

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 1 of 64

[1- Upcoming Events](#)
[2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
[4- Groton JV holds off Milbank for 21-14 win](#)
[6- Fellowship of Christian Students - Record Breaking Attendance](#)
[8- City Council Agenda](#)
[9- Amended BC Commission Agenda](#)
[10- Name Released in Lincoln County Fatal Crash](#)
[10- Names Released in Yankton County Fatal Crash](#)
[11- Names Released in Meade County Fatal Crash](#)
[12- SD SearchLight: Q&A: New owner hopes revived SD newspapers will 'continue forever,' if not always in print](#)
[14- SD SearchLight: State senator from Madison formally launches congressional bid, pledges to be Trump ally](#)
[15- SD SearchLight: Thune steams while Democrats do the country a favor by slowing Trump's nominees](#)
[16- SD SearchLight: Trump deploys National Guard troops to Memphis for anti-crime task force](#)
[17- SD SearchLight: U.S. Education Department boosts funds for HBCUs, tribal colleges, charter schools](#)
[18- Weather Pages](#)
[23- Daily Devotional](#)
[24- Subscription Form](#)
[25- Lottery Numbers](#)
[26- Upcoming Groton Events](#)
[27- News from the Associated Press](#)

Tuesday, Sept. 16

School Breakfast: Breakfast sliders.
School Lunch: Pizza burger, tri tater.
St. John's Lutheran: Quilting, 9 a.m.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
Cross Country at Redfield, 10 a.m.
JH Football at Milbank, 7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.)
Soccer at Dakota Valley (Girls at 4 p.m., Boys at 5:30 p.m.)



Tuesday Blessing



**Good Morning and Happy
Tuesday, dear friends!**

Today we thank the Lord for blessing us with a new day. His mercy is fresh each morning, His love never fails, and His grace is more than enough for whatever we face.

As you step into this day, may His peace fill your heart, may His joy strengthen you, and may His blessings overflow in your life and home.



The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped." - Psalm 28:7

**Have a blessed and joyful,
Tuesday, everyone!**



God's Spoken Word
Ministries

Wednesday, Sept. 17

School Breakfast: Omelets.
School Lunch: Mac and cheese peas.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.
Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 2 of 64

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.

TikTok Framework

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said yesterday the US and China reached a framework for a deal to allow TikTok to continue operating in the US.

Bessent said the deal entails two private parties, presumably TikTok's Chinese owner, ByteDance, and a US partner. He did not share further details; President Donald Trump will meet with Chinese leader Xi Jinping Friday to close the deal. The announcement came ahead of tomorrow's deadline requiring ByteDance to sell the social media company to a non-Chinese buyer or face a US ban on national security grounds. Congress' deadline was originally set for earlier this year, but Trump has extended it multiple times. TikTok has over 170 million active US users.

Separately, China's regulator said an initial probe of AI chip company Nvidia showed the California-based company had violated antitrust law. The regulator pointed to the company's 2020 acquisition of Israeli-American Mellanox Technologies but did not elaborate further or indicate possible penalties.

'Bloody Sunday' Trial

An ex-British paratrooper began a murder trial in Northern Ireland yesterday, the first prosecution tied to the 1972 Bloody Sunday massacre. Thirteen people were killed and 15 wounded when soldiers opened fire on unarmed civil rights demonstrators—the deadliest shooting from decades of violence known as the Troubles.

"Soldier F," whose identity is protected, is the only regiment member to face trial. He has pleaded not guilty to two counts of murder and five counts of attempted murder. Sixteen other soldiers and two alleged Irish Republican Army members were not prosecuted due to insufficient evidence. The trial follows years of legal setbacks: The case was initially dropped after government claims of self-defense, which a 2010 review overturned, concluding troops had shot fleeing civilians and lied about it.

The Troubles marked a violent conflict over Northern Ireland's political status between pro-British, predominantly Protestant unionists and Catholic-majority Irish nationalists. Roughly 3,600 people were killed.

AI Usage Reports

Leading AI companies OpenAI and Anthropic published separate studies yesterday on how their chatbots—ChatGPT and Claude—are being adopted worldwide.

Users are increasingly using ChatGPT for personal queries, according to OpenAI's analysis of 1.5 million conversations collected over nearly three years. Over 70% of conversations are non-work-related, compared to 53% last year. ChatGPT is also gaining popularity in lower-income countries, with adoption in the lowest-income countries over four times higher than in the highest-income ones.

Anthropic's analysis of 1 million conversations from August found the use of Claude highest in high-income countries, where users increasingly use the chatbot to refine work and learn. In contrast, lower-income countries—whose economies are manufacturing-oriented—are more likely to automate tasks with Claude.

Claude usage trends in the US mirrored state economies, with travel planning popular in Hawaii and IT queries frequent in major tech centers like California.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 3 of 64

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Swedish American pole vaulter Armand Duplantis breaks world record for 14th time at 2025 World Track and Field Championships.

Sunday's Primetime Emmy Awards haul in 7.4 million viewers, an 8% increase over last year and the most since 2021.

Pulitzer Prize finalist Arthur Sze tapped as the 25th US poet laureate.

Science & Technology

Apple launches iOS 26 across software platforms, including "Liquid Glass" visual theme, AI-powered live translation, and messaging customizations.

Scientists pinpoint neural circuit and cell type behind optical illusions; finding may inform treatments for schizophrenia and other neuropsychiatric disorders.

Researchers use machine learning to develop 3D system that enables more precise analyses of fetal development.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close up (S&P 500 +0.5%, Dow +0.1%, Nasdaq +1.0%); investors await Federal Reserve policy decision tomorrow.

Alphabet becomes fourth company to surpass \$3T market cap, joining Nvidia, Microsoft, and Apple.

Elon Musk purchases \$1B worth of Tesla shares.

CoreWeave, Nvidiasign \$6.3B cloud computing capacity deal.

Ford Motor to relocate headquarters for first time in 70 years, 3 miles from current headquarters—dubbed "The Glass House"—in Dearborn, Michigan.

Politics & World Affairs

President Donald Trump says the US military struck a boat allegedly ferrying drugs from Venezuela to the US yesterday, killing three people onboard; airstrike comes nearly two weeks after a first strike killed 11 people on a speedboat.

Suspect in Charlie Kirk's murder is due to be charged today after allegedly confessing in private messages and on social media app Discord; the FBI says DNA tied him to the crime.

Vice President JD Vance hosts Kirk's show.

Senate confirms White House economist Stephen Miran for a seat on the Federal Reserve's governing board.

Appeals court rejects Trump's bid to unseat Fed Governor Lisa Cook while his attempt to fire her is litigated in court.

Groton JV holds off Milbank for 21-14 win

Milbank – Groton’s Junior Varsity football team made big plays on both sides of the ball Monday night and held off a late Milbank rally to earn a 21-14 road win.

The Tigers struck first when T.C. Schuster intercepted a pass on Milbank’s opening possession and returned it 28 yards for a touchdown. Wesley Morehouse added the extra point for a 7-0 lead with 9:18 left in the first quarter.

Milbank answered quickly as Max Scoular broke free for a 38-yard touchdown run. The point-after attempt was no good, leaving Groton in front 7-6, a score that held through the end of the first quarter.

In the second quarter, Schuster connected with Keegan Woltjer for a 33-yard touchdown pass with 1:49 left in the half. Morehouse’s PAT extended the lead to 14-6 at the break.

Groton’s defense came up with another takeaway in the third quarter when Kolton Antonsen intercepted a pass and gave the Tigers possession at their own 35-yard line. Schuster later found Alex Abeln for a six-yard touchdown strike, and Morehouse’s kick made it 21-6 heading into the fourth.

Milbank mounted a late comeback. With 3:50 to play, quarterback Liam Street completed a 30-yard touchdown pass, and Scoular ran in the conversion to cut the deficit to 21-14. Moments later, Adrian Seyer intercepted a Groton pass, giving the Bulldogs the ball at the Tigers’ 29-yard line with just over two minutes to play.

Milbank advanced inside the 15 but faced a crucial 4th-and-5 at the 11-yard line with 30 seconds remaining. The Groton defense held, forcing a turnover on downs. The Tigers then took a knee to secure the 21-14 victory.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by the Schuster Family.



TC Schuster
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 5 of 64



Kason Oswald
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Keegan Woltjer
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Alex Abeln
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 6 of 64

Fellowship of Christian Students - Record Breaking Attendance

Fellowship of Christian Students (FCS) had a record-breaking attendance for their first meeting of the school year on September 14th. Students from 6th grade up to seniors (50+ students) gathered to hear student leader JD Schwan share an inspiring message on connecting Bible verses and not always looking at them in isolated situations. Much like a single Lego block may look insignificant but together with other blocks, it creates a masterpiece much like the Bible and the promises of the Old Testament to the fulfillment of those promises in the New Testament and even today. Activity 'Basket-Volley' was led by student leader Teagan Hanten, where groups of 4-5 students worked together to pass and set a volleyball into a basketball hoop. FCS meets once a month for fellowship and additionally for a service project (September - Human Society).



Group picture of all student attendees. (Courtesy Photo)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 7 of 64



Chairs were added to the GHS Library Conference room due to number of attendees. (Courtesy Photo)



JD Schwan presents his message about connecting verses in the Bible. (Courtesy Photo)



Tevan Hanson sets a volleyball into the hoop, while teammates Tori Schuster and Avery Crank, and adult leader Ryan Olson watch to see if she makes it. (Courtesy Photo)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 8 of 64

Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

September 16, 2025 – 7:00pm

City Hall – 120 N Main Street

(IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CALL IN TO THIS MEETING, PLEASE MAKE PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS TO DO SO BY
CALLING CITY HALL 605-397-8422)

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
3. Planning and Zoning Appeal – Denied Special Exception – 9 E Railroad Avenue
4. Offer from Builders First Source to Purchase Steel Roofing Materials
5. First Reading of Ordinance No. 791 – Certifying 2026 City of Groton Property Tax Levy to Brown County
6. August Finance Report
7. Minutes
8. Bills
9. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
10. Adjournment

Brown Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 9 of 64



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 Kippely, 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 & Review Quotes for 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>

Name Released in 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: Warren Dale Van Otterloo, 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 September 11 in a single vehicle crash one mile southwest of Fairview, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates Warren Dale Van Otterloo, the driver of a 1994 Peterbilt semi, 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.

Names Released in 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: Erica Beth Heim, 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: Timothy Cal Nelson, 67-year-old male from Yankton, SD, fatal injuries

Yankton County, S.D.- A pedestrian died in a single vehicle crash September 11, seven miles west of Irene, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates Erica Beth Heim, the driver of a 2022 Tesla, was traveling east-bound on SD Highway 46 near mile marker 339 and struck a pedestrian walking in the roadway. Timothy Cal Nelson was transported to a nearby hospital with life-threatening injuries where he later died from those 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 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: Sharon Frances Herron, 83-year-old female from Union Center, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2020 Honda Civic

Seat belt Used: Under investigation

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

Vehicle 2: 2002 Ford F350

Seat belt Used: Yes

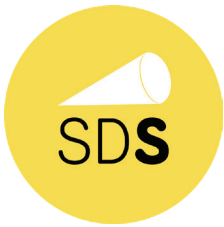
Meade County, S.D.- A Union Center woman died in a two-vehicle crash Saturday, Sept. 6, 15 miles northwest of Union Center, SD.

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

Herron died at the scene. Radabaugh 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.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Q&A: New owner hopes revived SD newspapers will 'continue forever,' if not always in print

Company acquires publications after previous owner abruptly closed them

BY: JOHN HULT-SEPTEMBER 15, 2025 4:15 PM

The halcyon days of the for-profit newspaper are over, and that's not news.

There are just too many competing sources of information for printed papers to command the kind of attention and rake in the kind of advertising dollars they did in the pre-internet era.

But that doesn't mean the days of newspapers are gone.

At least that's the bet Corey Champion and his father, Scott, made last month.

Scott is the CEO of North Carolina-based Champion Media, which acquired four South Dakota newspapers that were shuttered without notice in early August by News Media Corp. That Illinois company blamed the closures on down times for newspapers, and on the collapse of a deal that would've sold its 30-plus mostly rural newspapers to another company.

When the deal died, so did the Huron Plainsman, Brookings Register, Moody County Enterprise and Redfield Press.

Corey, chief financial officer for Champion Media, talked recently with South Dakota Searchlight about why his North Carolina-based company decided to bring the papers back to life.

The following conversation is edited for length and clarity.

How did your family wind up in the newspaper business?

I'm the third generation in the newspaper business. My grandfather and grandmother started a penny saver [a freely distributed local advertising publication] in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and then another one in Monmouth, Illinois. They eventually sold out to a company that later became known as Gannett [owner of USA Today and the Argus Leader, among others].

My father actually stayed on board with the company when they sold out, worked his way up. At the time, I was still in college, getting my master's degree in accounting from the University of Iowa. Afterward, I went and worked for the Kohler company for a while, and kind of specialized in accounting, and then mergers and acquisitions, which I really enjoy doing.

In 2017, my dad had decided it was time to go out on his own. And I was just wrapping up the sale of a furniture company with Kohler, and we decided that we were going to get together. We purchased a group of newspapers from Civitas Media in North Carolina and South Carolina. And then shortly after, purchased the Maysville, Kentucky, Ledger Independent from Lee Enterprises [owner of the Rapid City Journal, among others]. We brought them back private from the corporate side.

How does your company approach the news business?

What we try to do is try to stay very small, nimble and lean, but offer all the back end support — accounting, human resources, finance — so these little community newspapers can just concentrate on reporting local news and selling local advertising. That's essentially what our business model is. We support these local communities so the staff don't have to worry about opening mail, cutting checks or worrying about what the payables are.

How does that work for you financially?

Our values are supporting local journalism and communities. We're not really out trying to make money for shareholders. We're essentially just trying to stay profitable, and to not lose money in any market.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 13 of 64

And the nice thing about being so small and nimble is that we understand that some markets have down years and other other markets have good years. We don't have to pull the plug in a market because they had one down year.

And we're very conscious of what we spend our money on. If we can operate our office in 1,000 square feet and make sure it's affordable and sustainable, that's what we're going to do. If we don't need an internet and a cable service in our office, we're not going to add a cable service. We try to make all the cuts where we can, so that we can spend our money on pay for the employees.

That's really the hardest part in this industry. It's kind of like being a teacher. There are a lot of teachers, and there are a lot of journalists, that don't do it for the money. You get rewarded in a lot of other ways.

That's something that often gets lost when you read about newspapers falling apart. For 100 years, there was no internet, and the newspaper was the primary source of information. It basically printed its own money. Those are the glory days everybody thinks and talks about. That doesn't exist anymore. And so if you're a shareholder buying publicly traded stock, thinking that you're going to buy something that's going to go back to its glory days, that's not going to happen.

How did you learn about this opportunity for these four papers?

I got a phone call and heard kind of through the grapevine what was happening. After doing some basic research on the markets, I thought 'you know, these are really good communities.' With a few changes, I felt like they could be a sustainable market.

For example, cutting the days, from printing five days a week to two days a week. I'd say that's more of a standard practice nowadays. The majority of our costs are actually associated with the delivery costs, coming from the post office, that we have absolutely no control over.

When you're looking at how much people are paying for a subscription and how much it costs to deliver them a paper five days a week, you're losing money on every paper you deliver. But if you only deliver two days a week, it cuts that expense way down and lets you send out a better, bigger paper, where you give people more of what they want to read.

Are we talking about a two-day-a-week product in Huron and Brookings?

The weeklies (Redfield Press and Moody County Enterprise) will stay weekly, but Brookings and Huron will be two days a week. I would love to keep putting out a paper five days a week, but I would rather put out a paper two days a week than put out no paper at all, right? That's kind of what it comes down to.

Had you been to South Dakota before? Did you know much about the state before this?

We have a paper in North Dakota, then up to Minnesota. I've been to Minnesota and North Dakota. I figured it wouldn't be much different. Plus I grew up in Iowa and Illinois. They're kind of just good old Midwest towns, and I really believe those good Midwest towns will still support their local newspaper and local journalism. That was a piece that I really liked.

So what is the future? How long does it last? Where are we going in the long term?

There's a huge uptick in our digital, online readership. A print paper isn't going to be printed forever. But local journalists, and the newspaper aspect of writing local content to gain readership and selling advertising to help support it, then finding enough community members to buy subscriptions to support it, that will always continue. In a smaller market that doesn't have a TV station, that maybe has a radio station, people heavily rely on us to communicate to them about what's going on. They need a watchdog.

I think what happened here is a good example. When these papers abruptly shut down, everybody in the community kind of realized that they actually missed their newspaper, and they wanted it more than they were giving the paper credit for. Oftentimes newspapers get a bad rap, where people like to complain about the content in the paper. But then when there's no content at all, there's really a void that they don't want to have in their community.

So I think that the newspapers will continue forever. I wouldn't be in this industry if I thought otherwise. I just don't know that the actual print paper will last forever.

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.

State senator from Madison formally launches congressional bid, pledges to be Trump ally

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR-SEPTEMBER 15, 2025 10:34 AM

Madison Republican state Sen. Casey Crabtree formally announced Monday that he is running for South Dakota's lone seat in the U.S. House of Representatives next year, pledging to carry out President Donald Trump's "America First" agenda.

"I am the only conservative Republican in this race who has always delivered on an 'America First,' 'South Dakota Always' agenda," Crabtree said in an interview with South Dakota Searchlight.

Crabtree works in economic development for Heartland Energy, a wholesale electrical power provider. He said his background in energy development, creating jobs and helping "rural communities thrive" is what President Trump is looking for.

Other declared candidates include Republican Attorney General Marty Jackley, Democratic nonprofit executive Billy Mawhiney, of Sioux Falls, and Democratic former U.S. Department of Agriculture employee Nikki Gronli, of rural Dell Rapids. Another Democrat, Scott Schlagel, of Dell Rapids, has filed a statement of candidacy with the Federal Election Commission.

The House seat is up for grabs next year because U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-South Dakota, is running for governor.

Crabtree said he is the best fit for the job, pointing to legislation he has helped enact in South Dakota. The list includes a temporary sales tax reduction, a ban on sanctuary policies for unauthorized immigration, a tax refund for gas stations to incentivize ethanol use, a \$200 million fund for housing infrastructure, and several annual freezes on state university tuition.

"When you look at that huge list of things, that is the America First agenda, and that is us delivering on that," Crabtree said.

Crabtree was appointed to the state Senate in 2020 by then-Gov. Kristi Noem, and he served as majority leader in 2023 and 2024. He lost his leadership position following his prime sponsorship of Senate Bill 201 in 2024.

The bill would have implemented new protections for landowners and counties impacted by the construction of a proposed carbon dioxide pipeline, but would have stopped short of preventing pipeline companies from using a legal process known as eminent domain to gain land access from unwilling landowners. Opponents of the pipeline referred the legislation to the ballot, where voters rejected it, and a divide in the Republican Party over the bill played a role in 14 incumbent Republicans losing their seats during the June 2024 primary election. The winners of those races helped enact a ban on eminent domain for carbon pipelines earlier this year.

"I'll never apologize for fighting for farmers and ranchers," Crabtree said when asked about the 2024 bill's potential impact on his campaign. "It's something that I've always done and I will always continue to do."

The carbon pipeline project would capture and sequester some of the corn-based ethanol industry's CO2 emissions in an attempt to gain tax credits and access markets demanding less carbon-intensive fuels. Crabtree has said the effort supports President Trump's agenda of ensuring energy dominance while creating more demand for corn.

When asked about Trump's tariff policies, which some in agriculture have criticized, Crabtree defended them.

"For far too long, countries like China haven't held up their end of the deal and they hurt American businesses, American workers, and certainly hurt our family farmers," he said. "The president is the ultimate deal maker, and I'm confident that he's going to use tariffs in the short term to negotiate better trade deals for American workers and our family farmers."

When asked if Trump is hard enough on Russia and whether he should do more to aid Ukraine, Crabtree said Trump is handling the situation "perfectly." He said Trump is trying to end the war, something "Biden never did."

"He needs strong allies like myself who will be serving in Congress to make sure he can deliver on that

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 15 of 64

America First Agenda," Crabtree said.

Crabtree grew up in Arlington, graduated from Northern State University in Aberdeen, and lives in Madison with his wife, Ashley, and their two sons. Ashley owns an optometry practice.

The Republican primary for the congressional seat, which would pit Crabtree against Jackley and any other Republican candidates who arise, is June 2, 2026. The general election will be Nov. 3, 2026.

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

COMMENTARY

Thune steams while Democrats do the country a favor by slowing Trump's nominees

by DANA HESS

U.S. Senate Majority Leader John Thune was hot under the collar. It wasn't just because of the August weather, or the crowd at the Dakotafest agricultural trade show in Mitchell, or the pole barn where the crowd was jammed in. Thune was hot because of the way he's being treated by Senate Democrats.

Those pesky Democrats have thrown up as many roadblocks as they can to delay the filling of more than 1,300 positions in the Trump administration that require Senate confirmation. "We spend two-thirds of our time on personnel in the United States Senate," Thune said, according to a Dakota Scout story, calling the resistance from the minority party "unprecedented."

In a recent op-ed, Thune promised that Senate Republicans are working on a rule change that should hurry the process along.

Gone are the days of the Senate gentlemen's club where the prevailing tradition was that a president should be allowed to have the nominees he wanted. Thune said 90% of President Barack Obama's nominees were approved by unanimous consent, a fast way to approve nominees that skips committee hearings and floor debate. About 60% of President Joe Biden's appointees were approved that way. In Trump's first term, about half of his nominees were approved without hearings or debates.

The downward trend in using unanimous consent is a direct result of the ideological split in this country. To date, none of Trump's appointees during his second term have been approved by unanimous consent.

The irony here is that Trump can't get approval for the people he wants to serve in his administration while, during his first months in office, he's been busy firing or furloughing thousands of federal government employees.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer has sworn to use every weapon in his arsenal to block the Trump agenda. It looks like that includes slowing the Senate confirmation process to a glacial pace.

Senate Democrats may have acted more favorably toward Trump's nominees if his Cabinet choices to be the leaders in his government weren't so astoundingly unqualified. In Trump's first term, he chose high-ranking officials as if casting a movie. They had to have the right look, but with the right look came a reasonable amount of competence. In Trump 2.0, the need for competence has been discarded. This time out, the prevailing quality to serve in the Trump administration is blind loyalty to the president.

There's no doubting that the likes of Pete Hegseth, Tulsi Gabbard and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. are loyal to Trump. Their competence at running the Pentagon, intelligence agencies and the nation's health care are frequently and rightfully questioned. Life probably wouldn't be so tough for Thune if he and his Senate Republican colleagues had shown some backbone and told the president that competence had to be the standard for Cabinet secretaries rather than just fawning loyalty to the president.

It's easy to understand Thune's frustration. However, he and Senate Republicans brought this on themselves by treating Trump's Cabinet selections as if they were serious choices rather than a presidential

power play to show that he could get anyone he wanted approved by the Senate.

This space has been used before to note that Thune may come to regret, if he doesn't already, his rise to the top Senate leadership post of his party during a Trump administration. As he complains about the long days he has to put in while fulfilling that role, he should remember that he won the office by claiming that Sen. Tom Daschle was paying too much attention to Senate leadership and not enough attention to South Dakota's needs.

Senate Democrats may be throwing up roadblocks to Trump's agenda, but for Republicans this is a self-inflicted wound developed by currying favor with the president rather than doing their jobs. Despite Thune's complaints, the slow pace of approval for Trump's nominees is likely what's best for the country. That's particularly the case if the nominees Trump seeks to work in his government are anything like the clown car he calls a Cabinet.

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

Trump deploys National Guard troops to Memphis for anti-crime task force

BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA-SEPTEMBER 15, 2025 5:36 PM

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump Monday directed Tennessee's National Guard deployed to the Democratic-led city of Memphis, following similar actions in the District of Columbia that Trump has said were needed to tackle crime.

"We're going to make Memphis safe again," Trump said.

It's the latest test of Trump's presidential powers in using the U.S. military domestically, despite a law that bars soldiers from partaking in local law enforcement. Trump said his efforts in the district — using the National Guard — would be replicated in cities across the country.

In the Oval Office, flanked by Tennessee's GOP Gov. Bill Lee and the state's Republican U.S. senators, Bill Hagerty and Marsha Blackburn, the president signed a presidential memorandum to establish a "Memphis Safe Task Force" to address violent crime using federal law enforcement and agencies.

"We're sending in the big force," Trump said.

Multiple federal agencies

In addition to the National Guard, the task force will include the U.S. Marshals Service, FBI, Drug Enforcement Agency, Homeland Security Investigations and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. It's unclear how many Guard members or members of federal law enforcement will be sent.

"This task force will be a replica of our extraordinarily successful efforts here, and you'll see it's a lot of the same thing," Trump said of using the National Guard in the district.

It's the first time Trump has sent the National Guard into a red state, after seizing control of the California National Guard from the state's governor — a Democrat — for deployment in Los Angeles, and then sending Guard members to the district, another Democratic stronghold.

While homicide rates remain high in Memphis compared to the nation, murders overall from 2023 to 2024 have decreased by 14%, according to the most recent data from the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission.

The Memphis mayor's office could not immediately be reached for comment.

Trump added that St. Louis, Missouri, could also see similar action.

Other cities

The dispatch of the National Guard to Tennessee comes after Trump has threatened to send troops to other cities including New Orleans; Portland, Oregon; and Chicago. Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker pushed back and the president had backed off his threat, though he mentioned the city again on Monday.

Governors have control over their state National Guard except in rare circumstances where the president can seize control. Pritzker has repeatedly rejected the idea of sending the National Guard into Chicago.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 17 of 64

"If we don't have the governor's help we're doing it without him," Trump said of Pritzker. With Memphis, Lee welcomed the intervention and thanked Trump for directing federal resources to the city.

"We are very hopeful and excited about the prospect of moving that city forward," Lee said.

Ariana covers the nation's capital for States Newsroom. Her areas of coverage include politics and policy, lobbying, elections and campaign finance.

U.S. Education Department boosts funds for HBCUs, tribal colleges, charter schools

BY: SHAUNEEN MIRANDA-SEPTEMBER 15, 2025 3:55 PM

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's administration said Monday it will redirect \$495 million in additional funding to historically Black colleges and universities as well as tribal colleges.

The U.S. Education Department's announcement came just days after the administration decided to gut and reprogram \$350 million in discretionary funds that support minority-serving institutions over claims that these programs are "racially discriminatory."

The department last week said it would cease funding for seven grant programs that go toward institutions that serve students who are Black, Indigenous, Hispanic and Asian, as well as initiatives for minority students pursuing science and engineering careers.

The agency argued that these programs "discriminate by conferring government benefits exclusively to institutions that meet racial or ethnic quotas."

Charter schools, civics education

Meanwhile, the department is also diverting \$60 million toward grants for charter schools, and will award a total of \$500 million for these schools, which receive public funds and are a form of school choice. The umbrella term "school choice" centers on programs that offer alternatives to one's assigned public school.

The agency also said it's investing more than \$160 million total in American history and civics grants — a \$137 million increase in the funds Congress previously approved.

In its announcement, the agency said "these investments will be repurposed from programs that the Department determined are not in the best interest of students and families."

Education Secretary Linda McMahon said her department "has carefully scrutinized our federal grants, ensuring that taxpayers are not funding racially discriminatory programs but those programs which promote merit and excellence in education," in a statement Monday.

She added that the administration "will use every available tool to meaningfully advance educational outcomes and ensure every American has the opportunity to succeed in life."

There was no breakdown made available Monday as to which programs or individual institutions would gain funding.

HBCU 'godsend'

Lodriguez V. Murray, senior vice president for public policy and government affairs at UNCF, which supports historically Black colleges and universities, said the extra funding is "nothing short of a godsend for HBCUs," in a statement Monday.

"We are grateful to have worked with the Trump Administration, Secretary McMahon, and her Department of Education team in achieving this one-time infusion of grant funding," Murray said.

Murray noted that "HBCUs are currently and have been underfunded since their inception" and "while we are grateful for these funds, we are still under-resourced."

The National Center for Education Statistics noted that in 2022, there were "99 HBCUs located in 19 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands."

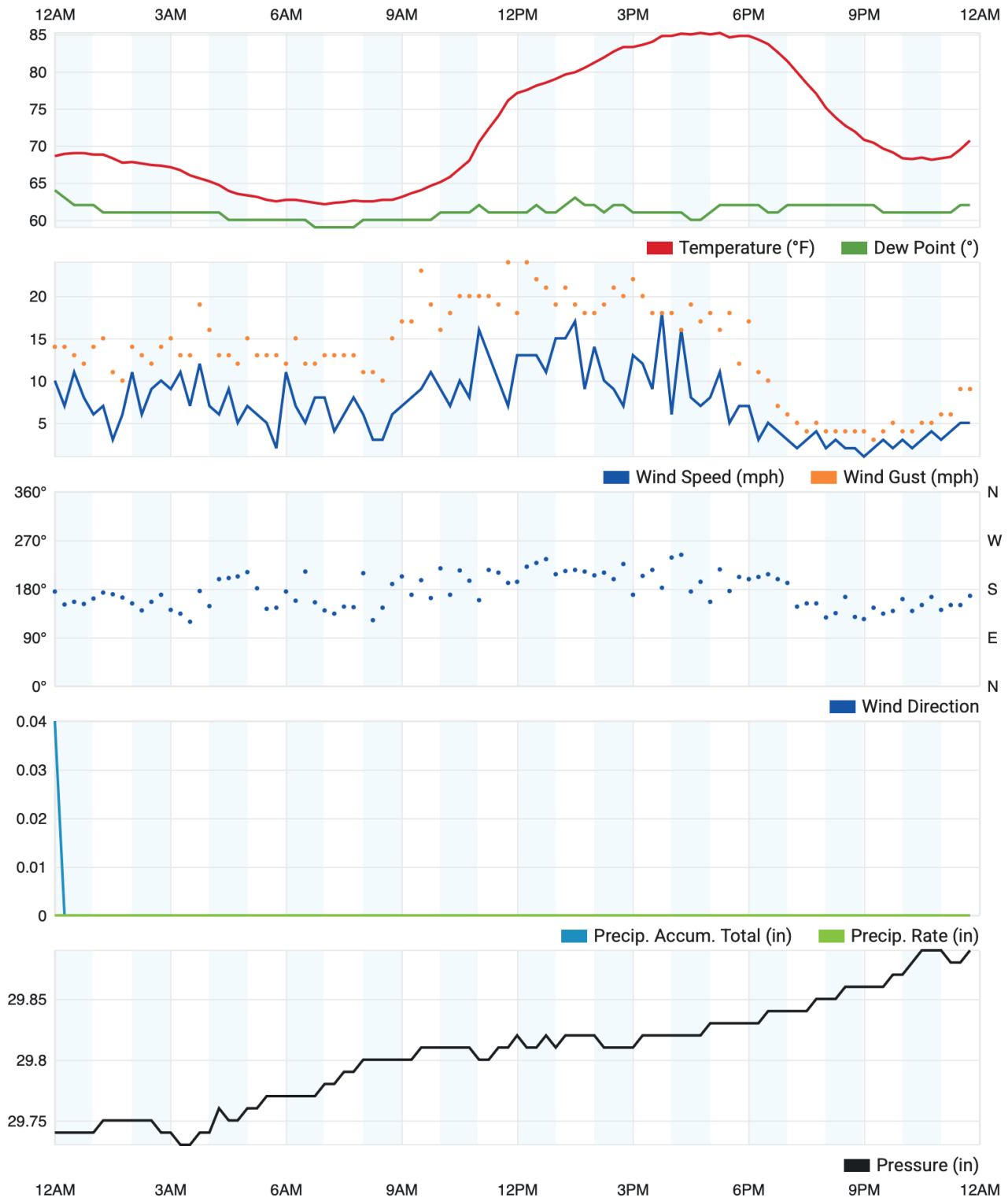
Shauneen Miranda is a reporter for States Newsroom's Washington bureau. An alumna of the University of Maryland, she previously covered breaking news for Axios.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 18 of 64

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

September 15, 2025



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 19 of 64

Today



High: 83 °F

Mostly Sunny

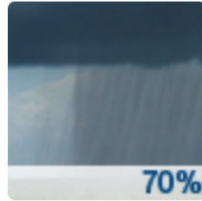
Tonight



Low: 60 °F

Slight Chance
T-storms

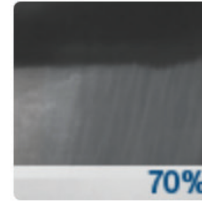
Wednesday



High: 72 °F

Showers
Likely

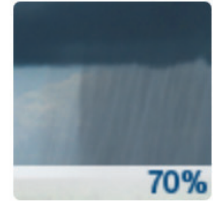
Wednesday
Night



Low: 58 °F

Showers
Likely

Thursday



High: 70 °F

Showers
Likely

THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

1

WHAT THIS MEANS:
Isolated Severe Storms
Possible

TIMING

Late Afternoon-Evening

PRIMARY THREAT



DAMAGING
WIND GUSTS OF
60+ MPH



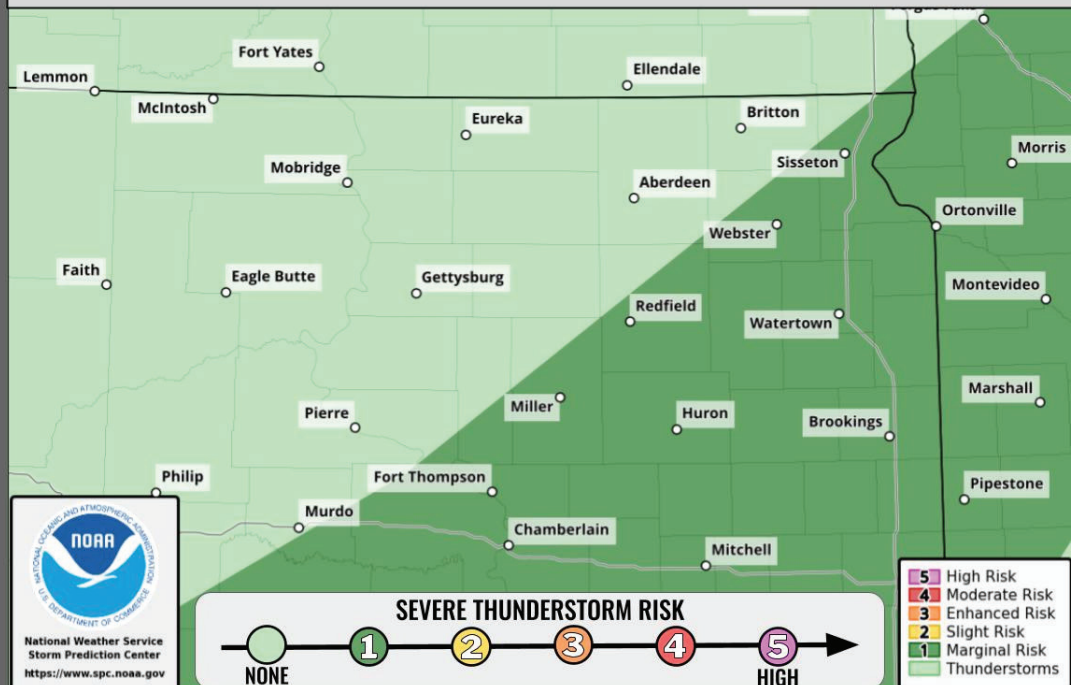
LARGE HAIL
(QUARTER SIZE)

SECONDARY THREATS



HEAVY RAIN

Severe Storms Possible Today



There is a Marginal Risk, or threat level 1 out of 5, of severe weather late this afternoon into this evening near and east of a line from Kadoka to Highmore, Redfield, and Sisseton. The main concerns with the strongest storms will be winds to around 60 mph or hail around the size of quarters.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 20 of 64



Extended Period of Rainfall Ahead

September 16, 2025
4:42 AM

Timing of Rainfall Chances and Probabilities of 1.00" or more of rain between Wednesday and Saturday

Probability of Precipitation Forecast (%)

	9/17 Wed			9/18 Thu			9/19 Fri			9/20 Sat	
	6am	12pm	6pm	12am	6am	12pm	6pm	12am	6am	12pm	6am
Aberdeen	40	50	70	45	65	70	65	50	55	55	20
Britton	30	40	65	45	65	65	70	60	55	55	25
Clark	35	40	80	70	70	65	70	50	35	50	25
Eagle Butte	45	60	75	60	65	60	55	30	40	35	10
Ellendale	30	50	60	35	60	65	60	45	60	60	20
Eureka	40	60	65	40	60	65	60	40	55	55	15
Gettysburg	40	60	80	55	70	70	65	35	45	50	15
Kennebec	40	65	85	70	75	70	60	30	35	30	10
McIntosh	35	45	60	40	50	60	60	40	45	45	15
Milbank	25	30	70	65	70	60	60	55	40	55	35
Miller	50	50	80	70	75	70	70	45	40	45	15
Mobridge	45	50	65	40	55	60	60	30	45	45	10
Murdo	50	70	85	70	75	65	55	25	30	25	15
Pierre	60	65	80	65	75	65	55	30	35	30	15
Redfield	40	50	80	65	75	70	70	50	45	50	15
Sisseton	25	35	65	55	65	65	65	60	50	55	35
Watertown	25	30	75	75	70	60	65	55	40	45	30
Webster	35	40	70	50	70	70	70	50	55	55	20
Wheaton	25	30	60	60	65	60	60	55	40	50	45

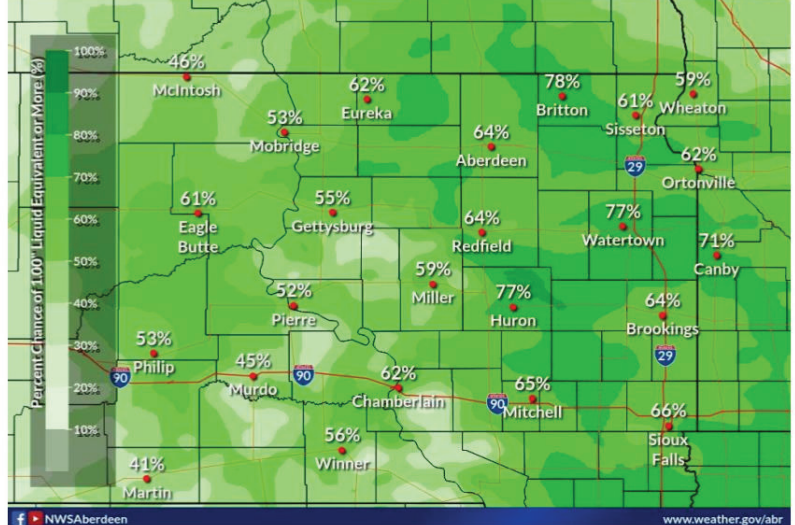
Percent Chance of 1.00" of Rain or More

For the 72 hours ending on Sat Sep 20, 2025 at 7:00AM CDT

Weather Forecast Office

Aberdeen, SD

Issued Sep 16, 2025 2:54 AM CDT



- Highest chances of rainfall will be featured during the afternoon and evening hours as best redevelopment opportunities occur then.
- Highest probabilities (50-80%) for rainfall amounts of 1.00" or more are generally spread out evenly across the area.

An unsettled weather pattern will continue to persist across the Northern Plains through the end of the work week. A series of low pressure systems will track across a nearly stationary frontal boundary set up across parts of South Dakota mid to late week leading to an extended period of rainfall. Rainfall chances won't occur all day long between Wednesday and Friday, so there should be breaks in the activity. However, the likely time frame for persistent, steady rains will occur each afternoon and evening when the opportunity for showers and storms to redevelop will be best. A good portion of central and northeast SD and west central MN have a 50-80 percent chance of seeing rainfall reach or exceed 1 inch between Wednesday morning and Saturday morning. By the end of the week, the storm system responsible for this rainfall is expected to depart the area with drier conditions returning this weekend.

Groton Daily Independent

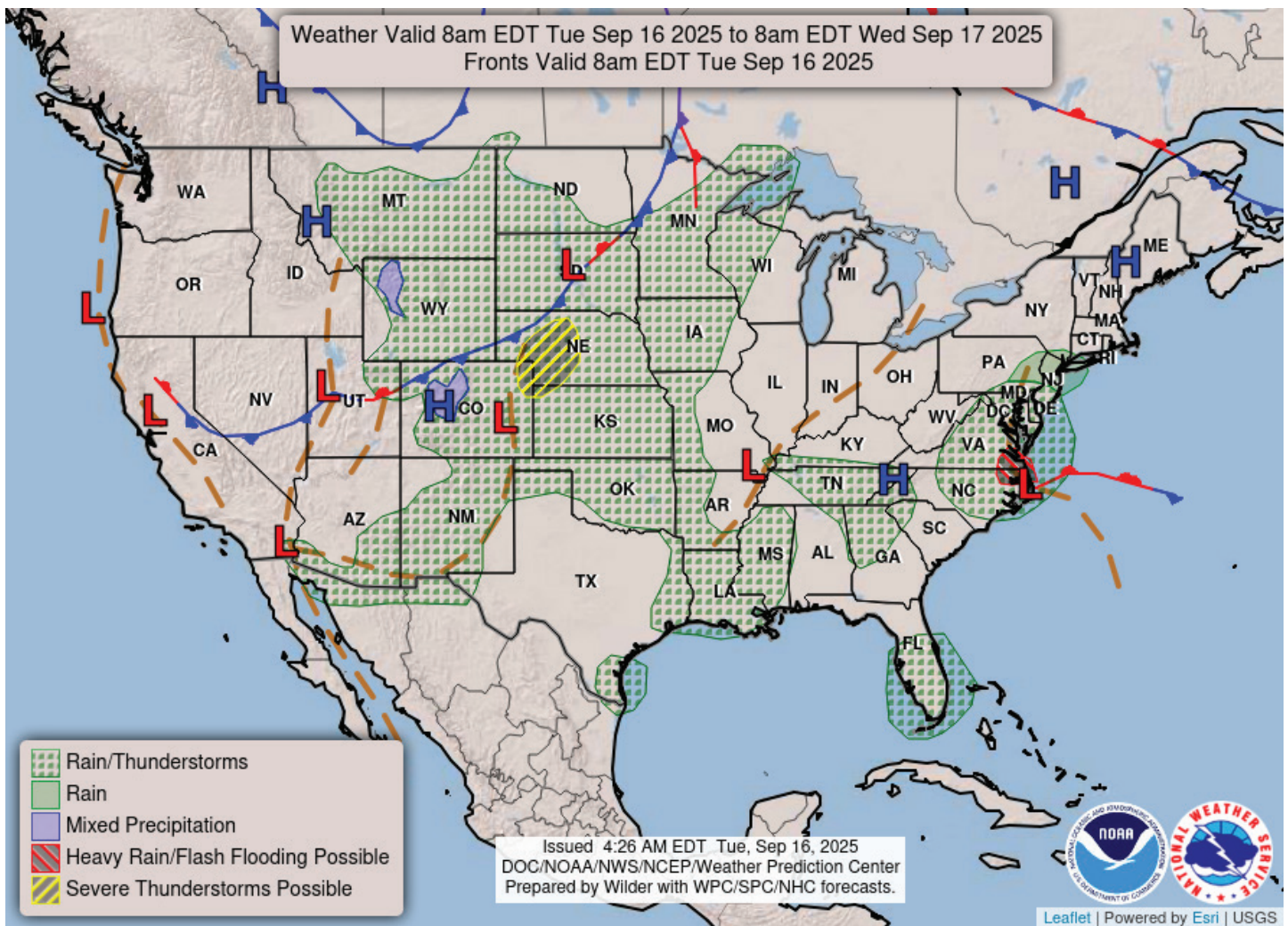
Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 21 of 64

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 85 °F at 5:10 PM
Heat Index: 86 °F at 4:15 PM
Low Temp: 62 °F at 6:55 AM
Wind: 24 mph at 12:14 PM
Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 96 in 1925
Record Low: 20 in 1916
Average High: 75
Average Low: 47
Average Precip in Sept.: 1.08
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.28
Average Precip to date: 17.42
Precip Year to Date: 20.58
Sunset Tonight: 7:42 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:13 am



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 22 of 64

Today in Weather History

September 16, 1965: A heavy snow event brought widespread snowfall across the region with snowfall accumulations of 1 inch in Colony and Devils Tower, 2.6 inches at the Rapid City Airport, 4 inches in Oelrichs, 5.1 inches in Redig, and 8 inches in Lead, Spearfish, and Sundance.

September 16, 2006: Two weak tornadoes touched down briefly west and north of Clark in the late afternoon. No damage occurred.

1881: Iowa's earliest measurable snow of record fell over western sections of the state. Four to six inches was reported between Stuart and Avoca. C

1888: An estimated F2 tornado struck Washington, DC. The tornado first touched down on the south side of the city then moved up Maryland Avenue. The National Museum and Botanical Gardens were damaged before the tornado lifted off the ground.

1928: The Okeechobee Hurricane, also known as the San Felipe Segundo Hurricane was one of the deadliest hurricanes in the history of the Atlantic basin. This Hurricane made landfall near West Palm Beach, Florida as a Category 4 storm during the evening hours of the 16th. The storm surge caused water to pour out of the southern edge of Lake Okeechobee, flooding hundreds of square miles as high as 20 feet. This storm killed over 4,000 people, including 2,500 in Florida.

1961: On September 16, 1961, Hurricane Esther was seeded by Navy planes in the inaugural experiment of what was to formally become Project STORMFURY next year. Esther was the first hurricane to be initially detected by satellite. On Sept. 10th, TIROS III imaged an area of disturbed weather a hundred miles southwest of the Cabo Verde Islands.

1984 - The remains of Tropical Storm Edourd began to produce torrential rains in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Port Isabel reported more than 21 inches. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Overnight rains soaked Arkansas, with 5.25 inches reported at Bismarck. In the town of Malvern, up to four feet of water was reported over several downtown streets, with water entering some homes and businesses. Thunderstorms in Texas drenched Lufkin with 4.30 inches of rain in just three hours. Evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in Missouri. A small tornado near Kirksville lifted a barn thirty feet into the air and then demolished it. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Hurricane Gilbert moved ashore into Mexico. The hurricane established an all-time record for the western hemisphere with a barometric reading of 26.13 inches. Winds approached 200 mph, with higher gusts. Gilbert devastated Jamaica and the Yucatan Peninsula. (The Weather Channel) Hurricane Gilbert made landfall 120 miles south of Brownsville TX during the early evening. Winds gusted to 61 mph at Brownsville, and reached 82 mph at Padre Island. Six foot tides eroded three to four feet off beaches along the Lower Texas Coast, leaving the waterline seventy-five feet farther inland. Rainfall totals ranged up to 8.71 inches at Lamar TX. Gilbert caused three million dollars damage along the Lower Texas Coast, but less than a million dollars damage along the Middle Texas Coast. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms, representing what remained of Hurricane Octave, brought locally heavy rains to California, impeding the drying process for raisins and other crops. Sacramento CA was soaked with 1.53 inches of rain in six hours. At Phoenix AZ, the afternoon high of 107 degrees marked a record seventy-six days with afternoon highs 105 degrees or above. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2004 - Hurricane Ivan turned northward over cooler waters, and made landfall in southern Alabama as a Category 3 storm. Hurricane Ivan had a very unusual track almost making a huge circle.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 23 of 64



WISELY GOD GIVES US
CHOICES. HE NEVER HAS
NOR EVER WILL FORCE US
TO CHOOSE HIM OR HIS
TEACHINGS.
**IT'S UP TO US TO
CHOOSE.**



Doctors and nurses, social workers and sheriffs, as well as all other licensed professionals, are required to participate in continuing education studies. They must do so to retain their licenses and be current in the latest legal statutes and regulations that affect their profession. If they fail to complete the required number of hours to maintain their licenses, they lose their licenses and can no longer practice their profession.

That is not true for those of us who profess to accept the teachings of God's Word. We have a choice in the matter. We may, if we want to, read and study His Word, attend church, pray and fellowship with other believers. What we do or do not do is a result of our love for and commitment to and walk with the Lord.

However, there are consequences if we do not follow the teachings of Scripture. For example, "Stop listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge." There is a warning in this verse that is best understood if we translate it to read:

"Look, my children, if you ever stop listening to my teachings and refuse to follow what I have taught you, you will end up wandering through life and not know where you are going or what you are doing."

Scripture, especially the writings of Solomon, contain many warnings about abandoning the teachings of God. This one is straight to the point. It is a thought-provoking contrast to what so many believe and practice today: "If it feels good, do it!" Although it may feel good today, when you awaken to the realities of such foolishness it may be too late: "You will have strayed from the things of God."

Wisely God gives us choices. He never has nor ever will force us to choose Him or His teachings. It's up to us to choose. But if we do indeed love Him our choices will reflect His ways.

Today's Prayer: Help us, Father, to choose a life dedicated to the pursuit of loving You, knowing You and following You. If we choose otherwise, Father, we will not be blest. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "Stop listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge." Proverbs 19:27

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

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 24 of 64

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Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 25 of 64



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.12.25

17 18 21 42 64 7

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$400,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 42 Mins 1 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.15.25

14 16 17 33 43 3

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,890,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 57 Mins 1 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.15.25

14 21 23 24 43 1

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 12 Mins 1 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.13.25

8 19 24 31 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$23,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 12 Mins 1 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.15.25

7 19 42 53 56 4

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 41 Mins 2 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.15.25

14 15 32 42 49 1

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$81,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 41 Mins 2 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 26 of 64

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

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 27 of 64

News from the **AP** Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Britton-Hecla def. Langford, 25-13, 19-25, 25-27, 30-28, 15-9
Colman-Egan def. Madison, 25-23, 25-19, 25-21
McIntosh High School def. Tiospaye Topa, 25-10, 25-16, 25-10
Platte-Geddes def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-13, 25-16, 25-17
Winner def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-22, 22-25, 25-17, 27-25
Wolsey-Wessington def. Iroquois-Lake Preston, 25-10, 25-15, 25-16
Alcester-Hudson Triangular=
Alcester-Hudson def. West Sioux, Iowa, 25-19, 25-16, 25-20
Elk Point-Jefferson def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-10, 25-8, 25-17
Elk Point-Jefferson def. West Sioux, Iowa, 25-16, 25-16, 25-15

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

The Latest: Israeli strikes pummel Gaza City as a new ground offensive gets underway

By The Associated Press undefined

Palestinian residents reported heavy strikes Tuesday across Gaza City as Israel's defense minister said that "Gaza is burning," in remarks that came as a new Israeli ground offensive targeted the city.

An Israeli military official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with military guidelines, said that the "main phase" of the Gaza City operation had begun, with troops moving in from the city's outskirts toward its center.

Airstrikes have pounded Gaza City for some time in the leadup to the operation, knocking down towers in the city.

Israeli strikes in Gaza City overnight and into Tuesday killed at least 34 Palestinians, according to the Shifa Hospital, which received the bodies.

"It was a heavy night," said Radwan Hayder, a Gaza City resident sheltering near the hospital.

Here's the latest:

Tens of thousands try to leave northern Gaza

Long lines of traffic stretched down the coastal road on Tuesday as tens of thousands of Palestinians attempted to leave northern Gaza after Israel said it had begun its ground operation in Gaza City.

Vehicles laden with belongings, with mattresses strapped to every available surface, crawled along the road while others made their way on foot down the coast.

The U.N. estimates some 220,000 Palestinians have fled northern Gaza, including more than 70,000 in the past few days, ahead of the operation.

Approximately 1 million Palestinians were in the Gaza City region before the most recent operation.

Rubio leaves Qatar

Marco Rubio has boarded his plane to leave Qatar.

The U.S. secretary of state said goodbye to Qatari and U.S. officials on the tarmac before climbing the stairs to his airplane.

He turned back, waved, gave a thumbs up and then put his hand over his heart before boarding the plane.

El-Sissi calls Israel 'an enemy'

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi described Israel as "an enemy" in a fiery speech at the Qatar summit Monday.

It was the first time an Egyptian leader used the term since the two countries established diplomatic ties

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 28 of 64

in 1979, said Diaa Rashwan, head of Egypt's State Information Service.

"Egypt is being threatened," Rashwan told the state-run Extra News television late Monday.

El-Sissi's "enemy" comment played prominently across Egyptian newspapers' front pages on Tuesday and while Cairo has taken no steps to change its status with Israel, the Egyptian government likely is trying to signal just how seriously it takes Israel's recent actions.

Rubio meets Qatar's emir

Marco Rubio met Tuesday with Qatar's ruling emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

Rubio shook hands with both Sheikh Tamim and Qatar's prime minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, before starting the meeting.

Human rights experts accuse Israel of genocide in Gaza

A team of independent experts commissioned by the United Nations' Human Rights Council concluded that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza, in a report Tuesday that calls on the international community to end the genocide and take steps to punish those responsible for it.

The deeply-documented findings by the three-member team are the latest accusations of genocide against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government by rights advocates as Israeli carries on with its war against Hamas in Gaza.

Israel rejected what it called a "distorted and false" report.

While neither the commission nor the 47-member-country council that it works for within the U.N. system can take action against a country, the findings could be used by prosecutors at the International Criminal Court or the U.N.'s International Court of Justice.

The team was commissioned by the Human Rights Council, the U.N.'s top human rights body, but it does not speak for the United Nations.

Israel says expanded military operation in Gaza City has begun

The Israeli military announced Tuesday that its expanded operation in Gaza City "to destroy Hamas' military infrastructure" has begun and warned residents to move south.

Israel's Arabic language spokesperson Avichay Adraee announced the expansion of Israel's operation on X, after a night of heavy strikes against northern Gaza that killed at least 20 people.

Israel has been warning the famine-stricken Gaza City residents to evacuate for the past month ahead of the operation but many have said they are unable to evacuate due to overcrowding in Gaza's south and the high price of transport.

Rubio arrives in Qatar

Marco Rubio arrived Tuesday in Qatar for a visit after Israel attacked Hamas leaders there.

Rubio's plane landed Tuesday morning in Doha, where he was expected to meet with the country's ruling emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

Qatar hosted a summit Monday that saw Arab and Islamic countries denounce Israel over the attack last week that killed six people.

But leaders offered different views about what to do, and the group agreed to take only minimal action.

Spain summons Israeli diplomat

Spain summoned Israel's acting ambassador in Madrid Tuesday for the second time in less than a week over comments made the day before by Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar toward Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez.

On Monday, Sánchez called for Israel to be banned from international sporting events over its actions in Gaza.

Saar responded on X by calling the Spanish leader an "antisemite and a liar."

Spain has been an outspoken critic of Israel's military offensive in Gaza.

On Sunday, thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters in Madrid disrupted the final leg of a top cycling event because an Israeli team was taking part, which caused the race's finale to be cancelled.

Israeli strike kills at least 12 Palestinians in Gaza City, hospital says

Shifa Hospital in Gaza City received the bodies of 12 people who were killed in a strike that hit multiple houses in the western part of the city, said Dr. Rami Mhanna, managing director of the hospital.

He told The Associated Press that more than 90 injured also arrived at the facility in the past six hours. He said first responders reported that many casualties are still under the rubble in multiple areas, and that the death toll is likely to increase.

Rubio says time running out for negotiated settlement

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, speaking to journalists while leaving Israel for Qatar, acknowledged the start of operations in Gaza City and stressed the need for an immediate end to the conflict that eliminates Hamas.

"The Israelis have begun to take operations there. So we think we have a very short window of time in which a deal can happen," Rubio said. "We don't have months anymore, and we probably have days and maybe a few weeks to go."

Rubio said a deal would need to include the release of hostages and the demilitarization and disarming of Hamas.

Rubio plans to visit Qatar on Tuesday after meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a day earlier in Israel, where they showed a unified front in the face of international anger over Israel's airstrikes on Hamas leaders in Qatar and its bombardment of Gaza City.

The Trump administration appears keen to ease tensions between its two close allies, following Israel's strike in Doha last week.

Israel's military says its expanded operation in Gaza City has begun and warns residents to leave

By MELANIE LIDMAN, JON GAMBRELL and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli military began a ground offensive targeting Gaza City on Tuesday, slowly squeezing in on the Palestinian territory's largest city that has seen block after block already destroyed in the Israel-Hamas war. Residents still in the city were warned they must leave and head south.

The push marks yet another escalation in a conflict that has roiled the Middle East as any potential ceasefire feels even further out of reach despite months of diplomacy. While the military wouldn't offer a timeline for the offensive, Israeli media outlets suggested it could take months.

Earlier in the day, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz declared that "Gaza is burning" while independent experts commissioned by the United Nations' Human Rights Council announced that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza, joining a rising international chorus of such accusations.

Israel fiercely rejected the claim, calling the experts' report "distorted and false."

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio left Israel and arrived in the energy-rich nation of Qatar for talks with its ruling emir whose country is still incensed over Israel's strike last week that killed five Hamas members and a local security official.

Arab and Muslim nations denounced the strike at a summit Monday but stopped short of any major action targeting Israel, highlighting the challenge of diplomatically pressuring any change in Israel's conduct. Egypt, however, escalated its language against Israel, referring to it as the "enemy" for the first time in years.

"We have a very short window of time in which a deal can happen," Rubio said. "It's a key moment — an important moment."

Rubio said "a negotiated settlement" still remains the best option while acknowledging the dangers an intensified military campaign posed to Gaza.

"The only thing worse than a war is a protracted one that goes on forever and ever," Rubio said. "At some point, this has to end. At some point, Hamas has to be defanged, and we hope it can happen through a negotiation. But I think time, unfortunately, is running out."

Intensity of strikes in Gaza City grows

Katz had signaled earlier in the day the operation in Gaza City had begun.

"Gaza is burning," he said. "We will not relent and we will not go back — until the completion of the mission."

An Israeli military official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with military guidelines, said that

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 30 of 64

the "main phase" of the Gaza City operation had begun, with troops moving in from the city's outskirts toward its center. Airstrikes have pounded Gaza City for some time in the leadup to the operation, knocking down towers in the city.

The official said the Israeli military believes there are approximately 2,000 to 3,000 Hamas militants left in Gaza City, as well as tunnels used by the militant group. The military estimates 350,000 people have left Gaza City — saying it was about one-third of the city's population before the new ground offensive started.

That contradicted a U.N. estimate issued Monday that over 220,000 Palestinians have fled northern Gaza over the past month, after the Israeli military warned that all residents should leave Gaza City ahead of the operation. An estimated 1 million Palestinians were living in the region around Gaza City before the evacuation warnings.

Long lines of traffic stretched down Gaza's coastal road Tuesday as the offensive began, with vehicles loaded down with mattresses and people's belongings and others fleeing on foot.

By the end of the current operation, an Israeli military graphic suggested its troops hope to control all of the Gaza Strip except for a large swath along the coast.

At least 34 Palestinians killed in Gaza City

Palestinian residents reported heavy strikes across Gaza City on Tuesday morning.

By noon, the city's Shifa Hospital had received the bodies of 34 people killed in the strikes, said Dr. Rami Mhanna, a hospital official. Dozens of wounded had also come into the facility, he said.

"A very tough night in Gaza," Dr. Mohamed Abu Selmiyah, the hospital's director, told The Associated Press. "The bombing did not stop for a single moment."

The Israeli military did not respond to immediate requests for comment on the strikes but in the past has accused Hamas of building military infrastructure inside civilian areas, especially in Gaza City.

Families of hostages beg Netanyahu to halt the operation

Overnight, families of the hostages still being held in Gaza gathered outside of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's residence, pleading with him to stop the Gaza City operation.

Some pitched tents and slept outside his home in protest.

"I have one interest — for this country to wake up and bring back my child along with 47 other hostages, both living and deceased, and to bring our soldiers home," Einav Zangauker, whose son Matan is being held in Gaza, shouted outside Netanyahu's residence.

"If he stops at nothing and sends our precious, brave, heroic soldiers to fight while our hostages are being used as human shields — he is not a worthy prime minister," Zangauker.

Israel believes around 20 of the 48 hostages still held by the militants in Gaza, including Matan, are alive. Hamas has said it will only free remaining hostages in return for Palestinian prisoners, a lasting ceasefire and an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

The war in Gaza began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting 251. Most of the hostages have since been released in ceasefires brokered in part by Qatar or other deals.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed at least 64,871 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't say how many were civilians or combatants. The ministry, which is part of the Hamas-run government and staffed by medical professionals, says women and children make up around half the dead.

Egypt escalates its rhetoric against Israel

Egypt, which has had a peace deal with Israel for decades and has served as a mediator in the war in Gaza, appears to be losing its patience with Israel.

Egypt's president, Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, described Israel as "an enemy" in a fiery speech at the Qatar summit Monday. It was the first time an Egyptian leader used the term since the two countries established diplomatic ties in 1979, said Diaa Rashwan, head of Egyptian government's State Information Service.

Egypt was the first Arab country to establish ties with Israel and their peace treaty is seen as a cornerstone for stability in the volatile region.

"Egypt is being threatened," Rashwan told the state-run Extra News television late Monday.

El-Sissi's "enemy" comment played prominently across Egyptian newspapers' front pages on Tuesday and while Cairo has taken no steps to change its status with Israel, the Egyptian government likely is trying to signal just how seriously it takes Israel's recent actions.

US judge won't intervene in Trump administration's deportations of West Africans to Ghana

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

A U.S. judge said that she was powerless to stop the return of four men in Ghana's custody to countries where U.S. immigration judges determined they faced torture or persecution, declining to intervene in a victory for the Trump administration.

U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan said that the administration appeared to be circumventing the U.N. Convention Against Torture by sending the West Africans to Ghana, but that her "hands are tied."

Chutkan wrote that she was "alarmed and dismayed by the circumstances under which these removals are being carried out, especially in light of the government's cavalier acceptance of Plaintiffs' ultimate transfer to countries where they face torture and persecution."

The ruling Monday night in federal court in Washington clears the way for 14 West Africans to be sent to their home countries from Ghana, including the four covered by the ruling. They appear to be destined for Nigeria and Gambia, despite U.S. immigration judges finding they have reason to fear persecution or torture.

Chutkan said it was the latest example of the Trump administration evading prohibitions on deportations by sending people outside the country anyway and claiming that U.S. judges had no power to order them back.

The judge distinguished it from the case of Kilmar Abrego Garcia, who the administration wrongly sent to a prison in his native El Salvador. In the Africa case, unlike in Abrego Garcia, she wrote, the administration could legally send them to Ghana.

Lee Gelernt of the American Civil Liberties Union, which joined the lawsuit, said in a statement: "We are obviously disappointed by the ruling but there's no reason why the administration should require a court to tell them to obey the laws prohibiting the transfer of individuals to countries where it's likely they will be tortured and persecuted."

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Lawyers for the four West Africans said earlier Monday that they remained in Ghana, contradicting a Ghanaian official. Felix Kwakye Ofose, Ghana's minister for government communications, told The Associated Press that all 14 — 13 Nigerians and one Gambian — "have since left for their home countries."

The administration, faced with decisions by immigration judges that people can't be sent back to their home countries, has increasingly been trying to send them to third countries with which the administration has created agreements to take deportees.

Ghana has joined Eswatini, Rwanda and South Sudan as African countries that have received migrants from third countries who were deported from the U.S.

The lawsuit filed on behalf of some of the migrants said they were held in "straitjackets" for 16 hours on a flight to Ghana and detained for days in "squalid conditions" after they arrived there. It said Ghana was doing the Trump administration's "dirty work."

Ghanaian Foreign Minister Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa pushed back on criticism that the decision was an endorsement of U.S. President Donald Trump's immigration policies. Ablakwa said Monday that Ghana didn't receive any financial compensation from the U.S. over the deportation.

"We just could not continue to take the suffering of our fellow West Africans," the minister said. "For now, the strict understanding that we have with the Americans is that we are only going to take West Africans."

Nigeria's government said that it wasn't briefed about its nationals being sent to Ghana and that previously it had received Nigerians deported directly from the U.S.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 32 of 64

"We have not rejected Nigerians deported to Nigeria. What we have only rejected is deportation of other nationals into Nigeria," said Kimebi Imomotimi Ebienfa, a spokesperson for Nigeria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Trump flies in for a UK state visit where trade and tech talks mix with royal pomp

By JILL LAWLESS and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump arrives in the United Kingdom on Tuesday for a state visit during which the British government hopes a multibillion-dollar technology deal will show the transatlantic bond remains strong despite differences over Ukraine, the Middle East and the future of the Western alliance.

State visits in Britain blend 21st-century diplomacy with royal pageantry. Trump's two-day trip comes complete with horse-drawn carriages, military honor guards and a glittering banquet inside a 1,000-year-old castle — all tailored to a president with a fondness for gilded splendor.

King Charles III will host Trump at Windsor Castle on Wednesday before talks the next day with Prime Minister Keir Starmer at Chequers, the British leader's rural retreat.

Starmer's office said the visit will demonstrate that "the U.K.-U.S. relationship is the strongest in the world, built on 250 years of history" — after that awkward rupture in 1776 — and bound by shared values of "belief in the rule of law and open markets." There was no mention of Trump's market-crimping fondness for sweeping tariffs.

The White House expects the two countries will strengthen their relationship during the trip as well as celebrate the upcoming 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, according to a senior White House official who was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. It was not clear how the U.K. was planning to mark that chapter in their shared history.

"The trip to the U.K. is going to be incredible," Trump told reporters Sunday. He said Windsor Castle is "supposed to be amazing" and added: "It's going to be very exciting."

Trump's second state visit

Trump is the first U.S. president to get a second state visit to the U.K.

The unprecedented nature of the invitation, along with the expectation of lavish pomp and pageantry, holds dual appeal to Trump. The president has glowingly praised the king's late mother, Queen Elizabeth II, and spoken about how his own Scotland-born mother loved the queen and the monarchy.

The president is also royally flattered by exceptional attention and has embraced the grandeur of his office in his second term. He has adorned the normally more austere Oval Office with gold accents, is constructing an expansive ballroom at the White House and has sought to refurbish other Washington buildings to his liking.

Foreign officials have shown they're attuned to his tastes. During a visit to the Middle East this year, leaders of Saudi Arabia and Qatar didn't just roll out a red carpet but dispatched fighter jets to escort Trump's plane.

Starmer has already shown he's adept at charming Trump. Visiting Washington in February, he noted the president's Oval Office decorating choices and decision to display a bust of Winston Churchill. During Trump's private trip to Scotland in July, Starmer visited and praised Trump's golf courses.

Efforts to woo the president make some members of Starmer's Labour Party uneasy, and Trump will not address Parliament during his visit, like French President Emmanuel Macron did in July. Lawmakers will be on their annual autumn recess, sparing the government an awkward decision.

The itinerary in Windsor and at Chequers, both well outside London, also keeps Trump away from a planned mass protest against his visit.

"This visit is really important to Keir Starmer to show that he's a statesman," said Leslie Vinjamuri, president of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. "But it's such a double-edged sword, because he's going to be a statesman alongside a U.S. president that is not popular in Europe."

Troubles for Starmer

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 33 of 64

Preparations for the visit have been ruffled by political turmoil in Starmer's center-left government. Last week, Starmer sacked Britain's ambassador to Washington, Peter Mandelson, over his past friendship with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Mandelson had good relations with the Trump administration and played a key role in securing a U.K.-U.S. trade agreement in May. His firing has put Epstein back in British headlines as Trump tries to swerve questions about his own relationship with the disgraced financier.

Mandelson's exit came just a week after Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner quit over a tax error on a home purchase. A senior Starmer aide, Paul Ovens, quit Monday over tasteless text messages he sent years ago. Fourteen months after winning a landslide election victory, Starmer's position at the helm of the Labour Party is fragile and his poll ratings are in the dumps.

But he has found a somewhat unexpected supporter in Trump, who has said Starmer is a friend, despite being "slightly more liberal than I am."

Starmer's government has cultivated that warmth and tried to use it to get favorable trade terms with the U.S., the U.K.'s largest single economic partner, accounting for 18% of total British trade.

The May trade agreement reduces U.S. tariffs on Britain's key auto and aerospace industries. But a final deal has not been reached over other sectors, including pharmaceuticals, steel and aluminum.

Labour lawmaker Liam Byrne, who heads the House of Commons' Business and Trade Committee, said it's vital "to turn paper promises into a binding bargain that ends the tariff tempest that is battering British exporters and investors."

Nvidia chief executive Jensen Huang and OpenAI CEO Sam Altman are expected to be among the business leaders in the U.S. delegation. Trump and Starmer are set to sign a technology partnership – which Mandelson was key to striking – accompanied by major investments in nuclear power, life sciences and Artificial Intelligence data centers.

The leaders are also expected to sign nuclear energy deals, expand cooperation on defense technology and explore ways to bolster ties between their financial hubs, according to the White House official.

Ukraine on the agenda

Starmer has also tried to use his influence to maintain U.S. support for Ukraine, with limited results. Trump has expressed frustration with Russian President Vladimir Putin but has not made good on threats to impose new sanctions on Russia for shunning peace negotiations.

Last week's Russian drone incursion into NATO member Poland drew strong condemnation from European NATO allies, and pledges of more planes and troops for the bloc's eastern flank. Trump played down the incident's severity, musing that it "could have been a mistake."

Starmer also departs from Trump over Israel's war in Gaza, and has said the U.K. will formally recognize a Palestinian state at the United Nations later this month.

Vinjamuri said Starmer "has kept the United States speaking the right language" on Ukraine, but has had little impact on Trump's actions.

"On China, on India, on Israel and Gaza and Hamas, and on Vladimir Putin – on the really big important things – the U.K. hasn't had a huge amount of influence," she said.

Trump says the US military again targeted a boat allegedly carrying drugs from Venezuela

By AAMER MADHANI and REGINA GARCIA CANO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said the U.S. military on Monday again targeted a boat allegedly carrying drugs from Venezuela, killing three aboard the vessel, and hinted that the military targeting of cartels could be further expanded.

"The Strike occurred while these confirmed narcoterrorists from Venezuela were in International Waters transporting illegal narcotics (A DEADLY WEAPON POISONING AMERICANS!) headed to the U.S.," Trump said in a Truth Social post announcing the strike. "These extremely violent drug trafficking cartels POSE A THREAT to U.S. National Security, Foreign Policy, and vital U.S. Interests."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 34 of 64

The strike was carried out nearly two weeks after another military strike on what the Trump administration said was a drug-carrying speedboat from Venezuela that killed 11.

Speaking to reporters in the Oval Office later on Monday, Trump said he had been shown footage of the latest strike by Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Asked what proof the U.S. has that the vessel was carrying drugs, Trump replied, "We have proof. All you have to do is look at the cargo that was spattered all over the ocean — big bags of cocaine and and fentanyl all over the place."

Trump also suggested that U.S. military strikes targeting alleged drug smugglers at sea could be expanded to land.

He said the U.S. military is seeing fewer vessels in the Caribbean since carrying out the first strike early this month. But he said the cartels are still smuggling drugs by land.

"We're telling the cartels right now we're going to be stopping them, too," Trump said. "When they come by land we're going to be stopping them the same way we stopped the boats. ... But maybe by talking about it a little bit, it won't happen. If it doesn't happen that's good."

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth later took to X to warn cartels the U.S. would "track them, kill them, and dismantle their networks throughout our hemisphere — at the times and places of our choosing," echoing muscular language used by past administrations during the Global War on Terror. The White House also posted a short unclassified video clip on social media of the strike.

Questions about legality

The Trump administration has justified the military action as a necessary escalation to stem the flow of drugs into the United States.

But several senators, Democrats and some Republicans, have questioned the legality of Trump's action. They view it as a potential overreach of executive authority in part because the military was used for law enforcement purposes.

Democratic Sen. Adam Schiff of California said he's drafting a war powers resolution aimed at preventing U.S. troops from engaging in further strikes until formally authorized by Congress.

Schiff said he was concerned "these lawless killings are just putting us at risk" and could prompt another country to target U.S. forces without proper justification.

"I don't want to see us get into some war with Venezuela because the president is just blowing ships willy-nilly out of the water," Schiff said.

Human rights groups have also raised concerns that the strikes flout international law. The White House has offered scant information about how the operations came together or the legal authorities under which they were carried out.

"Let us be clear — this may be an extrajudicial execution, which is murder," said Daphne Eviatar, who directs Amnesty International USA's Security with Human Rights Program. "There is absolutely no legal justification for this military strike."

The Trump administration has claimed self-defense as a legal justification for the first strike, with Secretary of State Marco Rubio arguing the drug cartels "pose an immediate threat" to the nation.

U.S. officials said the strike early this month targeted Tren de Aragua, a Venezuelan gang designated by the U.S. as a terrorist organization. And they indicated more military strikes on drug targets would be coming as the U.S. looks to "wage war" on cartels.

Trump did not specify whether Tren de Aragua was also the target of Monday's strike.

The Venezuelan government did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the reported strike.

The Trump administration has railed specifically against Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro for the scourge of illegal drugs in U.S. communities.

Venezuela's president lashes out

Maduro during a press conference earlier on Monday lashed out at the U.S. government, accusing the Trump administration of using drug trafficking accusations as an excuse for a military operation whose intentions are "to intimidate and seek regime change" in the South American country.

Maduro also repudiated what he described as a weekend operation in which 18 Marines raided a Ven-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 35 of 64

ezuelan fishing boat in the Caribbean.

"What were they looking for? Tuna? What were they looking for? A kilo of snapper? Who gave the order in Washington for a missile destroyer to send 18 armed Marines to raid a tuna fishing vessel?" he said. "They were looking for a military incident. If the tuna fishing boys had any kind of weapons and used weapons while in Venezuelan jurisdiction, it would have been the military incident that the warmongers, extremists who want a war in the Caribbean, are seeking."

Speaking to Fox News earlier Monday, Rubio reiterated that the U.S. doesn't see Maduro as the rightful leader of Venezuela but as head of a drug cartel. Rubio has consistently depicted Venezuela as a vestige of communist ideology in the Western Hemisphere.

"We're not going to have a cartel, operating or masquerading as a government, operating in our own hemisphere," Rubio said.

Following the first military strike on a boat allegedly carrying drugs from Venezuela, America's chief diplomat said Trump was "going to use the U.S. military and all the elements of American power to target cartels who are targeting America."

The AP and others have reported that the boat had turned around and was heading back to shore when it was struck. But Rubio on Monday said he didn't know if that's accurate.

"What needs to start happening is some of these boats need to get blown up," Rubio said. "We can't live in a world where all of a sudden they do a U-turn and so we can't touch them anymore."

JD Vance says national unity is impossible with those celebrating Charlie Kirk's killing

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President JD Vance said Monday while hosting Charlie Kirk's radio show that he is "desperate" for national unity after the conservative political activist's killing but that finding common ground with people who celebrated the assassination of his friend is impossible.

The Republican vice president filled in as host of "The Charlie Kirk Show" from his ceremonial office in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building next to the White House. The livestream of the two-hour program was broadcast in the White House press briefing room and featured a series of appearances by White House and administration officials who knew the 31-year-old Kirk.

Vance, who transported Kirk's body home from Utah to Arizona aboard Air Force Two last week, opened by saying he was "filling in for somebody who cannot be filled in for, but I'll do my best." He recounted his conversations with Kirk's widow, Erika, and her remembrances of him as a kind, loving husband.

In his closing remarks, Vance criticized what he said were lies about Kirk that he blamed for the killing. He also promised that the Trump administration will act to stop anyone who would kill another person because of their words. Kirk made comments over the years that some Democrats and others said were anti-immigrant, racist, misogynistic or offensive in other ways.

"I'm desperate for our country to be united in condemnation of the actions and the ideas that killed my friend," Vance said on the program. "I want it so badly that I will tell you a difficult truth. We can only have it with people who acknowledge that political violence is unacceptable."

Kirk's influence with Trump and Vance

Vance's self-described "moonlighting" as substitute radio host, as well as the broadcasting of the program from the White House complex, served as a powerful reminder of Kirk's close relationship with the Trump-Vance team and the valuable role Kirk's operation boosting youth voter turnout played on the campaign.

The Republican vice president, 41, was especially close to Kirk, founder of Turning Point USA, one of the nation's largest political organizations with chapters on high school and college campuses. The two began a friendship nearly a decade ago, and Kirk advocated for Vance to be Republican Donald Trump's choice for vice president last year. Kirk also was someone who had Trump's ear.

Vance spoke in the show's opening segment Monday about being at a loss for words as he sat with

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 36 of 64

Erika Kirk last week. But he said she told him something he'll never forget, which was that the father of their two young children had never raised his voice to her and was never "cross or mean-spirited to her."

Vance allowed that he could not say the same about himself.

"I took from that moment that I needed to be a better husband and I needed to be a better father," the vice president said on the program, which airs on Rumble, a streaming platform. "That is the way I'm going to honor my friend."

White House and administration officials mourn Kirk

Others who joined Vance on Kirk's program were White House chief of staff Susie Wiles, Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., press secretary Karoline Leavitt and deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller.

The conversation turned toward fighting what Vance described as "festering violence on the far left" with Miller, the first guest.

"With God as my witness, we're going to use every resource we have at the Department of Justice, Homeland Security and throughout this government to identify, disrupt, dismantle and destroy these networks," Miller said. "It will happen, and we will do it in Charlie's name."

Law enforcement officials have said they believe the suspect accused of killing Kirk acted alone.

The relationship between Vance and Kirk

Vance, who said, "I owe so much to Charlie," elaborated on his close friendship with Kirk in a lengthy social media post late on the night of the conservative activist's killing. Vance said it started randomly around 2017 after he appeared on program by conservative host Tucker Carlson. Kirk sent Vance a private message through social media telling Vance he'd done a "great job."

"And that moment of kindness began a friendship that lasted until today," the vice president wrote.

Vance said he and Kirk both initially were "skeptical" of Donald Trump during his 2016 presidential campaign but had come around to support the now-two-time president.

Kirk was among the first people to hear from Vance in early 2021 when the Ohio Republican was "interested but skeptical" about running for a U.S. Senate seat, the vice president said in a testimony to Kirk's role in his political rise.

"We talked through everything, from the strategy to the fundraising to the grassroots of the movement he knew so well," Vance said. "He introduced me to some of the people who would run my campaign and also to Donald Trump Jr., who 'took a call from me because Charlie asked him too.'"

Vance said Kirk arranged for him to speak to Kirk's donors at a Turning Point USA event when he had no reason to help someone polling as low as he was at the time, "but he did it because we were friends, and because he was a good man."

Vance and others credit Kirk's efforts and influence with helping Trump win reelection.

"So much of the success we've had in this administration traces directly to Charlie's ability to organize and convene," Vance said in the post. "He didn't just help us win in 2024, he helped us staff the entire government."

He added on the program, "If it weren't for Charlie Kirk, I would not be the vice president of the United States ... it's one of the reasons why I feel so indebted to him."

Vance as radio show host

Jody Baumgartner, a political science professor at East Carolina University in North Carolina, said Vance's hosting duty likely was possible because vice presidents have more free time than presidents.

"If President Trump had time to do something like this, don't you think he would?" Baumgartner asked. "It's an interesting question with respect to resources and time, but a vice president has the time that a president doesn't."

After Kirk's assassination

After Kirk was fatally shot last Wednesday at Utah Valley University, Vance tore up his schedule for the next day — he was scheduled Thursday to attend the 24th annual observance in New York of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks — to fly instead to Orem, Utah, with his wife, second lady Usha Vance.

The couple accompanied Erika Kirk and Charlie Kirk's casket to Arizona aboard Air Force Two.

Utah campus where Charlie Kirk was shot provided less security than other venues as he toured nation

By JACK BROOK, CLAUDIA LAUER and JESSE BEDAYN Associated Press

OREM, Utah (AP) — Less than two weeks before Charlie Kirk's assassination in Utah, a sheriff's department in central California conducted three days of reconnaissance to prepare for a speech by the conservative firebrand at a local church in politically friendly territory.

Officials researched potential escape routes and identified local activists opposed to Kirk. On the day of the indoor event in Visalia, which drew 2,000 people, some 60 law enforcement officials monitored Kirk's movements to and from the church, even deploying a drone to secure surrounding rooftops, said Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux.

"The very nature of Charlie Kirk coming in requires you take special attention to the nuances of what could possibly happen," Boudreaux said. "He's a high profile name and personality. Not only do we have to provide for the safety of people attending, we have to provide for the safety of him."

By contrast, Kirk's outdoor event at Utah Valley University last week was out in the open, but with far less security. Six campus police officers — about a quarter of the force — worked the event, which drew 3,000 people, Jeff Long, the campus police chief, said last week. The department hasn't said whether they inspected nearby rooftops; the suspect shot and killed Kirk from atop a building hundreds of feet away.

As he crisscrossed the country to spread his conservative ideals at college campuses, Kirk preferred to be as close to students as possible, allowing him to strike up conversations with passersby. His level of protection varied greatly — campus police often took the lead on overall security, while Kirk's private detail focused on up-close protection.

His assassination at Utah Valley has drawn even more attention to the role that campus police departments play in protecting high-profile and divisive political figures who regularly make college visits. Security experts have questioned everything from the number of officers deployed to the decision to hold the event outside, where Kirk ended up in the direct line of sniper fire.

The university's security plan is not part of the Utah Department of Public Safety's investigation into the shooting, department Commissioner Beau Mason said.

Utah House Speaker Mike Schultz, a Republican, said lawmakers may order a review of security measures at Utah Valley following the assassination.

When Kirk spoke at Illinois State University in April, more than a dozen campus police officers patrolled the 700-person crowd, and more officers watched cameras trained on nearby buildings from an operations center. The same month, University of Wyoming police assigned about 15 officers to an indoor Kirk appearance.

In other cases, arrangements were similar to last week's debate in Utah. At an outdoor Michigan State University event, a student organizer with the campus Turning Point USA chapter said there were eight to 10 campus officers. Kirk was founder of Turning Point USA, one of the nation's largest political organizations with chapters on high school and college campuses.

Kirk's own security team of around six people was present at each event.

Outdoor events are harder to secure

Security experts told The Associated Press they expect to see more events held indoors to protect against similar attacks, as outdoor events greatly increase vulnerability. College campuses are generally open and accessible, making them extremely susceptible to shootings, said Don Aviv, CEO of the security firm Interfor International.

Without monitoring rooftop access and blocking shooter sightlines, Aviv said, "it doesn't matter how many armed personnel you have ringing the speaker, you would not have been able to protect against a long gun."

Kirk requested to speak outside at Utah Valley so that he could engage with students, spokeswoman

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 38 of 64

Ellen Treanor told the Salt Lake Tribune. When he visited campus in 2019, he spoke in a ballroom.

The desire by Kirk's team to make him as accessible as possible complicated security planning, said Aaron Woodruff, police chief at Illinois State University.

"It makes it hard to protect somebody when you have people on all sides of him," Woodruff said.

Woodruff ran a security plan past Kirk's team by phone and then did a walk-through on site. Security cameras trained on nearby buildings allowed officials to monitor rooftops and surrounding areas, Woodruff said.

The up-close nature of Kirk's interactions appealed to his followers, said Alex Bitzan, the TPUSA chapter president at Michigan State, who helped organize an April event held on a campus lawn.

"People are drawn to the open conversation. People are drawn to the fact that he's unscripted," Bitzan said. "When you're outside in public like that, I don't see what would solve what happened last Wednesday."

Daniel Schoenherr, a photographer who covered the Michigan State event for the campus newspaper, recalled police on foot and at least two or three campus police cars nearby. Access to the event was easy. Schoenherr estimated that more than 1,000 people were there, many of them non-students. Kirk's personal security focused on the immediate crowd.

"If someone was to throw a brick at Kirk — that wouldn't happen. There was a lot of personal security close by," Schoenherr said.

Experts say monitoring rooftops is key

The attempted assassination of President Donald Trump last year in Butler, Pennsylvania, should have raised concerns about the vulnerability of sniper attacks from nearby rooftops, said James Hamilton, who founded the FBI's close protection school.

"Butler told people it's not that hard to get a rifle, get up on a roof and shoot," Hamilton said.

Private sector security has to make compromises based on clients' desires, said Hamilton, who said it would have been much safer to hold Kirk's events indoors.

A Utah Valley spokesperson did not respond to emailed questions seeking information about security planning, public safety officer assignments and whether rooftops were inspected.

"This is a police chief's nightmare," Long, the campus police chief, said last week. "You try to get your bases covered, and unfortunately today we didn't, and because of that we had this tragic incident."

For a University of Wyoming event in April, campus police reached out to Texas A&M and other universities Kirk had recently visited to better understand how they handled security, said campus Police Chief Josh Holland.

His officers checked the locks on building doors that would have allowed access to roof spaces. There were no metal detectors, Holland said, but the 1,800 attendees were prohibited from bringing bags into the venue at the university's arts and sciences building. At Utah Valley, students were allowed to bring bags.

Turning Point USA did not respond to requests for comment about security protocol for Kirk's events.

The organization said last week that Kirk had received "thousands" of threats but "always prioritized reaching as many young Americans as possible over his own personal safety."

Trump files \$15 billion defamation lawsuit against The New York Times

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump filed a \$15 billion defamation lawsuit against The New York Times and four of its journalists on Monday, according to court documents.

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Florida names several articles and one book written by two of the publication's journalists and published in the lead up to the 2024 election, saying they are "part of a decades-long pattern by the New York Times of intentional and malicious defamation against President Trump."

"Defendants published such statements negligently, with knowledge of the falsity of the statements, and/or with reckless disregard of their truth or falsity," the lawsuit says.

The New York Times did not immediately respond to an email requesting comment early Tuesday.

In a Truth Social post announcing the lawsuit, Trump accused The New York Times of lying about him and defaming him, saying it has become "a virtual 'mouthpiece' for the Radical Left Democrat Party."

Trump has gone after other media outlets, including filing a \$10 billion defamation lawsuit against the The Wall Street Journal and media mogul Rupert Murdoch in July after the newspaper published a story reporting on his ties to wealthy financier Jeffrey Epstein.

US designates Colombia as failing to cooperate in the drug war for first time in nearly 30 years

By JOSHUA GOODMAN and ASTRID SUAREZ Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — The Trump administration on Monday added Colombia to a list of nations failing to cooperate in the drug war for the first time in almost 30 years, a stinging rebuke to a traditional U.S. ally that reflects a recent surge in cocaine production and fraying ties between the White House and the country's leftist president.

Even as it determined that Colombia had failed to comply with its international counternarcotics obligations, the Trump administration issued a waiver of sanctions that would have triggered major aid cuts, citing vital U.S. national interests.

Nonetheless, it is a major step against one of the United States' staunchest allies in Latin America, which analysts said could hurt the economy and further hamper efforts to restore security in the countryside.

President Gustavo Petro, who has said on several occasions that whisky kills more people than cocaine, lamented Trump's decision during a televised cabinet meeting Monday, saying Colombia was penalized after sacrificing the lives of "dozens of policemen, soldiers and regular citizens, trying to stop cocaine" from reaching the United States.

"What we have been doing is not really relevant to the Colombian people," he said of the nation's antidrug efforts. "It's to stop North American society from smearing its noses" in cocaine.

The U.S. last added Colombia to the list, through a process known as decertification, in 1997 when the country's cartels — through threats of violence and money — had poisoned much of the nation's institutions.

"Decertification is a blunt tool and a huge irritant in bilateral relations that goes well beyond drug issues and makes cooperation far harder in any number of areas," said Adam Isacson, a security researcher at the Washington Office on Latin America. "That's why it's so rarely used."

The president at the time, Ernesto Samper, was facing credible accusations of receiving illicit campaign contributions from the now-defunct Cali cartel and a plane he was set to use for a trip to New York to attend the U.N. General Assembly session was found carrying 4 kilograms of heroin.

A remarkable turnaround began once Samper left office. Successive U.S. administrations — both Republican and Democrats — sent billions in foreign assistance to Colombia to eradicate illegal coca crops, strengthen its armed forces in the fight against drug-fueled rebels and provide economic alternatives to poor farmers who are on the lowest rungs of the cocaine industry.

Cocaine production surges

That cooperation, a rare U.S. foreign policy success in Latin America, started to unravel following the suspension a decade ago of aerial eradication of coca fields with glyphosate. It followed a Colombia high court ruling that determined the U.S.-funded program was potentially harmful to the environment and farmers.

A 2016 peace accord with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the nation's largest rebel group known as FARC, also committed Colombia to rolling back punitive policies likened to the U.S. spraying of Agent Orange during the Vietnam War in favor of state building, rural development and voluntary crop substitution.

Since then, cocaine production has skyrocketed. The amount of land dedicated to cultivating coca, the base ingredient of cocaine, has almost tripled in the past decade to a record 253,000 hectares in 2023, according to the latest report available from the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime. That is almost triple the

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 40 of 64

size of New York City.

Along with production, drug seizures also have soared to 654 metric tons so far this year. Colombia seized a record 884 metric tons last year.

But unlike past governments, manual eradication of coca crops under Petro's leadership has slowed, to barely 5,048 hectares this year — far less than the 68,000 hectares uprooted in the final year of his conservative predecessor's term and well below the government's own goal of 30,000 hectares.

A critic of U.S. policy

Petro, a former rebel himself, also has angered senior U.S. officials by denying American extradition requests as well as criticizing the Trump administration's immigration crackdown and its efforts to combat drug trafficking in neighboring Venezuela.

"Under my administration, Colombia does not collaborate in assassinations," Petro said on Sept. 5 after the U.S. military carried out a deadly strike on a small Venezuelan vessel in the Caribbean that the Trump administration said was transporting cocaine bound for the U.S.

"The failure of Colombia to meet its drug control obligations over the past year rests solely with its political leadership," Trump said in a presidential memo submitted to Congress. "I will consider changing this designation if Colombia's government takes more aggressive action to eradicate coca and reduce cocaine production and trafficking, as well as hold those producing, trafficking, and benefiting from the production of cocaine responsible, including through improved cooperation with the United States to bring the leaders of Colombian criminal organizations to justice."

Under U.S. law, the president annually must identify countries that have failed to meet their obligations under international counternarcotics agreements during the previous 12 months.

In addition to Colombia, the Trump administration listed four other countries — Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma and Venezuela — as among 23 major drug transit or drug-production countries that have failed to meet their international obligations. With the exception of Afghanistan, the White House determined that U.S. assistance to those countries was vital to national interests and therefore they would be spared any potential sanctions.

The redesignation of Venezuela as a country that has failed to adequately fight narcotics smuggled from neighboring Colombia comes against the backdrop of a major U.S. military buildup in the Caribbean that has already led to two deadly strikes on small Venezuelan vessels that the Trump administration said were transporting cocaine bound for the U.S.

"In Venezuela, the criminal regime of indicted drug trafficker Nicolás Maduro leads one of the largest cocaine trafficking networks in the world, and the United States will continue to seek to bring Maduro and other members of his complicit regime to justice for their crimes," Trump's designation said. "We will also target Venezuelan foreign terrorist organizations such as Tren de Aragua and purge them from our country."

Suspect in Charlie Kirk shooting likely to face charges Tuesday before first court hearing

By JESSE BEDAYN, HANNAH SCHOENBAUM and JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

PROVO, Utah (AP) — Prosecutors are preparing to file a capital murder charge Tuesday against the Utah man who authorities say held a "leftist ideology" and may have been "radicalized" online before he was arrested in the assassination of Charlie Kirk.

Charges against 22-year-old Tyler Robinson are expected to come ahead of the first court hearing since he was accused last week of shooting Kirk, a conservative activist credited with energizing the Republican youth movement and helping President Donald Trump win back the White House in 2024.

Investigators have been piecing together evidence, including a rifle and ammunition engraved with anti-fascist and meme culture messaging, found after the shooting Wednesday at Utah Valley University in Orem. Kirk was speaking there on one of his many campus visits where he relished debating just about everyone.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 41 of 64

Prosecutors in Utah County are considering several charges against Robinson, the most serious being aggravated murder because it could bring the death penalty if there is a conviction.

Once charges are filed, Robinson is scheduled to appear on camera for a virtual court hearing. He has been held without bail since his arrest, and it remained unclear whether he has an attorney.

While authorities say Robinson hasn't been cooperating with investigators, they do say his family and friends have been talking. Utah Gov. Spencer Cox said over the weekend that those who know Robinson say his politics shifted left in recent years and that he spent a lot of time in the "dark corners of the internet."

FBI Director Kash Patel said Monday on the Fox News show "Fox & Friends" that DNA evidence has linked Robinson to a towel wrapped around a rifle found near the Utah Valley campus and a screwdriver recovered from the rooftop where the fatal shot was fired.

Before the shooting, Robinson wrote in a note that he had an opportunity to take out Kirk and was going to do it, according to Patel.

Investigators are working on finding a motive for the attack, Utah's governor said Sunday, adding that more information may come out once Robinson appears for his initial court hearing.

Cox said Robinson's romantic partner was transgender, which some politicians have pointed to as a sign the suspect was targeting Kirk for his anti-transgender views. But authorities have not yet said whether that played a role. Kirk was shot while taking a question that touched on mass shootings, gun violence and transgender people.

Utah Department of Public Safety Commissioner Beau Mason said Monday that Robinson's partner has been cooperative. He said investigators believe Robinson acted alone during the shooting, but they also are looking at whether anyone knew of his plans beforehand.

In the days since Kirk's assassination, Americans have found themselves facing questions about rising political violence, the deep divisions that brought the nation here and whether anything can change.

Despite calls for greater civility, some who opposed Kirk's provocative statements about gender, race and politics criticized him after his death. Many Republicans have led the push to punish anyone who they believe dishonored him, causing both public and private workers to lose their jobs or face other consequences at work.

Trump administration joins Republicans' campaign to police speech in reaction to Kirk's killing

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI and KONSTANTIN TOROPIN Associated Press

Vice President JD Vance on Monday jumped onto the conservative movement demanding consequences for those who have cheered Charlie Kirk's killing, calling on the public to turn in anyone who says distasteful things about the assassination of his friend and political ally.

"When you see someone celebrating Charlie's murder, call them out," Vance urged listeners on the slain activist's podcast Monday. "And hell, call their employer."

Vance's call also included a vow to target some of the biggest funders of liberal causes as conservatives stepped up their targeting of private individuals for their comments about the killing. It marked an escalation in a campaign that some warned invoked some of the darkest chapters of American history.

"The government involvement in this does inch this closer to looking like McCarthyism," said Adam Goldstein of the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, referring to the 1950s campaign to root out communists that led to false allegations and ruined careers. "It was not a shining moment for free expression."

Campaign broadens to those who quote Kirk critically

Republican-controlled states such as Florida, Oklahoma and Texas have launched investigations of teachers accused of inappropriate statements after last week's assassination. The U.S. military has invited members of the public to report those who "celebrate or mock" the killing and said some troops have already been removed for their comments.

At the same time, the Trump administration has vowed to target what it contends is a "vast" liberal

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 42 of 64

network that inspired the shooter, even as authorities maintain it appears he acted alone and the investigation is ongoing.

The campaign has broadened to include even those whose statements were critical of Kirk without celebrating his assassination.

The Washington Post fired Karen Attiah, an opinion columnist, for posts on the day of the shooting that lamented how "white America" was not ready to solve gun violence and that quoted Kirk denigrating the intelligence of prominent Black women such as Michelle Obama.

PEN America, a press freedom group, warned in a statement that firings like Attiah's "risk creating a chilling effect."

Goldstein worried there were many cases of people targeted for simply quoting Kirk or failing to mourn his passing adequately. "That's one of the key symptoms of cancel culture," he said. "Trying to paint everyone with the same brush."

Conservatives coined the term cancel culture for what they claimed was persecution of those on the right for their views, especially related to the COVID-19 pandemic and Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, leading to campaigns to get regular people fired.

It was a significant cause for President Donald Trump, who pledged to end it during his campaign last year. But after the Kirk killing, he and his administration have instead leaned into it from the right.

A hero to conservatives, a provocateur to many Democrats

A father of two and a Christian conservative, Kirk was a hero to many Trump Republicans for his fiery warnings about the dangers of Democrats and ability to organize young voters. But Kirk also was a provocateur and supporter of Trump's attempt to overturn his 2020 election loss who left a long record of partisan quips that enraged many on the left.

"According to Kirk, empathy is a made-up new-age term, so keep the jokes coming. It's what he would have wanted," read one post on X that Melvin Villaver Jr., a Clemson University music professor, re-posted the day of the killing, according to a screenshot circulated by college Republicans demanding his firing. Clemson eventually fired one staffer and suspended Villaver and another professor after intense pressure from elected South Carolina Republican officials.

Other targeted posters, such as Army Lt. Col. Christopher Ladnier, simply quoted Kirk on the day of his assassination. This included Kirk calling the Civil Rights Act a "beast" that "has now turned into an anti-white weapon," his criticism of Martin Luther King Jr. and his statement that some gun deaths are the cost of a robust Second Amendment.

Ladnier, who has been targeted by conservative activists online, said in a Facebook message to The Associated Press that he would respond "when/if" his chain of command takes action.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott approvingly posted a video of a Texas Tech University student who was arrested Friday after a confrontation at a campus vigil for Kirk, writing: "This is what happened to the person who was mocking Charlie Kirk's assassination at Texas Tech."

Some people targeted have been victims of mistaken identity.

A school district in rural Elkhorn, Wisconsin, reported receiving more than 800 messages after one conservative influencer mistakenly identified an associate principal at an elementary school as celebrating Kirk's death.

Top Republicans vow to go after 'domestic terrorist network'

Authorities say Kirk was shot by 22-year-old Tyler Robinson, who grew up in a conservative household in southern Utah but was enmeshed in "leftist ideology," according to the state's Republican governor, Spencer Cox.

Cox said investigators may reveal more about what motivated the attack after Robinson's initial court appearance, scheduled for Tuesday. The governor said the suspect, who allegedly carved memes onto his bullet casings, appeared radicalized by the "dark corners of the internet."

On Monday, Vance was joined on Kirk's podcast by Stephen Miller, Trump's deputy chief of staff, who vowed to crack down on what he called the "vast domestic terrorist network" he blamed for Kirk's death.

Alluding to free speech concerns, Vance said: "You have the crazies on the far left that say, 'Oh, Stephen

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 43 of 64

Miller and JD Vance, they're going to go after constitutionally protected speech."

But he added: "No no no! We're going to go after the NGO network that foments, facilitates and engages in violence," — a reference to non-governmental organizations.

The White House did not immediately return a request seeking clarity on the remarks, including which groups might be targeted.

The idea of a retribution campaign against individuals or groups for expressing a particular viewpoint has alarmed many.

"Just having that ideology, just believing differently than some other American is not illegal," Republican Sen. James Lankford of Oklahoma said on CNN on Sunday.

Instead, he said any groups that have been involved in illegal or violent acts should be targeted.

Killing as a pretext to go after political rivals

On Kirk's show, Vance talked about the need for unity after the assassination, but then dismissed it as impossible given what he described as the left's embrace of political violence. Naming two foundations that fund a wide range of liberal causes, Vance said: "There is no unity with the people who fund these articles, who pay the salaries of these terrorist sympathizers."

Democratic officials have roundly condemned Kirk's murder. Democrats also have been victims of political violence recently, including the June assassination of a Minnesota state lawmaker and her husband, and the 2022 beating of former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband in their San Francisco home.

Caitlin Legacki of Stop Government Censorship, formed to fight the Trump administration's use of government against its political rivals, said it was one thing for people making abhorrent statements to face consequences.

"When we get concerned is when there appears to be a concerted effort in the government to use this tragedy to punish political opponents," she said.

Duplantis gives Japanese fans what they came for — another world record in pole vault

By EDDIE PELLIS AP National Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Armand "Mondo" Duplantis traded handshakes and hugs with the pole vaulters he'd just beaten to capture his third world championship.

He took a leisurely walk toward the stands to talk to his parents, his brother, his fiancée.

Then, like any great performer in a jam-packed stadium, he turned around, walked back onstage and delivered the encore the people had been waiting for.

It was another world record — the 14th time he's set it — by clearing the bar at 6.30 meters.

Duplantis cleared it on his third and final attempt Monday night in Tokyo. It came more than a half hour after the racing on Day 3 of the championships was wrapped up for the evening. But nobody in the crowd of 53,000 would dare walk out on Mondo. And Mondo made a point of wringing every drop of drama out of an experience few in that crowd will soon forget.

"To be able to enjoy this world record with them and give them that is super special," Duplantis said. "Especially considering the last time I was in this stadium, we didn't have any spectators. It was spooky and eerie and super weird, and not very fun, honestly."

The night of his last performance at Japan National Stadium was during the COVID Olympics, held a year late in 2021 and without any fans. Duplantis settled for "only" the gold medal that time and missed the world record. The difference, he suspects, was the energy missing during those silent Games.

This time, there was noise and fun — the people clapping in rhythm every time Duplantis lined up — and like any great artist, Mondo knew how to play to the crowd.

After clearing 6.10, for instance, he imitated Japanese baseball Hall of Famer Ichiro Suzuki's pre-bat sleeve-tugging routine.

"My brother was in the crowd and he plays baseball, so I was trying to fire him up," Duplantis said. "And the Japanese people, if they understood it, it was just something fun."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 44 of 64

The Louisiana-born phenom who competes for his mother's native Sweden collected \$70,000 for the win — his 49th straight dating to September 2022 — along with the \$100,000 bonus that goes to record breakers at world championships.

The money isn't the main motivation for a champion who has won every major title — worlds and Olympics — since the Tokyo Games.

"It's doing what I know I'm capable of," Duplantis said. "Motivation-wise, it's not that much of a problem. I know the level I can compete at, and I kind of demand that out of myself."

It's hard to blame the crowd for expecting it, too. Duplantis started breaking records on Feb. 8, 2020, and has broken them on three continents and, now, in nine counties. This latest feat puts the height at an even 6.30.

"Six-three sounds really nice, really clean, a new barrier for our sport," he said. "It sounds better than 6.29, for sure."

But maybe not as good as 6.31.

Duplantis has, in fact, wondered if 6.5 might be in his future.

At this rate, it would take another few years. The good news is, he's 25 and, for comparison, the great Sergey Bubka, who won six straight world titles through the 1980s and '90s, was 31 when he broke the record for the 17th and final time.

Bubka's final record was 6.14, and after France's Renaud Lavillenie topped that once, Duplantis took over. He has improved the record by one centimeter every time, giving him maximum opportunities to pocket bonuses like the one he'll receive from World Athletics for this one.

"What Mondo has in spades is what every pole vaulter is trying to achieve," said Sam Kendricks, the fourth-place finisher who is the last man not named Duplantis to win a world title (in 2019). "He's got a jump, he's got the jets. He's got a family that really supports him, and then he's got a field of guys that's really pushing him up there."

A Swiss surprise in the hurdles

Ditaji Kambundji of Switzerland held off the world record-holder and reigning Olympic champion to win a surprise gold in the 100 hurdles.

After crossing the finish line, Kambundji stared up at the scoreboard waiting to see where her name would wind up. When she saw she was in first, her eyes went wide and she covered her mouth in shock.

Kambundji finished in a personal-best 12.24 seconds to hold off world record-holder Tobi Amusan of Nigeria by .05 seconds. American Grace Stark took bronze while Masai Russell, who won gold at the Paris Olympics last summer, was fourth.

"You could see on my face how happy I was when I realized I won," Kambundji said.

Heads up (or down) in steeplechase

The most heartbreaking scene on Monday was steeplechaser Soufiane El Bakkali kneeling with his head on the track and his teammate down there with him trying to console him.

The two-time world and Olympic champion was outraced to the line by New Zealand's Geordie Beamish and finished second by .07 seconds.

"Congratulations for a good race today but, for me, I'm coming here for a different reason," El Bakkali said.

Despite his heartbreak, El Bakkali took a traditional steeplechase dip in the water pit with Beamish.

Beamish celebrated a gold medal some 48 hours after another memorable scene. He tripped during qualifying and an oncoming runner stepped on his face. But Beamish got up and made the final.

"It might have been a blessing in disguise," Beamish said. "That gave me a lot of confidence, just being able to get back up off the ground and qualify pretty easily still. It gave me confidence that my shape was better than what I thought it is."

Appeals court rejects Trump's bid to unseat Federal Reserve governor Lisa Cook ahead of rate vote

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — An appeals court ruled Monday that Lisa Cook can remain a Federal Reserve governor, rebuffing President Donald Trump's efforts to remove her just ahead of a key vote on interest rates.

The Trump administration is expected to quickly turn to the Supreme Court in a last-ditch bid to unseat Cook. The Fed's next two-day meeting to consider its next interest rate move begins Tuesday morning. And Cook's lawsuit seeking to permanently block her firing must still make its way through the courts.

The White House campaign to unseat Cook marks an unprecedented bid to reshape the Fed's seven-member governing board, which was designed to be largely independent from day-to-day politics. No president has fired a sitting Fed governor in the agency's 112-year history.

Separately, Senate Republicans on Monday confirmed Stephen Miran, Trump's nominee to an open spot on the Fed's board. Barring any last-minute intervention from the Supreme Court, the Fed's interest rate setting committee will meet Tuesday and Wednesday with all seven governors and the 12 regional bank presidents.

Twelve of those 19 officials will vote on changing the central bank's short-term rate: All seven governors plus five regional presidents, who vote on a rotating basis.

Chair Jerome Powell signaled in a high-profile speech last month the Fed would likely cut its key rate at this meeting, from about 4.3% to 4.1%. Other borrowing costs, such as mortgage rates and car loans, have already declined in anticipation of the cut and could move lower.

Trump sought to fire Cook Aug. 25, but a federal judge ruled last week that the removal was illegal and reinstated her to the Fed's board. Trump appointee Bill Pulte has accused Cook of mortgage fraud because she appeared to claim two properties as "primary residences" in July 2021, before she joined the board. Such claims can lead to a lower mortgage rate and smaller down payment than if one of them was declared as a rental property or second home. Cook has denied the charges.

In a 2-1 decision, the appeals court found that Cook's due process rights were violated because the administration did not give her a formal opportunity to respond to the charges.

The attempt to fire Cook is seen by many legal scholars as a threat to erode the Fed's longtime political independence. Economists prefer independent central banks because they can do unpopular things like lifting interest rates to combat inflation more easily than elected officials.

Many economists worry that if the Fed falls under the control of the White House, it will keep its key interest rate lower than justified by economic fundamentals to satisfy Trump's demands for cheaper borrowing. That could accelerate inflation and could also push up longer-term interest rates, such as those on mortgages and car loans. Investors may demand a higher yield to own bonds to offset greater inflation in the future, lifting borrowing costs for the U.S. government and the entire economy.

Separately, Miran chairs the White House's Council of Economic Advisers and said earlier this month he would take unpaid leave but otherwise keep his job while serving on the Fed's board. It will be the first time in decades that an executive branch official has served at the Fed.

Miran has been appointed to finish a term that expires in January, but he could remain in the seat if no replacement is chosen.

Cook has denied any wrongdoing and has not been charged with a crime. According to documents obtained by The Associated Press, Cook did specify that her Atlanta condo would be a "vacation home," according to a loan estimate she obtained in May 2021. And in a form seeking a security clearance, she described it as a "2nd home." Both documents appear to undercut the administration's claims of fraud.

Last week, U.S. District Court Judge Jia Cobb ruled that the administration had not satisfied a legal requirement that Fed governors can only be fired "for cause," which she said was limited to misconduct while in office. Cook did not join the Fed's board until 2022.

In their emergency appeal, Trump's lawyers argued that even if the conduct occurred before her time as governor, her alleged action "indisputably calls into question Cook's trustworthiness and whether she

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 46 of 64

can be a responsible steward of the interest rates and economy.”

Trump has repeatedly attacked Powell and the other members of the Fed’s interest-rate setting committee for not cutting the short-term interest rate they control more quickly. Trump has said he thinks it should be as low as 1.3%, a level that no Fed official and few economists support.

Cook is the first Black woman to serve as a Fed governor. She was a Marshall Scholar and received degrees from Oxford University and Spelman College, and prior to joining the board she taught at Michigan State University and Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government.

British politicians condemn Elon Musk’s comments at anti-migrant rally

By JILL LAWLESS and LYDIA DOYE Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Monday condemned “dangerous” comments by Elon Musk after the X and Tesla owner told an anti-immigration rally that violence is coming to Britain and they must fight or die. But the U.K. government resisted opposition calls to sanction Musk for the remarks.

Starmer denounced violence on the fringes of Saturday’s 100,000 or more-strong “Unite the Kingdom” demonstration in London organized by far-right campaigner Tommy Robinson.

Police said 26 officers were injured, four seriously, as a minority among the protesters tried to breach lines separating them from a smaller anti-racist counter-demonstration. There were 25 people arrested at the event and the Metropolitan Police said more arrests would follow.

Addressing the demonstration by video link, Musk called for the dissolution of Parliament and an early election to remove Starmer’s center-left government. He told protesters “violence is coming to you” and “you either fight back or you die.”

Starmer’s spokesman, Dave Pares, said he didn’t think “the British public will have any truck with that kind of language.

“The U.K. is a fair, tolerant and decent country, so the last thing that British people want is dangerous and inflammatory language which threatens violence and intimidation on our streets,” he said.

Calls to sanction Musk

Ed Davey, leader of the Liberal Democrats, the third-largest party in Britain’s Parliament, urged Starmer, Conservative opposition leader Kemi Badenoch and Reform UK leader Nigel Farage to join him in condemning Musk’s attempt “to sow discord and incite violence on our streets” and interfere with British democracy.

Davey urged Starmer to block Tesla from getting government contracts.

Starmer’s spokesman said the government had no plans to sanction Musk over his comments.

The prime minister wrote on X that peaceful protest “is core to our country’s values. But we will not stand for assaults on police officers doing their job or for people feeling intimidated on our streets because of their background or the color of their skin.”

This is not the first time Musk, an erstwhile ally of President Donald Trump, has supported hard-right and far-right figures in Europe, including Robinson, a convicted fraudster and founder of the anti-Islam English Defense League whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, and the Alternative for Germany party, or AfD.

Musk also is a critic of attempts by the U.K. and other European governments to clamp down on harmful online content, something he argues restricts free speech.

Saturday’s march was billed as a demonstration in support of free speech, with many of the speeches by influencers and far-right politicians from across Europe aimed largely at the supposed perils of migration.

It followed growing political concern about unauthorized immigration, especially the arrival of migrants across the English Channel in small boats. More than 30,000 people have made the dangerous crossing from France so far this year despite efforts by authorities in Britain, France and other countries to crack down on the people-smuggling gangs behind the trips.

The use of hotels to accommodate asylum-seekers has become a major political issue in Britain, sparking dozens of small but heated protests over the summer, some of which turned violent.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 47 of 64

Flying the flag

Many of the demonstrators waved the U.K.'s Union Jack or red and white St. George flag of England. In recent weeks, the flags have proliferated on lampposts, motorway bridges and road intersections around the country as part of a seemingly grassroots campaign. Red crosses have also been painted on buildings in what some see as an intimidating gesture aimed at ethnic minorities.

The St. George flag, in particular, is a complex symbol. It can express patriotism and pride when supporting England's sports teams, but has at times been appropriated by anti-immigration protesters and the hard right. The flag featured heavily at anti-asylum protests this summer, which were attended and in some cases organized by far-right activists.

"Flags can unite and divide as they are flown by people with different motives and meanings," said Sunder Katwala of British Future, a think tank that looks at issues including integration and national identity.

James Freeman, a senior lecturer in political history at the University of Bristol, said the use of flags "to intimidate or demark certain areas as being out of bounds" was a historical phenomenon, though the link between the St. George flag and the hard right is "relatively recent."

Starmer, who has expressed support for flying flags as symbols of national pride, wrote on X that "Britain is a nation proudly built on tolerance, diversity and respect. Our flag represents our diverse country and we will never surrender it to those that use it as a symbol of violence, fear and division."

DNA evidence found near scene of Charlie Kirk's shooting matches suspect, FBI director says

By JESSE BEDAYN and JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

OREM, Utah (AP) — DNA on a towel wrapped around a rifle found near where conservative activist Charlie Kirk was assassinated matched that of the 22-year-old accused in the killing, FBI Director Kash Patel said on Monday.

Investigators also have used DNA evidence to link the suspect, Tyler Robinson, with a screwdriver recovered from the rooftop where the fatal shot was fired, Patel said Monday on the Fox News show "Fox & Friends."

Authorities in Utah are preparing to file capital murder charges against Robinson as early as Tuesday in the killing of Kirk, a dominant figure in conservative politics who became a confidant of President Donald Trump after founding Arizona-based Turning Point USA, one of the nation's largest political organizations.

Kirk, who brought young, conservative evangelical Christians into politics, was shot Wednesday while speaking at Utah Valley University during one of his many campus stops. The shooting raised fears about increasing political violence in a deeply polarized United States.

Officials have said Robinson carried a hatred for Kirk and ascribed to a "leftist ideology" that had grown in recent years. Robinson's family and friends said he spent large amounts of time scrolling the "dark corners of the internet," Utah Gov. Spencer Cox said Sunday.

Patel told Fox that Robinson had written in a note before the shooting that he had an opportunity to take out Kirk and was going to do it. Investigators were able to recover the note's contents after it had been destroyed, the FBI director said, paraphrasing from the note without revealing more details.

Over the weekend, Cox said Robinson's romantic partner was transgender, but authorities did not know yet whether the suspect targeted Kirk for his anti-transgender views.

Utah's department of public safety chief said Monday that Robinson's partner has been cooperative.

"There was a romantic, personal relationship there. We are still investigating whether that individual had any involvement," commissioner Beau Mason told The Associated Press.

"We believe that Tyler Robinson acted by himself during this shooting," said Mason, who added that investigators are looking at whether anyone else knew of his plans beforehand.

Authorities said Robinson has not been cooperating with law enforcement since being jailed for suspicion of aggravated murder. They say that he may have been "radicalized" online and that ammunition found in the gun used to kill Kirk included anti-fascist and meme-culture engravings. Court records show that one

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 48 of 64

bullet casing had the message, "Hey, fascist! Catch!"

Robinson was arrested late Thursday near where he grew up around St. George, in the southwestern corner of Utah between Las Vegas and Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks. It's unclear whether he has an attorney who could speak on his behalf, and his family has declined to comment to the AP.

Authorities also revealed Monday that a man arrested in the aftermath of the shooting was taken into custody because he yelled, "I shot him, now shoot me." A probable cause statement said George Zinn later admitted that he only said that "so the real suspect could get away." A voicemail message left after hours at the office of an attorney who represented Zinn for another case earlier this year was not immediately returned.

Since the shooting, security experts have questioned the level of security at the event, including the number of officers and the decision to hold it outside. Kirk was known to prefer being as close to students as possible during his tour on college campuses, allowing him to strike up conversations with passersby. And with each stop, his level of protection varied greatly.

Tributes to Kirk continued across the country. A line of mourners wrapped around the Kennedy Center in Washington for a vigil Sunday, and there were moments of silence at several professional sporting events.

On Monday, a massive American flag was hung from a walkway just above where Kirk sat before the shooting. Near a flower- and flag-adorned memorial for Kirk close to a university entrance, people had scrawled messages in chalk across the sidewalks — largely bible verses and exhortations to love intermingled with more severe messages. "Bullets can't stop the truth," exclaimed one.

Vice President JD Vance, who counted Kirk as a close friend, served as a substitute host Monday on "The Charlie Kirk Show" on Rumble, a streaming platform.

Vance spoke about how Kirk's widow, Erika Kirk, told him her husband never raised his voice to her and was never "cross or mean-spirited to her."

"I took from that moment that I needed to be a better husband and I needed to be a better father," the vice president said. "That is the way I'm going to honor my friend."

Summit leads to little action after Israeli strike on Hamas in Doha

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Qatar hosted a summit of Arab and Islamic nations Monday in the hopes of presenting a united response to Israel's attack on Hamas leaders last week in Doha. But leaders offered different views about what to do, and the group agreed to take only minimal action.

Israel, which launched its invasion of Gaza in response to Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack, has retaliated against the militant group and other members of Iran's so-called Axis of Resistance elsewhere, including in Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen and now Qatar. That's fueled wider anger among Mideast nations already enraged by the deaths of more than 64,000 Palestinians during the war in Gaza and contributed to growing concern that the U.S. commitment to protect Gulf Arab states may not be strong enough.

However, significant differences among the nations likely blunted any attempt at cooperation.

Condemnations came from countries that Israel considers enemies, like Iran. Meanwhile, the nations that have diplomatic recognition deals with Israel were reluctant to sever those ties. Monday was the fifth anniversary of the signing by Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates of the Abraham Accords that marked their formal recognition of Israel.

"Condemnations will not stop the missiles. Declarations will not free Palestine," Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said. "Severe, punitive actions must be put in place."

Qatar's ruler offers fiery speech

Qatar's ruling emir opened the summit by accusing Israel of not caring about its hostages in Gaza and instead working to "ensure Gaza is no longer livable." Israel has said the goals of its war include bringing all the hostages back and defeating Hamas.

"If Israel wishes to assassinate the Hamas leaders, why then engage in negotiations?" Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani asked. "If you wish to insist on the liberation of hostages, why then do they assassinate

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 49 of 64

all negotiators?"

The speech was unusually fiery for the 45-year-old ruler of Qatar, which has served as key mediator in ceasefire talks.

"There is no room to deal with such a party that's cowardly and treacherous," he added. "Those who work consistently to assassinate the party in these negotiations will certainly do everything to ensure the failure of these negotiations. When they claim that they seek the liberation of hostages, that's a mere lie."

Sheikh Tamim also denounced Israel over what he called the "genocide" it is committing in Gaza — an assessment offered by multiple others at the summit. Israel vehemently denies it is committing genocide. It says Hamas is prolonging the war by not surrendering and releasing the hostages.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Israel "should also be squeezed economically, as previous experience shows that such steps yield results."

Iran, which hit a base in Qatar in June, is attending the summit

After the U.S. bombed Iranian nuclear sites in June, Iran struck Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, a major hub for American forces — a move that angered Qatar. Nevertheless, Iran sent President Masoud Pezeshkian to attend Monday's meeting, where he urged other nations to "isolate the aggressor."

Pezeshkian did not touch on Iran's attack on Qatar but did mention Israel's war on Iran in June. He also warned that any country in the region could be next.

"The attack on Doha changed lots of miscalculations and wrong ideas," he said. "It showed that no Arab or Muslim country is safe from the aggression of the regime in Tel Aviv. Tomorrow it can be any Arab or Muslim capital's turn."

Before the summit, analysts floated possibly closing airspace to Israeli flights or downgrading ties with Israel. A final statement from the meeting, however, only called on states to "take all possible legal and effective measures to prevent Israel from continuing its actions against the Palestinian people."

The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, which includes Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, held its own meeting on the sidelines of the summit. Its members decided to take steps "to activate the mechanisms of joint defense and the Gulf deterrence capabilities," they said in a statement, without elaborating.

Qatar has been key in Israel-Hamas ceasefire talks

Qatar, an energy-rich nation on the Arabian Peninsula that hosted the 2022 World Cup, long has served as an intermediary in conflicts. For years, it has hosted Hamas' political leadership at the request of the U.S., providing a channel for Israel to negotiate with the militant group that has controlled Gaza for years.

But as the Israel-Hamas war has raged on, Qatar increasingly has been criticized by hard-liners within Netanyahu's government. Netanyahu himself has vowed to strike all those who organized the Hamas-led attack on Israel in 2023. And since last week's strike, the Israeli leader has doubled down on saying Qatar remains a possible target if Hamas leaders are there.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio was in Israel on Monday for meetings with Netanyahu and other Israeli officials to express America's concern over the attack on Qatar and talk about Israel's planned new offensive on Gaza City. Rubio planned to pay a quick visit to Qatar on Tuesday as the administration seeks to ease tensions between its two close allies.

Rubio declined to address Israel's strike while speaking to journalists in Jerusalem, but he said America wanted to work with all its partners in the region to stop Hamas and reach a ceasefire in the war.

"We're going to continue to encourage Qatar to play a constructive role in that regard," Rubio said.

Netanyahu again added that Israel's decision to attack Qatar "was a wholly independent decision by us."

Netanyahu faces increasing pressure from the Israeli public to end the war and bring home the 48 hostages still held in Gaza, of whom 20 are believed by Israel to still be alive.

The Hamas-led Oct. 7 attack killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and led to the abduction of 251.

Israel's ensuing offensives in Gaza have killed more than 64,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many were civilians or combatants. It says around half of those killed were women and children.

The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government and staffed by medical professionals. The U.N. and independent experts view its figures as the most reliable estimate of war casualties. Israel disputes them

but has not provided its own.

King Charles III to deploy tiara diplomacy as UK prepares to welcome Trump for second state visit

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Windsor Castle staff are setting the 50-meter-long (164-feet-long) mahogany table. Grooms are buffing the hooves of the horses that will pull the royal carriages. And the military honor guard is drilling to ensure every step lands with precision.

Throughout the halls and grounds of the almost 1,000-year-old castle west of London, hundreds of people are working to make sure King Charles III puts on the best show possible when he welcomes U.S. President Donald Trump for his historic second state visit this week.

The visit, featuring glittering tiaras, brass bands and a sumptuous banquet served on 200-year-old silver, is a display of the pomp and ceremony that Britain does like no one else. But it's a spectacle with a purpose: to bolster ties with one of the world's most powerful men at a time when his America First policies are roiling longstanding trade and security relationships.

"We're buttering up to him," said Robert Lacey, a royal historian and consultant on the Netflix series "The Crown."

"He wouldn't come to Britain if he wouldn't have the chance to stay at Windsor Castle, probably pay homage to the (late) queen he admires so much, and to meet the king."

Soft power in action

Three centuries after Britain's kings and queens gave up political power and settled for the role of ceremonial head of state, the royals remain a robust instrument of "soft power," which the elected government uses to reward friends and wring concessions out of reluctant allies.

State visits are the monarchy's ultimate tool, with world leaders vying to get the full royal treatment.

During seven decades on the throne, the late Queen Elizabeth II hosted everyone from Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu to South African President Nelson Mandela.

The royals have also hosted the last four U.S. presidents, though not all were full-scale state visits.

Hospitality with purpose

While the impact of soft power is hard to quantify, it contributes to a feeling of friendship that "may incline another party to be more open to your entreaties," said Martin Farr, an expert in modern British history at Newcastle University.

Six years ago, Britain sought Trump's support as it prepared to leave the European Union. This time the U.K. is lobbying for favorable trade terms and help in combating Russian aggression in Ukraine.

"A new Trump presidency, a new prime minister, a different government, but the same sense of panic and the same feeling that the biggest lever we can pull with this president is to flatter him and to try and connect him with something he seems genuinely to be impressed by, which is monarchy, and the fact that his mother of course was born" in Scotland, Farr said.

So Prime Minister Keir Starmer hurried to Washington in February, just five weeks after Trump began his second term, and handed him the king's invitation for a state visit.

It was the first time any world leader received the honor of a second state visit, and the first time the invitation was delivered in a personal letter from the king, which Trump proudly displayed for TV cameras.

"It's a great, great honor, and that says at Windsor," Trump said as he praised the king. "That's really something."

Pomp and circumstance

There will be plenty of glitz for a president who has gilded the Oval Office and plans to build a White House ballroom for 650 guests.

While the president and first lady Melania Trump will arrive in the U.K. late Tuesday, the meat of the visit begins the next day.

After welcoming the Trumps, Charles and Queen Camilla will accompany them on a carriage ride through

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 51 of 64

the Windsor estate, then back to the castle along a path lined by members of the armed forces.

Inside the crenellated walls of the castle, which William the Conqueror started building in 1070, a military band will play the national anthems of both countries before Charles and Trump review the guard of honor in scarlet tunics and tall bearskin hats.

Hundreds of military personnel will take part in the ceremonies — mounted troops, foot guards and musicians — after months of rehearsals.

When rifles are shouldered, it will come with a single thwack. When boots hit the ground, they will do so in unison. "God Save the King" and "The Star-Spangled Banner" will be note-perfect.

Highlighting history

After the welcoming ceremonies, the Trumps will view an exhibit of documents and artwork put together to highlight the shared history of Britain and the U.S. The palace hasn't said what will be included, but the options are myriad for two countries with common legal and democratic traditions that stretch back to Magna Carta, the historic charter of rights signed in 1215 at Runnymede, just a few miles from Windsor.

But the centerpiece of the visit will be Wednesday night's state banquet, where the men will don white ties and tail coats and the women will wear designer gowns and jewels that will sparkle in the flickering light from antique candelabra.

"The tiaras will be out in force," said Hugo Vickers, a royal historian and author of "Alice," a biography of the late Prince Philip's mother. "It will all look very splendid."

Dinner for many

The king and queen will join their guests around the massive Waterloo Table, which is about half the length of a football field and has space for 160 guests. It takes five full days to set the table, which will be laid with the Grand Service, a silver-gilt dining service that includes more than 4,000 pieces ranging from serving dishes to dinner plates and egg cups.

Vickers said the silver and ceremonies pave the way for conciliation, which Elizabeth believed was the way to solve even intractable problems.

"Keir Starmer has, cleverly in a way, used the king to lure President Trump over here, to give him a very good time," he said. "And (it's) a wonderful opportunity, with all the goodwill that will be engaged at this point, to talk to him ... and if there's any hope of sorting out Ukraine, etc. This is all a step in the right direction."

Those discussions take place Thursday, when Trump and Starmer meet at Chequers, the country estate of British prime ministers.

Trump deploys National Guard to Memphis, calling it a 'replica' of his crackdown on Washington

By WILL WEISSERT and JONATHAN MATTISE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump signed an order Monday sending the National Guard into Memphis to combat crime, offering another major test of the limits of presidential power by using military force in American cities.

With Republican Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee visiting the Oval Office, Trump said troops would be deployed and join a special task force in the city comprised of officials from various federal agencies, including the FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the U.S. Marshal's service.

He said the goal would be to stamp out crime in a way that he says sending in the National Guard and federalizing the local police force has in Washington, D.C.

"This task force will be a replica of our extraordinarily successful efforts here," Trump said of the District of Columbia. "And, you'll see it's a lot of the same thing."

The presidential memorandum Trump signed did not include details on when troops would be deployed or exactly what his promised surge in law enforcement efforts would look like.

"Planning is currently underway, and we will continue to work closely with federal and local partners to determine the most effective path forward," said Lee's spokesperson, Elizabeth Lane Johnson.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 52 of 64

The memorandum also specified that some out-of-state help might be available, including state police in Memphis-bordering Mississippi and Arkansas, and National Guard members from other states as necessary.

Trump said the FBI had already stepped up its recent activities in Memphis, which is majority Black and Tennessee's second-largest city, and had helped reduce crime, but, "We're sending in the big force now."

Shortly before Trump's announcement, the White House posted on social media that the Memphis total crime rate was higher than the national average and suggested that the rate had increased since last year, bucking national trends.

That's despite Memphis police recently reporting 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.

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

Tennessee's governor embraced the troop deployment as part of a broader law enforcement surge in Memphis, with Lee saying Monday that he was "tired of crime holding the great city of Memphis back." The state's Republican senators, Marsha Blackburn and Bill Hagerty, joined in the Oval Office as well.

Trump's action followed his first announcing that he'd soon be deploying the National Guard to Memphis on Friday — drawing immediate pushback from its Democratic leader.

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

Young has also said that now the decision is made, he wants to ensure he can help influence the Guard's role. He mentioned possibilities such as traffic control for big events, monitoring cameras for police and undertaking beautification projects.

At a news conference Monday, some local Democrats urged officials to consider options to oppose the deployment. Tami Sawyer, Shelby County General Sessions Court Clerk, said the city or county could sue.

Speculation had centered on Chicago as Trump's next city to send in the National Guard and other federal authorities. But the administration has faced fierce resistance from Democratic Illinois J.B. Pritzker and other local authorities.

Trump nonetheless insisted Monday, "We're going to be doing Chicago probably next" while also suggesting that authorities would wait and not act immediately there.

Speaking about a skyscraper bearing his name in the nation's third largest city, Trump said he "knew all about" Chicago and had "a great beautiful building. I'm so proud of it."

"But you get less proud when you see all the crime," he added.

Pressed on if he might send troops into Chicago without support from state and local authorities, the president insisted, "It's not going to matter to us at all."

"We hope we have the governor's help," he said. "But, if we don't we're doing it without him."

Trump has also previously said he'd be willing to send troop to New Orleans — another Democrat-leaning city in a Republican-run state. He mentioned New Orleans again on Monday, but also singled out Baltimore and even St. Louis as locales that could be in line for troop deployments eventually — though he provided no details.

"We want to save these places," Trump said.

Little daylight between US and Israel evident as Rubio and Netanyahu meet

By MATTHEW LEE and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel and the United States showed a unified front on Monday in the face of growing international anger over Israel's airstrikes on Hamas leaders in Qatar and its intensifying bombardment of Gaza City.

As Arab and Muslim leaders met in Doha to condemn Israel's attack last week in Qatar and new rounds

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 53 of 64

of criticism were aired over Israeli plans to occupy Gaza City, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio stood shoulder-to-shoulder in Jerusalem and downplayed the furor that had, at least for a short time, taken the Trump administration aback.

Rubio plans to pay a quick visit to Qatar on Tuesday, as the administration appears keen to ease tensions between its two close allies, before flying on to London to join President Donald Trump on his state visit to Britain.

"We understand they're not happy about what happened," Rubio told Fox News. But "we still have Hamas, we still have hostages, and we still have a war. And all those things still have to be dealt with, and we are hopeful that Qatar and all of our Gulf partners will continue to add something constructive."

There were no signs of U.S. frustration with Israel's latest actions, although Trump had made clear his displeasure with Israel's unilateral strike on Hamas in Qatar.

U.S. and Israel agree on destroying Hamas

Both Netanyahu and Rubio said the only way to end the conflict in Gaza is through the elimination of Hamas and the release of the remaining 48 hostages — around 20 of them believed to be alive — setting aside calls for an interim ceasefire in favor of an immediate end to the conflict.

Hamas has said it will only free the remaining hostages in return for Palestinian prisoners, a lasting ceasefire and an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

Rubio had come to Israel seeking answers from Netanyahu about how Israel intended to proceed in Gaza and assess its interest in Qatar retaining a mediating role.

"Your presence here in Israel today is a clear message that America stands with Israel. You stand with us in the face of terror," said Netanyahu.

The Doha attack, which killed at least five lower-ranking Hamas members and a member of the Qatari security forces, appears to have paused mediation efforts.

Rubio later met with families of the hostages, who aired concerns that Israel's latest offensive could doom their loved ones and called on the Trump administration to swiftly resume negotiations, according to a statement from the main group representing relatives of the captives.

Footage shows strike on Gaza high-rise

Israel destroyed another high-rise building in Gaza City as it moved ahead with its offensive. Video footage showed the explosion and the tower's collapse. Later, people could be seen scrambling up a mound of gray ruins.

In recent days, Israel has destroyed multiple high-rises after evacuation warnings. It accused Hamas of putting surveillance equipment in them, without providing evidence.

Airstrikes overnight and into Monday killed at least 18 people, including children, according to local hospitals.

One strike hit a tent housing a family, killing seven, and another hit a tent on the roof of a building, killing a local journalist, Mohammed al-Kuifi, and another person, according to Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. A strike in central Gaza killed four people, according to Al-Awda Hospital.

Israel says it only targets militants and blames civilian deaths on Hamas because it is entrenched in populated areas.

"It was another night of horror. ... The situation is tragic and getting worse day by day," said Mohammed Saber, a resident in Gaza City.

Rubio downplayed U.S. concerns about Israel's latest operations in Gaza City, and Netanyahu gave no indication that Israel would let up on its offensive.

US and Israel reject calls for Palestinian state

One of Rubio's reasons for visiting was to show support for Israel as it expects to face growing international condemnation of the war at the upcoming United Nations General Assembly session. A number of European countries and Canada have said they intend to recognize a Palestinian state over fervent U.S. and Israeli objections.

Some Israeli politicians have hinted that Israel may respond by annexing part of the West Bank. Rubio

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 54 of 64

said statehood recognition is counterproductive to creating a state through negotiations and suggested that such proclamations are self-serving.

"The only impact they actually have is it makes Hamas feel more emboldened," he said. "It's actually served as an impediment to peace."

Israel and the Palestinians have not held serious or substantive peace talks since Netanyahu returned to office in 2009.

Netanyahu, who strongly opposes Palestinian statehood, said "it is clear that if unilateral actions are taken against us, it simply invites unilateral actions on our part."

Palestinians flee to the south

Israel has been urging Palestinians in Gaza City to head south. But there is little space for people to shelter in Muwasi, a sprawling, crowded tent camp that Israel has designated as a humanitarian zone and where it has regularly carried out strikes on what it says are militant targets.

COGAT, the Israeli military body in charge of civilian affairs in Gaza, said it has increased the amount of food, medical equipment and shelter supplies it allows into Gaza, including 20,000 tents brought in since May. It said it has also repaired water lines and power lines for desalination plants.

On Monday, images showed a steady stream of Palestinians walking and driving along the narrow road by the sea that Israel designated a safe corridor.

The war in Gaza began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting 251. Most of the hostages have since been released in ceasefires brokered in part by Qatar or other deals.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed at least 64,871 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't say how many were civilians or combatants. The ministry, which is part of the Hamas-run government and staffed by medical professionals, says women and children make up around half the dead.

Wall Street rises to more records as Tesla vrooms higher

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street rose to more records on Monday at the start of a week that could show whether the U.S. stock market's big recent rally has been overdone or prescient.

The S&P 500 climbed 0.5% and topped its prior all-time high, which was set last week. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 49 points, or 0.1%, and the Nasdaq composite added 0.9% to its own record.

Tesla helped lead the way and rose 3.6% after Elon Musk bought stock worth roughly \$1 billion through a trust. The electric vehicle company's stock price came into the day with a slight loss for the year so far, and the purchase could be a signal of Musk's faith in it.

Alphabet was the single strongest force lifting the S&P 500 after gaining 4.5%, which brought the total value for Google's parent company above \$3 trillion. Nvidia, Microsoft and Apple are the only other companies on Wall Street worth that much.

The market's main event for the week will arrive on Wednesday. That's when the Federal Reserve will announce its latest decision on interest rates, and the unanimous expectation is for the first cut of the year. Such a move could give a kickstart to the job market, which has been slowing.

Stocks have already run to records on the assumption that a cut is coming on Wednesday, though. Expectations are also high that the Fed will keep lowering rates through the end of this year and into 2026. That creates the possibility for disappointment in the market, which would mean drops for stock prices, if the Fed doesn't end up slashing rates as aggressively as traders expect.

That's why more attention will be on what Fed Chair Jerome Powell says in his press conference following the decision than on the decision itself. Fed officials will also release their latest projections for where they see interest rates and the economy heading in upcoming years, which could provide another potential flashpoint.

What's keeping the Fed on guard is a possible jump in inflation because of President Donald Trump's tariffs. That's because lower interest rates can give inflation more fuel and send it even higher. And infla-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 55 of 64

tion has already proven difficult to get under the Fed's 2% target.

Another threat for Wall Street is if the job market slows too much. In that case, a recession could create a downturn in corporate profits that's steep enough to swamp the benefits that lower interest rates bring in the near term.

Trump, meanwhile, has pushed angrily for cuts to interest rates. He's often attacked Powell personally, nicknaming him "Too Late," and is trying to remove one of the Fed's governors from its board.

"'Too Late' must cut interest rates now, and bigger than he had in mind," Trump wrote on his social media network Monday, using his trademark all-caps style.

On Wall Street, Intel rose 2.9% after trimming its forecast for expenses this year. The move came after it completed the sale of a 51% stake in its Altera business to the Silver Lake investment firm.

That helped offset a 24.7% drop for Hain Celestial, which reported a larger loss for its latest quarter than it did a year earlier. Interim CEO Alison Lewis said the owner of "better-for-you" brands like Terra chips is making moves to stabilize sales "as we recognize our performance has not met expectations."

Alaska Air Group lost 6.7% after the airline said high fuel costs will likely cause its third-quarter results to come in at the low end of its forecasted range. It also cited higher expenses for overtime pay and passengers' compensation after bad weather and air-traffic control issues led to difficult operations in the summer, though it saw strong airfare trends thanks to demand for premium seats.

Nvidia edged down by less than 0.1% after China accused the chip company of violating its antimonopoly laws. Chinese regulators did not mention a punishment for Nvidia in a one-sentence statement on the matter but did say they would carry out "further investigation."

All told, the S&P 500 rose 30.99 points to 6,615.28. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 49.23 to 45,883.45, and the Nasdaq composite climbed 207.65 to 22,348.75.

In the bond market Treasury yields eased, continuing their downward run on expectations for cuts to rates by the Fed.

The latest discouraging data on the economy came Monday from a report showing manufacturing activity in New York state is shrinking, contrary to economists' expectations for continued growth. It's the first month of contraction since June.

The next economic update will arrive Tuesday, when the U.S. government will say how much shoppers spent at U.S. retailers last month.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 4.03% from 4.06% late Friday.

In stock markets abroad, France's CAC 40 climbed 0.9%, while indexes moved more modestly across the rest of Europe and Asia.

Fired federal prosecutor Maurene Comey sues Trump administration to get her job back

By LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Former federal prosecutor Maurene Comey sued the U.S. government Monday to get her job back, saying her firing was for political reasons and was unconstitutional.

Her lawsuit in Manhattan federal court blamed the firing on the fact that her father is James Comey, a former F.B.I. director, "or because of her perceived political affiliation and beliefs, or both."

Comey is seeking to be reinstated and a declaration that her firing was unlawful and a violation of the Constitution's "Separation of Powers" clause.

"Defendants have not provided any explanation whatsoever for terminating Ms. Comey. In truth, there is no legitimate explanation," the lawsuit said.

Comey, who successfully prosecuted hundreds of cases since becoming an assistant U.S. attorney in 2015, was notified of her dismissal in an email with an attachment saying she was being fired "(p)ursuant to Article II of the United States Constitution and the laws of the United States," the lawsuit said.

James Comey was fired as FBI director by President Donald Trump in 2017. The lawsuit noted he has since written a memoir critical of Trump and has publicly criticized Trump and his administration, including

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 56 of 64

a May social media post that Trump and others perceived as threatening.

The lawsuit said Maurene Comey's July firing came the day after her supervisors asked her to lead a major public corruption case and three months after she'd received her latest "Outstanding" review.

It also followed a several-week-long campaign by right-wing internet personality Laura Loomer to get Comey fired.

"The politically motivated termination of Ms. Comey — ostensibly under 'Article II of the Constitution' — upends bedrock principles of our democracy and justice system," the lawsuit said. "Assistant United States Attorneys like Ms. Comey must do their jobs without fearing or favoring any political party or perspective, guided solely by the law, the facts, and the pursuit of justice."

Named as defendants in the lawsuit were, among others, the Justice Department, the Executive Office of the President, U.S. Attorney General Pamela Bondi, the Office of Personnel Management and the United States.

The Justice Department declined through a spokesperson to comment.

Comey's July 16 firing came amid a spate of dismissals of prosecutors by the Justice Department without explanation, raising alarm that civil service protections meant to prevent terminations for political reasons were being overlooked.

Comey's lawsuit noted that the Civil Service Reform Act provides protections governing how and why she could be terminated, including specific prohibitions against termination for discriminatory reasons such as political affiliation.

"Her termination violated every one of those protections," the lawsuit said.

It said she had suffered adverse harmful effects, including lost or jeopardized employment and financial opportunities, along with reputational harm.

If Comey applies for jobs, even the most rudimentary background check may come across inaccurate and false information from the defendants "that will adversely impact her reputation and chances for additional employment opportunities," the lawsuit said.

The Justice Department also has fired some prosecutors who worked on cases that have provoked Trump's ire, including some who handled U.S. Capitol riot cases and lawyers and support staff who worked on special counsel Jack Smith's prosecutions of Trump.

She became a rising star in her office for her work on the case against financier Jeffrey Epstein and his onetime girlfriend, British socialite Ghislaine Maxwell, and the recent prosecution of music mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs.

Maxwell is serving a 20-year prison sentence after her December 2021 conviction on sex trafficking charges. She was recently transferred from a prison in Florida to a prison camp in Texas.

Epstein took his own life in a federal jail in August 2019 as he awaited trial on sex trafficking charges. Combs is awaiting sentencing next month after his conviction on prostitution-related charges after he was exonerated in July of more serious sex trafficking and racketeering conspiracy charges.

The lawsuit noted that Comey, while she was co-chief of the office's Public Corruption Unit before returning to trial work, oversaw the team handling the prosecution of then-U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez and his wife, Nadine Menendez, on bribery charges. Both were convicted at trial.

Bob Menendez, a New Jersey Democrat, is serving an 11-year prison term while his wife was sentenced last week to 4 1/2 years in prison.

The lawsuit said that after she was fired, Comey entered the Public Corruption Unit offices, finding her supervisors "visibly shocked and upset by the news."

It said U.S. Attorney Jay Clayton then entered and she asked why she was fired.

"All I can say is it came from Washington. I can't tell you anything else," the lawsuit said Clayton responded.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 57 of 64

Nvidia violated antimonopoly laws, China says

By KELVIN CHAN AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — China accused Nvidia on Monday of violating the country's antimonopoly laws and said it would step up scrutiny of the world's leading chipmaker, escalating tensions with Washington as the two countries held trade talks this week.

Chinese regulators said a preliminary investigation found that Nvidia didn't comply with conditions imposed when it purchased Mellanox Technologies, a network and data transmission company.

The one-sentence statement from the State Administration for Market Regulation statement did not mention any punishment, but said it would carry out "further investigation."

An Nvidia spokesperson said, "We comply with the law in all respects. We will continue to cooperate with all relevant government agencies as they evaluate the impact of export controls on competition in the commercial markets."

Regulators said in December that they were investigating the company for suspected violations stemming from the \$6.9 billion acquisition of Mellanox. The deal was completed in 2020 after the Chinese regulator gave conditional approval for Nvidia to buy the Israeli company.

The announcement, which came as the two sides held trade talks in Spain, is the latest tit-for-tat move between Washington and Beijing in their trade battle over technology focusing on semiconductors and the equipment to make them.

On Saturday, China's Ministry of Commerce said it was carrying out an antidumping investigation into certain analog IC chips imported from the U.S., including commodity chips commonly made by companies such as Texas Instruments and ON Semiconductor.

The ministry also announced a separate antidiscrimination probe into U.S. measures against China's chip sector.

A day earlier, the U.S. had sanctioned two Chinese companies accused of acquiring equipment for major Chinese chipmaker SMIC.

The talks in Madrid between U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng in Madrid concluded Monday with Bessent telling reporters the two sides reached a framework deal for U.S. ownership of TikTok. However, details were scant and Chinese negotiators provided no confirmation of a deal.

It's the fourth round of discussions after meetings in London, Geneva and Stockholm. The two governments have agreed to several 90-day pauses on a series of increasing reciprocal tariffs, staving off an all-out trade war.

Santa Clara, Calif.-based Nvidia has become central to the U.S.-China trade war, as the two sides battle for tech supremacy. The artificial intelligence boom has fueled demand for the Nvidia's advanced processors, making it the world's most valuable company.

The company has faced restrictions on chip exports to China imposed by President Joe Biden's administration that were then reinforced by President Donald Trump. Nvidia won approval in July from the Trump administration to sell China its H20 graphics processing unit, which is less powerful and designed to comply with U.S. export curbs.

Spanish prime minister wants Israel banned from sports events after chaos at cycling race

By TALES AZZONI AP Sports Writer

MADRID (AP) — Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez on Monday called for Israel to be banned from sports events after pro-Palestinian activists disrupted the end of the Spanish Vuelta cycling race in chaotic scenes in Madrid.

Israel's foreign minister responded by calling Sánchez an "antisemite and a liar."

Tensions between the countries have escalated in recent weeks as Spain's left-wing government expressed support for protesters who interrupted several stages of the Vuelta, including Sunday's final stage

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 58 of 64

in Madrid, because an Israeli team was taking part.

Speaking to members of his Socialist Party, Sánchez said Israel, just like Russia, should not be allowed to compete in international sports because of its military campaign in Gaza.

"The sports organizations should consider whether it's ethical for Israel to keep participating in international competitions. Why expel Russia after the invasion of Ukraine and not expel Israel after the invasion of Gaza?" Sanchez said. "Until the barbarity ends, neither Russia nor Israel should be in any international competition."

Sánchez spoke a day after the Vuelta finale was cut short when pro-Palestinian protesters opposing the participation of Israeli team Israel Premier Tech threw barriers onto the road and clashed with police near the finish line. Authorities said two people were arrested and 22 injured, none of them seriously.

The Spanish government had already expressed sympathy with the protesters and suggested the Israel Premier Tech team should have withdrawn from the three-week-long race that became a diplomatic battleground.

The team removed its name from its uniforms but remained in the race to the end.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar criticized Sánchez with a post on X that included a video link to the Spanish leader's speech on Monday.

"An antisemite and a liar," Saar wrote. "Did Israel invade Gaza on Oct. 7th or did the Hamas terror state invade Israel and commit the worst massacre against the Jews since the Holocaust?"

The war in Gaza began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting 251. There are 48 hostages remaining in Gaza and Israel believes 20 are still alive.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed more than 67,000 Palestinians according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't say how many were civilians or combatants. The offensive has displaced most of Gaza's 2 million people, caused widespread destruction and severe hunger.

As the war has ground on, Israel has grown increasingly isolated, with Spain at the forefront of a growing list of European countries increasingly critical of Israel due to the heavy civilian toll. Countries including the U.K. and France have said they plan on recognizing a Palestinian state, and the European Commission president has called for scaling back Europe's trade ties with Israel.

Europe remains divided on its stance toward Israel, and its limited sanctions and condemnations so far have had little effect.

Madrid's conservative mayor, José Luis Martínez-Almeida, also criticized Sánchez and described Sunday's events as a sad day for the Spanish capital.

Danish rider Jonas Vingegaard, who was leading the overall classification going into the final stage, was declared the winner of the Vuelta but the customary podium ceremony was canceled.

"It's a pity that such a moment of eternity was taken from us," Vingegaard said. "Everyone has the right to protest, but not in a way that influences or endangers our race."

The teams reportedly improvised a private podium ceremony so riders could celebrate.

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen condemned the protesters for "spoiling" the race and criticized Sánchez for "praising" the protests.

"Instead I want to praise the athletes and everyone who doesn't spoil things for others," she wrote on Instagram.

Vuelta race director Javier Guillén defended letting the Israeli team stay in the race.

"The Vuelta's position was clear, we had to abide to the norms of the International Cycling Union. It's the UCI that regulates the right of admission to the race," Guillén said at a news conference on Monday. "We never got into any other type of debate. All we wanted to do was to be able to finish the race with normalcy, and that wasn't possible."

The UCI on Monday expressed "its total disapproval of and deep concern about the events that marked" the Vuelta. It also said it "strongly condemns the exploitation of sport for political purposes in general, and especially coming from a government."

"We also regret the fact that the Spanish Prime Minister and his government have supported actions that could hinder the smooth running of a sporting competition and, in some cases, expressed their admiration for the demonstrators.

"This position is contradictory to the Olympic values of unity, mutual respect, and peace. It also calls into question Spain's ability to host major international sporting events, ensuring that they take place in safe conditions and in accordance with the principles of the Olympic Charter."

The central government's representative for the Madrid region said an estimated 100,000 people were on the streets on Sunday during the protests. The number could not be independently verified.

Guillén said the Vuelta protests would likely have implications for future sports events with Israeli participants.

"After this Vuelta, the international entities will need to make decisions and cycling will need to have some internal discussions to find solutions," he said.

Next year's Tour de France begins with a stage in Barcelona.

"Hopefully everything will be solved by then," he said. "I don't want to speculate with any possibilities. I'm sure Barcelona will have a great Tour de France."

Here's what dermatologists are saying about your skin care routine: Keep it simple

By KENYA HUNTER AP Health Writer

There always seems to be someone on TikTok, YouTube or Instagram showing you a multistep skincare routine they swear by. They might use expensive products like snail mucin or red-light therapy masks that allegedly hydrate your skin or help reduce fine lines.

Is any of it necessary? Does any of it work?

"Social media is having such a huge influence on what we're using in our skin and every individual is acting like their own clinician and trying to diagnose their own skin type and experiment with different regimens," said Dr. Kathleen Suozzi, a professor of dermatology at Yale School of Medicine. "And really the main overarching thing is that skincare regimens have become way overcomplicated."

Some dermatologists say that many viral skincare products are unnecessary, even if they feel nice, and while some cause little to no harm, other treatments can cause more problems than they fix.

Face skin requires extra protection

The skin on our face is thinner than the skin on our bodies, and requires a gentler touch than other parts of the body.

Everyone's skin is different, too: The soaps or cleansers that work for someone with oily skin may not satisfy someone with dry skin.

Dermatologists say a skincare routine should start with three things — a gentle cleanser, a moisturizer to hydrate the face and a sunscreen with at least SPF 30. Too many products can irritate sensitive skin and be redundant, since many products share the same ingredients.

In all cases, protecting your face from the sun is key, dermatologists said.

"The truth of the matter is, nine out of 10 skin care concerns on the face that people come to see me for are worsened by UV radiation from the sun," said Dr. Oyetewa Asempa, the director of the Skin of Color clinic at Baylor College of Medicine.

Many skin issues, like wrinkles, dark pigmentation after a rash and dark scarring from acne, are made worse by the sun, she said.

What to know about retinol and exfoliation products

Wrinkles happen. And your skin over time can look less plump and glowing.

Retinol creams and chemical exfoliants are sold with the promise of keeping aging at bay. Some are recommended by dermatologists — but there are also some exceptions.

As we get older, our skin slows down its production of collagen, which keeps our skin bouncy and elastic.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 60 of 64

That leads to wrinkles. Retinoids and retinol creams can help, dermatologists said. But they recommend not using them until you are about 30 or older — any earlier could cause more problems, like skin irritation.

Dark spots and dead skin are also common skincare frustrations.

Exfoliation — removing dead skin — can help. But dermatologists recommend avoiding products that use beads, salts and sugars that exfoliate fragile facial skin by physically removing it. Instead, try chemical exfoliation with alpha-hydroxy acids or beta-hydroxy acids -- but make sure you're wearing sunscreen if you add either of these ingredients to your skincare regimen.

FDA-approved guidelines say chemical exfoliation is safe if certain ingredient levels are declared on retail products, but the requirements don't apply to the more intense chemical peels applied by professionals, for example in salons.

What skin products to avoid

Influencers try to get you excited by trendy skincare ideas — and dermatologists want them to go away.

Dr. Asempa points to one currently popular example: beef tallow — also known as cow fat.

"I want you to leave the beef tallow with the cows," she said.

Light therapy masks are also wildly popular — and also wildly over-hyped. Dermatologists say they can be useful in some situations, depending on the color you use and the strength of the masks.

Dr. Suozzi said that while research shows there may be some benefit to red-light therapy masks, which may help with collagen production, they are "not something that's going to be transformative" for the skin.

And to have any hope, you'd need to use them a lot: "You need to be using these devices a few times a week for them to have any benefit, if at all."

More expensive skin products don't necessarily work better

Red-light therapy masks, snail mucin — slimy liquid that is touted as hydrating — and other products can be very expensive. But don't let the price fool you, said Dr. Jordan Lim, a dermatology professor at Emory University School of Medicine.

"Price does not equal efficacy, and it does not equal better results," Lim said. "A lot of the ingredients you're seeing in a \$6 cream are also in a \$20 cream, also in that \$300 cream that you see a celebrity using."

Takeaways from our collaboration on youth mental health after the Maui wildfires

By MEGAN TAGAMI of Honolulu Civil Beat undefined

LAHAINA, Hawaii (AP) — Ever since wildfires destroyed Lahaina two years ago, hundreds of students have struggled mentally — and not all have received the help they need.

The Hawaii Department of Education estimates more than a third of Maui students lost a family member, sustained a serious injury or had a parent lose a job after the fires, which killed 102 people and damaged more than 3,300 properties in Lahaina.

Two years later, many in Lahaina are ready to return to normal. But therapists say students' mental health challenges continue to mount.

The Associated Press is collaborating with Honolulu Civil Beat, CalMatters, Blue Ridge Public Radio, and Centro de Periodismo Investigativo in Puerto Rico to examine how school communities are recovering from the disruption of natural disasters. Here are key takeaways.

2 years in, kids are still struggling

While kids may feel numb immediately following a disaster, after two years, they're facing the toll of constant uncertainty and change, said Christopher Knightsbridge, one of several researchers at the University of Hawaii who has studied the well-being of Lahaina fire survivors. Adrenaline has worn off, and stress remains high,

But a couple years after the disaster, schools are not always prepared with extra mental health supports.

On Maui, the island is dealing with an ongoing shortage of specialists. In the past few years, the number of psychiatrists serving youth has dropped from four to two, even as demand has grown.

"The crisis isn't over," Knightsbridge said.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 61 of 64

Kids in Lahaina say their anxiety is triggered by strong winds, brush fires or the smell of smoke. In a University of Hawaii study of fire survivors conducted in 2024, just over half of children reported symptoms of depression, and 30% were likely facing an anxiety disorder. Nearly half of kids in the study, ages 10 to 17, were experiencing PTSD.

It's affecting kids in school. In a state survey of Maui students in the first year after the fires, roughly half of kids said they were having trouble focusing in class or felt upset when they were reminded of the wildfires.

Hiring full-time mental health staff in Maui is difficult

Even before the fires, Maui faced a shortage of mental health professionals because they struggled with the state's high cost of living and housing shortage.

The fires brought burnout and greater economic obstacles, only exacerbating the issue. Since then, Hawaii's education department has tried to bulk up Maui's mental health staff by bringing in providers from neighbor islands and the mainland and, more recently, using a \$2 million federal grant to support students.

But hiring mental health staff has been so difficult that even the federal money hasn't made much of a dent. In the first nine months of the grant, the state education department primarily used the money to bus displaced students from other parts of the island to Lahaina schools.

The state has used the money to hire five part-time mental health providers working with students and staff, including one specialist who works in the evenings with students living as boarders on Lahainaluna's campus, said Kimberly Lessard, a Department of Education district specialist.

Two of the six behavioral health specialist positions in Lahaina schools remained unfilled this summer, as they have been for years due to Maui's housing shortage and high cost of living, Lessard said.

Adventure providers and peer counselors are stepping up

Some nonprofits and therapists have turned to outdoor activities to reach kids who have balked at discussing their mental health since the fires.

Twenty-five years ago, Loren Lapow founded the Maui Hero Project, which his website describes as "adventure-based counseling services." The eight-week program teaches teens basic disaster preparedness skills and immerses them in outdoor activities such as paddleboarding. It's also a form of mental health support, which Lapow has leaned into since the wildfires.

Amid the fun, Lapow directs the teens to reflect on their fears and losses. He asks them how they feel when they smell smoke or think about Lahaina's famed Front Street, most of which was destroyed in the blaze.

"Places are like a friend to us," Lapow told teens one June afternoon. "When you lose places, it hurts."

There's a strong stigma around seeking mental health services, particularly in Filipino and Latino communities that make up a large portion of Lahaina's population, said Ruben Juarez, a professor at University of Hawaii who led the research study on fire survivors.

The state is hoping struggling students will open up to their peers. A new program called YouthLine aims to train Hawaii teens to respond to crisis calls.

From Carter's kiss to Trump's step ahead: Famous presidential gaffes toward British royals

By MIKE PESOLI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Maybe it was nerves from being in the presence of royalty or perhaps it was a simple mistake, but there have been quite a few gaffes by U.S. presidents and first ladies toward members of the British royal family over the years.

As President Donald Trump prepares to embark on a state visit with King Charles III in England this week, here's a look back at some of the better-known faux pas, including one of Trump's own:

Carter's kiss

President Jimmy Carter attended a summit dinner at Buckingham Palace in 1977.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 62 of 64

The newly elected president hailed from Georgia and had strong Southern roots. He entered the event with members of the royal family, and together they posed for photographs.

It was rumored that Carter kissed the Queen Mother on the lips during a greeting.

Carter later said that he kissed her on the cheek, but British tabloids ran with the story for years.

Bush misspeaks

President George W. Bush hosted Queen Elizabeth II at the White House in 2007.

Upon her arrival, Bush gave a welcoming speech in which he flubbed a line portraying the queen as much older than she was.

"You helped our nation celebrate its bicentennial in 17 ... in 1976," Bush said, causing the crowd to erupt into laughter.

He then turned to the queen, and together they shared a humored look.

"She gave me a look that only a mother could give a child," he said.

Michelle Obama makes the first move

When the Obamas visited the royal family in 2009, first lady Michelle Obama placed her hand on the back of Queen Elizabeth II, breaking protocol that the queen is not to be touched unless she makes the first move.

Despite Mrs. Obama making the first contact, the queen reciprocated the gesture by placing her hand on the first lady's back as well.

Barack Obama's musical toast

President Barack Obama was in the middle of proposing a toast during a dinner at Buckingham Palace in 2011 when the orchestra unexpectedly started to play "God Save the Queen."

Rather than stopping his toast to let the music finish out, the president forged on with his speech.

As the president ended his toast, the queen waited for the anthem to end before raising her glass.

Trump gets ahead

As Trump and Queen Elizabeth II inspected the Guard of Honor at Windsor Castle during a 2018 visit, he stepped ahead of the queen and directly into her walking path.

In British hierarchy, the monarch is meant to always lead the way.

Utah governor says the motive in Kirk shooting is not yet certain but the suspect was on the left

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Family and friends of the 22-year-old accused of fatally shooting conservative activist Charlie Kirk described his politics as veering left in recent years as he spent large amounts of time scrolling the "dark corners of the internet," Utah Gov. Spencer Cox said Sunday.

Investigators were still piecing together information about the suspect, Tyler Robinson, and not yet ready to discuss a potential motive. But Cox noted that Robinson, who is not cooperating with law enforcement, disliked Kirk and may have been "radicalized" online.

Kirk founded Turning Point USA to bring more young, conservative evangelical Christians into politics as effective activists, and he was a confidant of President Donald Trump, leading to a flood of tributes that included a vigil Sunday night at the Kennedy Center in Washington. Kirk, a 31-year-old father of two, became prominent in part through his speaking tours, and he was shot Wednesday while speaking at Utah Valley University.

"There clearly was a leftist ideology," Cox said on NBC's "Meet the Press," citing interviews with Robinson's relatives and acquaintances. "Friends have confirmed that there was kind of that deep, dark internet, the Reddit culture, and these other dark places of the internet where this person was going deep."

He pointed to references found engraved on the ammunition used to kill Kirk, which included anti-fascist and meme-culture language. Court records show that one bullet casing had the message, "Hey, fascist! Catch!"

A Republican who has called on all partisans to tone down their rhetoric following the attack, the gov-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 63 of 64

error added: "I really don't have a dog in this fight. If this was a radicalized MAGA person, I'd be saying that as well."

Utah's governor says a motive still isn't pinned down

Cox stressed on several Sunday morning news shows that investigators are still trying to pin down a motive for the attack on Kirk. The governor said more information may come out once Robinson appears in court Tuesday.

Cox said the suspect's partner was transgender, which some politicians have pointed to as a sign Robinson was targeting Kirk for his anti-transgender views. But authorities have not said whether it is relevant as they investigate Robinson's motive.

"The roommate was a romantic partner, a male transitioning to female," Cox said. "I can say that he has been incredibly cooperative, this partner has been very cooperative, had no idea that this was happening."

Investigators have spoken to Robinson's relatives and carried out a search warrant at his family's home in Washington, Utah, about 240 miles (390 kilometers) southwest of Utah Valley University.

State records show Robinson is registered to vote but not affiliated with a political party and is listed as inactive, meaning he did not vote in the two most recent general elections. His parents are registered Republicans.

The suspect grew up in southwestern Utah

Robinson grew up around St. George, in the southwestern corner of Utah between Las Vegas and natural landmarks including Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks.

He became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, known widely as the Mormon church, at a young age, church spokesperson Doug Andersen said.

Online activity by Robinson's mother reflects an active family that traveled widely. In one photo, a young Robinson can be seen smiling as he grips the handles of a .50-caliber heavy machine gun outside a military facility.

A high school honor roll student 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 that was posted to a family member's social media account.

But he attended for only one semester, according to the university. He is currently enrolled as a third-year student in the electrical apprenticeship program at Dixie Technical College in St. George.

Tributes emphasize Kirk's religious faith

The vigil at the Kennedy Center was among numerous tributes to Kirk that also included moments of silence at professional sporting events. The line of mourners in Washington wrapped around the center. Some people wore suits or summer dresses, while others were dressed in jeans and wore "Make America Great Again" caps.

Seventeen-year-old Domiano Maceri and his mother drove about 50 miles (80 kilometers) from Purcellville, Virginia, to attend the Kennedy Center event. He said Kirk helped him find a way to better talk with friends who hold different opinions.

"I definitely feel like I was inspired in different ways," Maceri said as he waited to get inside. "It definitely gave me confidence to speak to my friends about my beliefs more."

Speakers included White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, two House members whose remembrances of Kirk were briefly stalled when they teared up, and House Speaker Mike Johnson.

"Father, help us remember the principles of your word that Charlie worked every day -- to advance that we not return evil for evil but we overcome evil with good," Johnson prayed.

At Dream City Church in Phoenix, where Kirk hosted one of his "Freedom Night in America" gatherings, attendees viewed clips of the conservative activist discussing his desire to be "remembered for courage for my faith."

During a question-and-answer session, a church pastor, Angel Barnett, called on the crowd to honor Kirk by carrying on his message.

"The left is nervous," Barnett said. "And they're concerned because they've lost control. Charlie started

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 104 ~ 64 of 64

that, and we will continue it.”

Added church panelist Brandon Tatum: “These cowards thought that they could end or eliminate the movement.”

“They just made it bigger. They just made it stronger.”

Today in History: September 16, Cherokee Strip Land Run

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 16, the 259th day of 2025. There are 106 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 16, 1893, the largest land run in U.S. history occurred as more than 100,000 white settlers rushed to claim over more than 6 million acres of land in what is now northern Oklahoma.

Also on this date:

In 1810, Catholic priest Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla called on his parishioners to join him in a rebellion against Spanish rule, marking the beginning of the Mexican War of Independence.

In 1908, General Motors was founded in Flint, Michigan, by William C. Durant.

In 1940, Samuel T. Rayburn of Texas was first elected speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; he would hold the post for a record 17 years, spanning three separate terms.

In 1966, the Metropolitan Opera officially opened its new opera house at New York’s Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts with the world premiere of Samuel Barber’s “Antony and Cleopatra.”

In 1974, President Gerald R. Ford signed a proclamation announcing a conditional amnesty program for Vietnam war deserters and draft evaders.

In 1982, the massacre of more than 1,300 Palestinian men, women and children at the hands of Israeli-allied Christian Phalange militiamen began in west Beirut’s Sabra and Shatila refugee camps.

In 2007, O.J. Simpson was arrested in the alleged armed robbery of sports memorabilia collectors in Las Vegas. (Simpson was later convicted of kidnapping and armed robbery and sentenced to nine to 33 years in prison; he was released in 2017.)

In 2013, Aaron Alexis, a former U.S. Navy reservist, went on a shooting rampage inside the Washington Navy Yard, killing 12 people before being fatally shot police.

In 2018, at least 17 people were confirmed dead from Hurricane Florence as catastrophic flooding spread across the Carolinas.

Today’s Birthdays: Actor George Chakiris is 93. Actor Ed Begley Jr. is 76. Author-historian-filmmaker Henry Louis Gates Jr. is 75. Country singer David Bellamy (The Bellamy Brothers) is 75. Actor Mickey Rourke is 73. Jazz musician Earl Klugh is 72. TV personality Mark McEwen is 71. Baseball Hall of Famer Robin Yount is 70. Magician David Copperfield is 69. Actor Jennifer Tilly is 67. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Orel Hershiser is 67. Baseball Hall of Famer Tim Lincecum is 66. Singer Richard Marx is 62. Comedian Molly Shannon is 61. Singer Marc Anthony is 57. News anchor/talk show host Tamron Hall is 55. Comedian-actor Amy Poehler is 54. Singer-songwriter Musiq Soulchild is 48. Rapper Flo Rida is 46. Actor Alexis Bledel is 44. Actor Madeline Zima is 40. Actor Max Minghella is 40. Rock singer-musician Nick Jonas (The Jonas Brothers) is 33. Actor Chase Stokes is 33. Golfer Bryson DeChambeau is 32.