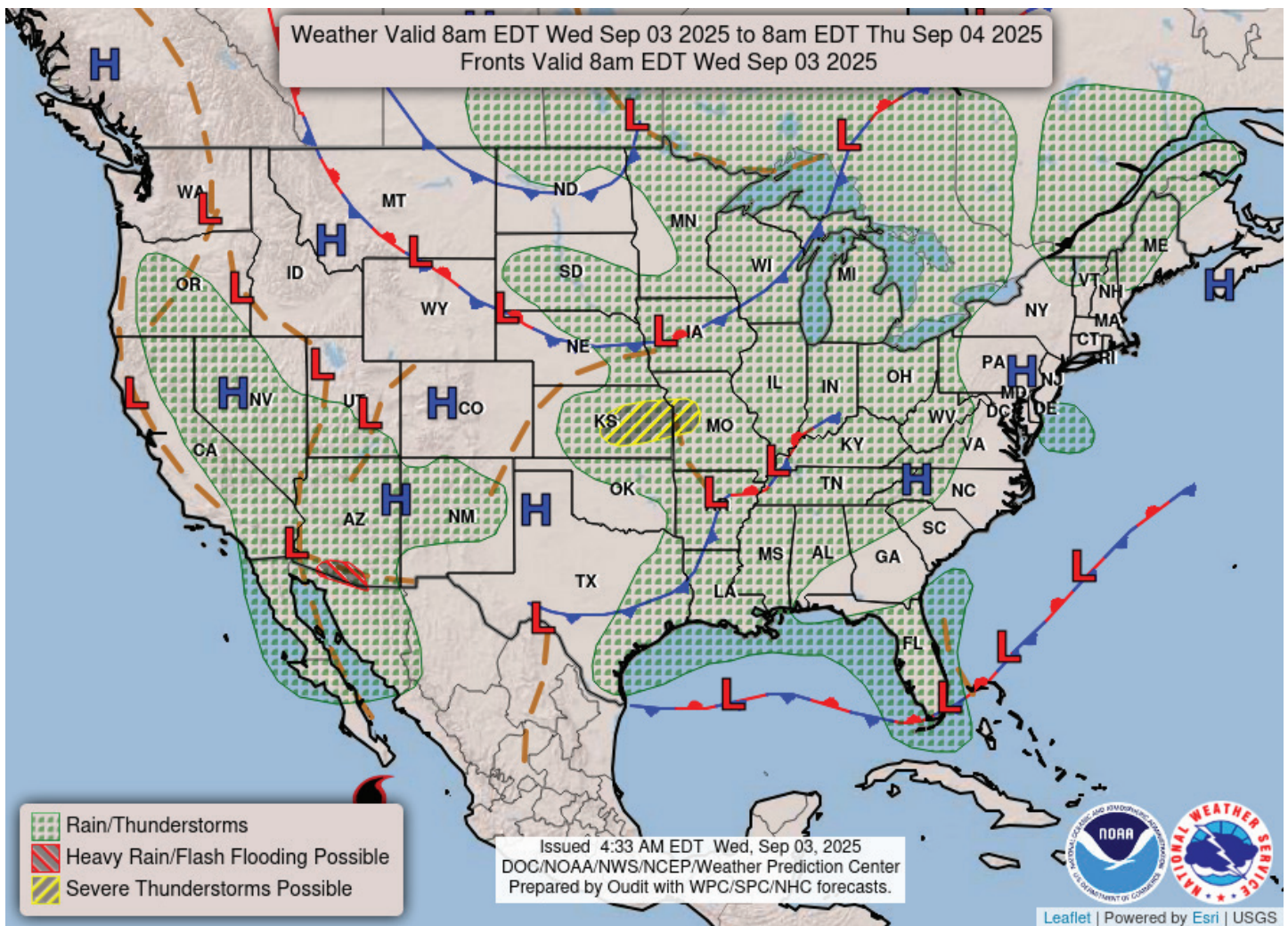
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.01

Average Precip to date: 16.55

Precip Year to Date: 20.31

Sunset Tonight: 8:06 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:55 am



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 24 of 76

Today in Weather History

September 3, 1974: An early freeze occurred across Minnesota and Wisconsin as temperatures fell into the upper 20s to the lower 30s. The cold was the earliest freeze on record in some parts of the state ending the growing season. The most significant damage was to the soybean and corn crop. Damage estimates were more than \$100 million.

September 3, 1999: Training thunderstorms resulted in extensive flash flooding in a 30 to 40-mile wide band from Fort Pierre in southeast Stanley County to Hecla in northeast Brown County. Rainfall amounts in this corridor ranged from 3 to 7 inches. As a result, the communities of Blunt in Hughes County and Onida in Sully County were severely flooded. Most of the homes and businesses were inundated throughout Blunt and Onida causing severe damage. Only a few houses in these communities were spared from receiving water in their basements. Most homes also experienced sewer backup. The sewer systems in both Onida and Blunt were flooded and shut down. Many people had to go to temporary shelters as a result of the flooding. Aberdeen and Fort Pierre had a lot of street flooding resulting in road closures and detours. Also, several basements in Aberdeen and Fort Pierre had the sewer backup. The torrential rains flooded many township and county roads along with several state and U.S. highways. Sections of Highways 14, 20, 83, and 1806 along with many other roads in central and northeast South Dakota had to be closed due to the flooding. Many of the township and county roads had massive amounts of gravel washed away. Some bridges received minor damage with some culverts also lost. A few pets and livestock were also lost as a result of the flooding. Many acres of crops were flooded throughout the area. Some rainfall amounts included 3 inches at Fort Pierre, 4 inches at Hecla and in the Aberdeen Area, 5 inches at the Sand Lake Wildlife Refuge and Blunt, 6 inches at Seneca, 7 inches 10 miles southeast of Gettysburg and at Onida.

1821 - A hurricane made landfall at Long Island, near Kennedy Airport, then moved through western Connecticut. The hurricane produced a record tide at New York City. (David Ludlum)

1834: A strong hurricane made landfall near Georgetown, South Carolina.

On this date in 1834, a strong hurricane made landfall near Georgetown, SC. Maybe a major hurricane, but I never found enough good proof. pic.twitter.com/hjBGYtffY

— Cary Mock (@cary_mock) September 3, 2017

1930: A Category 4 hurricane devastates the Dominican Republic on this day. This storm killed more than 8,000 individuals, which is it the fifth deadliest Atlantic hurricane on record.

1953 - The temperature at Erie PA reached 99 degrees, and Stroudsburg PA established a state record for September with a reading of 106 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1961 - Denver, CO, received 4.2 inches of snow, their earliest snow of record. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1970 - During the early evening hours, in the midst of a severe hailstorm at Coffeyville KS, a stone 17.5 inches in circumference and nearly two pounds in weight was recovered. It was the largest measured hailstone in U.S. weather records. Average stone size from the storm was five inches in diameter, with another stone reportedly eight inches in diameter. (David Ludlum)

1979: Hurricane David made landfall in south Florida as a Category 2 storm. It caused 15 deaths in the US. Hurricane David was a Category 5 over the Dominican Republic where over 2,000 people died.

1987 - Temperatures dipped into the 40s and 50s for morning lows across much of the eastern half of the country, with eleven cities reporting record lows for the date. Pellston MI tied Gunnison CO for honors as the cold spot in the nation with a low of 30 degrees. Smoke from forest fires darkened skies in southern Oregon and northern California. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Sixteen cities in the northwestern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 89 degrees at Stampede Pass WA and 116 degrees at Redding CA established records for the month of September. Readings of 98 degrees at Spokane WA and 100 degrees at Yakima WA equalled records for September. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather from Minnesota to Nebraska during the day and evening. Evening thunderstorms in Nebraska produced wind gusts to 100 mph at Valentine and Gretna, and produced baseball size hail at Lewellen. Thunderstorms in Arizona produced 2.20 inches of rain in forty minutes at Green Valley, and wind gusts to 60 mph. Eight cities in Texas and Florida reported record high temperatures for the date, including Victoria TX and San Antonio TX, each with a reading of 102 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 25 of 76



TRY IT - IT MAY SURPRISE YOU

An atheist confronted a young believer in a park and began to ridicule him for his faith in God. He dared the Christian to refute any of his arguments that he believed disproved the God of believers.

Quietly, another Christian, who had been watching the exchange between the atheist and the Christian, stepped forward and stood next to the young believer.

He did not say a word as he took an orange from his pocket and started to peel it. "What are you doing, fool? If you have something to say, then say it. Otherwise let 'the believer' defend his faith."

After he finished peeling the orange, he asked the atheist, "Tell me, is this orange sweet or sour?" Angrily the skeptic shouted and waved his fist and said, "How should I know. I haven't tried it."

"Then," said the Christian, "you would be wise to stop criticizing the Word of God until you've tried it."

Major General Lew Wallace is the author of Ben Hur, the most influential Christian novel of the nineteenth century. At one time in his life, he was considered to be an atheist. However, in answer to that statement, he wrote: "As a result of my own personal research and many years of study, I became convinced that Jesus Christ was not only the Savior of the world, but that He was my Savior, too, and being thus convinced, I wrote Ben Hur."

"Whosoever is wise, let him heed these things and consider the great love of the Lord," wrote the Psalmist.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for Your Word that no one can destroy or diminish. Our history shows Your faithfulness and love.

Scripture For Today: Whosoever is wise, let him heed these things and consider the great love of the Lord. Psalm 107:43

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

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 26 of 76

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Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 27 of 76



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.02.25

7 17 35 40 64 23

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$336,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 16 Hrs 49
Mins 11 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.01.25

4 10 11 23 32 3

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,550,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 4 Mins 11
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.02.25

4 5 24 29 40 11

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 19 Mins 11
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.30.25

1 6 15 25 26

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$20,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 19 Mins 11
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.01.25

1 15 26 48 67 19

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 48 Mins 10
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.01.25

8 23 25 40 53 5

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$1,300,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 48 Mins 10
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 28 of 76

Upcoming Groton Events

08/09/2025 Groton Legion 30th Anniversary Celebration
08/07/2025 Groton Firemen Summer Splash in the GHS Parking Lot 7:30-8:30pm
08/11/2025 Vitalant Blood Drive at the Community Center 3:30-6pm
08/23/2025 Glacial Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
09/05/2025 Homecoming Parade 1pm
09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
09/06-07/25 Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport
09/07/2025 Couples Sunflower Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10am
09/07/2025 9th Annual Doggie Day at the Swimming Pool 3-5pm
10/10/2025 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am
10/11/2025 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
10/31/2025 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
11/15/2025 Legion Post #39 Turkey Party 6:30pm
11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving 11:30am-1:30pm Community Center (Thanksgiving)
11/30/2025 Snow Queen Contest, 4 p.m.
12/06/2025 Olive Grove Holiday Party and Silent Live Auction Fundraiser

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 29 of 76

News from the Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Aberdeen Christian def. Waverly-South Shore, 25-10, 25-13, 25-8
Aberdeen Roncalli def. Miller, 22-25, 25-20, 18-25, 25-19, 16-14
Baltic def. Beresford, 25-21, 25-13, 25-18
Bon Homme def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-14, 25-12, 25-7
Brandon Valley def. Sioux Falls O'Gorman, 16-25, 25-12, 25-15, 25-20
Bridgewater-Emery def. Howard, 25-11, 25-13, 25-16
Britton-Hecla def. Tri-State, N.D., 25-15, 25-8, 25-9
Burke def. Winner, 21-25, 25-17, 25-19, 25-20
Centerville def. Flandreau Indian, 25-3, 25-17, 25-16
Chester def. McCook Central-Montrose, 25-12, 25-15, 25-14
Colman-Egan def. Arlington, 21-25, 25-22, 25-22, 25-17
Crow Creek Tribal School def. Colome, 26-24, 25-19, 25-9
Custer def. Douglas, 25-16, 25-14, 26-24
Dakota Valley def. Tri-Valley
DeSmet def. Wolsey-Wessington, 25-23, 20-25, 25-17, 25-12
Dell Rapids St Mary's def. Oldham-Ramona-Rutland, 25-21, 25-10, 25-12
Dell Rapids def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 25-13, 25-10, 25-15
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Castlewood, 26-24, 25-21, 25-19
Estelline-Hendricks def. Sisseton, 25-7, 25-7, 25-19
Ethan def. Kimball-White Lake, 25-22, 25-22, 20-25, 25-9
Faith def. Bison, 25-22, 25-11, 25-21
Freeman def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-11, 20-25, 25-14, 25-20
Gayville-Volin High School def. Canistota, 25-17, 25-17, 25-11
Groton def. Ipswich, 25-15, 25-16, 26-24
Hamlin def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-22, 25-16, 25-15
Hankinson, N.D. def. Tiospa Zina, 25-13, 25-11, 25-18
Harding County def. New England, N.D., 22-25, 25-18, 25-16, 23-25, 15-13
Harrisburg def. Yankton, 25-11, 25-8, 25-8
Herreid-Selby def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-22, 25-18, 25-16
Hill City def. Spearfish, 25-18, 25-23, 25-14
Hills-Beaver Creek, Minn. def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-14, 25-5, 14-25, 25-12
Hitchcock-Tulare def. Redfield, 25-21, 26-24, 21-25, 30-28
James Valley Christian School def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-13, 25-14, 25-17
Jones County def. Wall, 25-23, 25-23, 25-22
Langford def. Leola-Frederick High School, 25-27, 25-17, 16-25, 25-11, 15-12
Lemmon High School def. Hettinger-Scranton, N.D., 25-16, 25-23, 25-18
Lyman def. White River, 22-25, 25-16, 17-25, 25-22, 15-12
Madison def. Canton, 20-25, 25-15, 26-24, 25-16
Marshall, Minn. def. Watertown, 25-20, 25-12, 25-11
McLaughlin def. Dupree
Milbank def. Deuel, 25-20, 25-22, 25-17
North Central def. South Border, N.D., 25-23, 25-23, 25-20
Parkston def. Avon, 22-25, 25-17, 25-22, 23-25, 17-15
Rapid City Christian def. Mahpiya Luta Red Cloud, 25-8, 25-7, 25-19
Rapid City Stevens def. Rapid City Central, 25-20, 25-14, 25-13

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 30 of 76

Sanborn Central-Woonsocket def. Hanson, 25-23, 17-25, 25-19, 26-28, 15-9
Sioux Falls Christian def. Sioux Falls Lutheran, 25-6, 25-12, 25-13
Sioux Falls Jefferson def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 25-27, 25-20, 25-12, 26-24
Sioux Falls Washington def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 21-25, 21-25, 25-13, 25-18
Sioux Valley def. Parker/Marion, 25-20, 25-15, 25-19
St Thomas More def. Sturgis Brown High School, 25-19, 25-20, 25-23
Timber Lake def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 27-25, 22-25, 17-25, 25-17, 15-13
Tripp-Delmont-Armour def. Menno, 25-20, 25-12, 25-16
Vermillion def. Lennox, 25-20, 25-15, 25-14
Wagner def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-17, 25-12, 25-13
Warner def. Webster, 25-14, 25-18, 25-19
Waubay/Summit def. Wilmot, 25-23, 25-20, 25-21
Wessington Springs def. Iroquois-Lake Preston, 20-25, 25-13, 25-21, 25-20
West Central def. Tea, 25-21, 25-14, 25-17

____Some high school volleyball scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

Russia launches over 500 drones and missiles at Ukraine as Zelenskyy seeks more support

By ILLIA NOVIKOV Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia fired more than 500 drones and two dozen missiles at Ukraine overnight, authorities said Wednesday, as Ukraine's president and European leaders persevered with talks aimed at strengthening Ukrainian defenses and adding momentum to so far unsuccessful U.S.-led peace efforts.

The main Russian nighttime targets were civilian infrastructure, especially energy facilities, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, as another winter approaches three years after Russia's all-out invasion of its neighbor. The attacks targeted mainly western and central Ukraine and injured at least five people, the Ukrainian air force said.

Russian aerial assaults that hit civilian areas and the Russian army's drive to crush Ukrainian defenses along the 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line have not abated in recent months, despite U.S. President Donald Trump's attempts to stop the fighting.

While Zelenskyy has accepted Trump's proposals for a ceasefire and face-to-face peace talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Kremlin has raised objections.

Amid recent diplomatic maneuvering, Putin was in China meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, as well as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Those countries are supporting Russia's war effort, Washington says. Pyongyang has sent troops and ammunition to Russia. China and India have bought Russian oil, indirectly helping Russia's war economy.

Zelenskyy described the overnight strikes as "demonstrative."

"Putin is demonstrating his impunity," Zelenskyy said on Telegram, urging tougher sanctions on Russia. "Only due to the lack of sufficient pressure, primarily on the war economy, does Russia continue this aggression."

In his daily video address on Tuesday evening, Zelenskyy said the number of Russian drone attacks is growing, including in broad daylight, and reported "another buildup of Russian forces in some sectors of the front."

Zelenskyy arrived in Denmark on Tuesday for talks with Northern European and Baltic countries about new military aid and further diplomatic support for Ukraine.

British Defense Secretary John Healey, meanwhile, arrived in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv for meetings on how to strengthen Ukraine's military.

Zelenskyy was due later Wednesday in Paris for talks with French President Emmanuel Macron, ahead of a Thursday meeting there of European countries assessing what kind of postwar security guarantees they might be able to provide with the United States.

Lorena becomes a hurricane off the western coast of Mexico, U.S. forecaster says

MIAMI (AP) — Hurricane Lorena formed off the coast of Mexico's Baja California peninsula and a tropical storm warning has been issued for parts of the area, forecasters said.

The storm is expected to strengthen in the next 24 hours and heavy rain up to 15 inches (38 centimeters) was forecast for portions of the peninsula, the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

The weather agency warned of the risk of life-threatening flash floods and mudslides for the area, especially in higher terrain.

Lorena was centered Wednesday about 120 miles (195 kilometers) south-southwest of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. The tropical storm had maximum sustained winds of 75 mph (120 kph) and was moving northwest at 14 mph (22 kph).

Those living in southwestern Mexico and the Baja California peninsula were urged to monitor the progress of the storm.

With Israel's offensive drawing close, Palestinians in Gaza City fear permanent displacement

By WAFAA SHURAF, JULIA FRANKEL and SALLY ABOU ALJOUD Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — As artillery and bombs pound around Gaza's largest city and Israel promises a punishing new offensive, Palestinians in the city are paralyzed with fear — unsure where to go, when to leave and if they will ever return.

Israel has declared Gaza City, in the north of the territory, to be a combat zone while the military moves forward with plans to overtake it in a campaign to push Hamas into submission. Parts of the city are already considered "red zones," where Palestinians have been ordered to evacuate ahead of expected heavy fighting.

That has left residents on edge, including many who returned after fleeing the city in the initial stages of the Israel-Hamas war. With Israeli bulldozers razing the ground in occupied neighborhoods and Israeli leaders supporting the mass relocation of Palestinians from Gaza, departing the city now could mean leaving for good. Moving costs thousands of dollars and finding space in the overcrowded south to pitch a tent feels impossible. But staying behind, they say, could be deadly.

"The Israeli forces, when they mark any area by red color and they request the people to leave, they really will destroy it," said Mohammed Alkurdi, who is sheltering in Gaza City along with hundreds of thousands of other Palestinians.

"So it's like you decide whether to live or die. It's very simple like that."

An impossible choice between staying and fleeing

Since Israel declared the area a combat zone on Friday, a small fraction — some 14,840 Palestinians of the nearly 1 million the U.N. estimates are in Gaza City — have left their homes in the city as of Monday, most to flee south, according to the Site Management Cluster, a joint humanitarian body that coordinates assistance for people in displacement sites.

A fraction of them, about 2,200, have moved to new places within Gaza City after being displaced by Israeli attacks.

Alkurdi, a project manager and consultant, said he can hear Israeli forces from the apartment where he's sheltering as they "erase the area completely."

Zeitoun was once Gaza City's largest neighborhood, filled with markets, schools and clinics. Over the last month, large swaths of it and the neighboring area of Sabra have been flattened, according to satellite photos reviewed by The Associated Press from early August and early September. The photos show that entire blocks that have been pummeled or bulldozed into empty, sandy lots.

"It's not something partial like before. It's 100%," he said. "The house, I'm telling my friends, it keeps dancing all the day. It keeps dancing, going right and left like an earthquake."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 32 of 76

Many of the people in the city moved back to the north during a ceasefire in January, hoping to find their homes intact. Alkurdi's home was completely destroyed, so he's now living alone in a western area of the city. His children and wife were able to leave Gaza last year. He said he would flee south if his home fell under an evacuation order.

Amjad Shawa, the director of the Palestinian NGO network, left his home in the upscale Rimal neighborhood in the early days of the war and also returned there with his family in January. He, like Al Kurdi, said his family would likely leave Gaza City if their area receives an evacuation order.

But leaving this time would be different, he said. "Gaza will be leveled and destroyed. Last time, I had my car. There was fuel. Everyone had his income, his money."

Back then, the cities of Rafah and Khan Younis still stood in southern Gaza.

Now, after months of bombardment, "there is no Rafah. Almost no Khan Younis," Shawa said.

Leaving is nearly impossible for some

For others — medical workers, older and sick people — leaving Gaza City is nearly impossible.

"The elders, they're saying we will die here," Shawa said. "This has pushed the other members of the family to stay, not to leave."

"My aunt is elderly and can't walk, and my mother also struggles with mobility. We have so many belongings and no way to manage them. It feels unthinkable," said Norhan Almuzaini, medical program officer in northern Gaza for the group Medical Aid for Palestinians.

Amal Seyam is the general director of the Women's Affairs Center in Gaza. Originally from the Tuffah neighborhood in eastern Gaza City, her home was destroyed by bombardment. For nearly four months, she has been sheltering in the Nasr neighborhood in the city's west, where she stays alongside her colleagues inside the women's center.

Seyam has been displaced five times since the war began — three times within the city and twice to the south, in Rafah and Khan Younis. Each time, she fled with nothing.

When asked if she would consider leaving Gaza City, she said: "I will only leave when everyone who needs me here leaves. As long as there's a woman who needs me, I am staying. All of Gaza feels like it's in the red zone now anyway. The bombing is happening meters from us, not kilometers."

She paused, her voice breaking into tears.

"Many people have started packing. Many have already left. Do you know what displacement means? It means moving once again, building your life once again, buying new things, blankets, tents, all over again."

Dire conditions persist throughout Gaza

Those who have left Gaza City over the past few months have found dire conditions elsewhere in Gaza. Their arrival has crowded already overflowing tent camps and sent prices of basic goods up.

Iman El-Naya, from Khan Younis, fled Gaza City three months ago. "The beach is crowded. Everywhere is crowded. There's no hygiene. It's a struggle to get water and food."

"I go and stand in line for water. Getting bread is a struggle. Everything is even more expensive after the people from the north came here."

Shorouk Abu Eid, a pregnant woman from Gaza City, was displaced to Khan Younis four months ago. She said the arrival of more people from the north is creating an even more tragic situation.

"There is no privacy, no peace of mind. Places I used to walk to in five or 10 minutes are taking me around an hour now because of the congestion. There's barely 10 centimeters between tents."

Jamal Abu Reily lamented that the bathrooms are overflowing and that there's so little room for new arrivals.

"How are we going to all fit here? he asked. "Where are they going to stay? In the sea?"

China displays its military strength in a parade on the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII

By KEN MORITSUGU and HUIZHONG WU Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China showcased its military might in a parade Wednesday marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, a show of strength as it seeks to wield greater influence on the global stage.

Leader Xi Jinping, speaking before the parade, paid tribute to Chinese veterans of the war. Since coming to power in 2012, he has sought to build China into a country that cannot be bullied and is strong enough to stand up to foreign powers.

"The Chinese people are a people that are not afraid of violence and are self-reliant and strong," he said.

The Chinese military showed off aerial and underwater drones, hypersonic missiles and fighter jets and bombers in a 90-minute event attended by the leaders of about two dozen countries, including Russia's Vladimir Putin and North Korea's Kim Jong Un.

China's Communist Party hails progress since World War II

The splashy commemoration of the anniversary is a way to boost support for Communist Party rule by showing the progress made by China. The country was a major front in the war where millions died during Japan's invasion.

Xi, who has been positioning China as a stabilizing force in an unstable world, said humanity must choose between peace and war and dialogue and confrontation.

"The Chinese people's rejuvenation cannot be blocked, and the noble goal of the peaceful development of human civilization must triumph," Xi said at the end of his speech.

An analyst at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore said the turbulence in U.S. policy is an opportunity for China.

"This is the right time for China to announce its arrival on the stage, to be a security guarantor, to fill the political, economic, military, diplomatic vacuums," said James Char, an assistant professor in the China Program.

Parade showed off drone submarines and hypersonic missiles

Highlights of the weaponry in the parade included the AJX002 underwater drone, a long, black, tube-shaped craft that looks like a narrow submarine with a rear propeller.

Other weapons that got attention were hypersonic missiles designed to take out ships at sea and a new intercontinental ballistic missile, the DF-61, which could carry nuclear warheads to distant targets.

The hypersonic weapons are of particular concern to the U.S. Navy, which patrols the western Pacific from its 7th Fleet headquarters in Japan.

Fighter jets and bombers flew across the sky, some painting rows of colored exhaust in unison. Helicopters flew in formation, one group of 26 spelling out the number "80" for the war's anniversary year.

Before Xi spoke, the ceremony began with an 80-gun artillery salute, followed by the national anthem, the "March of the Volunteers," a song composed in 1935 during the early years of resistance against invading Japanese forces.

Trump sends a message

As the parade got underway, U.S. President Donald Trump said on social media that the big question is whether Xi will recognize the contributions of Americans who fought in the war.

"Please give my warmest regards to Vladimir Putin, and Kim Jong Un, as you conspire against The United States of America," he added.

The U.S. eyed the gathering of the three leaders warily, as well as a 10-nation summit meeting in China on Monday that brought together Xi, Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Xi's remarks did not mention the U.S. by name but expressed his gratitude to foreign countries that helped China resist the Japanese invasion.

Putin and Kim, who later held talks in Beijing, flanked Xi as they made their way to the platform overlooking Tiananmen Square. They paused to shake hands with five WWII veterans, some older than 100.

Xi reviews troops and reminds them to defend China's claim to Taiwan

The event began with troops marching in rhythmic lockstep, their boots echoing off the pavement, to be reviewed by Xi, who heads China's military as chairman of the Central Military Commission.

Xi rode the entire length of their formations along Beijing's central Chang'an Avenue in a classic black limousine. He stood up through the vehicle's sunroof with four microphones lined in front of him and greeted flanks of personnel as he passed them and rows of armaments and military vehicles.

They shouted back mottos in unison such as "We serve the people."

The PLA was a heroic military "the people and the Party can trust and rely on completely," Xi said, adding that the army's task was to safeguard the country's sovereignty and unification, a reference to China's claim over the self-ruled island of Taiwan.

Across the Taiwan Strait, President William Lai said military might should not be used for aggression or territorial expansion.

"Taiwan does not use the barrel of a gun to commemorate peace," he said in a Facebook post. "Instead, it recalls the martyrs, remembers the lessons of history, and upholds the belief in freedom and democracy."

Construction intensifies at site linked to Israel's suspected nuclear program, satellite photos show

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Construction work has intensified on a major new structure at a facility key to Israel's long-suspected atomic weapons program, according to satellite images analyzed by experts. They say it could be a new reactor or a facility to assemble nuclear arms — but secrecy shrouding the program makes it difficult to know for sure.

The work at the Shimon Peres Negev Nuclear Research Center near the city of Dimona will renew questions about Israel's widely believed status as the Mideast's only nuclear-armed state.

It could also draw international criticism, especially since it comes after Israel and the United States bombed nuclear sites across Iran in June over their fears that the Islamic Republic could use its enrichment facilities to pursue an atomic weapon. Among the sites attacked was Iran's heavy water reactor at Arak.

Seven experts who examined the images all said they believed the construction was related to Israel's long-suspected nuclear weapons program, given its proximity to the reactor at Dimona, where no civilian power plant exists. However, they split on what the new construction could be.

Three said the location and size of the area under construction and the fact that it appeared to have multiple floors meant the most likely explanation for the work was the construction of a new heavy water reactor. Such reactors can produce plutonium and another material key to nuclear weapons.

The other four acknowledged it could be a heavy water reactor but also suggested the work could be related to a new facility for assembling nuclear weapons. They declined to be definitive given the construction was still in an early stage.

"It's probably a reactor — that judgement is circumstantial but that's the nature of these things," said Jeffrey Lewis, an expert at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, who based his assessment on the images and Dimona's history. "It's very hard to imagine it is anything else."

Israel does not confirm or deny having atomic weapons, and its government did not respond to requests for comment. The White House, which is Israel's staunchest ally, also did not respond to requests for comment.

Construction underway for years

The Associated Press first reported on excavations at the facility, some 90 kilometers (55 miles) south of Jerusalem, in 2021. Then, satellite images only showed workers digging a hole some 150 meters (165 yards) long and 60 meters (65 yards) wide near the site's original heavy water reactor.

Images taken July 5 by Planet Labs PBC show intensified construction at the site of the dig. Thick concrete retaining walls seem to be laid at the site, which appears to have multiple floors underground. Cranes loom overhead.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 35 of 76

There's no containment dome or other features typically associated with a heavy water reactor now visible at the site. However, one could be added later or a reactor could be designed without one.

Dimona's current heavy water reactor, which came online in the 1960s, has been operating far longer than most reactors of the same era. That suggests it will need to be replaced or retrofitted soon.

"It's tall, which you would expect, because the reactor core is going to be pretty tall," Lewis said. "Based on the location, size and general lack of construction there, it's more likely a reactor than anything."

Edwin Lyman, a nuclear expert at the Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Union of Concerned Scientists, also said the new construction could be a box-shaped reactor that doesn't have a visible containment dome, though he acknowledged the lack of transparency made it difficult to be certain.

Israel "doesn't allow any international inspections or verification of what it's doing, which forces the public to speculate," said Lyman.

While details about Dimona remain closely held secrets in Israel, a whistleblower in the 1980s released details and photos of the facility that led experts to conclude that Israel had produced dozens of nuclear warheads.

"If it's a heavy water reactor, they're seeking to maintain the capability to produce spent fuel that they then can process to separate plutonium for more nuclear weapons," said Daryl G. Kimball, the executive director of the Washington-based Arms Control Association. "Or they are building a facility to maintain their arsenal or build additional warheads."

Israel's program is thought to rely on byproducts of a heavy water reactor

Israel, like India and Pakistan, is believed to rely on a heavy water reactor to make its nuclear weapons. The reactors can be used for scientific purposes, but plutonium — which causes the nuclear chain reaction needed in an atomic bomb — is a byproduct of the process. Tritium is another byproduct and can be used to boost the explosive yield of warheads.

Given the secrecy of Israel's program, it remains difficult to estimate just how many nuclear weapons it possesses. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists in 2022 put the number at around 90 warheads.

Obtaining more tritium to replace decaying material may be the reason for the construction at Dimona, as Lyman noted it decays 5% each year.

"If they're building a new production reactor," he said, "it doesn't necessarily mean they're looking to expand the plutonium they have, but to manufacture tritium."

Israel has a policy of nuclear ambiguity

Israel is believed to have begun building the nuclear site in the desert in the late 1950s after facing several wars with its Arab neighbors surrounding its founding in 1948 in the wake of the Holocaust.

Its policy of nuclear ambiguity is thought to have helped deter its enemies.

It is among nine countries confirmed or believed to have atomic weapons and among just four that have never joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, a landmark international accord meant to stop the spread of nuclear arms. That means the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, has no right to conduct inspections of Dimona.

Asked about the construction, the Vienna-based IAEA reiterated that Israel "is not obligated to provide information about other nuclear facilities in the country" outside of its Soreq research reactor.

Sudan appeals for aid after landslide kills more than 1,000 people in single village in Darfur

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Sudan appealed for international aid on Tuesday after a landslide wiped out an entire village in western region of Darfur, killing an estimated 1,000 people in one of the deadliest natural disasters in the African country's recent history.

The village of Tarasin was "completely leveled to the ground," the Sudan Liberation Movement-Army said as it appealed to the U.N. and international aid groups for help to recover the bodies.

The tragedy happened Sunday in the village, located in Central Darfur's Marrah Mountains, after days

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 36 of 76

of heavy rainfall.

"Initial information indicates the death of all village residents, estimated to be more than 1,000 people," the rebel group said in a statement. "Only one person survived," it added.

Abdel-Wahid Nour, the group's leader, made an appeal on Tuesday for international help. "The scale and magnitude of the disaster are immense and defy description," he said.

The ruling Sovereign Council in Khartoum said it mourned "the death of hundreds of innocent residents" in the Marrah Mountains' landslide. In a statement, it said "all possible capabilities" have been mobilized to support the area.

Footage shared by the Marrah Mountains news outlet showed a flattened area between mountain ranges with a group of people searching the area.

Luca Renda, the U.N. humanitarian coordinator in Sudan, said he was "deeply saddened" by the reported landslide, adding that local sources indicated that "between 300 and 1,000 people may have lost their lives." He said the U.N. and its partners were mobilizing to support the impacted communities at the scene.

A local emergency network, which has been providing support to communities across Sudan during the war, said its teams recovered the bodies of at nine people on Tuesday. Search teams were facing challenges to reach the area because of bad weather and lack of resources, it added.

'Unprecedented tragedy'

Al-Amin Abdallah Abbas, a farmer from Ammo — a cluster of villages that includes Tarasin — said the area has seen weeks of heavy rainfall, with Tarasin among the worst hit. He said tribal and community leaders in nearby areas have mobilized efforts to recover and bury the victims.

"The village and its people disappeared," he said. "It's an unprecedented tragedy."

Mohamed Abdel-Rahman al-Nair, a spokesman for the Sudan Liberation Movement-Army, told The Associated Press that the village where the landslide took place is remote and accessible only by foot or donkeys.

Tarasin is located in the central Marrah Mountains, a volcanic area with a height of more than 3,000 meters (9,840 feet) at its summit. A world heritage site, the mountain chain is known for its lower temperature and higher rainfall than surrounding areas, according to UNICEF. It's located more than 900 kilometers (560 miles) west of the capital city, Khartoum.

Sunday's landslide was one of the deadliest natural disasters in Sudan's recent history. Hundreds of people die every year in seasonal rains that run from July to October. Last year's heavy rainfall caused the collapse of a dam in the eastern Red Sea Province, killing at least 30 people, according to the U.N.

The tragedy came as a devastating civil war has engulfed Sudan after tensions between the country's military and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, or RSF, exploded into open fighting in April 2023 in the capital, Khartoum, and elsewhere in the country.

'Deprived of adequate assistance'

Most of the conflict-stricken Darfur region has become mostly inaccessible for the U.N. and aid groups, given crippling restrictions and fighting between Sudan's military and the RSF.

Aid group Doctors Without Borders has warned that multiple communities in Darfur, including the Marrah Mountains, have been cut off after more than two years of war and isolation, describing these areas as "a black hole" in Sudan's humanitarian response.

It said in a July report that people in these communities have been "deprived of adequate assistance and neglected by aid actors for over two years."

The International Organization for Migration on Tuesday called for safe access and scaling-up support to the area, saying in a statement: "The people of Sudan cannot bear this never-ending suffering alone."

The Sudan Liberation Movement-Army, centered in the Marrah Mountains area, is one of multiple rebel groups active in the Darfur and Kordofan regions. It hasn't taken sides in the war.

The Marrah Mountains are a rugged volcanic chain extending for 160 kilometers (100 miles) southwest of el-Fasher, an epicenter of fighting between the military and the RSF. The area has turned into a hub for displaced families fleeing fighting in and around the besieged city.

On Monday, the RSF shelled el-Fasher, the military's last stronghold in Darfur, killing at least 18 people and injuring over 100 others, according to the Sudan Doctors Network, a group of professionals tracking

the war.

The RSF didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Alleged war crimes

The conflict in Sudan has killed more than 40,000 people, forced more than 14 million to flee their homes and left some families eating grass in a desperate attempt to survive as famine swept parts of the country.

It has been marked by gross atrocities including ethnically motivated killing and rape, according to the United Nations and rights groups. The International Criminal Court said it was investigating alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The conflict created the world's largest humanitarian crisis, with more than 30 million of the country's 50 million population needing assistance. Of those, over 630,000 live in famine-stricken areas in Darfur and Kordofan regions, according to the international hunger experts.

Carlos Alcaraz to face Novak Djokovic in the US Open semifinals. Jessica Pegula meets Sabalenka

By STEPHEN WHYNO AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Carlos Alcaraz finger-wagged the crowd, beat Jiri Lehecka to the net and cruised into the semifinals at the U.S. Open.

The second-seeded Spaniard beat Lehecka 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 in the quarterfinals on Tuesday, making some highlight-reel shots and putting his hand to his ear afterward to encourage more cheers from fans at Arthur Ashe Stadium. It's his first hard-court semifinal appearance at a major since winning his first Grand Slam title at the U.S. Open in 2023.

"I kind of met the Grand Slam version of Carlos," Lehecka said. "He just showed that he is one of the contenders, for sure. Everyone knew that, and he proved that."

Alcaraz is just 22 years old and is in the semifinals at a major for the ninth time. Only Rafael Nadal with 10 has more before turning 23.

Next up for Alcaraz is Novak Djokovic, the 24-time Grand Slam champion who knocked him out of the Australian Open quarterfinals in January and beat him for the gold medal at the Paris Olympics last year. Djokovic got past Taylor Fritz 6-3, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 at night.

Alcaraz would supplant Jannik Sinner — whom he lost to in the Wimbledon final and beat in the French Open final — atop the rankings if he wins the U.S. Open for a second time.

"It's really difficult not to think about it," Alcaraz said. "Every time that I step on the court, I am trying not to think about it. If I think about the No. 1 spot too much, I think I'm going to put pressure on myself and I just don't want to do that. I just want to step on the court, try to do my things, try to follow my goals in the match and try to enjoy as much as I can. The No. 1 is there, but I'm trying not to think so much about it."

Before facing Fritz or Djokovic on Friday night, Alcaraz plans to play golf Wednesday with 2017 Masters champion Sergio Garcia. He thinks his countryman owes him more than a few strokes.

"He has to give me at least between 10 and 15 shots," Alcaraz said. "It's going to be great. I'm not that good, Sergio, come on."

Jessica Pegula makes the US Open semifinals again

On the women's side, Jessica Pegula broke through her quarterfinal wall again at the U.S. Open, defeating Barbora Krejčíková 6-3, 6-3 to get to the semifinals at a Grand Slam tournament for just the second time in her career.

She failed to advance into the semis in her first 22 main draw appearances at a major before reaching the final at Flushing Meadows a year ago, when she lost to Aryna Sabalenka. They'll meet again in the semifinals on Thursday after Sabalenka advanced in a walkover when Marketa Vondroušová withdrew because of injury.

"My biggest accomplishment last year was just getting past the quarterfinals," Pegula said. "Now I can

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 38 of 76

say I've done it twice."

Pegula, who was eliminated in the fourth round at the Australian Open, the third round at the French Open and the first round at Wimbledon, is the first woman to make back-to-back U.S. Open semifinals without losing a set since Serena Williams from 2011-14.

"I've been able to kind of go into those matches and really take care of business," Pegula said. "I've played good players but (gotten) convincing wins over those players."

Pegula, 31, is seeded fourth at the U.S. Open and aiming for her first Grand Slam championship. She and No. 8 Amanda Anisimova are the only Americans left in the women's singles field.

Krejciikova knocked out one of them, Taylor Townsend, who failed to convert eight match points when they met in the quarterfinals on Sunday. Pegula was not perfect, but she played well enough to stay in control at all times and broke Krejciikova one final time to end the match in under 90 minutes — on her first match point attempt.

"She had a couple really good returns when I was serving at 4-1," Pegula said. "We all saw what she did against Taylor, so I was happy that we're done."

What else happened at the US Open on Tuesday?

Venus Williams and Leylah Fernandez lost to the top-seeded pair of Townsend and Katerina Siniakova 6-1, 6-2 in the women's doubles quarterfinals, ending the 45-year-old Williams' first Grand Slam tournament in two years.

Who is on Wednesday's schedule at the US Open?

Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada and Alex de Minaur of Australia kick things off on Ashe, followed by Anisimova against second-seeded Iga Swiatek. Naomi Osaka, fresh off beating Coco Gauff, faces Karolina Muchova to open the night session, followed by men's No. 1 seed Jannik Sinner against fellow Italian Lorenzo Musetti.

The weapons and military units on display in China's major parade

BEIJING (AP) — Some of the weapons and military units in China's major parade were being displayed for the first time.

The parade on a central Beijing avenue Wednesday marked the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. Troops marched by President Xi Jinping, who heads the military as the chairman of the Central Military Commission.

New units and equipment

Marching in the parade were traditional People's Liberation Army units from the navy and army, but also new ones like the cyberspace unit. The new unit is in charge of cybersecurity defense measures, according to the official Xinhua news agency, and also participated in live-fire drills.

Another debut was the information support force, created in 2024 to build network information systems to support military combat readiness.

Much of the weaponry and equipment in the parade was being shown to the public for the first time, according to Chinese military officials. This included hypersonic missiles designed to take out ships at sea. These weapons are of particular concern to the U.S. Navy, which patrols the western Pacific from its 7th Fleet headquarters in Japan.

Also shown were underwater drones including the AJX002, a long, black tube-shaped craft that looks like a narrow submarine with a rear propeller, and a new intercontinental ballistic missile, the DF-61, which could carry nuclear warheads to distant targets.

Others included land, sea and air-based strategic weapons, advanced precision warfare equipment and drones. Warplanes and helicopters flew in formation in the skies overhead.

It's the first major military parade in China since 2019 on the 70th anniversary of the founding of communist China.

The parade aimed to instill pride in China's populace and assure them that the country is strong enough to ward off any attack. But China's growing military strength also concerns its Asian neighbors and the

United States.

Russia and North Korea headline guest list

U.S. and Western European heads of state are staying away, as are the leaders of Japan, India and South Korea.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un made a rare foreign trip to attend. He was joined by Russian President Vladimir Putin and the president of Iran, among others.

In all, about two dozen foreign leaders attended, including several from Southeast Asia and a few from Africa and South Asia. Indonesia President Prabowo Subianto arrived early Wednesday after being delayed by protests in his country over lawmakers' perks.

Parade mainly for invited guests

The event was highly choreographed and tightly controlled. It wasn't the kind of parade where crowds line the streets to watch.

Barriers were set up to keep the public one block away and commercial buildings along the parade route were emptied and closed until the parade ended. The subway system running along Chang'an Avenue was shut Tuesday night into Wednesday morning.

For most people, the only way to watch was on television or a livestream.

Trump cannot use Alien Enemies Act to deport members of Venezuelan gang, appeals court rules

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal appeals court panel ruled Tuesday that President Donald Trump cannot use an 18th-century wartime law to speed the deportations of people his administration accuses of membership in a Venezuelan gang, blocking a signature administration push that is destined for a final showdown at the U.S. Supreme Court.

A three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, one of the most conservative federal appeals courts in the country, agreed with immigrant rights lawyers and lower court judges who argued the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 was not intended to be used against gangs like Tren de Aragua, the Venezuelan group Trump targeted in his March invocation.

Lee Gelernt, who argued the case for the ACLU, said Tuesday: "The Trump administration's use of a wartime statute during peacetime to regulate immigration was rightly shut down by the court. This is a critically important decision reining in the administration's view that it can simply declare an emergency without any oversight by the courts."

The Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The administration deported people designated as Tren de Aragua members to a notorious prison in El Salvador where, it argued, U.S. courts could not order them freed.

In a deal announced in July, more than 250 of the deported migrants returned to Venezuela.

The Alien Enemies Act was only used three times before in U.S. history, all during declared wars — in the War of 1812 and the two World Wars. The Trump administration unsuccessfully argued that courts cannot second-guess the president's determination that Tren de Aragua was connected to Venezuela's government and represented a danger to the United States, meriting use of the act.

In a 2-1 ruling, the judges said they granted the preliminary injunction sought by the plaintiffs because they "found no invasion or predatory incursion" in this case.

The decision bars deportations from Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. In the majority were U.S. Circuit Judges Leslie Southwick, a George W. Bush appointee, and Irma Carrillo Ramirez, a Joe Biden appointee. Andrew Oldham, a Trump appointee, dissented.

The majority opinion said Trump's allegations about Tren de Aragua do not meet the historical levels of national conflict that Congress intended for the act.

"A country's encouraging its residents and citizens to enter this country illegally is not the modern-day

equivalent of sending an armed, organized force to occupy, to disrupt, or to otherwise harm the United States," the judges wrote.

In a lengthy dissent, Oldham complained his two colleagues were second-guessing Trump's conduct of foreign affairs and national security, realms where courts usually give the president great deference.

"The majority's approach to this case is not only unprecedented—it is contrary to more than 200 years of precedent," Oldham wrote.

The panel did grant the Trump administration one legal victory, finding the procedures it uses to advise detainees under the Alien Enemies Act of their legal rights is appropriate.

The ruling can be appealed to the full 5th Circuit or directly to the U.S. Supreme Court, which is likely to make the ultimate decision on the issue.

Indeed, the ruling and dissent both seemed to acknowledge the judges were weighing in on issues destined to be settled only by the nation's highest court, repeatedly noting the unprecedented nature of the case and delving into 18th century conflicts and other landmark events in the nation's early decades as justification.

The Supreme Court has already gotten involved twice before in the tangled history of the Trump administration's use of the AEA. In the initial weeks after the March declaration, the court ruled that the administration could deport people under the act, but unanimously found that those targeted needed to be given a reasonable chance to argue their case before judges in the areas where they were held.

Then, as the administration moved to rapidly deport more Venezuelans from Texas, the high court stepped in again with an unusual, post-midnight ruling that they couldn't do so until the 5th Circuit decided whether the administration was providing adequate notice to the immigrants and could weigh in on the broader legal issues of the case. The high court has yet to address whether a gang can be cited as an alien enemy under the AEA.

Trump says US strike on vessel in Caribbean targeted Venezuela's Tren de Aragua gang, killed 11

By AAMER MADHANI, KONSTANTIN TOROPIN and REGINA GARCIA CANO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Tuesday the U.S. has carried out a strike in the southern Caribbean against a drug-carrying vessel that departed from Venezuela and was operated by the Tren de Aragua gang.

The president said in a social media posting that 11 people were killed in the rare U.S. military operation in the Americas, a dramatic escalation in the Republican administration's effort to stem the flow of narcotics from Latin America. Trump also posted a short video clip of a small vessel appearing to explode in flames.

"The strike occurred while the terrorists were at sea in International waters transporting illegal narcotics, heading to the United States," Trump said on Truth Social. "No U.S. Forces were harmed in this strike. Please let this serve as notice to anybody even thinking about bringing drugs into the United States of America."

The video appears to show a long, multi-engine speedboat traveling at sea when a bright flash of light bursts over the craft. The boat is then briefly seen covered in flames.

The video, which is largely in black and white, is not clear enough to see if the craft is carrying as many as 11 people. The video also did not show any large or clear stashes of drugs inside the boat.

Tren de Aragua originated more than a decade ago at an infamously lawless prison with hardened criminals in Venezuela's central state of Aragua. The gang has expanded in recent years as more than 7.7 million Venezuelans fled economic turmoil and migrated to other Latin American countries or the U.S.

Trump and administration officials have repeatedly blamed the gang for being at the root of the violence and illicit drug dealing that plague some cities. And the president on Tuesday repeated his claim — contradicted by a declassified U.S. intelligence assessment — that Tren de Aragua is operating under Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro's control.

The White House did not immediately explain how the military determined that those aboard the vessel were Tren de Aragua members. The size of the gang is unclear, as is the extent to which its actions are

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 41 of 76

coordinated across state lines and national borders.

What Maduro had to say

After Trump announced the strike, Venezuelan state television showed Maduro and first lady Cilia Flores walking the streets of his childhood neighborhood. A television presenter said Maduro was "bathing in patriotic love" as he interacted with supporters.

"In the face of imperialist threats, God (is) with us," Maduro told supporters.

Maduro did not address the strike directly, but charged that the U.S. is "coming for Venezuela's riches," including oil and gas. The South American country has the world's largest proven oil reserves.

"From the neighborhoods of Caracas ... I tell you, there will be peace in Venezuela, with sovereignty," he said.

Communications Minister Freddy Nájuez questioned the veracity of the video. "Based on the video provided, it is very likely that it was created using Artificial Intelligence," he said on his Telegram account. He couldn't say what tools would have been used to create the video, but said it showed an "almost cartoonish animation, rather than a realistic depiction of an explosion."

Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio first announced the strike earlier Tuesday, shortly before Rubio left on a trip to Mexico and Ecuador for talks on drug cartels, security, tariffs and more.

In a brief exchange with reporters before departing Miami for Mexico City, Rubio deferred questions about the specifics of the strike to the Pentagon. He said the drugs on the vessel were likely headed to Trinidad or elsewhere in the Caribbean.

For years, Rubio has spoken out against Maduro and other Latin American leftist governments and supported opposition leaders. In 2018, during Trump's first term, Rubio told Univision there was a "strong argument" to be made for the use of the U.S. military in Venezuela. He's also accused Venezuelan officials of aiding drug traffickers.

Asked if Trump would carry out operations on Venezuelan soil, Rubio was opaque. "We're going to take on drug cartels wherever they are and wherever they're operating against the interests of the United States," he said.

US sent destroyers to waters off Venezuela

The operation came after the U.S. announced plans last month to boost its maritime force in the waters off Venezuela to combat threats from Latin American drug cartels.

Maduro's government has responded by deploying troops along Venezuela's coast and border with neighboring Colombia, as well as by urging Venezuelans to enlist in a civilian militia.

Maduro has insisted that the U.S. is building a false drug-trafficking narrative to try to force him out of office. He and other government officials have repeatedly cited a United Nations report that they say shows traffickers attempt to move only 5% of the cocaine produced in Colombia through Venezuela. Landlocked Bolivia and Colombia, with access to the Pacific and Caribbean, are the world's top cocaine producers.

The latest U.N. World Drug Report shows that various countries in South America, including Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, reported larger cocaine seizures in 2022 than in 2021, but it does not assign Venezuela the outsize role that the White House has in recent months.

"The impact of increased cocaine trafficking has been felt in Ecuador in particular, which has seen a wave of lethal violence in recent years linked to both local and transnational crime groups, most notably from Mexico and the Balkan countries," according to the report.

Maduro on Monday told reporters he "would constitutionally declare a republic in arms" if his country were attacked by U.S. forces deployed to the Caribbean.

Rescuers race to find Afghan quake survivors as death toll passes 1,400

JALALABAD, Afghanistan (AP) — The United Nations warned of an exponential rise in casualties from a major earthquake in eastern Afghanistan, as the Taliban said the death toll passed 1,400 on Tuesday, with more than 3,000 people injured.

The figures provided by Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid were just for the province of Kunar.

Sunday night's powerful 6.0 magnitude earthquake struck several provinces, causing extensive damage. It flattened villages and trapped people under the rubble of homes constructed mostly of mud bricks and wood that were unable to withstand the shock.

Rough terrain is hampering rescue and relief efforts, forcing Taliban authorities to air-drop dozens of commandos to evacuate the injured from places where helicopters cannot land.

Aid agency Save the Children said one of its teams walked for over 12 miles (19 kilometers) to reach villages cut off by rock falls, carrying medical equipment on their backs with the help of community members.

An aftershock of 5.2 magnitude close to the epicenter of Sunday's quake rattled the area on Tuesday, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. There were no immediate reports of damage.

Indrika Ratwatte, the U.N.'s resident coordinator for Afghanistan, said rescuers are scrambling in a "race against time" to reach the mountainous and remote area. In a media briefing in Geneva Tuesday, he warned of a surge in casualty numbers.

"We cannot afford to forget the people of Afghanistan who are facing multiple crises, multiple shocks, and the resilience of the communities has been saturated," Ratwatte said, while urging the international community to step forward.

"These are life and death decisions while we race against time to reach people," he said.

It is the third major earthquake since the Taliban seized power in 2021, and the latest crisis to beset Afghanistan, which is reeling from deep cuts to aid funding, a weak economy, and millions of people forcibly returned from Iran and Pakistan.

Ratwatte said that when the walls of wooden and mud homes collapse, the roof falls on the occupants, causing injury or death. While the area was low-density, the earthquake struck when everybody was asleep.

"If you were to model it based on what has happened before, clearly there's no question that the casualty rate is going to be rather exponential," he said.

Aid is trickling in to help victims

The Taliban government, which is only recognized by Russia, has appealed for assistance from the international community and the humanitarian sector. However, help for Afghanistan is in short supply due to competing global crises and reduced aid budgets in donor countries.

The United Nations humanitarian office released \$5 million from its emergency fund to help kickstart the U.N. response and that will be matched by \$5 million from the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund, U.N. spokesman Stéphane Dujarric said Tuesday.

The U.N. has dispatched at least 25 assessment teams to the region, deploying essential items including blankets and solar lamps to areas that can be reached, Dujarric said. Humanitarian experts said that immediate priorities include emergency shelter, critical medical supplies, drinking water and emergency food aid.

The U.K. has pledged 1 million pounds (\$1.3 million) to be split between humanitarian agencies rather than going to the Taliban government, which it does not recognize.

The European Union is sending 130 tons of emergency supplies and providing 1 million euros (\$1.16 million). Other countries, including the United Arab Emirates, India and China have pledged disaster relief support.

But earthquake victims are bearing the brunt of opposition to the Taliban government, especially their restrictive policies on Afghan girls and women, including a ban on them working for NGOs. Donor countries

had already scaled back their funding and, earlier this year, the U.S. gutted aid to Afghanistan, partly due to concerns that money was going to the Taliban administration.

Kate Carey, the deputy head of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Afghanistan, said more than 420 health facilities had closed or were suspended due to the "massive reduction" in funding, with 80 of them in the eastern region, the heart of Sunday's quake.

"The consequence is that the remaining facilities are overwhelmed, have insufficient supplies and personnel, and are not as close to the affected populations as the more local facilities at a time when providing emergency trauma care is needed in the first 24 to 72 hours of the earthquake response," said Carey.

Taliban authorities have set up a camp in Kunar to organize supplies and emergency aid. There are also two centers to coordinate the transportation of the injured, the burial of the dead, and the rescue of survivors.

Judge orders search shakeup in Google monopoly case, but keeps hands off Chrome and default deals

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal judge on Tuesday ordered a shake-up of Google's search engine in an attempt to curb the corrosive power of an illegal monopoly while rebuffing the U.S. government's attempt to break up the company and impose other restraints.

The 226-page decision made by U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta in Washington, D.C., will likely ripple across the technological landscape at a time when the industry is being reshaped by breakthroughs in artificial intelligence — including conversational "answer engines" as companies like ChatGPT and Perplexity try to upend Google's long-held position as the internet's main gateway.

The innovations and competition being unleashed by AI also reshaped the judge's approach to the remedies in the nearly five-year-old antitrust case brought by the U.S. Justice Department during President Donald Trump's first administration and carried onward by President Joe Biden's administration.

"Unlike the typical case where the court's job is to resolve a dispute based on historic facts, here the court is asked to gaze into a crystal ball and look to the future. Not exactly a judge's forte," Mehta wrote.

The judge is trying to rein in Google by prohibiting some of the tactics the company deployed to drive traffic to its search engine and other services. The ruling also will pry open some of the prized databases of closely guarded information about search that have provided Google with a seemingly insurmountable advantage.

The handcuffs being slapped on Google will preclude contracts that give its search engine, Gemini AI app, Play Store for Android and virtual assistant an exclusive position on smartphone, personal computers and other devices.

But Mehta stopped short of banning the multi-billion dollar deals that Google has been making for years to lock in its search engine as the default on smartphones, personal computers and other devices. Those deals, involving payments of more than \$26 billion annually, were one of the main issues that prompted the judge to conclude Google's search engine was an illegal monopoly, but he decided banning them in the future would do more harm than good.

The judge also rejected the U.S. Justice Department's effort to force Google to sell its popular Chrome browser, concluding it was an unwarranted step that "would be incredibly messy and highly risky."

Partially because he is allowing the default deals to continue, Mehta is ordering Google to give its current and would-be rivals access to some of its search engine's secret sauce — the data stockpiled from trillions of queries that it used to help improve the quality of its search results. That is a measure that Google had also fiercely opposed, contending it was unfair and would raise privacy and security risk for the billions of people who have posed questions to its search engine — sometimes delving into sensitive issues.

The Justice Department's antitrust chief, Gail Slater, hailed the decision as a "major win for the American people," even though the agency didn't get everything it sought. "We are now weighing our options and thinking through whether the ordered relief goes far enough," Slater wrote in a post.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 44 of 76

In its own post, Google framed Mehta's ruling as a vindication of its long-held position that the case never should have been brought. The decision "recognizes how much the industry has changed through the advent of AI, which is giving people so many more ways to find information," wrote Lee-Anne Mulholland, Google's vice president of regulatory affairs. "This underlines what we've been saying since this case was filed in 2020: Competition is intense and people can easily choose the services they want."

The Mountain View, California, company has already vowed to appeal the judge's monopoly findings issued 13 months ago that led to Tuesday's ruling.

"You don't find someone guilty of robbing a bank and then sentence him to writing a thank you note for the loot," said Nidhi Hegde, executive director of the American Economic Liberties Project.

Investors seemed to interpret the ruling as a relatively light slap on the wrist for Google, as the stock price of its corporate parent, Alphabet Inc., surged more than 7% in extended trading. That would translate into a nearly \$200 billion increase in Alphabet's market value, if the shares follow a similar trajectory in Wednesday's regular trading session.

Allowing the default search deals to continue is more than just a victory for Google. It's also a win for Apple, which receives more than \$20 billion annually from Google, and other recipients of the payments.

In hearings earlier this year, Apple warned the judge that banning the contracts would deprive the company of money that it funnels into its own innovative research. The Cupertino, California, company also cautioned that the ban could have the unintended consequence of making Google even more powerful by pocketing the money it had been spending on deals while most consumers will still end up flocking to Google's search engine anyway.

Others, such as the owners of the Firefox search engine, asserted that losing the Google contracts would threaten their future survival by depriving them of essential revenue.

Apple's shares rose 3% in extended trading after the ruling came out.

Mehta refrained from ordering a sale of Chrome because he decided there wasn't adequate proof the browser served as an essential ingredient in Google's search monopoly, making a divestiture "a poor fit for this case."

Chrome would have been a hot commodity had the judge forced Google to put it on the auction block. Perplexity submitted an unsolicited \$34.5 billion offer to buy Chrome last month. And during court testimony earlier this year, a ChatGPT executive left no doubt that service's owner, OpenAI, would be interested in being interested in buying Chrome, too.

But the judge decided forcing Google to open up parts of its search data to rivals such as DuckDuckGo, Bing, and others will offer the best and fairest way to foster more compelling competition. In doing so, Mehta still narrowed the scope of the Justice Department's request and will limit the access to Google's search index and query histories.

While the wrangling over Mehta's ruling continues, Google is facing another potentially debilitating threat in another antitrust case brought by the Justice Department targeting the digital ad empire that was built up around its search engine. After different federal judge in Virginia declared that some of the technology underlying the ad network to be an illegal monopoly earlier this year, the Justice Department plans to make its case for another proposed breakup in a trial scheduled to begin later this month.

House committee releases some Justice Department files in Epstein case, but most already public

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Oversight Committee on Tuesday publicly posted the files it has received from the Justice Department on the sex trafficking investigations into Jeffrey Epstein and his former girlfriend Ghislaine Maxwell, responding to mounting pressure in Congress to force more disclosure in the case.

Still, the files mostly contain information that was already publicly known or available. The folders — posted on Google Drive — contained hundreds of image files of years-old court filings related to Epstein,

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 45 of 76

who died in a New York jail cell in 2019 as he faced charges for sexually abusing teenage girls, and Maxwell, who is serving a lengthy prison sentence for assisting him.

The files also included video appearing to be body cam footage from police searches as well as recordings and summaries of law enforcement interviews with victims detailing the abuse they said they suffered.

The committee's release of the files showed how lawmakers are eager to act on the issue as they return to Washington after a monthlong break. They quickly revived a political clash that has flummoxed House Republican leadership and roiled President Donald Trump's administration.

House Republican Speaker Mike Johnson is trying to quell an effort by Democrats and some Republicans to force a vote on a bill that would require the Justice Department to release all the information in the so-called Epstein files, with the exception of the victims' personal information.

What's in the released files

If the purpose of the release was to provide answers to a public still curious over the long concluded cases, the raw mechanics of the clunky rollout made that a challenge.

The committee at 6 p.m. released thousands of pages and videos via the cumbersome Google Drive, leaving it to readers and viewers to decipher new and interesting tidbits on their own.

The files released Tuesday included audio of an Epstein employee describing to a law enforcement official how "there were a lot of girls that were very, very young" visiting the home but couldn't say for sure if they were minors.

Over the course of Epstein's visits to the home, the man said, more than a dozen girls might visit, and he was charged with cleaning the room where Epstein had massages, twice daily.

Some pages were almost entirely redacted. Other documents related to Epstein's Florida prosecution that led to a plea deal that has long been criticized as too lenient, including emails between the defense and prosecutors over the conditions of his probation after his conviction. Barbara Burns, a Palm Beach County prosecutor, expressed frustration as the defense pushed for fewer restrictions on their client: "I don't know how to convey to him anymore than I already have that his client is a registered sex offender that was fortunate to get the deal of the century."

Some of the interviews with officers from the Palm Beach Police Department date to 2005, according to timestamps read out by officials at the beginning of the files.

Most, if not all, of the text documents posted Tuesday had already been public. Notably, the probable cause affidavit and other records from the 2005 investigation into Epstein contained a notation indicating that they'd been previously released in a 2017 public records request. An internet search showed those files were posted to the website of the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office in July 2017.

Rep. Robert Garcia, the top Democrat on the House Oversight Committee, chided Republicans on the panel for releasing material that he said consisted almost entirely of already available information.

"The 33,000 pages of Epstein documents James Comer has decided to 'release' were already mostly public information. To the American people — don't let this fool you," Garcia said in a statement.

The disclosure also left open the question of why the Justice Department did not release the material directly to the public instead of operating through Capitol Hill.

Survivors meet with lawmakers

On Capitol Hill Tuesday, the House speaker and a bipartisan group of lawmakers met with survivors of abuse by Epstein and Maxwell.

"The objective here is not just to uncover, investigate the Epstein evils, but also to ensure that this never happens again and ultimately to find out why justice has been delayed for these ladies for so very long," said Johnson, R-La., after he emerged from a two-hour meeting with six of the survivors.

"It is inexcusable. And it will stop now because the Congress is dialed in on this," he added.

But there are still intense disagreements on how lawmakers should proceed. Johnson is pressing for the inquiry to be handled by the House Oversight Committee and supporting the committee as it releases its findings.

Push for disclosure continues

Meanwhile, Democrats and some Republicans were still trying to maneuver around Johnson's control of the House floor to hold a vote on their bill to require the Justice Department to publicly release files. Democrats lined up in the House chamber Tuesday evening to sign a petition from Rep. Thomas Massie, a Kentucky Republican, to force a vote. Three other Republicans also supported the maneuver, but Massie would need two more GOP lawmakers and every Democrat to be successful.

If Massie, who is pressing for the bill alongside Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., is able to force a vote — which could take weeks — the legislation would still need to pass the Senate and be signed into law by Trump.

The clash suggests little has changed in Congress since late July, when Johnson sent lawmakers home early in hopes of cooling the political battle over the Epstein case. Members of both parties remain dissatisfied and are demanding more details on the years-old investigation into Epstein, the wealthy and well-connected financier whose 2019 death has sparked wide-ranging conspiracy theories and speculation.

"We continue to bring the pressure. We're not going to stop until we get justice for all of the survivors and the victims," Garcia told reporters.

Trump says he's set to order federal intervention in Chicago and Baltimore, despite local opposition

By WILL WEISSERT and SOPHIA TAREEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he's ready to order federal authorities to mobilize and combat crime in Chicago and Baltimore, despite staunch opposition from elected leaders and many residents in both cities.

Asked by reporters in the Oval Office about sending National Guard troops to the nation's third-largest city, Trump said, "We're going in," but added, "I didn't say when."

"I have an obligation," the president said. "This isn't a political thing."

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, a potential 2028 Democratic presidential contender, scoffed at the notion of sending military troops and federal agents into Chicago, reiterating Tuesday that federal intervention was not required or wanted.

Local officials in Baltimore have joined Democratic Maryland Gov. Wes Moore in similarly opposing federal law enforcement intervention.

Trump has already sent National Guard troops into Los Angeles and Washington, where he's also federalized the police force. He has said he plans similar moves in other Democrat-run cities even as a federal judge on Tuesday deemed the California deployment illegal.

Trump criticizes leaders in Chicago

The president praised Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser for working with federal forces, but repeated his criticism of Pritzker and Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, a Democrat. Trump said he'd love to have Pritzker call and say, "Send in the troops" — even though the two-term governor has repeatedly said he won't be doing that.

He said if Pritzker would "call me up, I would love to do it," Trump said. "Now, we're going to do it anyway. We have the right to do it. Because I have an obligation to protect this country and that includes Baltimore."

He added, "Baltimore's a very unsafe place"

Pritzker deemed Trump's comments to call him for help as "unhinged." The two have been locked in an escalating war of words for days as Trump called Chicago "the world's most dangerous city" earlier Tuesday.

"No, I will not call the president asking him to send troops to Chicago," Pritzker said Tuesday at a news conference with Johnson and other leaders. "I've made that clear already."

Illinois notified of federal plan

The state received its first contact about federal intervention on Saturday when the head of the Illinois State Police got a call from Gregory Bovino, chief of the Border Patrol's El Centro, California, sector, saying immigration agents would come to Chicago, according to Pritzker. The governor said no further details were offered.

Pritzker urged the public not to let the presence of federal agents spark tensions in the city but asked

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 47 of 76

residents to look out for neighbors, and to film interactions with federal agents and share them publicly.

"Authoritarians thrive on your silence," he said. "Be loud for America."

Chicago has been bracing for the expanded federal presence, with activists, pastors and schools prepared for the deluge of national attention.

Even without knowing exactly what is coming, the city's organized activist network began circulating protest schedules, vowing to demonstrate within hours of troops or federal agents arriving.

The measures are familiar in a city that has long tried to counteract Trump's bid to deport more people, including adding more staff at a hotline to report immigration arrests.

Dozens of pastors write a letter to Trump Tuesday saying the focus should instead be on underfunded schools and unemployment.

"To the faithful of Chicago, I say this: prepare your hearts for resistance," the letter said.

Crime in Chicago

Johnson said violence in the city stems from guns on the streets that are trafficked to Illinois from neighboring states, including Republican-led Indiana.

"Chicago will continue to have a violence problem as long as red states continue to have a gun problem," Johnson said.

Echoing a trend in other major U.S. cities, Chicago's violent crime has dropped significantly overall, though it remains a persistent issue in parts of the city.

Recently, the Trump administration has renewed interest in the city's daily crime log, including using a spate of shootings during the Labor Day weekend as justification for increased military presence.

Chicago's homicide rate is 21.7 per 100,000 residents in 2024, according to analysis of federal crime data by the Rochester Institute of Technology. It cites seven other major U.S. cities — St. Louis, New Orleans, Detroit, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Indianapolis and Richmond, Virginia — with higher rates.

Chicago reported 573 homicides in 2024, the most of any U.S. city that year. But violent crime dropped significantly in the first half of the year, representing the steepest decline in over a decade, according to city data. Shootings and homicides were down more than 30% in the first half of 2025 compared to the same time last year.

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul has said the city and state will sue once the federal intervention begins.

Trump says intervention in Baltimore is necessary

Trump's comments about Baltimore being included in his obligation to protect the country follows local officials in that city and Moore opposing federal law enforcement intervention.

Moore spokesman David Turner said, "While we try to decipher exactly what the President meant today, the Governor has been consistently clear: The use of the National Guard for municipal policing is theatrical and not sustainable."

Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott listed some of the city's recent accomplishments in curbing gun violence. Scott has repeatedly accused the president of using racist rhetoric and targeting Black-led cities, like Baltimore and Chicago.

"Here's the reality in Baltimore," Scott wrote on X, noting that Baltimore homicides have reached historic lows amid sustained declines including the lowest number of homicides on record for the month of August.

Trump said his efforts in Washington have ensured it "is now a safe zone. We have no crime."

The White House announced separately Tuesday that more than 1,650 people have been arrested since the Trump administration first mobilized federal officials on Aug. 7.

"This was a beautiful thing that happened in Washington," Trump said "because we showed that it could be done."

Pentagon authorizes up to 600 military lawyers to serve as temporary immigration judges

By KONSTANTIN TOROPIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has approved sending up to 600 military lawyers to the Justice Department to serve as temporary immigration judges, according to a memo reviewed by The Associated Press.

The military will begin sending groups of 150 attorneys — both military and civilians — to the Justice Department “as soon as practicable,” and the military services should have the first round of people identified by next week, according to the Aug. 27 memo.

The effort comes as the Trump administration more regularly turns to the military as it cracks down on illegal immigration through ramped-up arrests and deportations. Its growing role in the push includes troops patrolling the U.S.-Mexico border, National Guard members being sent into U.S. cities to support immigration enforcement efforts, housing people awaiting deportation on military bases and using military aircraft to carry out deportations.

The administration’s focus on illegal immigration has added strain to the immigration courts, which were already dealing with a massive backlog of roughly 3.5 million cases that has ballooned in recent years. An organization for immigration lawyers called the new directive a “destructive” move meant to undermine the courts.

Numerous immigration judges have been fired

At the same time, more than 100 immigration judges have been fired or left voluntarily after taking deferred resignations offered by the Trump administration, their union says. In the most recent round of terminations, the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers said in July that at least 17 immigration judges had been fired “without cause” in courts across the country.

That has left about 600 immigration judges, union figures show, meaning the Pentagon move would double their ranks.

The Justice Department, which oversees the immigration courts, requested the assistance from the Defense Department, according to the memo sent by the Pentagon’s executive secretary to his DOJ counterpart. The military lawyers’ duties as immigration judges will initially last no more than 179 days but can be renewed, it said.

A DOJ spokesperson referred questions about the plan to the Defense Department, where officials directed questions to the White House.

A White House official said Tuesday that the administration is looking at a variety of options to help resolve the significant backlog of immigration cases, including hiring additional immigration judges. The official, who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said the matter should be “a priority that everyone — including those waiting for adjudication — can rally around.”

The head of the American Immigration Lawyers Association decried bringing in temporary judges who lack expertise in immigration law, saying “it makes as much as sense as having a cardiologist do a hip replacement.”

“Expecting fair decisions from judges unfamiliar with the law is absurd. This reckless move guts due process and further undermines the integrity of our immigration court system,” said Ben Johnson, the organization’s executive director.

Pentagon says the step may require mobilizing reserve officers

The memo stressed that the additional attorneys are contingent on availability and that mobilizing reserve officers may be necessary. Plus, the document said DOJ would be responsible for ensuring that anyone sent from the Pentagon does not violate the federal prohibition on using the military as domestic law enforcement, known as the Posse Comitatus Act.

The administration faced a setback on its efforts to use troops in unique ways to combat illegal immigration and crime, with a court ruling Tuesday that it “willfully” violated federal law by sending National Guard troops to Los Angeles in early June.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 49 of 76

It is not immediately clear what impact shifting that number of military attorneys would have on the armed forces' justice system. The attorneys, called judge advocates, have a range of duties much like civilian lawyers, from carrying out prosecutions, acting as a defense attorney or offering legal advice.

Pentagon officials did immediately offer details on where any of the 600 attorneys will be drawn from and whether they will come from active duty or the reserves.

The training that goes into being an immigration judge

Until she was abruptly fired in July, former supervising judge Jennifer Peyton administered the intensive training that all judges in Chicago undergo before working in some of the busiest immigration courts in the country. After the weeklong training, new judges are paired with an experienced mentor and have a two-year probationary period.

Peyton doubted that military attorneys would be able to master the complexities of immigration law without that rigorous process. She also said it wasn't clear how they would handle the hundreds, or sometimes thousands, of cases on just a Chicago immigration judge's docket each year.

"Six months is barely enough time to start to figure out the firehose of information and training," she said.

Peyton also was concerned that Trump's move didn't supply more administrative workers, including translators, whom judges rely on to make decisions. The stakes, she said, were life or death for people who would come before the new judges.

"None of it makes sense unless you were intentionally trying to weaken the immigration courts," Peyton said.

Kraft Heinz undoes blockbuster merger after a decade of changing tastes

By DEE-ANN DURBIN and MICHELLE CHAPMAN AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Kraft Heinz is splitting into two companies a decade after a merger of the brands created one of the biggest food manufacturers on the planet.

One of the companies, currently called Global Taste Elevation Co., will include brands such as Heinz, Philadelphia cream cheese and Kraft Mac & Cheese, Kraft Heinz said Tuesday. The other, currently called North American Grocery Co., will include slower-selling brands like Maxwell House, Oscar Mayer, Kraft Singles and Lunchables. The official names of the two companies will be released later.

Kraft Heinz said in May that it was conducting a strategic review of the company, signaling a potential split. It expects the transaction to close in the second half of 2026.

When the company formed in 2015, it wanted to capitalize on its massive scale. But shifting tastes complicated those plans, with households seeking out healthier options.

Kraft Heinz and other food producers have tried to follow those trends. In 2021, Kraft Heinz sold both its Planters nut business and its natural cheese business, vowing to reinvest the money into higher-growth brands like P3 protein snacks. But the company continued to struggle.

Kraft Heinz's net revenue has fallen every year since 2020, when it saw a pandemic-related bump in sales. In April, Kraft Heinz lowered its full-year sales and earnings guidance, citing weaker customer spending in the U.S. and the impact of President Donald Trump's tariffs.

"Kraft Heinz's brands are iconic and beloved, but the complexity of our current structure makes it challenging to allocate capital effectively, prioritize initiatives and drive scale in our most promising areas," Executive Chairman Miguel Patricio said in a statement.

The path to the merger of Kraft and Heinz began in 2013, when billionaire investor Warren Buffett teamed up with Brazilian investment firm 3G Capital to buy H.J. Heinz Co. At the time, the \$23 billion deal was the most expensive ever in the food industry.

3G was also behind the formation of Restaurant Brands International — a merger of Burger King, Tim Hortons and Popeyes — and Anheuser-Busch InBev. It's known for strict cost controls and so-called zero-based budgeting, which requires all expenses to be justified each quarter.

The deal was intended to help Heinz, which was founded in 1869 in Pittsburgh, expand sales of its con-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 50 of 76

diments and sauces on grocery store shelves. Heinz's new owners also set about cutting costs, laying off hundreds of workers within months.

At the same time Kraft, based in Chicago, sought for a partner after a 2011 split from its snack division, which became Mondelez International.

In 2015, Buffett and 3G decided to merge Heinz with Kraft. The merger created the 5th largest food and beverage company in the world, with annual revenue of \$28 billion. Buffett and 3G each contributed \$5 billion for a special dividend for Kraft shareholders.

At the time, the prevailing attitude was that the bigger the conglomerate, the more companies would save through sharing services like accounting, said Russell Zwanka, an associate professor of food marketing at Western Michigan University.

But even at the time of the merger, many consumers were shifting away from the kinds of highly processed packaged foods that Kraft sells, like Velveeta cheese and Kool-Aid. The push to remove artificial flavors and dyes added further costs.

"The customer has become much more diligent in what they're buying, and so it's making it more difficult to allocate your resources properly," Zwanka said.

Kraft Heinz also had trouble distinguishing its products from cheaper store brands. At Walmart, a 14-ounce bottle of Heinz ketchup costs \$2.98; the same size bottle of Walmart's Great Value brand is 98 cents.

In 2019, Kraft Heinz slashed the value of its Oscar Meyer and Kraft brands by \$15.4 billion. Many investors blamed the company's leadership, saying its zeal for cost-cutting was hurting brand innovation.

Buffett told CNBC Tuesday that he's disappointed that Kraft Heinz decided to go forward with the split, which will cost the company \$300 million and take a year to complete. He's also frustrated that shareholders won't get a vote on the move.

Berkshire has held onto its massive 27% Kraft Heinz stake, making it the company's largest shareholder, even as stock price fell roughly 70% since the merger. Buffett has acknowledged in the past that Berkshire overpaid for the investment. Berkshire took a \$3.76 billion write-down on the value of its stake in Kraft Heinz in the second quarter of this year.

"It certainly didn't turn out to be a brilliant idea to put them together, but I don't think taking them apart will fix it," Buffett said to CNBC. The Associated Press left messages seeking comment Tuesday with Buffett and 3G.

Zwanka said the split likely won't impact consumers. He thinks individual brands like Oscar Mayer will be bought by other companies.

"These brands have survived over 100 years and they will continue to survive," he said. "You just have to find a company willing to invest the resources in either maintaining a mature category until your competitors drop off or growing a growth category like Philly Cream Cheese and all the Heinz brands."

Kellogg Co. provided the blueprint when it split into two companies in 2023, Zwanka said. Last year, Mars bought one of the companies, dubbed Kellanova, which owned snack brands like Pringles. Italian confectioner Ferrero announced in July that it planned to buy WK Kellogg, the cereal company.

Other food companies are following in its footsteps. Late last month, Keurig Dr Pepper said it would buy the owner of Peet's Coffee and then split itself in two, with one company selling coffee and the other selling cold beverages. Keurig and Dr Pepper merged in 2018.

Zwanka said his biggest concern is for Kraft Heinz's 36,000 employees, who now face more than a year of uncertainty before the split is finalized.

"The brands will survive. You just hope the people will move with the brands," he said.

Carlos Abrams-Rivera will continue to serve as CEO of Kraft Heinz and will become CEO of North American Grocery Co. once the separation is complete. Kraft Heinz said that its board is working with an executive search firm to identify potential CEO candidates for Global Taste Elevation Co.

Kraft Heinz has no plans to change its current headquarter locations in Chicago and Pittsburgh.

Kraft Heinz shares fell nearly 7% Tuesday to close at \$26.02 per share.

Trump announces that Space Command is moving from Colorado to Alabama

By SEUNG MIN KIM and KIM CHANDLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump announced on Tuesday that U.S. Space Command will be located in Alabama, reversing a Biden-era decision to keep it at its temporary headquarters in Colorado.

The long-expected decision from Trump caps a four-year tug of war between two states and opposing administrations about where to locate U.S. Space Command, an intense fight because the headquarters would be a significant boon to the local economy. Alabama and Colorado have long battled to claim Space Command, with elected officials from both states asserting their state is the better location.

"The U.S. Space Command headquarters will move to the beautiful locale of a place called Huntsville, Alabama, forever to be known from this point forward as Rocket City," said Trump, repeating a nickname the city has used for decades already because of its early role in NASA and the U.S. space program. "We had a lot of competition for this and Alabama's getting it," added the president, flanked in the Oval Office by Republican members of Alabama's congressional delegation.

Trump said Huntsville won the race for the Space Command headquarters, in part, because "they fought harder for it than anybody else."

GOP Sen. Tommy Tuberville, who is running for governor of Alabama, said Huntsville is the "perfect place" for the headquarters and suggested it be named after Trump. And Alabama Republican Sen. Katie Britt, who stood next to Trump during the announcement, thanked Trump for "restoring Space Command to its rightful home."

"The Biden administration chose to make this political," she said. "What we want to do is put the safety and security of Americans first. We want to make sure our American war fighter is put first."

The Associated Press reported earlier Tuesday that the president would announce the move at the White House after a Pentagon website set up to livestream the remarks described the event hours in advance as a "U.S. Space Command HQ Announcement."

U.S. Space Command said in a statement on X after the announcement that it "stands ready to carry out the direction of the President following today's announcement of Huntsville, Alabama, as the command's permanent headquarters location." Its functions include conducting operations like enabling satellite-based navigation and troop communication and providing warning of missile launches.

Huntsville, Alabama, has long been home to the Army's Redstone Arsenal and NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. The Army's Space and Missile Defense Command is also located in Huntsville, which drew its nickname because of its role in building the first rockets for the U.S. space program.

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle said about 1,400 Space Command jobs will transition to Redstone Arsenal over the next five years.

"This decision is not about what's best for Huntsville — it's about being mission-focused," said Battle. "The decision to locate U.S. Space Command at Redstone ensures our nation is prepared to meet growing challenges in space. Huntsville is ready with our experienced workforce, resilient infrastructure and deep commitment to national defense."

The saga stretches back to 2021, when the Air Force identified Army Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville as the preferred location for the new U.S. Space Command. The city was picked after site visits to six states that compared factors such as infrastructure capacity, community support and costs to the Defense Department.

Then-President Joe Biden in 2023 announced Space Command would be permanently located in Colorado Springs, Colorado, which had been serving as its temporary headquarters. Biden's Democratic administration said that keeping the command in Colorado Springs would avoid a disruption in readiness.

The announcement infuriated both Democratic and Republican officials in Colorado, which has a booming aerospace industry. Colorado Gov. Jared Polis, a Democrat, called the relocation of Space Command to Alabama "deeply disappointing" and demanded an explanation as to how the decision was made.

"This is the wrong decision, diminishing military readiness and national security and eroding the trust

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 52 of 76

Americans have in our country and its leaders to do the right thing," Polis said. "Uprooting Space Command will weaken national security and readiness, waste taxpayer dollars, and inconvenience military families."

Trump on Tuesday said his initial plans to locate the headquarters in Huntsville were "wrongfully obstructed by the Biden administration." But he also said the fact that Colorado uses mail-in voting "played a big factor also" in moving the headquarters away from Colorado Springs.

"The problem with Colorado is that they have a very corrupt voting system," Trump said.

A review by the Defense Department inspector general was inconclusive and could not determine why Colorado was chosen over Alabama. Trump, a Republican who enjoys deep support in Alabama, had long been expected to move Space Command back to Alabama.

8 killed and 50 wounded in Chicago over long weekend as Trump plans federal deployment

CHICAGO (AP) — Eight people were killed and 50 others were wounded over the Labor Day weekend in dozens of shootings in Chicago, where President Donald Trump has seized on crime to try to justify a greater federal role on the city's streets.

The toll highlights Chicago's persistent struggle with gun violence and reveals a grim reality: spikes in shootings during summer holiday weekends, particularly on the South and West sides. The violence this time was deadlier than last Labor Day, when seven people were killed and more than 20 were wounded.

The violence has taken on a sharper national resonance this year, colliding with the politics of crime and immigration as the Trump administration plans to ramp up immigration enforcement in the city in the coming weeks.

On Tuesday, Trump blasted the city and its leaders in a post on his social media platform, calling it "the worst and most dangerous city in the World, by far."

Last year, the city had 573 homicides, or 21 per every 100,000 residents, according to the Rochester Institute of Technology. Other cities had a higher rate in 2024. Chicago's rate was down 25% compared to 2020.

When asked about sending National Guard troops to Chicago, Trump said on Tuesday, "We're going in," but added, "I didn't say when."

"We have the right to do it," he said.

Mayor Brandon Johnson and Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, both Democrats, have repeatedly said there's no reason for Trump to send the National Guard, which is on the ground in the District of Columbia, targeting crime, immigration and homelessness.

"We've got crime on the streets," Pritzker acknowledged last week. "Any person that gets killed or hurt is a victim of crime, is somebody that we ought to be addressing the challenges for. And we're doing that every day. But the way to do it is with police officers, not with troops."

Between Friday night and Monday night, 58 people were shot in 37 separate shootings in the nation's third-largest city, according to preliminary information from police. Most survivors were in good or fair condition, but several were listed in serious or critical condition, including a 17-year-old boy. In most cases, no suspect was in custody.

Chicago officials have long argued that the city's gun violence is fueled less by local laws than by the steady influx of firearms from nearby states with looser regulations. Mayor Brandon Johnson said on Tuesday that too many guns are trafficked into Illinois from neighboring states — especially Indiana, which is led by Republicans — and end up on city streets.

"Chicago will continue to have a violence problem as long as red states continue to have a gun problem," Johnson said.

For years, federal prosecutors and law enforcement agencies have tried to disrupt that pipeline, targeting so-called "straw purchasers" who buy firearms legally in states like Indiana and then resell them to criminal gangs in Chicago, where they are used in street crimes.

Separately, the Trump administration is expected to expand immigration operations in Chicago. Depart-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 53 of 76

ment of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem confirmed plans for a greater presence of federal agents. Johnson over the weekend signed an order, declaring that Chicago police will not collaborate with military personnel on police patrols or civil immigration enforcement.

Police will not be "deputized to do traffic stops and checkpoints for the president," said the mayor, adding that the Trump administration is "out of control."

Violent crime has dropped in recent years in Chicago, population 2.7 million, but it remains a persistent problem in some neighborhoods. Some with the highest homicide rates have 68 times more homicides than those with the lowest rates, according to the University of Chicago Crime Lab.

Chicago police post weekly crime stats online. The department says there were 278 murders so far this year, through August, a 31% drop compared to the same eight-month period in 2024.

US stocks sink under the weight of rising pressure from the bond market

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street sank on Tuesday as rising pressure from the bond market pulled U.S. stocks further from their records.

The S&P 500 fell 0.7% for its worst day in a month after paring a loss that earlier reached 1.5%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 249 points, or 0.5%, and the Nasdaq composite lost 0.8%. All three are still relatively close to their recently set all-time highs.

Big Tech companies led the market lower. They've been soaring for years on expectations that they'll continue to dominate the economy, but they have also shot so high that critics say their prices have become too expensive.

Nvidia, whose chips are powering much of the world's move into artificial-intelligence technology, fell 2% and was the single strongest force pulling the S&P 500 downward. Amazon sank 1.6%, and Apple dropped 1%.

The overall stock market felt pressure from rising yields in the bond market, where the 10-year Treasury yield climbed to 4.27% from 4.23% late Friday. When bonds are paying more in interest, investors are less willing to pay high prices for stocks.

Longer-term bond yields are on the rise around the world, in part because of worries about how difficult it will be for governments to repay their growing mountains of debt.

In the United States, longer-term Treasury yields are feeling additional pressure from President Donald Trump's attacks on the Federal Reserve for not cutting interest rates sooner. The fear is that a less independent Fed will be less likely to make the unpopular decisions needed to keep inflation under control over the long term, such as keeping short-term rates higher than investors would like.

Tuesday was also the first opportunity for trading after a federal appeals court ruled late Friday that Trump overstepped his legal authority when announcing sweeping tariffs on almost every country on Earth, though it left the tariffs in place for now.

Trump's tariffs have certainly created confusion across the global economy and may have hurt the U.S. job market. But less income from them could also force the U.S. government to borrow more to pay its bills, according to Scott Wren, senior global market strategist at Wells Fargo Investment Institute.

In another signal of increasing worries in financial markets, the price of gold rose to touch another record. The metal has often provided a haven for investors in times of uncertainty.

Treasury yields briefly trimmed their gains after a report on Tuesday said U.S. manufacturing shrank by more last month than economists expected. Many companies told the Institute for Supply Management that tariffs are continuing to make conditions chaotic.

"Too much uncertainty for us and our customers regarding tariffs and the U.S./global economy," one company in the chemical products industry said, while noting that orders across most product lines have weakened.

The worse-than-expected data on manufacturing could give the Federal Reserve more leeway to cut

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 54 of 76

its main interest rate for the first time this year at its next meeting in a couple of weeks. That's the widespread expectation among traders, though economic reports coming later this week could change things.

The highlight for the week is coming on Friday, when economists expect a report to show that U.S. employers upped their hiring by a bit last month. Last month's weaker-than-expected jobs report raised worries about the economy and cranked up expectations for coming cuts to rates by the Fed.

On Wall Street, Constellation Brands tumbled 6.6% after the beer, wine and spirits company warned that it's seen a slowdown in purchases of its high-end beers, particularly among its Hispanic customers. That pushed it to slash its forecast for profit this fiscal year.

Kraft Heinz fell 7% after announcing that it's splitting into two, a decade after a merger of the brands created one of the biggest food companies on the planet.

One of the companies will include shelf stable meals and include brands such as Heinz, Philadelphia cream cheese and Kraft Mac & Cheese. The other will include the Oscar Mayer, Kraft Singles and Lunchables brands. The official names of the two companies will be released later.

Among the stock market's few gainers was PepsiCo, which rose 1.1% after an investment firm said it sent suggestions to the company's board to reaccelerate its growth and boost financial performance. The investor, Elliott Investment Management, has a history of buying into companies and pushing for big changes that can lead to better stock performance.

All told, the S&P 500 fell 44.72 points to 6,415.54. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 249.07 to 45,295.81, and the Nasdaq composite sank 175.92 to 21,279.63.

In stock markets abroad, indexes slumped across Europe, with Germany's DAX losing 2.3%. That followed a more mixed finish in Asia, where indexes rose 0.9% in Seoul but fell 0.5% in Hong Kong.

College football latest: AP Top 25 poll ranks Ohio State in the top spot

By MAURA CAREY Associated Press

In the first AP Top 25 college football poll rankings of the regular season, the Ohio State Buckeyes took the lead, followed by Penn State at No. 2 and LSU at No. 3.

The Buckeyes slid into position to dominate this week's rankings with 55 first-place votes after besting the preseason poll's No. 1 Texas Longhorns on Saturday.

Follow live updates from The Associated Press below for game recaps, poll predictions, ranking analyses and answers to fan questions, all in one place.

Here's the latest:

What's up next?

No. 15 Michigan's trip to No. 18 Oklahoma is the only ranked vs. ranked game on the slate, and it carries Big Ten and SEC implications.

Can Arch Manning find his footing as No. 7 Texas hosts San Jose State? Can South Florida pull off another upset, this time vs. No. 13 Florida in the Swamp?

Will Iowa trip up old rival Iowa State? Can Kansas improve to 3-0 with a road trip to bitter foe Missouri?

Will Bill Belichick get his first college coaching win when North Carolina visits Charlotte?

Hear from a voter: Why keep Notre Dame in the top 10 after their loss to Miami?

Notre Dame went into a tough environment with an inexperienced quarterback and still nearly beat a talented and motivated opponent.

I lay a lot of the blame on some game-planning issues I'm confident Marcus Freeman will work to address. We'll find out soon when the Irish play Texas A&M on Sept. 13 in South Bend.

And its season is far from shot — we saw that last year after the Northern Illinois loss. But the Irish have no wiggle room going forward. I can't see a two-loss Notre Dame making the College Football Playoff over a two-loss SEC or Big 10 squad (or even maybe one with three losses).

— Scott Hamilton is a sports columnist for the Charleston Post and Courier and has been an AP Top 25 voter for eight years. You can follow him on X: @scotthamiltonpc.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 55 of 76

Joey Aguilar leads Tennessee to win over Syracuse

Saturday offered a first look at Tennessee's new offense under Joey Aguilar, a transfer quarterback who briefly stopped at UCLA after a stint at Appalachian State.

Aguilar rose to the occasion, completing 16 of 28 passes for 247 yards and three touchdowns. Braylon Staley led the Volunteers with 95 receiving yards and a touchdown, while Star Thomas spearheaded the running game.

Aguilar connected with Miles Kitselman for a 2-yard touchdown with 3:57 left, solidifying a 45-26 victory against a formidable opponent in Syracuse.

Tennessee moved up two spots as a result, coming in at No. 22.

Two teams out, two teams in

Teams out: Preseason No. 17 Kansas State, which went 1-1 in the early going, and preseason No. 25 Boise State, which lost to unranked South Florida last week.

Teams in: No. 14 Florida State, which had the weekend's biggest upset in knocking off No. 8 Alabama, and No. 25 Utah, which looked very impressive in hammering UCLA 43-10 on the road.

The poll got a major shake-up, and not just in the top 10 teams

Only three teams — No. 2 Penn State, No. 18 Oklahoma and No. 19 Texas A&M — are in the same spots they were in the preseason poll.

South Carolina breaks into the top 10 after a sentimental victory

It was no ordinary win for South Carolina coach Shane Beamer and the Gamecocks on Sunday.

The 24-11 win over Virginia Tech held special meaning — Beamer's dad, Frank, was the winningest coach in Hokies' history. With the elder Beamer in attendance and sporting a Gamecocks zip-up jacket, South Carolina came out on top of a close one.

The Gamecocks pulled it together in the fourth quarter with an 80-yard punt return for a touchdown by Vicari Swain, followed by a 64-yard touchdown pass from LaNorris Sellers to Nyck Harbor.

South Carolina showed promise in all three phases, and it was enough to catch voters' eyes and break into the top 10 for the first time since 2014.

Hear from a voter: Do you keep the previous preseason rankings in mind when casting your next vote?

Yes, I look at my previous ballot primarily for my own edification.

It's important that I'm able to see if I'm reading things correctly, in terms of why I had a team ranked in a certain spot, whether one team is trending in a particular direction, etc.

It's also pretty difficult to just remember where everyone was the week before.

— Scott Hamilton is a sports columnist for the Charleston Post and Courier and has been an AP Top 25 voter for eight years. You can follow him on X: @scotthamiltonpc.

Utah rivals swap spots in coaches poll

The coaches' poll and AP poll agreed that BYU and Utah are teetering on the line of the Top 25.

So which team makes the cut? That's the difference.

The coaches' poll put BYU at No. 25 after a 69-0 win in the season opener against Portland State. AP voters placed Utah at No. 25 after surpassing UCLA.

In the AP poll, BYU received the most votes for an unranked team for the second time this season. Utah, meanwhile, finished 125 votes ahead of BYU.

The long-standing rivals will settle the debate on Oct. 18, when they go head-to-head at LaVell Edwards Stadium.

Hear from a voter: How much will a road loss/win against a top opponent impact team rankings?

It matters a bunch. The Clemson-LSU game is a great example.

LSU not only played stellar football against a really good opponent, but did it on the road and during prime time. The lights haven't been that hot for LSU in a few years, and it really stepped up.

I wouldn't have lost any sleep at ranking them No. 1 even though I had them ninth in the preseason. Quality win all the way around.

Likewise, not a terribly damning defeat for Clemson, either. It managed only 31 yards rushing, but re-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 56 of 76

mained within one score up until the final couple of minutes. And the spotlight was on Clemson just as it was on LSU.

— Scott Hamilton is a sports columnist for the Charleston Post and Courier and has been an AP Top 25 voter for eight years. You can follow him on X: @scotthamiltonpc.

Iowa State improves to No. 16 after back-to-back wins

Iowa State was another big riser, moving from No. 22 to No. 16 after consecutive wins.

The Cyclones beat a ranked Kansas State team 24-21 in Week 0, helping their case for a significant jump.

Iowa State went on to deliver a 55-7 win against South Dakota a week later.

Benjamin Brahmer caught seven passes for 47 yards and a team-high two touchdowns. Gabe Burkle led the Cyclones with 85 receiving yards and connected with QB Rocco Becht for a score. And Dylan Lee, Alex Manske, Abu Sama III and Xavier Townsend each notched a rushing touchdown.

Hear from a voter: When do you start ranking teams strictly by on-field results, instead of potential?

Usually after about three weeks, though it depends in large part on the schedule.

I've seen lots of hyped teams run roughshod over the Sisters of the Poor over the first few weeks, only to get exposed when conference play starts.

I can't say it enough that the eye test matters, too. A hyped team might struggle against a lesser opponent, but it could be because of things that are easily cleaned up and they otherwise look as expected.

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Conference breakdown

The SEC leads the Top 25 with 10 teams: LSU (3), Georgia (4), Texas (7), South Carolina (10), Florida (13), Oklahoma (18), Texas A&M (19), Ole Miss (20), Alabama (21) and Tennessee (22)

The Big Ten has the second-most with six teams, including the top two ranked teams: Ohio State (1), Penn State (2), Oregon (6), Illinois (11), Michigan (15) and Indiana (23)

The Atlantic Coast Conference has four: Miami (5), Clemson (8), Florida State (14) and SMU (17)

The Big 12 also has four: Arizona State (12), Iowa State (16), Texas Tech (24) and Utah (25)

Notre Dame (9) is independent.

Why does SC move up 3 spots, given a lackluster win against a middling Virginia Tech team?

Guessing a lot of voters liked the potential they saw in the Gamecocks, who were great on special teams (punt return TD), offense and defense (including a game-sealing pick), plus got another nice performance from game-changing QB LaNorris Sellers.

The schedule will get harder fast for South Carolina (see: trip to Missouri on Sept. 20), but voters liked S.C. at No. 13 in the preseason and were not disappointed in what they saw over the weekend.

Reader question: What does Auburn need to do to rank?

Auburn isn't too far-off the radar, but the Tigers need to boost their resume a tad before breaking into the Top 25.

Stacking wins is important, and they're off to a good start with a road win against Baylor. The real challenge comes as the schedule gets more difficult, especially with SEC opponents coming up.

After Ball State and South Alabama tuneup games comes a four-game stretch: at Oklahoma, at Texas A&M, then Georgia and Missouri at home.

A marquee win against a ranked team would certainly do the trick!

Hear from a voter: How did ASU move down in the rankings from 11?

That's a good question — I actually moved ASU up on my ballot from No. 18 to No. 11 as I had them in the preseason. But I saw enough, even against an overpowered Northern Arizona, to influence me to bump them up.

As far as the other voters, there was lots of action in the top half of the poll, and that usually means there are some ripples the farther down you go.

— Scott Hamilton is a sports columnist for the Charleston Post and Courier and has been an AP Top 25 voter for eight years.

FSU and Utah kick Boise State and Kansas State out

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 57 of 76

FSU wasn't the only team to break into the Top 25 this week.

Utah delivered a stunning 43-10 win over a UCLA team operating under transfer quarterback Nico Iamaleava. Utah quarterback Devon Dampier stole the show, completing 21 of 25 passes for 206 yards and two touchdowns while adding 87 yards and a score on foot.

Utah came in at No. 25, previously belonging to Boise State. The Broncos slipped out of the Top 25 after a 34-7 loss to South Florida, where the team couldn't get anything going offensively without Ashton Jeanty.

Kansas State also fell out of the Top 25 after struggling to beat North Dakota. The Wildcats narrowly avoided an upset loss with a last-minute touchdown, winning 38-35 in a game that should've teetered toward blowout status.

Hear from a voter: What do you think you need to see from Alabama to climb back up the rankings?

I need to see composure and discipline, first and foremost.

The Tide's roster is way too talented to be overwhelmed by anyone, let alone a team with the kind of baggage FSU is dealing with going back to last season.

That means extending drives, getting its defense off the field quickly and keeping their composure after penalties. Didn't see much of any of that on Saturday.

— Scott Hamilton is a sports columnist for the Charleston Post and Courier and has been an AP Top 25 voter for eight years.

Florida State jumps into Top 25, Alabama plummets

The story of the week came from Tallahassee, when Florida State, coming off a 2-10 season, delivered an upset victory against preseason No. 8 Alabama.

The Seminoles dominated for the bulk of the game, maintaining a lead from the second quarter on. Fumbles and missed field goals plagued an Alabama performance that fell short of the Crimson Tide standard. The previously unranked Seminoles now rank No. 14 in the poll.

Alabama fell to No. 21, the program's lowest ranking since coming in at No. 24 in the 2008 preseason poll.

Hear from a voter: FSU jumped to No. 16 on your ballot. What did you see from the Seminoles?

The Seminoles definitely looked more like the 2023 version than the ones we saw in the 2-10 version, that's for sure.

The offensive line was far better. And the FSU defense was fast and physical — that's probably the biggest takeaway for me.

The Seminoles were also more composed than Alabama, even after falling behind 7-0 right after kickoff. None of those traits was evident last year, or at least not evident for extended periods.

How has the transmission of votes changed over time?

The sports writers and broadcasters who are Top 25 voters have submitted their ballots in different ways over the years.

For most of the years since the poll debuted in 1936, voters called the AP sports desk in New York and dictated their ballots. Then a designated AP sports staffer would tabulate the ballots to come up with that week's Top 25.

The digital age made it easier for voters. Some would still dictate their ballots over the phone, but more and more they used email. About 20 years ago, a special webpage was created for voters. They now submit their ballots online and the tabulation is automated.

Texas falls to No. 7 after disappointing Week 1 outing

Arch Manning and the Texas Longhorns couldn't get much going for the bulk of their highly anticipated Week 1 matchup against Ohio State.

Manning completed 17 of 30 passes for 170 yards, a touchdown and an interception. 65 of his 170 yards came during a late fourth-quarter drive culminating in the Longhorns' sole touchdown. Texas slid to No. 7 as a result.

The fall marks the biggest for a preseason No. 1 since Auburn dropped to No. 8 in the first regular-season poll of 1984. The Longhorns have a chance to get back on the right track against a less daunting opponent in San Jose State on Saturday.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 58 of 76

Oregon moves up one after impressive debut

Week 1 went to plan for the Ducks, who defeated Montana State 59-13 in the season opener. Quarterback Dante Moore impressed, completing 18 of 23 passes for 213 yards and three touchdowns.

Oregon moved up from No. 7 to No. 6 in this week's poll, receiving 1,302 points and a first-place vote.

The Ducks aim to accumulate wins early before the start of the Big Ten competition in late September.

Miami rounds out the top 5 after Notre Dame upset

Miami jumped from No. 10 to No. 5 following a 27-24 Sunday night win against Notre Dame.

The Hurricanes held onto the lead despite a late-game resurgence from the Fighting Irish and quarterback CJ Carr. The Irish tied it up at 24 with 3:21 remaining. Transfer quarterback Carson Beck led a 10-play, 46-yard drive, putting the Hurricanes in field goal range with 1:07 remaining. Kicker Carter Davis hit a 47-yard field goal to seal the deal.

The Hurricanes last cracked the Top 5 in 2024 after a 9-0 start.

Georgia remains in the top 5 with a dominant Marshall win

Georgia moved up one spot in this week's poll, coming in at No. 4 after an authoritative 45-7 win over Marshall in the home opener.

Gunner Stockton fared well in his second start for the Bulldogs, taking full command of the passing and running games. Stockton threw for 190 yards and two touchdowns and led the Bulldogs with 73 yards and two touchdowns on 10 carries.

Penn State holds steady at No. 2

Penn State's 46-11 win over Nevada was enough to retain the No. 2 spot. The Nittany Lions finished with 1,558 points and seven first-place votes.

It was the kind of dominant win expected of a team of Penn State's caliber against a Nevada team that finished 3-10 in 2024. Drew Allar completed 22 of 26 passes for 217 yards and a score. Nick Singleton scored a team-high two rushing touchdowns. Kaytron Allen and Ethan Grunkemeyer each found the end zone on foot.

Allar connected with Kyron Hudson for Penn State's sole receiving touchdown of the outing, a 31-yard reception just before half.

LSU makes statement, jumps 6 spots

A statement-making 17-10 road victory against then-No. 4 Clemson helped LSU jump six spots, from No. 9 to No. 3 in this week's poll. LSU received the third-most first-place votes (3) and 1,514 points overall.

LSU's 2024 leading rusher Caden Durham picked up where he left off, rushing for a team-high 74 yards and a touchdown on 14 carries. Aaron Anderson connected with quarterback Garrett Nussmeier for six receptions and 99 yards. Trey'Dez Green notched the game-winning touchdown early in the fourth quarter on an 8-yard pass.

It's LSU's highest ranking since topping the poll during a historic 2019 campaign, when ironically, they beat Clemson in the National Championship game.

Ohio State dethrones Texas, tops Week 1 poll

Ohio State's hiatus from No. 1 was short-lived, returning to the top spot after a 14-7 week 1 victory against then top-seeded Texas. The Buckeyes received 55 first-place votes, 44 more than they received in the preseason poll (11), and 1,636 total points.

Ohio State last topped the poll after defeating Notre Dame 34-23 in the National Championship game. It's the Buckeyes' first regular-season No. 1 ranking since Nov. 1, 2015.

Julian Sayin performed well in his Buckeyes debut, completing 13 of 20 passes for 126 yards and a touchdown. It was a stout performance by Ohio State's defense, holding the Longhorns scoreless until late in the fourth quarter.

The Buckeyes leaped over Penn State, which maintained the No. 2 spot.

AP Top 25 college football poll rankings

1. Ohio State
2. Penn State
3. LSU

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 59 of 76

4. Georgia
5. Miami
6. Oregon
7. Texas
8. Clemson
9. Notre Dame
10. South Carolina
11. Illinois
12. Arizona State
13. Florida
14. Florida State
15. Michigan
16. Iowa State
17. SMU
18. Oklahoma
19. Texas A&M
20. Ole Miss
21. Alabama
22. Tennessee
23. Indiana
24. Texas Tech
25. Utah

Hear from a voter: What criteria matter most to voters for team rankings?

I look at quality wins and quality of play, which sound pretty basic.

That obviously means beating quality opponents and executing like the superior team when highly favored against other opponents. That's a big thing — being able to execute comfortably.

— Scott Hamilton is a sports columnist for the Charleston Post and Courier and has been an AP Top 25 voter for eight years.

Reader question: What are the chances of Nebraska being ranked this year?

Who can say? It will all depend on performance, notably by the Huskers' defense and the leadership provided by Dylan Raiola at QB.

Nebraska got a gritty win over Cincinnati in the opener and should cruise in its next two games against Akron and Houston Christian.

After that, come home games against Michigan and Michigan State, and then road trips to Maryland and Minnesota and a home game against Northwestern.

Will Nebraska be 8-0 going into the USC game? Seems like there are opportunities in that stretch to stand out to voters and get ranked.

Who votes in the poll, and how does it work?

No organization has been ranking teams and naming a major college football national champion longer than The Associated Press, since 1936.

AP employees don't vote themselves, but they do choose the voters. AP Top 25 voters comprise around 60 writers and broadcasters who cover college football for AP members and other select outlets. The goal is to have every state with a Football Bowl Subdivision school represented by at least one voter.

There is a 1-25 point system, with a team voted No. 1 receiving 25 points down to 1 point for a 25th-place vote. After that, it's simple: The poll lists the teams with the most points from 1 to 25, and others receiving votes are also noted.

Voting is done online, and the tabulation is automated.

Reader question: Do any G5 teams have a vote besides Tulane?

Yes, Group of Five teams did receive votes in this week's Top 25.

Does that mean a G5 team is ranked? Stay tuned for poll drop at 2 p.m. Eastern.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 60 of 76

Which teams could jump into the new poll?

No. 25 Boise State lost 34-7 at South Florida, which will probably cost the Broncos a spot in the rankings.

But there are plenty of other teams eager to take their place — Florida State arguably made the loudest statement, handing Alabama a 31-17 loss that could shake up the playoff race.

Utah manhandled UCLA 43-10 and BYU blew out Portland State 69-0 behind freshman QB Bear Bachmeier. The Utah schools were the top two teams that were first out in the last rankings, too.

Utah emerges as Big 12 threat

Utah increased its odds in the Big 12 after delivering a thumping 43-10 win over UCLA on Saturday.

It was a debut to remember for transfer quarterback Devon Dampier, who completed 21 of 25 passes for 206 yards and two touchdowns while adding 87 rushing yards and a touchdown on 16 carries.

It was the first taste of a Nico Iamaleava-led UCLA offense following the quarterback's surprising spring transfer from Tennessee. Iamaleava went 11 of 22 for 136 yards, a touchdown and an interception. He carried the ball 13 times for 47 yards.

Utah's odds to win the Big 12 improved to +450 after the win, tied for second with Arizona State (+450) and just behind Texas Tech (+350).

Corso ends legendary tenure on 'College GameDay' with perfect picks

Lee Corso made his final appearance on ESPN's "College GameDay" on Saturday ahead of the Ohio State and Texas matchup.

Corso helped build the show from the ground up and perhaps became most known for his popular mascot prediction schtick in which he dons the headgear of the team he predicts will win one of the biggest games of the week.

It was a full-circle finale for Corso, who predicted Ohio State's win by donning Brutus Buckeye, just like he did on Oct. 5, 1996, when the segment first began. Corso went 6-for-6 with his final predictions, an impressive feat given upsets including FSU over Alabama, Miami over Notre Dame and an LSU road win at Clemson.

Alabama and Texas performances undercut SEC's reputation Week 1

Southeastern Conference teams won 14 games and lost two during Week 1, but the two conference losses overshadowed the overall performance. FSU stunned No. 8 Alabama with a 31-17 victory, edging the Crimson Tide in total yards (382), rushing yards (230), yards per play (6.1), first downs (20) and faring better on third and fourth downs.

A historically dominant Alabama team exited Week 1 with much to prove and skeptical fans already throwing in the towel on coach Kalen DeBoer.

No. 1 Texas dropped 14-7 to No. 3 Ohio State in Arch Manning's debut as the starting quarterback. Manning struggled against a dominant Buckeyes' defense, completing 17 of 30 passes for 170 yards, a touchdown and an interception. The young quarterback's sole score, a 32-yard completion to Parker Livingstone, came with 3:28 left in the fourth and proved to be too little, too late.

Notre Dame and Miami restore old rivalry

Texas vs. Ohio State may have lacked the excitement fans hoped for, but the third and final top-10 matchup of the weekend didn't disappoint. The No. 10 Miami Hurricanes hosted No. 6 Notre Dame in a modern rendition of an old-school rivalry.

Both teams looked different with new quarterbacks. Notre Dame's CJ Carr warmed up as the game went on, finishing 19 of 30 for 221 yards, two touchdowns and an interception. Carr spearheaded a 14-point swing, culminating with a rushing touchdown to tie the game with 3:21 left.

Carson Beck threw for 205 yards and two touchdowns, leading the Hurricanes to a 27-24 victory. Kicker Carter Davis drilled the game-winner, a 47-yard field goal with 1:04 on the clock.

Nussmeier outplays Klubnik in Heisman contender showdown

Eyes turned to No. 9 LSU and No. 4 Clemson on Saturday night, a highly anticipated matchup between top-10 opponents.

It was an early view of veteran signal-callers and Heisman Trophy favorites Garrett Nussmeier and Cade

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 61 of 76

Klubnik. Nussmeier delivered a big win in enemy territory, completing 28 of 38 passes for 230 yards and a touchdown. The LSU quarterback connected with Trey'Dez Green for a game-winning 8-yard receiving touchdown with 12:18 on the clock in the fourth quarter.

Klubnik went 19 of 38 for 230 yards and an interception. Running back Adam Randall scored Clemson's sole touchdown of the night on a one-yard run right before half. The Klubnik-led offense had three opportunities to tie it up in the fourth quarter and fell short with two failed fourth-down attempts and a three-and-out.

Judge rules Trump administration broke law in deploying National Guard soldiers to LA this summer

By OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal judge ruled Tuesday that President Donald Trump's administration "willfully" broke federal law by sending National Guard troops to the Los Angeles area in early June after days of protests over immigration raids.

In the 52-page ruling, U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer in San Francisco noted Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth have stated their intention to deploy National Guard troops to other cities across the country, including Oakland and San Francisco, and that raises concerns they are "creating a national police force with the President as its chief."

Breyer did not require the 300 remaining soldiers to leave but pointed out they received improper training and ordered the administration to stop using them "to execute the laws." The order that applies only to California will take effect Sept. 12.

The White House indicated the government plans to appeal.

"Once again, a rogue judge is trying to usurp the authority of the Commander-in-Chief to protect American cities from violence and destruction," White House spokeswoman Anna Kelly said in a statement.

It was unclear if the order could set a precedent that could impact plans by Trump, who has discussed National Guard deployments in Democratic-led cities like Chicago, Baltimore and New York. Trump has already deployed the guard as part of his unprecedented law enforcement takeover targeting crime, immigration and homelessness in Washington, where he has direct legal control over the District of Columbia National Guard.

Judge says administration is violating the law

Breyer said in his ruling that the Trump administration used troops for functions that were barred by their own training materials, refused to "meaningfully coordinate with state and local officials" and "coached" federal law enforcement agencies on the language to use when requesting the Guard's assistance.

He said the government knew "they were ordering troops to execute domestic law beyond their usual authority" in using "armed soldiers (whose identity was often obscured by protective armor) and military vehicles to set up protective perimeters and traffic blockades, engage in crowd control, and otherwise demonstrate a military presence in and around Los Angeles."

Breyer barred troops from such actions, including making arrests, searches, acting as informants and collecting evidence.

Ruling follows California lawsuit

California sued over the deployment of troops, saying it violates the Posse Comitatus Act, a 1878 law that prohibits military enforcement of domestic laws. Lawyers for the Trump administration argued the Posse Comitatus Act doesn't apply because the troops were protecting federal officers, not enforcing laws, and that the president had the authority to call on the troops. Trump federalized members of the California National Guard under section 12406 of Title 10, which allows the president to call the guard into federal service when the country "is invaded," when "there is a rebellion or danger of a rebellion against the authority of the Government," or when the president is otherwise unable "to execute the laws of the United States."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 62 of 76

The deployment appeared to be the first time in decades that a state's national guard was activated without a request from its governor, a significant escalation against those who have sought to hinder the administration's mass deportation efforts.

Thousands of protesters took to the streets in response, blocking off a major freeway and setting self-driving cars on fire as law enforcement used tear gas, rubber bullets and flash bangs to control the crowd.

Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom said in a statement the court sided with democracy. "No president is a king — not even Trump — and no president can trample a state's power to protect its people," he said.

Trump administration has talked of more deployments

Trump has pushed the bounds of typical military activity on domestic soil, including through the creation of militarized zones along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Asked by reporters Tuesday in the Oval Office about sending National Guard troops to Chicago, Trump said, "We're going in," but added, "I didn't say when."

"I have an obligation," the president added. "This isn't a political thing."

Democratic Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker and Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson have pushed back, saying crime has fallen in Chicago. They are planning to sue if Trump moves forward with the plan.

Ret. Army Lt. Col. Daniel Maurer, an associate professor at Ohio Northern University College of Law, said presidents have federalized the National Guard to address widespread unrest and to desegregate schools but the Trump administration's example is "certainly the most aggressive use of the military domestically when the facts to support them are extremely weak."

He said the ruling could give a roadmap to other states.

Troops joined federal law enforcement in Southern California

Roughly 4,000 National Guard soldiers and 700 Marines were deployed to Los Angeles before all but 300 soldiers were withdrawn.

The soldiers marched at MacArthur Park in downtown Los Angeles, which was intended as a show of force. They also accompanied federal immigration officers on raids at two state-licensed marijuana nurseries in Ventura County, Army Maj. Gen. Scott Sherman testified.

Sherman, who initially commanded the troops, testified during the second day of the trial that he raised concerns the deployment could violate the Posse Comitatus Act.

He said soldiers were given materials that included a list of activities prohibited by the act.

Sherman said he was told by his superiors that there was a "constitutional exception" that permitted such activities when the troops are protecting federal property or personnel.

Kilauea's on-and-off eruption is back on in Hawaii. What to know about its dramatic lava displays

By AUDREY McAVOY Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Hawaii's Kilauea volcano has been shooting lava from its summit crater about once a week since late last year, delighting residents, visitors and online viewers alike with a firehose of molten rock.

On Tuesday, the volcano had its 32nd episode since December. Scientists believe they are all part of the same eruption because magma has been following the same pathway to the surface.

The lava has been contained within the summit crater inside Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and hasn't threatened homes or buildings.

Park visitors can see the eruption in person. Others can watch popular livestreams offering a choice of three different camera angles made possible by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Kilauea is on Hawaii Island, the largest of the Hawaiian archipelago. It's about 200 miles (320 kilometers) south of the state's largest city, Honolulu, which is on Oahu.

Here's what to know about the latest eruption at Kilauea, one of the world's most active volcanoes:

Fountainsof molten rock

A lower magma chamber under Halemaumau Crater has been receiving magma directly from the earth's

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 63 of 76

interior at about 5 cubic yards (3.8 cubic meters) per second, said Ken Hon, scientist-in-charge at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory. This blows the chamber up like a balloon and forces magma into an upper chamber. From there it gets pushed above ground through cracks.

Many of the eruptive episodes since December have featured lava soaring high into the air. In some cases the lava formed towers topping 1,000 feet (300 meters.) The fountains are generated in part because magma — which holds gases that are released as it rises — has been traveling to the surface through narrow, pipelike vents.

The expanding magma supply is capped by heavier magma that had expelled its gas at the end of the prior episode. Eventually enough new magma accumulates to force the degassed magma off, and the magma shoots out like a Champagne bottle that was shaken before the cork was popped.

This is the fourth time in 200 years that Kilauea has shot lava fountains into the air in repeated episodes. There were more episodes the last time Kilauea followed this pattern: The eruption that began in 1983 started with 44 sessions of shooting fountains. Those were spread out over three years, however. And the fountains emerged in a remote area, so few got to watch.

The other two occurred in 1959 and 1969.

Predicting Kilauea's future

Scientists don't know how the current eruption will end or how it may change. In 1983 magma built enough pressure that Kilauea opened a vent at a lower elevation and started continuously leaking lava from there rather than periodically shooting out from a higher elevation. The eruption continued in various forms for three decades and ended in 2018.

Something similar could happen again. Or the current eruption could instead stop at the summit if its magma supply peters out.

Scientists can estimate a few days or even a week ahead of time when lava is likely to emerge with the help of sensors around the volcano that detect earthquakes and minuscule changes in the angle of the ground, which indicate when magma is inflating or deflating.

"Our job is like being a bunch of ants crawling on an elephant trying to figure out how the elephant works," Hon said.

The lava fountains have been shorter lately. Steve Lundblad, a University of Hawaii at Hilo geology professor, said the vent may have gotten wider, leaving molten rock less pressurized.

"We're still gonna have spectacular eruptions," he said. "They're just going to be wider and not as high."

Carrying stories of Pele

Some people may see lava flows as destructive. But Huihui Kanahele-Mossman, the executive director of the Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation, said lava is a natural resource that hardens into land and forms the foundation for everything on Hawaii Island.

Kanahele-Mossman's nonprofit is named after her grandmother — the esteemed practitioner of Hawaiian language and culture. The foundation's hula halau, or school, is celebrated for its mastery of a style of hula rooted in the stories of Pele and her sister, Hi'iaka.

Kanahele-Mossman has visited the crater a few times since the eruption began. She initially watches in awe and reverence. But then she observes more details so she can go home and compare it to the lava in the centuries-old tales that her school performs. While at the crater, she also delivers a chant prepared in advance and places offerings. Recently she presented awa, a drink made with kava, and a fern lei.

"You as the dancer, you are the storyteller and you carry that history that was written in those mele forward," she said, using the Hawaiian word for song. "To be able to actually see that eruption that's described in the mele, that's always exciting to us and drives us and motivates us to stay in this tradition."

Visiting the volcano

Park visitation has been increasing since the eruption began. In April, there were 49% more visitors than the same month of 2024.

Park spokesperson Jessica Ferracane noted that the last several episodes have only lasted about 10 to 12 hours. Those wanting to go should sign up for U.S. Geological Survey alert notifications because the

eruption could be over before you know it, she said.

She cautioned that visitors should stay on marked trails and overlooks because unstable cliff edges and cracks in the earth may not be immediately apparent, and falling could lead to serious injury or death. Young children should be kept close to adults.

Volcanic gas, glass and ash can also be dangerous. Nighttime visitors should bring a flashlight.

Israel starts calling up reservists as it pushes into initial stages of Gaza City offensive

By WAFAA SHURAF, SAM METZ and FATMA KHALED Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel began mobilizing tens of thousands of reservists and repeated evacuation warnings on Tuesday as part of its plan to widen its offensive in Gaza City, which has sparked opposition domestically and condemnation abroad.

The call-up, which was announced last month, comes as ground and air forces press forward and pursue more targets in northern and central Gaza, striking parts of Zeitoun and Shijaiyah — two western Gaza City neighborhoods that Israeli forces have repeatedly invaded during the nearly two-year war against Hamas militants.

Zeitoun, once Gaza City's largest neighborhood with markets, schools and clinics, has been transformed over the past month, with streets being emptied and buildings reduced to rubble as it becomes what Israel's military last week called a "dangerous combat zone."

Israel says Gaza City is still a Hamas stronghold where the militants have a vast tunnel network, despite multiple incursions throughout the war. It's also one of the last refuges in northern Gaza, where hundreds of thousands of civilians are sheltering, facing the twin threats of combat and famine.

Some reservists are refusing to serve again, accusing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of prolonging the war for political purposes instead of reaching a hostage deal with Hamas. Netanyahu has said that the war will continue until all the hostages are returned and Hamas surrenders.

"We are facing the decisive stage," Netanyahu said in a video statement addressed to the troops. "With God's help, together we will win."

Deadly strikes in Gaza City

Israel on Tuesday repeated earlier warnings to Palestinians who have remained in Gaza City, unconvinced that another displacement will keep them safe.

Israeli military spokesperson Avichay Adraee warned that combat operations would soon be expanding, and that services would be made available in Muwasi, a makeshift tent camp south of Gaza City.

At least 47 people have been killed across the Gaza Strip since dawn on Tuesday, according to hospitals.

A strike on a residential building in Gaza City's Tel al-Hawa neighborhood killed 15 people, including at least three children, according to Shifa Hospital.

Rescue workers pulled a bloodied infant alive from beneath rubble, and then placed the dead under white sheets — a scene that captured the dangers facing Gaza City's exhausted residents, uprooted time and again and uncertain if any place is secure.

"We were sleeping safe and sound in our home, and then we suddenly woke up to the sound of banging and rising smoke," Sana Drimli, a resident of the building, told The Associated Press. "We woke up to see what happened to us and check in on our children and discovered that everyone around us is dead," she said.

Further south, Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis and Awda Hospital in Nuseirat said that they received 22 casualties killed by Israeli airstrikes and gunfire near distribution sites and in a corridor frequented by U.N. convoys.

In recent months, more than 2,300 aid seekers have been killed, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

The toll includes Palestinians who have sought aid in areas where U.N. convoys have been overwhelmed by looters and desperate crowds, and where people have been fatally shot while heading to sites run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, or GHF, an Israeli-backed American contractor.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 65 of 76

Israel's military didn't immediately respond to requests for comment. GHF said that there were no such incidents linked to its sites or on dedicated routes leading to them.

Reservists protest in Tel Aviv

At least 60,000 reservists will be gradually called up, Israel's military said last month. It will also extend the service of an additional 20,000 reservists already serving.

In Israel, with a population of less than 10 million, most Jewish men complete compulsory military service and remain in the reserves for at least a decade.

But criticism over the war in Gaza is growing. A number of movements are organizing to encourage reservists not to serve, though it's unclear how many will refuse the latest call-up.

A recently formed group called Soldiers for the Hostages said that it includes more than 365 soldiers who served earlier in the war, but won't report for duty if called up again.

"Netanyahu's ongoing war of aggression needlessly puts our own hostages in danger and has wreaked havoc on the fabric of Israeli society, while at the same time killing, maiming and starving an entire population of Gazan civilians," Max Kresch, a member of the group, told reporters.

Refusing to show up for reserve duty is an offense that can merit prison time, though only a handful of reserve soldiers who have refused to serve have been put in military imprisonment over the course of the war.

Malnutrition and combat tolls grow

Since the world's leading authority on food crises declared last month that Gaza City was experiencing famine, malnutrition-related deaths have mounted. Gaza's Health Ministry said on Tuesday that a total of 185 people died of malnutrition in August — marking the highest count in months.

A total of 63,633 Palestinians have been killed in the war, according to the ministry, which says another 160,914 people have been wounded as of Tuesday. The ministry doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants in its count, but says women and children make up around half of the dead.

The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government but staffed by medical professionals. U.N. agencies and many independent experts consider its figures to be the most reliable estimate of war casualties. Israel disputes them, but hasn't provided its own toll.

The war started when Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took 251 people hostage. Forty-eight hostages are still inside Gaza, around 20 of them believed by Israel to be alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefires or other deals.

Ohio State is No. 1 in AP Top 25; LSU, Miami into top 5, Florida State is back and Alabama plummets

By ERIC OLSON AP College Football Writer

Ohio State climbed to No. 1 in The Associated Press Top 25 college football poll on Tuesday, LSU and Miami moved into the top five, and Florida State jumped back into the rankings at the expense of Alabama, which plummeted to its lowest spot in 17 seasons.

The defending national champion Buckeyes received 55 of 66 first-place votes to move up two spots after their win over preseason No. 1 Texas. Ohio State is at the top of a regular-season Top 25 for the first time since November 2015.

Texas dropped to No. 7 as the media voters shuffled the rankings following a topsy-turvy Labor Day weekend. It was only the second time, and first since 1972, that two top-five teams lost in Week 1 and the first time four top-10 teams lost. Only three teams in the Top 25 are in the same spot they were in the preseason poll.

Penn State got seven first-place votes and remained No. 2. LSU, which received three first first-place votes, was followed by Georgia and Miami to round out the top five.

Oregon got the other first-place vote and was followed by Texas, Clemson, Notre Dame and South Carolina.

LSU jumped six spots after winning at Clemson and Miami got a five-rung promotion for its victory over Notre Dame.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 66 of 76

The biggest movers in the poll were Florida State and Alabama after the Seminoles' 31-17 victory in their head-to-head matchup: Florida State, 15 spots outside the Top 25 in the preseason, is now No. 14. Alabama dropped all the way from No. 8 to No. 21 — its lowest ranking since it was No. 24 in the 2008 preseason poll. That was the second of Nick Saban's 17 teams in Tuscaloosa.

It's been quite a turnabout for Florida State. The Seminoles were No. 10 in the 2024 preseason, lost their first two games, finished 2-10 and weren't ranked again until now.

In and out

Utah, at No. 25, joins Florida State as the only newcomers this week.

The Utes had received the second-most points, behind BYU, among teams outside the preseason Top 25. Utah got more credit for beating UCLA 43-10 on the road than BYU got for hammering FCS foe Portland State. The Utes are ranked for the first time since last October, when they were at the front end of a seven-game losing streak.

Boise State, which had been No. 25, received no votes following its 34-7 loss at South Florida. The Broncos had appeared in 14 straight polls. The other team to drop out of the poll was No. 17 Kansas State, which followed up its season-opening loss to Iowa State with a last-minute home win over FCS team North Dakota.

Poll points

— Ohio State is the first team to take over the top spot in the first regular-season poll since Alabama in 2012. It was the biggest jump to No. 1 in the first regular-season poll since Southern California was promoted from No. 3 in 2008.

— Texas' fall was the biggest for a preseason No. 1 since Auburn dropped to No. 8 in the first regular-season poll of 1984.

— LSU has its highest ranking after Week 1 since it was No. 3 in 2012, and Miami has its highest ranking after Week 1 since it was No. 5 in 2004.

— South Carolina is in the top 10 in the regular season for the first time since it was No. 8 in December 2013.

Conference call

SEC — 10 ranked teams (Nos. 3, 4, 7, 10, 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22)

Big Ten — 6 (Nos. 1, 2, 6, 11, 15, 23)

ACC — 4 (Nos. 5, 8, 14, 17)

Big 12 — 4 (Nos. 12, 16, 24, 25)

Independent — 1 (No. 9)

Ranked vs. ranked

No. 15 Michigan at No. 18 Oklahoma: This weekend's game will be the first meeting since Oklahoma beat the Wolverines in the Orange Bowl to win the 1975 national championship. Wolverines freshman QB Bryce Underwood gets put to the test in his second start.

G rard Depardieu to face trial in Paris over rape and sexual assault allegations

PARIS (AP) — French film star G rard Depardieu has been ordered to stand trial before a criminal court in Paris over allegations of rape and sexual assault against actor Charlotte Arnould.

"I feel relieved," Arnould, 29, wrote on Instagram on Tuesday, announcing that she had received the investigating judge's indictment order. "The order restores a form of judicial truth. I think I'm having trouble realizing how huge this is."

Arnould has said that the alleged crimes took place at Depardieu's Paris home on Aug. 7 and Aug. 13, 2018. She was 22 and he was 69 at the time. He has denied wrongdoing.

"The acts of rape and sexual assault have been acknowledged," Arnould said. "Now, we await the next steps."

No date for the trial has been set yet, and there was no official comment from the court.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 67 of 76

Arnould's lawyer, Carine Durrieu-Diebolt, said in a statement that she and Arnould were "relieved and confident," describing the decision as a "moment of judicial truth" in the case, pending trial.

Prosecutors submitted a request last year for the case to proceed to trial.

The 76-year-old Depardieu, one of the most prominent figures in French cinema for decades, has faced a series of accusations of wrongdoing against women in recent years.

He was convicted earlier this year of sexually assaulting two women on a film set and received an 18-month suspended prison sentence. The case was widely seen as a post-#MeToo test for the country's film industry. Arnould attended that trial.

In that case, Depardieu was convicted of groping a 54-year-old woman responsible for decorating the set and a 34-year-old assistant during the filming of "Les Volets Verts" ("The Green Shutters") in 2021. The court ordered his name to be listed in the national sex offender database.

The actor has been accused publicly or in formal complaints of misconduct by more than 20 women in all, but so far only the sexual assault case has proceeded to court. Other cases were dropped because of a lack of evidence or because the statute of limitations expired.

For more than a half-century, Depardieu stood as a towering figure in French cinema, a titan known for his commanding physical presence, instinct, sensibility and remarkable versatility. A bon vivant who overcame a speech impediment and a turbulent youth, Depardieu rose to prominence in the 1970s and became one of France's most prolific and acclaimed actors, portraying a vast array of characters, from volatile outsiders to deeply introspective figures. He was nominated for an Oscar in 1991 for his performance as the swordsman and poet Cyrano de Bergerac.

In recent years, his behavior toward women has come under renewed scrutiny, including after a documentary showed him repeatedly making obscene remarks and gestures during a 2018 trip to North Korea.

The defunded Corporation for Public Broadcasting will get one of TV's biggest prizes

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting will be honored with one of the television's top prizes even as it winds down its nearly 60-year work after the U.S. government withdrew funding.

The organization, which has helped pay for PBS, NPR, 1,500 local radio and TV stations as well as programs like "Sesame Street" and "Finding Your Roots," will be awarded the Television Academy's Governors Award, which honors those who have "made a profound, transformational and long-lasting contribution to the arts and/or science of television."

It will be handed to Patricia de Stacy Harrison, the longest-serving president and CEO of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting at the Creative Arts Emmy Awards ceremony on Sept. 7.

"For more than half a century, CPB has been a steadfast champion of storytelling that informs, educates and unites us and ensures public media remains a vital space where diverse voices are heard and communities are served," Television Academy Chair Cris Abrego said in a statement Tuesday.

The corporation told employees that most staff positions will end with the fiscal year on Sept. 30. A small transition team will stay until January to finish any remaining work.

The closure is expected to have a profound impact on the journalistic and cultural landscape — in particular, public radio and TV stations in small communities across the United States.

The private, nonprofit corporation was founded in 1968 shortly after Congress authorized its formation. It now ends nearly six decades of fueling the production of renowned educational programming, cultural content and emergency alerts about natural disasters.

President Donald Trump signed a bill in July canceling about \$1.1 billion that had been approved for public broadcasting. The White House claims the public media system is politically biased and an unnecessary expense.

Previous recipients of the Governors Award include Jerry Lewis, John Walsh, Bob Hope, Ted Turner, Tyler Perry, "Star Trek," "American Idol" and Debbie Allen.

Leading genocide scholars organization says Israel is committing genocide in Gaza

By MOLLY QUELL Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The largest professional organization of scholars studying genocide said Monday that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza.

The determination by the International Association of Genocide Scholars — which has around 500 members worldwide, including a number of Holocaust experts — could serve to further isolate Israel in global public opinion and adds to a growing chorus of organizations that have used the term for Israel's actions in Gaza. Israel rejects the accusation and called the resolution an "embarrassment to the legal profession."

"Israel's policies and actions in Gaza meet the legal definition of genocide," according to group's resolution.

"People who are experts in the study of genocide can see this situation for what it is," Melanie O'Brien, the organization's president and a professor of international law at the University of Western Australia, told The Associated Press.

The resolution was supported by 86% of those who voted. O'Brien said 28% of members participated — a rate that's typical for the group's resolutions. Voting is held by email, according to the group's bylaws, and members have 30 days to reply.

In the Oct. 7, 2023, attack that sparked the war, Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted 251. Forty-eight hostages remain in Gaza, around 20 of whom Israel believes are alive.

In Israel's ensuing offensive, large swaths of Gaza have been leveled and most of the territory's over 2 million people have been displaced. More than 63,000 Palestinians have died, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many were fighters or civilians but that around half have been women and children.

The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government and staffed by medical professionals. The United Nations and independent experts consider it the most reliable source on war casualties. Israel disputes the figures but has not provided its own.

The scholars' resolution accused Israel of crimes including "indiscriminate and deliberate attacks against the civilians and civilian infrastructure" in Gaza and called on Israel to "immediately cease all acts that constitute genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity against Palestinians in Gaza."

It begins with an acknowledgment that Hamas' attack "constitutes international crimes."

Genocide was codified in a 1948 convention drawn up after the horrors of the Holocaust that defines it as acts "committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group." The U.N. and many Western countries have said only a court can rule on whether the crime has been committed. A case against Israel is before the U.N.'s highest court.

Israel — founded in part as a refuge in the wake of the Holocaust, when some 6 million European Jews were murdered — vehemently denied it is committing genocide.

"The IAGS has set a historic precedent — for the first time, 'Genocide Scholars' accuse the very victim of genocide — despite Hamas's attempted genocide against the Jewish people," Israel's Foreign Ministry said in a statement. "Disgraceful."

Israel says Hamas is prolonging the war by not surrendering and releasing the hostages. In recent days, it began the initial stages of a new offensive and declared Gaza City a combat zone.

The scholars group, founded in 1994, has previously held that China's treatment of the minority Muslim Uyghurs and Myanmar's crackdown on Rohingya Muslims meet the threshold for genocide.

In 2006, the organization said statements by then-Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, in which he called for Israel to be "wiped off the map," had "genocidal intent."

In July, two prominent Israeli rights groups — B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights-Israel — said their country is committing genocide in Gaza. The organizations do not reflect mainstream thinking in Israel, but it marked the first time that local Jewish-led organizations have made such accusations.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 69 of 76

International human rights groups have also leveled the allegation.

Meanwhile, South Africa has accused Israel of breaching the Genocide Convention at the International Court of Justice — an allegation Israel rejects.

The court does not have a police force to implement its ruling, which could take years, but if a nation believes another member has failed to comply with an ICJ order, it can report that to the U.N. Security Council.

The council is able to impose sanctions and even authorize military action, but each of the five permanent members holds a veto, including Israel's staunchest ally, the United States. U.S. President Donald Trump has said he does not believe genocide is taking place.

Belgium moves toward recognizing a Palestinian state, drawing Israeli rebuke

By SAM McNEIL Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Belgium will move toward recognizing a Palestinian state, the country's foreign minister said Tuesday, joining a growing list of countries preparing to take the step as Israel steps up its offensive in Gaza.

Maxime Prévot said Belgium's plans to recognize a Palestinian state will be announced at the United Nations General Assembly later this month.

However, the acknowledgment is predicated on two conditions — the return of all Israeli hostages held in Gaza and the removal of Hamas from political power in the coastal exclave. The conditions make it unlikely the recognition will be formalized anytime soon.

The announcement marks the latest sign of international support for a Palestinian state, and would add Belgium to a list of more than 140 countries to recognize Palestinian statehood, including more than a dozen in Europe.

Prévot on Tuesday also announced plans to ban goods coming from Israeli settlements in the West Bank and designate Hamas leaders, violent settlers, and two far-right Israeli ministers as persona non grata.

"This is not about sanctioning the Israeli people but about ensuring that their government respects international and humanitarian law and taking action to try to change the situation on the ground," Prévot said on social platform X.

Prévot said the European Union should put more pressure on Israel by suspending ties with the country, including its trade pact known as the Association Agreement.

Israel's war in Gaza has stressed ties within the bloc's 27 nations, ignited protests across the continent, and frayed political coalitions including in Belgium and its neighbor the Netherlands. But despite growing political tension, Israel's deep ties with European military, business and academic institutions remain largely intact.

Belgium's announcement sparked fury from Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, who, along with Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, is a likely target of the new sanctions.

"The self-righteous European countries that are being manipulated by Hamas — at the end they'll discover terrorism on their own flesh," Ben Gvir said in a statement to The Associated Press.

France and the United Kingdom have both announced plans to recognize Palestine, putting added diplomatic pressure on Israel. France and Saudi Arabia are planning an event around the annual gathering of world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly, which starts Sept. 23, when new pledges are expected to be officially announced.

Australia, Canada and the European countries moving toward statehood recognition have predicated the step on the Palestinian Authority making reforms. The current Palestinian leadership is seen as corrupt and autocratic by many Palestinians. While the leaders cooperate with Israel on security matters, Israel does not view them as effective or fully committed to peace, and says the Palestinian Authority should have no role in postwar Gaza.

The Palestinians seek an independent state in the occupied West Bank, annexed east Jerusalem and

Gaza, territories Israel occupied in the 1967 Mideast war.

Israel's government and most of its political class have long opposed Palestinian statehood and now say it would reward militants after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack.

Dwight Howard had a career like few others. The Basketball Hall of Fame took notice

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

All Dwight Howard urges his doubters to do is this: look at the numbers. They tell the story, he insists. He averaged 15.7 points and 11.8 rebounds per game. Only 13 other players in the history of the NBA have posted those for a career.

They all made the Hall of Fame.

"So, why not me?" Howard asked.

He doesn't have to ask that question anymore.

Howard — who is still upset, and some would say rightly so, for being left off the NBA's 75th anniversary team that was unveiled nearly four years ago — wasn't snubbed for the top individual honor that can be bestowed upon a player. He goes into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame this weekend, the caper to a career where he was an eight-time All-Star, a five-time rebounding champion, a two-time blocked shots champion and the only player to win defensive player of the year in three consecutive seasons.

"I'm most proud of the fact that I've had longevity, and I've been able to play as long as I've been able play and stay as healthy as I have," Howard said. "And I want people to say that one thing about me is that I was always going to put my best foot forward, 100% effort. They can say, 'No matter what it is, he's going to put in everything he has.'"

Howard is one of two dual-enshrinees this weekend; he and Carmelo Anthony are both going into the Hall of Fame for their individual achievements and again as part of the 2008 U.S. Olympic basketball team dubbed the "Redeem Team" after winning gold at the Beijing Games that summer.

Also entering the Hall this weekend: women's basketball greats Sue Bird, Maya Moore and Sylvia Fowles, Miami Heat managing general partner Micky Arison, longtime NBA referee Dan Crawford and Chicago Bulls coach Billy Donovan — a winner of two NCAA titles when he coached at Florida.

"It's a great class," USA Basketball men's national team director Sean Ford said.

Howard is 10th on the NBA's all-time rebounding list, 13th on the list of blocked shots. He's one of four players with three DPOY awards, behind only four-time winners Dikembe Mutombo, Ben Wallace and Rudy Gobert. And he got his lone NBA ring in 2020, when the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Miami Heat in the bubble finals.

Only one other player — Elvin Hayes — finished his NBA career averaging as many points, rebounds and blocked shots as Howard did. Blocks didn't become an official stat until 1973, but regardless, the numbers showed Howard was a lock for the hall in Springfield, Massachusetts, to call.

"It was absolutely ridiculous that he didn't make Top 75," Stan Van Gundy, Howard's longtime coach in Orlando, said when that 75th anniversary team was released.

Howard and Van Gundy didn't always agree. On this point, they're in lockstep.

"I was wondering if I was ever going to get into the Hall of Fame after the Top 75 thing, because it just seemed like, as far as my basketball play, I haven't really received that much respect from my years in the league," Howard said. "It was a little difficult. But then once I got the call, I was like, 'Wow, this is here.'"

The 75th anniversary team snub might come up in the speech that Howard is planning to deliver this weekend. If this speech goes like the one he gave earlier this year when he was inducted into the Orlando Magic Hall of Fame — he spent his first eight NBA seasons with the Magic, hardly missing a game after they took him No. 1 overall in the 2004 draft — expect some laughs and some tears. Howard doesn't mind showing his emotions.

The Hall didn't make him wait, either. Howard was voted in during his first year of eligibility.

"It's happening. It's me being in the Hall of Fame, being inducted in the Hall of Fame as player and then

being inducted into the Hall of Fame as an Olympian," Howard said. "It's just like a double whammy, but in a good way."

Putin says Trump administration is listening to Russia's arguments on Ukraine war

By The Associated Press undefined

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday that U.S. President Donald Trump's administration is listening to the Kremlin's justifications for its invasion of neighboring Ukraine and claimed that Moscow and Washington have come to a "mutual understanding" about the conflict.

Putin said during a visit to China that "the (Trump) administration is listening to us," as he complained that former President Joe Biden paid Moscow's arguments no heed.

"Now we see this mutual understanding, it's noticeable," Putin said at a bilateral meeting with pro-Russian Slovak President Robert Fico after talks with Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Beijing. "We are very happy about this and hope this constructive dialogue will continue."

But Russia faces possible punitive actions by Trump, who has expressed frustration at Putin's lack of engagement in U.S.-led peace efforts and threatened unspecified "severe consequences." The American president has made ending the three-year war one of his diplomatic priorities and hosted Putin at a summit in Alaska last month.

Putin attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in the Chinese city of Tianjin with Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who are also facing pressure from Trump. The SCO started out as a security forum viewed as a foil to U.S. influence in Central Asia but it has grown in influence over the years.

After the summit, the Russian leader held talks with Xi in Beijing, and on Wednesday he was to attend a massive military parade there commemorating the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II.

In Beijing, Putin struck an apparently amenable tone about possible progress in some aspects of the discussions to stop the fighting, although his comments reflected no substantial change in Russia's position. Western leaders have accused Putin of marking time in peace efforts while Russia's bigger army seeks to overwhelm Ukrainian defenses.

On the key issue of possible postwar security guarantees for Ukraine to deter another Russian invasion, Putin said "it seems to me that there is an opportunity to find consensus." He didn't elaborate.

While Putin reiterated that Moscow will not accept NATO membership for Ukraine, he also noted that he had never objected to Ukraine joining the European Union.

He also said Russia "can work with our American partners" at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, Europe's largest and one of the 10 biggest atomic power plants in the world. Its fate has been a central concern of the war due to fears of a nuclear accident.

Putin said Russia could also work with Ukraine on the Zaporizhzhia question — "if favorable conditions arise."

Fico said he planned to meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Friday in the Ukrainian city of Uzhhorod, which lies on the border with Slovakia, to talk about Ukraine's attacks on Russian energy infrastructure.

Slovakia and Hungary, which refuse to provide arms to Ukraine, condemned recent strikes by Ukrainian troops against Russian oil infrastructure, namely the Druzhba oil pipeline. The two countries, as well as the Czech Republic, are exempt from a European Union ban on importing Russian oil, which they rely on.

Fico told Putin he wants to normalize relations and develop business ties with Russia while continuing to import Russian oil and natural gas.

Will Power out at Penske: Team confirms Australian will not return for 18th season

By JENNA FRYER AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Will Power, the consummate company man who won two IndyCar titles and the Indianapolis 500 for Roger Penske, will not return to Team Penske for an 18th season.

The long-expected announcement was finally made Tuesday, two days after the season finale, and nearly a year after speculation began that Power would not be renewed when his contract expired as the team eyed a younger driver. Power turns 45 at the start of next season.

"As we sat down to talk about our future together, Will felt that it was time for him to make a change beginning with next season," Penske said in a statement. "He has been an outstanding driver and teammate for our organization. His results speak for themselves, and we wish him the very best in the next phase of his career."

As the season dragged on without any movement from Penske, Power's departure became more and more obvious. He showed up at the season-opener in March — on his birthday weekend — facing questions about the possibility of 23-year-old David Malukas replacing him at the end of the year. The speculation was never silenced by Team Penske, but Malukas was not confirmed as Power's replacement Tuesday.

After Sunday's season finale at Nashville Superspeedway, Power was both reflective and grateful for the time he'd had at Penske, where he won 42 races, two championships, the Indy 500 and became IndyCar's all-time pole-winner with 71.

"It's been the honor of my life to drive for Roger and the Penske organization," Power said. "We have accomplished so much together, and I will always be grateful for my time with the team and my teammates who have supported me along the way. After much consideration, I felt like a change for me was the right move at this time."

Power, with 45 career victories, ranks fourth on the all-time IndyCar wins list behind A.J. Foyt (67), Scott Dixon (59) and Mario Andretti (52). He passed Andretti as the greatest qualifier in series history.

This season, he proved to be the best of the trio of Penske drivers — he was most consistent, his win at Portland was the first of the season for Penske — and he's shown despite his age he's still among the most competitive on the grid. Power was leading at Nashville and had positioned himself for the win until a mistake in the pits took him out of contention.

He told his engineer on pit lane after the race he wasn't returning in 2026 in a conversation that had both engineer David Faustino and Power's wife, Liz, in tears. Power has won at least one race every season except 2023 — the year his wife nearly died from a staph infection.

It's not clear where Power will go, but the softest landing spot on the grid would be if Colton Herta leaves IndyCar for F2, the Formula 1 feeder system, in an effort to achieve the super license Herta needs to compete for the new Cadillac team in the global series.

That would open a seat at Andretti Global and new owner Dan Towriss, who also owns the Cadillac F1 team, a NASCAR team, and multiple other organizations in various motorsports series, could use a veteran like Power as he attempts to bring the IndyCar program back to the top of the series.

New NFL season kicks off with permanent kickoff changes and more

By JOSH DUBOW AP Pro Football Writer

A new NFL season is set to begin with last year's experiment on the new kickoff becoming permanent with a new tweak and several other changes in rules and officiating.

The league also will implement changes to the overtime rule for the regular season, expand replay assist, crack down on bad sportsmanship and use Hawk-Eye virtual measuring to replace the old-time chains to determine first downs.

The league experimented with the so-called dynamic kickoff in 2024 in hopes of more returns while also

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 73 of 76

making the play safer. Owners voted in April to make the change permanent while moving touchbacks on kicks that reach the end zone on the fly from the 30 to the 35, which is expected to lead to more kicks in play and more returns.

There was no change in the tush push play that Philadelphia used so successfully on the way to winning the Super Bowl last season.

Here's an explanation of some of the new rules that will be in place.

What's new with the kickoff?

The league was mostly pleased with the experimental kickoff put in place for 2024 that led to the rate of kickoff returns increasing from a record-low 21.8% in 2023 to 32.8% last season, while reducing the rate of injuries on what had been the game's most dangerous play.

The rule made kickoffs more like scrimmage plays by placing the coverage players and blockers close together to eliminate the high-speed collisions that had contributed to so many injuries on the play. The league said the rate of concussions dropped 43% on returns, with a significant reduction as well in lower-body injuries.

The problem last season was many teams still opted to kick the ball in the end zone because the touchback wasn't punitive enough. The average starting field position on a touchback was only 2.4 yards further than the average starting position after returns, which was the 27.6-yard line.

By moving the touchback to the 35, the league projects that the return rate will rise to somewhere between 60% and 70%, with a similar increase in long returns, adding more excitement to the game.

The league also approved a small tweak to how blockers on the return team are allowed to line up in the setup zone that could lead to longer returns.

Teams returned just over 76% of kicks in the preseason, up from 70% in the 2024 preseason. But that number typically drops in the regular season when teams don't use kickoffs to evaluate players for spots at the end of the roster.

How about onside kicks?

Teams will still need to declare their intention to try an onside kick because of the different formation. But a new change will allow trailing teams to try one before the start of the fourth quarter after Kansas City had to kick deep while down 28 points in the final minute of the third quarter in the Super Bowl.

Coverage players will also be allowed to line up one yard closer in hopes of increasing the rate of recovery from about 6% over the past three seasons to at least 10%.

How will overtime change?

The league approved a proposal to make the regular season overtime more like the postseason, with both teams getting a chance at a possession, even if the team that gets the ball first scores a touchdown.

The NFL added regular season overtime in 1974, adding a 15-minute sudden death period that ended on any score. In 2010, the rule was tweaked to a modified sudden death that required an opening possession touchdown to immediately end the game instead of only a field goal. That was in effect in both the regular season and the playoffs.

Overtime then was shortened for the regular season to only 10 minutes in 2017. A rule change in 2022 for the playoffs only gave both teams the chance to score even with a touchdown on the opening possession.

Now that will be the case in the regular season, after the improved field position on kickoffs made winning in OT on an opening possession TD easier.

According to Sportradar, six of the 16 overtime games last season ended on an opening-drive TD for the most overtime games ended on the first drive since the rule change went into effect in 2010.

In all, teams that won the overtime toss won 75% of the time last season, according to Sportradar, and have a .606 winning percentage in overtime since it was cut to 10 minutes.

The league kept the 10-minute overtime period instead of expanding it back to 15 minutes like was originally proposed by Philadelphia, which could lead to teams opting to go for 2 and a win if they match an opening-drive TD with one of their own since there might not be time for another possession.

Replay assist

The NFL expanded its replay assist system to overturn objective calls if there was “clear and obvious” evidence that a foul didn’t occur. The calls could include facemask penalties, whether there was forcible contact to the head or neck area, horse-collar tackles and tripping. Replay also would be able to overturn a roughing-the-kicker or running-into-the-kicker penalty if video showed the defender made contact with the ball.

The league has been using replay assist in recent years to overturn obvious errors on aspects like whether a pass is caught or where the ball should be spotted without the referee needing to stop the game for a review.

The Competition Committee says there’s no interest in allowing replay assists to call penalties on plays missed by officials on the field.

Other changes

Referees will no longer use the chains to determine first downs, opting instead for a virtual measuring system. This won’t eliminate the officials who manually spot the ball and use chains to mark the line to gain.

The Hawk-Eye system consists of six 8K cameras for optical tracking of the position of the ball with the result shown on stadium scoreboards. The league estimates that measurements will take about 30 seconds — about 40 seconds fewer than the average with the chains — although it took longer at times in the preseason.

The league is also emphasizing sportsmanship and cracking down on violent and sexually suggestive gestures this season.

In April, the NFL expanded prohibited acts to include banning the “nose wipe” gesture that league executive Troy Vincent said is affiliated with gangs.

The unsportsmanlike conduct rule now states: “any violent gesture, which shall include but not be limited to a throat slash, simulating firing or brandishing a gun, or using the ‘nose wipe’ gesture, or an act that is sexually suggestive or offensive.”

Nonprofits face a tough funding landscape. They hope better storytelling will bring more donations

By GLENN GAMBOA AP Business Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Cindy Eggleton has always believed in the power of a story.

But the CEO and co-founder of Brilliant Cities, a Detroit-based early childhood development nonprofit that supports learning in underserved communities, never expected someone to tell hers. And definitely not in a sleek documentary with a slick soundtrack and plenty of images of other Detroit institutions, such as General Motors, Diana Ross, and the historic Fox Theatre.

“It’s never been about me,” said Eggleton, adding that participating in the “Nevertheless: The Women Changing the World” documentary series on YouTube was her way of honoring her late mother, Geraldine, who inspired her to speak out and help others in their community.

However, as they face an increasingly uncertain funding landscape, nonprofits are focusing more on storytelling in outreach to donors – both big and small – and raising production values for videos and podcasts.

“Storytelling is how we’re able to draw people in and get them to connect to a deeper truth about themselves or about the world or a problem that needs to be solved,” said Elevate Prize Foundation CEO Carolina Garcia Jayaram. “It’s connecting those issues back to you as a human and not saying, ‘Well, that’s their problem. That’s all the way over there.’ The story allows it to be human.”

Elevate Prize Foundation launches its own storytelling arm

The foundation launched the production house Elevate Studios earlier this year to tell more of those stories, Garcia Jayaram said. “Nevertheless: The Women Changing the World,” Elevate Studios’ first series, has already generated more than 3 million views on YouTube and will debut its second season in the fall of 2026.

“It’s been incredible to see the growth we’ve had on YouTube and how it’s resonated so quickly with so

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 75 of 76

many people," Garcia Jayaram said. "We know we're on to something here."

Philanthropic support of storytelling has been ongoing for decades, mostly through donors funding documentary projects. Open Society Foundations created the Soros Documentary Fund in 1996 before the Sundance Institute took it over in 2002, with the George Soros-backed nonprofit's continued monetary support. The Ford Foundation formalized its funding plans in 2011, creating its JustFilms program that still supports 25-30 documentary films annually. Earlier this month, Firelight Media, a New York-based nonprofit supporting documentary filmmakers of color, launched the Firelight Fund, which will offer directors \$50,000 grants for their projects.

But Lance Gould, founder and CEO of media strategy firm Brooklyn Story Lab, says what Elevate Prize Foundation and others are doing is different. He says it reflects both technological improvements that have lowered the cost of documentary storytelling and the rise of social media, which allows nonprofits to interact with donors directly.

"Being able to tell your story well is paramount," said Gould, whose firm works with nonprofits to help them produce their own story-driven content. "But storytelling is not only about reaching viewers, it's also about having the right message for the right viewers."

He suggests that nonprofits connect their work to larger initiatives like the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals — an ambitious list of 17 efforts from eliminating extreme poverty and hunger to guaranteeing every child a quality secondary education by 2030 — to attract more attention and support.

How storytelling can strengthen connection

Gould, who was previously executive editor of The Huffington Post and editor in chief of The Boston Phoenix, said "everyone can be their own media company at this point."

That's a point Nicole Bronzan, vice president of communications and content for the Council on Foundations, hopes is not lost in the push for more storytelling.

"We don't want people to feel that they have to make big technological investments in order to tell better stories," Bronzan said. "We wouldn't want anyone to feel like they have to have a big fancy studio, but certainly the news that folks are investing in storytelling is great for us and for the whole sector."

In a Council on Foundations report released last year, "A New Voice for Philanthropy: How Deeper Stories and Clearer Language Can Build Trust," researchers, including Bronzan, reported that people had positive attitudes toward foundations, but most didn't really understand how foundations worked. Bronzan said stories that provide more transparency about how donations are used and how those decisions are made help connect people to a nonprofit and its work.

"If you're telling those stories," she said, "I can only imagine that people will be more inclined to open up their pocketbooks and say, 'Oh, OK, these are causes that need my support.'"

Documentary sparks donations

So far, that has been the case for Brilliant Cities, which saw an increase in donations after Eggleton's episode debuted on YouTube.

"We have a funder who wants to increase his gift from \$7,000 to \$100,000," said Eggleton, whose nonprofit turns a neighborhood's vacant homes into community centers with family services ranging from tutoring to mental health support groups. She said new donors have also reached out. "It's kind of incredible."

Though Brilliant Cities doesn't rely on federal funding for its services, Eggleton said government aid cuts have made a tough funding environment even tougher because the competition for non-governmental donations becomes even tougher.

"Everybody's being told what's being taken away," she said. "People are pulling at grant officers and individuals with stock market gains. I think it's more than the funding, though. I think it's about really recognizing how the world already feels so disconnected and now feels even more so."

Storytelling, Eggleton said, helps reduce that. By focusing on female changemakers, Elevate Studios makes an even stronger point, she said, adding she's been quoting Spanish poet Antonio Machado — "There is no path/We make the path by walking" — as she explains the power of the series.

"This is the time that we really do need to figure out how we build empathy through stories and not

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 091 ~ 76 of 76

necessarily saying, 'You're wrong or you're right,' she said. "You just show the world what can be and what should be."

Today in History: September 3, Treaty of Paris ends Revolutionary War

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 3, the 246th day of 2025. There are 119 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 3, 1783, representatives of the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Paris, which officially ended the Revolutionary War and recognized U.S. sovereignty.

Also on this date:

In 1861, during the Civil War, Confederate forces invaded the border state of Kentucky, which had declared its neutrality in the conflict.

In 1894, the United States celebrated the first federal Labor Day holiday.

In 1935, Sir Malcolm Campbell became the first person to drive an automobile more than 300 mph (480 kph), speeding across the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah.

In 1939, Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand declared war on Germany, two days after the Nazi invasion of Poland; in a radio address, Britain's King George VI said, "With God's help, we shall prevail."

In 1943, Allied forces invaded Italy during World War II, the same day Italian officials signed a secret armistice with the Allies.

In 1976, America's Viking 2 lander touched down on Mars to take the first close-up, color photographs of the red planet's surface.

In 1999, a French judge closed a two-year inquiry into the car crash that killed Princess Diana, dismissing all charges against nine photographers and a press motorcyclist, and concluding the crash was caused by an inebriated driver.

In 2019, Walmart said it would stop selling ammunition for handguns and short-barrel rifles, and the store chain requested that customers not openly carry firearms in its stores; the announcement followed a shooting at a Walmart store in Texas that left 22 people dead.

Today's Birthdays: Singer-musician Al Jardine (The Beach Boys) is 82. Actor Valerie Perrine is 82. Filmmaker Jean-Pierre Jeunet is 72. Rock guitarist Steve Jones (The Sex Pistols) is 70. Actor Steve Schirripa (TV: "The Sopranos") is 67. Author Malcolm Gladwell is 62. Actor Charlie Sheen is 60. Filmmaker Noah Baumbach is 56. Actor Garrett Hedlund is 41. Olympic gold medal snowboarder Shaun White is 39. Model-actor Kaia Gerber is 24. Actor Jack Dylan Grazer is 22.