

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 1 of 71

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
- [4- Eligible families may apply for free or reduced-price meals for school year 2025-26](#)
- [5- School Board Agenda](#)
- [6- Gust of Wind](#)
- [7- Groton Area Netters Top Sisseton, Moves to 3-0](#)
- [9- Groton Area golfers place fifth in a competitive nine team tournament](#)
- [10- SD SearchLight: First state-funded 'Prairie Thunder' patrol results in 44 felony drug arrests in Sioux Falls](#)
- [12- SD SearchLight: RFK Jr. battles with members of US Senate panel over vaccines, removal of CDC director](#)
- [15- SD SearchLight: Trump sued over District of Columbia 'military occupation' by state National Guard units](#)
- [16- SD SearchLight: Commission expands Black Hills area where hunters can use dogs to chase mountain lions](#)
- [18- SD SearchLight: A strictly 'not in my backyard' approach is no way to lead on economic development](#)
- [20- Coming up on GDILIVE.COM](#)
- [21- Weather Pages](#)
- [26- Daily Devotional](#)
- [27- Subscription Form](#)
- [28- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [29- Upcoming Groton Events](#)
- [30- News from the Associated Press](#)

## 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**



## Sunday, Sept. 7

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School 10:15 a.m.; Choir 6 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m., and Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

United Methodist: Worship with communion at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

Groton Fly-In/Drive-in at Groton Municipal Airport  
Olive Grove Sunflower Couples Golf Tourney  
Doggie Day at the Pool, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

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# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 2 of 71

# 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.**

## **RFK Jr. Testifies**

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. appeared yesterday before the Senate Finance Committee to discuss recent turnover at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Much of the testimony centered on vaccine policy, following Kennedy's decision last week to fire CDC Director Susan Monarez. (Several senior CDC officials subsequently resigned in protest.) Monarez contends she was pressured to preapprove recommendations from an advisory panel considering vaccine recommendations for COVID-19, RSV, and measles, among others. That panel—recently reconstituted to include vaccine skeptics—is due to meet Sept. 18-19, with expected implications for insurance coverage. Kennedy yesterday disputed Monarez's version of events, saying she was fired for answering "no" when asked whether she is trustworthy.

Kennedy also addressed his agency's decision to pull funding for mRNA vaccine research and restrict approval for the updated COVID-19 vaccine, among other decisions. He separately criticized lawmakers on the committee for accepting donations from pharmaceutical companies.

## **Giorgio Armani Dies**

Italian fashion designer Giorgio Armani has died at age 91. The company did not disclose a cause of death, though he had missed a Milan fashion show this summer—marking the first time he missed a runway show in his career—while recovering from undisclosed health issues.

Born in Piacenza in 1934, Armani started as a window decorator before designing for stylist Nino Cerruti. In 1975, he founded his namesake label alongside partner Sergio Galeotti, softening menswear with supple fabrics and unlined jackets while pioneering women's power suits. By the mid-1980s, his clean tailoring defined corporate style. He later expanded into fragrances, cosmetics, accessories, and sportswear—outfitting athletes and designing Olympic uniforms—evolving into a global brand valued at more than \$10B.

His clothes became a red-carpet staple, with Armani earning wardrobe credits in over 200 films. He was honored with Italy's Order of Merit, France's Legion of Honor, and a UN goodwill ambassadorship.

## **NFL Kicks Off**

The reigning Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles beat the Dallas Cowboys 24-20 last night to kick off the 2025-26 NFL season. Tonight, the Kansas City Chiefs face the Los Angeles Chargers in São Paulo, Brazil (8 pm ET, YouTube), the first of seven international games, before Sunday's 13-game lineup.

QB Aaron Rodgers begins his first season with the Pittsburgh Steelers—and possibly his final NFL season—against his former team, the New York Jets. Meanwhile, Washington QB Jayden Daniels looks to build on a standout rookie year that ended with the Commanders' first conference championship game in 33 years. In Monday night's only game, the Chicago Bears take on the Minnesota Vikings, with Chicago QB Caleb Williams aiming for redemption after the Bears' rocky 5-12 season.

This year also brings rule changes, from tweaked kickoffs to banned celebrations.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 3 of 71

## Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

The 2025 US Open wraps this weekend; see latest updates and schedules for both the women's and men's tournaments.

College Sports Commission approves 8,300 name, image, and likeness deals for college athletes worth nearly \$80M; the commission is tasked with approving contracts between athletes and third-party entities. "Bluey" animated feature film, based on the popular children's TV show, sets August 2027 release date. Justin Bieber's second surprise album of the year, "Swag II," released this morning.

## Science & Technology

New study suggests thumbnails instead of claws provided certain rodent species an evolutionary advantage, allowing the animals to better manipulate food (More, w/photos)

Spaceflight accelerates aging of stem cells, lowering their production of healthy new cells; findings suggest health risks of long-duration space flights.

Fine particle air pollution linked to Lewy body dementia; particles can trigger formation of protein clumps in the brain, a hallmark of the disease.

## Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher (S&P 500 +0.8%, Dow +0.8%, Nasdaq +1.0%) ahead of today's jobs report release—the first since President Donald Trump's firing of Labor Department official who oversaw the monthly reports.

Justice Department opens criminal probe into Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook over mortgage fraud allegations.

Stephen Miran, Trump's pick for Fed board, faces Senate confirmation hearing.

Software giant Atlassian to acquire The Browser Co., a startup offering AI-enhanced web browsers, for \$610M.

## Politics & World Affairs

President Donald Trump will sign an executive order today rebranding the Defense Department as the Department of War, a title last used in 1947; Dept. of War will be the agency's secondary title until Congress approves the change.

DC Attorney General Brian Schwalb (D) sues the Trump administration in effort to end deployment of National Guard; decision follows federal judge's ruling this week that the Guard's deployment in California was unlawful.

Third earthquake hits Afghanistan as the death toll from Sunday's earthquake exceeds 2,200 people, with over 3,600 others injured.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 4 of 71

## Eligible families may apply for free or reduced-price meals for school year 2025-26

PIERRE, S.D. - Families who may qualify for free or reduced-price meals in school year 2025-26 can submit a free and reduced-price meal application. Schools will take applications and use family income to qualify students for the program.

The South Dakota Department of Education (DOE) wants families to know about options available Through the federally funded National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Special Milk, and Child and Adult Care Food Programs, families whose income meets certain guidelines can be served at participating schools and agencies. A list of participating entities can be found on the DOE's website at <https://doe.sd.gov/cans/> under the "Documents" drop-down.

Families may apply for free milk or free and reduced-price meals for their children for school year 2025-26, according to guidelines effective July 1, 2025. Depending upon a family's circumstances, there are varying ways to gain access to the programs.

To learn more about the programs, families should contact the administrative office of their local school or agency. The income scales below are used to determine an applicant's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals if the household is at or below the guidelines.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

### INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

(Effective from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026)

	Annually	Annually	Monthly	Monthly	Weekly	Weekly
Household Size	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced
1	\$20,345	\$28,953	\$1,696	\$2,413	\$392	\$557
2	\$27,495	\$39,128	\$2,292	\$3,261	\$529	\$753
3	\$34,645	\$49,303	\$2,888	\$4,109	\$667	\$949
4	\$41,795	\$59,478	\$3,483	\$4,957	\$804	\$1,144
5	\$48,945	\$69,653	\$4,079	\$5,805	\$942	\$1,340
6	\$56,095	\$79,828	\$4,675	\$6,653	\$1,079	\$1,536
7	\$63,245	\$90,003	\$5,271	\$7,501	\$1,217	\$1,731
8	\$70,395	\$100,178	\$5,867	\$8,349	\$1,354	\$1,927
For each additional family member, add	\$7,150	\$10,175	\$596	\$848	\$138	\$196



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 5 of 71

## GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

### School Board Meeting

September 8, 2025 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room

#### AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.
2. Installation of incumbent board member TJ Harder.

#### POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

#### CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approve of minutes of August 11 school board meeting as drafted.
2. Approve of August 2025 Financial Report, Custodial Accounts, and Investments.
3. Approve of August 2025 District bills for payment.
4. Approve of August 2025 School Lunch Report.
5. Approve of August 2025 School Transportation Report.
6. Approve of lane change for Brittany Hubbart from MS to MS+15.
7. Approve Open Enrollment Applications #26-09 and #26-10.
8. Authorize the Business Manager to pay district bills up to \$75,000 in advance, using the custodial advance payment account to be approved by the board for reimbursement at the following regular board meeting.

#### OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. Program Overview Presentations
  - a. K-12 Music...Josh Friez, Landon Brown
  - b. Health/PE ...K. Gerlach, L. Grieve
3. Second reading of recommended policy changes: ABAC Relations with Parents [Amendment], DLC Expense Reimbursements [Amendment], DLC-R Expense Reimbursements [Amendment], EEA-R Student Transportation Services: Chartered Transportation [New], JNB Delinquent Student Fees, Fines, and Charges [New]
4. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

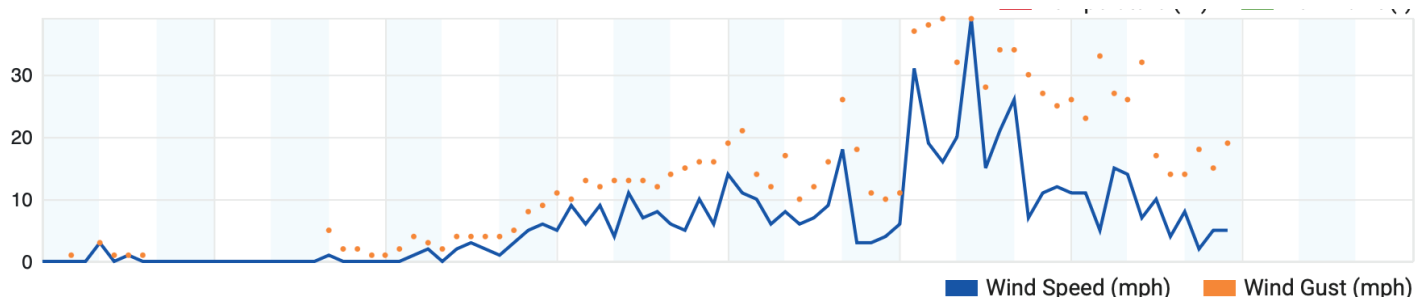
#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve re-assignment of Landon Brown from Show Choir Advisor to School Play Advisor.
2. Approve Request for Proposal (RFP) for Facilities Master Planning.

#### ADJOURN

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 6 of 71



**A gust of wind blew through Groton starting at around 3 p.m. with a 39 mph wind gust that broke off this tree limb at the City Park.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 7 of 71



**Tevan Hanson**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Jerica Locke**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

## Groton Area Netters Top Sisseton, Moves to 3-0

The Groton Area Tigers volleyball team continued its strong start to the 2025 season with a 3-0 Northeast Conference victory over the Sisseton Redmen Thursday night.

Groton came out dominant in the opening set, surging to a 25-12 win behind sharp serving and aggressive net play. The Tigers carried that momentum into the second set, again taking control early and never letting up in a 25-15 victory to take a commanding 2-0 lead.

Head Coach Chelsea Hanson was pleased with how her team began the match, especially considering the week's distractions.

"It was a good win," Hanson said. "Another conference win, so we're always happy with that. Coming out 2-0 during homecoming week is never anything I'm going to complain about."

### Back-and-Forth Third Set

The third set turned into a battle, with Sisseton refusing to go quietly. The set featured nine ties and six lead changes, the last tie coming at 19-all. From there, Groton dug deep, rattling off four straight points to seize a 24-19 lead before closing out the match with a 25-21 win.

While the Tigers ultimately prevailed, Hanson admitted the team's focus wavered in the third set.

"It's easy to lose focus," she explained. "Through the first two sets, they didn't have very many kills — maybe five or six total. We had complete control of the game. But when you're playing a team where it doesn't matter if you make mistakes, sometimes you get comfortable, and that's something we want to avoid. Against good teams, you'll lose those games. Even though it's a win, we definitely need to clean up our side of the court."

### Key Performances

Groton's attack was well-balanced despite missing leading scorer Chesney Weber, who was out sick.

"We were without Chesney tonight, and she's our leading point scorer," Hanson said. "To have someone step in like Talli did and not miss a beat was huge. It really shows our depth. We played seven or eight of the 11 players on our bench tonight, and we didn't skip a beat."

### Varsity Leaders:

Tevan Hanson — 9 kills, 20-26 attacking

Jaedyn Penning — 8 kills, 4 ace serves, 19-20 attacking, 10 digs, 1 assisted block

Rylee Dunker — 7 kills, 3 ace serves, 12-17 attacking, 1 block

McKenna Tietz — 6 ace serves, 19-20 serving

Taryn Traphagen — 5 kills



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 8 of 71



**Jaedyn Penning**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**McKenna Tietz**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Makenna Krause – 2 ace serves, 6 digs

Jerica Locke – 1 ace serve, 10 digs

Talli Wright – 29 assists, 1 kill

## **Sisseton Leaders:**

Saylor Langager – 5 kills

Elliot Hortness – 4 kills, 1 block, 1 ace serve

Gabby Hanson – 2 kills

Bella Donnell, Marissa Lewis, Colie Schultz – 1 kill each

Izzy Metz – 1 ace serve

Hanson praised her team's versatility and depth, emphasizing how valuable it is as the season progresses.

"There are going to be times when a player's number is called, and other times where they don't play," Hanson said. "I'm so impressed by their ability to adapt to all the different lineups I throw at them. Getting a win without Chesney should boost everyone's confidence."

## **Program-Wide Sweep**

Groton's success wasn't limited to the varsity level. The junior varsity and C-teams also won their matches, giving the Tigers a clean sweep for the night.

Junior Varsity: Groton won 25-8, 25-15.

McKenna Tietz – 1 ace serve

Kinsley Rowen – 2 kills

Tevan Hanson – 6 ace serves

Makenna Krause – 4 kills, 4 ace serves

Abby Fjeldheim – 4 kills

Emerlee Jones – 3 kills, 2 ace serves

Elizabeth Cole – 5 kills

Libby Althoff – 2 kills, 6 ace serves

C-Team: Groton won 25-15, 25-21.

Arianna Dinger – 2 ace serves

Kinsley Rowen – 3 kills, 3 ace serves

Audrey Davis – 3 kills

Ryelle Gilbert – 1 ace serve

Rylan Eckern – 2 kills, 1 ace serve

Abby Fjeldheim – 5 kills, 3 ace serves

Addison Hoeft – 6 kills

## **On the Road Ahead**

The Tigers are now 3-0 to start the season, something Hanson says hasn't happened in years.

"We haven't been 3-0 coming out of the gate for a long time," she said. "It's exciting for the girls."

Groton now hits the road for much of September, beginning with a trip to Webster on Tuesday followed by Aberdeen Roncalli on Thursday.

"We had to schedule homecoming early because we're on the road almost the entire month of September," Hanson said. "We had a couple of home games in August and then tonight, but we won't be back home much until October."

This complete performance — highlighted by sharp serving, balanced attacking, and depth across all levels — sets Groton up well for the challenges ahead.



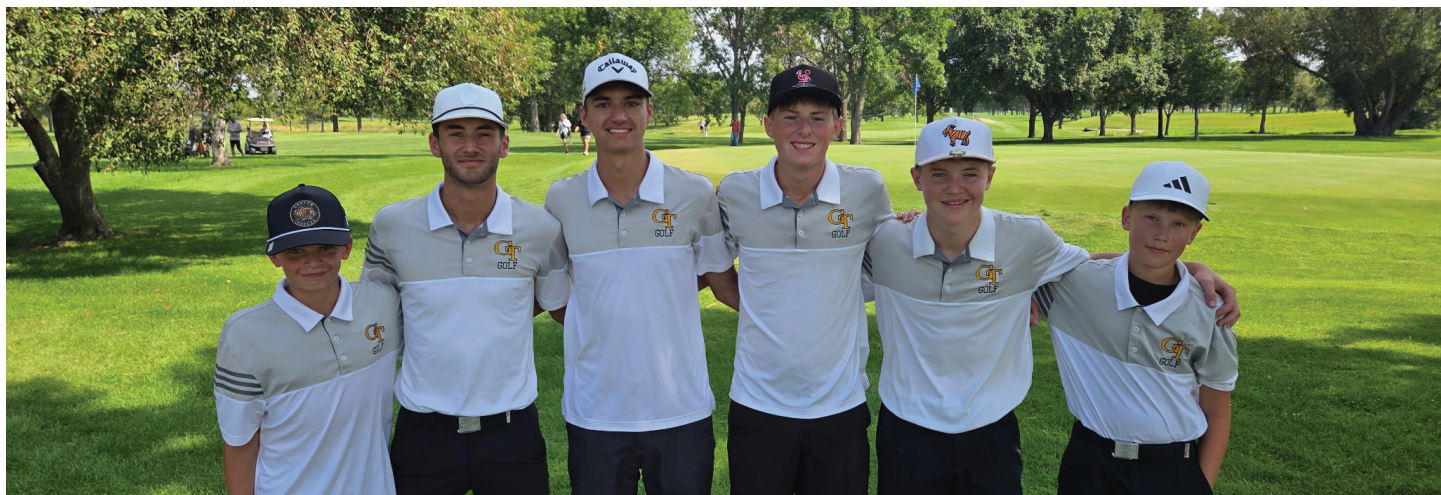
# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 9 of 71

## Groton Area golfers place fifth in a competitive nine team tournament

Groton Area golfers took part in the Hub City Invitational in Aberdeen. Jace Johnson shot n 80 to place 22nd while Jarrett Erdmann placed 31st with an 86, Hayden Harder was 42nd with a 97, Jayden Schwan was 46th with a 101, Liam Johnson was 47th with a 104 and Graham Rose was 56th with a 117.

Watertown won the team title with a score of 299 followed by Brookings with 300, Aberdeen Roncalli 304, Aberdeen Central 308, Pierre 325, Groton Area 364, Sisseton 374, Milbank 387, Redfield 392 and Huron 427.



**Pictured left to right are Hayden Harder, Jarrett Erdmann, Jayden Schwan, Jace Johnson, Liam Johnson, and Graham Rose.** (Courtesy Photo)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Strokes																					
Silver - Men Tee / SLOPE®: 125 / Course Rating™: 69.7 / LEE PARK GC																					
Yardage	345	500	489	320	180	389	400	177	366	3166	360	345	153	335	375	164	463	387	331	2913	6079
Par	4	5	5	4	3	4	4	3	4	36	4	4	3	4	4	3	5	4	4	35	71
22 Jace Johnson	5	5	5	4	3	5	5	3	3	38	5	4	4	8	4	4	4	4	5	42	80
31 Jarrett Erdmann	4	5	8	5	3	6	3	4	4	42	4	5	4	6	5	3	7	5	5	44	86
42 Hayden Harder	6	5	4	6	3	6	6	5	3	44	5	5	2	5	8	4	7	7	10	53	97
46 Jayden Schwan	5	7	6	7	4	5	5	3	6	48	6	9	4	5	5	5	6	4	9	53	101
47 Liam Johnson	4	5	7	7	3	8	6	6	7	53	5	7	5	5	7	4	8	6	4	51	104
56 Graham Rose	5	6	8	7	5	8	6	5	7	57	6	6	5	6	7	8	8	7	7	60	117

    Starting Hole 
     Eagle or Better 
     Birdie 
     Par 
     Bogey 
     Double Bogey or Worse



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### First state-funded 'Prairie Thunder' patrol results in 44 felony drug arrests in Sioux Falls

BY: JOHN HULT

Hundreds of people were ticketed or arrested during a state-funded saturation patrol that put 15 additional state troopers on the streets of South Dakota's largest city last week.

The troopers labored from Aug. 27 through Aug. 29 under the banner of "Operation Prairie Thunder," a two-pronged public safety initiative announced in July by Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden.

One part of the operation, branded with a caricature of a buffalo with a badge on its hat and lightning bolts on its sunglasses, involved Rhoden directing six members of the South Dakota National Guard to process deportation arrest paperwork for the seven Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents stationed in the state. That prong of the public safety platform also included an agreement between the state Department of Corrections and ICE to help the federal agency sniff out immigrant inmates without legal status in the state's prisons.

Guard troops in Sioux Falls and Rapid City began their work last month; the Corrections Department turned 10 migrants, paroled in mid-August, over to ICE agents for removal from the U.S.

The other prong of Rhoden's plan put additional Highway Patrol resources on tap for Sioux Falls, whose metro area is home to nearly a third of South Dakota's residents.

Calls for service in the city have grown significantly since 2015, as has the population. The 16 homicides



**Gov. Larry Rhoden speaks to reporters from a podium on July 28, 2025, at the Public Safety Administration Building in Sioux Falls. Also visible are, from left, Dan Satterlee, director of the state Division of Criminal Investigation, and Sam Olson, Minneapolis field office director for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.** (John Hult/South Dakota Searchlight)



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 11 of 71

in the city last year were the most in its history.

The Sioux Falls Police Department's statistics show its overall per capita violent crime rate fell in 2024, however, the year covered by the department's most recently published annual report. That year, the city had fewer aggravated assaults, stolen vehicles, burglaries and fraud cases than 2023. Narcotics arrests rose slightly from 2023 to 2024, and police seized more narcotics by weight — the largest jump was in grams of Fentanyl seized — but the number of drug arrests was 700 below its 2019 peak.

The late August saturation patrol is the first of what will be two per month for the next five months. After that point, Rhoden told South Dakota Searchlight this week, "we'll reevaluate" the city's need for additional assistance.

Troopers made 174 drug arrests during the first patrol, 44 of which involved felony-level drugs like methamphetamine or cocaine. The governor said 32 of the felony arrests involved methamphetamine, and troopers served 24 outstanding felony warrants on people stopped by troopers during the operation.

"All in all, this was a very successful first saturation patrol," Rhoden said.

A Highway Patrol helicopter was used to track a vehicle during one of three pursuits.

The patrol didn't focus on immigration, Rhoden said, but troopers logged 14 ICE "encounters," eight of which resulted in ICE arrests.

The state's involvement with ICE drew criticism from people at a Sioux Falls City Council meeting last month, and Democratic state lawmakers derided the operation as a misguided use of state resources. At the time of the announcement, Rhoden said the Highway Patrol would absorb the costs.

The patrol's 287(g) agreement with ICE allows troopers to detain people suspected of being in the country illegally. Col. Casey Collins of the Highway Patrol told South Dakota Searchlight in a Wednesday email that ICE can check the legal status of a person suspected of lacking legal status without physically coming to the scene of a traffic stop.

"No subjects were detained beyond the scope of the traffic stop without an arrest," said Collins.

Some of the six people whose legal status was questioned during a traffic stop — but who were not arrested by ICE — were later detained on state charges, Collins said.

"Identifying a subject is normal procedure during a traffic stop where a violation has occurred and enforcement action is being taken," Collins said.

## Operation Prairie Thunder saturation patrol

Aug. 27–29 in Sioux Falls

Total drug arrests: 174

Felony drug arrests: 44

Felony warrants served: 24

Misdemeanor warrants served: 20

Pursuits: 3

Gang/cartel related arrests: 3

Parole absconders apprehended: 3

Probation absconders apprehended: 1

ICE encounters: 14

ICE arrests: 8

Traffic citations: 336

Warnings: 256

DUI: 6

Revoked license: 4

Source: South Dakota Highway Patrol

*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.*

## RFK Jr. battles with members of US Senate panel over vaccines, removal of CDC director

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT

WASHINGTON — Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. vehemently defended his actions on vaccines and other public health issues under questioning by both Republican and Democratic senators during a contentious hearing Thursday.

Kennedy, confirmed on a mostly party-line vote earlier this year, repeatedly justified firing everyone on an influential vaccine advisory panel, as well as the president's decision to remove a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director who'd served for less than a month after confirmation by the Senate.

"In your confirmation hearings, you promised to uphold the highest standards for vaccines. Since then, I've grown deeply concerned," said Senate Majority Whip John Barrasso, R-Wyo. "The public has seen measles outbreaks. Leadership of the National Institutes of Health questioning the use of mRNA vaccines. The recently confirmed director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention fired. Americans don't know who to rely on."

Barrasso, an orthopedic surgeon, sought to reinforce support for vaccines to Kennedy during the Senate Finance Committee hearing, saying they "are estimated to have saved 154 million lives worldwide."

Louisiana Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy, a physician who received several concessions from Kennedy in exchange for voting to confirm him as HHS secretary, raised numerous questions about Kennedy's behavior. Cassidy is the chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

Cassidy appeared to box in Kennedy on the COVID-19 vaccine by saying President Donald Trump should receive the Nobel Prize for Operation Warp Speed, which led to the development of the shot during his first term.

Kennedy agreed Trump should "absolutely" get the prize, leading Cassidy to question why he'd taken actions as HHS secretary to erode trust and eliminate funding for vaccine development activities.



**Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. appears before the Senate Finance Committee at the Dirksen Senate Office Building on Sept. 4, 2025 in Washington, D.C.** (Photo by Andrew Harnik/Getty Images)



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 13 of 71

"It surprises me that you think so highly of Operation Warp Speed when, as an attorney, you attempted to restrict access," Cassidy said. "It also surprises me because you've canceled, or HHS did, but apparently under your direction, \$500 million in contracts using the mRNA vaccine platform that was critical to Operation Warp Speed."

Cassidy said the cancellation represents not only "an incredible waste of money but it also seems like a commentary upon what the president did in Operation Warp Speed, which is to create a platform by which to create vaccines."

Cassidy also questioned Kennedy's actions eliminating everyone on the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and replacing them with his own choices.

"If we put people who are paid witnesses for people suing vaccines, that actually seems like a conflict of interest," Cassidy said.

Kennedy disagreed, testifying that "it may be a bias. And that bias, if disclosed, is okay."

## **Tillis asks RFK Jr. to respond in writing**

North Carolina Republican Sen. Thom Tillis asked Kennedy a series of questions but said he wanted the secretary to submit his answers in writing in order to clarify several of his positions.

"Some of your statements seem to contradict what you said in the prior hearing," Tillis said. "You said you're going to empower the scientists at HHS to do their job. I'd just like to see evidence where you've done that, and I'm sure that you will have some."

Tillis said he wanted Kennedy to respond to reports that he's gone back on his commitments to senators to not do anything "that makes it difficult or discourages people from taking vaccines" and that Kennedy would not "impose my belief over any of yours."

"That, again, seems to be contradictory to the firing of the CDC director, the canceling of mRNA research contracts, firing advisory board members, attempting to stall NIH funding, eliminating funding for I think a half a billion dollars for further mRNA research," he said, referring to the National Institutes of Health.

Tillis said he was having difficulty understanding why former CDC Director Susan Monarez, whom Trump nominated in March and the Senate voted to confirm in late July, had been fired so quickly.

"I don't see how you go ... from a public health expert with unimpeachable scientific credentials, a long-time champion of MAHA values, caring and compassionate and brilliant microbiologist — and four weeks later, fire her," Tillis said.

## **CDC shooting, Monarez firing probed**

Georgia Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock questioned Kennedy at length over the firing of Monarez as well as a shooting at the Atlanta-based agency this summer.

Kennedy testified that he doesn't believe he criticized Monarez during a meeting in late August over her comments following the CDC shooting that "misinformation can be dangerous."

During that meeting, Kennedy said he did demand that Monarez fire career CDC scientists but testified he didn't tell her to accept the recommendations of the vaccine advisory panel without further review.

"What I asked her about is, she had made a statement that she was going to not sign on and I wanted clarification about that," Kennedy said. "I told her I didn't want her to have a role if she's not going to sign onto it."

Monarez wrote in an op-ed published in the Wall Street Journal just hours before the hearing began that during the meeting with Kennedy she "was told to preapprove the recommendations of a vaccine advisory panel newly filled with people who have publicly expressed antivaccine rhetoric."

"That panel's next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 18-19," Monarez wrote. "It is imperative that the panel's recommendations aren't rubber-stamped but instead are rigorously and scientifically reviewed before being accepted or rejected."

Warnock asked Kennedy if he said that the CDC was the "most corrupt federal agency in the history of the world."

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 14 of 71

Kennedy testified he didn't say that exactly but did say "it's the most corrupt agency at HHS and maybe the government."

Warnock concluded his five minutes of questions telling Kennedy that "it's clear you're carrying out your extremist beliefs" and that he represents "a threat to the public health of the American people."

"For the first time, we're seeing deaths from children from measles," Warnock said. "We haven't seen that in two decades. We're seeing that under your watch. You are a hazard to the health of the American people."

## **Lankford, Daines ask about medication abortion**

Several senators, including Oklahoma Republican James Lankford and Montana Republican Steve Daines, asked Kennedy about the ongoing review of mifepristone, one of two prescription pharmaceuticals used in medication abortion.

Kennedy said he spoke with FDA Commissioner Marty Makary about the topic just yesterday and committed to keeping senators informed, but didn't appear to know much more than that.

"I don't know if they're going to do an insurance claim study. That's one way to do it. I don't know exactly whether they're doing epidemiological studies or observational studies. I don't know exactly what they're doing," Kennedy said. "But I know I talked to Marty Makary about it yesterday, and he said those studies are progressing and that they're ongoing. So I will keep your office informed at every stage."

Kennedy testified that he didn't know when exactly the studies would be completed.

The FDA first approved mifepristone in 2000 before updating the prescribing guidelines in 2016 and during the coronavirus pandemic.

It's currently approved for up to 10 weeks gestation and can be prescribed via telehealth and shipped to patients. Mifepristone is the first pharmaceutical of medication abortion and is typically followed by misoprostol.

Medication abortion accounted for about 64% of all abortions in 2023, according to research from the Guttmacher Institute.

The Supreme Court rejected an effort to limit access to medication abortion last year in a case originally filed by four anti-abortion medical organizations and four anti-abortion doctors that were represented by Alliance Defending Freedom.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote the opinion that "federal conscience laws have protected pro-life doctors ever since FDA approved mifepristone in 2000."

Numerous medical organizations, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Medical Association, wrote briefs to the Supreme Court in that case attesting to the safety and efficacy of mifepristone.

"The scientific evidence is overwhelming: major adverse events occur in less than 0.32% of patients," the medical organizations wrote. "The risk of death is almost non-existent."

*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.*

## Trump sued over District of Columbia 'military occupation' by state National Guard units

**South Dakota among states with troops in the nation's capital**

**BY: JACOB FISCHLER**



The District of Columbia's attorney general sued the Trump administration Thursday over the ongoing presence of National Guard troops in the nation's capital, arguing the deployment amounts to a military occupation that violates the district's right to self-rule.

President Donald Trump's deployment of D.C. National Guard troops and units from states outside the district violates laws against using the military for domestic law enforcement and a 1973 federal law allowing the district to govern itself, D.C. Attorney General Brian L. Schwab wrote in a complaint in federal court in the district.

"No American jurisdiction should be involuntarily subjected to military occupation," the complaint says, adding that Trump's "command and control of out-of-state National Guard units when they are in state militia status violates the Constitution and federal law."

**Members of the National Guard stationed outside Union Station in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 18, 2025.**

(Photo by Jane Norman/States Newsroom)

Trump has characterized as an attempt to control crime in the city, "flout the Posse Comitatus Act," a 19th-century law, and other sections of federal law that "enshrine the nation's foundational prohibition on the participation of military forces in domestic law enforcement absent the most extreme exigencies, such as an invasion or rebellion," the complaint said.

"Defendants have established a massive, seemingly indefinite law enforcement operation in the District subject to direct military command. The danger that such an operation poses to individual liberty and democratic rule is self-evident," the complaint said.

Despite a Tuesday morning ruling from a federal judge in California that called Trump's use of military personnel for law enforcement in Los Angeles illegal, the president has continued to explore further use of Guard units for what he said is crime prevention in other U.S. cities.

The suit asks U.S. District Judge Jia Cobb to block the administration from any further use of National Guard troops for law enforcement and to block states' National Guard troops from operating in the district.

White House spokespeople did not return a message seeking comment Thursday.

### **Out-of-state Guard deployments questioned**

States with a military presence in the district cited in the suit are Louisiana, South Dakota, Ohio, West Virginia, Tennessee, Mississippi and South Carolina.

Those states' Republican governors all responded to requests from Trump to send Guard troops, according to the complaint.

But Trump did not federalize any of the state National Guard units patrolling the district, meaning they

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 16 of 71

remain legally under the command of their governors and cannot enter another state or the district without a request from the governor or the mayor of Washington, D.C., according to the suit.

Late last month, Schwalb's office sent letters to the leaders of states that had deployed troops to the district, asking for information "regarding the factual and legal basis for" their decision to send troops.

Only Tennessee responded, and offered only limited information, the complaint said.

While legally still under their governors' control, the suit says the out-of-state troops are in practice under the control of Trump and the U.S. Department of Defense.

## Police-military separation tested by Trump

As president, Trump does control the D.C. National Guard. But he cannot use its members for domestic law enforcement under the Posse Comitatus Act, the complaint said.

D.C. and out-of-state National Guard troops have been doing just that, the complaint said.

U.S. Marshals, a federal law enforcement agency, has deputized at least some troops in the district. The troops, who are armed with service weapons, have patrolled district streets, including in residential areas, the complaint said.

"These are law enforcement activities," the suit said.

While the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled this year that Trump has broad authority to federalize state National Guard troops — even over a governor's objection — U.S. District Judge Charles R. Breyer ruled this week that those troops still may not engage in law enforcement activity.

Trump, who has mused about sending troops to other cities including Chicago, Baltimore and New Orleans, is testing the legal limits of the Guard's ability to assist police forces, University of Houston Law Center Professor Christopher Mirasola said in an interview this week before the District of Columbia suit was filed.

While a bedrock principle of U.S. democracy, the separation of military from law enforcement is governed more by norms than laws, Mirasola said, giving the administration leeway to at least try to stretch what has been considered acceptable.

"The administration is pushing the bounds of every existing legal theory that's out there for domestic military deployment," he said. "It's absolutely corrosive of our democracy, because I think there's a potential for a real shift in how we think about the military's role in our domestic affairs."

*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.*

## Commission expands Black Hills area where hunters can use dogs to chase mountain lions

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR-SEPTEMBER 4, 2025 8:31 PM

The commission overseeing wildlife management in South Dakota approved a proposal Thursday in Rapid City to expand the area where dogs can be used for hunting mountain lions.

The decision by the Game, Fish and Parks Commission increases the area within the Black Hills where hunters can use scent-tracking hounds to chase mountain lions up trees. The expansion includes areas in the eastern and southern Hills.

The rule change also removes the requirement for hunters without dogs to obtain an access permit in addition to a hunter's license to hunt mountain lions in Custer State Park.

The annual harvest limit remains capped at 60 mountain lions or 40 females, whichever is reached first.

The decision to expand the area for dog-assisted hunting follows months of debate and hundreds of submitted comments over the role of dogs in lion management. Another roughly 30 people spoke during Thursday's hearing.

Supporters of the new rule said that expanding dog hunting opportunities will improve mountain lion management. Hunters with dogs have an approximately 50% success rate, while hunters without dogs



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 17 of 71

have less than 4%. They said the move will help the state meet its population objectives and ensure that problem lions attacking livestock are killed.

A report issued this year by the Department of Game, Fish and Parks says the latest mountain lion population estimate for the Black Hills is 393, but also says mountain lion population estimates "often have low precision." Averaged over multiple years, the department said, the population generally stays within the management objective of 200 to 300.

Supporters also said hunting with dogs and chasing lions up trees allows hunters to get close and better identify the sex and age of lions before deciding to shoot them. They said fewer lions would also increase the mule deer population in the southern Hills, where hunters complain of low numbers.

"Mountain lion numbers are too high in the Black Hills. So are coyote numbers. The deer population is trending down," wrote Jordan Schneider of Rapid City.

Opponents said hunting with dogs undermines the principle of fair chase — giving the animal an opportunity to escape — and reduces opportunities for hunters without dogs. Others called the practice inhumane and said the proposal was not based on science.

"This is not a real 'hunting sport,' but a cruel and unethical event," wrote Leisa Bailey of Vermillion.

Commission Chair Stephanie Rissler, who spoke in favor of the proposal, said the move will help manage problem lions without increasing permit numbers or the harvest limit.

The final vote was 7-0, with one commissioner, Travis Theel, recusing himself. During the public comment period, state Rep. Tim Goodwin, R-Rapid City, alleged that Theel, who runs a guided hunting service in the Black Hills, and Commissioner Travis Bies, who owns land near the Black Hills, had conflicts of interest. Bies did not recuse himself, saying his land is not in the affected area.

Mountain lions were nearly eradicated from South Dakota by the early 20th century due to bounties and unregulated hunting. After lions recolonized the Black Hills in the 1980s, the state established a hunting season in 2005.

Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked for five years as a multimedia specialist and journalist with South Dakota Public Broadcasting.



**A mountain lion in South Dakota's Black Hills.** (Courtesy of SD Game, Fish and Parks)

## COMMENTARY

### A strictly 'not in my backyard' approach is no way to lead on economic development by DANA HESS

The Republican primary election that will likely determine South Dakota's next governor is nine months away. It already seems like it's been going on forever.

The race has three candidates with Gov. Larry Rhoden waiting in the wings. Rhoden demurs when asked if he's going to run, saying that election campaigns are too long. The governor has a point.

With so much time on their hands in such a long campaign, candidates have to make news any way they can, often by taking offense at something their opponent said, whether he said it or not.

A case in point comes from comments made in August by U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, one of the candidates for governor. Talking to the Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce, Johnson said the United States, rather than China, needs to be the dominant force in the race to develop the technology surrounding artificial intelligence. If South Dakota is going to get some of that business, it would have to welcome the data centers needed for AI. During his comments, Johnson bemoaned the South Dakota trend of protesting innovation and economic development.

"It's un-American and it's not at all capitalist," Johnson was quoted as saying in a South Dakota Searchlight story. The country must win the battle for AI he said, noting that "We cannot do it if the only answer in front of us is, 'No, always no.'"

Of late, some South Dakotans have been cranky about development. Whether it's pipelines, a new prison or the data centers needed for AI, there always seems to be a group or two ready to say, "not in my backyard."

The prevalence of this attitude worries Johnson, who called it "a disease that's metastasizing."

Politicians are supposed to be a thick-skinned bunch, but Johnson's declared opponents in the GOP governor's race — Aberdeen businessman Toby Doeden and state Speaker of the House Jon Hansen, of Dell Rapids — couldn't fire up their smartphones fast enough to declare on Facebook how offended they were by the congressman's remarks.

Unfortunately, they were upset about something he never said.



**Hundreds of people fill the Southeast Technical College auditorium in Sioux Falls for a Public Utilities Commission hearing about a carbon dioxide pipeline proposal on Jan. 15, 2025. Opposing views on the project highlighted divisions within the Republican Party on economic development.** (Makenzie Huber/South Dakota Searchlight)



# Groton Daily Independent

**Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 19 of 71**

A Doeden post about Johnson said, "This week he called me 'un-American' because I am opposed to using your tax dollars to support out-of-state billion-dollar corporations."

Hansen had a similar take: "Well, if you oppose your tax money being given away in special interest tax subsidies to big tech companies like Facebook, well then Dusty Johnson says you're being un-American."

Well, that's not what he said. In essence, Johnson said that automatically taking a position in opposition to progress is "un-American" and bad for the economy.

It's easy enough to guess that Johnson favors the kind of loans and tax breaks that have been a staple of state government in South Dakota since the days of Gov. George Mickelson. After his comments to the chamber, Johnson told Searchlight that communities and states "need to step up" and offer incentives if they're going to attract data centers. However, he never said that failing to support those specific kinds of incentives was un-American.

It just makes common sense that being against all of those types of incentives is short-sighted. Other states will make accommodations to attract data centers. If South Dakota elects to compete for economic development only on the basis of its merits, all it will have to recommend itself is a population with a solid work ethic and winters cold enough to keep the data center's computer servers from overheating.

By promising to jettison economic development tools like loans, grants and tax breaks, candidates like Hansen and Doeden will say that they're looking out for our tax dollars. Certainly that's part of what a governor should do. However, the governor should also look out for our future.

Pulling back from years of the state's economic development traditions is just another way of saying "not in my backyard." That's certainly not much of a campaign slogan. South Dakotans should expect more than that from the state's next governor.

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 20 of 71

## Upcoming Events on GDILIVE.COM

**GT** on

Groton  
Area  
Tigers  
Groton, SD

**GDILIVE**

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



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Area  
Tigers  
Groton, SD

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



**GT** on

Groton  
Area  
Tigers  
Groton, SD

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



**GT** on

Groton  
Area  
Tigers  
Groton, SD

**GDILIVE**

 YouTube

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For more info: [GDILIVE.COM](https://GDILIVE.COM)

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



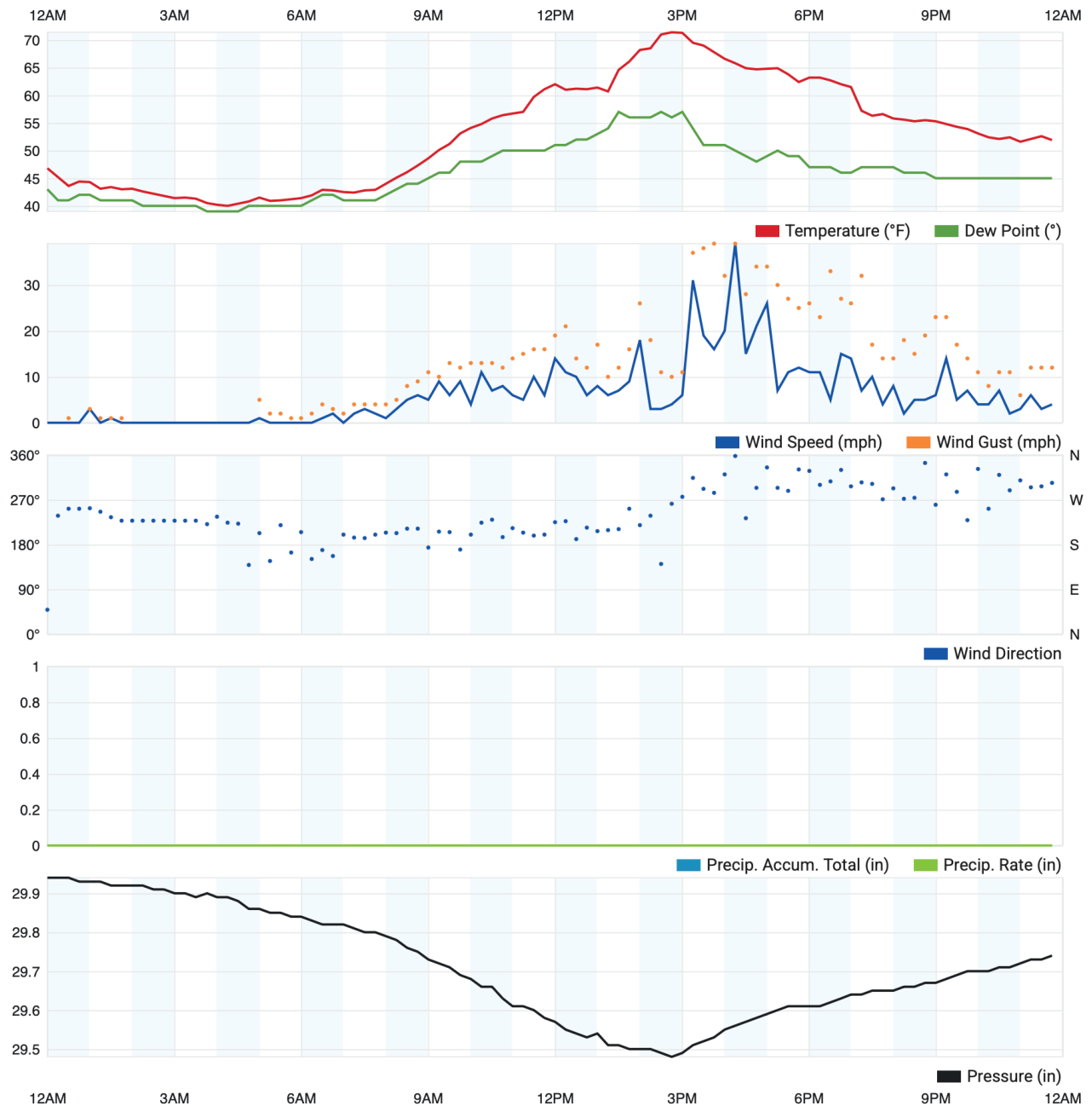


# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 21 of 71

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

September 4, 2025



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 22 of 71

Friday

Friday Night

Saturday

Saturday Night

Sunday



**High: 58 °F**

Slight Chance  
Showers and  
Breezy



**Low: 39 °F**

Partly Cloudy



**High: 62 °F**

Mostly Sunny



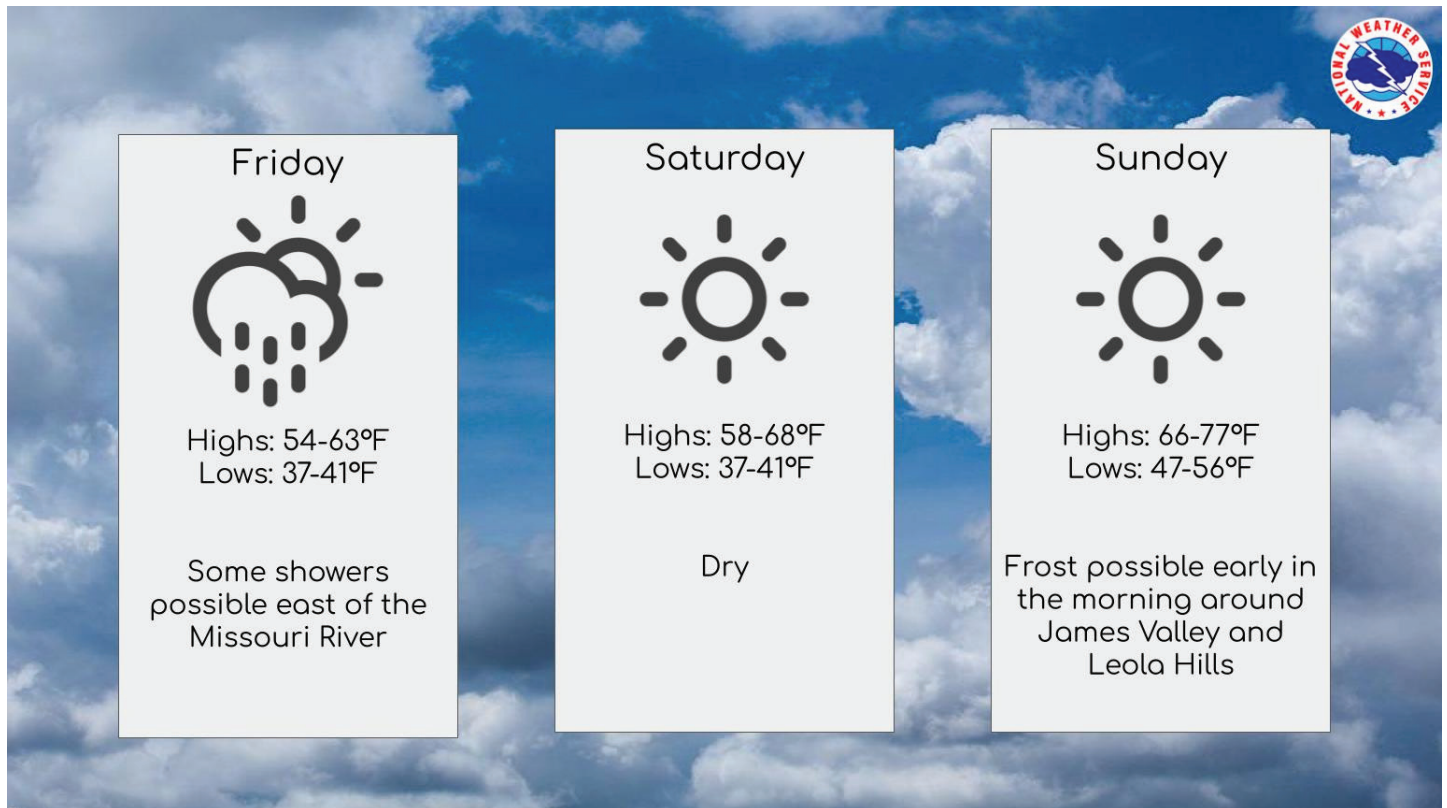
**Low: 37 °F**

Mostly Clear



**High: 69 °F**

Patchy Frost  
then Sunny

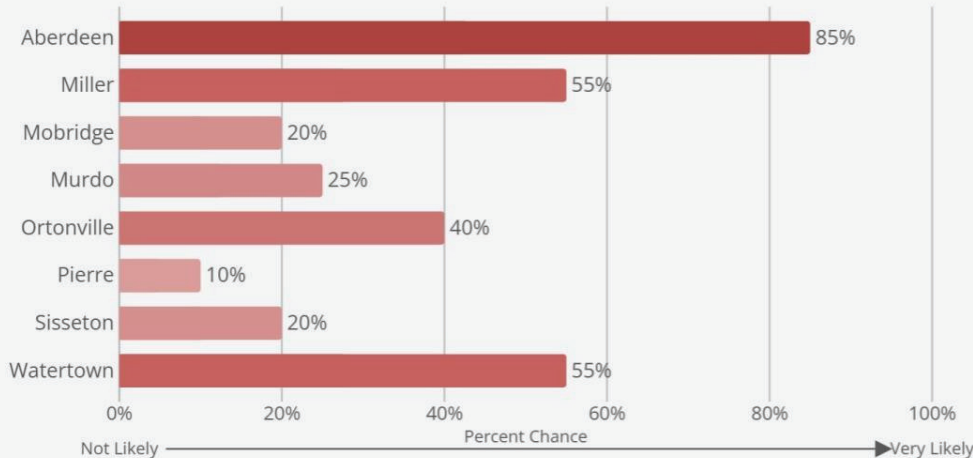


Today will have highs in the mid 50s to mid 60s with some showers possible east of the Missouri River. Saturday will be sunny and dry with highs in the upper 50s to upper 60s. Overnight lows Saturday night will dip into the upper 30s which will bring a chance for frost to some areas.



## Chance of Temperatures Less Than 40°F

Sunday Morning, Sep 7



### Information:

The bar plot shows the percent chance of a weather event occurring based on model predictions from the National Blend of Models. A higher number means greater certainty.

### Additional Details



#### Potential Impacts:

- Patchy frost could form in the James River Valley and Leola Hills



#### What To Do

- Cover sensitive plants or bring them into the house/garage

Valid: Sun 07 am CDT

Issued: Fri, Sep 5, 2025, 3 am CDT



Temperatures around the area Sunday morning are expected to be in the upper 30s to low 40s. With clear skies and relatively calm winds, patchy frost will be possible in the James River Valley and Leola Hills areas.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 24 of 71

## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 72 °F at 2:52 PM**

**Low Temp: 40 °F at 4:14 AM**

**Wind: 40 mph at 4:16 PM**

**Precip: : 0.01**

## Today's Info

Record High: 102 in 1945

Record Low: 32 in 1962

Average High: 79

Average Low: 51

Average Precip in Sept.: 0.34

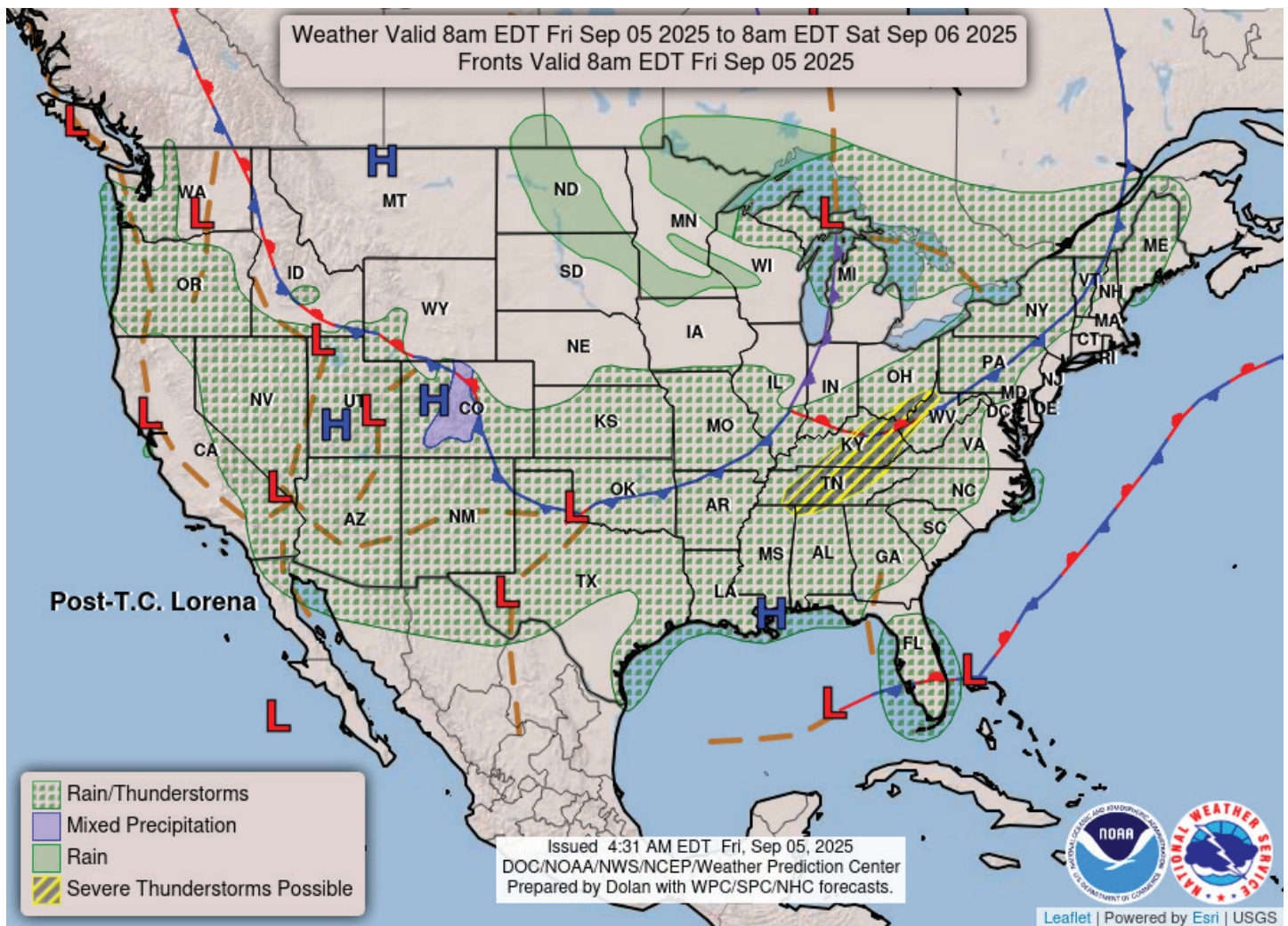
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.01

Average Precip to date: 16.68

Precip Year to Date: 20.31

Sunset Tonight: 8:03 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:00 am



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 25 of 71

## Today in Weather History

September 5, 1983: In the late afternoon and early evening, hail up to 2, and ½ inches in diameter pounded crops, trees, buildings, and windows resulting in extensive damage in Spink, Beadle, Turner, and Clay Counties. Trees were stripped of numerous branches broken off.

1666: The Great Fire of London started on September 2nd and continued through September 5th. The fire spread rapidly due to strong westerly winds. This fire consumed 13,200 homes, 87 parish churches, and St. Paul's Cathedral.

1925 - The temperature at Centerville, AL, soars to 112 degrees to establish a state record. Every reporting station in Alabama was 100 degrees or above that afternoon. (The Weather Channel)

1929: Early season snowfall occurred in the mountains of Wyoming and the Black Hills of South Dakota on September 5th and 6th. The highest snowfall amount was 16 inches in Fox Park, Wyoming.

1933: A Category 3 hurricane made landfall on South Padre Island, Texas during the late evening hours on September 4th, or Labor Day. The storm caused 40 fatalities and nearly \$17 million in damages. With the storm making landfall during a holiday weekend, fatalities could have been much higher. The following is from the report of the official in charge at Corpus Christi, Texas: "Probably never before in the history of Texas hurricanes have such widespread and early warnings been given as were received from Washington in advance of this one. The telegram of Saturday, September 2, warning all persons to avoid inaccessible places over the weekend probably saved thousands of lives."

1950: Hurricane Easy was an erratic and unpredictable hurricane that lingered over the Tampa Bay area for days, dropping torrential rains and causing damage especially in Cedar Key, Florida where the storm eventually made landfall. This hurricane dumped 38.7 inches of rain in 24 hours in Yankeetown, a record for the U.S. at the time, and caused \$3.3 million in damage. Total rainfall amounts in Yankeetown was 45.20 inches.

1975 - Strong winds reduced visibilities to near zero in blowing dust resulting in a 22-car chain reaction accident on Interstate 10 near Toltec AZ. Two persons were killed, and 14 others were injured. (The Weather Channel)

1978: Tropical Depression Norman became the most recent tropical system to make landfall in California near Long Beach as an extra-tropical storm.

1996: Hurricane Fran made landfall near the tip of Cape Fear, North Carolina with maximum sustained winds near 115 mph on the evening of September 5th. Fran was responsible for 26 deaths and was at the time the most expensive natural disaster ever in North Carolina's history.

1987 - Thunderstorms over the Southern and Middle Atlantic Coast States drenched Charleston, SC, with 5.50 inches of rain, and a total of 13.50 inches in two days, flooding homes, and leaving roads and bridges under water. (The National Weather Summary) A tropical storm which formed off the South Atlantic coast was responsible for torrential rains over coastal regions of South Carolina. Between the 30th of August and the 8th of September, Charleston SC received 18.44 inches of rain. The heavy rains caused extensive flooding around the city of Charleston, seriously damaged cotton crops in the eastern part of the state, and resulted in an unusually high number of mosquitos. (Storm Data)

1988 - Five days of heavy rain commenced in west central Florida. Up to 20 inches of rain in four days resulted in extensive urban flooding, and evacuation of 1000 homes. Flooding claimed four lives, and caused more than five million dollars property damage. (The National Weather Summary)(Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced six to ten inches of rain in south central Kansas between 6 AM and Noon. Serious flooding was reported around Wichita, with water four feet deep along some roads. A cold front crossing the Northern High Plains Region produced wind gusts to 63 mph at Sheridan WY. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2017: Hurricane Irma became a category 5 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 180 mph. This made Irma one of strongest hurricane ever observed in the open Atlantic Ocean.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 26 of 71



...following one's own  
ways leads to  
**DEATH.**

It's only natural to want to be my own person or follow the little drummer in my heart and find my path and follow it. Who does not want to be an individual, a one-of-a-kind, no-one-else like me? Is that not what God really created me for? To be me and do my thing?

All of that me stuff is good — if not great — as long as it is done while staying obedient and true to God's instructions. Otherwise, following one's own ways leads to death. Do we find any advice from God about this me and me alone? So, if we want to guard

our life and live well and not become involved in behaviors that lead to premature death, what do we do?

According to Solomon, "He who obeys instructions guards his life, but he who is contemptuous of His ways will die."

The word instruction is not open to our personal interpretation. It is instruction that comes from God through His Spirit. This is a life or death proposition that demands our unquestionable obedience if we want the best, longest lasting life possible.

Keeping God's instructions is one of the best things we can do. In fact, a non-believer once said to me, "I cannot accept Jesus' virgin birth or the miracles or the resurrection. But I do know that if I live according to the 'instructions' of God and the teachings of Jesus, I will live a long, productive and rewarding life." However, he was talking about principles — not power that comes from God through Christ. And herein lies the difference.

The contemptuous person is one who does not value living their life under God's instructions. They look at His way as being a matter of choice rather than an obligation to be blessed with a long and full life. Will die is the exact opposite of well-being and a long life. It refers to a premature death that is the result of forsaking and abandoning God's instructions.

Today's Prayer: Give us, Lord, a willingness to be obedient to Your Word and Your ways. You have given us the power of choice: may we choose You, Your Word, and a blest life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "He who obeys instructions guards his life, but he who is contemptuous of His ways will die." Proverbs 19:16

*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

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 27 of 71

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# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 28 of 71



## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.02.25

7 17 35 40 64 23

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$336,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 56 Mins 9 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.03.25

15 31 34 51 52 5

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$2,600,000**

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 11 Mins 9 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.04.25

17 20 23 25 39 2

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 26 Mins 8 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.03.25

8 13 21 27 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$20,000**

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 26 Mins 8 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.03.25

7 32 39 50 61 4

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 55 Mins 9 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.03.25

3 16 29 61 69 22

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$1,700,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 55 Mins 9 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

# Groton Daily Independent

**Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 29 of 71**

## **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

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 30 of 71

## News from the Associated Press

### PREP VOLLEYBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Tiospa Zina, 25-7, 25-8, 25-9  
Arlington def. Iroquois-Lake Preston, 25-13, 25-19, 25-20  
Avon def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-14, 25-10, 25-10  
Baltic def. Garretson, 25-18, 25-10, 25-19  
Bennett County def. Jones County, 25-20, 25-21, 25-19  
Burke def. Kimball-White Lake, 25-19, 25-7, 25-16  
Canistota def. Scotland, 25-13, 25-19, 25-11  
Canton def. Hills-Beaver Creek, Minn., 25-17, 19-25, 25-27, 25-13, 16-14  
Castlewood def. Deubrook, 25-15, 25-15, 25-12  
Clark-Willow Lake def. Milbank, 25-22, 25-13, 25-16  
Colman-Egan def. DeSmet, 20-25, 25-16, 25-21  
Dakota Valley def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 25-10, 25-18, 25-21  
Dell Rapids def. Sioux Falls Christian, 20-25, 25-22, 28-26, 23-25, 15-12  
Elk Point-Jefferson def. Hills-Beaver Creek, Minn., 25-18, 19-25, 25-27, 25-12, 16-14  
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Oldham-Ramona-Rutland, 25-15, 25-15, 25-17  
Estelline-Hendricks def. Wilmot, 25-10, 25-15, 25-13  
Ethan def. Sanborn Central-Woonsocket, 18-25, 25-13, 25-16, 26-24  
Freeman def. Howard, 25-11, 25-20, 19-25, 25-22  
Great Plains Lutheran def. Tri-State, N.D., 25-10, 25-9, 25-12  
Gregory def. Lyman, 10-25, 25-6, 21-25, 25-15, 20-18  
Groton def. Sisseton, 25-12, 25-14, 25-21  
Hamlin def. Flandreau, 25-11, 25-17, 27-25  
Harrisburg def. Tea, 25-9, 25-13, 25-9  
Herreid-Selby def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-22, 22-25, 25-21, 25-19  
Ipswich def. Waubay/Summit, 25-21, 25-18, 25-15  
Kadoka def. Philip, 25-10, 25-11, 25-9  
Lemmon High School def. Harding County, 25-19, 11-25, 25-21, 17-25, 16-14  
McCook Central-Montrose def. Parker/Marion, 19-25, 25-16, 25-23, 23-35, 15-12  
McIntosh High School def. Faith, 21-25, 25-24, 25-22, 25-22  
Miller def. Sully Buttes, 25-17, 25-16, 25-19  
Mobridge-Pollock def. Gettysburg, 25-18, 25-13, 25-15, 25-23  
North Central def. Faulkton, 26-24, 26-28, 25-13, 21-25, 15-9  
Northwestern def. Langford, 25-14, 25-7, 25-11  
Parkston def. Hanson, 25-13, 25-19  
Platte-Geddes def. Colome, 25-7, 25-13, 25-11  
Redfield def. Deuel, 26-24, 25-20, 25-14  
Sioux Valley def. Beresford, 25-20, 25-21, 22-25, 25-19  
T F Riggs High School def. Douglas, 25-19, 25-19, 25-12  
Timber Lake def. Bison, 25-17, 25-17, 25-12  
Tri-Valley def. Lennox, 28-26, 25-21, 25-21  
Tripp-Delmont-Armour def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-23, 25-19, 25-16  
Vermillion def. South Sioux City, Neb., 25-17, 23-25, 25-22, 25-18  
Wagner def. Chamberlain, 25-18, 25-11, 25-6  
Warner def. Leola-Frederick High School, 25-5, 25-1, 25-10  
Watertown def. Brookings, 25-23, 25-16, 25-23

Webster def. Britton-Hecla, 19-25, 25-21, 25-23, 24-26, 15-10  
West Central def. Madison, 23-25, 18-25, 28-26, 25-20, 15-6  
Winner def. Valentine, Neb., 25-22, 25-15, 21-25, 25-23

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

## **Veteran Thai politician Anutin Charnvirakul wins vote in Parliament to become next prime minister**

By JINTAMAS SAKSORNCHAI Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Veteran Thai politician Anutin Charnvirakul won a vote in Parliament on Friday to become the country's next prime minister, according to an unofficial running tally broadcast live on television.

Anutin, leader of the Bhumjaithai party, won a total of 311 votes, far exceeding the 247 required majority from the House of Representative's 492 active members. He and his government are expected to take office in a few days after obtaining a formal appointment from King Maha Vajiralongkorn.

Anutin succeeds Paetongtarn Shinawatra, who was dismissed by court order as prime minister last week after being found guilty of ethics violations over a politically compromising phone call with neighboring Cambodia's Senate President Hun Sen.

The dispute erupted into a deadly five-day armed conflict in July.

Anutin, who's an elected member of the House, got up from his seat and walked around the chamber to take pictures with other lawmakers when he was a few votes short from the winning total. He and wellwishers exchanged the traditional Thai greeting of wai, with both hands clasped together.

After the House Speaker announced the total tally, a round of applause erupted as he thanked lawmakers around him.

Anutin had served in Paetongtarn's Cabinet, but he resigned his position and withdrew his party from her coalition government after news of the leaked phone call caused a public uproar.

Pheu Thai, currently leading a caretaker government, attempted to dissolve Parliament on Tuesday, but the acting prime minister said their request was rejected by the king's Privy Council. The party also nominated its candidate Chaikasem Nitisiri. He received 152 votes.

The 58-year-old Anutin had served in the Pheu Thai-led coalition government that took power in 2023 and before that in the military-backed but elected government under former Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha.

Anutin is best known for successfully lobbying for the decriminalization of cannabis, a policy that is now being more strictly regulated for medical purposes. He also played a high-profile role as health minister during the COVID-19 pandemic, when he was accused of tardiness in obtaining adequate vaccine supplies to fight the virus.

His party has promised to dissolve Parliament within four months in exchange for support from the People's Party. That party's leader, Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut, said it would remain in the opposition, leaving the new government potentially a minority one.

The People's Party also said that an Anutin-led government would have to commit to organizing a referendum on the drafting of a new constitution by an elected constituent assembly. The party has long sought changes to the constitution — which was imposed during a military government — to make it more democratic.

The People's Party, then named the Move Forward Party, won the most seats in the 2023 election but was kept from power when a joint vote of the House and the Senate failed to approve its candidate for prime minister.

Senators, who were appointed by a military government and were strong supporters of Thailand's royalist conservative establishment, voted against the progressive party because they opposed its policy of seeking reforms to the monarchy.

The Senate no longer holds the right to take part in the vote for prime minister.

After Move Forward was blocked from taking power, Pheu Thai had one of its candidates, real estate

executive Srettha Thavisin, approved as prime minister to lead a coalition government. But he served just a year before the Constitutional Court dismissed him from office for ethical violations.

Srettha's replacement Paetongtarn, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's daughter, also lasted just a year in office. But even before she was forced out, her government was greatly weakened when Anutin's Bhumjaithai Party abandoned her coalition right after her controversial call in June with Cambodia's Hun Sen.

Its withdrawal left Pheu Thai's coalition with just a tiny and unstable majority in Parliament.

A day ahead of the vote, Thaksin made a surprise departure from Thailand to Dubai, where he lived during his self-imposed exile starting in 2008. His travel took place days before a court ruling over a handling of his return in 2023 that could open him up to a new prison sentence.

The move prompted speculation that he was fleeing again, although Thaksin said he was travelling for a medical checkup and would return to Thailand in a few days.

## **Putin says foreign troops deployed to Ukraine before any peace deal would be 'legitimate targets'**

By The Associated Press undefined

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Friday that any foreign troops deployed to Ukraine before a peace agreement has been signed would be considered "legitimate targets" by Moscow's forces.

Putin's comments came hours after European leaders repledged their commitment to a potential peace-keeping force.

"If any troops appear there, especially now while fighting is ongoing, we assume that they will be legitimate targets," he said during a panel at the Eastern Economic Forum in the far eastern Russian city of Vladivostok.

Putin also dismissed the idea of peacekeeping forces in Ukraine after a final peace deal, saying "no one should doubt" that Moscow would comply with a treaty to halt its 3½-year full-scale invasion of its neighbor.

He said that security guarantees would be needed for both Russia and Ukraine.

The Russian leader's comments follow remarks from French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday that 26 of Ukraine's allies have pledged to deploy troops as a "reassurance force" for Ukraine once fighting ends.

Macron spoke after a meeting in Paris of the so-called coalition of the willing, a group of 35 countries that support Ukraine. He said that 26 of the countries had committed to deploying troops to Ukraine — or to maintaining a presence on land, at sea or in the air — to help guarantee the country's security the day after any ceasefire or peace is achieved.

Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, almost eight years after Moscow illegally annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula. Moscow has repeatedly described the presence of NATO troops in Ukraine as part of a peacekeeping force "unacceptable."

## **A passenger bus skids off a cliff in Sri Lanka, killing 15 and injuring 16 others**

By BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — A passenger bus veered off a road and plunged into a precipice in a mountainous region in Sri Lanka, killing 15 people and injuring 16 others, a police spokesman said Friday.

The accident occurred near the town of Wellawaya, about 280 kilometers (174 miles) east of the capital Colombo, on Thursday night and the bus fell into a roughly 1,000-foot precipice, police spokesman Fredrick Wootler said.

The accident killed 15 people and wounded 16, including five children.

Wootler said an initial police investigation revealed that the driver was driving the bus at high speed and lost control of it, crashing with another vehicle and into guardrails before toppling off the cliff.

At the time of the accident, nearly 30 people were traveling on the bus.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 33 of 71

Local television showed footage of the severely damaged bus lying at the bottom of the precipice and rescues crews, including soldiers, police officers and volunteers, removing the injured throughout the night in harsh terrain.

Deadly bus accidents are common in Sri Lanka, especially in the mountainous regions, often due to reckless driving and poorly maintained and narrow roads.

## Defending champion Aryna Sabalenka will face Amanda Anisimova in the U.S. Open women's final

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — On Aryna Sabalenka's first chance to end her U.S. Open semifinal against Jessica Pegula and earn the chance to play for a second consecutive trophy at Flushing Meadows, the defending champion dumped what should have been an easy overhead into the net, then stared at the ground.

On Sabalenka's second chance, she missed a clumsy volley — and later acknowledged she shouldn't have ventured forward, because she went just 15 for 27 when up at the net. Uh, oh.

So good at important moments in the high-stakes, high-tension final set, Sabalenka held it together there and held on, converting her third match point Thursday night for a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Pegula in a rematch of last year's final.

"I was super emotional. I was just like, 'Oh, my gosh, no way it's happening. Please, just close this match,'" Sabalenka explained afterward. "The whole match, I just keep telling myself: (Onto) the next one, just one step at a time, don't worry about the past. Just try better in the next point."

When it was over, Sabalenka rocked back on her heels, spread her arms and screamed.

On Saturday, when she faces No. 8 Amanda Anisimova in the final, the No. 1-seeded Sabalenka will be trying to become the first woman to claim consecutive championships at Flushing Meadows since Serena Williams got three in a row from 2012 to 2014.

Anisimova eliminated No. 23 Naomi Osaka 6-7 (4), 7-6 (3), 6-3 in a match that ended at nearly 1 a.m. to reach her second straight major final. At Wimbledon in July, Anisimova was the runner-up to Iga Swiatek, who beat her 6-0, 6-0 in the title match.

But Anisimova recovered from that well enough, and quickly enough, to get past Swiatek in two sets in the U.S. Open quarterfinals.

Now Anisimova, a 24-year-old who was born in New Jersey and grew up in Florida, gets another shot at winning her first Grand Slam trophy.

She is the first opponent to beat Osaka this late in a Grand Slam tournament. Before this loss, Osaka had been a combined 13-0 over her career in major quarterfinals, semifinals and finals.

Like Osaka vs. Anisimova, Thursday's first semifinal was quite close — closer than the straight-set triumph for Sabalenka over Pegula 12 months ago that gave the 27-year-old from Belarus her third Grand Slam title, all on hard courts.

Since then, Sabalenka was the runner-up to Madison Keys at the Australian Open in January and to Gauff at the French Open in June, then was eliminated in the Wimbledon semifinals by Anisimova in July.

Arthur Ashe Stadium's retractable roof was shut before the semifinals began, which prevented disruption from the wind outside gusting at up to 30 mph and the rain that arrived during play.

In the good, indoor conditions, No. 4 Pegula played about as cleanly as possible in the first set and the third, making just three unforced errors in each. But in the second, that count was nine.

By the end, Sabalenka had accumulated more than twice as many winners as Pegula, 43-21.

"We were pushing each other," Pegula said, "every single game."

All evening, Pegula went after her returns, taking big cuts and not playing it safe, by any means. This, then, was the key: Sabalenka was able to save all four break points she faced in the last set.

"It was really high-level. I don't really know what else to say," said Pegula, who was wearing a white New York Yankees jacket and enjoying a root beer lollipop at her news conference. "I don't know how I didn't break back in the third."

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 34 of 71

Asked how she managed to handle those moments, Sabalenka replied with a laugh: "Just praying inside and hoping for the best."

Neither she nor Pegula had lost a set in the tournament before Thursday, although Sabalenka only needed to go through four matches, instead of five, to reach the semifinals, because her quarterfinal opponent, Marketa Vondrousova, withdrew with an injured knee.

That meant Sabalenka hadn't competed since Sunday.

Might she be rusty? Sure didn't look that way at the outset, and Sabalenka used a nifty drop-shot-volley-winner combination to help go up a break and grab a 4-2 lead.

But Pegula didn't fold. In the next game, with the thousands in the stands roaring for every point gained by the American, Sabalenka netted off-balance groundstrokes on two points in a row and double-faulted to get broken right back.

Sabalenka shook her head and slammed her arms by her side. That ended her run of 32 consecutive holds, and she draped a white towel over her head at the changeover. Pegula then broke again to cap a four-game run that wrapped up the set and, this time, Sabalenka quickly retrieved her bag and headed off to the locker room.

When she came back, Sabalenka elevated her play — and steadied her mind when necessary.

"I will go out there on Saturday," she said, "and I'll fight for every point like the last point of my life."

## Trump hosts tech titans — but not Musk — at White House

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump hosted a high-powered group of tech executives at the White House on Thursday as he showcased research on artificial intelligence and boasted of investments that companies are making around the United States.

"This is taking our country to a new level," he said at the center of a long table surrounded by what he described as "high IQ people."

It was the latest example of a delicate two-way courtship between Trump and tech leaders, several of whom attended his inauguration. Trump has exulted in the attention from some of the world's most successful businesspeople, while the companies are eager to remain on the good side of the mercurial president.

While the executives praised Trump and talked about their hopes for technological advancement, the Republican president was focused on dollar signs. He went around the table and asked executives how much they were investing in the country.

Meta's Mark Zuckerberg, who sat to Trump's right, said \$600 billion. Apple's Tim Cook said the same. Google's Sundar Pichai said \$250 billion.

"What about Microsoft?" Trump said. "That's a big number."

CEO Satya Nadella said it was up to \$80 billion per year.

"Good," Trump responded. "Very good."

Notably absent from the guest list was Elon Musk, once a close ally of Trump who was tasked with running the Department of Government Efficiency. Musk had a public breakup with Trump earlier this year.

At the table instead was one of Musk's rivals in artificial intelligence, Sam Altman of OpenAI.

In another reflection of shifting loyalties in Trump's world, the dinner included Jared Isaacman, who founded the payment processing company Shift4.

Isaacman was a Musk ally chosen by Trump to lead NASA, only to have his nomination withdrawn because he was, in Trump's words, "totally a Democrat."

The dinner was expected to be held in the Rose Garden, where Trump recently paved over the grassy lawn and set up tables, chairs and umbrellas that look strikingly similar to the outdoor setup at his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida.

But because of inclement weather, officials decided to move the event to the White House State Dining Room.

The event followed an afternoon meeting of the White House's new Artificial Intelligence Education task

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 35 of 71

force, which first lady Melania Trump chaired and some tech leaders participated in.

"The robots are here. Our future is no longer science fiction," she said,

Pichai, IBM chairman and CEO Arvind Krishna and Code.org President Cameron Wilson were among those participating in the task force.

The White House confirmed that the guest list for the dinner also included: Microsoft cofounder Bill Gates; Google founder Sergey Brin; OpenAI founder Greg Brockman; Oracle CEO Safra Catz; Blue Origin CEO David Limp; Micron CEO Sanjay Mehrotra; TIBCO Software chairman Vivek Ranadive; Palantir executive Shyam Sankar; Scale AI founder Alexandr Wang; and Shift4 Payments CEO Jared Isaacman.

Trump's outreach to top tech executives has occasionally been divisive within the Republican Party.

One of Trump's closest allies in Congress, Sen. Josh Hawley, delivered a sharp criticism of the tech industry during a speech at a conservative conference in Washington on Thursday morning. He criticized the lack of regulation around artificial intelligence and singled out Meta and ChatGPT.

"The government should inspect all of these frontier AI systems so we can better understand what the tech titans plan to build and destroy," the Missouri senator said.

Trump has embraced AI-created imagery and frequently shares it online, despite his complaints earlier in the week about the technology being used to create misleading videos.

Late Wednesday night, he posted a string of AI-generated memes and videos, such as one depicting him interacting with the man pictured in the Cracker Barrel logo, one showing California Democratic Sen. Adam Schiff with an extremely elongated neck, and one with Trump's face superimposed on a pole vaulter as it appears to leap over a Cracker Barrel banner.

On Tuesday, Trump said a video showing items being thrown out of an upstairs window of the White House must have been created by AI, despite his team seeming to have confirmed the video's veracity hours earlier.

Trump then said, "If something happens that's really bad, maybe I'll have to just blame AI."

The first lady, at her event Thursday, likewise highlighted both the potential and peril of AI.

"As leaders and parents, we must manage AI's growth responsibly," she said, calling for both action and caution. "During this primitive stage, it is our duty to treat AI as we would our own children — empowering, but with watchful guidance."

Last month, the first lady launched a nationwide contest for students in grades K-12 to use AI to complete a project or address a community challenge. The project was aimed at showing the benefits of AI, but the first lady has also highlighted its drawbacks.

Melania Trump lobbied Congress this year to pass legislation that imposes penalties for online sexual exploitation using imagery that is real or an AI-generated deepfake.

The president signed the "Take It Down Act" in May.

## US designates 2 more gangs in Latin America as foreign terrorist groups

By MATTHEW LEE, REGINA GARCIA CANO and JACQUELYN MARTIN Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — The United States is designating two Ecuadorian gangs as foreign terrorist organizations, marking the Trump administration's latest step to target criminal cartels in Latin America.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio made the announcement Thursday while in Ecuador as part of a trip to Latin America overshadowed by an American military strike against a similarly designated gang, Venezuela's Tren de Aragua. That attack has raised concerns in the region about what may follow as President Donald Trump's government pledges to step up military activity to combat drug trafficking and illegal migration.

"This time, we're not just going to hunt for drug dealers in the little fast boats and say, 'Let's try to arrest them,'" Rubio told reporters in Quito, Ecuador's capital. "No, the president has said he wants to wage war on these groups because they've been waging war on us for 30 years and no one has responded."

The Defense Department said late Thursday that two Venezuelan military aircraft flew near a U.S. Navy



# Groton Daily Independent

**Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 36 of 71**

vessel in international waters, calling it “a highly provocative move” and warning President Nicolás Maduro’s government against further actions.

Two more gangs are designated as terrorist groups

Los Lobos and Los Choneros are Ecuadorian gangs blamed for much of the violence that began during the COVID-19 pandemic. The terrorist designation, Rubio said, brings “all sorts of options” for Washington to work in conjunction with the government of Ecuador to crack down on these groups.

That includes the ability to kill them as well as take action against the properties and banking accounts in the U.S. of the group’s members and those with ties to the criminal organizations, Rubio said. He said the label also would help with intelligence sharing.

Los Choneros, Los Lobos and other similar groups are involved in contract killings, extortion operations and the movement and sale of drugs. Authorities have blamed them for the increased violence in the country as they fight over drug-trafficking routes to the Pacific and control of territory, including within prisons, where hundreds of inmates have been killed since 2021.

US strike in the Caribbean takes center stage

The strike has become the focus on Rubio’s trip, which included a stop in Mexico on Wednesday.

U.S. officials say the vessel’s cargo was intended for the U.S. and that the strike killed 11 people, but they have yet to explain how the military determined that those aboard were Tren de Aragua members.

Rubio said U.S. actions targeting cartels were being directed more toward Venezuela, and not Mexico.

“There’s no need to do that in many cases with friendly governments, because the friendly governments are going to help us,” Rubio told reporters. “They may do it themselves, and we’ll help them do it.”

A day earlier, Rubio justified the strike by saying the boat posed an “immediate threat” to the U.S. and Trump opted to “blow it up” rather than follow what had been standard procedure to stop and board, arrest the crew and seize any contraband on board.

The strike drew a mixed reaction from leaders around Latin America, where the U.S. history of military intervention and gunboat diplomacy is still fresh. Many, like officials in Mexico, were careful not to outright condemn the attack. They stressed the importance of protecting national sovereignty and warned that expanded U.S. military involvement might backfire.

Ecuador has struggled with drug trafficking

President Daniel Noboa thanked Rubio for the U.S. efforts to “actually eliminate any terrorist threat.” Before their meeting, Rubio said on social media that the U.S. and Ecuador are “aligned as key partners on ending illegal immigration and combatting transnational crime and terrorism.”

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

“I don’t care what the U.N. says. I don’t care,” Rubio said.

Violence has skyrocketed in Ecuador since the pandemic. Drug traffickers expanded operations and took advantage of the nation’s banana industry. Ecuador is the world’s largest exporter of the fruit, and traffickers find maritime shipping containers filled with it to be the perfect vehicle to smuggle their contraband.

Cartels from Mexico, Colombia and the Balkans have settled in Ecuador because it uses the U.S. dollar and has weak laws and institutions, along with a network of long-established gangs, including Los Choneros and Los Lobos, that are eager for work.

Ecuador gained prominence in the global cocaine trade after political changes in Colombia last decade. Coca bush fields in Colombia have been moving closer to the border with Ecuador due to the breakup of criminal groups after the 2016 demobilization of the rebel group Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, better known by its Spanish acronym FARC.

Ecuador in July extradited to the U.S. the leader of Los Choneros, José Adolfo Macías Villamar. He escaped from an Ecuadorian prison last year and was recaptured in June, two months after being indicted in New York on charges he imported thousands of pounds of cocaine into the U.S.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 37 of 71

## Caitlin Clark to miss the rest of the Fever's season because of a right groin injury

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Caitlin Clark will miss the rest of the Indiana Fever's season because of a right groin injury.

"I had hoped to share a better update, but I will not be returning to play this season," Clark said in a statement. "I spent hours in the gym every day with the singular goal of getting back out there, disappointed isn't a big enough word to describe how I am feeling. I want to thank everyone who had my back through all the uncertainty."

"This has been incredibly frustrating, but even in the bad, there is good. The way the fans continued to show up for me, and for the Fever, brought me so much joy and important perspective. I am so proud of how this team has only gotten stronger through adversity this year. Now it's time to close out the season and claim our spot in the playoffs."

Clark was injured late in a July 15 game against the Connecticut Sun, and later sustained a bone bruise. The former Iowa star averaged 16.5 points, 8.8 assists and 5.0 rebounds in 13 games in her second season in the WNBA.

"Caitlin has worked so hard throughout this time, doing everything possible to recover and return to the court but, ultimately, time is not on our side," Fever COO and GM Amber Cox said in a statement. "While we will continue working with Caitlin and provide her with every resource we have available, there is not enough time left in our season for her to safely return, and her long-term health and well-being remains our top priority. We are looking forward to having her back at full strength to start the 2026 season."

The 2024 Rookie of the Year had been trying to get back to help her team reach the postseason for a second straight year. She participated in full-court drills without defense during a shootaround before the Fever faced the Phoenix Mercury on Tuesday night. Coach Stephanie White said Thursday at practice that Clark hasn't done much contact work yet.

Indiana is currently in eighth place in the standings, 1 1/2 games in front of Los Angeles with three games to play.

It has been a rough season for Clark, who also dealt with injuries to her left quad and left groin. This was the first time she's had injury issues. She never missed a game in her collegiate career at Iowa or her first year in the WNBA.

"Minor setback for a MAJOR COMEBACK!! Rest up, get healthy and be YOU!" NBA star LeBron James said on social media.

The Fever have lost five players for the season with injuries now including Clark. Fellow guards Sydney Colson (knee), Aari McDonald (foot) Sophie Cunningham (knee) and forward Chloe Bibby (knee) are also out.

Clark has helped women's basketball grow in both college and the WNBA. The league had record attendance this season even with Clark missing most of the season.

## Macron says 26 countries pledge troops as a reassurance force for Ukraine after war ends

By ILLIA NOVIKOV and SAMUEL PETREQUIN Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron said Thursday that 26 of Ukraine's allies have pledged to deploy troops as a "reassurance force" for the war-torn country once fighting ends in the conflict with Russia.

Macron spoke after a meeting in Paris of the so-called "coalition of the willing," a group of 35 countries who support Ukraine. He said that 26 of the countries had committed to deploying troops in Ukraine — or to maintaining a presence on land, at sea, or in the air — to help guarantee the country's security the day after a ceasefire or peace is achieved.

Earlier Thursday, Macron and other European leaders met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the U.S. envoy for peace talks, Steve Witkoff, to discuss ways of ensuring long-term military support

# Groton Daily Independent

**Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 38 of 71**

and continued American backing for Ukraine once the conflict ends. Zelenskyy also held a closed-door meeting with Witkoff.

Macron said at a news conference alongside Zelenskyy that the reassurance force “does not have the will or the objective of waging war against Russia,” but will aim “to prevent any new major aggression and to involve the 26 states very clearly in the lasting security of Ukraine.”

Macron and Zelenskyy say US backs the plan

Though details of any U.S. participation in the security guarantees remain unclear, both Macron and Zelenskyy said Washington had expressed willingness to be part of the plan, and the Ukrainian president said he was grateful about that. “As for in what format, I am not yet ready to tell you in detail,” Zelenskyy added.

“The planning work will be finalized with the United States,” Macron said.

Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who lead the “coalition of the willing,” previously have insisted that any European “reassurance” force in Ukraine needs the backing of the United States.

The European leaders — some of whom joined the meeting virtually — said Russian President Vladimir Putin must now work toward ending the fighting, and the German government suggested European sanctions on Russia would increase if Moscow drags its feet. The European leaders also spoke by phone with U.S. President Donald Trump after their meeting.

Starmer’s office said the British prime minister “emphasized that the group had an unbreakable pledge to Ukraine, with President Trump’s backing, and it was clear they now needed to go even further to apply pressure on Putin to secure a cessation of hostilities.”

Trump phone call

Finnish President Alexander Stubb told Finnish media that, in the phone conversation with European leaders, Trump emphasized the need to put economic pressure on Russia, and said Europe must stop buying Russian oil and gas that he said was funding the war.

Trump stressed that Russia received €1.1 billion in fuel sales from the EU in one year, according to a White House official. Trump also emphasized that European leaders must place economic pressure on China for indirectly funding Russia’s war efforts, according to the official, who was not authorized to comment publicly about the private talks and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

German government spokesman Stefan Kornelius said that German Chancellor Friedrich Merz laid out three “areas of action,” including working toward a summit that would include Zelenskyy, and “a ceasefire must be agreed there.”

“If the Russian side continues to play for time, Europe will increase the pressure of sanctions to increase the chances of a diplomatic solution,” the statement said.

The Ukrainian president said a meeting with Putin is needed. “This is not a matter of a desire, this is a matter of necessity,” Zelenskyy said. “We support any format, bilateral meeting, trilateral meeting, I believe that Russia does everything to defer it.”

There was no immediate reaction from Russian officials.

Putin — isolated by Western leaders but backed by China in his war effort — said Wednesday that he believed “if common sense prevails, it is possible to agree on an acceptable option for ending the conflict,” adding that Trump has “a sincere desire” to reach a settlement.

Positive signals

In a policy shift earlier this month, the U.S. sent positive signals over its readiness to support security guarantees for Ukraine that resemble NATO’s collective defense mandate, Zelenskyy previously has said. It is unclear what that support would look like in practice. Ukraine is hoping for continued U.S. intelligence sharing and air support.

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said that a broad coalition of nations is needed to support Ukraine’s defense against Russian aggression, but also to strengthen Europe to deter further military action by Moscow.

Citing European military and intelligence officials who have warned of Russian plans to strike other Eu-



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 39 of 71

European countries, Rutte said that "we have to make sure that our deterrence is such that they will never try, knowing that our reaction will be devastating."

Rutte also called for the world to "not be naive about Russia."

"We know what Putin tries to do and the evidence is there in Ukraine as we speak," he said.

Meanwhile, in Ukraine, Russia fired 112 strike and decoy drones across the country overnight Thursday, according to Ukraine's Air Force morning report. Air defenses intercepted or jammed 84 drones, the statement said.

Russia on Thursday announced that it was expelling an Estonian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move after Estonia declared a Russian diplomat persona non grata last month.

## Portuguese investigators search for cause of Lisbon streetcar crash that killed 16

By BARRY HATTON and SUMAN NAISHADHAM Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Investigators sifted through the wreckage of a streetcar in downtown Lisbon on Thursday, trying to determine why the popular tourist attraction derailed during the busy summer season, killing 16 people and injuring 21, five of them seriously.

Portugal's attorney-general's office said eight victims have been identified so far: five Portuguese, two South Koreans and a Swiss person.

There is "a high possibility," based on recovered documents and other evidence, that the victims also include two Canadians, one American, one German and one Ukrainian, according to the head of the national investigative police, Luís Neves. Three remain to be identified.

Among the injured are Spaniards, Israelis, Portuguese, Brazilians, Italians and French people, the executive director of Portugal's National Health Service, Alvaro Santos Almeida, said.

The nationalities appeared to confirm suspicions that the Elevador da Gloria was packed with tourists as well as locals when it came off its rails during the evening rush hour Wednesday. Lisbon hosted around 8.5 million tourists last year, and long lines of people typically form for the streetcar's short and picturesque trip a few hundred meters up and down a city street.

"This tragedy ... goes beyond our borders," Prime Minister Luis Montenegro said at his official residence, calling it "one of the biggest tragedies of our recent past." Portugal observed a national day of mourning Thursday.

Montenegro, Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa and Lisbon Mayor Carlos Moedas were among the hundreds of people who attended a somber Mass at Lisbon's imposing Church of Saint Dominic on Thursday evening.

Many of the stricken attendees were dressed in black, some embraced, and others carried flowers into the majestic candlelit sanctuary.

In his sermon, the city's archbishop, Patriarch Rui I of Lisbon, talked of how humans have faith in machines but in this instance, the streetcar betrayed that trust.

Operator says the streetcar was inspected daily

The electric streetcar, also known as a funicular, is harnessed by steel cables and can carry more than 40 people. On Thursday, officials took photographs and pulled up cable from beneath the rails that climb one of the Portuguese capital's steep hills.

Officials declined to comment on whether a faulty brake or a snapped cable may have prompted the descending streetcar to careen into a building where the steep road bends.

"The city needs answers," the mayor said in a televised statement, adding that talk of possible causes is "mere speculation."

Police, public prosecutors and government transport experts are investigating the crash, Montenegro told reporters. The government's Office for Air and Rail Accident Investigations said it had concluded its analysis of the wreckage and would issue a preliminary report Friday. Chief police investigator Nelson Oliveira said a preliminary police report is expected within 45 days.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 40 of 71

The company that operates Lisbon's streetcars and buses, Carris, said it has opened its own investigation. The streetcar, which has been in service since 1914, underwent a scheduled full maintenance program last year and the company conducted a 30-minute visual inspection of it every day, Carris' CEO Pedro de Brito Bogas said during a news conference Thursday.

The streetcar was last inspected nine hours before the derailment, he said, but he didn't detail the visual inspection nor specify when questioned whether all the cables were tested.

The mayor said he would request an investigation from an outside independent body, but didn't elaborate.

Tourists and locals ride the 19th century streetcar

Lisbon's Civil Protection Agency said earlier Thursday that the death toll had risen to 17. It later corrected that to 16, citing a duplication of available information.

All the people who died were adults, Margarida Castro Martins, head of Lisbon's Civil Protection Agency, told reporters. She didn't provide their identities, saying their families would be informed first.

All 16 autopsies were concluded Thursday, but the identification of the final three victims requires access to dental records or family DNA that are held abroad, Francisco Corte-Real, the head of the National Forensic Medicine Institute, told a joint news conference.

The transport workers' trade union SITRA said that the streetcar's brakeman, André Marques, was among the dead.

The injured include men and women between the ages of 24 and 65, and a 3-year-old child, Castro Martins said. Among them are Portuguese people, as well as two Germans, two Spaniards and one person each from France, Italy, Switzerland, Canada, Morocco, South Korea and Cape Verde, she said.

'It could have been us'

Felicity Ferriter, a 70-year-old British tourist, had just arrived with her husband at a hotel near the crash site and was unpacking her suitcase when she heard "a horrendous crash."

"We heard it, we heard the bang," she told The Associated Press outside her hotel.

The couple had seen the streetcar when they arrived and intended to ride on it the next day.

"It was to be one of the highlights of our holiday," she said, adding: "It could have been us."

Witness Teresa d'Avó told Portuguese television channel SIC that it looked like the streetcar had no brakes.

"It hit the building with brutal force and fell apart like a cardboard box," she said, describing how passersby scattered into the middle of the nearby Avenida da Liberdade, or Freedom Avenue, the city's main thoroughfare.

Francesca di Bello, a 23-year-old Italian tourist on a family vacation, had been on the Elevador da Gloria just hours before the derailment.

They walked by the crash site on Thursday, expressing shock at the wreckage. Asked if she would ride a funicular again in Portugal or elsewhere, Di Bello was emphatic: "Definitely not."

Service halted as inspections ordered

The service, inaugurated in 1885, runs between Restauradores Square and the Bairro Alto neighborhood renowned for its nightlife. The Elevador da Gloria is classified as a national monument.

Lisbon's City Council halted operations of three other famous funicular streetcars in the city while immediate inspections were carried out.

European Union flags at the European Parliament and European Commission in Brussels flew at half-staff. Multiple EU leaders expressed their condolences on social media.

## Kennedy tries to defend COVID-19 vaccine stance in raucous Senate hearing

By MATT BROWN and MIKE STOBBE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., facing pointed bipartisan questioning at a rancorous three-hour Senate committee hearing on Thursday, tried to defend his efforts to pull back COVID-19 vaccine recommendations and explain the turmoil he has created at federal health agencies.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 41 of 71

Kennedy said the fired CDC director was untrustworthy, stood by his past anti-vaccine rhetoric, and disputed reports of people saying they have had difficulty getting COVID-19 shots.

A longtime leader in the anti-vaccine movement, Kennedy has made sweeping changes to agencies tasked with public health policy and scientific research by laying off thousands of workers, firing science advisers and remaking vaccine guidelines. The moves — some of which contradict assurances he made during his confirmation hearings — have rattled medical groups and officials in several Democratic-led states, which have responded with their own vaccine advice.

Medical groups and several Democrats in Congress have called for Kennedy to be fired, and his exchanges with Democratic senators on the panel repeatedly devolved into shouting, from both sides.

But some Republican senators also expressed unease with his changes to COVID-19 policies.

The GOP senators noted that Kennedy said President Donald Trump deserved a Nobel Prize for the 2020 Operation Warp Speed initiative to quickly develop mRNA COVID-19 vaccines — and that he also had attacked the safety and continued use of those very shots.

"I can't tell where you are on Operation Warp Speed," said Republican North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis.

Tillis and others asked him why the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was fired last week, less than a month into her tenure.

Kennedy said she was dishonest, and that CDC leaders who left the agency last week in support of her deserved to be fired.

He also criticized CDC recommendations during the COVID-19 pandemic tied to lockdowns and masking policies, and claimed — wrongly — that they "failed to do anything about the disease itself."

"The people at CDC who oversaw that process, who put masks on our children, who closed our schools, are the people who will be leaving," Kennedy said. He later said they deserved to be fired for not doing enough to control chronic disease.

Trump was asked at a White House dinner with tech leaders on Thursday night if he has full confidence in what Kennedy is doing.

Trump said he didn't watch the hearings but said of Kennedy, "he means very well." Trump said Kennedy has "a different take, and we want to listen to all those takes."

"It's not your standard talk, I would say, and that has to do with medical and vaccines," Trump said. "But if you look at what's going on in the world with health and look at this country also with regard to health, I like the fact that he's different."

Democrats express hostility from the start

The Senate Finance Committee had called Kennedy to a hearing about his plans to "Make America Healthy Again," but Democratic senators pressed Kennedy on his actions around vaccines.

At the start of the hearing, Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon tried to have Kennedy formally sworn in as a witness, saying the HHS secretary has a history of lying to the committee. The committee's chair, Sen. Mike Crapo of Idaho, denied the Democrat's request, saying "the bottom line is we will let the secretary make his own case."

Wyden went on to attack Kennedy, saying he had "stacked the deck" of a vaccines advisory committee by replacing scientists with "skeptics and conspiracy theorists."

Last week, the Trump administration fired the CDC's director — a Trump appointee who was confirmed by the Senate — less than a month into her tenure. Several top CDC leaders resigned in protest, leaving the agency in turmoil.

The ousted director, Susan Monarez, wrote in The Wall Street Journal on Thursday that Kennedy was trying to weaken public health protections.

"I was told to preapprove the recommendations of a vaccine advisory panel newly filled with people who have publicly expressed antivaccine rhetoric," Monarez wrote. "It is imperative that the panel's recommendations aren't rubber-stamped but instead are rigorously and scientifically reviewed before being accepted or rejected."

Kennedy told senators he didn't make such an ultimatum, though he did concede that he had ordered Monarez to fire career CDC scientists. Monarez's attorneys later responded that she stood by the op-ed



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 42 of 71

and "would repeat it all under oath."

Kennedy pushed back on concerns raised by multiple Republican senators, including Tillis and Sens. John Barrasso of Wyoming and Bill Cassidy of Louisiana. Both Barrasso and Cassidy are physicians.

Shouting matches and hot comebacks

The health secretary had animated comebacks as Democratic senators pressed him on the effects of his words and actions.

When Sen. Raphael Warnock, of Georgia, questioned Kennedy about his disparaging rhetoric about CDC employees before a deadly shooting at the agency this summer, Kennedy shot back: "Are you complicit in the assassination attempts on President Trump?"

Kennedy called Sen. Ben Ray Lujan of New Mexico "ridiculous," said he was "talking gibberish" and accused him of "not understanding how the world works" when Lujan asked Kennedy to pledge to share protocols of any research Kennedy was commissioning into autism and vaccines.

He also engaged in heated, loud exchanges with Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Tina Smith of Minnesota.

"I didn't even hear your question," Kennedy replied to Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto as the Nevada Democrat repeatedly asked what the agency was doing to lower drug costs for seniors.

He also told Sen. Bernie Sanders that the Vermont independent was not "making any sense."

Some senators had their own choice words.

"You're interrupting me, and sir, you're a charlatan. That's what you are," said Sen. Maria Cantwell, a Washington Democrat. "The history on vaccines is very clear."

As the hearing neared its end, Kennedy pulled his cellphone from his pocket and then tapped and scrolled as Wyden asked about mifepristone, a drug used for medication abortion.

Kennedy disputes COVID-19 data

In May, Kennedy announced COVID-19 vaccines would no longer be recommended for healthy children and pregnant women, a move opposed by medical and public health groups.

In June, he abruptly fired a panel of experts that had been advising the government on vaccine policy. He replaced them with a handpicked group that included several vaccine skeptics, and then shut the door to several doctors groups that had long helped form the committee's recommendations.

Kennedy has voiced distrust of research that showed the COVID-19 vaccines saved lives, and at Thursday's hearing even cast doubt on statistics about how people died during the pandemic and on estimates about how many deaths were averted — statistics produced by the agencies he oversees.

He said federal health policy would be based on gold standard science, but confessed that he wouldn't necessarily wait for studies to be completed before taking action against, for example, potential causes of chronic illness.

"We are not waiting for everything to come in. We are starting now," he said.

A number of medical groups say Kennedy can't be counted on to make decisions based on robust medical evidence. In a statement Wednesday, the Infectious Diseases Society of America and 20 other medical and public health organizations issued a joint statement calling on him to resign.

"Our country needs leadership that will promote open, honest dialogue, not disregard decades of lifesaving science, spread misinformation, reverse medical progress and decimate programs that keep us safe," the statement said.

Many of the nation's leading public health and medical societies, including the American Medical Association, American Public Health Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics have decried Kennedy's policies and warn they will drive up rates of vaccine-preventable diseases.

## DC lawsuit challenges Trump's National Guard deployment as a forced 'military occupation'

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST and GARY FIELDS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The District of Columbia on Thursday challenged President Donald Trump's use of the National Guard in Washington, asking a federal court to intervene even as he plans to send troops to other cities in the name of driving down crime.

Brian Schwalb, the district's elected attorney general, said in a lawsuit that the deployment, which now involves more than 1,000 troops, is an illegal use of the military for domestic law enforcement.

"No American jurisdiction should be involuntarily subjected to military occupation," Schwalb wrote.

The White House said deploying the Guard to protect federal assets and assist law enforcement is within Trump's authority as president.

"This lawsuit is nothing more than another attempt — at the detriment of D.C. residents and visitors — to undermine the President's highly successful operations to stop violent crime in D.C.," spokeswoman Abigail Jackson said.

Members of the D.C. National Guard have had their orders extended through December, according to a Guard official. While that does not necessarily mean all those troops will serve that long, it is a strong indication that their role will not wind down soon.

The Republican president has credited the weeklong surge in Washington with reining in crime and said he plans to send the National Guard into Chicago and Baltimore, despite staunch opposition in those Democrat-led cities. In the nation's capital, Mayor Muriel Bowser, a Democrat, has backed up some of Trump's claims that crime is down during the takeover. Still, data shows and critics argue that crime was already falling before the surge.

Bowser said Thursday that her focus is on preparing for when the emergency ends, which under the law would be Sept. 10, unless Congress extends it. In the order she issued this week, that preparation centered on how the District could best coordinate with and communicate with the federal law enforcement agencies that will likely remain in contact with the city's citizens.

A federal judge in California ruled on Tuesday that Trump's deployment of National Guard troops to Los Angeles after protests over immigration raids in June was illegal. It does not directly apply to Washington, where the president has more control over the Guard than in states.

Several GOP-led states have added National Guard troops to the ranks of those patrolling the streets and neighborhoods of the nation's capital.

Schwalb's filing contends the deployment also violates Washington's Home Rule Act, signed by President Richard Nixon in 1973, and wrongly asserts federal control over units from other states.

The lawsuit is the second from Schwalb — whose office is separate from Washington's federal U.S. attorney, a presidential appointee — against the Trump administration since Trump asserted control over the city's police department and sent in the Guard. Those actions have been met with protests from some residents.

Violent crime has been an issue in the capital for years, though data showed it was on the decline when Trump intervened with an executive order on Aug. 11.

Bowser has pointed to a steep drop in offenses such as carjackings since it began, while also expressing reservations about the use of the Guard from other states.

There are clear divides between some D.C. Council members and Bowser, whom critics have accused of acquiescing to the administration.

Speaking at a Free DC "Federal Forces Out Now" news conference on Capitol Hill, one councilmember, Robert White, said his own young daughters do not see the military personnel and officers as protectors.

"They are here to catch them, to condemn them, to take away their rights," he said.

White said when history is written about this moment "we will have to justify what we did and did not do. I'm not prepared to say that I capitulated. I'm prepared to stay the course. I'm not prepared to say

I went along to get along.”

He encouraged the D.C. Council, Congress, the mayor and the district’s attorney general to “stand together not in fear, not in compliance, but against an authoritarian takeover of our city.”

## **China’s Xi and North Korea’s Kim pledge deeper ties during meeting in Beijing**

By KEN MORITSUGU and SIMINA MISTREANU Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese President Xi Jinping and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un pledged mutual support and enhanced cooperation during talks in Beijing after a commemoration of the end of World War II, the countries’ state media said.

Xi and Kim, along with top officials from their countries, met at Beijing’s Great Hall of the People a day after Kim attended a Chinese military parade alongside other foreign leaders including Russian President Vladimir Putin. Kim is making a rare trip outside North Korea.

Xi highlighted the “traditional friendship” between China and North Korea and pledged to consolidate and boost relations, according to a readout of their statements published by Chinese state broadcaster CCTV on Thursday.

“This position will not change regardless of how the international situation evolves,” Xi told Kim, according to CCTV.

North Korea’s official Korean Central News Agency said Friday that the leaders discussed increasing high-level visits and contacts as well as strengthening strategic cooperation and protecting shared interests in international and regional affairs. It said Kim left Beijing by his private train Thursday evening after his meeting with Xi.

China has been North Korea’s biggest trading partner and aid provider, though questions have lingered about the strength of their bilateral relationship.

In recent years, Kim’s foreign policy has focused heavily on Russia. He has sent combat troops and ammunition to back Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in return for economic and military assistance. At a meeting with Kim in Beijing after the parade, Putin praised the bravery of North Korean soldiers in the fighting.

But experts say that Kim would feel the need to prepare for the possible end of the Russia-Ukraine war.

Kim, on his first visit to China in six years, brought his young daughter, adding to speculation that she’s being primed as the country’s next leader.

On Wednesday, he joined 26 foreign leaders who watched the parade marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. It was the first time that Kim had joined an event with a large group of world leaders since taking office in late 2011.

North Korea’s economy has been suffering under heavy U.S. sanctions tied to Pyongyang’s development of nuclear weapons. Some observers say Kim’s trip could also be meant to increase leverage in potential talks with U.S. President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly expressed his hopes to resume diplomacy between the two countries.

China is believed to want its neighbor to return to negotiation and give up its nuclear weapons development.

North Korea’s more recent closer ties with Russia have raised some concern in Beijing, which has long been Pyongyang’s most important ally.

The joint appearance of Kim, Xi and Putin at the parade has sparked speculation about a joint effort to push back at U.S. pressure on their three countries. Trump said as much in a social media post, telling Xi to give his warmest regards to Putin and Kim “as you conspire against The United States of America.”

Putin dismissed that idea at a news conference in Beijing on Wednesday, saying no one has expressed anything negative about the Trump administration during his trip to China.

“The President of the United States is not without a sense of humor,” he said.

Although China, North Korea and Russia are embroiled in separate confrontations with the U.S., they



haven't formed a clear three-way alliance so far.

Zhu Feng, the dean of Nanjing University's School of International Relations, said that "ganging up" with North Korea would damage China's image, because the former is the most closed and authoritarian country in the world.

"It should not be overinterpreted that China-North Korea-Russia relations would see reinforcement," he said.

## **Trump's promised immigration crackdown in Chicago could last about six weeks, suburban official says**

By SOPHIA TAREEN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The Trump administration has informed Chicago-area officials that its promised immigration enforcement surge will run for about six weeks, according to the mayor of a suburb that houses an immigration processing center.

Broadview Mayor Katrina Thompson said in a letter to the village's roughly 8,000 residents this week that the Trump administration told village officials that a two-story building used to temporarily hold immigrants before they're detained or deported will serve as the "primary processing location" for the expected operation.

She said local leaders were told the operation will last approximately 45 days, but she didn't say when it might start.

Officials in the village just west of Chicago declined to elaborate Thursday, saying they were focused on the safety of residents, police and businesses.

"We will defend the constitutionally protected right to peaceful protest and will accept no interference with that right," said LeTisa Jones, the village administrator. "Simultaneously, we will reject any illegal behavior that puts Broadview police officers' safety or the safety of local businesses and residents at risk."

President Donald Trump has targeted Chicago and other Democrat-led cities for expanded federal intervention. His administration has said it will step up immigration enforcement in the Windy City, as he did in Los Angeles, and would deploy National Guard troops to help fight crime. In addition to sending troops to Los Angeles in June, Trump deployed them last month in Washington, D.C., as part of his unprecedented law enforcement takeover of the nation's capital.

Although details about the promised Chicago operation have been sparse, local opposition is already widespread and is building in the suburbs. State and city leaders have said they plan to sue the Trump administration.

Activists, church groups and schools in the nation's third-largest city have been preparing for the operation, during which the Department of Homeland Security intends to use a naval station north of Chicago for logistical support.

In Chicago, organizers postponed a downtown Mexican Independence Day festival scheduled for later this month because of fears in the community about the planned immigration crackdown. They did not set a new date.

In suburban communities, officials also tried to quell concerns.

"We understand that these developments have created anxiety and uncertainty for many in our community," read a statement from the city of North Chicago and Lake County. "While these developments may feel unsettling, please know this: you are not alone."

Others issued reminders of Illinois' sanctuary laws, which are among the strongest in the country and generally bar local police from cooperating with federal immigration agents.

Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker, a frequent critic and target of Trump, visited a school Thursday in Berwyn, a largely Latino suburb of roughly 55,000 people, to assess the impact of the expected operation.

The Broadview processing center, which draws frequent protests, has been under fire recently for allegations that immigrants have been held for days instead of hours and forced to sleep on floors. The complaints led four Democratic members of Illinois' congressional delegation to attempt an unscheduled

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 46 of 71

visit to the site in June.

DHS and Immigration and Customs Enforcement didn't immediately respond to Thursday requests for comment.

## Trump will seek 'Department of War' rebrand for Pentagon

By KONSTANTIN TOROPIN and CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump plans to sign an executive order Friday to rebrand the Department of Defense as the Department of War, his latest effort to project an image of toughness for America's military.

The Republican president can't formally change the name without legislation, which his administration would request from Congress. In the meantime, Trump will authorize the Pentagon to use "secondary titles" so the department can go by its original name.

The plans were disclosed by a White House official, who requested anonymity ahead of the public announcement, and detailed in a White House fact sheet.

The Department of War was created in 1789, the same year that the U.S. Constitution took effect. It was renamed by law in 1947, two years after the end of World War II.

Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth posted "DEPARTMENT OF WAR" on social media after the executive order was initially reported by Fox News.

Trump and Hegseth have long talked about changing the name, and Hegseth even created a social media poll on the topic in March.

Since then, he has hinted that his title as defense secretary may not be permanent at multiple public events, including a speech at Fort Benning, Georgia, on Thursday. He told an auditorium full of soldiers that it "may be a slightly different title tomorrow."

In August, Trump told reporters that "everybody likes that we had an unbelievable history of victory when it was Department of War. Then we changed it to Department of Defense."

When confronted with the possibility that making the name change would require an act of Congress, Trump told reporters that "we're just going to do it."

"I'm sure Congress will go along if we need that," he added.

The move is just the latest in a long line of cultural changes Hegseth has made to the Pentagon since taking office at the beginning of the year.

Early in his tenure, Hegseth pushed hard to eliminate what he saw as the impacts of "woke culture" on the military by not only ridding the department of diversity programs but scrubbing libraries and websites of material deemed to be divisive.

The result was the removal and review of hundreds of books in the military academies, which ended up including titles on the Holocaust and a Maya Angelou memoir. It also resulted in the removal of thousands of websites honoring contributions by women and minority groups.

"I think the president and the secretary have been very clear on this — that anybody that says in the Department of Defense that diversity is our strength is, is frankly, incorrect," Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell told reporters in March.

Hegseth has also presided over the removal of all transgender troops from the military following an executive order from Trump through a process that some have described as "dehumanizing" or "open cruelty."

## Appeals court panel stops order to wind down operations at 'Alligator Alcatraz' in Everglades

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A federal appeals court panel on Thursday put on hold a lower court judge's order to end operations indefinitely at the immigration detention center in the Florida Everglades dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz."

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 47 of 71

The three-judge panel in Atlanta decided by a 2-1 vote to stay the federal judge's order pending the outcome of an appeal, saying it was in the public interest. The ruling will allow the facility to continue holding detainees for the time being.

U.S. District Judge Kathleen Williams in Miami issued a preliminary injunction last month ordering operations at the facility to be wound down by the end of October, with detainees transferred to other facilities and equipment and fencing removed.

Williams' decision was issued in response to a lawsuit brought by Friends of the Everglades, the Center for Biological Diversity and the Miccosukee Tribe, who accused the state and federal defendants of not following federal law requiring an environmental review for the detention center in the middle of sensitive wetlands.

"This is a heartbreaking blow to America's Everglades and every living creature there, but the case isn't even close to over," Elise Bennett, a senior attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity, said Thursday.

Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis' administration in late June raced to build the facility on an isolated airstrip surrounded by wetlands to aid President Donald Trump's efforts to deport people in the U.S. illegally. The governor said the location in the rugged and remote Everglades was meant as a deterrent against escape, much like the island prison in California that Republicans named it after.

Trump toured the facility in July and suggested it could be a model for future lockups nationwide as his administration pushes to expand the infrastructure needed to increase deportations.

DeSantis said on social media Thursday, after the appellate panel issued its ruling, that claims that the facility's shutdown were imminent were false.

"We said we would fight that. We said the mission would continue," DeSantis said. "So Alligator Alcatraz is in fact, like we've always said, open for business."

The Department of Homeland Security called Thursday's ruling "a win for the American people, the rule of law and common sense."

"This lawsuit was never about the environmental impacts of turning a developed airport into a detention facility," DHS said in a statement. "It has and will always be about open-borders activists and judges trying to keep law enforcement from removing dangerous criminal aliens from our communities, full stop."

The state and federal government defendants appealed Williams' ruling, asking that it be put on hold. The state of Florida said in court papers this week that it planned to resume accepting detainees at the facility if the stay was granted.

Eve Samples, executive director of Friends of the Everglades, said the case was far from over.

"In the meantime, if the DeSantis and Trump administrations choose to ramp operations back up at the detention center, they will just be throwing good money after bad because this ill-considered facility — which is causing harm to the Everglades — will ultimately be shut down," Samples said.

The federal government claims that it isn't responsible for the detention center since it hasn't spent a cent to build or operate the facility, even though Florida is seeking some federal grant money to fund a portion of it. Florida claims that the environmental impact statement required by federal law doesn't apply to states.

In Thursday's ruling, the majority on the appellate panel largely accepted those arguments, saying Williams erred by assuming statements federal officials had made about reimbursing the state weren't the same as a final decision about funding the facility.

## Justice Department probes mortgage fraud claims against Lisa Cook of Federal Reserve, AP source says

By ERIC TUCKER and PAUL WISEMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department has begun examining mortgage fraud allegations against Lisa Cook, the Federal Reserve governor who is challenging a Trump administration effort to remove her from her job in a move she says is designed to erode the central bank's independence.

Investigators have issued subpoenas as part of an inquiry into Cook that was spawned by a criminal



# Groton Daily Independent

**Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 48 of 71**

referral from the country's top housing regulator, according to a person familiar with the matter who was not authorized to discuss the probe and spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press.

A Justice Department spokesperson declined to comment on the probe, which was earlier reported by The Wall Street Journal.

"Predictably and recognizing the flaws in challenging their illegal firing of Governor Cook, the administration is scrambling to invent new justifications for its overreach. This Justice Department — perhaps the most politicized in American history — will do whatever President Trump demands," Cook's lawyer, Abbe David Lowell, said in a statement.

News of the investigation comes amid a high-stakes legal fight over President Donald Trump's announcement last month that he was ousting Cook, an action she has said is being undertaken so that he can seize control over a central bank that is typically shielded from political pressure and tasked with making decisions about whether to raise or lower interest rates.

Trump moved to fire Cook on Aug. 25 after one of his appointees alleged that she committed mortgage fraud related to two properties she purchased in 2021, before she joined the Fed.

Bill Pulte, who made the criminal referral in his capacity as director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, has asserted that Cook had claimed two primary residences, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Atlanta, in 2021 to get better mortgage terms. Mortgage rates are often higher on second homes or those purchased to rent.

The Justice Department inquiry is centered on those two properties, according to the person familiar with the matter. It is being coordinated with U.S. Attorney offices by Ed Martin, the director of the Justice Department's Weaponization Working Group, who is also pursuing mortgage fraud investigations into perceived Trump adversaries, including Sen. Adam Schiff of California and New York Attorney General Letitia James, both Democrats. Both have vigorously denied any wrongdoing.

Pulte dodged questions in a CNBC interview Thursday about whether he was similarly scrutinizing Ken Paxton, the Texas attorney general who is friendly with Trump and is running for Senate in his state's Republican primary. Paxton took out mortgages on three properties that were all identified as his primary residence. He said he wouldn't comment on any specific situation that has not been made public.

Cook's lawyers have also insisted that she did not engage in fraud.

"The questions over how Governor Cook described her properties from time to time, which we have started to address in the pending case and will continue to do so, are not fraud, but it takes nothing for this DOJ to undertake a new politicized investigation, and they appear to have just done it again," Lowell said.

Separately, on Thursday, the Justice Department urged a federal judge in Washington to allow for Cook's immediate removal while she fights to keep her job, dismissing as "baseless" Cook's claim that the president is attempting to fire her so that he can seize control of the Federal Reserve.

Cook's lawyers have argued that the firing was unlawful because presidents can only fire Fed governors "for cause," which has typically meant inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance while in office. They also said she was entitled to a hearing and a chance to respond to the charges before being fired, but was not provided either. Attorneys said in the court filing that Cook never committed mortgage fraud.

The Justice Department says the president has the discretion to fire Cook for cause and that his decisions cannot be reviewed by the courts.

The case could become a turning point for the nearly 112-year-old Federal Reserve, which was designed by Congress to be insulated from day-to-day political influence. Economists prefer independent central banks because they can do unpopular things, such as lifting interest rates to combat inflation more easily than elected officials.

Trump has repeatedly attacked Fed Chair Jerome Powell and the other members of the Fed's interest-rate setting committee for not cutting the short-term interest rate they control more quickly.

Many economists worry that if the Fed falls under the control of the White House, it will keep its key interest rate lower than justified by economic fundamentals to satisfy Trump's demands for cheaper borrowing.

## Takeaways from RFK Jr.'s contentious hearing before Senate lawmakers

By MATTHEW PERRONE and ALI SWENSON Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A contentious three-hour hearing between U.S. senators and Robert Kennedy Jr. devolved into multiple screaming matches on Thursday as the nation's health secretary fended off accusations about sweeping changes he's made to vaccines, health care policy and leadership.

The oversight hearing in the Senate Finance Committee was a chance for senators to seek answers from Kennedy on recent high-profile departures at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the appointment of vaccine critics to an influential federal advisory committee and changes to COVID-19 vaccine recommendations that will make it harder for many Americans to get the shots.

Both Democrats and Republicans came out swinging. They questioned whether he would keep his earlier promise that he wouldn't block vaccines for Americans who wanted them. A frustrated Kennedy dismissed those arguments but also sowed doubt on vaccine safety and effectiveness from the prominent perch on Capitol Hill.

Here are some key takeaways from the hearing:

Kennedy tried to discredit ousted CDC director

Kennedy repeatedly disputed the account of fired CDC director Susan Monarez, who was abruptly removed from her post last week after less than a month on the job. Monarez was nominated by President Donald Trump, endorsed for the job by Kennedy and confirmed by a Senate vote in July.

In a Wall Street Journal op-ed published Thursday, Monarez reiterated that she was told to "preapprove" recommendations by Kennedy's handpicked vaccine advisers, many of whom have records of questioning basic vaccine science.

"I asked her: 'Are you a trustworthy person?' and she said 'No,'" Kennedy stated, explaining his change of opinion on Monarez. "If you had an employee who told you they weren't trustworthy, would you ask them to resign?"

An attorney representing Monarez called Kennedy's statements "false" and "patently ridiculous," in a written statement. Her attorney said she would repeat the allegations in her Wall Street Journal op-ed under oath.

Later in the hearing, Kennedy acknowledged that he'd told Monarez to fire several senior CDC officials. Throughout the hearing, Kennedy accused the agency's scientists of failing to combat chronic disease and making unsound recommendations during the pandemic.

"The people who at CDC who oversaw that process, who put masks on our children, who closed our schools, are the people who will be leaving," Kennedy said.

'You're just making stuff up:' A combative Kennedy lobbed attacks

For Kennedy, tough questions from angry senators were an opportunity to fight back.

Throughout the hearing, a resolute Kennedy accused senators of lying, misrepresenting his agency and making little sense. As a result, questioning from Democratic senators repeatedly turned into yelling matches.

"You're just making stuff up," Kennedy told Sen. Tina Smith, a Democrat from Minnesota, after she accused him of "blaming school shootings on antidepressants." The health secretary said on Fox News after the recent Minnesota shooting that antidepressants could potentially contribute to violence, and said his agency was investigating. While critics of antidepressants have long alleged they may increase homicidal behavior, the link is not supported by multiple, large clinical trials of the drugs.

When Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock of Georgia questioned Kennedy about his disparaging rhetoric about CDC employees before a recent deadly shooting at the agency, Kennedy retorted: "Are you complicit in the assassination attempts on President Trump?"

Kennedy said Sen. Ben Ray Lujan of New Mexico was "talking gibberish" when the Democrat asked him about the details of his agency's autism research.

"Mr. Secretary, let me speak slowly and clearly so that you can understand me through my New Mexico

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 50 of 71

accent," Luján responded.

Senators challenged claim that 'anybody can get the booster' for COVID

Democratic senators pressed Kennedy on recent changes narrowing the approval of annual COVID-19 shots. He repeatedly disputed or denied their accusations.

Last month, the Food and Drug Administration approved updated shots but only for seniors or younger people with underlying health risks. That's sparked confusion and frustration from many Americans, including parents interested in vaccinating healthy children against the virus.

"Why have you acted behind closed doors to overrule scientists and limit the freedom of parents to choose the COVID vaccine for their children?" Democratic Sen. Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire asked.

"This is crazy talk," Kennedy responded. Later, he acknowledged that access to vaccines at pharmacies "depends on the state."

In many states, pharmacists are legally barred from administering vaccines outside the uses endorsed by the CDC's advisory panel, prompting CVS and other pharmacy chains to turn away people seeking shots in certain states.

"You promised that you would not take away vaccines from anyone who wanted them," said Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts.

"I'm not taking them away from people," Kennedy said, noting that healthy Americans who want a shot should still be able to get one if a doctor prescribes one. Typically, Americans do not need to see a doctor for annual vaccine updates.

Until this year, the FDA and CDC had recommended yearly COVID vaccinations for everyone ages 6 months and up.

COVID statistics remain a flashpoint

Kennedy could not be pinned down on basic facts and statistics, particularly when it came to vaccines and COVID-19.

In an exchange with Sen. Mark Warner, Kennedy claimed nobody knows how many Americans have died from COVID-19 because of a lack of government data.

Both the CDC and the World Health Organization have concluded that approximately 1.2 million Americans have died from the virus.

"The secretary of Health and Human Services doesn't know how many Americans died from COVID," said Warner, a Virginia Democrat. "How can you be that ignorant?"

Republicans also pressed Kennedy on his assessment of Operation Warp Speed, the Trump-led initiative that rapidly developed COVID vaccines in the first year of the pandemic. Trump has long claimed success for the effort, while acknowledging unsubstantiated theories that mass vaccinations may have caused more harm than good.

Kennedy has said it's unclear how many lives were saved by the vaccines because of imperfect data collected by the CDC and vaccine makers.

Nevertheless, when questioned by Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana — a physician whose vote was key in Kennedy's nomination — about Operation Warp Speed, Kennedy agreed that Trump "absolutely" deserved a Nobel Prize.

Vaccine concerns were bipartisan

Senate Republicans were more aggressive with Kennedy than they have been with most of Trump's top officials, with several asking pointed questions about his efforts to limit access to vaccines.

Wyoming Sen. John Barrasso, also a doctor and the No. 2 Senate Republican, said he had grown "deeply concerned" that some vaccines could be in jeopardy after Kennedy had cut research funding and fired the CDC director.

"Americans don't know who to rely on," Barrasso said.

North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis read off a list of questions for Kennedy that he said he wanted answered after the hearing, including where the health secretary stands on the COVID-19 vaccine.



## Florida's vaccine mandate removal: What it means for public health

By JEFF MARTIN, MIKE SCHNEIDER and DANIEL KOZIN Associated Press

As the administration of Gov. Ron DeSantis prepares to make Florida the first state to remove school vaccine mandates, deep concern is spreading among doctors, parents and public health workers for the safety of children and others who might be vulnerable in a disease outbreak.

They fear that dreaded diseases, held in check for decades by vaccines, could flare up again if too many people in Florida aren't immunized. Here's what to know:

DeSantis calls this 'medical freedom'

While states traditionally follow federal vaccine guidance, school mandates are set by state health departments. Florida Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo announced Wednesday that the Health Department would take steps to eliminate these mandates, calling them "immoral" intrusions that hamper parents' ability to make health decisions for their children.

"We're going to end it," Ladapo said, without providing details or a timeline.

The Health Department also did not immediately respond to questions about other vaccine requirements, such as for certain workplaces. Many such requirements are enshrined in state law and would require legislative approval. DeSantis appointed Ladapo and his wife Casey DeSantis to a commission that's drafting a broader "medical freedom" measure expected to be introduced in the next legislative session.

School nurses sound alarm

"If they're able to go through with it, they're just opening a door to a health crisis that's 100% preventable," said Lynn Nelson, president of the National Association of School Nurses.

Schools are a microcosm of society, and when students go home, they can bring diseases to vulnerable people such as infants and the elderly, Nelson said.

Measles, mumps and pertussis -- also known as whooping cough -- are among the preventable diseases Nelson is most concerned about if Florida's plan succeeds. Measles, a highly contagious illness, can create life-threatening situations for infants and small children, she said.

"There are outbreaks all over the country right now, and they will spread in any state or community where the vaccine rate drops," she said.

Florida already lags nation in vaccination rates

This is the worst year for measles in the U.S. in more than three decades, with more than 1,400 cases confirmed nationwide, most of them in Texas, and three deaths. Whooping cough has killed at least two babies in Louisiana and a 5-year-old in Washington state since winter, as it too spreads rapidly. There have been more than 19,000 cases as of Aug. 23, nearly 2,000 more than this time last year, according to preliminary CDC data.

Even before Wednesday's announcement, Florida lagged the rest of the United States when it came to kindergarteners being immunized for diseases like measles, mumps and rubella, with 88.7% immunized in 2025, compared to more than 92% nationwide, according to state and federal health statistics.

New religious exemptions to vaccines have also increased, to 6.4% among children age 5-17 years old, and as much as 15% in some counties, as of April.

That's according to the Florida Health Department's monthly online "Vaccine-Preventable Disease Surveillance Report," which was last updated on May 29. At the time, it showed cases of hepatitis A, whooping cough and chickenpox were increasing.

Parents are divided

"I'm pro-vaccine 100%," Ivette Faes said as she waited with other parents to pick up their kids outside Bayview Elementary School in Fort Lauderdale on Thursday. Dropping the vaccine requirements is not a good idea, she said, because "we have to protect our kids to protect the other ones."

But Ebony Walker, the mother of a first-grader at the school, said she's "all for" removing the mandates. She said "it was scary" when her son had to get so many vaccines shortly after being born. Now she's got him a religious exemption from other inoculations.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 52 of 71

"Florida's always setting the trend, doing different stuff ... and setting the bar for the other states to follow along," Walker said.

Lidia Clark, who said her 7-year-old grandchild had never been vaccinated, said she's "ecstatic" that her family won't have to keep securing exemptions. "If you want to vaccinate your child, you can, but I don't believe that it should have ever been enforced on any of us," she said.

Why are vaccines needed?

Since the first safe and effective polio vaccine was released for use in the U.S. in 1955, vaccines have become a cornerstone of public health, keeping schoolchildren and adults safe from infectious diseases that had afflicted populations for centuries.

Timely required vaccinations "are essential to protecting school-age children, youth, and the public from preventable, serious infectious diseases," according to a recent position paper from the National Association of School Nurses. "Vaccine exemptions should be eliminated, except when necessary for validated medical contraindications," the group said.

Doctors have an important role in battling the misinformation spreading online, by "trying to explain how vaccines work and how they're developed," said Dr. Joshua Laban, a primary care physician in Miami.

How could this affect Florida's tourism industry?

It's unclear how a decline in vaccinations might affect Florida's top business – its \$128 billion tourism industry. Florida is among the top U.S. destinations, with 143 million visitors last year.

Walt Disney World, Universal Orlando and other Orlando theme parks no longer require proof of COVID vaccinations for employees, due to Florida laws passed in 2021 during the height of the pandemic that limit employers' power to require such protection. Representatives for Disney and Universal didn't respond to inquiries Thursday asking them about the potential impact of more unvaccinated children.

Florida also is home to a \$24 billion cruise line industry, according to the Cruise Lines International Association. Most cruise lines don't have any vaccine requirements. But the CDC has recommended that passengers be vaccinated against COVID and flu, and that they check which other vaccines may be recommended based on the countries they're visiting.

Tourism relies on stability, whether it's economic, political or dealing with health conditions, and the change in vaccine mandates introduces an element of uncertainty, said Alan Fyall, an associate dean at the University of Central Florida's hospitality college.

"It's like dropping a stone in a pond," Fyall said. "You're not quite sure how those ripples are going to impact."

## Northwestern University president says he will resign following tenure marked by White House tension

By ANNIE MA AP Education Writer

Northwestern University President Michael Schill said Thursday that he will resign, ending a three-year tenure marked by the freeze of hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding by the Trump administration and heated criticism from House Republicans over the university's response to campus protests.

The funding freeze and uncertainty over its finances contributed to Northwestern's decision to lay off around 200 people over the summer.

In a statement announcing his resignation, Schill acknowledged the pressure from the White House.

"It is critical that we continue to protect the University's research mission and excellence while preserving academic freedom, integrity, and independence," he said.

Northwestern emerged as a prominent target of President Donald Trump's campaign to reshape elite colleges he has derided as hotbeds of liberalism and antisemitism. In April, the administration froze \$790 million in federal funding for the private school in Evanston, Illinois, one of dozens of colleges under investigation over claims they did not do enough to protect Jewish students.

During the wave of pro-Palestinian protests in spring 2024, Northwestern drew ire from conservatives over an agreement it struck with demonstrators to take down their encampment. In exchange, Northwestern

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 53 of 71

pledged to reestablish an advisory committee on university investments and made other commitments. Schill defended the arrangement during an appearance in May 2024 before a House committee investigating campus antisemitism.

"We had to get the encampment down," Schill said. "The police solution was not going to be available to us to keep people safe, and also may not be the wisest solution as we've seen at other campuses across the country."

Supporters of Israel and the administration officials have framed the protests at Northwestern and other schools as antisemitic and "pro-Hamas." But people involved in the demonstrations reject that characterization. They say advocating for Palestinian human rights and territorial claims, or criticizing Israeli military action, is not antisemitic.

Schill also navigated the fallout from a hazing scandal that broke not long after he was named Northwestern's president in August 2022. Former football players filed lawsuits in 2023 alleging sexual abuse and racial discrimination on the team, and similar allegations then spread across several sports.

Northwestern's football coach, Pat Fitzgerald, was initially suspended then later fired after an investigation. The school concluded he had a responsibility to know that hazing was occurring and should have stopped it. Fitzgerald denied wrongdoing and filed a lawsuit that ended with a settlement last month.

Schill will continue as president until an interim leader is chosen and will return from a sabbatical as a faculty member at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, the school said. He also will work with the Board of Trustees on efforts to restore the university's frozen federal funding, Northwestern said.

## **Björn Borg tells the AP his prostate cancer is in remission after 2024 operation**

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Tennis great Björn Borg reveals in the last chapter of his upcoming memoir, "Heartbeats," that he was diagnosed with an "extremely aggressive" prostate cancer, and he told The Associated Press that it is in remission after an operation in 2024.

"I have nothing right now. But every six months I have to go and check myself. The whole process, it's not a fun thing," Borg, 69, said in a recent video interview with the AP from his home in Stockholm. "But I'm OK. I'm fine. And I'm feeling very good."

Borg won 11 Grand Slam singles titles — six at the French Open from 1974 to 1981, and five in a row at Wimbledon from 1976-80 — before walking away from tennis at age 26, although he made a brief return later. The stunningly early retirement is one of several subjects, including his drug use and his relationships with women and his parents and children, discussed in depth in the book, which is due to be released in Britain on Sept. 18 and in the U.S. on Sept. 23.

The famously private Borg said he wrote it with his wife, Patricia, over about 2 1/2 years.

"I went through some difficult times, but (it's) a relief for me to do this book," Borg said. "I feel so much better."

He said he had been testing himself for prostate cancer "for many, many years," because, he added, "The thing is that you don't feel anything — you feel good, and then it's just happened."

There was a result his doctors found troubling in September 2023, so they wanted to do follow-ups, he said.

But that was right before Borg was due to fly to Canada to serve as the captain of Team Europe in the Laver Cup, and the doctors said he shouldn't go.

"Of course I went to Vancouver. I didn't listen," he said.

After the event, he returned to Sweden, and went to the hospital at 7 a.m. the next day for further tests that confirmed the cancer diagnosis. Surgery was scheduled for February 2024, a wait time Borg described to the AP as "psychologically ... very difficult, because who knows what's going to happen?"

Borg said that his most recent tests came back clean in August.

In the book, he writes: "Now I have a new opponent in cancer — one I can't control. But I'm going to



beat it. I'm not giving up. I fight like every day is a Wimbledon final. And those usually go pretty well, don't they?"

## Trump says US would be on 'brink of economic catastrophe' unless justices rule his tariffs are legal

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST and MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is seeking a swift and definitive decision on tariffs from the Supreme Court that he helped shape, saying the country would be on "the brink of economic catastrophe" without the import taxes he has imposed on U.S. rivals and allies alike.

The administration used near-apocalyptic terms that are highly unusual in Supreme Court filings as it asked the justices late Wednesday to intervene and reverse an appeals court ruling that found most of Trump's tariffs are an illegal use of an emergency powers law. The tariffs remain in place, for now.

The case comes to a court that has so far been reluctant to check Trump's extraordinary flex of executive power. One big question is whether the justices' own expansive view of presidential authority allows for Trump's tariffs without the explicit approval of Congress, which the Constitution endows with the power over tariffs. Three of the justices on conservative-majority court were nominated by Trump in his first term.

The tariffs and their erratic rollout have shaken global markets, alienated U.S. trading partners and allies, and raised fears of higher prices and slower economic growth.

But the Republican president has also used the trade penalties to pressure the European Union, Japan and others into accepting new deals. Revenue from tariffs totaled \$159 billion by late August, more than double what it was at the same point a year earlier.

Raising the stakes even higher, Solicitor General D. John Sauer urged the Supreme Court to decide in a week's time whether to hear the case and hold arguments the first week of November. That is far faster than the pace of the typical Supreme Court case.

"The President and his Cabinet officials have determined that the tariffs are promoting peace and unprecedented economic prosperity, and that the denial of tariff authority would expose our nation to trade retaliation without effective defenses and thrust America back to the brink of economic catastrophe," Sauer wrote.

He wrote that it is not just trade that is at issue, but also the nation's ability to reduce the flow of fentanyl and efforts to end Russia's war against Ukraine.

The tariffs will almost certainly remain in effect until a final ruling from the Supreme Court. But the Republican administration nevertheless called on the high court to intervene quickly and reverse the ruling from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

"That decision casts a pall of uncertainty upon ongoing foreign negotiations that the President has been pursuing through tariffs over the past five months, jeopardizing both already negotiated framework deals and ongoing negotiations," Sauer wrote. "The stakes in this case could not be higher."

The filing cites not only Trump but also the secretaries of the departments of Treasury, Commerce and State in support of the urgent need for the justices to step in.

"The recent decision by the Federal Circuit is already adversely affecting ongoing negotiations," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent wrote.

The stakes are also high for small businesses battered by tariffs and uncertainty, said Jeffrey Schwab, senior counsel and director of litigation at the Liberty Justice Center.

"These unlawful tariffs are inflicting serious harm on small businesses and jeopardizing their survival. We hope for a prompt resolution of this case for our clients," he said.

The businesses have twice prevailed, once at a federal court focused on trade and again with the appeals court's 7-4 ruling. Their lawsuit is one of several challenging the tariffs.

Most judges on the Federal Circuit found that the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act, or IEEPA, does not allow Trump to usurp congressional power to set tariffs. The dissenters, though, said the gives the president the power to regulate importation during emergencies without explicit limitations.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 55 of 71

The ruling involves two sets of import taxes, both of which Trump justified by declaring a national emergency: the tariffs first announced in April and the ones from February on imports from Canada, China and Mexico.

The Constitution gives Congress the power to impose taxes, including tariffs. But over the decades, lawmakers have ceded authority to the president, and Trump has made the most of the power vacuum.

Some Trump tariffs, including levies on foreign steel, aluminum and autos, were not covered by the appeals court ruling. It also does not include tariffs Trump imposed on China in his first term that were kept by Democratic President Joe Biden.

Trump can impose tariffs under other laws, but those have more limitations on the speed and severity with which he could act.

The government has argued that if the tariffs are struck down, it might have to refund some of the import taxes that it's collected, delivering a financial blow to the U.S. Treasury.

The tariffs are expected to reduce deficits by \$4 trillion over the next 10 years, the administration said, citing analyses by the Congressional Budget Office.

In an analysis from June, the CBO also found that the import taxes would slow growth and increase price pressures. The June analysis estimated that inflation would be 0.4% higher annually in 2025 and 2026 than it otherwise would be, hurting the purchasing power of U.S. consumers and businesses.

Trump has since revised and changed his tariff structure, making some of the estimates speculative.

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell warned in an August speech that tariffs are already pushing up the prices of some goods, but "there is significant uncertainty about where all of these policies will eventually settle and what their lasting effects on the economy will be."

## **The US will buy 2 million doses of an HIV prevention drug for low-income countries**

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. is purchasing enough doses of a new twice-a-year HIV prevention shot to share with up to 2 million people in poor countries by 2028, the State Department announced Thursday.

Gilead Sciences had already announced it would sell that supply of the protective drug lenacapvir at no profit for use in low- and middle-income countries that are hard-hit by HIV. The question was who would buy and distribute them after the Trump administration slashed foreign aid earlier this year – forcing closures of health clinics and disrupting HIV testing and care in many countries.

Under Thursday's move, the U.S. will purchase the doses under the PEPFAR program and work with governments in hard-hit countries on how to distribute them. The priority will be to protect pregnant or breastfeeding women, said Jeremy Lewin, a State department senior official.

Lewin said the program will be a collaboration with the Global Fund, another international program that funds HIV treatment and prevention efforts but wouldn't disclose how much the U.S. was investing.

"We're hoping, with the Global Fund, to help 2 million people get on the medication over the next three years but could potentially see more," he said.

There are more than 30,000 new HIV infections in the U.S. every year and 1.2 million people are living with the virus. Worldwide there are 1.3 million new infections annually and nearly 40 million people living with the virus.

Many experts say lenacapvir is the most powerful option yet for what's called PrEP – using preventive medicines to guard against sexually transmitted HIV. Unlike daily pills that people may forget, each lenacapvir shot offers protection for six months. In two groundbreaking studies with people at high risk, it nearly eliminated new infections.

The drug already has been approved for use in the U.S. and Europe.

In March, the head of the U.N. AIDS agency urged the Trump administration and Gilead to make the preventive shots available worldwide for millions.

Gilead has signed agreements with generic drug makers to produce low-cost versions of the shot for

poor countries, mostly in Africa, Southeast Asia and the Caribbean. The doses provided at-cost for up to 2 million people in those countries was intended to be a stopgap until the generics are available.

## Trump's Fed nominee says he'd keep his White House job even if confirmed by the Senate

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Stephen Miran, President Donald Trump's pick to join the Federal Reserve Board, said Thursday that he would remain a White House employee even if the Senate confirms him to fill an unexpired term at the central bank.

Miran, who was nominated to fill a gubernatorial term set to expire in January, made the disclosure at a hearing before the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee.

He said that on the advice of his lawyers he would take an "unpaid leave of absence" as chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers. Miran later said he would only resign from the Republican administration if he were nominated for a longer term at the Fed.

His answer instantly triggered alarm bells about the Fed's independence, suggesting that the central bank could ultimately become subservient to Trump's whims instead of its congressional mandates to keep prices stable and maximize employment. Political control of the Fed could erode the faith that the American population and investors worldwide place in the U.S. economy, which could threaten global markets and national prosperity.

Democrats blasted Miran's plan to keep his day job at the White House.

"Your independence has already been seriously compromised," Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., said. "You are going to be technically an employee of the president of the United States but an independent member of the board of the Federal Reserve. That's ridiculous."

Miran's hearing reflected the broader battle over Trump's efforts to gain control of the Fed. Because of the possible negative impacts on the economy, the Fed has tried to act based on the economic data rather than electoral considerations.

Trump, however, has engaged in a prolonged campaign of pressuring and mocking Fed Chair Jerome Powell for not cutting the benchmark interest rate to Trump's liking, a move that could end up pumping more money into the economy and creating greater inflationary risks. The Fed has yet to reach its 2% inflation target and has held its rates steady in part because of the uncertainties created by Trump's import taxes.

The president has also sought to apply pressure on the Fed over its renovation of its headquarters and other buildings and has tried to fire Lisa Cook as a Fed governor over allegations that she committed mortgage fraud. Cook has said she will not resign and has sued to overturn Trump's move, but on Thursday the Justice Department had started examining the allegations against her.

Miran, in his answers to senators, played down the controversy over Trump's desire to control the Fed. Miran said that if he were confirmed to fill the rest of Adriana Kugler's term, he would act based on his own judgments about inflation and employment.

"Look, the president nominated me because I have policy views, that, I suppose that he liked," he said told the committee chairman, Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C. "If I'm confirmed to this role, I will act independently, as the Federal Reserve always does, based on my own personal analysis of economic data."

Even Republicans saw the risks to the loss of Fed independence. Sen. John Kennedy, R-La., asked Miran to commit to "ignore all the rhetoric from all politicians" and make his own choices.

But Miran arrives with the baggage of having worked for a president who has expressed disdain for the Fed's tradition of independence. Trump has argued that he knows more about monetary policy as he has called for the Fed's benchmark rate to be cut by a full 3 percentage points.

In June, a Fed forecast of future rates showed emerging divisions among the policymakers. Seven projected no rate cuts at all this year, two indicated one cut and 10 forecast at least two reductions.

"This is a crisis moment for the Federal Reserve, for the financial system and for the economic stability of families all across this country," Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., told reporters before the start of the



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 57 of 71

hearing.

Warren added that the Fed board's "independence and their efforts to make decisions based on what's really happening in the economy — not what the politics are — is something that benefits every single American. Donald Trump wants to burn that to the ground."

Under questioning by Warren, Miran declined to say whether Trump lost the 2020 presidential election to Democrat Joe Biden, saying only that Congress certified Biden as president. Miran declined under questioning to contradict Trump's unfounded claim that the Bureau of Labor Statistics had faked jobs numbers for political reasons.

Trump fired the bureau's head after severe revisions to the July employment report showed the economy was potentially weaker than Trump's claims of a "golden age."

There are also questions about how Miran interprets the Fed's independence. He said that the president is entitled to express his opinion on monetary policy and that consideration of climate change as an economic force by Fed officials would be a politicization of the central bank.

In a 2024 paper he co-wrote for the Manhattan Institute, Miran argued that the Fed was already politicized by "highly political, personnel who move freely between the White House" and the central bank's headquarters.

In that same paper, Miran wanted to heighten presidential control, saying that having Fed board members serve at the will of the president would confer "greater democratic legitimacy" on the Fed.

By indicating that he could return to the White House, Miran seemed to undermine one of his own recommendations in his paper.

"To further insulate board members from the day-to-day political process, they should be prohibited from serving in the executive branch for four years following the end of their term," the paper said.

## LSD shows promise for reducing anxiety in drugmaker's midstage study

By MATTHEW PERRONE AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — LSD reduced symptoms of anxiety in a midstage study published Thursday, paving the way for additional testing and possible medical approval of a psychedelic drug that has been banned in the U.S. for more than a half century.

The results from drugmaker Mindmed tested several doses of LSD in patients with moderate-to-severe generalized anxiety disorder, with the benefits lasting as long as three months. The company plans to conduct follow-up studies to confirm the results and then apply for Food and Drug Administration approval.

Beginning in the 1950s, researchers published a flurry of papers exploring LSD's therapeutic uses, though most of them don't meet modern standards.

"I see this paper as a clear step in the direction of reviving that old research, applying our modern standards and determining what are the real costs and benefits of these compounds," said Frederick Barrett, who directs Johns Hopkins University's psychedelic center and was not involved in the research.

Psychedelic research is rebounding

Psychedelics are in the midst of a popular and scientific comeback, with conferences, documentaries, books and medical journals exploring their potential for conditions like depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder.

The FDA has designated psilocybin, MDMA and now LSD as potential "breakthrough" therapies based on early results.

Still, the drugs have not had a glide path to the market.

Last year, the FDA rejected MDMA — also known as ecstasy — as a treatment for PTSD, citing flawed study methods, potential research bias and other issues.

The new LSD study, published by the Journal of the American Medical Association, addresses some of those problems.

MDMA, like many other psychedelics, was tested in combination with hours of talk therapy by trained

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 58 of 71

health professionals. That approach proved problematic for FDA reviewers, who said it was difficult to separate the benefits of the drug from those of therapy.

The LSD study took a simpler approach: Patients got a single dose of LSD — under professional supervision, but without therapy — and then were followed for about three months.

The paper does not detail how patients were prepared for the experience or what sort of follow-up they received, which is crucial to understanding the research, Barrett noted.

"In many cases people can have such powerful, subjective experiences that they may need to talk to a therapist to help them make sense of it," he said.

Anxiety eased but questions remain

For the study, researchers measured anxiety symptoms in nearly 200 patients who randomly received one of four doses of LSD or a placebo. The main aim was to find the optimal dose of the drug, which can cause intense visual hallucinations and occasionally feelings of panic or paranoia.

At four weeks, patients receiving the two highest doses had significantly lower anxiety scores than those who received placebo or lower doses. After 12 weeks, 65% of patients taking the most effective LSD dose — 100 micrograms — continued to show benefits and nearly 50% were deemed to be in remission. The most common side effects included hallucinations, nausea and headaches.

Patients who got dummy pills also improved — a common phenomenon in psychedelic and psychiatric studies — but their changes were less than half the size those getting the real drug.

The research was not immune to problems seen in similar studies.

Most patients were able to correctly guess whether they'd received LSD or a dummy pill, undercutting the "blinded" approach that's considered critical to objectively establishing the benefits of a new medicine. In addition, a significant portion of patients in both the placebo and treatment groups dropped out early, narrowing the final data set.

It also wasn't clear how long patients might continue to benefit.

Mindmed is conducting two large, late-stage trials that will track patients over a longer period of time and, if successful, be submitted for FDA approval.

"It's possible that some people may need retreatment," said Dr. Maurizio Fava of Mass General Brigham Hospital, the study's lead author and an adviser to Mindmed. "How many retreatments, we don't know yet, but the long-lasting effect is quite significant."

Interest from the Trump administration

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and other administration officials have expressed interest in psychedelic therapy, suggesting it could receive fast-track review for veterans and others suffering psychological wounds.

Generalized anxiety disorder is among the most common mental disorders, affecting nearly 3% of U.S. adults, according to the National Institutes of Health. Current treatments include psychotherapy, antidepressants and anti-anxiety drugs like benzodiazepines.

The possibility of using LSD as a medical treatment isn't new.

In the 1950s and 1960s more than 1,000 papers were published documenting LSD's use treating alcohol addiction, depression and other conditions. But a federal backlash was in full swing by the late 1960s, when psychedelics became linked to counterculture figures like Timothy Leary, the ex-Harvard professor who famously promoted the drugs as a means to "turn on, tune in and dropout."

A 1970 law classifying LSD and other psychedelics as Schedule 1 drugs — without any medical use and high potential for abuse — essentially halted U.S. research.

When a handful of nonprofits began reassessing the drugs in the 1980s and 1990s, they focused on lesser-known hallucinogens like MDMA and psilocybin, the main ingredient in magic mushrooms, to avoid the historic controversies surrounding LSD.

"LSD was right there in front of everybody, but Mindmed is the first company that actually decided to evaluate it," Fava said.

## **Palestinian death toll passes 64,000, health officials say, as Israel and Hamas dig in on demands**

By WAFAA SHURAF, KAREEM CHEHAYEB and JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — More than 64,000 Palestinians have been killed in the nearly two-year war in the Gaza Strip, local health officials said Thursday, as Hamas and Israel reiterated their incompatible demands for ending the fighting sparked by the militant group's 2023 attack.

Israeli strikes killed 28 people, mostly women and children, overnight and into Thursday, according to hospitals, as Israel pressed ahead with its offensive in famine-stricken Gaza City. Brig. Gen. Effie Defrin, the military spokesman, said Israeli forces control 40% of the city and that the operation would expand "in the coming days."

In the occupied West Bank, Israelis established a new settlement in a Palestinian city, according to an anti-settlement monitoring group.

The latest strikes came as Israeli troops were operating in parts of Gaza City with plans to take over all of it. The most populous Palestinian city is home to around a million people many of whom have already been displaced multiple times.

Shifa Hospital in Gaza City received 25 bodies, including nine children and six women, after Israeli strikes hit tents housing displaced people, according to hospital records. Among those killed was a 10-day-old baby. Another three people were killed in southern Gaza, according to Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis.

Maha Afana said the strikes woke her up in the middle of the night as she slept in a tent in Gaza City with her children. When she checked on them she found the bodies of her son and daughter, drenched with blood. "I started screaming," she said.

Associated Press footage of the aftermath showed charred tents and debris. The sound of further Israeli bombardment echoed in the background.

"What did those children do to the state of Israel? They didn't carry a knife or artillery. They were just sleeping," said Hayam Basous, who lost a relative in the strike.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military, which says it only targets militants and tries to avoid harming civilians. It blames civilian deaths on Hamas, saying militants are entrenched in densely-populated areas.

### **Death toll rises**

Gaza's Health Ministry said that 64,231 Palestinians have been killed since the start of the war. The latest update includes around 400 who were presumed missing but whose deaths it says have been confirmed.

The ministry doesn't say how many of those killed in the war were militants or civilians. It says women and children make up around half the dead.

The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government and staffed by medical professionals. Its figures are seen as a reliable estimate of wartime deaths by U.N. agencies and many independent experts. Israel has disputed them without providing its own toll.

Hamas-led militants killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted 251 people in their attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023. Most have since been released in ceasefires or other agreements.

### **No visible progress in ceasefire efforts**

Hamas released a statement late Wednesday saying that it was open to returning all 48 hostages it still holds — around 20 of them believed by Israel to be alive — in exchange for Palestinian prisoners, a lasting ceasefire, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all of Gaza, the opening of border crossings and a start to the daunting challenge of rebuilding Gaza.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office dismissed the offer as "spin" and said that the war would continue until all the hostages are returned, Hamas is disarmed and Israel has full security control of the territory, with civilian administration delegated to others.

Talks on a temporary ceasefire that would have seen some of the hostages returned broke down last month when U.S. Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff walked away, blaming Hamas. The militant group later accepted a proposal that Hamas and Arab mediators said was almost identical to an earlier one accepted

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 60 of 71

by Israel, but there's been no public indication that talks have resumed.

Israel and the U.S. have recently hinted at pursuing a comprehensive deal in which all the remaining hostages would be released at once.

New settlement in West Bank city

An anti-settlement watchdog group said Israelis have established a new settlement in the heart of the Palestinian city of Hebron, in the occupied West Bank.

Peace Now says the government-backed settlers took over a building on a main thoroughfare used by Palestinians to access the Old City, where hundreds of hardline settlers already live in a decades-old settlement guarded by Israeli troops adjacent to Palestinian homes.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli government.

Hebron's Old City is home to a major holy site revered by Jews and Muslims, where the biblical patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and their wives, are believed to be buried. It has often been the scene of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Israel captured the West Bank, along with Gaza and east Jerusalem, in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want all three territories for a future state and – along with most of the international community – view settlements as illegal and an obstacle to peace.

"The goal of establishing a settlement in the heart of Hebron's casbah is to seize new areas of the city and displace Palestinians from them, similar to what was done in the city center around the existing settlements," Peace Now said.

"The settlement in Hebron is the ugliest face of Israeli control in the territories. Nowhere else in the West Bank is apartheid so blatant," it said.

## Death toll from Afghan earthquake jumps to more than 2,200 as aid agencies plead for funds

JALALABAD, Afghanistan (AP) — Hundreds more bodies have been recovered from houses in mountain villages destroyed by a major earthquake in Afghanistan early this week, pushing the death toll to over 2,200, a Taliban government spokesman said Thursday.

The shallow, 6.0-magnitude quake struck the mountainous and remote eastern part of the country late Sunday, leveling villages and trapping people under rubble. Most of the casualties have been in Kunar province, where people typically live in wood and mud-brick houses along steep river valleys separated by high mountains.

Some 98% percent of the buildings in the province were damaged or destroyed, according to an assessment issued Thursday by the Islamic Relief charity. Aid agencies said they were sorely in need of staff and supplies to tend to the region's survivors.

Muhammad Israel said the quake unleashed a landslide that buried his home, livestock, and belongings in Kunar. "All the rocks came down from the mountain," he said. "I barely got my children out of there. ... The earthquake jolts are still happening. It is impossible to live there."

Late Thursday, a 5.6-magnitude quake rattled Jalalabad in Nangarhar province, which is south of the hardest-hit Kunar province, though there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

Israel was staying at a U.N. medical camp in Nurgal, one of the worst-affected districts of Kunar. "The situation is also bad for us here, we don't have shelter and are living under open skies," he said.

Previous estimates said some 1,400 people were killed. Taliban spokesman Hamdullah Fitrat said Thursday that the updated death toll was 2,205 and that search and rescue efforts were continuing.

"Tents have been set up for people, and the delivery of first aid and emergency supplies is ongoing," Fitrat said.

The rough terrain is hindering relief efforts. Taliban authorities have deployed helicopters and airdropped army commandos to help survivors. Aid workers have reported walking for hours to reach villages cut off by landslides and rockfall.

Funding cuts are also having an impact on the response. The Norwegian Refugee Council said it had



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 61 of 71

fewer than 450 staff in Afghanistan whereas it had 1,100 in 2023, the date of the last major quake in the country. The council only had one warehouse remaining and no emergency stock.

"We will need to purchase items once we get the funding but this will take potentially weeks and people are in need now," said Maisam Shafiey, the communications and advocacy advisor for the council in Afghanistan.

"We have only \$100,000 available to support emergency response efforts. This leaves an immediate funding gap of \$1.9 million," Shafiey said.

Dr. Shamshair Khan, who was attending the injured at the U.N. camp in Nurgal, said his own condition had deteriorated after seeing the suffering of others.

"Neither these medicines are enough nor these services," he said. "These people need more medicine and tents. They need food and clean drinking water. These people are in great pain."

Qatar's minister of state for international cooperation, Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al Misnad, arrived in Kabul on Wednesday to oversee the delivery of aid to earthquake victims.

She is the first female minister to visit Afghanistan on a humanitarian mission since the Taliban seized power in 2021, and the first high-ranking foreign official to travel there since the quake.

Aid organizations describe the latest disaster as a crisis within a crisis. Afghanistan was already struggling with drought, a weak economy and the recent return of some 2 million Afghans from neighboring countries.

## **If Trump's biggest tariffs get thrown out, companies could get a refund - but not consumers**

By PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump likes to boast about how much money the U.S. Treasury is raking in from the massive taxes — tariffs -- he's slapped this year on imports from almost every country in the world.

"We have trillions of dollars coming into our country," Trump said Wednesday. "If we didn't have tariffs, we would be a very poor nation and we would be taken advantage of by every other nation in the world, friend and foe."

But two courts have now ruled that his biggest and boldest import taxes are illegal. If the Supreme Court agrees and strikes them down for good, the federal government could have to pay back many of the taxes it's already collected from companies that import foreign products into the United States.

"We're talking about hundreds of billions of dollars potentially in refunds affecting thousands and thousands of importers," said trade lawyer Luis Arandia, a partner with the law firm of Barnes & Thornburg. "Unwinding all that will be the largest administrative effort in U.S. government history."

Ordinary Americans, who've had to pay higher prices on some products because of the tariffs, are unlikely to share in the windfall. Any refunds would go instead to the companies that paid the levies in the first place.

The refunds would also reverse the flow of tariff revenue the president has counted on to help pay for the massive tax-cut bill he signed July 4 and would threaten, he warns, to "literally destroy the United States of America."

At issue are revenues raised from tariffs Trump imposed this year by invoking the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). One set of IEEPA tariffs targeted almost every country on earth after he declared that the United States' massive and persistent trade deficits amounted to a national emergency. Another was aimed at Canada, China and Mexico and was meant to counter the illegal flow of drugs and immigrants across U.S. borders.

But a specialized federal trade court in New York ruled in May that the president overstepped his authority by ignoring Congress and imposing the IEEPA tariffs. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit last week largely upheld the trade court's decision, though it also ordered the lower court to re-consider whether there was any legal fix short of striking down the tariffs completely.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 62 of 71

The appellate judges also paused their own ruling until mid-October to give the administration time to appeal to the Supreme Court – something that it did on Wednesday. Solicitor General D. John Sauer asked the justices to take up the case and hear arguments in early November.

If the high court strikes down the IEEPA tariffs, importers could be entitled to refunds. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency reports that it had collected more than \$72 billion in IEEPA tariffs through Aug. 24.

For importers, Ted Murphy, co-leader of the international trade practice at the Sidley Austin law firm, said: "It's a question of what you're going to have to do to get the refund.

"And the options are everything from nothing — the government may just automatically refund it; I don't think this is likely, but that's one option. There could be an administrative process, so you have to go to U.S. Customs and Border Protection and apply for a refund of your IEEPA tariffs. Or you could have to file your own court case."

There's a precedent for courts setting up a system to give companies their money back in trade cases. In the 1990s, the courts struck down as unconstitutional a harbor maintenance fee on exports and set up a system for exporters to apply to get their money back.

"Companies got refunds," Murphy said. One hitch: In that case, the government did not have to pay interest on the tax it collected and had to pay back. It's unclear whether the government would have to pay interest on any IEEPA tariff refunds.

The Trump administration might balk at paying back the tariffs it's collected. Trump has already said he doesn't want to pay the money back, posting on his social media site in August that doing so "would be 1929 all over again, a GREAT DEPRESSION!"

"I would anticipate that if the administration did lose, they would turn around and start arguing why it would be impossible to give refunds to everybody," said Brent Skorup, legal fellow at the libertarian Cato Institute. "I think there will a lot of litigation about the nature of refunds and who's entitled one. And I expect the administration will raise all sorts of objections."

To make sure they can successfully claim refunds, said Barnes & Thornburg partner Clinton Yu, "importers really need to have their records in order."

Adding to the uncertainty is the chaotic way that Trump has rolled out his tariffs — announcing and then delaying or altering them, sometimes conjuring up new ones. Occasionally, the administration has decided that importers that have already paid one of his tariffs don't have to pay a different one.

Tariffs are paid by importers, who often then try to pass the cost on to their customers through higher prices. But consumers would not have recourse to ask for refunds for the higher prices they had to pay.

"It's the importer of record that is legally liable for paying tariffs and duties," Arandia said. "They would be the only one to have standing to even get that money back."

## **Gregory Bovino, head of Los Angeles campaign, shows how immigration agents rack up arrests**

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Gregory Bovino's distinguished Border Patrol career was in a downward spiral. In August 2023, he was relieved of command of the agency's El Centro, California, sector, where he rose to be one of 20 regional chiefs across the country.

Bovino blamed several perceived transgressions, details of which have not been previously reported: an online profile picture of him posing with an M4 assault rifle; social media posts that were considered inappropriate; and sworn congressional testimony that he and other sector chiefs gave on the state of the border during a record surge of migrants.

Thirty minutes after his second congressional hearing, Bovino said, he was removed from his position and asked, "Are you going to retire now?"

He did not retire, the profile photo with the assault rifle is back online and, at 55, he is leading immigra-

# Groton Daily Independent

**Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 63 of 71**

tion enforcement in Los Angeles, which the federal government has called “ground zero for the effects of the border crisis.” Bovino’s fall and rise illustrates how fundamentally immigration policy, tactics and messaging have changed under President Donald Trump.

While Trump’s aggressive deportation plans accelerate, Bovino carefully hones his image, both his own and the one projected to the country that shows well-armed officers moving swiftly into place to make arrests.

On a recent August morning, several unmarked SUVs with tinted windows sped to the curb outside a Home Depot in the Van Nuys area of Los Angeles. A Guatemalan tamale vendor was handcuffed while men with M4 rifles and military-style gear watched over and day laborers fled. Protesters sounded sirens and whistles. One briefly blocked a Border Patrol vehicle, but agents left in a little more than four minutes.

The same team, dressed as civilians with faces masked and badges on their waists, stormed a car wash in the suburb of Montebello around 11:30 a.m. They made four arrests, including a Guatemalan worker who fled down an alley and a Mexican employee who was tackled after running into the office. It was over in seven minutes.

These were just the kind of fast-paced, blunt maneuvers that Bovino relishes. With a knack for made-for-TV moments, Bovino’s operation has riven parts of Los Angeles and given Trump allies fodder for boasts.

In a city famous for second acts, Bovino is certainly having one. The North Carolina native with ample biceps and hair spiked with gel is an avatar of the Trump era, once scorned for his tactics, now praised because of them.

With the change from President Joe Biden to Trump, Bovino has gone from nearly being forced to retire to a MAGA-world hero who sends holiday cards to colleagues that show agents with heavy weapons.

Undeterred by court orders over racial profiling, Bovino also revels in breaking norms. Agents have smashed car windows, blown open a door to a house and patrolled the fabled MacArthur Park on horseback. Bovino often appears in tactical gear, as he did outside Gov. Gavin Newsom’s news conference on congressional redistricting on Aug. 14.

He also knows the power of a good slogan, calling the pacing of his operation “turn and burn.”

“We’re not going to hit one location, we’re going to hit as many as we can,” Bovino said in an interview in a seventh-floor conference room of the federal building in West Los Angeles, where an unused office wing serves as a sparsely furnished temporary base. “All over — all over — the Los Angeles region, we’re going to turn and burn to that next target and the next and the next and the next, and we’re not going to stop. We’re not going to stop until there’s not a problem here.”

As Chicago braces for a similar crackdown, the Los Angeles effort topped 5,000 arrests last week. A campaign in Washington, D.C., has resulted in many immigration arrests but is cast as a broader strike against crime and has a more central role for the National Guard. Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker said Tuesday that Bovino called the head of the state police to say immigration officials were coming to Chicago, without elaborating.

The border is everywhere

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has led interior immigration enforcement since it was created in 2003, but the Border Patrol has been around much longer. Bovino’s sense of mission never strayed from the Border Patrol’s roots. When assigned to lead a station in Blythe, California, he pitched his boss, Paul Beeson, on raiding the airport and bus stations in Las Vegas.

The 2010 operation was supposed to last three days but got called off after the first hour yielded dozens of arrests and unleashed a furious reaction from then-Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Nevada Democrat.

“He’s not afraid to push the envelope, very articulate, leads from the front,” said Beeson, who, as a sector chief, selected Bovino to lead stations in Blythe and in Imperial Beach, California.

In the first week of January, Bovino sent 60 agents hundreds of miles to Bakersfield, California, to make 78 arrests at farms and businesses. His staff acknowledged congratulatory comments on social media and posted photos of an encounter with someone whose car window was shattered after refusing to open it.

The Los Angeles raids, which began with a blitz of Home Depots, car washes and an apparel factory,

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 64 of 71

are an extension of what Bovino considers the Border Patrol's proper role.

"What happens at the border, even 100 years ago, didn't stay at the border, and it still doesn't. That's why we're here in Los Angeles," he said.

Allegations of heavy-handed tactics, racial profiling

The Associated Press joined a Border Patrol-led team July 23 during a lull in high-profile raids for what resembled a typically inconspicuous ICE operation. ICE has historically made arrests in the streets after investigation of individual targets, including surveillance that an official once likened to watching paint dry. Officials rarely have judicial warrants to enter a home, causing them to wait outside.

"After this light we're going to light him up. ... Here we go," a Border Patrol agent said on the radio while trailing a Chinese man in Rancho Cucamonga. Moments later she reported, "Suspect is in custody."

The same team saw a Russian man enter his home in Irvine but backed off after three hours parked outside. They waited even longer for a Mexican man with a misdemeanor conviction for child molestation who never emerged from his house in El Monte, though they caught up with him two days later at a convenience store.

It's not all turn and burn. It's also not a pace that will lead Trump to fulfill his promises of mass deportation.

Angelica Salas, executive director of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, remembers thinking to herself, "What in the world is happening here?" when immigration authorities hit multiple locations in Los Angeles on June 6, as they have on many days since. Masked officers tackled people with lightning-quick force. "It was at another level," she said.

Salas' group sued and won a temporary order prohibiting arrests based on any mix of four factors: race and ethnicity; language; location; and occupation. The administration has appealed to the Supreme Court, arguing that any of those factors can help justify reasonable suspicion that someone is in the country illegally and that officers can make arrests based on the "totality of the circumstances."

A court filing by those who sued Bovino and the government says "masked federal agents brandishing weapons cannot command people going about their daily lives to stop and prove their lawful presence solely because of their skin color, accent, where they happen to be, and the type of work they do."

Where critics see heavy-handed racial profiling, Bovino sees legitimate use of force.

Smashing a car window when a driver refuses to open and is subject to arrest is "a safer tactic than letting someone drive away and then getting in a high-speed pursuit," he said.

Blasting the door off a home in Huntington Park to search for a man accused of ramming a Border Patrol vehicle days earlier was a "very, very prudent, thoughtful application of tactics," said Bovino, who joined that early-morning raid. "I don't want to surround a house for hours and hours and hours and then create another riot."

He dismissed allegations of profiling, saying he identifies targets based on intelligence, and he defended the optional use of masks for agents who fear that being identified may jeopardize their personal safety.

Protesters strike back

But protesters trying to counter Bovino's raids have tactics of their own.

On a balmy Saturday morning, about 150 volunteers filed into an auditorium at the headquarters of the Los Angeles teachers union to hear a leader of the Community Self-Defense Coalition speak for two hours about how to fight back, capped by a 15-minute session of role-playing as monitors and ICE officers.

The speaker rattled off a list of most commonly used SUVs and telling signs that they are in the area, such as being double-parked, in red zones or clustered together. People were told to knock on the window to try to press officials for information and record license plates to determine if they have been spotted at other raids.

When a raid unfolds, instructions are to get personal information of those arrested and record the action.

When agents raided the Home Depot and car wash on Aug. 15, they were constantly watching for drivers who might be trailing them. The team met briefly in an office park but split up after workers started peering at their SUVs with tinted windows.

Bovino uses the term "time on the X" to describe how long agents stay at the scene of a raid; they must



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 65 of 71

leave quickly to avoid protesters. On this morning, the plan was no more than 10 minutes.

The tamale vendor arrested outside the Home Depot had been under surveillance because she was previously removed from the country, though she had no criminal history. There were two targets at the car wash who were priorities because they had been previously deported, but they were apparently not there. Of the four arrested, one had previously been deported; none had criminal histories.

Bovino relies on Border Patrol SWAT-style teams to avoid the chaos that erupted during an hourslong standoff at a Home Depot in Paramount on June 7. The Trump administration called in the National Guard and Marines to counter the protests. A federal judge ruled Tuesday that use of the Guard was illegal.

Agents are developing new tactics to strike quickly, Bovino said, and to avoid protesters, as when they hid in a rented Penske truck to surprise laborers at a Home Depot last month. He said he plans to heavily promote an ICE tip line.

'He's going to push the limits'

In some important respects, Bovino has been consistent. The world around him has changed. He joined the Border Patrol in 1996 and is nearing the agency's mandatory retirement age of 57. He eventually plans to return home to North Carolina to harvest apples.

For now, he remains Border Patrol chief in El Centro, long a relatively quiet part of the border that has become even quieter as illegal crossings have plummeted to their lowest levels in six decades. Roughly 1,000 agents there averaged less than three arrests a day in July.

His media savvy is on display each summer when Border Patrol sector chiefs hold news conferences to warn against illegal crossings. In 2021, Bovino led journalists in swimming across the All-American Canal, whose deceptively swift current and smooth concrete lining result in migrant deaths every year. In 2023, he locked reporters in a vehicle trunk, saying he wanted them to appreciate the dangers firsthand.

While administration officials like to say they are deporting the "worst of the worst," Bovino embraces arrests of hard-working people with deep roots in the country. He said they "skip the line" ahead of people waiting to enter the country legally.

"The folks undercutting American businesses, is that right?" he said. "Absolutely not. That's why we have immigration laws in the first place, and that's why I'm here."

Some colleagues think Bovino may rise higher, even as some ICE leaders have quietly chafed at the attention he is getting. He has been under consideration to lead a Los Angeles-style operation in Chicago. The Homeland Security Department, asked for comment, says, "Bovino's success in getting the worst of the worst out of the Los Angeles region speaks for itself."

"He sees what the right and left lanes are on this, and he's going to get out there and he's going to push the limits," Beeson said.

## Trump suggests National Guard could go into New Orleans, a blue city in a red state

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump suggested Wednesday that New Orleans could be his next target for deploying the National Guard to fight crime, potentially expanding the number of cities around the nation where he may send federal law enforcement.

Trump has already said he plans to send the National Guard into Chicago and Baltimore following his administration deploying troops and federal agents to patrol the streets of Washington, D.C., last month.

"So we're making a determination now," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office during a meeting with Polish President Karol Nawrocki. "Do we go to Chicago? Do we go to a place like New Orleans, where we have a great governor, Jeff Landry, who wants us to come in and straighten out a very nice section of this country that's become quite, you know, quite tough, quite bad."

Trump now frequently boasts about turning Washington into a "safe zone." The White House reports more than 1,760 arrests citywide since the president first announced he was mobilizing federal forces on Aug. 7.

But Washington is a federal district subject to laws giving Trump power to take over the local police force

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 66 of 71

for up to 30 days. The decision to use troops to attempt to quell crime in other Democratic-controlled cities around the country would represent an important escalation.

"So we're going to be going to maybe Louisiana, and you have New Orleans, which has a crime problem. We'll straighten that out in about two weeks," Trump said. "It'll take us two weeks, easier than D.C."

Trump's latest comments came a day after he declared "We're going in" and suggested that the National Guard might soon be headed for Chicago, the nation's third-largest city, and Baltimore. That's despite state and local officials, as well as many residents, both places staunchly opposing the idea.

But New Orleans is a predominately Democratic-leaning city in a red state run by Landry, a Republican — and reflection of Trump floating federal intervention along ideological lines.

"Crime is down in New Orleans," City Councilmember Oliver Thomas, who is also a mayoral candidate, said via text message. "That would seem to be very political or a major overreaction!"

Councilmember Jean-Paul Morrell said it is "ridiculous to consider sending the National Guard into another American city that hasn't asked for it."

"Guardsmen are not trained law enforcement. They can't solve crimes, they can't interview witnesses and they aren't trained to constitutionally police," Morrell said in a statement. "NOPD is doing a great job with the existing resources they have. Marching troops into New Orleans is an unnecessary show of force in effort to create a solution to a problem that doesn't exist."

Landry, though, posted on social media, "We will take President @realDonaldTrump's help from New Orleans to Shreveport!" while House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, whose district includes the conservative suburbs outside of New Orleans, praised Trump's efforts in Washington.

"The citizens of New Orleans, and the millions of tourists who come here, deserve that same level of security," Scalise wrote in a social media post. "We should all be in favor of increased safety for our citizens and lower crime."

Louisiana Attorney General Liz Murrill said in a statement that people "continue to die in New Orleans because 'leaders' refuse to accept the resources that are available to them."

"If your gut reaction is to reject the President's offer for assistance without condition, perhaps you're the problem - not him," Murrill said.

The City of New Orleans struck a more conciliatory tone, staying in a statement, "our federal and state partnerships have played a significant role in ensuring public safety, particularly during special events" and that local officials "remain committed to sustaining this momentum." New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell was indicted last month on federal fraud charges and is set to be arraigned in the coming weeks.

Trump, meanwhile, has repeatedly railed against Democratic Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker for not requesting that the National Guard be deployed.

"We could straighten out Chicago. All they have to do is ask us to go into Chicago. If we don't have the support of some of these politicians, but I'll tell you who is supporting us, the people of Chicago," Trump said Wednesday.

Pritzker and Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson have been adamant in saying Chicago doesn't need or want military intervention. In Baltimore, Mayor Brandon Scott and Maryland Gov. Wes Moore have remained similarly opposed.

In Washington, Mayor Muriel Bowser has said Trump's decision to take over her city's police force and flood streets with hundreds of federal law enforcement agents and National Guard troops has succeeded in reducing violent crime — but she's also argued that similar results could have been achieved simply by having more city police officers in service.

She said Wednesday that Trump's law enforcement powers in the city don't need to be extended beyond 30 days, saying, "We don't need a presidential emergency."

## Trump asks Supreme Court to quickly take up tariffs case and reverse ruling finding them illegal

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration took the fight over tariffs to the Supreme Court on Wednesday, asking the justices to rule quickly that the president has the power to impose sweeping import taxes under federal law.

The government called on the court to reverse an appeals court ruling that found most of President Donald Trump's tariffs are an illegal use of an emergency powers law.

It's the latest in a series of Trump administration appeals to a Supreme Court he helped shape, and one that is expected to put a centerpiece of the president's trade policy before the justices.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit left the tariffs in place for now, but the administration nevertheless called on the high court to intervene quickly in a petition filed electronically late Wednesday and provided to The Associated Press. It was expected to be formally docketed on Thursday.

Solicitor General D. John Sauer asked the justices to take up the case and hear arguments in early November.

"That decision casts a pall of uncertainty upon ongoing foreign negotiations that the President has been pursuing through tariffs over the past five months, jeopardizing both already negotiated framework deals and ongoing negotiations," he wrote. "The stakes in this case could not be higher."

But the stakes are also high for small businesses battered by tariffs and uncertainty, said Jeffrey Schwab, senior counsel and director of litigation at the Liberty Justice Center.

"These unlawful tariffs are inflicting serious harm on small businesses and jeopardizing their survival. We hope for a prompt resolution of this case for our clients," he said.

The businesses have twice prevailed, once at a federal court focused on trade and again with the appeals court's 7-4 ruling.

Their lawsuit is one of several challenging the tariffs and erratic rollout that have shaken global markets, alienated U.S. trading partners and allies and raised fears of higher prices and slower economic growth.

But Trump has also used the levies to pressure the European Union, Japan and other countries into accepting new trade deals. Revenue from tariffs totaled \$159 billion by late August, more than double what it was at the same point the year before.

Most judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit found the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act, or IEEPA, did not let Trump usurp congressional power to set tariffs. The dissenters, though, said the law does allow the president to regulate importation during emergencies without explicit limitations.

The ruling involves two sets of import taxes, both of which Trump justified by declaring a national emergency: the tariffs first announced in April and the ones from February on imports from Canada, China and Mexico.

The Constitution gives Congress the power to impose taxes, including tariffs. But over the decades, lawmakers have ceded authority to the president, and Trump has made the most of the power vacuum.

Some Trump tariffs, including levies on foreign steel, aluminum and autos, weren't covered by the appeals court ruling. It also does not include tariffs Trump imposed on China in his first term that were kept by Democratic President Joe Biden.

Trump can impose tariffs under other laws, but those have more limitations on the speed and severity with which he could act.

The government has argued that if the tariffs are struck down, it might have to refund some of the import taxes that it's collected, delivering a financial blow to the U.S. Treasury.

## Takeaways: Gregory Bovino is breaking norms while leading immigration enforcement in Los Angeles

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Barely two years ago, Gregory Bovino was relieved of command of the Border Patrol's El Centro, California, sector and encouraged to retire.

Now he leads immigration enforcement in Los Angeles, an assignment that began June 6 when the Trump administration launched its first sustained blitz of a U.S. city with speed and force that broke recent norms, including from President Donald Trump's first term. His career rebound illustrates how radically immigration policy has changed.

A recent August morning was typical. Several unmarked SUVs with tinted windows sped to the curb outside a Home Depot in the Van Nuys area of Los Angeles. A Guatemalan tamale vendor was handcuffed while men with M4 rifles and military-style gear watched over and day laborers fled. Protesters sounded sirens and whistles. One briefly blocked a Border Patrol vehicle, but agents left in a little more than four minutes.

The same team, dressed as civilians with faces masked and badges on their waists, stormed a car wash in the suburb of Montebello around 11:30 a.m. They made four arrests, including a Guatemalan worker who fled down an alley and a Mexican employee who was tackled after running into the office. It was over in seven minutes.

Bovino says he is far from finished. Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker said Bovino called the head of the state police Saturday to say immigration officers were coming to Chicago, without elaborating. It aligns with comments by Trump and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem putting Chicago on notice for a Los Angeles-style enforcement surge.

'Turn and burn' describes a blistering pace, massive force

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the agency primarily responsible for interior immigration enforcement since its was created in 2003, has historically made arrests in the streets after lengthy investigations of individual targets, including surveillance that an official once likened to watching paint dry. Officials rarely have judicial warrants to enter a home, causing them to wait outside.

It is not a pace that will lead to the mass deportations that Trump has promised.

"We're going to turn and burn to that next target and the next and the next and the next, and we're not going to stop," he said in an interview in a seventh-floor conference room of the federal building in West Los Angeles, where an unused office wing serves as a sparsely furnished temporary base.

"Time on the X" is another favored Bovino term to underscore the use of overwhelming, lightning-quick force. He wants agents to leave a raid within minutes to avoid potential conflict with demonstrators, like an hourslong confrontation that occurred June 7 outside a Home Depot in Paramount.

Bovino has supporters and critics — lots of them

Agents have smashed car windows, blown open a door to a house and patrolled the fabled MacArthur Park on horseback. Bovino often appears in tactical gear, as he did outside Gov. Gavin Newsom's news conference on congressional redistricting on Aug. 14.

Bovino has been the subject of two court orders dealing with racial profiling, which the administration has appealed, one for raids he led in California's San Joaquin Valley during the final month of Joe Biden's presidency and one for what has unfolded in Los Angeles.

A court filing by those who sued Bovino and the government says "masked federal agents brandishing weapons cannot command people going about their daily lives to stop and prove their lawful presence solely because of their skin color, accent, where they happen to be, and the type of work they do."

Where critics see heavy-handed racial profiling, Bovino sees legitimate use of force.

Smashing car windows when a driver refuses to open and is subject to arrest is "a safer tactic than letting someone drive away and then getting in a high-speed pursuit," he says.

Blasting the door off a home in Huntington Park to search for a man accused of ramming a Border Patrol vehicle days earlier was a "very, very prudent, thoughtful application of tactics," said Bovino, who



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 69 of 71

joined that early-morning raid. "I don't want to surround a house for hours and hours and hours and then create another riot."

He dismissed allegations of profiling, saying he identifies targets based on intelligence, and he defended the optional use of masks for agents who fear that being identified may jeopardize their personal safety.

Bovino is having a career rebound

Bovino's career rebound coincides with a push by the Border Patrol to the nation's interior, a return to the agency's roots. Bovino has long championed interior enforcement by the Border Patrol, going back to a 2010 raid that he led in Las Vegas while station chief in Blythe, California.

Bovino blamed a batch of perceived transgressions for being relieved of command in August 2023, details of which have not been previously reported: an online profile picture of him posing with an M4 assault rifle; social media posts that were considered inappropriate; and sworn congressional testimony that he and other sector chiefs gave on the state of the border during a record surge of migrants.

He did not retire, the profile photo with the assault rifle is back online and at age 55, some speculate that he may rise even higher.

"He sees what the right and left lanes are on this, and he's going to get out there and he's going push the limits," said Paul Beeson, who, as a Border Patrol sector chief, twice named Bovino to lead stations in Blythe and Imperial Beach, California.

## **AP visit to Myanmar highlights its struggle to rebuild after an earthquake while a civil war rages**

By DAVID RISING Associated Press

MANDALAY, Myanmar (AP) — Thae Mama Swe stood atop a pile of earthquake rubble in the monsoon rain as she watched an excavator below tear away at the concrete and rebar, while a second machine scooped the wreckage away.

It has been a daily ritual for the 47-year-old seamstress for five months, ever since a 7.7-magnitude earthquake centered in Myanmar brought down a 10-story condo and office building with her son inside. Nearly 200 bodies have been recovered from the site, including seven in the past week, but not his.

"If it were possible, I would exchange my life for his," she said, her glasses wet with rain and her eyes swollen with tears.

The March 28 disaster that killed more than 3,800 people unfolded as Myanmar was already mired in a civil war, in which armed militias and pro-democracy forces are fighting the military-led government that seized power from the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021.

During a rare trip into the disaster zone, The Associated Press recently witnessed a country laboring to rebuild the roads, temples, hospitals, schools and government buildings needed for a society to function, while still grappling with the deadly divisions that have torn the nation apart.

The military allowed AP to report on the quake damage in the capital, Naypyitaw, and in the country's second-largest city, Mandalay — both areas firmly under its control. Official representatives accompanied the team to all sites.

A ceasefire was declared after the quake, but strikes go on

All sides declared a ceasefire immediately after the earthquake, but the fighting never really stopped.

Military airstrikes and artillery attacks have continued, including on civilian targets and in areas affected by the earthquake, said Tom Andrews, the U.N.-appointed human rights expert for Myanmar. The attacks have slowed or halted the delivery of humanitarian aid to many areas. Meanwhile, insurgents have also attacked the military.

Even before the quake, the United Nations estimated that more than 3.5 million people had been displaced from their homes due to the fighting, and some 20 million were in need of assistance. Now, five months on, the military continues to restrict aid to areas outside its control, the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights said in a report this week.

"The junta has to stop killing people, it's as simple as that," Andrews said. "And they need to stop ob-

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 70 of 71

structing aid."

Authorities deny that the military, known as the Tatmadaw, is holding up any aid and maintain that any airstrikes are in response to attacks on them from militia groups.

"We are only doing it in self-defense when the enemy comes and attacks us," Zaw Tun Oo, the head of the protocol department of the Myanmar Foreign Ministry, told AP outside the ministry building, which itself was badly damaged by the earthquake.

Several aid organizations operating inside Myanmar that need the regime's permission to be there declined to comment on the situation.

Quake damage, sanctions and budget cuts impede recovery

The destruction of infrastructure such as roads and bridges has added to the challenge of bringing aid to the worst-hit areas. Hospitals, schools, places of worship and other community buildings have been damaged or destroyed, leaving few places where people can seek shelter or care.

Along the main highway from the country's largest city, Yangon, to Mandalay, toppled temples and buckled sections of pavement serve as a constant reminder of the quake's destructive power. Military engineers have erected temporary bridges to allow traffic to pass over rivers where spans have been destroyed. Damaged bridges that remain standing are being repaired.

Violence is never far away, with pro-democracy forces attacking along the road even after the earthquake.

Across the Mandalay region, nearly 29,000 homes, 5,000 Buddhist pagodas and 43 bridges were either completely or partially destroyed, according to official statistics.

Myanmar continues to trade with China, Russia and others, but Western sanctions have hurt an already struggling economy. That means authorities have fewer means at their disposal to rebuild while also enduring shortages of supplies and equipment.

Recent cuts to foreign aid by U.S. President Donald Trump's administration have also left both U.N. organizations and other groups operating inside Myanmar struggling to meet humanitarian needs.

The lack of American logistical help has been especially acute, including the transport of aid and heavy equipment to remote areas, Andrews said. In the past, such assistance was routine.

Crews race to rebuild parliament before election

At the parliament complex in Naypyitaw, up to 500 people are working day and night, seven days a week, on the five most important buildings that were damaged. Crews are repairing collapsed ceilings and walls and shoring up foundations so they will be usable in time for elections scheduled for the end of December. Scaffolding fills entire chambers.

It's seen as symbolically important to have the main parliament buildings ready for new lawmakers to gather in their first session. Critics say the elections are a sham to normalize the military takeover, and several opposition organizations, including armed resistance groups, have said they will try to derail them.

Following the dissolution of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party, which won a landslide victory in 2020, the opposition maintains elections cannot be considered fair or representative. The military seized power before the NLD could begin its second five-year term.

The National Unity Government, established by elected lawmakers who were barred from taking their seats, did not respond to a request for comment.

Elsewhere in the capital, teams of about 40 workers, primarily women, toil largely by hand to repair roads at about a dozen sites. The laborers carry baskets of large stones on their heads and shoulders and dump them to form the foundation, followed by loads of gravel that are topped with asphalt.

As the reconstruction progresses, officials say Myanmar needs help from other countries that have experience constructing earthquake-resistant buildings.

Aye Min Thu, the chief of the Mandalay division of Myanmar's disaster management agency, said with that assistance, the country could "build a resilient society" so that "future generations will not be easily destroyed."

At the site of one of the capital's largest hospitals, nothing remains but rusted rebar, plastic pipes and concrete, sorted into piles to be taken away. Hospital beds and furniture are stacked under a shelter for possible reuse, but the engineer in charge of the project, Thin Thin Swe, said it's not yet clear whether

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 093 ~ 71 of 71

Ottara Thiri Hospital will be rebuilt.

The 47-year-old lost two friends — the hospital's accountant and its pharmacist — when the main lobby caved in.

"I still pray for them every day," she said.

At the site where Thae Mama Swe's son worked, Mandalay's fire chief Kyaw Ko Ko said the recovery work has been difficult on his teams, especially when they come across the bodies of children, who "could easily be my own relatives or family members."

As she watched the slow recovery effort continue, Thae Mama Swe talked about the guilt she feels over her son's death since he was only working in the building that collapsed because she encouraged him to return to Mandalay. Her greatest hope is to recover his body, an essential part of Buddhist religious rites.

"I will never give up hope for that," she said. "Then his soul will be free, and I can live peacefully."

## Today in History: September 5, Munich Olympics massacre

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Friday, Sept. 5, the 248th day of 2025. There are 117 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 5, 1972, Palestinian militants attacked the Israeli Olympic delegation at the Munich Games, killing two and taking nine others hostage; five of the militants, a German police officer and all nine hostages were killed in the following 24 hours.

Also on this date:

In 1774, the first Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia.

In 1836, Sam Houston won the first presidential election in the newly established Republic of Texas.

In 1905, the Treaty of Portsmouth was signed, ending the Russo-Japanese war; for his efforts in mediating the peace negotiations, U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt was awarded the Noble Peace Prize the following year.

In 1957, Jack Kerouac's novel "On the Road" was published.

In 1960, Muhammad Ali (as Cassius Clay) won the gold medal in the light heavyweight boxing division at the Olympic Games in Rome.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford survived an assassination attempt by Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, a disciple of Charles Manson, in Sacramento, California.

In 1986, four hijackers who had seized a Pan Am jumbo jet on the ground in Karachi, Pakistan, opened fire on the jet's passengers; a total of 20 passengers and crew members were killed before Pakistani commandos stormed the jetliner.

In 1991, the 35th annual Naval Aviation Symposium held by the Tailhook Association opened in Las Vegas; during the four-day gathering, there were reports that as many as 90 people, most of them women, were sexually assaulted or otherwise harassed. (The episode triggered the resignation of Navy Secretary Henry L. Garrett III.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Lucille Soong (TV: "Fresh Off the Boat") is 90. Baseball Hall of Hamer Bill Mazeroski is 89. Actor William Devane is 86. Actor George Lazenby is 86. Film director Werner Herzog is 83. Singer Al Stewart is 80. "Cathy" cartoonist Cathy Guisewite (GYZ'-wyt) is 75. Actor Michael Keaton is 74. Actor Rose McGowan is 52. Olympic gold medal gymnast Tatiana Gutsu is 49. Actor Carice Van Houten is 49. Mixed martial artist Francis Ngannou is 39. Olympic gold medal figure skater Yuna Kim is 35. Soccer player Bukayo Saka is 24.