

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 1 of 72

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
- [3- Today on GDILIVE.COM](#)
- [4- Milbank shuts out Groton Area, 19-0](#)
- [7- Groton awarded T-Mobile Friday Night Lights grant](#)
- [8- Yankton County Fatal Crash](#)
- [8- Lincoln County Fatal Crash](#)
- [9- Meade County Fatal Crash](#)
- [10- Names Released in Custer County Fatal Crash](#)
- [11- Brown County Commission Agenda](#)
- [12- Brown County P & Z Agendas](#)
- [16- SD News Watch: Boys and Girls Clubs innovating after budget shortfalls](#)
- [19- SD SearchLight: Federal inmates, including ICE detainees, taken to other jails to make space for 'Prairie Thunder'](#)
- [21- SD SearchLight: 22-year-old Utah man in custody suspected of killing Charlie Kirk](#)
- [23- SD SearchLight: Beware of Christian nationalism, even on a T-shirt](#)
- [25- SD SearchLight: Appeals ruling threatens routine care access for Medicaid enrollees at Planned Parenthood](#)
- [26- SD SearchLight: Poverty dropped in most states last year, but trend could reverse as cuts loom](#)
- [28- Weather Pages](#)
- [33- Daily Devotional](#)
- [34- Subscription Form](#)
- [35- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [36- Upcoming Groton Events](#)
- [37- News from the Associated Press](#)

Saturday, Sept. 13

Soccer at Vermillion (Girls at 1 p.m., Boys at 2:30 p.m.)

Sunday, Sept. 14

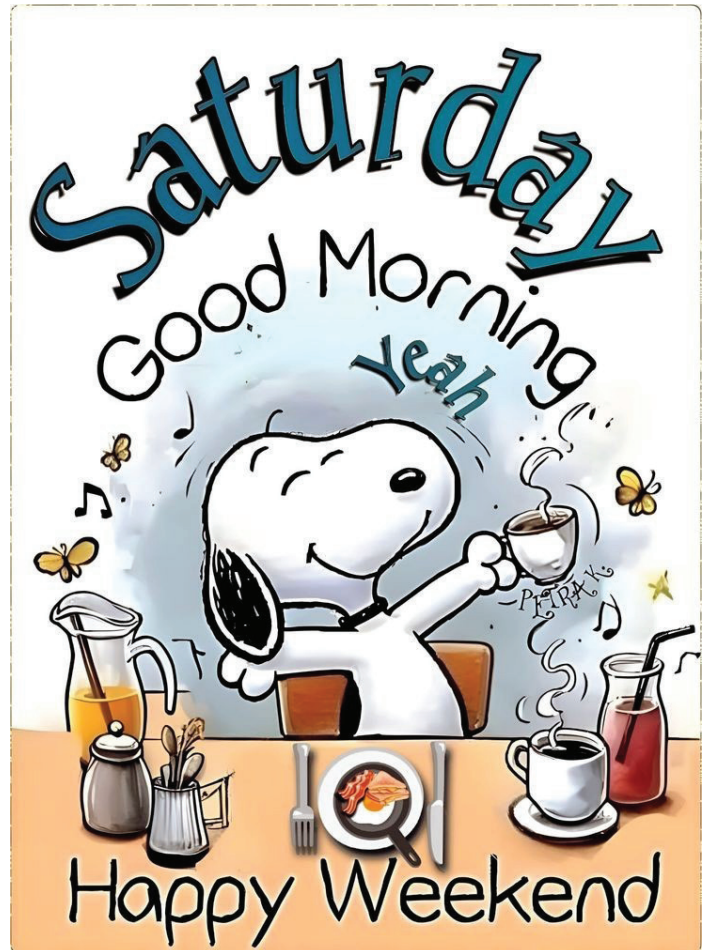
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir 6 p.m.

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

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

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

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



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

GHS FCS Kickoff meeting, 2 p.m.

Monday, Sept 15

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.

School Lunch: Corn dog, baked beans.

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

St. John's Lutheran: Christian Literature Circle, 7:30 p.m.

Groton Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Cross Country at Webster, 2 p.m.

JV Football at Milbank, 4 p.m.

3rd-6th GBB Skills, 6 p.m.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 2 of 72

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.

Assassination Suspect Arrested

Officials yesterday announced the arrest of a 22-year-old suspect in connection with the fatal shooting of conservative activist Charlie Kirk at Utah Valley University. Tyler Robinson, believed to have acted alone, was taken into custody on suspicion of aggravated murder, felony discharge of a firearm causing serious bodily injury, and obstruction of justice. Formal charges are expected Tuesday.

The arrest followed an over-24-hour manhunt during which authorities recovered online chat records, a rifle, and bullet casings engraved with antifascist and meme-culture messaging. The suspect was identified by his father, who sought a family friend's help contacting officials. Family told police the suspect had expressed opposition to Kirk's views and indicated he was responsible for the shooting.

The assassination comes amid rising concerns about political and campus violence. A Colorado high school student wounded two classmates Wednesday before dying by suicide. On Thursday, the US Naval Academy had a false active-shooter report and several historically Black colleges and universities went on lockdown following threats.

NATO strengthens air and ground defenses along its eastern flank.

NATO is bolstering its defense fleet with equipment from France, Denmark, Germany, and the United Kingdom after Russian drones entered Polish airspace Wednesday. Poland and Latvia also imposed new airspace restrictions earlier this week, and Friday, the UK introduced 100 sanctions targeting Russia's military and oil sectors. Meanwhile, Russia and Belarus launched their largest joint military exercise since Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Trump to deploy National Guard to Memphis.

President Donald Trump yesterday announced plans to deploy the National Guard to Memphis, Tennessee, to address crime, seemingly backing off plans to deploy troops to Chicago. He cited support from Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee (R) and Memphis Mayor Paul Young (D). Memphis had the highest crime rate among US cities with at least 100,000 residents last year, according to FBI data. Earlier this week, Memphis police reported overall crime from January to August at a 25-year low.

Giorgio Armani's will instructs heirs to sell fashion empire stakes.

Late Italian designer Giorgio Armani, who died Sept. 4 at age 91, instructed his heirs to gradually sell their stakes in his fashion house, with priority given to LVMH, L'Oréal, and EssilorLuxottica. He also left open the option of pursuing an initial public offering. The instructions surprised many, given Armani's steadfast refusal during his lifetime to dilute his control of his fashion empire. Separately, New York Fashion Week is underway. Explore some of the looks here.

Missouri lawmakers pass GOP-favoring congressional map.

Missouri is the third state this year—after Texas and California—to pursue mid-decade redistricting aimed at shifting power in Washington during next year's midterm elections. The bill, which passed the Republican-controlled legislature easily and is expected to be signed by Gov. Mike Kehoe (R) next week, would transform Democratic Rep. Emanuel Cleaver's district into a Republican-leaning seat. Opponents have already filed a lawsuit challenging the new map.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 3 of 72

Wildfires in western US may improve East Coast air quality.

Heat from wildfires in the western US reduces air pollution in the east by roughly the same amount as the wildfires increase pollution in the west, according to a new study. This is due to a series of weather pattern shifts that trigger rainfall on the East Coast, effectively washing away pollutants. By ignoring western wildfires' positive effect on eastern air quality, previous nationwide wildfire impact estimates may have inflated premature deaths by 1,200 people and damages by \$3.3B.

Nepal's president appoints interim prime minister.

Former Supreme Court Chief Justice Sushila Karki was sworn in as interim prime minister after violent protests spurred by a social media ban collapsed the previous administration earlier this week. The 73-year-old, known for her hardline stance against corruption, is the first woman to lead the Himalayan nation; she was also Nepal's first woman chief justice. Members of the "Gen Z" movement that initiated this week's protests celebrated Karki's appointment online.

Apple delays iPhone Air release in China.

Apple's iPhone Air launch in China has been postponed indefinitely due to regulatory issues with its design. Unlike traditional phones with physical SIM cards, the new iPhone announced Tuesday relies on a built-in eSIM for cellular connectivity. Apple CEO Tim Cook said the change extends battery life, but Chinese wireless carriers must obtain special government licenses to sell devices with eSIM capability. iPhone Air pre-orders began Friday in the US, and shipments will start Sept. 19.

Humankind(ness)

Today, we're sharing a story from reader Pam S. in Ellenton, Florida.

"I was in the local grocery store and saw a rather tall man reach deep into the back of the top shelf for a product. After he put it in his shopping cart, he reached back up and brought two bottles forward so the next person could easily reach it. I remarked how thoughtful that was of him and he said, 'I always try to pay it forward.'"

Today on GDILIVE.COM



Girls Soccer
Groton at Vermillion
Saturday., Sept. 13, 1 p.m.



Groton
Area
Tigers
Groton, SD



GDILIVE
YouTube
A production of the
Groton Daily Independent
For more info: GDILIVE.COM



Boys Soccer
Groton at Vermillion
Saturday., Sept. 13, 2:30 p.m.



Groton
Area
Tigers
Groton, SD



GDILIVE
YouTube
A production of the
Groton Daily Independent
For more info: GDILIVE.COM

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 4 of 72

Milbank shuts out Groton Area, 19-0

The Groton Area Tigers showed grit but couldn't overcome turnovers and missed opportunities Friday night, as Milbank pulled away for a 19-0 victory in the 78th meeting between the two programs.

Milbank's first breakthrough came late in the opening quarter. Quarterback Braylen Bowsher hit Esteban Abrego wide open for a 40-yard touchdown after a moment of defensive confusion. "We were confused on defense a little bit because Ryder Johnson, our normal cornerback, had to come out when the referees said his knee pads weren't low enough," longtime statistician Tom Woods explained at halftime. "Somebody inexperienced came in, and we had a little confusion. That led to that touchdown. No excuses—that's just the truth." Franklin Peterson's PAT made it 7-0 after one quarter.

The Tigers nearly answered, but a fumble deep in their own territory on the first play of the second quarter set up Milbank at the Groton 32. Although the Bulldog drive stalled, it was an early sign of the mistakes that would haunt Groton all night.

Just minutes later, the Tigers recovered a Milbank fumble at the Bulldog 36, only to give it right back on an interception on the very next play. That theme repeated itself throughout the night—Groton forced three turnovers, but each time Milbank responded by clamping down defensively.

Bowsher made the Tigers pay midway through the second quarter, breaking free for a 17-yard touchdown run to stretch Milbank's lead to 13-0. The kick was no good, but the Bulldogs went into halftime firmly in control.

At the break, Woods noted the defensive highlights despite the deficit. "Logan Warrington has been playing really well—six tackles and two sacks in the first half alone," Woods said. But he also pointed to Groton's offensive struggles: "They shut us down rushing—we were 11 carries for minus 16 yards."

The Tigers opened the second half with more miscues. An early penalty set them back, and Milbank's Mason Allen picked off a pass after a Groton first down run was wiped out by holding. The Bulldogs capitalized, driving inside the 10 before Zack Karges plunged in from two yards out with 2:38 left in the third quarter. The blocked extra point kept the score at 19-0, but the damage was done.

Groton's defense kept battling, forcing punts and even grabbing interceptions of their own, but the offense could never break through. Three interceptions, a fumble, and a failed punt attempt on fourth down left the Tigers with no points to show for their drives.

Head coach Shaun Wanner acknowledged after the game that his team's youth is showing. "We had four sophomores we started tonight and three freshmen," Wanner said. "That's seven underclassmen. I don't ever remember being that young in all my years of coaching. But they're a good group. They come to practice, they work hard, they've got positive attitudes. We're



Ryder Schelle

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Asher Johnson

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 5 of 72



Ryder Schelle
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

not winning, but we're playing hard."

Wanner praised his seniors for guiding the team through tough stretches. "Sometimes older kids get frustrated with younger kids, but these guys don't," he said. "They're always telling them to keep their heads up when they make mistakes. The young kids are trying to make plays—it gets them in trouble sometimes, but that comes with experience."

Even as the Tigers struggled, Woods offered the community a bright note at halftime, announcing that Groton was awarded a \$5,000 T-Mobile "Friday Night Lights" grant, making the school eligible for a \$1 million prize for facility improvements. "If this free money is available, we need to help ourselves with it," Woods said. "I don't believe in luck—I believe the good Lord above can work through us if we help ourselves."

Looking ahead, Wanner knows the schedule doesn't get any easier. "We knew this stretch—Mobridge, Winner, Milbank, then Deuel and Clark—was going to be tough," he said. "But we just have to keep practicing, keep playing, and have some fun. That's what I tell the kids every day."

Groton (1-3) will look to turn things around on the road at Deuel next Friday night. Milbank (2-1) travels to Dell Rapids.

Game Stats

Groton Area

First downs: 4

Rushes: 23-26 yards

Anthony Tracy 3-13, Skyler Godel 3-6, Ryder Schelle 8-8, Asher Johnson 8-1, Keegen Tracy 1-(-2)

Passing: Asher Johnson 8-15, 33 yards, 2 INT

Receiving: Jordan Schwan 1-14, Ryder Johnson 2-12, Keegen Tracy 3-5, Ryder Schelle 2-2

Fumbles: 1 lost

Penalties: 6-45

Defense: Tucker Hardy 10 tackles; Logan Warrington 9 tackles; Keegen Tracy 1 INT; Ryder Johnson 1 INT

Milbank

First downs: 9

Rushes: 33-77 yards

Braylen Bowsher 16-24, Lance Engebretson 5-15, Zach Karges 7-17, Bennett Hunt 3-12, Ethan Owen 2-9

Passing: Bowsher 7-16, 83 yards, 2 INT

Receiving: Esteban Abrego 2-36, Sam Rick 5-47

Fumbles: 4, lost 2

Penalties: 5-60

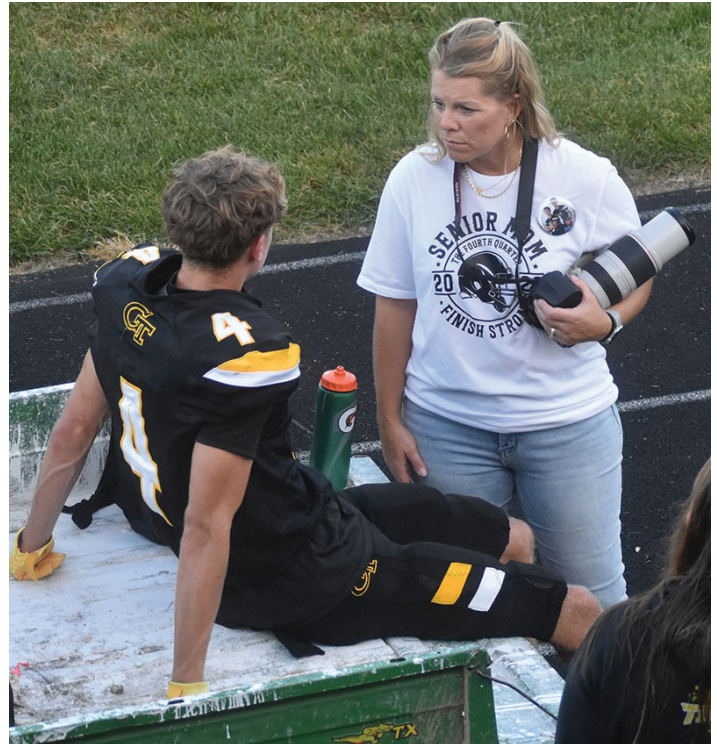
Defense: Bennett Hunt 10 tackles; Ethan Owen 6 tackles; Ethan Seyer 6 tackles; Sam Rick 2 INT

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 6 of 72



Hunter Aiden started the spraying for mosquito repellent as the mosquitos were out in full force. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Paula Johnson checks in on Ryder Johnson as he cramped up during the game. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 7 of 72



When you post anything about Groton athletics, use the following hashtags.

#FN5GL

#Sweepstakes

Groton awarded T-Mobile Friday Night Lights grant

Fans at Friday night's football game in Groton heard some exciting news during halftime. Longtime statistician Tom Woods announced that Groton has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from T-Mobile as part of its Friday Night Lights program.

The program distributes weekly grants to high schools across the country to help support athletic facilities, with each recipient also becoming eligible for a \$1 million national prize. That larger award is designed to fund major upgrades that can benefit entire communities.

Woods explained that the process began when he was contacted earlier last summer about the possibility of applying. "They reached out to me first, asking if Groton would be interested," Woods said. "I filled out the information they needed, and then it was just a matter of waiting to see what would happen. A couple of weeks ago I got the notice that we were one of the winners."

He shared the news with Tiger fans at halftime, saying it represents an opportunity for the community to rally behind its athletes and facilities. "If this free money is available, we need to help ourselves with it," Woods said. "And who knows? I don't believe in luck—I believe the good Lord above can work through us if we help ourselves."

Groton's selection puts it among dozens of schools nationwide to receive the weekly award this season. The funds can be used for immediate improvements, while the chance at the \$1 million grand prize gives the community something bigger to hope for.

For Woods, who has spent years on the sidelines tracking stats and cheering on Groton athletes, the award was a reminder that the Tigers' efforts are noticed well beyond northeast South Dakota.



Tom Woods (left) talked about the grant Groton Area received on GDILIVE.COM as he was being interviewed by Paper Paul. (Photo by

Jeslyn Kosel)

Yankton County Fatal Crash

What: Car/Pedestrian fatal crash
Where: SD Highway 46, mile marker 339, seven miles west of Irene, SD
When: 8:23 p.m., Thursday, September 11, 2025

Driver 1: 37-year-old female from Sioux Falls, SD, no injuries
Vehicle 1: 2022 Tesla
Seat belt Used: Yes
Passenger 1a: 17-year-old female from Minnehaha, SD, no injuries
Seat belt Used: Yes
Passenger 1b: 17-year-old female from Sioux Falls, SD, no injuries
Seat belt Used: Yes

Pedestrian: 67-year-old male from Yankton, SD, fatal injuries

Yankton County, S.D.- A pedestrian died in a single vehicle crash yesterday, seven miles west of Irene, SD.

The names of the persons involved have not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2022 Tesla was traveling eastbound on SD Highway 46 near mile marker 339 and struck a pedestrian walking in the roadway. The man was transported to a nearby hospital with life-threatening injuries where he later died from those injuries.

Lincoln County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash
Where: 288th Street and 486th Avenue, one mile southwest of Fairview, SD
When: 1:58 p.m., Thursday, September 11, 2025

Driver 1: 62-year-old male from Rock Valley, IA, fatal injuries
Vehicle 1: 1994 Peterbilt Conventional Semi
Seat belt Used: No

Lincoln County, S.D.- A Rock Valley, Iowa man died yesterday in a single vehicle crash one mile southwest of Fairview, SD.

The name of the person involved has not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 1994 Peterbilt semi hauling silage was traveling on 288th Street near 486th Avenue when the vehicle left the right side of the road then tipped and rolled down a steep embankment. The driver sustained fatal injuries.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating the crashes. All information released so far is only preliminary.

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

Meade County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash

Where: Chaffee Place and Fairpoint Road, 15 miles northwest of Union Center, SD

When: 4:45 p.m., Saturday, September 6, 2025

Driver 1: 83-year-old female from Union Center, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2020 Honda Civic

Seat belt Used: Under investigation

Driver 2: 19-year-old female from Enning, SD, minor injuries

Vehicle 2: 2002 Ford F350

Seat belt Used: Yes

Meade County, S.D.- A Union Center woman died in a two-vehicle crash Saturday afternoon, 15 miles northwest of Union Center, SD.

The names of the persons involved have not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2020 Honda Civic was traveling eastbound on Chaffee Place, a one lane, public maintained gravel road. At the same time, the driver of a 2002 Ford F350 was traveling westbound on Chaffee Place. As both vehicles crested a hill, they collided head-on.

The driver of the Honda died at the scene. The driver of the Ford sustained minor injuries.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. All information released so far is only preliminary.

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

Names Released in Custer County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash

Where: Flynn Creek Road near Herbert Draw, seven miles south of Custer, SD

When: 5:40 p.m., Monday, September 1, 2025

Driver 1: Curtis Shawn Molone, 60-year-old male from Long Pine, NE, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2023 Can-Am Maverick Side-by-Side

Seat belt Used: Yes

Helmet Used: No

Passenger 1: Shawn Lee Malone, 41-year-old male from Ainsworth NE, fatal injuries

Seat belt Used: Yes

Helmet Used: No

Custer County, S.D.- Two men died in a single vehicle ATV crash Monday, Sept. 1, seven miles south of Custer, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates Curtis Shawn Molone, the driver of a 2023 Can-Am Maverick Side-by-Side, was traveling southbound on Flynn Creek Road. Failing to negotiate a curve, the vehicle slid sideways on the gravel road, entered the east side ditch and collided with a tree. Both the driver and passenger, Shawn Lee Malone, died at the scene.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. All information released so far is only preliminary.

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

Broton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 11 of 72



BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025, 8:45 A.M.

COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS

COURTHOUSE ANNEX - 25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD

1. Call To Order - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Opportunity for Public Comment
 - ❖ *Public comment will be limited to 10 minutes or at Boards Discretion. Presentations will be limited to 3 minutes.*
4. Patricia Kendall, Museum Director
 - a. Request for use of Courthouse Green Space for Fall Festival
5. Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Park Manager
 - a. Approve & Authorize Advertising RFP for Rodeo Stock Provider 2026-2028
6. Approve & Authorize Chairman to sign CDBG Payment Request #8
7. First Reading of Ordinance #310 – Rezone for Paul Larson
8. Judy Dosch, Building Superintendent
 - a. Discuss the 24/7 Building Roof
9. Matt Heupel, Highway Supervisor
 - a. Applications for Occupancy (R-O-W's)
 - i. Scott Hansen
 - ii. 4 for Northern Electric
10. Consent Calendar
 - a. Approval of General Meeting Minutes for September 2, 2025
 - b. Claims/Payroll
 - c. HR Report
 - d. Travel Requests
 - e. Landfill Tonnage Report for August
 - f. Claim Assignments
 - g. Abatement
11. Other Business
12. Executive Session (if requested per SDCL 1-25-2)
13. Adjourn

You can join the Brown County Commission Meeting via **your computer, tablet, or smartphone** at <https://meet.goto.com/BrCoCommission>

You can also dial in using your phone. United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3311](tel:+18722403311) - Access Code: **601-168-909** #

Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://meet.goto.com/install>

Official Recordings of Commission Meetings along with the Minutes can be found at <https://www.brown.sd.us/node/454>

AGENDA

BROWN COUNTY PLANNING/ZONING COMMISSION REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETINGS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 – 7:00 PM
BROWN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX in the BASEMENT
(STAIRWAY AND ELEVATOR ACCESS TO BASEMENT)

- I. **Call to Order:** for Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission
- II. **Roll Call:** Stan Beckler - Chairman, David North - Vice Chair, Patrick Keatts, Dale Kurth, James Meyers, Carrie Weisenburger, County Commissioner Mike Gage and Alternate Paul Johnson.
- III. **Appointment SDCL 11-2-2,** The County Planning Commission is appointed and approved by the Board of Brown County Commissioners. The County Planning Commission is known as the County Planning/Zoning Commission. The County Zoning Commission also serves as the County Zoning Board of Adjustment.
- IV. **Contracts with municipalities SDCL 11-2-7.** Contracts to provide planning and zoning services to municipalities--Municipal powers exercised by County Board. The governing body of any municipality may contract with the Board for Planning and Zoning services to be provided by the county, and the contract may provide that the municipality shall pay such fees as are agreed for the services performed. Under the provisions of the contract the municipal governing body may authorize the County Planning and Zoning Commission, on behalf of the municipality, to exercise any of the powers otherwise granted to municipal planning and zoning commissions under chapters [11-4](#) and [11-6](#).
Source: SL 1967, ch 20, § 9; SL 1975, ch 113, § 2; SL 1992, ch 60, § 2; SL 1998, ch 76, § 2
 1. Columbia: May 5, 1981, by Resolution.
 2. Verdon Village: April 17, 1981, by Resolution.
 3. Town of Claremont: April 6, 1981, by Resolution.
 4. Town of Stratford: April 6, 1981, by Resolution.
- V. **Opportunity for Public Comment if any.**
- VI. **Approval of September 16, 2025, Agenda:** Motion: 1st _____ 2nd _____
- VII. **Approval of August 19, 2025, Minutes:** Motion: 1st _____ 2nd _____

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

VIII. Old Business:

1. **Sign-up sheet:** On the table by the door entrance, there is a Sign-up Sheet. Please legibly sign in and mark YES or NO if you want to speak to the Board on any Agenda Item.
2. **Permits:** Anyone that has submitted a Variance Petition (VP) or a Conditional Use Petition (CUP) to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (BOA) is still required to get their required PERMITS from the Zoning Office before starting their project if their Petition gets approved. Penalties may be assessed per Ordinance when starting projects without proper permits in place.

IX. New Business: Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission as Zoning Board of Adjustment (BOA).

1. **Variance for Lot Size** in an Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) described as proposed Lot 1, "Christianson First Subdivision" in the SW1/4 of Section 15-T126N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (11476 391st Avenue; Brainard Twp.).

X. Other Business:

Completed as Zoning Board of Adjustment (BOA) & going to Planning Commission

AGENDA

BROWN COUNTY PLANNING/ZONING COMMISSION REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETINGS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 – 7:00 PM

BROWN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX in the BASEMENT
(STAIRWAY AND ELEVATOR ACCESS TO BASEMENT)

PLANNING COMMISSION

- I. **Old Business: Discussion on Amendments to Brown County Ordinance Title 4 for Chapters 4.22 through Chapter 4.29 on Administrative Rules and Enforcement are still postponed until further notice, by Ross Aldentaler, Deputy States Attorney. We are not continuing to put this on the Agenda or Minutes until something is presented to the Planning/Zoning Commission for proposed changes.**
- II. **New Business: Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission as [Planning Commission](#).**
 10. **Rezone Petition** for property described as Proposed Lot 1, “Sieh Family First Addition” in the SE1/4 of Section 13-T125N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (39970 121st Street; Columbia Twp.) to be rezoned from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG).
 11. **Preliminary & Final Plat** for financial purposes on a property described as “Sumption Outlot” in the SE1/4 of Section 33-T128N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (10575 385th Avenue; Osceola Twp.).
 12. **Preliminary & Final Plat** for financial purposes on a property described as “Sieh Family First Addition” in the SE1/4 of Section 13-T125N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (39970 121st Street; Columbia Twp.).
 13. **Preliminary & Final Plat** for financial purposes on a property described as “Christianson First Subdivision” in the SW1/4 of Section 15-T126N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (11476 391st Avenue; Brainard Twp.).
 14. **Preliminary & Final Plat** for financial purposes on a property described as “Mohr First Addition to Columbia” in the NE1/4 of Section 29-T125N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (319 N Broadway Street; South Detroit Twp.).
 15. **Preliminary & Final Plat** for conveyance purposes on a property described as “Lowary Family First Addition” in the NE1/4 of Section 27-T123N-R64W, except land platted, of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (2208 S Highway 281; Aberdeen Twp.).

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 15 of 72

16. **Final Plat** for conveyance purposes on a property described as “Keatts Ninth Subdivision” in the W1/2 of the NW1/4 of Section 23-T124N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (37805, 37825, 37827 & 37829 Richmond Drive; Ravinia Twp.).
17. **Brown County Ordinance Amendment & Addition to Title 4** Wind Energy Systems (WES).
(Postponed from the August 16, 2025 Planning Commission meeting).
18. **Brown County Ordinance Amendment & Addition to Title 4** Data Centers.
(Postponed from the August 16, 2025 Planning Commission meeting).

III. Other Business:

1. Discussion on zoning errors on Brown County GIS map.
2. Executive Session if requested.

IV. Motion to Adjourn: 1st _____ 2nd _____



**SOUTH DAKOTA
NEWS WATCH**

Inform. Enlighten. Illuminate.

Boys and Girls Clubs innovating after budget shortfalls

Molly Wetsch

South Dakota News Watch

Boys and Girls Clubs in some of the most vulnerable communities across South Dakota are finding ways to innovate in the midst of budget cuts.

"The level of disruption that we're seeing as an organization is, in some ways, trivial compared to the everyday life of most of the kids we serve," said Rachel Kocak, program director of the Rosebud Boys and Girls Club, which operates in Parmalee, Rosebud and Mission on the Rosebud Indian Reservation.

She told News Watch that while around 40% of its annual operating budget comes from now-unavailable federal funding, the club is focused on coming up with creative solutions to make up funding gaps.

One of the methods, which also builds life skills, is the social enterprise program Steep Up Entrepreneurs Club. Boys and Girls Club members hand make, package and sell herbal teas throughout the community. Students are involved in the entire process from beginning to end, which helps to build resilience and friendship among club members, Kocak said.

"We've come up with three really beautiful teas that the kids have created a label for. They've gone through the process of calculating product cost and doing some market research, and have been going to farmers markets," she said. "It's just been a hoot. We've gotten to know the kids in a different capacity and who is good at what. And they've grown in teamwork and confidence."

The club is also in the midst of an online charity auction, with items from local businesses like handmade earrings and a Lakota Times subscription available. The club recently received a U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm to School grant, which helped to build two high tunnels, extending the growing seasons in its vegetable garden.

Other programs, such as the teen workforce development program, allow club members to get job experience helping out the club and spend time in a productive environment with their peers.

"We had two teenagers who were paid to be here and were working. All of a sudden, we had four more teenagers just hanging out because they were part of that friend group. They were just going to stay late and help, even if they weren't being paid," Kocak said.

"So then we hired those kids, and all of a sudden we've got six, and it's like, for every team we hire there's another couple that come along with it because they're part of that group."



Students at the SuAnn Big Crow Boys and Girls Club in Pine Ridge, S.D., on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

(Photo: Richard Abou)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 17 of 72

Major federal funding source now unavailable

One major funding source for the Rosebud Boys and Girls Club was the 21st Century Community Learning Center funding provided by the U.S. Department of Education.

Those dollars serve organizations that provide "academic enrichment" activities to students at high-poverty schools and are administered via the state's Department of Education.

That funding for this fiscal year was initially withheld by the federal government and placed under review, which meant it was not dispersed to states on the usual date of July 1. It was later released on July 18, but it is unclear whether that funding will be provided next fiscal year.

The Rosebud Boys and Girls Club's grant funding expired this year, and Kocak told News Watch that it was unable to apply for renewed funding through the Department of Education.

"The department will not be releasing a new grant application cycle this year because of funding considerations. Future grant application availability will be made based upon availability of federal funds for the program," the South Dakota Department of Education told News Watch in a statement.

Programs that are currently in the midst of grant cycles – of which there are 25 in South Dakota – will still receive funding for this year.

Multiple clubs looking to innovation for solutions

Three other reservations in the state – Pine Ridge, Standing Rock and Lower Brule – also operate Boys and Girls Clubs.

The SuAnn Big Crow Boys and Girls Club in Pine Ridge reopened in March after several years of closure due to restrictions from the pandemic and funding struggles. It was rechartered with the Boys and Girls Club of America and has restarted serving children attending school in Oglala Lakota County.

"The principles of the club are to have the members be proud of who they are and develop themselves to be self-sufficient, have an education and be able to support themselves," said Richard Abdoo, chairman of the club's board.

Abdoo estimates that it costs more than \$500,000 to operate the club annually. While startup funding from the national chapter of the Boys and Girls Club has buoyed the club for the next year, Abdoo and the board have started to have conversations about what to do next.

"We're going to be putting our plans and our budget together to identify what are we going to do to make up the anticipated shortfall and find out what Boys and Girls Clubs National can contribute," Abdoo said. "But right now, you know, we're looking at a several hundred-thousand (dollar) shortfall for next year. And we don't know where it's going to come from."

The club, which opened in 2002 after a visit from former President Bill Clinton, hopes to use its unique



The Steep Up Lakota Teas, of which there are three flavors, sold by the young entrepreneurs of the Rosebud Boys and Girls Club. (Photo: Rosebud Boys and Girls Club)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 18 of 72

position to help with raising funds as they dry up next year.

Part of the building was used by the Oglala Lakota tribe as a child care facility while a new one was being built. That helped pay for utilities and other costs for the building, Aboo said. Now, they're looking to forge similar partnerships in the years ahead.

"We're looking at doing a collaboration with the Civil Air Patrol, for them to use our facilities to conduct their biweekly or monthly meetings," Abdoo said. "The huge majority of our funding comes from outside the community. But even if we take an optimistic look at what we can do with a direct mail campaign, I don't see enough to run the club coming next year. So we're gonna have to do something else."

Reservation clubs reach vulnerable youth

Kocak told News Watch that federal funding cuts are the least of the club's worries.

"Everyone's going to be going through a pinch right now, and our mission is to help kids do hard things. Right now, as an organization, we're hitting a point where we're going to have to do some hard things," Kocak said.

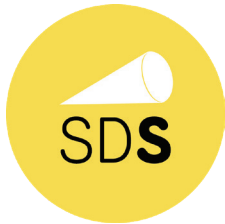
Beyond day-to-day benefits like free meals and child care, long-term impacts stretch far and wide for Boys and Girls Clubs on reservations, where children and teens face some of the most difficult conditions in the United States.

The South Dakota DOE's Report Card shows that 51% of students in Todd County and 29% of students in Oglala Lakota County graduated on time in 2024. Nearly 100% of Rosebud Boys and Girls Club attendees graduate from high school and generally attend school 20% more than their peers, Kocak said.

"If you want to come to the club afterwards, you have to go to school during the day," she said.

Questions about budget abound, but Kocak said the focus on innovation and program benefits has allowed the club to be optimistic about the future.

"Yes, the funding has been cut, but so what? These kids are getting it done anyway, and the Boys and Girls Club isn't going anywhere," Kocak said. "We're going to do what it takes because these kids matter so much."



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Federal inmates, including ICE detainees, taken to other jails to make space for 'Prairie Thunder' **Sioux Falls police chief, county sheriff grateful for trooper help, but would prefer long-term presence**

BY: JOHN HULT-SEPTEMBER 12, 2025 1:49 PM

Two federal agencies had to move 35 people from the Minnehaha County Jail in the run-up to a state-funded saturation patrol late last month in Sioux Falls.

Minnehaha County officials asked federal agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the U.S. Marshals Service to transport the inmates, whom the county is paid to house, to other regional facilities to make space for a surge in local inmates.

"These troopers are very good at what they do," said Minnehaha County Sheriff Mike Milstead, who had advance notice about the operation. "If 15 or 20 troopers show up, they're going to make arrests."

The saturation patrol ran on three days leading into Labor Day weekend as part of "Operation Prairie Thunder." The branded campaign is a two-part initiative from Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden, meant to address crime in Sioux Falls — where some crimes have hit five-year lows — and help federal immigration agents detain people suspected of being in the U.S. without authorization.

The Rhoden administration has said the operations won't impact the Highway Patrol's budget, but the movement of inmates points to other costs associated with the campaign.

ICE agents moving inmates aren't on the street enforcing immigration law, said Milstead. The county jail, meanwhile, lost the revenue it had earned by housing federal inmates, and the federal agencies incurred the expense of transporting them to other facilities.



The Minnehaha County Jail in Sioux Falls on May 15, 2025. (John Hult/
South Dakota Searchlight)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 20 of 72

The first of what are meant to be monthly saturation patrols over the next six months put 15 additional Sioux Falls-area state troopers on the city's streets.

On top of tickets for drunken driving and speeding, the troopers arrested 78 people on drug charges. Twenty-seven of them were booked at the Minnehaha County Jail and released on their own recognizance, but 51 stayed through the weekend to await a bond hearing with a judge.

Milstead said he supports the enforcement efforts, but that supporting it meant making room at the jail to brace for the impact.

"As another operation approaches, we'll need to do the same thing," he said.

Courts, public defenders also impacted

The court system also felt an impact. Two judges hear bond arguments and set release conditions for inmates in two separate courtrooms the afternoon after a typical weekend. The courthouse was closed the Friday before Labor Day and on the holiday, however.

Between the extra days and the extra arrests, the courthouse needed to pull another judge into service in a third courtroom to manage the overflow.

It's not the first time that's happened, though, according to Second Judicial Circuit Court Administrator Karl Thoennes. The Tuesday after the holiday was "busy, heavy, but not unusual necessarily" after a four-day weekend in the state's largest metro area.

Minnehaha County Public Defender Traci Smith said her office saw a "significant uptick" as a result of the operation.

"Our concern is that these are typically non-violent, nuisance-type offenses and outstanding warrants," Smith wrote. "Dedicating substantial attention to these cases diverts limited resources away from our ability to prioritize the most serious cases — those involving victims awaiting resolution and matters that directly impact public safety."

Federal inmate movement

The movement of federal inmates was meant to insure there would be space for local inmates, who take priority over inmates from other jurisdictions.

Sheriff Milstead said his jail asked ICE to move 16 of its detainees to other facilities, and for the U.S. Marshals to transfer 19. The federal agents had to drive some as far as Sisseton.

"They're moving some of them 150, 200 miles away," Milstead said.

Some of the transferred inmates will likely need to return to Sioux Falls, at least temporarily. That's because the federal government has prisons, but it doesn't have jails.

People incarcerated as they await trial on federal charges typically stay in local jails, and the federal government pays a fee — \$114 per day, per inmate in Minnehaha County — to house them. Jails also collect fees for housing ICE detainees before they're transferred for appearances in regional immigration courtrooms.

The jail in Sioux Falls didn't stop taking federal inmates after the transfer. Eight people were arrested on immigration violations during the saturation patrol and were booked at the jail, filling half the beds ICE detainees had left before the operation began.

ICE did not immediately respond to questions from South Dakota Searchlight about the situation.

Barry Lane, a public affairs specialist for the U.S. Marshals Service, said it's not uncommon for federal inmates to be moved out of local jails to make space when things get busy. Transporting inmates, he said, is "one of the most expensive things we do."

Lane, who works in the Washington, D.C., area, said he wasn't aware of any particular difficulties for marshals in South Dakota.

"Whatever's going on near you, it may or may not be unusual," Lane said.

Locals would like to see permanent commitment

Milstead expects the "roller coaster" of jail movement to continue with Operation Prairie Thunder, but he'd like to see a more permanent response from the governor's office.

He and Sioux Falls Police Chief Jon Thum have had conversations to that effect with Rhoden's office

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 21 of 72

since the first saturation patrol. Their hope is to embed a state trooper permanently in one of the area's joint task forces. There are three: one for violent offenses, another for the service of felony warrants and another that targets drug trafficking.

Those task forces, he said, help explain why the city's been able to hold the crime rate largely steady as the population has grown, and to see some offenses drop to five-year lows.

Thum said he appreciates the state helping out by patrolling the streets for the same reason he sees the task forces as important. His patrol officers frequently attend to calls for service and are less able to target traffic enforcement, like troopers do, or dive into long-term investigations, as the task forces do.

"The day-to-day operations of the city tie up a lot of our resources," Thum said.

But Thum said the idea of welcoming a task force trooper, with specialized training in drug interdiction, may be more hopeful than pragmatic in the near term.

Hiring officers has grown difficult statewide, the chief said. Thum's department is authorized to have 302 officers. He has 294. The Highway Patrol, he said, "is dealing with the same thing we're dealing with."

"We're perpetually playing catch up at this point," Thum said. "Once agencies get to be a certain size, you're just constantly in hiring mode."

Steve Long, a spokesman for the Department of Public Safety, said the Highway Patrol has a 12% vacancy rate at the moment, but there are trooper recruits heading soon to the state's law enforcement academy.

Long didn't say how many troopers the state's authorized to hire, but legislative documents offered in January put the figure at 201. At that time, there were 21 vacancies.

Josie Harms, spokeswoman for Rhoden's office, said the administration is amenable to the idea of adding a trooper to a Sioux Falls task force.

Harms confirmed that the governor's office has been in discussions with Sioux Falls officials about it, and wrote that "it is certainly a possibility, though nothing has been finalized."

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.

22-year-old Utah man in custody suspected of killing Charlie Kirk

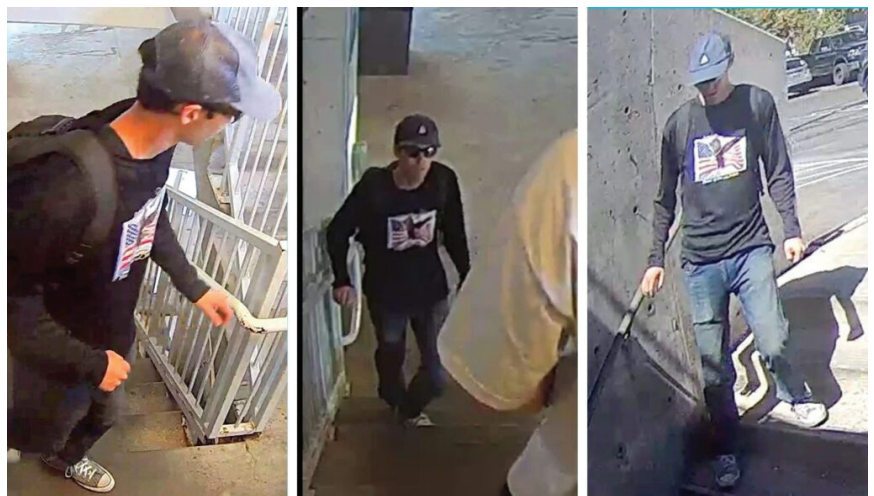
BY: ALIXEL CABRERA AND KYLE DUNPHEY-SEPTEMBER 12, 2025 1:05 PM

A suspect in Charlie Kirk's fatal shooting is in custody, federal and state officials announced Friday morning.

Law enforcement arrested Tyler Robinson, a 22-year-old Washington County resident. He was booked into the Utah County Jail for investigation of aggravated murder and felony discharge of a firearm, both first-degree felonies, and obstruction of justice, a second-degree felony.

"We got him," Utah Gov. Spencer Cox said in a news conference Friday morning.

Aggravated murder is a capital crime in Utah, reserved for particularly heinous murders involving torture, sex crimes and assassinations, and if sentenced, Robinson could be executed. Cox said twice this week that prosecutors will be pursuing the death penalty. Robinson is currently



Law enforcement officials asked the public for help identifying a college-age man who they said is a person of interest in the death of Charlie Kirk. (Photos courtesy of FBI)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 22 of 72

being held without bail.

Kirk, a widely known and often polarizing conservative activist known for debating students on college campuses, was shot and killed during a Turning Point USA public speaking event at Utah Valley University on Wednesday, unleashing a search that involved more than 20 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. The FBI also offered a reward of up to \$100,000 for information leading to the shooter.

Investigators at the FBI and Utah Valley University reviewed surveillance footage from the university and identified Robinson arriving on campus in a gray Dodge Challenger at about 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday.

Robinson was also seen in surveillance footage wearing a "Converse/Chuck Taylor" shoe, according to the affidavit. When investigators encountered him in person early Friday morning, they note in court documents that Robinson "was observed in consistent clothing with the surveillance images."

A family member who talked with investigators said Robinson had become more political in recent years and that prior to Wednesday, he had mentioned Kirk's visit to Utah Valley University. He has no prior criminal history, according to court documents.

Court documents also detail a recent family dinner prior to the Sept. 10 shooting, where Robinson "mentioned Charlie Kirk was coming to UVU. They talked about why they didn't like him and the viewpoints he had. The family member also stated Kirk was full of hate and spreading hate. The family member also confirmed Robinson had a grey Dodge Challenger."

Robinson was not currently a student at Utah Valley University. He is a third-year student in the electrical apprenticeship program at Dixie Technical College, the Utah Board of Higher Education confirmed.

Law enforcement also spoke with Robinson's roommate, who shared Discord messages from Robinson "stating a need to retrieve a rifle from a drop point, leaving the rifle in a bush, messages related to visually watching the area where a rifle was left, and a message referring to having left the rifle wrapped in a towel."

The gun, Cox said, was a Mauser .30-06 bolt-action rifle, a gun capable of shooting long distances, often used for hunting deer or elk.

Messages reviewed by law enforcement also referred to engraving bullets. Cox said inscriptions found on the shell casings included messages like "Hey fascist! Catch!" and "bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao, ciao, ciao" and "if you read this, you are gay LMAO."

The governor said he didn't have information about whether Robinson suffered from a mental illness.

Charging documents may be filed early next week, Cox said.

"This is a very sad day for, again, for our country, a terrible day for the state of Utah, but I'm grateful that at this moment, we have an opportunity to bring closure to this very dark chapter in our nation's history," Cox said.

The FBI is still pursuing the over 7,000 leads that it had received as of Friday morning, FBI Director Kash Patel said during the news conference.

Patel, who traveled to Utah during the investigation, thanked the governor and the local law enforcement agencies for resolving the case.

Forensic evidence has been analyzed in different FBI labs across the country, and state and local authorities will continue to process evidence, Patel said.

"In less than 36 hours, 33 to be precise, thanks to the full weight of the federal government and leading out with the partners here in the state of Utah and Gov. Cox, the suspect was apprehended in a historic time period," Patel said.



Tyler Robinson, suspected of shooting Charlie Kirk at Utah Valley University. (Courtesy of the Utah Governor's Office)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 23 of 72

Earlier on Friday morning, President Donald Trump said a suspect was in custody. "I think, with a high degree of certainty, we have him," he said on Fox News.

'An attack on the American experiment'

Cox, who has championed a campaign to combat polarization, argued this incident was about the "political assassination of Charlie Kirk," he said.

"But it is also much bigger than an attack on an individual. It is an attack on all of us. It is an attack on the American experiment. It is an attack on our ideals. This cuts to the very foundation of who we are, of who we have been and who we could be in better times," Cox said.

The fatal attack on Kirk may make it harder for people to feel like they can speak freely, the governor said. And, without a safe way to discuss opposing views, the country won't be able to solve issues, "including the violence problems that people are worried about."

"To my young friends out there, you are inheriting a country where politics feels like rage. It feels like rage is the only option," Cox said. "But through those words, we have a reminder that we can choose a different path. Your generation has an opportunity to build a culture that is very different than what we are suffering through right now."

Whether this is a turning point for the best or worst, is yet to be seen, Cox said. But, after gory videos of Kirk's shooting became widespread, he also called social media "a cancer on our society" and encouraged people to "log off, turn off, touch grass, hug a family member, go out and do good in your community."

This story was originally produced by Utah News Dispatch, which is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network which includes South Dakota Searchlight, and is supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity.

Alixel Cabrera covers the status of diverse Utah communities, growth, infrastructure and education for Utah News Dispatch.

Kyle Dunphey covers politics, public safety and the environment for Utah News Dispatch. He was named Best Newspaper Reporter by the Utah Society of Professional Journalists in 2023 for his work on crime and immigration at the Deseret News. Kyle moved to Utah in 2013 from his home state of Vermont and has degrees from Salt Lake Community College and the University of Utah.

COMMENTARY

Beware of Christian nationalism, even on a T-shirt

by KEVIN WOSTER

Coming out of mass the other day, I noticed the T-shirt worn by a woman I didn't recognize.

It read: "This City Belongs to Jesus." And in smaller print: "Rapid City, SD."

I'm pretty big on Jesus. I'm also pretty uncomfortable with the message on that T-shirt. I've seen it before. It has been a focus by a group of pastors in Rapid City for several years.

When I got home from mass, I Googled "This city belongs ..." and my computer quickly filled in the "to Jesus" and led me to a page (thiscitybelongstojesus.com) listing past and upcoming rallies here in Rapid City committed to dedicating the city to Jesus.

There is also a "This City Belongs to Jesus" Facebook page, with an introduction that reads: "This page is dedicated to the church of Rapid City coming together under the name of Jesus."

Now, I hate to state the obvious, but Rapid City is, as its name suggests, a city, not a church. It shouldn't be seen as a church. It shouldn't be managed like a church. It is a community of people with different beliefs — including those on religion — and a framework of businesses and services and government to support and hopefully benefit all of us.

As a city, not a church.

Christianity is certainly the dominant religion here in Rapid City, as it is throughout South Dakota. But we Christians don't represent everyone. And we shouldn't try to impose our religious views on everyone, or anyone.

Nor should a mayor who happens to also have worked as a Christian minister act as a minister first and a

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 24 of 72

mayor second. I'm not saying our current mayor does that. I bring him up only because before he was mayor, Jason Salamun was executive pastor at Fountain Springs Church. Sometimes he still sounds like a pastor, which is OK, up to a point.

It's fine for government officials to be informed by their religious beliefs. It's not fine at all when they try to impose them on others.

I love the idea of Christ being central to our lives. I certainly try to make him central to mine. But not everybody does. Not everybody believes what I believe, or what Salamun believes.

That's why it's so important to keep some space between religion and government. And it's why I worry when religious leaders start talking about "the church of Rapid City" and the city belonging to Jesus.

When I saw the woman's T-shirt the other day, I had to wonder: "OK, but what about Jews? What about Muslims? What about Hindus? What about Buddhists? What about Wiccans? (Yes, there are Wiccans here). What about agnostics and atheists?"

And, especially, given where we live, what about Indigenous people? Of course, many are Christian. But many others practice their own Native American spirituality, worshipping a creator who has nothing to do with Jesus. Imagine how they might feel when they see people wearing the "This City Belongs to Jesus" T-shirt.

Rapid City belongs to all of us residents, of course. It belongs to the rule of law, the state Constitution and the U.S. Constitution.

Christians or not, we are all citizens of the same city, with the same rights and challenges and the same hopes and dreams for ourselves and our families. And we can all call this city our own.

This is a city issue that is also a state issue and a national issue. The promoters of Christian nationalism seek a dangerous convergence of government and religion. Christian religion, of course.

But this is a nation where our many freedoms are intended to include protection for those with different religious beliefs — or none at all — from a potentially oppressive religious majority.

We have seen what happens in other countries where religion and government become one. We should never want that here.

So when it comes to message T-shirts, I'd much prefer one that reads: "My heart belongs to Jesus, but my city belongs to everyone."

That one I'd wear.

Kevin Woster grew up on a farm near Reliance and worked for decades as a journalist, including stops at the Brookings Register, Sioux Falls Argus Leader, Rapid City Journal, KELO-TV and South Dakota Public Broadcasting, plus freelance assignments for outdoors and agricultural magazines. He lives in Rapid City.



(imagedepotpro/Getty Images)

Appeals ruling threatens routine care access for Medicaid enrollees at Planned Parenthood

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT-SEPTEMBER 12, 2025 12:55 PM

WASHINGTON — Planned Parenthood clinics throughout the country began telling Medicaid patients Friday that their routine health care appointments will no longer be covered as a federal court order takes effect.

The change, which could remain in place for months, if not longer, will likely impact the hundreds of thousands of Medicaid enrollees who go to Planned Parenthood clinics for health care not related to abortion.

"This decision is devastating to patients here in the state and across this country. And it is compounding what is an already broken and overstretched health care system," said Shireen Ghorbani, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Association of Utah. "We know that cancers will go undetected, STIs will go untreated."

Dominique Lee, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts, said there is no plan for other health care providers to absorb the Medicaid enrollees.

"There's no one waiting in the wings to take care of our patients," Lee said. "Planned Parenthood is the safety net."

Planned Parenthood has identified at least 200 clinics out of about 600 that could close if they cannot treat Medicaid patients and receive reimbursements from the state-federal health program for lower-income people and some people with disabilities.

"We are working, you know, feverishly with our colleagues and teams to mitigate that number," Alexis McGill Johnson, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, said. "We have to remember 50% of Planned Parenthood patients use Medicaid for their health care insurance. And so that is a very meaningful impact to the health centers that also rely on reimbursement in the same way every other single health care provider relies on reimbursement for the services provided."

GOP law targets Planned Parenthood

Federal law for decades has barred funding from going toward abortion services with limited exceptions for rape, incest, or the life of the pregnant patient.

Earlier this year, Republicans in Congress included a provision in their "big, beautiful" law that prevents Medicaid funding from going to certain health care organizations that provide abortions and received more than \$800,000 in reimbursements from the program during a recent fiscal year.

The language, which originally applied for 10 years but was reduced to one year in the final version of the bill, appeared to specifically target Planned Parenthood. It prevents the organization from receiving any Medicaid funding for health care services unrelated to abortion, like annual physicals, cancer screenings and STI testing.



A Planned Parenthood clinic in Salt Lake City is pictured on Wednesday, July 31, 2024. (Photo by McKenzie Romero/Utah News

Dispatch)

Planned Parenthood quickly filed a lawsuit in the federal district court in Massachusetts in July, shortly after President Donald Trump signed the legislation.

A district court judge issued a temporary restraining order and then a preliminary injunction that month, blocking the Department of Health and Human Services from implementing that one aspect of the law and allowing Medicaid patients to continue going to Planned Parenthood for routine health care services.

On Thursday, a three-judge panel from the U.S. 1st Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the lower court's ruling, clearing the way for the Trump administration to stop reimbursing Planned Parenthood for Medicaid patients while the case continues.

Peyton Humphreville, senior staff attorney at Planned Parenthood Federation of America and one of the lawyers handling the lawsuit, said on a call with reporters Friday the organization is evaluating all of its options but doesn't expect additional rulings until later this year at the earliest.

"The 1st Circuit Court of Appeals has entered a briefing schedule on the preliminary injunction appeal that will be fully briefed by mid-November," Humphreville said. "From there, the court will schedule oral argument and will at some point after the oral argument rule on the preliminary injunction appeal."

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.

Poverty dropped in most states last year, but trend could reverse as cuts loom

BY: TIM HENDERSON-SEPTEMBER 12, 2025 6:00 AM

Poverty dropped last year nationwide and in 38 states, according to census estimates released Thursday.

But since that decrease was recorded in mid-2024, more people have signed up for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), commonly known as food stamps, in 18 states and the District of Columbia. In those places, more people were using food stamps in May 2025 than in May 2024, according to the latest data available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Nationally, the number of people on food stamps decreased slightly, by about 11,000 people, according to the preliminary data.

The broad domestic policy law President Donald Trump signed in July will cut federal funding for SNAP and tighten eligibility requirements, but most of those changes won't take effect until next year.



People walk into a New York City grocery store that accepts food stamps. The poverty rate declined last year, but participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), commonly known as food stamps, is up in 18 states. (Photo by Spencer

Platt/Getty Images)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 27 of 72

The largest increase in food stamp use was in North Dakota, where the number of recipients increased by 14% to about 57,000. In Texas the increase was 10%, followed by 7% in Kentucky and 5% in both Hawaii and Colorado.

New Mexico had the highest percentage of people receiving SNAP, about 21%. The lowest participation rates were in New Hampshire, Utah and Wyoming, all with about 5% of their populations on food stamps, according to the analysis.

The number of food stamp users fell by almost 17% in Alaska, which is struggling with a backlog of applications. The states with the next largest declines were Connecticut (8%), Wyoming (7%) Maine (6%) and Mississippi (5%).

The decrease in the national poverty rate, from 11% in 2023 to 10.6% last year, could be short-lived, said Joseph Llobrera, director of research for food assistance at the left-leaning Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Llobrera predicted that looming federal cuts to SNAP and Medicaid, also part of Trump's domestic policy law, will increase the number of people who can't afford food and other basic needs. "People's resources are going to be strained in many ways in the years to come," Llobrera said.

Louisiana had the highest poverty rate in 2024 (18.7%) followed by Mississippi (17.8%) and the District of Columbia (17.3%). The lowest rates were in New Hampshire (7.2%), Utah (8.3%), Vermont (9%), Maryland (9.1%) and New Jersey (9.2%)

Stateline reporter Tim Henderson can be reached at thenderson@stateline.org.

This story was originally produced by Stateline, which is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network which includes South Dakota Searchlight, and is supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity.

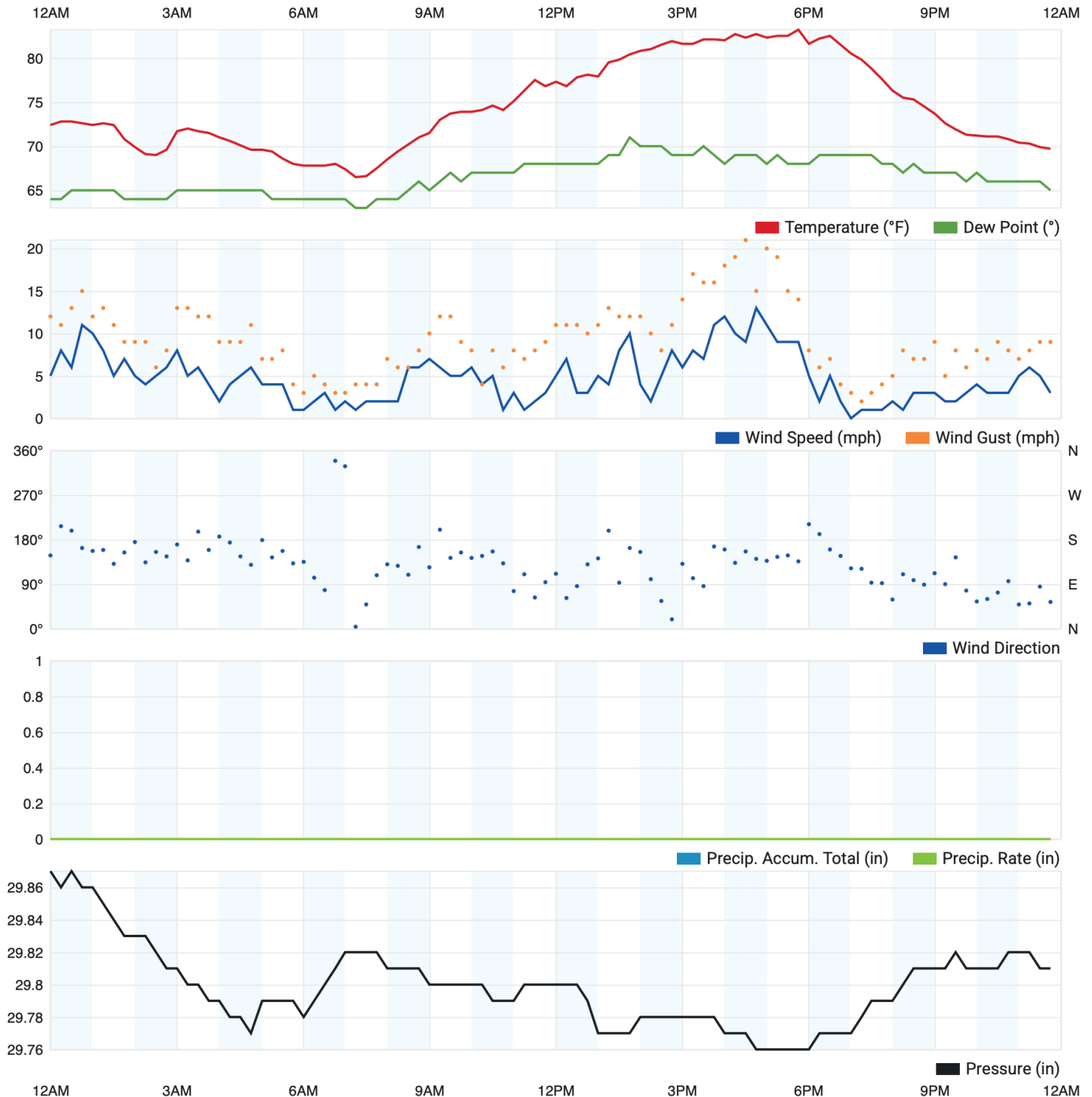
Tim Henderson covers demographics for Stateline. He has been a reporter at the Miami Herald, the Cincinnati Enquirer and the Journal News.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 28 of 72

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

September 12, 2025



Broton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 29 of 72

Saturday

Saturday Night

Sunday

Sunday Night

Monday



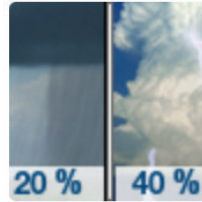
High: 85 °F

Slight Chance
T-storms then
Partly Sunny



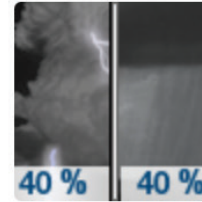
Low: 65 °F

Mostly Cloudy



High: 84 °F

Slight Chance
Showers then
Chance
T-storms



Low: 61 °F

Chance
T-storms then
Chance
Showers



High: 82 °F

Chance
Showers

THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

1

WHAT THIS MEANS:
Isolated Severe Storms
Possible

TIMING

Late Afternoon-Overnight

PRIMARY THREAT



DAMAGING
WIND GUSTS OF
60+ MPH



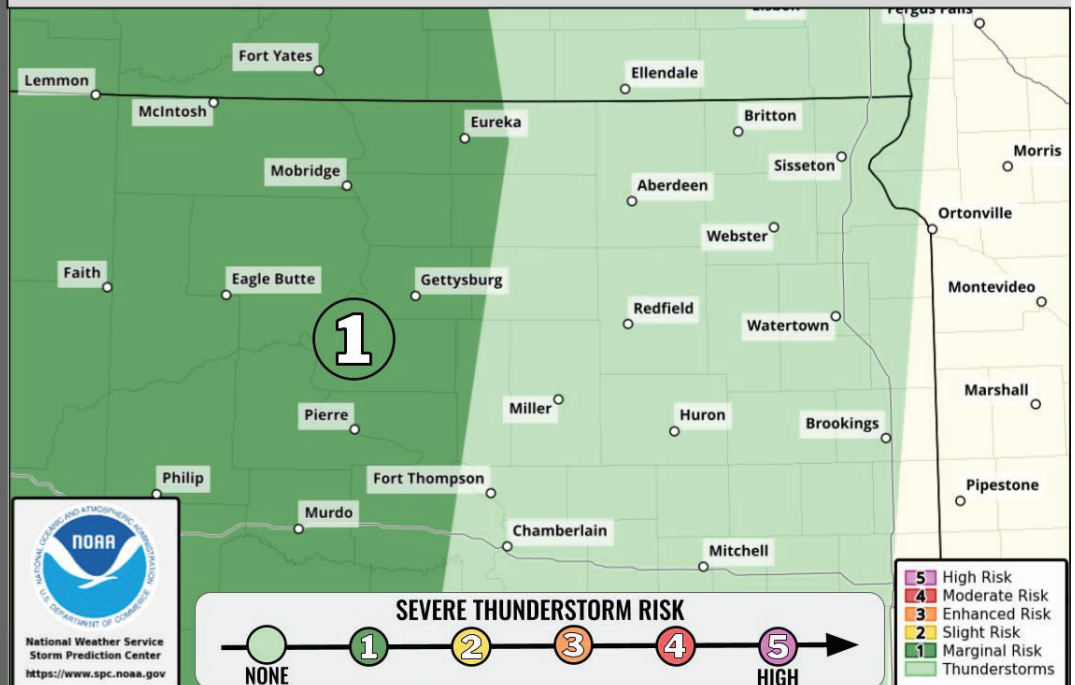
LARGE HAIL
(QUARTER SIZE)

SECONDARY THREATS



HEAVY
RAIN

Isolated Severe Storms Possible Today



A Marginal Risk(level 1 of 5) for severe weather is in effect, mainly for late this afternoon through the overnight hours across a good portion of central South Dakota. Damaging wind of 60 miles per hour and large hail up to 1 inch in diameter are the main threats. Locally heavy rainfall may lead to localized flooding issues.

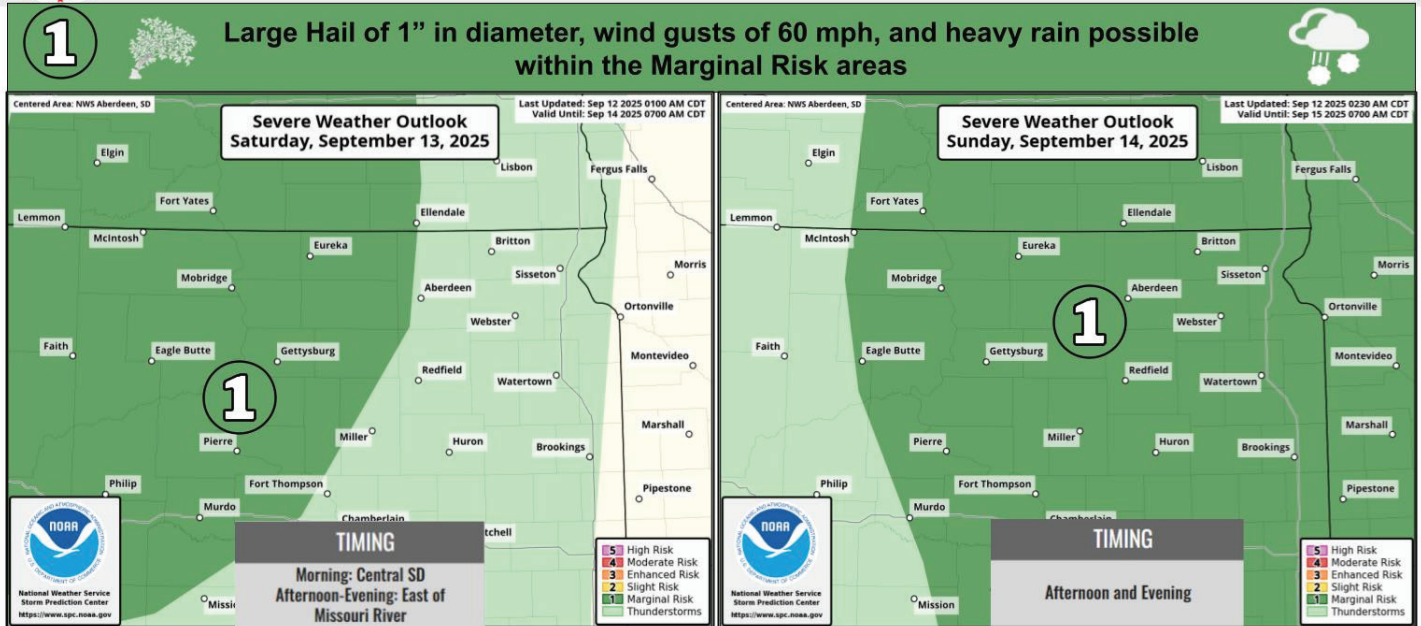
Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 30 of 72



Severe Threat This Weekend

September 12, 2025
2:50 PM



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

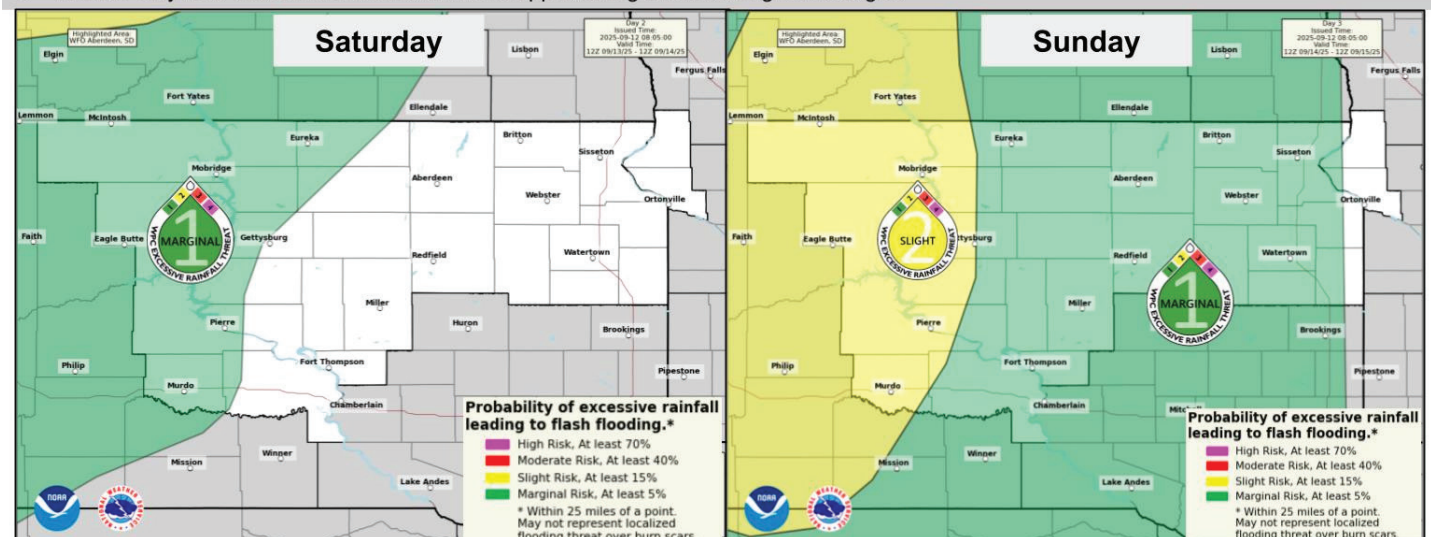
A Marginal Risk, level 1 of 5, of severe weather has been issued for Sunday. Damaging wind of 60 miles per hour and large hail up to 1 inch in diameter are the main threats. Locally heavy rainfall and a tornado or two will be secondary threats. Heavy rains could lead to localized flooding issues, especially across central South Dakota. Most of this activity is anticipated to occur during the afternoon and evening hours.



Heavy Rain Threat This Weekend

September 12, 2025
2:50 PM

- Slow moving storms means an increased risk for localized flooding, especially over central South Dakota on Sunday.
- Areas that see heavy rainfall on consecutive days through this weekend will have a heightened risk of flooding.
- Rainfall may lead to stream and smaller rivers approaching or exceeding flood stages.



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Groton Daily Independent

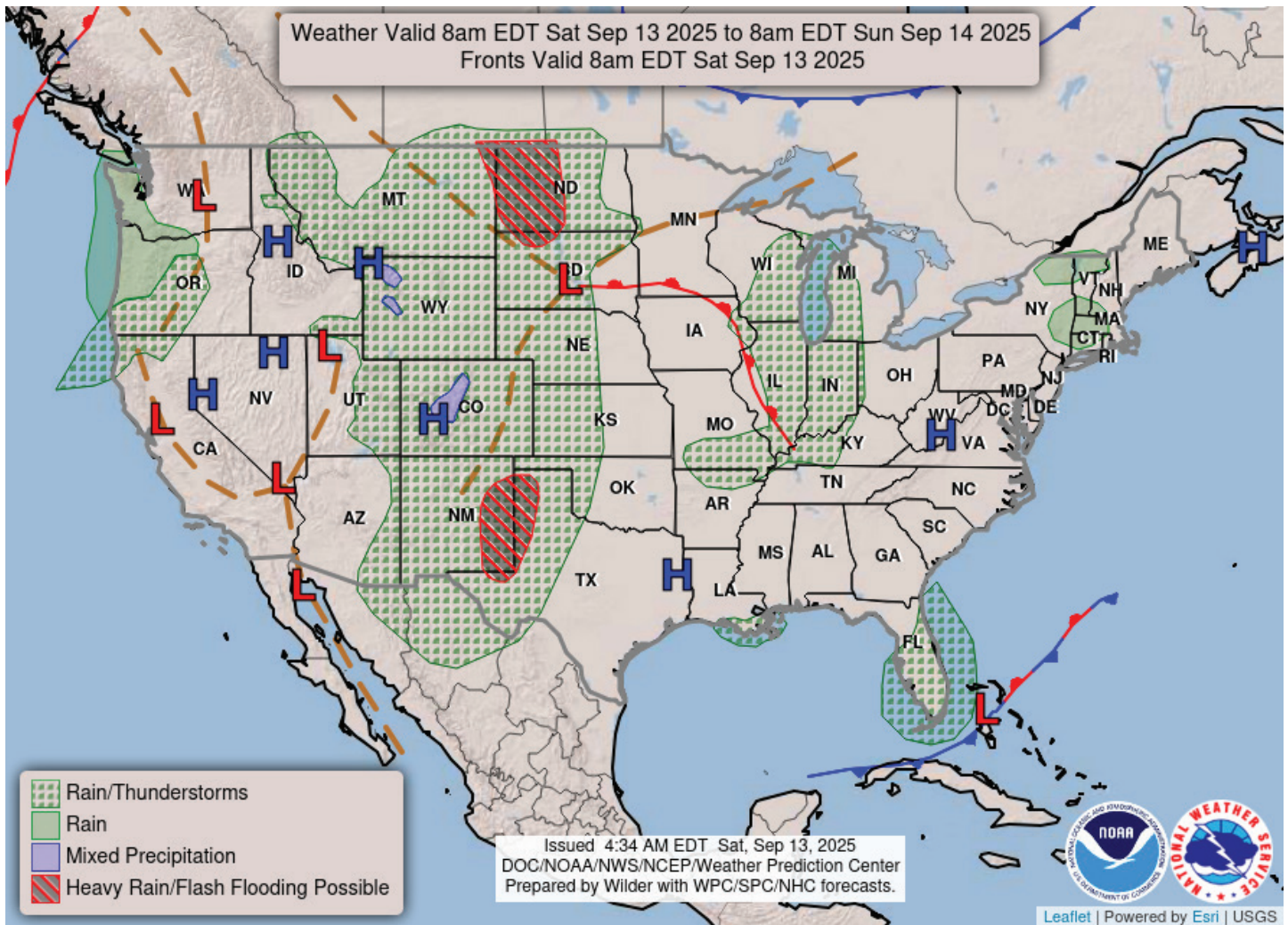
Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 31 of 72

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 83 °F at 5:40 PM
Heat Index: 87 °F at 5:45 PM
Low Temp: 66 °F at 7:17 AM
Wind: 21 mph at 4:25 PM
Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 97 in 1927
Record Low: 26 in 1902
Average High: 76
Average Low: 48
Average Precip in Sept.: 0.88
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.24
Average Precip to date: 17.22
Precip Year to Date: 20.54
Sunset Tonight: 7:47 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:10 am



Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 32 of 72

Today in Weather History

September 13, 1928: An estimated F4 tornado traveled across Yankton and Turner County. An entire farm was swept away just as the family was about to enter the storm cellar. A man and his daughter were killed. A woman was killed in the town of Davis, in Turner County. Nine homes were destroyed, 52 were damaged, and 13 people were injured in Davis.

1823: A strong category 1 or low category 2 hurricane struck near New Orleans, Louisiana and went toward Baton Rouge. Its strongest impacts occurred west of New Orleans.

1922 - The temperature at El Azizia in Libya soared to 136 degrees to establish a world record. To make matters worse, a severe ghibi (dust storm) was in progress. (The Weather Channel)

1928 - Hurricane San Felipe crossed Puerto Rico resulting in the highest winds, the heaviest rains, and the greatest destruction in years. The hurricane produced much damage in the Virgin Islands, and later hit the Bahamas and Florida. (David Ludlum)

1944: The destroyer USS Warrington was sunk by the Great Atlantic Hurricane 300 miles east of Cape Canaveral, Florida. 247 men were lost in the tragedy.

1978: Little Rock, Arkansas saw 8.10 inches of rain which caused major flash flooding. Ten people were killed.

1984 - Hurricane Diana, after making a complete loop off the Carolina coast, made landfall and moved across eastern North Carolina. Diana deluged Cape Fear with more than eighteen inches of rain, and caused 78 million dollars damage in North Carolina. (Storm Data)

1987 - Showers and thunderstorms produced heavy rain in the northeastern U.S. Flooding was reported in Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Greenwood NY received 6.37 inches of rain. A dike along a creek at Prattsburg NY gave way and a two million dollar onion crop left on the ground to dry was washed away. The prolonged rains in the eastern U.S. finally came to an end late in the day as a cold front began to push the warm and humid air mass out to sea. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Hurricane Gilbert smashed into the Cayman Islands, and as it headed for the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico strengthened into a monster hurricane, packing winds of 175 mph. The barometric pressure at the center of Gilbert reached 26.13 inches (888 mb), an all-time record for any hurricane in the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, or the Atlantic Ocean. Gilbert covered much of the Gulf of Mexico, producing rain as far away as the Florida Keys. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

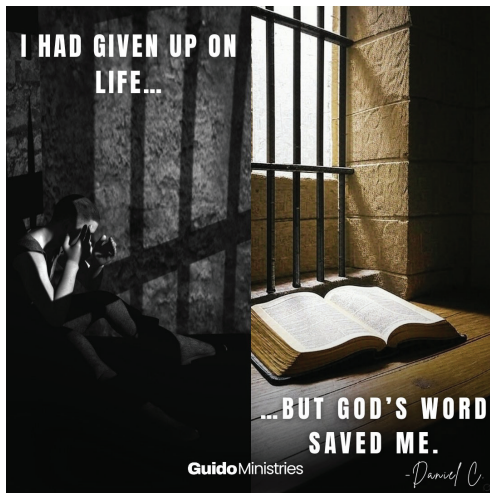
1989 - Unseasonably cool weather prevailed over the Central Plains Region, with a record low of 29 degrees at North Platte NE. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the Pacific Northwest, with a record high of 96 degrees at Eugene OR. Thunderstorms over south Texas produced wind gusts to 69 mph at Del Rio, and two inches of rain in two hours. (National Weather Summary)

2008: Hurricane Ike made landfall as a Category 2 storm near Galveston, Texas.

2017: The NWS Office in Reno, Nevada, issued their first tornado warning since July 21st, 2014.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 33 of 72



"I had given up on life and simply didn't desire to live anymore. But upon reading one of your pamphlets in my cell, a change came over me. I truly believe if it had not been for the daily Seeds, I would have never taken the initiative to fight back for my life." – Daniel C.

Daniel's testimony is living proof of how God's Word brings light into the darkest places. Once feeling hopeless and ready to give up, Daniel discovered a renewed purpose through Guido Ministries. Now, as a member of our Christian Studies Certificate Program, he is eager to grow in the knowledge of Jesus and share the Good News with others.

This is what your prayers and support make possible: men and women finding redemption, hope, and a new mission for their lives through Christ. What began with a single pamphlet in a prison cell has blossomed into a calling to reach others for God's Kingdom.

At Guido Ministries, we see the power of God's grace every single day. Daniel's story is one of many, showing how the Seeds planted through this ministry grow into transformed lives and ripple outward to touch countless others.

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

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 34 of 72

The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.2% Sales Tax

- ☐ Black & White\$48.99/year
- ☐ Colored\$79.88/year
- ☐ Colored\$42.60/6 months
- ☐ E-Weekly*\$31.95/year

* The E-Weekly is a PDF file emailed to you each week. It does not grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

Groton Daily Independent www.397news.com Subscription Form

This option will grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

- ☐ 1 Month\$15.98
- ☐ 3 Months.....\$26.63
- ☐ 6 Months.....\$31.95
- ☐ 9 Months.....\$42.60
- ☐ 12 Months.....\$53.25

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

The following will be used for your log-in information.

E-mail _____

Password _____

Pay with Paypal. Type the following into your browser window:

paypal.me/paperpaul

Pay with Venmo: @paperpaul Phone Number to Confirm: 7460

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 35 of 72



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.12.25

17 18 21 42 64 7

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$400,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.10.25

14 24 38 49 50 5

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,750,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 7 Mins 24 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.12.25

28 34 35 36 43 11

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 22 Mins 23 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.10.25

7 25 29 31 34

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$20,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 22 Mins 23 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.10.25

2 12 27 31 60 10

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 51 Mins 23 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.10.25

2 24 45 53 64 5

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$50,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 51 Mins 24 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 36 of 72

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

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 37 of 72

News from the Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

Alcester-Hudson 28, Viborg-Hurley 26
Avon 54, Corsica-Stickney 8
Bennett County 26, Kadoka 22
Beresford 21, Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan 20
Bon Homme 49, Gregory 18
Britton-Hecla 53, Florence-Henry 0
Brookings 14, Aberdeen Central 10
Burke 41, SBA 16
Canton 19, Vermillion 14
Chamberlain 22, Miller/Highmore-Harrold 8
Clark/Willow Lake 26, Sioux Valley 8
Dakota Valley 58, Lakota Tech 0
Dell Rapids 43, Rapid City Christian 8
Dell Rapids St. Mary's 54, Colman-Egan 6
Deuel 26, Flandreau 14
Dupree 42, Gettysburg 14
Elk Point/Jefferson 20, Winner 8
Elkton/Lake Benton 65, De Smet 20
Freeman-Marion-Freeman Academy 61, Gayville-Volin 6
Garretson 35, Canistota 14
Hamlin 48, Great Plains Lutheran 0
Herreid-Selby 42, Lemmon/McIntosh 6
Hill City 43, Harding County/Bison 12
Hot Springs 19, Lead-Deadwood 6
Howard 51, Chester 0
Huron 15, Tea Area 0
Ipswich 56, Northwestern 16
Leola/Frederick 44, North Central 14
Lyman 46, Jones County 8
Madison 43, Custer 0
Milbank 19, Groton Area 0
Mobridge-Pollock 50, Roncalli 0
Oldham-Ramona-Rutland 38, Irene-Wakonda 22
Parker 25, Baltic 6
Parkston 16, Hanson 6
Pierre 41, Watertown 19
Platte-Geddes 22, Kimball/White Lake 20
Scotland/Menno 62, Tripp-Delmont/Armour/Andes Central/Dakota Christian 16
Sioux Falls Christian 17, Lennox 0
Sioux Falls Jefferson 41, Sioux Falls Washington 14
Sioux Falls Lincoln 55, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 7
Sioux Falls Lutheran 49, Arlington 14
Spearfish 42, Lead-Deadwood 16
Stanley County 42, Redfield 6
Sully Buttes 52, Hitchcock-Tulare 12

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 38 of 72

Todd County 48, Mahpiya Luta 30
Waverly/South Shore 28, Waubay-Summit 8
Wagner 20, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 8
Wall 54, New Underwood 0
Warner 17, Faulkton 14
West Central 35, McCook Central/Montrose 6
Winnebago 44, Lower Brule 0
Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 53, Webster 0
Yankton 63, Douglas 6

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

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Aberdeen Central def. Spearfish, 26-24, 19-25, 25-13, 14-25, 15-12
Cody-Kilgore, Neb. def. Oelrichs, 25-8, 25-7, 25-11
T F Riggs High School def. Sturgis Brown High School, 25-23, 25-22, 15-25, 25-23
White River def. Colome, 25-16, 25-18, 25-13
Lady Sioux Triangular=
Flandreau Indian def. Lower Brule, 25-12, 22-25, 25-15, 25-17
Rapid City Volleyball Tournament=
Blue Pool=
Hill City def. Hot Springs, 25-13, 25-18
Hill City def. Lakota Tech, 25-15, 25-13
Hot Springs def. Lakota Tech, 25-20, 25-17
Rapid City Stevens def. Hill City, 25-16, 25-14
Rapid City Stevens def. Hot Springs, 25-15, 25-17
Rapid City Stevens def. Lakota Tech, 25-11, 25-19
Red Pool=
Kadoka def. Belle Fourche, 25-13, 25-15
Kadoka def. Todd County, 25-20, 25-14
Rapid City Central def. Belle Fourche, 25-14, 25-15
Rapid City Central def. Kadoka, 25-14, 25-13
Rapid City Central def. Todd County, 25-9, 25-9
Todd County def. Belle Fourche, 25-21, 26-24
Silver Pool=
Cheyenne South, Wyo. def. Douglas, 26-24, 25-21
Custer def. Cheyenne South, Wyo., 25-19, 23-25, 25-21
Custer def. Douglas, 26-24, 25-16
Custer def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-18, 23-25, 25-13
Douglas def. Lead-Deadwood, 24-26, 25-13, 25-17
Lead-Deadwood def. Cheyenne South, Wyo., 25-18, 25-21
White Pool=
Brookings def. Mahpiya Luta Red Cloud, 25-14, 25-22
Brookings def. St Thomas More, 25-23, 25-21
Dakota Valley def. Brookings, 25-16, 25-21
Dakota Valley def. Mahpiya Luta Red Cloud, 25-13, 25-13
Dakota Valley def. St Thomas More, 25-15, 25-19
St Thomas More def. Mahpiya Luta Red Cloud, 25-11, 25-20

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

John Daly makes a 19 to set wrong kind of PGA Tour Champions record

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — John Daly made it into the PGA Tour Champions record book Friday for the wrong reason. He took a 19 on the par-5 12th hole at the Sanford International.

He also broke his personal record by one shot. Daly took an 18 on the par-5 sixth hole in the 1998 Bay Hill Invitational when he hit 3-wood into the water six straight times.

Details were a little unclear from Minnehaha Country Club, where the PGA Tour Champions does not have a laser system to record shots.

Daly did not immediately respond to a phone call and text from the AP.

According to the shot-by-shot details, he hit his tee shot into the rough, and then hit the next seven shots into the hazard. He finally cleared the water into more rough, his 17th shot on the collar of the green and got up-and-down for his 19.

It broke by three shots the previous high score for a hole on the PGA Tour Champions by three players, most recently Bruce Crampton in 1996 at the Greater Grand Rapids Open.

Unlike his previous high score at Bay Hill — the 59-year-old Daly made a birdie 2 on his next hole — he had to settle for a par on his 13th hole at Minnehaha.

Daly wound up with an 88.

His high score on the PGA Tour was a 90 in the second round of the Valspar Championship at Innisbrook in 2014, when he was battling the yips and had a 12 on the 16th hole when he hit three in the water, shanked a 7-iron and took three chips to reach the green.

Daly was playing with Stephen Ames and double major winner Angel Cabrera. The Argentine was 24 shots better and leading the tournament with a 64 while celebrating his 56th birthday.

Trump approves federal disaster aid for storms and flooding in 6 states

By DAVID A. LIEB and M.K. WILDEMAN Associated Press

President Donald Trump has approved federal disaster aid for six states and tribes following storms and floods that occurred this spring and summer.

The disaster declarations, announced Thursday, will allow federal funding to flow to Kansas, North Carolina, North Dakota and Wisconsin, and for tribes in Montana and South Dakota. In each case except Wisconsin, it took Trump more than a month to approve the aid requests from local officials, continuing a trend of longer waits for disaster relief noted by a recent Associated Press analysis.

Trump has now approved more than 30 major natural disaster declarations since taking office in January. Before the latest batch, his approvals had averaged a 34-day wait from the time the relief was requested. For his most recent declarations, that wait ranged from just 15 days following an aid request for Wisconsin flooding in August to 56 days following a tribal request for Montana flooding that occurred in May.

The AP's analysis showed that delays in approving federal disaster aid have grown over time, regardless of the party in power. On average, it took less than two weeks for requests for a presidential disaster declaration to be granted in the 1990s and early 2000s. That rose to about three weeks during the past decade under presidents from both major parties. During Trump's first term in office, it took him an average of 24 days to approve requests.

White House spokeswoman Abigail Jackson told the AP that Trump is providing "a more thorough review of disaster declaration requests than any Administration has before him" to make sure that federal tax dollars are spent wisely.

But delays mean individuals must wait to receive federal aid for daily living expenses, temporary lodging and home repairs. Delays in disaster declarations also can hamper recovery efforts by local officials uncertain whether they will receive federal reimbursement for cleaning up debris and rebuilding infrastructure.

Trump's latest declarations approved public assistance for local governments and nonprofits in all cases

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 40 of 72

except Wisconsin, where assistance for individuals was approved. But that doesn't preclude the federal government from later also approving public assistance for Wisconsin.

Preliminary estimates from Democratic Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers' administration said more than 1,500 residential structures were destroyed or suffered major damage in August flooding at a cost of more than \$33 million. There was also more than \$43 million in public sector damage over six counties, according to the Evers administration.

Evers requested aid for residents in six counties, but Trump approved it only for three.

"I will continue to urge the Trump Administration to approve the remainder of my request, and I will keep fighting to make sure Wisconsin receives every resource that is needed and available," Evers said in a statement in which he thanked Democratic officeholders for their efforts, but not Trump or any Republicans.

Trump had announced several of the disaster declarations — including Wisconsin's — on his social media site while noting his victories in those states and highlighting their Republican officials. He received thanks from Democratic North Carolina Gov. Josh Stein and Republican officials elsewhere.

Trump's approval of six major disaster declarations in one day would have been unusual for some presidents but not for him. Trump approved seven disaster requests on July 22 and nine on May 21.

But Trump has not approved requests for hazard mitigation assistance — a once-typical add-on that helps recipients build back with resilience — since February.

Israeli strikes on Yemen's Houthi rebels damage residential homes, forcing families to live in ruins

By AHMED AL-HAJ Associated Press

ADEN, Yemen (AP) — Israel's deadly airstrikes this week targeting Iran-backed rebels in Yemen have damaged residential areas in the country's capital of Sanaa, leaving many houses in ruins and residents without help from authorities and unable to afford repairs on their own.

Wednesday's strikes killed 46 people — including 11 women and five children — and wounded 165, according to a toll released late Thursday by the rebel-run health ministry in Sanaa. Most of the casualties were in Sanaa. Rebel officials said 11 local journalists were also killed in the strikes.

The strikes followed a drone launched by the Houthi rebels that breached Israel's multilayered air defenses and slammed into a southern Israeli airport, blowing out glass windows and injuring one person.

In Yemen, a military headquarters and a Sanaa fuel station were also hit, the rebels said previously, as well as a government facility in the city of Hazm, the capital of northern Jawf province. The National Museum of Yemen was also damaged, according to the rebels' culture ministry, with footage from the site showings damage to the building's façade.

In Sanaa, where Yemen's yearslong civil war has impoverished many, residents told The Associated Press they cannot afford any major repairs and that the local authorities are not offering compensation or help with reconstruction.

Dozens of homes in Sanaa's central Tahrir area were damaged. One of the residents from there, Um Talal, said she has no faith the authorities will help repair the house where she lives with her daughter and two sons.

The airstrikes knocked out their living room walls and damaged the kitchen, leaving dirt, debris and rubble, speaking to The Associated Press over the phone.

"Everything was lost in the blink of an eye," she said. "Authorities haven't even called us to this day."

Despite the destruction, she said the family will fix what they can and continue living in their home.

Another resident, Ahmed al-Wasabi, said he and his family — luckily — were not home when one of the airstrikes partially destroyed their house.

"The explosions terrified people who went running and children and women were crying and screaming," said Khaled al-Dabeai, a grocery shop owner who added that the force of the explosions knocked products off his shelves.

Israel has previously launched waves of airstrikes in response to the Houthis' firing missiles and drones

at Israel. The Houthis say they are supporting Hamas and the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

The Houthis have launched missiles and drones toward Israel and targeted ships in the Red Sea for over 22 months, saying they are attacking in solidarity with Palestinians amid the war in Gaza.

Houthi leader Mahdi al-Mashat vowed on Wednesday to continue the attacks, warning Israelis to "stay alarmed since the response is coming for sure."

A powerful 7.4 magnitude earthquake strikes near the east coast of Russia's Kamchatka region

MOSCOW (AP) — A powerful 7.4 magnitude earthquake struck early Saturday near the east coast of Russia's Kamchatka region, the U.S. Geological Survey reported.

The quake's epicenter was 111.7 kilometers (69.3 miles) east of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, and had a depth of 39 kms, according to the USGS.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or major damages.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning System briefly said there was a threat of a possible tsunami from the earthquake but later dropped the threat from its website.

The Japan Meteorological Agency said warnings were issued to coastal areas about a slight change in sea levels, but that means the likelihood of damage is minimal.

Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula was hit by five powerful quakes — the largest with a magnitude of 7.4 — on July 20, 2025.

What to know about the killing of Charlie Kirk, the co-founder of Turning Point USA

By The Associated Press undefined

A 22-year-old Utah man was arrested in the killing of conservative activist Charlie Kirk during an event on a college campus, authorities said Friday.

"We got him," Gov. Spencer Cox told reporters at a news conference announcing the arrest of Tyler Robinson in Wednesday's killing of Kirk at Utah Valley University. He was taken into custody Thursday night and is due in court early next week. Investigators believe he acted alone.

Kirk, the CEO and co-founder of the conservative youth organization Turning Point USA, was a top podcaster, culture warrior and ally of President Donald Trump. He led an effort to remake the GOP's get-out-the-vote effort in the 2024 election based on the theory there were thousands of Trump supporters who rarely vote but could be persuaded to do so.

His killing was the latest in a string of attacks on U.S. politicians that have targeted members of both major parties.

Here's what to know about Kirk's shooting:

Suspect is arrested

Cox, a Republican, said a family member of Robinson's reached out to a friend, who contacted authorities with information that Robinson had confessed or implied that he carried out the shooting.

"I want to thank the family members of Tyler Robinson who did the right thing," he said.

Robinson's father recognized him from images released by authorities and encouraged him to turn himself in, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press. He refused at first, but then changed his mind, according to the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation.

Robinson's father reached out for help to a youth pastor, who helped Robinson turn himself in, the official said.

The governor would not say if Robinson was cooperating with the investigation.

Robinson was being held Friday at the Utah County Jail. He was arrested on suspicion of aggravated murder, felony discharge of a firearm causing serious bodily harm, and obstruction of justice charges, according to a court affidavit. A judge ordered that he be held without bail.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 42 of 72

Family members of Robinson didn't immediately respond to messages seeking comment. It wasn't clear if he had a lawyer.

The Utah County attorney's office said it expects to file formal charges by Tuesday, when Robinson is due to make an initial court appearance.

According to Cox, Robinson's family said he had become "more political in recent years" and had criticized Kirk. During a recent dinner with family, he mentioned Kirk was due to appear at the university event and they discussed whether Kirk was spreading hate, Cox said.

A rifle hidden in a towel was recovered in a wooded area near the university campus. There was a spent cartridge in the chamber and three other rounds loaded in the magazine. Cox also said ammunition found at the scene was engraved with taunting, anti-fascist and meme culture messaging.

Who is Tyler James Robinson?

Details about Robinson began to emerge after news of his arrest broke.

He was admitted to Utah State University on a prestigious academic scholarship, according to a video of him reading his acceptance letter posted to a family member's social media account. However, he attended for only one semester in 2021, a school spokesperson said.

After leaving Utah State, Robinson enrolled at Dixie Technical College, a small school in the southern Utah near his family's home in Washington, a city of about 30,000 people that's roughly 240 miles (390 kilometers) southwest of the Utah Valley campus, where the attack happened. At the time of his arrest, he was a third-year student in Dixie Tech's electrical apprenticeship program, which trains people to be electricians, lighting technicians or electrical repair specialists.

Robinson's address is still listed as his parents' home, and he is registered as an unaffiliated voter, according to state records. He doesn't appear to have a prior criminal record.

The Robinsons are members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, known widely as the Mormon church, a neighbor said. Robert Sylvester, who goes to the neighborhood chapel daily, described them as inactive members of their ward.

Robinson became a member at a young age, said church spokesperson Doug Andersen. He didn't share any other details about Robinson or his family's church involvement.

There was a heavy police presence outside of the Robinson family's house on Friday as media arrived. Window coverings were drawn, and a pickup truck was parked in front of the home, blocking access to the driveway.

Back in Orem, a heavy law enforcement presence remained on the Utah Valley campus Friday, but there was a marked shift in mood after Robinson's arrest was announced, as residents who had been afraid to leave their homes began venturing out.

"I feel like there's been this like really heavy, dark weight pressed over my heart and soul for the last two days, and waking up to the news of the shooter being captured today, it is a great thing," said Utah Valley alumnus Creighton Baird. "It's pure relief."

Politicians condemn the attack

Kirk's assassination is "an attack on the American experiment" and values, and "cuts to the very foundation of who we are," Cox said in an impassioned plea for Americans to use Kirk's death as an inflection point to turn the country away from political violence and division.

"This is our moment: Do we escalate or do we find an off-ramp?" Cox said, pleading with young people to bridge differences through common ground rather than violence. "It's a choice."

Republicans and Democrats alike were swift to condemn Kirk's killing.

Democratic California Gov. Gavin Newsom, who last March hosted Kirk on his podcast, posted on X: "The attack on Charlie Kirk is disgusting, vile, and reprehensible."

Trump ordered flags lowered to half-staff and issued a presidential proclamation. The president, who sustained a minor ear injury when he was shot at a campaign event last year, said he and Kirk had a close relationship.

"He wanted to help young people, and he didn't deserve this," Trump said Friday.

Kirk's rise from Trump aide to major conservative influencer

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 43 of 72

Kirk was 18 years old when he co-founded Turning Point in suburban Chicago in 2012 with William Montgomery, a tea party activist. They aimed to take their ideas for low taxes and limited government to college campuses.

Turning Point enthusiastically backed Trump after he clinched the GOP nomination for president in 2016. Kirk served as a personal aide to the then-candidate's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., during the general election campaign.

Kirk also was known for provocative statements on race that he used to court Gen Z voters.

"I'm sorry. If I see a Black pilot, I'm going to be like, 'Boy, I hope he's qualified,'" Kirk said during a 2024 podcast with fellow conservative activist Jack Posobiec.

Kirk's widow vowed to continue his campus tour and his radio and podcast shows.

"To everyone listening tonight across America, the movement my husband built will not die. It won't. I refuse to let that happen," Erika Kirk said in a speech livestreamed Friday.

Man arrested in Charlie Kirk's killing had no known criminal history, had become 'more political'

By RIO YAMAT, MICHAEL BIESECKER and JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

ST. GEORGE, Utah (AP) — The family of the young Utah man accused of shooting Charlie Kirk told authorities he had recently become "more political" and recounted a dinner table conversation where they discussed whether the conservative activist was spreading hate.

Tyler James Robinson, 22, of Washington, Utah, was arrested on suspicion of aggravated murder, felony discharge of a firearm causing serious bodily harm, and obstruction of justice, all felonies, according to a probable cause statement filed in court and released Friday. A judge ordered that he be held without bail.

Robinson mentioned Kirk's upcoming visit to Utah Valley University — located about 3 1/2 hours from the family's southern Utah home — at a recent dinner, kicking off a conversation about how he didn't like Kirk's viewpoints, family told authorities. A full picture of his political leanings was still emerging. Utah state records show he is registered to vote, but that he is not affiliated with a political party and is listed as inactive, meaning he didn't vote in the two most recent general elections.

His listed address in the probable cause statement is the six-bedroom home of his parents, who own a granite countertop business and are registered to vote as Republicans.

State and federal court records do not show any prior criminal cases involving him. It wasn't immediately clear whether Robinson had a defense lawyer who could comment on his behalf. Messages seeking comment Friday from family members, including his parents, received no response.

A shocked community

Window coverings were drawn Friday at the family home in a suburb outside St. George, Utah, as media gathered and police officers blocked both ends of the street.

Many residents of Washington, Utah, and neighboring St. George reacted online with shock and horror that a member of their tight-knit community had been implicated in the high-profile shooting, though several also posted online messages applauding his family for helping turn Robinson in to authorities.

Robinson has two younger brothers and his parents have been married for about 25 years, according to social media posts. Posts by Robinson's mother reflect an active family with vacations to Disneyland, Hawaii, the Caribbean and Alaska. They frequently spent time outdoors — boating, fishing, riding ATVs, zip-lining and target shooting. A 2017 post shows the family visiting a military facility and posing with assault rifles. A young Robinson is shown smiling as he grips the handles of a 50-caliber heavy machine gun.

Robinson became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, known widely as the Mormon church, at a young age, said church spokesperson Doug Andersen. He didn't share any other details about Robinson or his family's church involvement.

Robert Sylvester has lived on the same tree-lined street as the Robinson family for about six years and said he and the Robinsons are members of the Mormon church. But Sylvester, who said he is at the nearby chapel every day, said he hasn't seen the family there in many years. He last saw Robinson a couple years

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 44 of 72

ago as they both helped fix a leaky pipe at a neighbor's home.

He described the family as "pretty quiet," adding that the suspect's father keeps busy as a contractor. "They're not unlike most families," he said.

News of Robinson's arrest was "completely unexpected," said Jaida Funk, 22, who also lives in the same neighborhood. It spread rapidly among her friends. "I know for some people when their identities come out and they're labeled as a shooter, everyone's like, 'You could tell.' And he's not one of those people."

An honor roll student in high school who scored in the 99th percentile nationally on standardized tests, he was admitted to Utah State University in 2021 on a prestigious academic scholarship, according to a video of him reading his acceptance letter posted to a family member's social media account.

"He was known for being smart but not necessarily a nerd," Funk said.

After he graduated from high school in 2021, Robinson's mother praised her eldest son for his smarts and academic success, and both his parents helped him move into his dorm at Utah State that fall.

He attended for only one semester, according to a university spokesperson. He's now enrolled as a third-year student in the electrical apprenticeship program at Dixie Technical College in St. George.

His mother didn't have any public Facebook posts after 2022.

Durban Mickelson said Robinson frequently bought supplies from a store where he worked and didn't stand out.

"He wouldn't really talk to you unless you said something to him," he said. "Just always very quiet, kept to himself."

Family helped lead to an arrest

The break in the case came after a family member of Robinson reached out to a family friend with information that Robinson had "confessed" or implied involvement in the shooting, Utah Gov. Spencer Cox told reporters Friday, shortly after Robinson was taken into custody.

Cox said authorities believe that Robinson acted alone. Family members said Robinson "had become more political in recent years," Cox said, describing the recent family dinner.

"They talked about why they didn't like him and the viewpoints that he had," Cox said, referring to Robinson and an unnamed family member. "The family member also stated Kirk was full of hate and spreading hate."

Authorities then interviewed a friend of Robinson's who showed them a series of messages on the social media platform Discord in which Robinson discussed obtaining a gun.

Discord said Friday it had removed Robinson's account following the shooting but said the messages authorities described following the arrest "do not appear to be Discord messages."

"These were communications between the suspect's roommate and a friend after the shooting, where the roommate was recounting the contents of a note the suspect had left elsewhere," a Discord spokesperson told AP, adding there was "no evidence that the suspect planned this incident or promoted violence on Discord."

When authorities took him into custody, court records show, Robinson also was wearing clothing "consistent" with surveillance photographs of the person of interest.

Cox said ammunition found at the scene had engravings that reference meme culture and referred to fascism.

Suspect in Charlie Kirk killing became more political, opposed activist's views, authorities say

By ERIC TUCKER, ALANNA DURKIN RICHER, HANNAH SCHOENBAUM and JESSE BEDAYN Associated Press OREM, Utah (AP) — A 22-year-old Utah man who was arrested and booked on murder charges in the assassination of Charlie Kirk held deep disdain for the conservative activist's provocative viewpoints and indicated to a family member that he was responsible for the shooting, authorities said Friday.

The arrest marked a major break in a case that shocked the country and raised fresh alarms about political violence in a deeply polarized United States.

Tyler Robinson had become "more political" in the run-up to the shooting and mentioned during a dinner

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 45 of 72

with family that Kirk would be visiting Utah, Gov. Spencer Cox said at a news conference. The Republican governor cited as evidence engravings on bullet casings found in the rifle that authorities believe was used in the attack, as well as chat app messages attributed to the suspect that a roommate shared with law enforcement.

The governor credited Robinson's family with helping turn him over to authorities.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we got him," Cox said soon after the arrest was first heralded by President Donald Trump on the Fox News show "Fox & Friends."

The investigation is ongoing, Cox said. Robinson was arrested on suspicion of capital murder, weapons and obstruction offenses. He was expected to be formally charged Tuesday ahead of an initial court appearance.

Kirk's widow speaks

Friday night, Kirk's widow, Erika, delivered her first public remarks since the shooting. Speaking from the office where her late husband hosted his podcast, she said he loved America, nature and the Chicago Cubs.

"But most of all, Charlie loved his children and he loved me with all of his heart," she said.

She had a pointed message for "the evildoers responsible for my husband's assassination," though she did not specifically name Robinson, who law enforcement officials believe acted alone.

"You have no idea the fire that you have ignited within this wife. The cries of this widow will echo around the world like a battle cry," she said.

She thanked Trump, saying through tears that her husband loved the president, and vowed to keep her husband's work alive, continuing his campus tour, radio show and podcast.

Robinson's arrest late Thursday capped a frenetic day-and-a-half search that just hours earlier seemed stuck when authorities pleaded for tips and leads from the public. The assassination while Kirk was speaking at Utah Valley University in Orem reverberated across the country because of his outsize influence in conservative circles, his close connections with Trump and the questions it raised about the escalating toll of political violence that has spanned the ideological spectrum.

"This is our moment: Do we escalate or do we find an off-ramp?" Cox asked, making an impassioned plea for young people to bridge differences through common ground rather than violence. "It's a choice."

New details on evidence

Authorities, who have yet to reveal a motive, described evidence they said shed potential light on the slaying.

Ammunition found with the weapon was engraved with taunting, anti-fascist and meme culture messages, including one bullet casing that said, "Hey, fascist! Catch!" Cox said.

In addition, a roommate shared with authorities messages from the chatting app Discord that involved a contact named Tyler and discussed a rifle wrapped in a towel, engraved bullets and a scope, the governor said. A Mauser .30-caliber, bolt-action rifle was found in a towel in a wooded area along the path investigators believe Robinson took after firing a single shot from a distant roof and then fleeing.

The clothes the suspect wore when confronted by law enforcement late Thursday matched what he had on when he arrived on campus, and a family member confirmed he drove a gray Dodge Challenger like the one seen in surveillance video that recorded Robinson driving to the university the day of the shooting, Cox said.

Robinson's father recognized him from the photos released by the FBI and told him to turn himself in. Robinson refused at first, but then changed his mind, according to a law enforcement official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation. His father contacted their youth pastor, who also occasionally works with the U.S. Marshals and called the agency so Robinson could turn himself in.

Meanwhile, investigators continued to dig into the background of Robinson, who was admitted to Utah State University, about 80 miles (129 kilometers) north of Salt Lake City, on a prestigious academic scholarship, according to a video of him reading his acceptance letter posted to a family member's social media account. However, he attended for only one semester in 2021, a university spokesperson said.

Robinson currently is enrolled in an electrical apprenticeship program at Dixie Technical College near his

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 46 of 72

hometown, a suburb of St. George in southern Utah.

He is registered as an unaffiliated voter and does not appear to have a prior criminal record. His address was still listed as his parents' home, about a 3.5-hour drive south of the campus where Kirk was shot.

Family members of Robinson did not immediately return messages seeking comment. It was not clear if he had a lawyer.

At his family's home, window coverings were drawn and a pickup truck blocked access to the driveway. There was a heavy law enforcement presence, with several police vehicles parked along the street, which was closed at both ends.

'He didn't deserve this'

Kirk was a conservative provocateur who became a powerful political force by rallying young Republican voters and was a fixture on college campuses, where he invited sometimes-vehement debate on social issues.

Kirk co-founded the nonprofit political organization Turning Point USA, based in Arizona. He had been speaking at a campus debate on the first stop of his "American Comeback Tour" at the time of Wednesday's shooting.

He was taking questions from an audience member about gun violence when a shot rang out. Kirk reached up with his right hand as blood gushed from the left side of his neck.

Two days later, law enforcement officers continued to sweep the Utah Valley campus for evidence while the announcement of an arrest brought some relief.

"There's been this like really heavy, dark weight pressed over my heart and soul for the last two days, and waking up to the news of the shooter being captured today, it is a great thing," said Creighton Baird, who was close enough to the stage to see horrific images that continue replaying in his mind.

Classes at Utah Valley University were scheduled to start back up Wednesday and the school announced there would be "increased security on campus." People will be able to pick up their belongings left at the courtyard where the shooting took place early next week, the school said.

Trump, who was joined by Democrats in condemning the violence, said he would award Kirk the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. Vice President JD Vance and his wife, Usha, escorted Kirk's casket to his home state of Arizona aboard Air Force Two on Thursday.

"He wanted to help young people, and he didn't deserve this," Trump said Friday. "He was really a good person."

Nepal has first woman prime minister as president dissolves parliament and sets March elections

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — The president of Nepal on Friday appointed former Supreme Court Chief Justice Sushila Karki as interim prime minister and the first woman to head the Himalayan nation's government following fiery protests that caused the collapse of the previous administration.

President Ram Chandra Poudel also dissolved parliament and set March 5 as the date for elections based on the recommendation of the new prime minister, the president's office said in a statement late Friday. The most recent legislative elections were held in 2022.

Karki, a popular figure while serving as the court's only female chief justice in 2016 and 2017, was sworn in by the president Friday in a small ceremony at the presidential residence that was broadcast on state-run television.

Karki, 73, was known for her stand against corruption in the government while serving as chief justice. Some lawmakers tried to impeach her in April 2017 and made accusations of bias, but the move was unsuccessful and criticized as an attack on the judiciary.

Street demonstrations began Monday in the capital Kathmandu over a social media ban turned violent, with protesters attacking government buildings and police opening fire. Though the ban was rescinded, unrest continued over broader grievances. Tens of thousands of protesters attacked and burned the par-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 47 of 72

liament, presidential residence and businesses.

The violence prompted Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli to resign Tuesday and flee his official residence. Nepal's army took control of the capital Tuesday night and negotiations between protesters, the army and the president began over an interim government.

Violence over the past week left at least 51 people dead, police said Friday.

Many of the dead were protesters killed by police fire and some were inmates trying to break out of a jail in the capital, Kathmandu. Three police officers also were among the dead, police said.

The military has enforced a curfew since late Tuesday, with residents given a few hours per day to leave their homes to buy food and supplies while soldiers guard the streets of Kathmandu.

The demonstrations, called the protest of Gen Z, were sparked by the short-lived ban on platforms including Facebook, X and YouTube, which the government said had failed to register and submit to oversight.

But they soon reflected broader discontent, with many young people angry about what they call "nepo kids" of political leaders who enjoy luxurious lifestyles while most youth struggle to find work.

Rubio meets Qatar's prime minister before visiting Israel in a delicate balance with two allies

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Marco Rubio met Qatar's prime minister Friday ahead of a visit to Israel this weekend, showing how the Trump administration is trying to balance relations between key Middle East allies days after Israel targeted Hamas leaders in a strike on Doha.

Despite tensions between President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Rubio will arrive in Israel on Sunday for a two-day visit. It is a show of support for the increasingly isolated country before the United Nations holds likely contentious debate on the creation of a Palestinian state, which Netanyahu opposes.

Rubio and Vice President JD Vance met Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani at the White House. Later Friday, Trump and special envoy Steve Witkoff had dinner with the Qatari premier in New York, where Trump went to commemorate the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

The Trump administration is walking a delicate line between two major allies after Israel took its fight with Hamas to the Qatari capital, where leaders of the militant group had gathered to consider a U.S. proposal for a ceasefire in the nearly two-year-old war in Gaza. Qatar is a key mediator, and while its leaders have vowed to press forward, the next steps are uncertain for a long-sought deal to halt the fighting and release hostages taken from Israel.

Condemning the strike but supporting Israel

Israel's attack Tuesday also has ruptured Trump's hopes to secure a wider Middle East peace deal, with the rulers of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar all uniting in anger.

Trump himself has distanced himself from the strike, saying it "does not advance Israel or America's goals" and has promised Qatar that it would not be repeated. The U.S. also joined a U.N. Security Council statement condemning the strike without mentioning Israel by name.

At a Security Council meeting Thursday, Sheikh Mohammed accused Israel of not caring about the hostages held in Gaza because of the strike but said Qatar would continue "our diplomatic role without any hesitation in order to stop the bloodshed."

Trump's ironclad support for an Israeli government that has increasingly flouted international norms in the war unleashed by Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack is a source of concern in the Gulf and one that Rubio will be forced to address on his trip.

In a potential sign of Trump's unhappiness with Netanyahu, Rubio will meet in Israel with the families of hostages still held by Hamas, many of whom are opposed to Israel's new plans to occupy Gaza City. Rubio will "underscore that their relatives' return remains a top priority," the State Department said.

"I think this is an emergency tour designed to show some kind of solidarity after the Doha strikes," said

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 48 of 72

Aaron David Miller, a former U.S. diplomat who worked on Israel-Palestinian and broader Middle East issues under six secretaries of state from 1978 to 2003.

"They are trying to navigate a delicate balance, demonstrating irritation but in no way imposing any kind of meaningful actions against Israel," said Miller, now a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "This is a fine line the administration is walking."

Rubio and Israeli leaders will discuss 'operational goals' in Gaza

On the trip, Rubio would "convey America's priorities in the Israel-Hamas conflict and broader issues concerning Middle Eastern security, reaffirming the U.S. commitment to Israeli security" with an emphasis on the Trump administration's commitment "to fight anti-Israel actions including unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state," the State Department said.

The visit comes as efforts to broker a hostage release and ceasefire deal to end the Israeli-Hamas conflict in Gaza have stalled and Israel has moved ahead with plans to occupy Gaza City.

The department said Rubio and Israeli leaders would discuss Israel's "operational goals and objectives" in Gaza and shared attempts to persuade European nations not to recognize a Palestinian state.

Rubio also is expected to visit the City of David, a popular archaeological site and tourist destination built by Israel in the Palestinian neighborhood of Silwan in contested east Jerusalem.

It contains some of the oldest remains of the 3,000-year-old city. But critics accuse the site's operators of pushing a nationalistic agenda at the expense of Palestinian residents.

Its parent organization, Elad, helps settle Jewish families in Arab neighborhoods as a way to stake the Jewish claim to the entire city.

Israel captured east Jerusalem, home to the city's most important religious sites, in the 1967 Mideast war and annexed the area.

Israel claims the entire city as its eternal, undivided capital while the Palestinians claim east Jerusalem as the capital of a future state, including the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The competing claims lie at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and frequently boil over into violence.

In 2017, Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital, though he said the move had no bearing on the city's final boundaries.

Nonetheless, the move pleased the Israelis and enraged the Palestinians. Only a few small countries have followed suit, and the vast majority of the international community says the city's status should be settled through negotiations.

Fed Governor Lisa Cook claimed 2nd residence as 'vacation home,' undercutting Trump fraud claims

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST and CHRISTOPHER RUGABER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook referred to a condominium she purchased in June 2021 as a "vacation home" in a loan estimate, a characterization that could undermine claims by the Trump administration that she committed mortgage fraud.

President Donald Trump has sought to fire Cook "for cause," relying on allegations that Cook claimed both the condo and another property as her primary residence simultaneously, as he looks to reshape the central bank to orchestrate a steep cut to interest rates. Documents obtained by The Associated Press also showed that on a second form submitted by Cook to gain a security clearance, she described the property as a "second home."

Cook sued the Trump administration to block her firing, the first time a president has sought to remove a member of the seven-person board of governors. Cook secured an injunction Tuesday that allows her to remain as a Fed governor.

The administration has appealed the ruling and asked for an emergency ruling by Monday, just before the Fed is set to meet and decide whether to reduce its key interest rate. Most economists expect they will cut the rate by a quarter point.

Bill Pulte, a Trump appointee to the agency that regulates mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac,

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 49 of 72

has accused Cook of signing separate documents in which she allegedly said that both the Atlanta property and a home in Ann Arbor, Michigan, also purchased in June 2021, were both "primary residences." Pulte submitted a criminal referral to the Justice Department, which has opened an investigation.

Claiming a home as a "primary residence" can result in better down payment and mortgage terms than if one of the homes is classified as a vacation home.

The descriptions of Cook's properties were first reported by Reuters.

Fulton County tax records show Cook has never claimed a homestead exemption on the condo, which allows someone who uses a property as their primary residence to reduce their property taxes, since buying it in 2021.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

ICE officer fatally shoots suspect after being dragged by car near Chicago, officials say

By CHRISTINE FERNANDO and REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer fatally shot a suspect who tried to evade arrest Friday in a Chicago suburb by driving his car at officers and dragging one of them, officials said.

The shooting outside the city follows days of threats by the Trump administration to surge immigration enforcement in the nation's third-largest city and less than a week into an operation labeled "Midway Blitz" by federal officials targeting the so-called sanctuary policies in Chicago and Illinois.

The Department of Homeland Security said in a news release that the officer was trying to arrest a man with a history of reckless driving who had entered the country illegally, but he refused officers' orders and instead drove his car at them. An ICE officer who was hit and dragged by the car felt his life was threatened and opened fire, the department said.

ICE said both the officer and the driver from the shooting in the majority Hispanic suburb of Franklin Park, about 18 miles (29 kilometers) west of Chicago, were taken to a local hospital, where the suspect was pronounced dead.

ICE identified the suspect as Silverio Villegas-Gonzalez. The Associated Press was not able to immediately reach Villegas-Gonzalez's family members. Immigration advocates and local officials said they knew little about him as of Friday afternoon. The officer has not been identified.

"We are praying for the speedy recovery of our law enforcement officer. He followed his training, used appropriate force, and properly enforced the law to protect the public and law enforcement," Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement.

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker said he is aware of the shooting and demanded "a full, factual accounting of what's happened today to ensure transparency and accountability."

Video from the scene shows police tape and traffic cones blocking off parts of the street where a large food distribution truck and gray car can be seen from a distance. Multiple law enforcement vehicles were surrounding the area.

Amid the Trump administration's immigration crackdown in Los Angeles earlier this summer, at least two people died while attempting to evade ICE — a farmworker who fell from a greenhouse roof during a raid and a man struck by an SUV while running from agents outside a Home Depot store.

At a Friday news conference, immigration advocates argued that the Chicago area shooting represents how militarized immigration enforcement harms communities and demanded transparency and accountability from ICE agents involved in the shooting.

They were flanked by about two dozen protesters who chanted and banged on drums while holding a banner declaring, "End Detention, Welcome Immigrants."

"The Trump deportation machine is out of control and operating with no transparency or accountability and leading to senseless harm to our communities," said Lawrence Benito, executive director of the Illinois

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 50 of 72

Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.

Illinois Rep. Norma Hernandez called the shooting a tragedy and decried ICE officials' attempts to blame the man who died.

"These tactics have led to the loss of life of one of our community members," Hernandez said. "He is not the first and he will unfortunately not be the last."

Chicagoans, meanwhile, have been preparing for weekend Mexican Independence Day celebrations that include parades, festivals, street parties and car caravans, despite the potential immigration crackdown.

McLaughlin said "viral social media videos and activists encouraging illegal aliens to resist law enforcement" have made the work of ICE officers more dangerous.

Local officials, advocates and teachers have launched citywide efforts in the past few weeks to inform people of their rights when confronted by ICE agents. On Friday, many denied encouraging people who have entered the country illegally to resist law enforcement.

"We do not tell people to resist," said Jessica Vásquez, the Cook County commissioner for the 8th District, who emphasized community groups that have shared legal resources and mutual aid.

Trump says he'll send National Guard to Memphis, escalating his use of troops in US cities

By JONATHAN MATTISE Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — President Donald Trump said Friday he'll send the National Guard to address crime concerns in Memphis, Tennessee, his latest test of the limits of presidential power by using military force in American cities.

Speaking on Fox News, Trump said "the mayor is happy" and "the governor is happy" about the pending deployment. Calling the city "deeply troubled," he said "we're going to fix that just like we did Washington," where he's sent the National Guard and surged federal law enforcement.

Tennessee's Republican governor embraced the troop deployment as part of a broader law enforcement surge in Memphis, however Trump's assertion drew pushback from the Democratic leader of Memphis, which is majority Black.

"I did not ask for the National Guard and I don't think it's the way to drive down crime," Mayor Paul Young told a news conference Friday, while acknowledging the city remained high on too many "bad lists."

Several Memphis leaders said they welcome federal help but don't think it needs to involve the military. Young committed to trying to help the deployment strengthen the community without distracting from ongoing law enforcement efforts. He said federal officials should aim at the "root source of violent crime" and mentioned rehabilitation and mental health services, jobs and housing needs.

Gov. Bill Lee said he planned to speak with the president on Friday to work out details of the mission. He said he's still ironing out the best role for the National Guard alongside the FBI, state Highway Patrol, city police and other law enforcement agencies.

"I'm grateful for the President's unwavering support and commitment to providing every resource necessary to serve Memphians," Lee said in a statement. "Memphis remains on a path to greatness, and we are not going to let anything hold them back."

The governor's consent to the National Guard stands in sharp contrast to Democratic leaders in states like California and Illinois, who argue similar deployments undermine local authority and inflame tensions. The president has also suggested he could send soldiers to New Orleans, another majority-Black city led by Democrats in a Republican-leaning state.

Crime is down, but troops are coming

Since deploying the National Guard to Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., Trump has openly mused about sending troops to some of the nation's most Democratic cities — including Chicago and Portland, Oregon — even as data shows most violent crime in those places and around the country has declined

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 51 of 72

in recent years.

Trump said Friday he decided to send troops into Memphis after Union Pacific CEO Jim Vena — who regularly visited the city while on the board of FedEx — urged him earlier this week to address crime there.

The president's announcement came just days after Memphis police reported decreases across every major crime category in the first eight months of 2025 compared to the same period in previous years. Overall crime hit a 25-year low, while murder hit a six-year low, police said.

Memphis gun violence and high-profile killings

Despite the overall decrease, Memphis has dealt with stubborn gun violence problems for years. In 2023, the city set a record with more than 390 homicides.

Memphis has also seen several high-profile killings in recent years. Rapper and independent music label owner Young Dolph was fatally shot at a cookie shop in November 2021.

In September 2022, schoolteacher Eliza Fletcher was kidnapped during an early morning run, and her body was later found near a vacant duplex. Days later, a man went on a daylong shooting rampage as he drove through the city, leading to a citywide shelter-in-place order. Three people were killed and three others wounded.

Some Republicans want the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation to audit the Memphis Police Department's crime reporting.

Officials in Tennessee appear divided

Republican state Sen. Brent Taylor, who backs the Memphis troop deployment, said Friday the National Guard could provide "administrative and logistical support" to law enforcement and allow local officers to focus on policework. The state's two Republican U.S. senators support the intervention.

The governor said Friday the deployment would add momentum to an ongoing FBI operation in Memphis alongside state and local law enforcement which "has already arrested hundreds of the most violent offenders."

Steve Mulroy, the district attorney for Shelby County, which includes the city of Memphis, said he hoped the governor would tell Trump that a better strategy would be sending more FBI and other federal law enforcement agents, "people with actual training in civilian law enforcement, unlike military troops."

"These high-profile, short-term military deployments risk seeming performative and leaving no lasting impact," Mulroy, a Democrat, said Friday.

The legal details

Asked Friday if city and state officials had requested a National Guard deployment — or had formally signed off on it — the White House didn't answer. It also didn't offer a possible timeline or say whether federal law enforcement would be surged in connection with a guard deployment, as happened when troops were deployed to Washington.

Hina Shamsi, director of the ACLU's National Security Project, said in a news conference Friday that she could not speak directly to the legality of sending National Guard troops to Memphis because she doesn't know whether the troops would be deployed under state or federal authority and what the legal justification would be.

"There quite simply is no factual emergency to legitimate calling out troops to perform any kind of policing function," she said.

Using soldiers for civil law enforcement, she said, "leaves our Fourth and Fifth Amendment rights — searches, seizures, due process safeguards — in the hands of people who are not trained to uphold them, and it can chill the exercise of our First Amendment rights."

Illinois governor celebrates as Trump turns focus south

Trump said Friday he "would have preferred going to Chicago," where local politicians have fiercely resisted his plans, but suggested the city was too "hostile" with "professional agitators."

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, a potential 2028 presidential contender, wasted no time congratulating himself on social media, adding, "It's disturbing that the president is hellbent on sending troops onto America's streets. Using those who serve in uniform as political props is insulting. None of this is normal."

U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi this week accused the state's leaders of being uncooperative. How-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 52 of 72

ever, even without National Guard troops, residents in Chicago are expecting more federal immigration enforcement.

Trump's broader National Guard strategy

Trump first deployed troops to Los Angeles in early June over Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom's objections by putting the California National Guard under federal jurisdiction, known as Title 10, to protect federal property from protests over immigration raids. The guard later helped protect officers during immigration arrests.

Alongside 4,000 guard members, 700 active duty Marines were also sent. California sued over the intervention.

In Washington, D.C., where the president directly commands the guard, Trump has used troops for everything from armed patrols to trash cleanup without any legal issues.

Missouri Senate passes Trump-backed plan that could help Republicans win an additional US House seat

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Missouri Republicans handed President Donald Trump a political victory Friday, giving final legislative approval to a redistricting plan that could help Republicans win an additional U.S. House seat in next year's elections.

The Senate vote sends the redistricting plan to Republican Gov. Mike Kehoe, who said he will sign it into law soon. But opponents immediately announced a referendum petition that, if successful, could force a statewide vote on the new map.

"This fight is not over. Missouri voters — not politicians — will have the final say," said Elsa Rainey, a spokesperson for People Not Politicians, which is leading the referendum effort.

U.S. House districts were redrawn across the country after the 2020 census to account for population changes. But Missouri is the third state to take up mid-decade redistricting this year in an emerging national battle for partisan advantage ahead of the midterm elections.

Republican lawmakers in Texas passed a new U.S. House map last month aimed at helping their party win five additional seats. Democratic lawmakers in California countered with their own redistricting plan aimed at winning five more seats, but it still needs voter approval. Other states also are considering redistricting.

Each seat could be critical, because Democrats need to gain just three seats to win control of the House, which would allow them to obstruct Trump's agenda and launch investigations into him. Trump is trying to stave off a historic trend in which the president's party typically loses seats in midterm elections.

On his social media site Friday, Trump touted Missouri's "much fairer, and much improved, Congressional map" that he said "will help send an additional MAGA Republican to Congress in the 2026 Midterm Elections."

Missouri Republicans are targeting a Kansas City district

Republicans currently hold six of Missouri's eight U.S. House seats. The revised map passed the Republican-led state House earlier this week as the focal point of a special session called by Kehoe that also includes a proposal making it harder for citizen-initiated constitutional amendments to win voter approval. That proposal, which still needs voter ratification, would require future initiated amendments to pass in each of Missouri's congressional districts instead of by a simple statewide majority. No other state has such a standard.

The Republican-led Senate passed both measures Friday after changing the chamber's rules, then shutting off Democratic opponents. Senate Minority Leader Doug Beck said afterward that he plans to help gather the more than 100,000 signatures needed in 90 days to force a referendum on the redistricting plan.

Kehoe has promoted the reshaped districts as a way to amplify "Missouri's conservative, common-sense values" in Washington, D.C.

Missouri's revised map targets a seat held by Democratic Rep. Emanuel Cleaver by shaving off portions of his Kansas City district and stretching the rest of it into Republican-heavy rural areas. The plan reduces the number of Black and minority residents in Cleaver's district, partly by creating a dividing line along a

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 53 of 72

street that has served as a historical segregation line between Black and white residents.

Cleaver, who was Kansas City's first Black mayor, has served in Congress for over 20 years. He won reelection with over 60% of the vote in both 2024 and 2022 under districts adopted by the state Legislature after the 2020 census. He said he plans to challenge the new map in court and seek reelection in 2026, regardless of the shape of his district.

"Together, in the courts and in the streets, we will continue pushing to ensure the law is upheld, justice prevails, and this unconstitutional gerrymander is defeated," Cleaver said in a statement Friday.

Three lawsuits already have been brought, including two Friday on behalf of voters who contend mid-decade redistricting isn't allowed under the Missouri Constitution. A hearing is scheduled for Monday on another lawsuit previously filed by the NAACP.

Kansas City residents raise concerns about new districts

Cleaver's revised Kansas City district would stretch from near the city's St. James United Methodist Church — which Cleaver once led — 180 miles (290 kilometers) southeast to include another United Methodist church in rural Vienna. In the neighborhood around Cleaver's hometown church, where his son is now pastor, about 60% of residents are Black or a mix of Black and another race, according to U.S. Census Bureau data. By contrast, the area around Vienna has just 11 Black residents out of nearly 2,500 people.

Democratic state Sen. Barbara Washington of Kansas City, who described Cleaver as her longtime pastor, said the new map "erases the voice of my community."

"Carving up Kansas City and silencing our constituents is terrible," Washington said.

Kansas City resident Roger C. Williams Jr., a 79-year-old former middle-school principal, said the effort to reshape congressional districts reminds him of the discrimination he witnessed against Black residents while growing up in Arkansas.

"What Republicans are doing now in the state of Missouri is they're taking me back to a time when I, or people that looked like me, would not have an opportunity, because they wouldn't have a voice," he said.

Republican lawmakers said little during Senate debate. But sponsoring state Rep. Dirk Deaton, a Republican, has said the new map splits fewer overall counties and municipalities into multiple districts than the current one.

Republican Senate President Pro Tem Cindy O'Laughlin said in a statement after the Senate vote that the map "strengthens Missouri's conservative voice and ensures every Missourian is fairly represented in Washington."

UN assembly votes overwhelmingly to back two-state solution to Israel-Palestinian conflict

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. General Assembly voted overwhelmingly Friday to support a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict and urge Israel to commit to a Palestinian state, which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vehemently opposes.

The 193-member world body approved a nonbinding resolution endorsing the "New York Declaration," which sets out a phased plan to end the nearly 80-year conflict. The vote was 142-10 with 12 abstentions.

Hours before the vote, Netanyahu said "there will be no Palestinian state." He spoke at the signing of an agreement to expand settlements that will divide the West Bank, which the Palestinians insist must be part of their state, saying, "This place belongs to us."

The resolution was sponsored by France and Saudi Arabia, who co-chaired a high-level conference on implementing a two-state solution in late July, where the declaration was approved.

The nearly two-year war in Gaza and the broader Israeli-Palestinian conflict are expected to be at the top of the agenda of world leaders at their annual gathering at the General Assembly starting on Sept. 22. The Palestinians say they hope at least 10 more countries will recognize the state of Palestine, adding to the more than 145 countries that already do.

Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian U.N. ambassador, said the support for the resolution reflects "the yearning

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 54 of 72

of almost everyone, the international community, to open the door for the option of peace."

Without naming Israel, he said, "We invite a party that is still pushing the option of war and destruction, and attempts to eliminate the Palestinian people and steal their land, to listen to the sound of reason — to the sound of the logic of dealing with this issue peacefully, and for the overwhelming message that has resonated in this General Assembly today."

But Israel's U.N. Ambassador Danny Danon dismissed the resolution as "theater," saying the only beneficiary is Hamas.

"This one-sided declaration will not be remembered as a step toward peace, only as another hollow gesture that weakens this assembly's credibility," he said.

The United States, Israel's closest ally, reiterated its opposition to the New York Declaration and the General Assembly resolution endorsing implementation of the two-state solution.

The resolution "is yet another misguided and ill-timed publicity stunt that undermines serious diplomatic efforts to end the conflict," U.S. Mission counselor Morgan Ortagus said. "Make no mistake, this resolution is a gift to Hamas."

The declaration condemns "the attacks committed by Hamas against civilians" in southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, a rare condemnation by Arab nations of Hamas. The Hamas-led militants killed about 1,200 people, mainly Israeli civilians, and took about 250 hostage. Of those, 48 are still being held, including about 20 who are believed to be alive.

It also condemns Israel's attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure in Gaza and its "siege and starvation, which have produced a devastating humanitarian catastrophe and protection crisis." Israel's offensive against Hamas has killed over 64,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants.

The declaration envisions the Palestinian Authority governing and controlling all Palestinian territory, with a transitional administrative committee immediately established under its umbrella after a ceasefire in Gaza.

"In the context of ending the war in Gaza, Hamas must end its rule in Gaza and hand over its weapons to the Palestinian Authority," the declaration says.

It also supports deployment of "a temporary international stabilization mission" operating under U.N. auspices to protect Palestinian civilians, support the transfer of security to the Palestinian Authority and provide security guarantees for Palestine and Israel — "including monitoring of the ceasefire and of a future peace agreement."

The declaration urges countries to recognize the state of Palestine, calling this "an essential and indispensable component of the achievement of the two-state solution." Without naming Israel but clearly referring to it, the document says "illegal unilateral actions are posing an existential threat to the realization of the independent state of Palestine."

Wall Street coasts to the finish of its best week in the last 5

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street coasted to the finish of its best week in the last five on Friday as U.S. stocks hung near their record levels.

The S&P 500 barely budged and edged down by less than 0.1% from the all-time high it set the day before. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 273 points, or 0.6%, while the Nasdaq composite added 0.4% to its own record set on Thursday.

Stocks have rallied with expectations that the Federal Reserve will cut its main interest rate for the first time this year at its meeting next week. Such a move would give the economy a kickstart, and mortgage rates have already dropped in anticipation of it.

Expectations for a cut have built as recent reports suggested the U.S. job market could settle into the precise balance that Wall Street has been betting on: slow enough to convince the Fed that it needs help, but not so weak that it will mean a recession, all while inflation doesn't take off.

A lot is riding on whether that bet proves correct. Stocks have already soared on it. And if the Fed ends up cutting interest rates fewer times than traders expect, including three this year, the market could re-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 55 of 72

treat in disappointment. That's even if everything else goes right, and the economy does not fall into a recession and President Donald Trump's tariffs don't send inflation much higher.

Investors, "and I think the Fed, are convinced that we are not on the verge of a surge in inflation," according to Scott Wren, senior global market strategist at Wells Fargo Investment Institute.

A survey from the University of Michigan on Friday suggested expectations for inflation may not be worsening among U.S. consumers. Preliminary data suggested they're bracing for inflation of 4.8% in the upcoming year, the same as they were a month earlier.

Expectations for inflation over the longer term crept higher, though they're still below where they were in April, when Trump announced his worldwide tariffs.

In the meantime, Wall Street continued to drift around its record heights.

RH fell 4.6% after the furniture retailer reported profit and revenue for the latest quarter that came up short of analysts' expectations. It also trimmed its forecasted range for revenue this fiscal year amid what CEO Gary Friedman called "the polarizing impact of tariff uncertainty and the worst housing market in almost 50 years."

Oracle sank 5.1% and was the single heaviest weight on the S&P 500 index. But that shaved only a bit off its surge from earlier in the week, when it soared to its best day since 1992 amid excitement about its winning multibillion dollar contracts related to artificial-intelligence technology.

Another company that's benefited from the AI frenzy, Super Micro Computer, rose 2.4% after saying it's begun high-volume shipments of racks using Blackwell Ultra equipment from Nvidia that can be used for AI.

Microsoft climbed 1.8% after European Union regulators accepted the tech giant's proposed changes to its Teams platform, resolving a long-running antitrust investigation.

The European Commission said Friday that Microsoft's final commitments to unbundle Teams from its Office software suite, including further tweaks following a market test in May and June, are enough to satisfy competition concerns.

All told, the S&P 500 slipped 3.18 points to 6,584.29. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 273.78 to 45,834.22, and the Nasdaq composite rose 98.03 to 22,141.10.

In stock markets abroad, indexes held relatively steady in Europe after mostly rising in Asia.

Japan's Nikkei 225 climbed 0.9% to another record, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng rallied 1.2% for two of the bigger moves.

In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury climbed to recover some of its drop from earlier in the week. It rose to 4.06% from 4.01% late Thursday.

Yields have been mostly sinking as expectations built on Wall Street that the Fed will resume cutting rates soon.

The Fed has been on hold through 2025, mostly because of the risk that Trump's tariffs could send prices for all kinds of U.S. household purchases much higher. Lower interest rates can make inflation even worse.

That inaction, though, has infuriated Trump. He has threatened to fire Fed Chair Jerome Powell, whom he has nicknamed "Too Late," and has escalated his attempt to fire Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook, accusing her of mortgage fraud.

NATO flexes its muscles and bulks up defenses on its eastern flank to ward off Russia

By CLAUDIA CIOBANU Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — NATO said Friday it's bulking up its defensive posture on its eastern flank bordering Belarus, Russia and Ukraine with new equipment to deter potential Russian aggression following an incursion by Russian drones into Polish territory.

The alliance's supreme commander in Europe said a new operation, dubbed Eastern Sentry, will add equipment from France, Denmark, Germany and the U.K. to its existing air and ground-based defenses. "The key to this is an entirely new defense design," U.S. Gen. Alexis Grynkeiwich told reporters at the alliance's Brussels headquarters.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 56 of 72

French Rafale fighter jets, Danish F-16s, a frigate and ground-based defense systems have been pledged for the operation. Grynkewich said the additional resources will enable the alliance to "plug gaps in the line" and concentrate forces wherever they're needed while improving communications across NATO's entire eastern flank.

Poland's Defence Minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz hailed the operation in a post on X as "active deterrence and readiness to defend wherever needed."

Multiple Russian drones crossed into Poland on Wednesday, prompting NATO to send fighter jets to shoot them down and underlining long-held concerns about Russia's three-year war in neighboring Ukraine expanding.

Russia said it did not target Poland and Moscow's ally Belarus said the drones went astray because they were jammed, but European leaders have expressed certainty that the incursions were a deliberate provocation by Russia.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk dismissed U.S. President Donald Trump's suggestion that the drone incursion into Poland may have been a mistake.

"We would also wish that the drone attack on Poland was a mistake," Tusk wrote on X. "But it wasn't. And we know it."

His foreign minister, Radek Sikorski, said anyone suggesting the drone incursion was accidental is a "willing accomplice" to the spreading of Russian propaganda.

European leaders announce measures to deter Russia

Earlier Friday, French President Emmanuel Macron said he would deploy three Rafale fighters to Poland, while Britain unveiled fresh sanctions on Russia's oil revenues and war machine.

"The security of the European continent is our top priority. We will not yield to Russia's growing intimidation," Macron posted on X. He said the deployment was discussed with both NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

The new measures announced by Britain on Friday included bans on 70 vessels that the U.K. says are part of Russia's "shadow fleet" that transports Russian oil in defiance of sanctions. Some 30 individuals and companies — including Chinese and Turkey-based firms — also were sanctioned for their part in supplying Russia with electronics, chemicals, explosives and other weapons components.

Denmark's Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen pledged expanded cooperation between the Danish and Ukrainian defense industries. Rasmussen said after talks with Ukrainian counterpart Andrii Sybiha that his country aims to increase its defense production in Ukraine and encourage more Ukrainian companies to set up shop in Denmark.

Britain stands with Kyiv

British Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper made her first trip to Kyiv on Friday after her appointment a week ago following a Cabinet shake-up by Starmer.

Cooper said her visit is a demonstration of solidarity with Ukraine, which she said has seen a massive increase in Russian drone attacks in recent months. In July, there was a tenfold increase over the same month last year, she said.

"The UK will not stand idly by as Putin continues his barbaric invasion of Ukraine," Cooper said, noting what she said was the Russian president's "complete disregard for sovereignty" by sending drones into NATO airspace.

"International action to increase economic pressure on Russia and to cut off critical cash flows which he desperately needs to pay for this illegal war is vital."

Reflecting Britain's support for Ukraine, Prince Harry made a surprise visit to Kyiv where he met with wounded service members on Friday.

Sikorski, the Polish foreign minister, was also visiting Kyiv on Friday. Sybiha posted on X that they would discuss "shared security, Ukraine's EU and NATO accession, and pressure on Moscow." Meanwhile, Poland's Defense Ministry said it will work with Ukraine to train personnel on anti-drone defense.

US stands by NATO allies

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 57 of 72

Wednesday's Russian drone incursion into Polish airspace has compelled NATO allies to take a closer look at the means at their disposal to counter any further threats.

At an emergency U.N. Security Council meeting on the drone incursions, acting U.S. Ambassador Dorothy Shea said the "United States stands by our NATO allies in the face of these alarming airspace violations ... and rest assured, we will defend every inch of NATO territory."

She said Russia's intensified bombing campaign since Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin met in Alaska last month and its violation of Polish airspace "intentionally or otherwise show immense disrespect for good-faith U.S. efforts to bring an end to this conflict."

Speaking before the meeting, Poland's Deputy Foreign Minister Marcin Bosacki said Russia's "flagrant violation" of international law and the U.N. Charter and "reckless actions" bring the region "closer to conflict than at any time in recent years."

Reading a statement on behalf of the European Union and more than half a dozen other countries, including the U.S. and U.K., Bosacki called the incursions a "profoundly disrespectful" provocation and called on Russia to immediately end its war on Ukraine.

He added that his country is pleased "so many countries recognize this threat as much as Poland does."

Also Friday, Russia stoked European unease as it began a long-planned joint military exercise with Belarus aiming to showcase close defense ties between Moscow and Minsk, as well as Russia's military might.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said talks to end the war were currently on "pause," even though channels of communication remain open.

"One cannot simply put on rose-tinted glasses and expect that the negotiation process will yield lightning-fast results," Peskov said. "The Russian side remains ready to follow the path of peaceful dialogue."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy repeated that neither promises of renewed trade nor territorial concessions will stop Russia until it realizes that its resources for waging war are depleted.

"The Russian war machine will only stop when it runs out of fuel," Zelenskyy told a conference Friday. "And Putin will start to stop it himself when he feels, truly, that the resources for the war are running low."

Ukrainian drones strike Russian oil port

Russian air defenses downed 221 Ukrainian drones over more than a dozen Russian regions early Friday, Russia's Defense Ministry said. The attack involved some of the highest numbers of drones reported by the Russian military, but there have been no reports of any significant damage.

A Ukrainian security official said drones struck Russia's largest oil port on the Baltic Sea in Primorsk, including oil pumping stations conveying oil to the Ust-Luga port terminal.

The official said Primorsk is a key hub for Russia's "shadow fleet" of sanction-busting tankers, which earn Moscow approximately \$15 billion annually.

The official spoke to The Associated Press on Friday on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to publicly discuss missions.

States are taking steps to ease access to COVID-19 vaccines as they await federal recommendation

By GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

The governors of Arizona, Illinois, Maine and North Carolina on Friday joined the growing list of Democratic officials who have signed orders intended to ensure most residents can receive COVID-19 vaccines at pharmacies without individual prescriptions.

Unlike past years, access to COVID-19 vaccines has become complicated in 2025, largely because federal guidance does not recommend them for nearly everyone this year as it had in the past.

Here's a look at where things stand.

Pharmacy chain says the shots are available in most states without individual prescriptions

CVS Health, the biggest pharmacy chain in the U.S., says its stores are offering the shots without an individual prescription in 41 states as of midday Friday.

But the remaining states — Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, North Carolina, Oregon, Utah

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 58 of 72

and West Virginia, plus the District of Columbia — require individual prescriptions under the company's interpretation of state policies.

Arizona, Maine and North Carolina are likely to come off that list as the new orders take effect there.

"I will not stand idly by while the Trump Administration makes it harder for Maine people to get a vaccine that protects their health and could very well save their life," Maine Gov. Janet Mills said in the statement. "Through this standing order, we are stepping up to knock down the barriers the Trump Administration is putting in the way of the health and welfare of Maine people."

Democratic governors have been taking action

At least 14 states — 12 with Democratic governors, plus Virginia, where Republican Glenn Youngkin is governor — have announced policies this month to ease access.

In some of the states that have expanded access — including Delaware and New Jersey earlier in the week and Illinois on Friday — at least some pharmacies were already providing the shots broadly.

Friday's orders are expected to change the policy in all three states where they were put into place.

North Carolina's orders were narrower than most. They apply to everyone age 65 and over and people who are at least 18 and have a risk factor. Other adults would still need prescriptions. Officials said the order takes effect immediately, but that all pharmacies might not have supplies on hand right away.

While most Republican-controlled states have not changed vaccine policy this month, the inoculations are still available there under existing policies.

In addition to the round of orders from governors, boards of pharmacy and other officials, four states — California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington — have announced an alliance to make their own vaccine recommendations. Of those, only Oregon doesn't currently allow the shots in pharmacies without individual prescriptions.

Vaccines have become politically contentious

In past years, the federal government has recommended the vaccines to all Americans above the age of 6 months.

This year, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved them for people age 65 and over but said they should be used only for children and younger adults who have a risk factor such as asthma or obesity.

That change came as U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy fired the entire Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices in June, accusing of them of being too closely aligned with the companies that make the vaccines. The replacements include vaccine skeptics.

Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs, a Democrat, framed her order Friday as "protecting the health care freedom" of people in the state.

One state has taken another stance on vaccines

Florida's surgeon general, Dr. Joseph Ladapo, announced this month that the state could become the first to eliminate requirements that children have a list of vaccinations.

Since then, though, the state health department said that the change likely wouldn't take effect until December and that without legislative action, only some vaccines — including for chickenpox — would become optional. The measles and polio shots would remain mandatory.

Utah's governor, in impassioned remarks, urges Americans to find 'off-ramp' from political violence

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a week when Americans witnessed a public political assassination, oceans of angry words and a collective sense of horror and exhaustion, one man stepped up to a microphone and said something that stood out: It doesn't have to be like this.

That man, Utah Gov. Spencer Cox, appeared weary, emotional, at times angry and on the verge of tears Friday. While he had the country's attention, he used the moment to ask his fellow Americans to turn down the temperature.

Cox, long an advocate for civility, said he didn't "want to get too preachy." But he described the moment

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 59 of 72

as one where the country's very ideals were on the line. He made an impassioned plea for Americans and young people in particular to use the horror of conservative activist Charlie Kirk's assassination as an inflection point to turn the country away from political violence and division.

"This is our moment: Do we escalate or do we find an off-ramp?" Cox told a news conference in Utah as he announced authorities had a suspect in Kirk's killing in custody. "It's a choice."

Throughout his political career, Cox, a two-term Republican governor, has issued pleas for bipartisan cooperation and at times drawn national attention for his empathetic remarks.

His speech on Friday was his most emotional and prominent example yet, as he urged an appeal to common ground and humanity to forge a better society. It was a marked departure from the bellicose rhetoric often employed in recent years by U.S. politicians, especially President Donald Trump, who is known for provocative language and has blamed Kirk's killing on "radical left" rhetoric.

'Politics feels like rage'

On Wednesday, after Kirk's killing, Cox made an initial plea. On Friday, acknowledging he was running on only 90 minutes of sleep after days of the manhunt for Kirk's killer and heated rhetoric unfurling online, he went further.

His voice appearing to break at times, Cox said that the response to violence and hate can be more violence and hate. "And that's the problem with political violence," he said. "It metastasizes because we can always point the finger at the other side. And at some point, we have to find an off-ramp, or it's going to get much, much worse."

"History will dictate if this is a turning point for our country," he said. "But every single one of us gets to choose right now if this is a turning point for us."

The 50-year-old governor, who has four children who are teenagers and young adults, directed some of his remarks to young people: "You are inheriting a country where politics feels like rage. It feels like rage is the only option."

But, Cox said, a different path is possible: "Your generation has an opportunity to build a culture that is very different than what we are suffering through right now."

He said the 22-year-old suspect in Kirk's killing had become "more political" in the run-up to Wednesday's shooting on a university campus.

Cox also spoke of the harms of social media and said it was terrible that Kirk's slaying was "so gruesomely displayed" for everyone to watch online.

"We are not wired as human beings biologically, historically we have not evolved in a way that we are capable of processing those types of violent imagery," Cox said. "This is not good for us. It is not good to consume. Social media is a cancer on our society right now."

These approaches are not new for Cox

As governor, Cox has sought to curb the harms of social media on young people, signing laws that require social media companies to verify the ages of their users and disable certain features on accounts of minors.

Though he lives in heavily Republican Utah, where little bipartisan action is needed for his party to enact its agenda, Cox has for years emphasized respect and unity. As governor, he has consistently invoked a need for civility — a trait that's at home in the culture of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, a faith to which Cox and many in the state belong.

His more moderate tone became rarer as Utah's politics drifted rightward in the Trump era. At a statewide convention of Utah Republicans in April 2024, Cox was booed. "Maybe you hate that I don't hate enough," Cox told the crowd. He still won his state's GOP primary and reelection in November.

In 2016, Cox drew national attention for his remarks after a mass shooting at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida. Then, he called for people to come together and appealed to their "better angels." He also apologized for having been unkind while in high school to students he later learned were gay.

He also drew attention during his 2020 campaign for governor, in which he appeared in television ads with his Democratic opponent as they pledged to "disagree without hating each other."

Cox was openly critical of Trump and did not support him until after the president survived an assassination attempt in Butler, Pennsylvania, last year. The governor wrote then-candidate Trump a letter

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 60 of 72

expressing admiration for his defiant response to being struck by a bullet.

In that letter, Cox told Trump he believed "God had a hand in saving you" and that "miracle" gave him an opportunity to unify the country.

"We need to turn down the temperature and find ways to come together again before it's too late," Cox wrote.

Minutes before Cox took the stage Friday, Trump had that opportunity as he sat for a live interview on Fox News Channel. He was asked how the country could be brought back together. Trump said his response would "get me in trouble, but I couldn't care less."

Before he launched into a list of grievances with his Democratic opponents, the president said: "The radicals on the left are the problem."

As Israel carried out strikes far beyond its borders, violence surged in the occupied West Bank

By AREF TUFHAH, JALAL BWAITEL and JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

TULKAREM, West Bank (AP) — As Israeli strikes in far-off Qatar and Yemen sparked regional tensions this week, violence surged in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and east Jerusalem.

A shooting attack at a Jerusalem bus stop killed six Israelis, and another two were stabbed and wounded in a separate incident. Israeli forces in the West Bank shot three 14-year-old Palestinians, killing two of them, and detained hundreds in a separate raid after an explosive device struck an armored vehicle, lightly wounding two soldiers.

They were the latest violent ripples from the ongoing war in the Gaza Strip — where tens of thousands of Palestinians have been killed — and the broader Israeli-Palestinian conflict that began decades earlier.

Israel captured east Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza in the 1967 Mideast war, and the Palestinians want all three for a future state. This week, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu once again vowed that would never happen as he formalized a major new settlement project that critics say would split the West Bank in half.

Israeli forces shoot 3 teenagers

On Monday, the same day as the Jerusalem attack — later claimed by Hamas — Israeli troops shot and killed two 14-year-old boys in the West Bank city of Jenin. The army carried out a major raid there earlier this year that destroyed scores of homes and displaced tens of thousands.

Relatives of Islam Majarmeh said he was killed as the family returned to their home to try to retrieve their belongings. His father, Abdul Aziz, said they went back after hearing the army had left, only to find their home completely destroyed. As they were leaving, troops opened fire, he said.

"He was standing right next to me, and suddenly he collapsed, face-first on the ground," said Majarmeh. "A soldier came and told me to leave. I said, 'How can I leave? I won't go. This is a child.'"

The military said in a statement that several individuals it described as suspects had entered an off-limits area of Jenin and approached soldiers threateningly. It said troops opened fire after they ignored orders to leave, and that it was reviewing the incident.

Another 14-year-old, Mohammed Masqala, was killed by Israeli fire that day, according to the Palestinian Authority's Health Ministry. The circumstances of that shooting were not immediately clear.

On Wednesday, another 14-year-old, Oday Turkman, was shot and wounded while riding his bike, his father, Faisal, said as he stood by his bedside. The teenager is now in stable condition.

The military said troops opened fire because individuals were throwing stones at them, but Turkman said his son had done nothing wrong.

"He wasn't carrying a stone or anything else, and he posed no threat," the father said.

At least 18 Palestinian children under the age of 15 have been shot and killed by Israeli gunfire in the West Bank since the start of the year, according to data from the United Nations.

Mass detention after a roadside bomb blast

On Thursday, Israeli forces encircled the West Bank town of Tulkarem and detained hundreds of people

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 61 of 72

after a bomb blast wounded two soldiers. Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad group claimed the attack.

A video of the raid, shared on social media and obtained by The Associated Press, showed dozens of men in a line, each with his hands on the shoulders of the man in front of him. The army did not respond to request for comment.

Troops brought roughly a thousand people to an open field area near a military checkpoint and held them overnight before releasing most of them, according to the Palestinian Prisoners Club, a group that advocates for prisoners and detainees, and two men who were detained and spoke to the AP after their release.

Pharmacist Yazeed Al-Sarghali said troops entered his shop Thursday afternoon, detaining him, his son and the customers inside.

"They made us stand in a line, like a train. There were seven of us, and they marched us for about 100 meters (yards)," he said. "As we were walking, they would stop anyone they suspected, including people living in the houses on both sides of the street."

Al-Sarghali said the troops did not interrogate anyone and released most of the men around 1 a.m. Friday.

Mohammed Baddo, 19, said he was sitting at a cafe with a friend when the soldiers detained them.

"They didn't take our ID cards, our phones, or anything at all — they just kept us sitting there," he said.

On Friday, a Palestinian working in a hotel near Jerusalem stabbed and wounded two guests, in what police said was a militant attack.

'This place is ours'

Israel says its near-daily military raids across the West Bank are aimed at rooting out Hamas and other militant groups that attack Israeli civilians. The raids have grown far more intense and wide-ranging since Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel triggered the war nearly two years ago.

To Palestinians, the raids cement Israel's control over a territory where 500,000 settlers have full Israeli citizenship and 3 million Palestinians live under military rule. The Palestinian Authority exercises limited autonomy in towns and cities.

On Thursday, Netanyahu attended a signing ceremony for a major settlement project in an area known as E1, just outside of Jerusalem. Palestinians and rights groups say it will cut the West Bank in half and further sever it from east Jerusalem, making it virtually impossible to establish a viable Palestinian state.

The creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel is seen internationally as the only realistic way to resolve the conflict and end the kind of bloodshed seen this week.

Israel's current government and most of its political class are opposed to Palestinian statehood. Hamas leaders have at times suggested they might accept a state along the 1967 lines, but the group remains formally committed to Israel's destruction.

"We said that there will not be a Palestinian state — and indeed there will be no Palestinian state," Netanyahu said at the ceremony in Maale Adumim, a sprawling settlement just outside of Jerusalem. "This place is ours."

Schumer warns of a shutdown if Republicans don't accept Democrats' health care demands

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer weathered backlash from Democrats earlier this year when he voted with Republicans to keep the government open. But he's now willing to risk a shutdown at the end of the month if Republicans don't accede to Democratic demands.

Schumer says he and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries are united in opposing any legislation that doesn't include key health care provisions and a commitment not to roll them back. He argues that the country is in a different place than it was in March, when he vigorously argued against a shutdown, and he says he believes Republicans and President Donald Trump will be held responsible if they don't negotiate a bipartisan deal.

"Things have changed" since the March vote, Schumer said in an interview with The Associated Press on

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 62 of 72

Thursday. He said Republicans have since passed Trump's massive tax breaks and spending cuts legislation, which trimmed Medicaid and other government programs, and Democrats are now unified — unlike in March, when he voted with Republicans and Jeffries voted against the legislation to fund the government.

A shutdown, Schumer said, wouldn't necessarily worsen an environment in which Trump is already challenging the authority of Congress. "It will get worse with or without it, because Trump is lawless," Schumer said.

Democrats' consequential decision

Schumer's threat comes as Republicans are considering a short-term stopgap spending measure to avoid a Sept. 30 shutdown and as Democrats face what most see as two tough choices if the parties can't negotiate a deal — vote with Republicans to keep the government open or let it close indefinitely with no clear exit plan.

It also comes amid worsening partisan tensions in the Senate, where negotiations between the two parties over the confirmation process broke down for a second time on Thursday and Republicans are changing Senate rules to get around Democratic objections to almost all of Trump's nominees. Democrats are also fuming over the Trump administration's decision to unilaterally claw back \$4.9 billion in congressionally approved foreign aid just as negotiations over the spending deadline were getting underway in late August.

Republicans move ahead

Republicans say that Democrats clearly will be to blame if they don't vote to keep the government open.

Trump said Friday to not "even bother" negotiating with Democrats. He said Republicans will likely put together a continuing resolution to keep funding the federal government.

"If you gave them every dream, they would not vote for it," Trump said, adding "we will get it through because the Republicans are sticking together."

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., said in an interview with Punchbowl News on Thursday that he believes Democrats see it as "politically advantageous" to have a shutdown.

"But they don't have a good reason to do it," Thune said in the interview. "And I don't intend to give them a good reason to do it."

Thune has repeatedly said that Schumer needs to approach Republicans with a specific proposal on health care, including an extension of expanded government tax credits for many Americans who get their health insurance through the Affordable Care Act. Some Republicans are open to extending those credits before they expire at the end of the year, but Thune has indicated that he is unlikely to add an extension to a short-term spending bill, instead favoring a "clean" stopgap for several weeks without any divisive issues while Congress finishes its budget legislation.

Schumer said he believes his caucus is ready to oppose the stopgap measure if Republicans don't negotiate it with Democrats. "I think the overwhelming majority of our caucus, with a few exceptions, and same with the House, would vote against that," he said.

Less realistic is Democrats' demand that Republicans roll back Medicaid cuts enacted in their tax breaks and spending cuts legislation this summer, what Trump called his "big, beautiful bill."

Escalating partisan tensions over spending

Schumer said Democrats also want Republicans to commit that the White House won't take back money they have negotiated and Congress has approved after Republicans pushed through a \$9 billion cut requested by the White House in July and Trump blocked the additional foreign aid money in August. "How do you pass an appropriations bill and let them undo it down the road?" Schumer said.

Congress is facing the funding deadline Sept. 30 because Republicans and Democrats are still working out their differences on several annual budget bills. Intractable partisan differences on an increasing number of issues have stalled those individual bills in recent years, forcing lawmakers to pass one large omnibus package at the end of the year or simply vote to continue current spending.

A shutdown means federal agencies will stop all actions deemed non-essential, and millions of federal employees, including members of the military, won't receive paychecks. The most recent shutdown — and the longest ever — was during Trump's first term in 2018 and into 2019, when he demanded money for his U.S.-Mexico border wall. It lasted 35 days.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 63 of 72

Schumer's March vote

Schumer's move to support the spending legislation in March put him in the rare position of bucking his party's base. He said then that of two bad options, a partial government shutdown was worse because it would give Trump even more control to lay off workers and there would be "no off-ramp" to get out of it. "I think people realize it's a tough choice," he said.

He faced massive backlash from within the party after the vote, with some activists calling on him to resign. Jeffries temporarily distanced himself from his New York colleague, saying in a statement immediately after Schumer's vote that House Democrats "will not be complicit." The majority of Senate Democrats also voted against the GOP spending legislation.

This time, though, Schumer is in lockstep with Jeffries and in messaging within his caucus. In Democrats' closed-door lunch Wednesday, he shared polling that he said suggested most Americans would blame Trump, not Democrats, for a shutdown.

"I did what I thought was right" in March, Schumer said. "It's a different situation now than then."

Grief over Kirk's assassination echoes worldwide and testifies to his influence on the right

By JAMEY KEATEN and TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

Dozens of angry European lawmakers banged their hands on their desks after being denied a moment of silence to honor Charlie Kirk. Backers of the American conservative activist rallied at U.S. embassies in Europe and Africa. And supportive world leaders chimed in, lauding him as a friend and inspiration.

The assassination of Kirk in broad daylight at a Utah university this week has resonated well beyond the United States, highlighting in democracies around the globe the same yawning political divide that has riven America.

The outpouring of grief, anger and defiance over his death also testified to his influence and impact abroad, especially among groups on the right as diverse as white Afrikaners in South Africa, anti-immigration parties in Europe, libertarians in South America and ultranationalist Israelis in the Middle East. It also gave those movements an opportunity to air their grievances against their own political opponents.

"Charlie Kirk's death is the result of the international hate campaign waged by the progressive-liberal left," Viktor Orbán — Hungary's populist prime minister who, like Kirk, has aligned himself with U.S. President Donald Trump and the American leader's MAGA movement — wrote on X.

The reaction to Kirk's death among groups on the right reflects the proliferation and rise of conservative and nationalist movements around the world. And Kirk — a Christian conservative, staunch supporter of gun rights and critic of the political and cultural elite — was emblematic of the way political conversations have increasingly crossed borders.

Grief but also anger

Authorities say Kirk was killed by a single shot while taking questions during an outdoor event Wednesday at Utah Valley University.

Many people worldwide, regardless of political stripe, expressed dismay at such grisly violence in the midst of a public debate, and politicians across the spectrum denounced the killing.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer of Britain's left-leaning Labour Party, called it "heartbreaking that a young family has been robbed of a father and a husband," adding: "We must all be free to debate openly and freely without fear — there can be no justification for political violence."

Kirk wasn't a household name outside the United States, but he had a fervent following among supporters abroad and a big social-media presence. He spoke in the United Kingdom, Japan and South Korea this year, and his Turning Point USA has international offshoots.

In the wake of his killing, many political figures and commentators on the right took aim at their political opponents, calling members of the left "the enemy" and vowing "resistance" against their foes.

"The left is, at all times and in all places, a violent phenomenon filled with hatred," wrote Argentine President Javier Milei, a radical libertarian, on X alongside a photo of him, Trump and Kirk. Milei has repeat-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 64 of 72

edly railed against Socialists, feminists and transgender people and praised Trump's MAGA movement for fighting what he calls "woke ideology."

In Berlin, about 150 people held a vigil in Kirk's honor outside the U.S. Embassy on Thursday, and there were minor clashes with protesters, police said, testifying to the divisions.

In the European Union's Parliament, dozens of rank-and-file lawmakers banged their hands angrily on their desks on Thursday after the parliament's vice president denied an effort by Swedish member Charlie Weimers, of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group, to lead a moment of silence honoring Kirk in the chamber.

Seen as inspiration and an ally

Some rising young political stars who might be seen as international counterparts to the 31-year-old Kirk spoke of the inspiration they would take from his legacy.

Nikolas Ferreira, who received the most votes of any federal lawmaker in Brazil's last election, posted on social media that Kirk's death "cries out against injustice and awakens hearts."

"They want to silence us, but what they achieved was to awaken us. From every tear, courage is born; from every injustice, resistance is forged," the 29-year-old former YouTuber said.

In South Africa, the assassination has resonated with white conservative groups who claim that South Africa's Black-led government is pursuing an anti-white agenda. The government has strongly rejected those allegations and denounced "misinformation" from South African and American conservatives as intended to undermine a majority-Black country.

Kirk voiced support of Trump's program that offered refugee status in the U.S. to members of South Africa's white Afrikaner minority, and said earlier this year that the United States needed more white, Christian South Africans to come.

The AfriForum group, an Afrikaner lobby group, held a small vigil for Kirk outside the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria. Its youth wing said his killing was "a wake-up call that points to a global intolerance towards conservative thinking."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who leads the most religious and nationalist government in Israel's history, called Kirk a "defender of our common Judeo-Christian civilization."

"Charlie was more than a friend of Israel. He was a great champion of our shared roots and values," Netanyahu, a polarizing leader who has ruled Israel nearly uninterrupted for the last 16 years, said in a post on X.

Other figures on the right offered more somber words.

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, one of the European leaders who is seen as most friendly with Trump, said she was "shocked" about the killing of Kirk.

"An atrocious murder, a deep wound for democracy and for those who believe in freedom," she wrote on X. "My condolences to his family, to his loved ones, and to the American conservative community."

Kavanaugh says no one has too much power in US system. Critics see Supreme Court bowing to Trump

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WACO, Texas (AP) — Justice Brett Kavanaugh says the genius of the American system of government is that no one should have too much power, even as he and other conservatives on the Supreme Court are facing criticism for deferring repeatedly to President Donald Trump.

Invoking the list of grievances against King George III that the nation's founders included in the Declaration of Independence, Kavanaugh said Thursday the framers of the Constitution were set on avoiding the concentration of power.

"And the framers recognized in a way that I think is brilliant, that preserving liberty requires separating the power. No one person or group of people should have too much power in our system," Kavanaugh said at an event honoring his onetime boss, Kenneth Starr, a former federal judge and solicitor general celebrated by conservatives who died in 2022.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 65 of 72

Trump's aggressive effort to remake the federal government did not come up inside a gymnasium on the campus of McLennan Community College in Waco.

Across the street from the event, though, several dozen protesters offered a different view of Kavanaugh and Trump.

"Basically, the Supreme Court has handed the country to Trump," said J.W. LaSrape, the head of the Baylor University Democrats who was among the protesters.

"BK- Trump Flunky," one banner said. "Shame on You. No One is Above the Law," a placard read in a reference to the court's 2024 decision, which Kavanaugh joined, that helped Trump avoid prosecution for his efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss.

The court's liberal justices also have objected to the conservatives' repeated votes in favor of Trump's emergency appeals to the Supreme Court, including the most decision this week to allow the resumption of sweeping immigration operations in Southern California.

Kavanaugh's appearance in Waco highlighted Kavanaugh's long history with Starr, most notably his stint as a prosecutor in Starr's independent counsel investigation of President Bill Clinton.

Starr became a household name in the late 1990s because of his investigation of Clinton's affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Kavanaugh pushed Starr to ask Clinton in graphic detail about phone sex and specific sexual acts, according to a 1998 memo.

"The President has disgraced his office, the legal system and the American people by having sex with a 22-year-old intern and turning her life into a shambles – callous and disgusting behavior that has somehow gotten lost in the shuffle," Kavanaugh wrote.

Starr followed Kavanaugh's advice and his report, filled with the salacious details, was released in full by House Republicans, who ultimately impeached Clinton for lying under oath. The Senate acquitted him.

At a dinner honoring Starr a year later, Kavanaugh said Starr deserved a seat on the Supreme Court, though he acknowledged it was unlikely. Still, he called Starr a hero who did not let attacks dissuade him from doing what he thought was right.

"Be sorry for his critics because they were the ones who sacrificed law and principle for politics and expediency," Kavanaugh said. "Ken Starr never did that."

In 2018, Starr was among those who publicly defended Kavanaugh, then a Supreme Court nominee, as he faced sexual misconduct allegations, including from Christine Blasey Ford, who said he groped her at a party when they were teenagers and tried to remove her clothes.

Kavanaugh forcefully denied the allegations in an emotional statement to the Senate Judiciary Committee, harking back to Starr's investigation when he said "revenge on behalf of the Clintons" was part of the motivation for what he termed a "calculated and orchestrated political hit."

Starr's widow, Alice, introduced the justice Thursday, saying she was distraught when Kavanaugh's character was called into question.

"Not one bit of negative press was true," she said, adding that she was well familiar with such criticism from her husband's time as independent counsel.

Ken Starr did varied work after the Whitewater investigation. He represented Jeffrey Epstein when the financier was first accused of having sex with underage girls. Epstein pleaded guilty to minor charges and accepted a light sentence in Florida in 2008, in a deal that avoided a more serious federal prosecution.

Starr served as dean of the Pepperdine University law school in the Los Angeles area and then as president of Baylor University, also in Waco. But he was forced out of the Baylor job in 2016 in the midst of a sexual assault scandal involving players on the school's football team. A school-commissioned report found that under Starr's leadership, Baylor did little to respond to the allegations.

Then in 2020, Starr joined Trump's defense team that won Senate acquittal of the president after his first impeachment.

The rise of AI tools forces schools to reconsider what counts as cheating

By JOCELYN GECKER Associated Press

The book report is now a thing of the past. Take-home tests and essays are becoming obsolete.

Student use of artificial intelligence has become so prevalent, high school and college educators say, that to assign writing outside of the classroom is like asking students to cheat.

"The cheating is off the charts. It's the worst I've seen in my entire career," says Casey Cuny, who has taught English for 23 years. Educators are no longer wondering if students will outsource schoolwork to AI chatbots. "Anything you send home, you have to assume is being AI'ed."

The question now is how schools can adapt, because many of the teaching and assessment tools that have been used for generations are no longer effective. As AI technology rapidly improves and becomes more entwined with daily life, it is transforming how students learn and study and how teachers teach, and it's creating new confusion over what constitutes academic dishonesty.

"We have to ask ourselves, what is cheating?" says Cuny, a 2024 recipient of California's Teacher of the Year award. "Because I think the lines are getting blurred."

Cuny's students at Valencia High School in southern California now do most writing in class. He monitors student laptop screens from his desktop, using software that lets him "lock down" their screens or block access to certain sites. He's also integrating AI into his lessons and teaching students how to use AI as a study aid "to get kids learning with AI instead of cheating with AI."

In rural Oregon, high school teacher Kelly Gibson has made a similar shift to in-class writing. She is also incorporating more verbal assessments to have students talk through their understanding of assigned reading.

"I used to give a writing prompt and say, 'In two weeks, I want a five-paragraph essay,'" says Gibson. "These days, I can't do that. That's almost begging teenagers to cheat."

Take, for example, a once typical high school English assignment: Write an essay that explains the relevance of social class in "The Great Gatsby." Many students say their first instinct is now to ask ChatGPT for help "brainstorming." Within seconds, ChatGPT yields a list of essay ideas, plus examples and quotes to back them up. The chatbot ends by asking if it can do more: "Would you like help writing any part of the essay? I can help you draft an introduction or outline a paragraph!"

Students are uncertain when AI usage is out of bounds

Students say they often turn to AI with good intentions for things like research, editing or help reading difficult texts. But AI offers unprecedented temptation, and it's sometimes hard to know where to draw the line.

College sophomore Lily Brown, a psychology major at an East Coast liberal arts school, relies on ChatGPT to help outline essays because she struggles putting the pieces together herself. ChatGPT also helped her through a freshman philosophy class, where assigned reading "felt like a different language" until she read AI summaries of the texts.

"Sometimes I feel bad using ChatGPT to summarize reading, because I wonder, is this cheating? Is helping me form outlines cheating? If I write an essay in my own words and ask how to improve it, or when it starts to edit my essay, is that cheating?"

Her class syllabi say things like: "Don't use AI to write essays and to form thoughts," she says, but that leaves a lot of grey area. Students say they often shy away from asking teachers for clarity because admitting to any AI use could flag them as a cheater.

Schools tend to leave AI policies to teachers, which often means that rules vary widely within the same school. Some educators, for example, welcome the use of Grammarly.com, an AI-powered writing assistant, to check grammar. Others forbid it, noting the tool also offers to rewrite sentences.

"Whether you can use AI or not depends on each classroom. That can get confusing," says Valencia 11th grader Jolie Lahey. She credits Cuny with teaching her sophomore English class a variety of AI skills like how to upload study guides to ChatGPT and have the chatbot quiz them, and then explain problems

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 67 of 72

they got wrong.

But this year, her teachers have strict "No AI" policies. "It's such a helpful tool. And if we're not allowed to use it that just doesn't make sense," Lahey says. "It feels outdated."

Schools are introducing guidelines, gradually

Many schools initially banned use of AI after ChatGPT launched in late 2022. But views on the role of artificial intelligence in education have shifted dramatically. The term "AI literacy" has become a buzzword of the back-to-school season, with a focus on how to balance the strengths of AI with its risks and challenges.

Over the summer, several colleges and universities convened their AI task forces to draft more detailed guidelines or provide faculty with new instructions.

The University of California, Berkeley emailed all faculty new AI guidance that instructs them to "include a clear statement on their syllabus about course expectations" around AI use. The guidance offered language for three sample syllabus statements — for courses that require AI, ban AI in and out of class, or allow some AI use.

"In the absence of such a statement, students may be more likely to use these technologies inappropriately," the email said, stressing that AI is "creating new confusion about what might constitute legitimate methods for completing student work."

Carnegie Mellon University has seen a huge uptick in academic responsibility violations due to AI, but often students aren't aware they've done anything wrong, says Rebekah Fitzsimmons, chair of the AI faculty advising committee at the university's Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy.

For example, one student who is learning English wrote an assignment in his native language and used DeepL, an AI-powered translation tool, to translate his work to English. But he didn't realize the platform also altered his language, which was flagged by an AI detector.

Enforcing academic integrity policies has become more complicated, since use of AI is hard to spot and even harder to prove, Fitzsimmons said. Faculty are allowed flexibility when they believe a student has unintentionally crossed a line, but are now more hesitant to point out violations because they don't want to accuse students unfairly. Students worry that if they are falsely accused, there is no way to prove their innocence.

Over the summer, Fitzsimmons helped draft detailed new guidelines for students and faculty that strive to create more clarity. Faculty have been told a blanket ban on AI "is not a viable policy" unless instructors make changes to the way they teach and assess students. A lot of faculty are doing away with take-home exams. Some have returned to pen and paper tests in class, she said, and others have moved to "flipped classrooms," where homework is done in class.

Emily DeJeu, who teaches communication courses at Carnegie Mellon's business school, has eliminated writing assignments as homework and replaced them with in-class quizzes done on laptops in "a lockdown browser" that blocks students from leaving the quiz screen.

"To expect an 18-year-old to exercise great discipline is unreasonable," DeJeu said. "That's why it's up to instructors to put up guardrails."

South Korean workers return home after days in detention following US immigration raid

By KIM TONG-HYUNG and HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

INCHEON, South Korea (AP) — More than 300 South Korean workers detained during an immigration raid in the United States returned home on a charter plane on Friday to be reunited with their loved ones.

They were among the 475 people detained during the Sept. 4 immigration raid at a battery factory under construction on the campus of Hyundai's sprawling auto plant west of Savannah, Georgia.

Their roundup and the U.S. release of video showing some Korean workers shackled with chains around their hands, ankles and waists have caused public outrage and a sense of betrayal in South Korea, a key U.S. ally.

After the Boeing 747-8i Korean Air plane landed at Incheon International Airport, near Seoul, the work-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 68 of 72

ers appeared in an arrivals hall, with senior officials including presidential chief of staff Kang Hoon-sik clapping hands.

Hundreds of journalists gathered at the airport to cover their arrival, while many ordinary citizens shouted "Welcome back!" One worker, apparently responding to the greeting, called out "I'm back! I'm free!" as he hurried toward the airport gate.

One protester unfurled a huge banner with a photo of U.S. President Donald Trump and a sarcastic message criticizing U.S. immigration crackdowns, before security officials forced him to stop.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry asked the waiting media to blur the workers' faces in videos and photos, citing requests by the workers who worried about their privacy.

The few workers who spoke to reporters described the shock of the unexpected raid, being handcuffed and chained, and the allegedly harsh conditions of their detention.

"No one would have really wanted to stay," said Jang Yeong-seon, one of the released workers, when asked about Trump's supposed last-minute offer to allow the workers to remain at the factory site if they wished.

"I don't know how the visa situation will turn out, and while there may be things that could require me to go back, for now I will think carefully about it," he told reporters.

Another worker, who wished to remain anonymous, said it was hardest to share a room with another detainee "with the toilet right next to where we ate and slept."

Relatives relieved

Friday's flight was carrying 330 people who were detained in the Georgia raid — 316 of them were South Koreans, including a pregnant woman, and the rest are Chinese, Japanese and Indonesian workers. They had been held at an immigration detention center in Folkston, 285 miles (460 kilometers) southeast of Atlanta.

Families waited anxiously in a multi-level parking lot near the airport terminal. As the elevator doors opened, each group of workers stepped out to hurried embraces from their relatives.

Hwang In-song, the brother of one worker, told The Associated Press he had been unable to reach his sibling until midnight Thursday, when he finally received a text message from his brother saying he was safe. He said the past week was "the hardest time" for their family.

"We asked him if he was okay health-wise, and he said he was in good health. We didn't get to talk much because he was about to board the plane," Hwang said.

Choi Yeon-ju, the 64-year-old mother of another worker, said her son's detention was "incredibly shocking and stunning." But she said her son also finally made a short phone call to their family after midnight Thursday.

"He didn't say much about how he was, just saying he was okay and telling us not to worry too much," she said, waiting with her daughter-in-law and a grandchild.

Trump halted departure process

South Korea said Sunday it had reached an agreement with the U.S. for the Korean workers' releases.

The South Korean government originally sought to bring them back home on Thursday, but said the plan was shelved due to a reason involving the U.S. side. South Korea's Foreign Ministry later said Trump had halted the departure process to hear from South Korea on whether the Koreans should be allowed to stay to continue their work and help train U.S. workers or should be sent back to South Korea.

South Korean officials said that one South Korean national who has relatives in the U.S. eventually chose to stay in the U.S.

The battery plant, a joint venture between Hyundai and LG Energy Solution, is one of more than 20 major industrial sites that South Korean companies are currently building in the United States.

Speaking at the airport, Kim Dong Myung, the chief executive officer of LG Energy Solution, downplayed concerns that the raid would cause major delays to the launch of the Georgia factory, saying disruptions "would be within a level we can manage."

Calls for change in US visa system

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 69 of 72

U.S. authorities said some of the detained Korean workers had illegally crossed the U.S. border, while others entered legally but had expired visas or entered on visa waivers that prohibited them from working.

But South Korean officials say the U.S. has yet to adequately respond to their long-standing request to improve the visa system for skilled Korean workers, even as Washington urges Seoul to expand U.S. industrial investments.

South Korean companies have been mostly relying on short-term visitor visas or Electronic System for Travel Authorization to send workers who are needed to launch manufacturing sites and handle other setup tasks, a practice that had been largely tolerated for years.

South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun, who traveled to Washington to negotiate the workers' release, said U.S. officials had agreed to let them return later to finish their work. The two countries also agreed to establish a working group to explore ways to make it easier for South Korean companies to send employees to the U.S.

"We will discuss all measures, including creating a new visa category, establishing a new quota, and various steps to make obtaining a visa easier," Cho told reporters as he returned home Friday. He said most of the detained workers had ESTAs, while others had short-term B-1 or B-2 visas and L-1 visas.

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday warned that South Korean companies will likely hesitate to make further investments in the U.S. unless it improves its visa system.

The raid was the latest in a series of workplace raids conducted as part of the Trump administration's mass deportation agenda. Many South Koreans were surprised by the timing of the raid, which took place about two weeks after a summit between Lee and Trump, and a little more than a month after South Korea's announcement of a \$350 billion investment plan in the U.S. in return for a lowered U.S. tariff rate.

Israeli soldiers, and their mothers, increasingly reject calls to return to Gaza

By SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — As Israel calls up tens of thousands of reservists for its invasion of Gaza City, a growing number of soldiers — and their mothers — are saying no.

There are no official figures, but newly formed groups are broadcasting their refusal to serve despite the risk of imprisonment. It's a new phenomenon in the nearly two-year war sparked by Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack, though so far it has had no apparent effect on military operations.

The defiance is emerging as Israelis have joined mass protests accusing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of prolonging the war for political purposes instead of reaching a deal with Hamas to bring back the remaining 48 hostages, 20 of whom are believed to be alive.

Many opponents, including former senior security officials, fear that the latest offensive will achieve little and put the hostages at risk. Israel also faces heavy international criticism over the humanitarian catastrophe unleashed by the war and its blockade.

One group calling on Israel's leaders to stop sending their children into war is comprised of mothers who fear their sons will die in vain.

"I couldn't stop thinking of how to break his leg, break his arm, wound him in some way that he won't be able to go back," Noorit Felsenthal-Berger said as she wiped tears from her cheeks, terrified her youngest son will be forced to return.

Fatigue and dwindling morale

Avshalom Zohar Sal, a 28-year-old soldier and medic who served multiple tours in Gaza, said soldiers are exhausted, demoralized and no longer know what they are fighting for.

His doubts first surfaced last year, when he was serving in an area near where six hostages were later killed by their captors as Israeli troops closed in. "I felt this was my fault," he said.

His skepticism deepened during his most recent tour, in June, when he saw troops returning to the same areas where they had fought earlier in the war. He said some soldiers seemed less focused, leaving them

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 70 of 72

vulnerable to attacks from a vastly diminished but still lethal Hamas.

"Don't put me in the position that I need to decide if I'm going to risk again my life," he said, addressing the military.

A group known as Soldiers for Hostages says it represents more than 360 soldiers who refuse to serve. While the number remains small, it is a contrast from the early days of the war, when reservists rushed for duty in the wake of the Oct. 7 attack. Such refusal is punishable by imprisonment, but that has only happened in a handful of cases.

"Netanyahu's ongoing war of aggression needlessly puts our own hostages in danger and has wreaked havoc on the fabric of Israeli society, while at the same time killing, maiming and starving an entire population" of civilians in Gaza, Max Kresch, a member of the group, said at a Sept. 2 news conference.

Another group known as "Parents of Combat Soldiers Shout Enough," also known by its slogan "Save Our Souls," or SOS, says it represents nearly 1,000 mothers of soldiers. A similar movement was credited with helping to end Israel's 18-year occupation of southern Lebanon in 2000.

"We have to be their voice," said Felsenthal-Berger, whose two sons have fought in Gaza. The group has held protests around the country, met with government officials and published letters. She says her sons, including one on active duty, are no longer in Gaza. She says they support her efforts but have not officially refused to serve.

Yifat Gadot says her 22-year-old son, who fought in Gaza for nine months at the start of the war, told her that soldiers there felt like sitting ducks. More than 450 Israeli soldiers have been killed since the start of the 2023 ground invasion, according to the army.

"I told him, 'We the mothers will do everything we can to get you out of Gaza and save you from this political war,'" she said.

Some of the women have encouraged their sons to refuse to report back for action in Gaza, while others say they respect their son's decisions. All say their message is aimed primarily at the country's leaders.

Netanyahu's office declined to comment.

Israelis are fed up, but military service is 'sacrosanct'

Israel's call-up of 60,000 reservists is the largest in months, in a country of fewer than 10 million people where military service is mandatory for most Jewish men. Many have already served multiple tours away from their families and businesses.

The Israeli government's failure to draft ultra-Orthodox men into the military has added to their anger. Religious men have long avoided military service through exemptions negotiated by their politically powerful leaders, who have been a key component of Netanyahu's government. That has fueled resentment among the broader public — a sentiment that has grown during nearly two years of war.

The military does not provide figures on absences or refusals and says each case is evaluated on its merits. "The contribution of the reservists is essential to the success of missions and to maintaining the security of the country," it said.

At least three soldiers associated with the Soldiers for Hostages group have been imprisoned this year for refusing to serve, with some jailed for up to three weeks, the group said.

Support for the war ran high after Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting 251.

But sentiment has changed over the course of the war, especially since Israel ended a ceasefire in March that had facilitated the release of hostages. The war has killed more than 64,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The agency doesn't say how many of the dead were civilians or militants, but says about half the dead were women and children.

A recent poll found that around two-thirds of Israelis, including about 60% of Israeli Jews, think Israel should agree to a deal that includes the release of all the hostages, the cessation of hostilities and the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza.

The poll, conducted by the Israel Democracy Institute in the last week of August, surveyed 600 people in Hebrew and 150 people in Arabic. It has a margin of sampling error of 3.6 percentage points.

Hamas has long said it would accept a deal along those lines, but Netanyahu has refused. He has said

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 71 of 72

the war will end only when all the hostages are returned and Hamas is disarmed, with Israel maintaining open-ended security control over the territory.

Mairav Zonszein, a senior analyst with the International Crisis Group, said that pushing soldiers in a deeply divided country to keep fighting could have a lasting impact on Israel's capabilities.

Many believe that divisions over a planned judicial overhaul in 2023, which generated mass protests and threats from soldiers not to serve, weakened Israel ahead of the Oct. 7 attack.

Still, refusing military service remains a red line for many in Israel. "The military, and serving in it, is still sacrosanct," Zonszein said.

Prince Harry makes surprise visit to Ukraine in support of wounded troops

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Prince Harry has arrived in Ukraine for a surprise visit in support of wounded service members.

Harry's representatives confirmed they were in the capital, Kyiv, on Friday, though they declined to discuss the prince's schedule for security reasons.

This is the second time Harry has visited Ukraine since the start of Russia's full scale invasion in 2022. He made a trip to the western city of Lviv in April.

"We cannot stop the war but what we can do is do everything we can to help the recovery process," Harry told the Guardian newspaper while on an overnight train to Kyiv.

Harry, a British Army veteran who served in Afghanistan, is the founder of the Invictus Games, a Paralympic-style event designed to inspire military veterans around the world as they work to overcome battlefield injuries. Ukraine is bidding to host the games in 2029.

The Archewell foundation set up by Harry and his wife Meghan announced this week that it had donated \$500,000 to projects supporting injured children from Gaza and Ukraine. The money will be used to help the World Health Organization with medical evacuations and to fund work developing prosthetics for seriously injured young people.

The Guardian said that Harry will visit the National Museum of the History of Ukraine in the Second World War, spend time with 200 veterans and meet Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko.

His visit coincided with a trip to Ukraine by British Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper, who announced a new set of U.K. sanctions targeting Russia's oil revenues and military supplies.

Cooper said the visit is a show of solidarity with Ukrainians facing intensified assault from Russia — including 6,500 drones and missiles in July, 10 times the level of a year ago.

Harry's appearance in Ukraine follows a four-day trip to the U.K., where he met his father, King Charles III, for the first time in 19 months. The meeting was seen as a first step in repairing frigid relations between Harry and other members of the royal family, which deteriorated after he and his wife, the former Meghan Markle, gave up royal duties and moved to California in 2020.

Harry and his father last met in February 2024, when the prince flew to London after receiving news that Charles had been diagnosed with cancer. Harry spent about 45 minutes with Charles before the king flew to his Sandringham country estate to recuperate from his treatment.

Prince Harry's last trip to Ukraine included a visit to the Superhumans Center, an orthopedic clinic in Lviv that treats wounded military personnel and civilians. The center provides prosthetic limbs, reconstructive surgery and psychological help free of charge.

Harry's visit Friday come as Russia escalates its war against Ukraine.

It is less than a week after Russia's largest aerial attack on Ukraine since its all-out invasion began more than three years ago — an attack in which the main Ukrainian government building was hit. It also comes just days after numerous Russian drones entered the airspace of NATO member Poland — the country Harry traveled through to reach Ukraine.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 101 ~ 72 of 72

Today in History: September 12, Voyager 1 leaves the solar system

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Friday, Sept. 12, the 255th day of 2025. There are 110 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 12, 2013, Voyager 1, launched 36 years earlier, became the first man-made spacecraft ever to leave the solar system.

Also on this date:

In 1857, the S.S. Central America (also known as the "Ship of Gold") sank off the coast of South Carolina after sailing into a hurricane in one of the worst maritime disasters in American history; 425 people were killed and thousands of pounds of gold sank with the ship to the bottom of the ocean.

In 1940, the Lascaux cave paintings, estimated to be 17,000 years old, were discovered in southwestern France.

In 1958, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Cooper v. Aaron, unanimously ruled that Arkansas officials who were resisting public school desegregation orders could not disregard the high court's rulings.

In 1959, the Soviet Union launched its Luna 2 space probe, which made a crash landing on the moon.

In 1962, in a speech at Rice University in Houston, President John F. Kennedy reaffirmed his support for the manned space program, declaring: "We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard."

In 1977, South African Black student leader and anti-apartheid activist Steve Biko, 30, died while in police custody, triggering an international outcry.

In 1994, truck driver Frank Eugene Corder piloted a stolen single-engine Cessna airplane into restricted airspace in Washington, D.C., and crashed it into the South Lawn of the White House. He died in the crash.

In 2003, in the Iraqi city of Fallujah, U.S. forces mistakenly opened fire on vehicles carrying police, killing eight of them.

In 2008, a Metrolink commuter train struck a freight train head-on in Los Angeles, killing 25 people.

In 2011, Novak Djokovic beat Rafael Nadal to win his first U.S. Open championship.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Linda Gray is 85. Singer Maria Muldaur is 82. Author Michael Ondaatje is 82. Actor Joe Pantoliano is 74. Photographer Nan Goldin is 72. Composer Hans Zimmer is 68. Actor Rachel Ward is 68. TV host-commentator Greg Gutfeld is 61. Actor-comedian Louis (loo-ee) C.K. is 58. Golfer Angel Cabrera is 56. Country singer Jennifer Nettles (Sugarland) is 51. Rapper 2 Chainz is 48. Singer Ruben Studdard is 47. Basketball Hall of Famer Yao Ming is 45. Singer-actor Jennifer Hudson is 44. Actor Alfie Allen is 39. Actor Emmy Rossum is 39. Los Angeles Dodgers first baseman Freddie Freeman is 36. Country singer-songwriter Kelsea Ballerini is 32. Actor Sydney Sweeney is 28.