

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 1 of 54

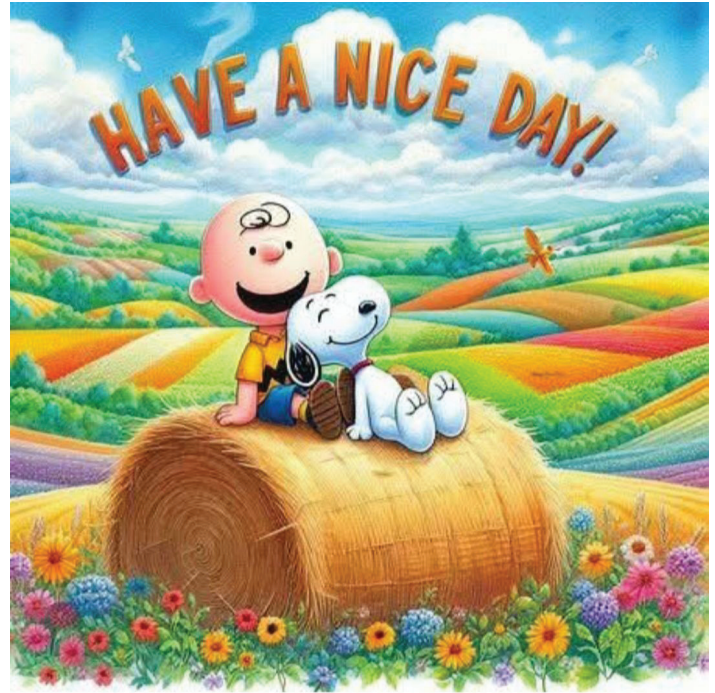
- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
- [3- Conde National League](#)
- [4- JH Golf Meet](#)
- [5- 2025 South Dakota HS Soccer Coaches Poll](#)
- [6- SD News Watch: Tariffs and trade war bring volatility to SD ag industries](#)
- [8- Today on GDILIVE.COM](#)
- [9- SD SearchLight: Judge temporarily restrains university from firing professor for post about Charlie Kirk](#)
- [10- SD SearchLight: State officials outline new safeguards after string of employee criminal cases](#)
- [11- SD SearchLight: Statewide sting operation returns charges for smoke shop owners](#)
- [12- SD SearchLight: New carbon dioxide pipeline to begin Nebraska operations](#)
- [13- SD SearchLight: Trump and RFK Jr. are making claims about autism.](#)
- [18- Weather Pages](#)
- [22- Daily Devotional](#)
- [23- Subscription Form](#)
- [24- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [25- Upcoming Groton Events](#)
- [26- News from the Associated Press](#)

## Thursday Sept. 25

School Breakfast: Maple French Toast Bake.  
School Lunch: Chicken patty cooked broccoli.  
Cross Country at Sisseton, 10 a.m.  
Boys Soccer hosts James Valley Christian, 4 p.m.  
Schedule change for volleyball in TZ:  
- 4pm 7th grade  
- 5pm 8th grade  
- 6pm JV  
- Varsity to follow  
\*\*No C game, as TZ does not have enough players.

## Friday, Sept. 26

School Breakfast: Breakfast boats  
School Lunch: French bread pizza, green beans.  
Football hosts Clark/Willow Lake, 7 p.m.



## Saturday, Sept. 27

C Team/JH Volleyball at Matchbox Tournament, 9 a.m.  
Soccer at West Central (Boys at noon, Girls at 2 p.m.)

## Sunday, Sept. 28

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School 10:15 a.m.; Choir 6 p.m.  
St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m., and Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.  
United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Groton Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.  
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.  
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.  
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.  
5th Grade Grils Basketball at GHS, 4 p.m.

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

© 2025 Groton Daily Independent

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 2 of 54

# 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.**

## ICE Shooting in Dallas

One person was killed and two others were left in critical condition after a gunman opened fire at a Dallas Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility yesterday morning. Officials described the shooting as a targeted attack and said the assailant died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound before police reached him.

The shooter was identified as 29-year-old Joshua Jahn. While a motive has not been publicly revealed, reports suggest an unused bullet with the words "ANTI-ICE" written in marker was found at the scene. The gunman opened fire from the rooftop of an adjacent building around 6:30 am ET local time, as detainees were being transferred into the facility. All three victims were detainees—no ICE officers were wounded—and were said to be sitting inside a transport van when the shooting began.

The attack appears to be the latest in an increasingly frequent string of politically or ideologically motivated violence, and comes two weeks after conservative activist Charlie Kirk was killed.

## Space Weather Probes

A SpaceX rocket successfully deployed a trio of scientific spacecraft yesterday, each with the goal of studying various aspects of the solar wind—the stream of energetic charged particles emanating from the sun.

The solar wind is created in the sun's outer atmosphere, where charged particles reach extreme temperatures before ejecting into space. These particles also create a vast magnetic bubble, called the heliosphere, that deflects otherwise hazardous radiation coming into the solar system. The largest mission, run by NASA, will study both the solar wind and the heliosphere, while a second will observe how Earth's exosphere interacts with solar storms.

The third, managed by NOAA, will provide real-time monitoring of such storms after its existing probe went offline in July. Solar storms—intense flare-ups of the charged particle streams—can severely impact telecommunications networks.

## Rebel Leader to Diplomat

Syria's President Ahmed al-Sharaa became the first Syrian leader since 1967 to address world leaders at the UN General Assembly in New York yesterday. He previously led the Islamist rebel coalition Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, which toppled the decadeslong dictatorship of his predecessor, Bashar al-Assad, in December.

Al-Sharaa's presidency ended nearly 14 years of civil war that displaced an estimated 14 million people—more than half of the country's prewar population—and killed around 1 million. In his remarks, al-Sharaa urged an end to sanctions, called for international investment to aid Syria's recovery, and criticized Israeli policy, suggesting a return to disengagement arrangements along their shared border.

His speech came against the backdrop of continued unrest in Syria, including internal clashes as well as Israeli strikes targeting military positions and weapons shipments near the border. Israel says it intends to prevent hostile forces from gaining a foothold, while diplomatic talks between the nations continue.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 3 of 54

## Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Sean "Diddy" Combs accused in lawsuit of sexual assault and battery by a former personal stylist; Combs is due to be sentenced next week in a separate criminal case.

Claudia Cardinale, Italian film star known for starring roles in "Pink Panther" and "Once Upon a Time in the West," dies at age 87.

YouTube to allow reinstatement of content creators previously banned by the streaming platform for spreading misinformation about COVID-19 and the 2020 election.

## Science & Technology

Seven-year study shows people at risk for rheumatoid arthritis experience immune system changes years before feeling symptoms; finding could enable more targeted monitoring and earlier intervention.

Mathematical modeling reveals spirals in human umbilical cords facilitate an oxygen and heat exchange that keeps babies cool before birth; research suggests abnormal cord structures contribute to pregnancy complications.

Researchers develop gene therapy treatment that slowed the progression of Huntington's disease—a fatal, progressive brain disorder—by 75% in a clinical trial; biotech company uniQure aims to offer the therapy in the US next year.

## Business & Markets

US stock markets close down (S&P 500 -0.3%, Dow -0.4%, Nasdaq -0.3%) as investors eye release of Federal Reserve's preferred inflation gauge on Friday.

US new-home sales rise 20.5% month over month in August, an unexpected increase and the fastest pace since 2022.

Lithium Americas shares close up 96% after the Trump administration proposes an equity stake of up to 10% in the Canadian miner.

Real estate, art, jewels, oh my: Tomorrow's Business & Finance newsletter explores the world of alternative investments. Subscribe here to receive!

## Politics & World Affairs

Widow of victim in January helicopter-plane collision near Reagan National Airport files first federal lawsuit against American Airlines, its regional partner, the US Army, and the FAA; at least 60 more lawsuits expected.

Chinese President Xi Jinping pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 7% to 10% by 2035, marking the first time the world's largest emitter has set a firm reduction target.

Denmark's prime minister publicly apologizes to Greenlandic Indigenous girls and women who were given invasive contraception against their will by Danish health authorities in the 1960s and 1970s.

## Conde National League

**Sept. 22 Team Standings:** Cubs 10, Mets 8, Braves 6, Giants 5, Stooges 4, Pirates 3.

**Men's High Games:** Butch Farman 201, Chad Furney 200, Skip Kettering 185.

**Men's High Series:** Butch Farman 615, Chad Furney 461, Skip Kettering 452

**Women's High Games:** Suzi Easthouse 185, Sam Bahr 178, Deb Schuelke 175.

**Women's High Series:** Sam Bahr 494, Suzi Easthouse 480, Vickie Kramp 473



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 4 of 54



**Groton Area Junior High School hosted a junior high golf tournament Monday at the Olive Grove Golf Course. Groton golfers placing in golf tournament L-R Rylan Blackwood 7th; Graham Rose 5th; Easton Larson 3rd place.** (Photo courtesy of Katie Blackwood)

## 2025 South Dakota HS Soccer Coaches Poll

### Boys AA

1. Sioux Falls Lincoln
2. Sioux Falls Jefferson
3. Aberdeen Central
4. Rapid City Stevens
- T5. Sioux Falls Washington
- T5. Yankton

Receiving Votes: Sturgis Brown, Tea Area

### Girls AA

1. Harrisburg
2. Rapid City Stevens
3. Pierre T.F. Riggs
4. O'Gorman
5. Sioux Falls Roosevelt

Receiving Votes: Sioux Falls Lincoln, Yankton

### Boys A

1. James Valley Christian
2. Vermillion
3. Freeman Academy
4. Groton Area
5. West Central

Receiving Votes: Belle Fourche, St. Thomas More

### Girls A

1. Dakota Valley
2. Sioux Falls Christian
3. Groton Area
4. West Central
5. St. Thomas More

Receiving Votes: Garretson, Vermillion

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 6 of 54



**SOUTH DAKOTA  
NEWS WATCH**

Inform. Enlighten. Illuminate.

## Tariffs and trade war bring volatility to SD ag industries

**Bart Pfankuch**

**South Dakota News Watch**

NEWELL, S.D. – Tariffs, an international trade war and other market conditions are creating great volatility across the South Dakota agricultural industry, with West River ranchers celebrating record prices and some East River soybean and corn farmers facing potential financial disaster.

Farming and ranching are always full of ups and downs and winners and losers. But 2025 is proving to be unusual in the way some agricultural sectors are riding high while others are worrying about potential foreclosures.

President Donald Trump's trade war with China is almost exclusively negative for row crop growers, but his multitude of new tariffs are lifting some sectors, livestock producers in particular.

At a stock sale at the Newell Sheep Yards, replacement ewes were drawing "very high prices" on a recent Thursday in September, according to facility manager Barney Barnes.

But the ebullient mood on display in Newell belies the misery being felt by thousands of farmers and farm families in the eastern half of South Dakota.

Largely due to the trade war with China, which has led the Asian nation to forgo orders for American soybeans and turn instead to South American producers, row-crop farmers in eastern South Dakota expect low demand and low prices for their products this year.

"When you look at crop markets like corn and soybeans and wheat, they're all just dead," said Scott VanderWal, president of the South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation. "They're all in a loss position."

Republican U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds of South Dakota told News Watch that row-crop farmers in South Dakota have suffered for years without favorable trade deals, adding that Trump's goal is to enact deals that "change the balance of trade."

After meeting with a dozen row-crop farmers, lenders and agricultural leaders in Pierre on Sept. 22, Rounds cautioned them that the struggles of 2025 may also be present in 2026 if new trade deals aren't made by then.

"The American producer is the tip of the spear in these trade battles," Rounds said.

Rounds later suggested that perhaps some of the new federal revenue from tariffs could be used to offset losses by American farmers.

### **Concerns greatest in soybean industry**

The worst hit among South Dakota's roughly 28,000 farms and ranches are the 5,000 producers who grow soybeans.

With no China sales, they are left with the untenable situation of having a huge crop of beans ready for harvest and a gap in the traditional marketplace to sell them.

"If you don't have a market or a good price for the product, you don't have a working wage for the families, and there have been bankruptcies already," said Jerry Schmitz, executive director of the South Dakota Soybean Association. "Especially the young families, when we start losing those, they're the people who are our future and who should be producing for the next few generations."

In a typical year, soybean producers generate about \$5 billion for the state economy, Schmitz said. About 30% of the 230 million bushels of soybeans grown annually in South Dakota are exported to China, he said.

As the annual soybean harvest begins, producers may have to pay to store their beans in grain bins or elevators, but some may have to bag them or store them on the ground, Schmitz said.

"In these trade deals with China, we're making agreements that make things more fair for workers in Detroit or Chicago, but that's being done at the expense of small family farms that are producing soybeans," he said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 7 of 54

Schmitz said he and other agricultural leaders are seeking new markets for soybeans and related products, including for oils that can be used in biofuels, such as diesel.

Some hope arrived with a recent trade delegation from Nepal, Sri Lanka and other countries that visited South Dakota, though those nations are much smaller soybean consumers than China. Establishing markets in new countries is a slow process that can take years, Schmitz said.

Meanwhile, China is likely to increase soybean purchases from South America, as it has during previous trade wars. Once those new markets are established, they cut into the market for American soybeans on a permanent basis, Schmitz said.

## **Corn growers see low prices amid bumper crop**

South Dakota's corn farmers, many of whom also grow soybeans, are also having a tough year.

Even as they could set a record of more than a billion bushels grown in 2025, up from about 850 million last year, they are plagued by low demand and low prices that could stifle profits, said DaNita Murray, executive director of South Dakota Corn, the grower's association.

Similar to the soybean industry, corn farmers are seeing no orders from China as well as slowed interest from the two major importers of American corn — Canada and Mexico, Murray said.

"With less demand, and a bumper crop coming through this year, that will all create downward pressure on prices," she said. "Things are tightening up, and the mood out there ranges from worried to grim."

A lack of details about trade deals made by Trump, including with the United Kingdom, have caused uncertainty in the markets that has further stagnated prices, Murray said.

About half of South Dakota corn is used for ethanol and the remainder is used for animal feed and exports, she said. Corn was selling for about \$3.60 a bushel in early September.

Potential negative outcomes include farmers having to pay to store their grain and, in the longer term, an inability to afford equipment or fertilizers that are subject to import tariffs in the upcoming planting season. Those impacts could spill further down the line in the agricultural economy in the state, Murray said.

VanderWal said if the cost of "inputs," that include seed, fertilizers and land rents or mortgage payments continue to rise, and prices don't rise along with them, some South Dakota farmers might not be able to survive.

"So here we go again, with higher input costs and a low price for our output that is below break even," he said. "People who don't have a lot of capital built up or pretty solid equity are going to have a problem."

## **Beef, lamb producers having a very good year**

With a strong national market for lamb meat in 2025, sheep producers from across northwestern South Dakota were seeing strong prices and solid profits as they sold their ewe and feeder lambs to dozens of buyers in the auction ring in Newell in September.

The positive outcomes for the state's relatively small sheep production industry is being felt on an even greater scale by South Dakota's far larger cattle ranching sector, which is anchored west of the Missouri River and is seeing record prices for cows and calves in 2025.

Nationally, beef producers have benefited from a reduction in supply as ranchers slowed production after the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to the lowest overall inventory since the early 1960s.

Ranchers in the cow-calf industry have benefited from price increases caused by tariffs placed on beef imports that have reduced the amount of foreign-grown meat coming into the U.S., including from Mexico due to concern over a New World screwworm outbreak.

Jack Orwick, who has about 2,000 sheep and 350 head of cattle on his ranch in Butte County about 40 miles north of Newell, said he expects a great year for revenues in 2025.

Orwick said he recently sold open heifers for \$3,100 a head, the highest price ever.

"That's just nuts, record high prices, and nobody's ever seen anything like it," he said. "The lamb market is pretty strong, too, and it's expected to get stronger in the fall."

Demand for beef among American consumers has remained high, and their willingness to pay higher prices for ground beef and steaks has not waned despite consistent inflation, Orwick said.

## **Other South Dakota markets holding stable**



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 8 of 54

Other markets in South Dakota are holding strong, including the pork, turkey and dairy industries.

"Pork producers are currently experiencing market levels that are allowing them to be profitable," Abbey Riemenschneider, spokeswoman for the South Dakota Pork Producer Council, told News Watch in an email. "Like many other industries, we are concerned about existing and potential tariffs that could be put in place, as approximately 25% of U.S. production is exported."

VanderWal said the state's dairy operators are also having a good year. South Dakota has seen a recent surge in capacity to turn milk into cheese, and the demand for milk and cheese has remained high across the country this year, he said.

Turkey production, largely led by Hutterite colonies, also remains stable, VanderWal said, though bird losses are reaching the hundreds of thousands due to avian flu this fall.

For South Dakota producers who lose money due to tariffs and trade conflicts, it's possible Congress might approve cash bailout payments, as it did in South Dakota with the Market Facilitation Program during the Trump trade war in 2018-2020.

"That's not the way farmers want to make their money, but if it'll keep people alive financially for another year, it might be necessary," VanderWal said.

VanderWal, who also serves as vice president of the American Farm Bureau, said he remains optimistic that short-term pain will result in long-term stability in American agricultural markets.

But help may not come soon enough for farmers without sufficient capital or equity, he said.

"We're talking about profitability to the administration and policymakers and helping them understand that the ag economy is not good, and that we're going to start losing people if things don't change around," VanderWal said.

*This story was produced by South Dakota News Watch, an independent, nonprofit organization. Read more stories and donate at [sdnewswatch.org](http://sdnewswatch.org) and sign up for an email to get stories when they're published. Contact Bart Pfankuch at [bart.pfankuch@sdnewswatch.org](mailto:bart.pfankuch@sdnewswatch.org).*



Groton  
Area  
Tigers  
Groton, SD

# GDILIVE



A production of the  
**Groton Daily Independent**

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

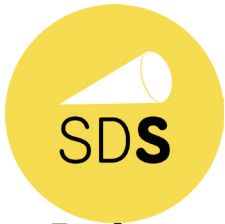
## Volleyball at Tiospa Zina

Thurs., Sept. 25

JV Sponsored by  
James Valley Thunder  
Varsity to Follow







## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### Judge temporarily restrains university from firing professor for post about Charlie Kirk

**Attorney says university officials are punishing protected speech**

**BY: JOHN HULT-SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 5:20 PM**

SIOUX FALLS — A federal judge on Wednesday granted a University of South Dakota professor's request for a temporary restraining order, which means the university has to reinstate him for the time being and pause its effort to fire him for his social media post about the killing of Charlie Kirk.

More than 40 people showed up at a federal courthouse for a hearing on the professor's motion. Speaking with that crowd surrounding him, and with U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier in front of him, Phillip Michael Hook's lawyer said Hook ought to be immediately reinstated as an art professor at the university, and that the Board of Regents — which oversees the state's public universities — should not be allowed to proceed with a Monday disciplinary hearing that could end with his termination.

Some in the audience walked into the courthouse with Hook, with whom they'd been speaking outside the courthouse in downtown Sioux Falls shortly before the hearing. Rick Weiland, a Sioux Falls activist known for his campaigns for progressive ballot measures, was among those in attendance.

A public sector employee "doesn't forfeit the right to free speech because they happen to be a public employee," Rapid City lawyer Jim Leach said.

Kirk, a conservative political activist and commentator, was killed Sept. 10. That same day, Hook wrote a Facebook post that used a derogatory term to describe Kirk and questioned the veracity of his supporters' "concerns" about political violence. The Facebook page was his personal account, but noted his status as a USD professor. He deleted the post within three hours, Leach said.

South Dakota Speaker of the House Jon Hansen called for Hook's dismissal, as did the Legislature's Freedom Caucus. Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden said he was "shaking mad" about Hook's post.

Hook was suspended on Sept. 12 and served a notice of his pending termination.

He was suspended because he angered powerful people in South Dakota with commentary on a "matter of public concern," Leach said.

"Yet here, we have the government, at the highest level, punishing Professor Hook for his political speech," he added, arguing that Speaker Hansen's communications with USD President Sheila Gestring appeared to be all it took to set the wheels of termination in motion.

Court precedent says a public employee can be fired for speech, Leach said, but there must be evidence that the speech was disruptive to the employer. In Hook's case, Leach said, there's no evidence in the record — including in the termination notice — that it was.

Instead, he argued, the termination notice was an unconstitutional violation of Hook's First Amendment rights and grounds for an immediate court order that would reinstate him and block the University of South Dakota from proceeding with its disciplinary action and barring retaliatory action.

Justin Bell, representing the Board of Regents, admitted there's no evidence in the disciplinary or court record that Hook's post was disruptive to the workplace. But Bell told Schreier that's because the court record is barely more than 24 hours old. Hook filed his case on Tuesday.

Instead of immediately shutting down the Board of Regents, Bell argued, the judge should allow the case to proceed.

The post, Bell argued, generated "hundreds" of calls and emails to the school, and may have created disruption for students and faculty.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 10 of 54

With comments "as insidious as Professor Hook's, made in a capacity that mentions his status at the university, it's reasonable to conclude that there's going to be disruption" for his employer, Bell said.

To say Hook was fired because Speaker Hansen reached out to the school's president, Bell said, downplays the impact the post had for the university in potentially alienating a yet-untallied number of students, alumni and faculty.

"All we know is that Speaker Hansen is one of the people who reached out," Bell said.

The First Amendment, Bell argued, "does not protect speech of this nature."

After the hearing, Judge Schreier filed a written order requiring the university and Board of Regents to temporarily set aside their decision to place Hook on administrative leave, and requiring them to reinstate him to his position at least until another court hearing on Oct. 8.

Schreier wrote that Hook qualified for a temporary restraining order because he had spoken as a citizen on a matter of public concern, which is a form of constitutionally protected speech. She also said the defendants had so far failed to produce evidence that Hook's speech had an adverse impact on the efficiency of university operations.

Furthermore, Schreier wrote, Hook has a fair chance of prevailing in his lawsuit by showing that the actions taken against him were a form of retaliation that could chill protected speech.

At the Oct. 8 hearing, the judge will consider a longer-lasting order known as a preliminary injunction, which would keep Hook in his position at least for the duration of his lawsuit. Ultimately, Hook wants the judge to issue a permanent order that would bar the university from firing him for his social media post.

*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 officials outline new safeguards after string of employee criminal cases

**BY: JOSHUA HAIAR-SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 5:05 PM**

South Dakota officials said Wednesday in Pierre that click-by-click audit trails, multi-person payment approvals and other new security measures are in place following a string of criminal cases involving state employees.

"We resolved as a team, let's never let this happen again," said Matt Althoff, secretary of the Department of Social Services.

The Legislature's Government Operations and Audit Committee also heard from officials with the Department of Revenue about how each agency has tightened oversight.

Revenue Secretary Michael Houdyshell said computer access for staff is now limited to what they need for their jobs, and the department's upgraded computer system logs "every single click" on an employee's computer. He said the department now has automated alerts for unusual transactions, routes outside users through a secure e-portal, and blocks employees from accessing their own or family members' records.

Those upgrades followed revelations of former departmental employees creating fake vehicle titles to avoid excise taxes or secure loans.

Houdyshell said the agency has also set up an anonymous tip line, requires annual conflict-of-interest and ethics training, and hired extra staff to ensure the department's system is secure.

Althoff spoke about a former Child Protection Services employee who stole \$1.8 million from the state over the course of 13 years. She was sent to prison earlier this year after being convicted of submitting fraudulent financial requests on behalf of children no longer in the state's care, depositing the funds into accounts opened under their names, and withdrawing the money in cash for herself. Prosecutors said she did that 215 times between 2010 and 2023.

"This is a situation where a voucher was being requested or initiated by the same employee that was

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 11 of 54

approving it," Althoff said. "Well, that's a problem. That's a big problem."

Althoff said the department has since overhauled its financial protocols. The department now segregates duties and requires multi-step approvals for new providers and payments, automatically closes accounts when a child ages out of the system, and is shifting from paper checks to electronic transfers. The agency also hired extra employees to evaluate risks and additional management for Child Protection Services.

Committee Chair Sen. Taffy Howard, R-Rapid City, praised the new safeguards.

"Fraud will always be an issue, but it sounds like you guys are doing a great job of getting a handle on it," Howard said.

In other recent cases, former state employees faced accusations including self-issuing a medical marijuana card, forging food service inspection reports and spending vouchers intended for foster families on personal expenses.

In response to the run of prosecutions, Attorney General Marty Jackley supported a package of four bills passed during this year's legislative session that expanded the investigatory authority of the state auditor; strengthened the Board of Internal Controls; instituted mandatory reporting requirements for state employees and penalties for failing to report; and established protections for whistleblowers.

Gov. Larry Rhoden signed an executive order in April mandating the creation of a "secure standard reporting mechanism" for employees. The portal delivers whistleblower reports of malfeasance to the state's auditor and attorney general.

Lawmakers also passed legislation this year strengthening the ability of the Legislature's Government Operations and Audit Committee to conduct investigations and issue orders known as subpoenas requiring people to testify or supply information.

Last year, then-Gov. Kristi Noem added an extra internal control officer position to the executive branch and ordered state employees to undergo annual training aimed at preventing criminal activity.

*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.*

## Statewide sting operation returns charges for smoke shop owners

**Products had been marketed as legal, attorney general says**

**BY: JOHN HULT-SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 4:53 PM**

SIOUX FALLS — A state-spanning sting operation in June drew indictments for the owners of five smoke shops in South Dakota this week, according to Attorney General Marty Jackley.

The indictments, issued between Sept. 16 and Tuesday, were the result of targeted purchases of products marketed as legal in stores in Aberdeen, Sioux Falls, Pierre and Rapid City.

Authorities suspected the products — some made using hemp-derived but chemically modified ingredients, others made with chemicals marketed as "magic mushrooms" — contained illegal compounds or were sold for the express purpose of intoxication.

"Every one of the five shops where we did buys had illegal drugs," Jackley said.

Only one shop owner was indicted on felony charges. In that case, originating with a purchase at Masterpiece Smoke Shop in Pierre, the owner is alleged to have sold felony amounts of marijuana that had been marketed as legal hemp. That charge was tied to pre-rolled "Thumpers" joints, according to court documents.

That owner is also alleged to have sold a product called "Legal Magic Mushrooms" that allegedly contain a controlled substance called psilocin. The owner also faces a felony charge of distributing drugs in a drug-free zone.

The other shops targeted were All the Smoke in Aberdeen, Puff City in Sioux Falls, Blazin' Aces Smokes and Vape in Sioux Falls, and ZyGlam Smoke Shop in Rapid City. The charges in those cases are misdemeanors.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 12 of 54

Jackley announced the indictments at the Law Enforcement Center in Sioux Falls, flanked by officials from multiple agencies on one side and posters showing a package of "magic mushroom" chocolates on the other.

Many of the products sold by smoke shops across South Dakota are marketed as being derived from hemp and therefore legal under the 2018 federal farm bill, but Jackley said the packaging makes clear that "these are not agricultural products."

"They're clearly packaged for kids," he said.

Lawmakers in South Dakota passed a bill in 2024 to bar the sale — but not the possession — of products whose hemp-based intoxicants are chemically modified. That crime is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 30 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

Local police in Rapid City conducted a compliance check targeting businesses suspected of selling modified hemp earlier this year. As of Wednesday, the Pennington County State's Attorney's Office was still waiting on lab test results for the products purchased from eight shops in that operation.

In early August, Sioux Falls Police Department spokesman Aaron Benson told South Dakota Searchlight that his department had sent warning letters to smoke shops, conducted compliance checks, and intends to continue doing so.

Of the four shop owners indicted for misdemeanors in the statewide sting, three face the modified hemp charge. Another shop owner was charged with the sale of industrial hemp for smoking. All four misdemeanor indictments include charges for selling a product for the purposes of intoxication, a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$2,000 fine.

*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.*

## New carbon dioxide pipeline to begin Nebraska operations

**BY: PAUL HAMMEL-SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 10:36 AM**

LINCOLN — A Kansas pipeline company is about to activate its \$1.5 billion pipeline to transport carbon dioxide from ethanol plants in Nebraska and Iowa to a sequestration site in Wyoming and, along with it, launch a first-of-its-kind program to share some proceeds with rural communities along the pipeline route.

On Tuesday, officials with Tallgrass Energy said they would soon be shipping CO2 from the first of 11 ethanol plants connected to its pipeline — a converted, former natural gas pipeline — for a 392-mile trip across Nebraska, Colorado, Iowa and Wyoming.

In conjunction with the launch, Tallgrass announced it is making an initial donation of \$500,000 to a fund managed by the Nebraska Community Foundation that could financially help more than 230 communities and community organizations on the route.

The company projects that more than \$7 million will be distributed over 10 years through the "Trailblazer Community Investment Fund," with the money targeted for local early childhood centers, elder care facilities and food pantries. That is on top of lease payments to landowners and spending more than \$450,000 on disaster response training sessions and equipment purchases for the mostly rural, volunteer fire and rescue departments along the pipeline route.

The investment fund was negotiated with the environmental group, Bold Nebraska, which was a leading opponent of construction of the Keystone XL crude oil pipeline across the state. The agreement has been hailed as a new blueprint for acceptance of large infrastructure projects that impact rural areas.

"It's important to us to strategically invest back into the communities who have supported the project's development," said Kyle Quackenbush, segment president at Tallgrass.

"We hope that these investments serve to provide a safety net to our neighbors throughout their lifetimes — from early childhood to eldercare — so that these communities can continue to grow and thrive," he said.

A year ago, Tallgrass announced its agreement with Bold Nebraska to share some of the proceeds in exchange for its cooperation.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 13 of 54

Such pipelines in other states have generated opposition, as well as lawsuits and protests. In this case, though, extensive new rights of way weren't necessary, and many landowners along the pipeline route grow corn, a crop expected to benefit from expanding the markets for corn-based ethanol by making the fuel more environmentally friendly.

Jane Kleeb, the founder of Bold Nebraska, said rural communities "deserve to benefit from the projects that impact them — whether that's sharing in profits, investing in social services or simply having a seat at the project's decision-making table."

Kleeb said the agreement serves as a model for rural as well as urban communities impacted by such projects. She added that Tallgrass and Bold recently gave a presentation to officials with the NAACP.

The new pipeline, formerly the Trailblazer pipeline, is the first of its kind to begin operation as part of a push by the Biden Administration to reduce carbon emissions and make ethanol production more "green." Making the biofuel less carbon-intensive could make it more attractive for states seeking environmental benefits, officials have said, and the pipeline will give Nebraska-produced ethanol an advantage in its use as sustainable aviation fuel, a new market for the biofuel.

"It's going to put Nebraska ethanol into a league of its own," said Steven Davidson, a Tallgrass spokesman.

Jeff Yost, president and CEO of Nebraska Community Foundation, said the new community fund will target some of the biggest challenges facing rural communities — quality early childhood education, senior care and food insecurity — providing small grants to sustain jobs and services.

He said the foundation has already identified more than 230 organizations in the 31 impacted counties as eligible for a portion of the funds. To share in a portion of the funds, Yost said that qualified organizations will be invited to submit applications and verify that they are doing the work they profess to do.

Yost added that sometimes companies do this kind of fund sharing "for public relations purposes."

"(But) I see these guys doing it for the right reasons," he said.

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

*Senior Contributor Paul Hammel covered the Nebraska state government and the state for decades. Previously with the Omaha World-Herald, Lincoln Journal Star and Omaha Sun, he is a member of the Omaha Press Club's Hall of Fame. He grows hops, brews homemade beer, plays bass guitar and basically loves traveling and writing about the state. A native of Ralston, Nebraska, he is vice president of the John G. Neihardt Foundation. Hammel retired in April but continues to contribute to the Nebraska Examiner.*

## Trump and RFK Jr. are making claims about autism.

### What do medical experts say?

**BY: JENNIFER SHUTT-SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 8:00 AM**

WASHINGTON — Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. stirred up major concerns and considerable speculation earlier this year when he announced the administration would release a report revealing the causes of autism by the end of September.

Kennedy, an environmental lawyer with no medical degree, stood next to President Donald Trump on Sept. 22 as they presented the over-the-counter drug Tylenol as one potential driving factor behind autism diagnoses and pointed to folate, a B vitamin, as a possible treatment — both conclusions the medical community hasn't yet reached.

Kennedy throughout his tenure has also made overly broad and disparaging statements about people who have an autism diagnosis, often referring to traits exhibited in people with the most severe cases. For example, he claimed in April that children with autism would never function as independent adults, drawing intense criticism for making a generalization that would not apply to every person with a diagnosis.

The Trump-Kennedy announcement and Kennedy's characterizations have raised questions about why someone would be diagnosed, what types of research have been done and what reputable science has

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 14 of 54

found about causes.

States Newsroom spoke with three experts before the announcement to gain a better understanding of autism spectrum disorder. Below are brief excerpts from those interviews.

## **What is autism spectrum disorder?**

The two core characteristics of autism are challenges with social communication and the presence of restrictive and repetitive behavior, according to Autism Science Foundation Chief Science Officer Dr. Alycia Halladay.

As understanding of the diagnosis has evolved, she explained, researchers and families have increasingly referred to it as autisms, plural, instead of autism, singular, in part, because there are so many different subtypes.

"It makes it more accurate when describing it — that autism is not just one entity of core autism features, that there is so much diversity across the spectrum, that it's actually a group of developmental disorders," Halladay said.

The spectrum, she said, ranges from people who may speak rarely to those who are fluent in language, people with cognitive disabilities to those with IQs of more than 120 and people who can live independently to those who need round-the-clock care.

Dr. Michael Murray, a professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health at the Penn State College of Medicine, described it as "a neurodevelopmental disorder, meaning that people are born with it and it's lifelong and it can cause a variety of challenges for people."

"The most common and significant and probably pervasive symptom across the spectrum is challenges in understanding and interpreting what we call neurotypical — meaning everyone who is non-autistic — social behavior," Murray said. "So just understanding all the non-verbal parts of social communication, understanding nuance and non-literal use of language. All those things can be really difficult for autistic people."

Approximately 1 in 31 children in the United States and 1 in 45 adults fall somewhere along the autism spectrum, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and a paper published in the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders.

## **How is autism diagnosed?**

Only an expert can diagnose an autism spectrum disorder using criteria in a guide used by health care professionals called the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, or DSM.

"You need someone who knows autism, who knows what to look for, who knows how to elicit behaviors or not elicit behaviors that are indicative of an autism diagnosis," Halladay said. "So it's really diagnosed by a psychiatrist, a psychologist, or somebody else who's trained to understand what autism is and what it's not."

Murray said there are three social communication behaviors that doctors or other qualified medical professionals look for when considering whether to diagnose someone with autism.

"It is difficulty in interpreting social information. It is difficulty giving social information through things like facial expression and tone of voice. And thirdly, is a difficulty maintaining appropriate peer relationships," Murray said. "Now, once again, this is from a neurotypical description of peer relationships. There's a lot of talk among neurodivergent individuals about whether that's fair, that we rate social relationships based on how we think they should be. But nonetheless, that's the criteria."

Murray explained experts also observe the presence of restrictive and repetitive behaviors in assessing whether someone has autism.

"And that captures things that are in the realm of interacting with the physical world around you," Murray said. "So that need for sameness and inflexibility maintaining routines."

Carissa Cascio, a senior scientist at the University of Kansas Life Span Institute and Kansas Center for Autism Research and Training, reinforced that autism is "strictly diagnosed based on behavior."

"There are genes that have an association with autism that you can test for. There's some genes that have a very strong association, and you can do a test for the presence of one of those genes," Cascio

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 15 of 54

said. "But for the diagnosis of autism itself, it's strictly based on behavior."

## **What do we know about the causes of autism?**

While more scientific research is needed, a combination of genetics and environmental factors is responsible for the formation of autism spectrum disorders.

"We know that one of the largest causes of autism is genetics. We know this because it runs in families," Halladay said, adding there "are over 150 known genes associated with autism."

"If there's a variation in the gene, there's a high likelihood of having an autism diagnosis," she said. "And those genes are genes that tell cells in the brain where to go and how to connect, which seems to be a core biological feature of autism."

Halladay emphasized that research has established the "most important part is the interaction between genetics and the environment."

"Neither the gene nor the environmental factor is strong enough, but together, they increase the probability of having a child with autism," Halladay explained.

During the last 25 years, as Murray has advanced in his career, the medical community's thinking about and understanding of autism spectrum disorders has "significantly increased."

"We know right now that 80 to 90% of autism is accounted for by genetic differences .... It's not just you got exposed to this thing in the environment, now you have autism. You have to have the genetic susceptibility first and then the environment might make it more likely, or maybe influence the expression of it," Murray said.

Cascio said that when it comes to environmental factors, studies have shown pregnancy or the very early post-natal time frame are key.

"We're still parsing this out, but some of the environmental factors that seem to have more evidence behind them than others are older parental age, perinatal trauma, premature birth and low birth weight," Cascio said. "And then there's some maternal health factors that are gathering some evidence as well. So maternal infection and immune response, maternal exposure to medications or pollutants are sort of gathering some evidence."

While much more research is needed on the many potential environmental factors, Cascio said scientists know vaccines are not a component.

"The things that we definitely can rule out are things that have been studied in great depth and not really produced much association. So you know, the idea that vaccines cause autism is a common belief. There have been dozens and dozens of studies that have all failed to find any association between vaccines and autism," Cascio said.

There's also not yet a clear link with Tylenol, also called acetaminophen, as a possible environmental factor.

"It is unlikely that this is the smoking gun that they're hoping for," Cascio said. "I think we all want to understand this better, but this is certainly not something that we feel has a strong weight of evidence behind it yet."

A spokesperson for Kenvue, the company that manufactures Tylenol, wrote in a statement released in connection with the Trump-Kennedy press conference that "acetaminophen is the safest pain reliever option for pregnant women as needed throughout their entire pregnancy.

"Without it, women face dangerous choices: suffer through conditions like fever that are potentially harmful to both mom and baby or use riskier alternatives. High fevers and pain are widely recognized as potential risks to a pregnancy if left untreated."

## **Why have autism diagnoses increased over several decades?**

Health and Human Services Secretary Kennedy has repeatedly raised concerns with an increase in autism diagnoses over several decades, but experts say there are logical reasons for this.

"In the early 1990s the CDC set up a system to collect and count the number of people with autism," Halladay said. "So it definitely has increased since then, but one of the main reasons that's been shown over and over again is access to services."

Halladay believes most of the increase is due to greater knowledge and access, though she said, "there

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 16 of 54

is room for some of the increase in autism to be a true increase in the number of people with autism due to something else."

Murray explained that about 60% to 70% of people diagnosed as being on the autism spectrum are characterized as having "low-support needs, meaning that they clearly have the features of autism, but they are able to, with the appropriate level of supports, be in traditional schools or typical schools; they can, with job support, work and lead their lives the way they choose to."

When Murray began his career, he said, those people never would have been diagnosed as having autism.

"Secondly, we as a professional community are getting better and better at picking up these symptoms, particularly in kids who are quite young," Murray said.

During the late 1980s and 1990s, Cascio said, a new version of the DSM and better tools helped medical professionals more accurately diagnose people along the entire autism spectrum.

Additionally, Cascio said, there's a similar concept called diagnostic substitution, where people who in the past may have been diagnosed with something else are now being correctly diagnosed with autism.

## **How much research has been done on autism and over how many years?**

Scientists have been researching autism for decades, building on past work to better understand how to diagnose and assist people across the spectrum, though experts said more is needed.

"The many, many scientific discoveries and funding into understanding autism has promoted scientists moving into the field," Halladay said. "So there's clearly an increased number over the past two decades of the number of people who are focused on studying autism."

Murray said the first papers published in scientific journals regarding autism were in 1944.

"So it is 80 years, at a minimum, of work," Murray said.

Murray reiterated that autism spectrum disorders are not simple to study and said a "really important paper came out earlier this year talking about how there's four genetically recognizable subtypes of autism. So it's not a single autism. It is, at the very least, four autisms, and probably more."

Cascio said addressing any aspect of autism is complicated.

"The behavior is complex. The genetics are complex. The brain is complex," Cascio said. "And so this makes it a huge challenge for research. And there's certainly no possibility that we would go from not fully understanding the causes of autism to having a definitive cause in five months."

## **What are some of the biggest misconceptions about autism?**

The internet has led to misinformation, and in many cases disinformation, and health diagnoses are no exception.

Halladay said people often try to simplify autism or believe an actor's portrayal in a television show or movie is representative of everyone on the spectrum.

"I think that because of the narrative of autism being oversimplified, that people are not understanding that it's a more complex disorder," she said.

Murray said the autism spectrum may be pictured as a straight line and an expectation arises when someone is diagnosed that they are in just one spot.

"That's not really the way it is. There are needs or strengths that show up variably depending on the demands of the situation," Murray said. "So for instance, someone who has a really exquisite sensitivity to sound, if they are attending a symphony, that may make that experience so much more rich for him or her versus the average person.

"But if they are at a rock concert, it may be overwhelming. The same trait can be a source of vulnerability or a strength depending on the situation."

Murray said there's often a misconception that all people with autism are antisocial or don't want to make and maintain friendships.

"And that's true for some people, right? They aren't really interested in social interactions. It's not their thing," Murray said. "It's also true for some neurotypical people that they're really not interested in social interactions. But the vast, vast majority of autistic individuals just want a friend, and they want someone who they can count on and rely on. They want to be loved, just like everyone else in the world ... They



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 17 of 54

just need more supports or different situations to have that happen.”

Cascio said that people can form misconceptions after seeing actors portray people along the spectrum.

“I first became interested in autism after watching the movie ‘Rain Man,’” Cascio said. “And I think there’s a lot of people who see a depiction like that and think, ‘Okay, this is what autism looks like.’ And there’s just so much more complexity and variability from person to person and I would say that’s probably the biggest misconception.”

Cascio said it’s also human nature to want one clear answer to why someone develops autism or any other health diagnosis, but that oftentimes the best science shows a more complicated picture.

“It’s uncomfortable for us to say, ‘This is really complex and we don’t understand it yet,’” she said. “And so when there is something that people hold up and say, ‘Here’s an explanation.’ I think it can be really tempting for people to just want to have it solved. And that’s a very natural reaction.”

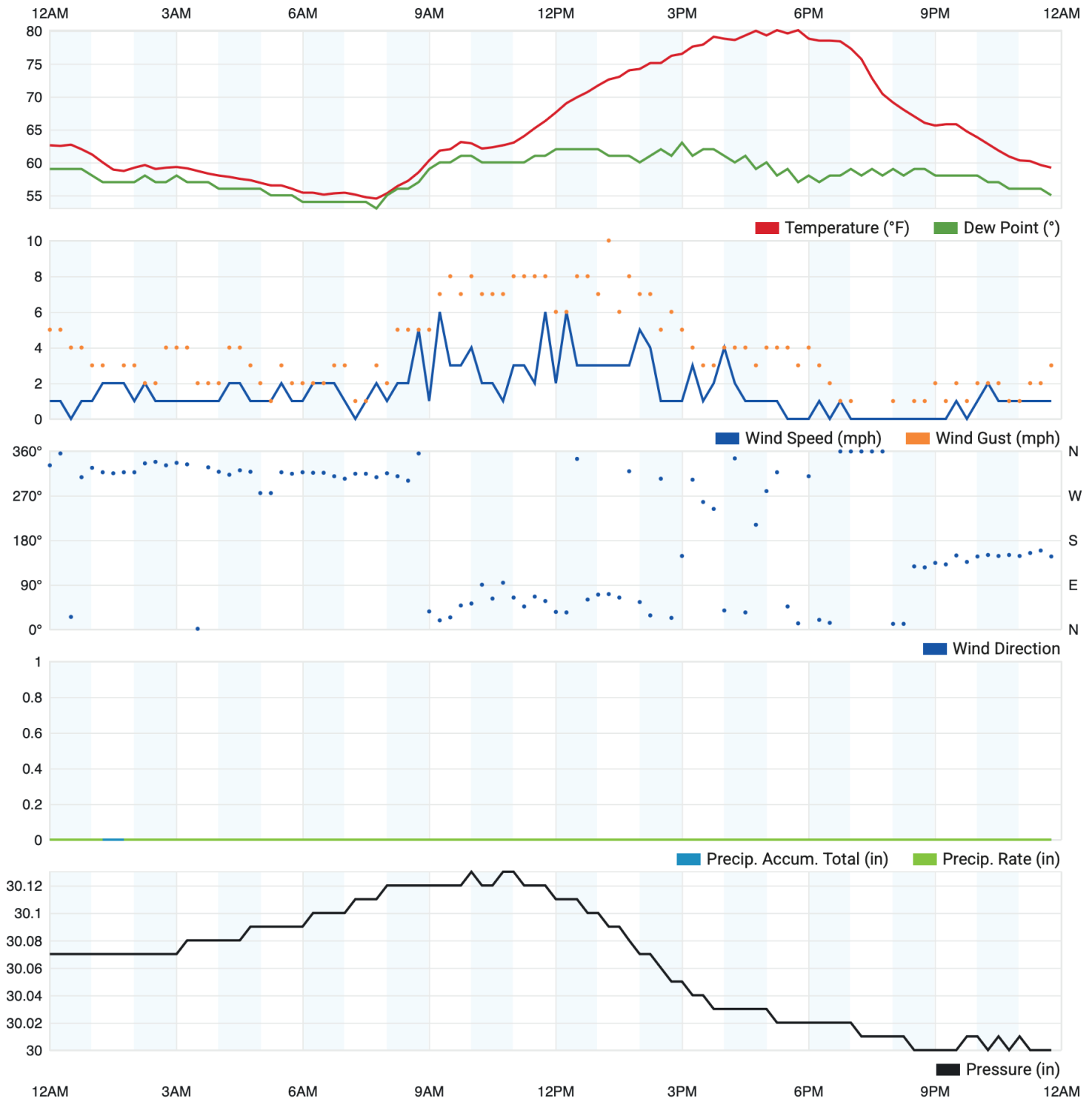
*Jennifer covers the nation’s capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include congressional policy, politics and legal challenges with a focus on health care, unemployment, housing and aid to families.*

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 18 of 54

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

September 24, 2025



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 19 of 54

Today



**High: 85 °F**

Sunny

Tonight



**Low: 49 °F**

Clear

Friday



**High: 83 °F**

Sunny

Friday Night



**Low: 51 °F**

Mostly Clear

Saturday



**High: 74 °F**

Sunny



## Thursday's Forecast

 **79-82°**  
Coolest across the Prairie Coteau

**Dry and Sunny!**

weather.gov/aberndeen  
September 24, 2025 

Thursday will be dry and sunny with highs in the upper 70s to low 80s (coolest across the Sisseton Hills).



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 20 of 54

## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 81 °F at 5:36 PM**

**Low Temp: 54 °F at 7:37 AM**

**Wind: 10 mph at 1:11 PM**

**Precip: : 0.00**

## Today's Info

Record High: 95 in 1938

Record Low: 19 in 1926

Average High: 71

Average Low: 43

Average Precip in Sept.: 1.66

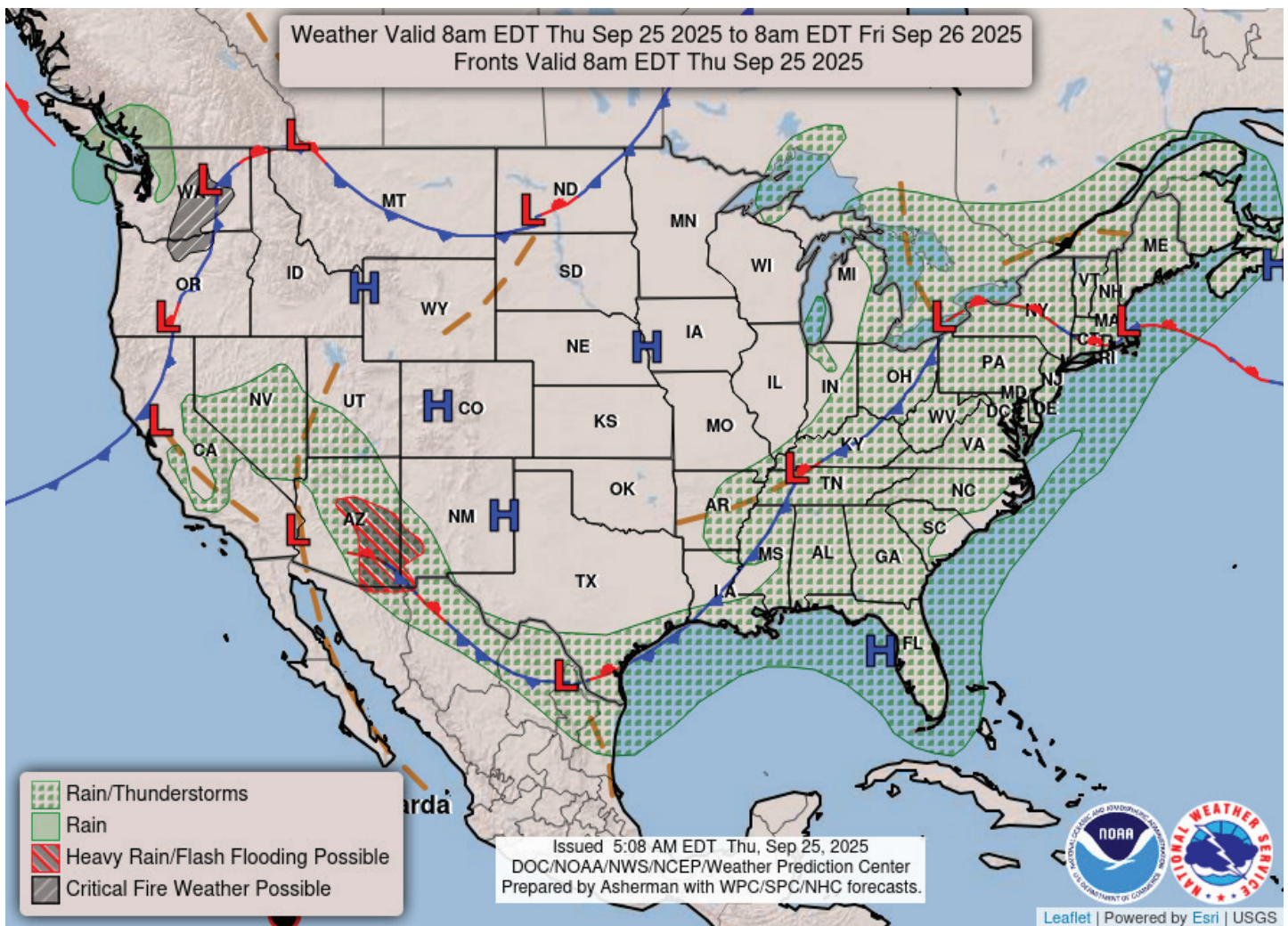
Precip to date in Sept.: 2.62

Average Precip to date: 18.00

Precip Year to Date: 22.92

Sunset Tonight: 7:24 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:24 am





# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 21 of 54

## Today in Weather History

September 25, 1981: A late September tornado touched down briefly 14 miles west of Pierre during the early evening hours with no damage occurring.

September 25, 1996: An early fall storm over the Black Hills of northeast Wyoming and western South Dakota re-acquainted area residents with their winter driving techniques. Snow totals ranged from 4 to 8 inches. U.S. Highway 385, south of Deadwood South Dakota, was temporarily closed after a semi-truck jack-knifed on Strawberry Hill. Numerous minor accidents were reported in the Black Hills due to slick roads. Heavy wet snow closed the Needles Highway and Iron Mountain Road in the central/southern Black Hills until snowplows could clear the streets.

1848: The Great Gale of 1848 was the most severe hurricane to affect Tampa Bay, Florida and is one of two major hurricanes to make landfall in the area. This storm produced the highest storm tide ever experienced in Tampa Bay when the water rose 15 feet in six to eight hours.

1939 - A west coast hurricane moved onshore south of Los Angeles bringing unprecedented rains along the southern coast of California. Nearly five and a half inches of rain drenched Los Angeles during a 24 hour period. The hurricane caused two million dollars damage, mostly to structures along the coast and to crops, and claimed 45 lives at sea. "El Cordonazo" produced 5.66 inches of rain at Los Angeles and 11.6 inches of rain at Mount Wilson, both records for the month of September. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1942: From September 24th through the 26th, 1942, an early-season winter storm moved through the Northern Plains, Upper Mississippi River Valley, and Great Lakes, dropping measurable snow as it went. In many places across Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and northern Illinois, this was their earliest measurable snow on record.

1987 - Hurricane Emily crossed the island of Bermuda during the early morning. Emily, moving northeast at 45 mph, produced wind gusts to 115 mph at Kindley Field. The thirty-five million dollars damage inflicted by Emily made it the worst hurricane to strike Bermuda since 1948. Parts of Michigan and Wisconsin experienced their first freeze of the autumn. Snow and sleet were reported in the Sheffield and Sutton areas of northeastern Vermont at midday. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Low pressure off the Northern Pacific Coast brought rain and gale force winds to the coast of Washington State. Fair weather prevailed across most of the rest of the nation. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Twenty-three cities in the south central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Topeka KS with a reading of 33 degrees, and Binghamton NY with a low of 25 degrees. Showers and thunderstorms in the southeastern U.S. drenched Atlanta GA with 4.87 inches of rain, their sixth highest total of record for any given day. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1998: Four hurricanes were spinning simultaneously in the Atlantic basin: Georges, Ivan, Jeanne, and Karl. That was the first time this had happened since 1893.

2015: Fairbanks, Alaska received 4–9 inches of snow. Another storm on September 27-30 produced 14.2 inches, including 11.2 inches on the 29th. September 2015 would end up being Fairbanks's second snowiest September on record with 20.9 inches.

2015: An EF2 tornado tracked nearly seven miles across Johns Island in South Carolina.

2017: A large waterspout was seen over the Ionian Sea, off the coast of Gallipoli, Italy.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 22 of 54



## IS THE RIGHT PERSON ON YOUR SIDE?

The Civil War was a dark period in the history of the United States. President Abraham Lincoln had little time for anything else in his life. The demands on him were overwhelming, and he went for days without enjoying his family.

On one occasion while meeting with Secretary of State William Seward in the Cabinet room, his son burst through the door in tears and said, "I want my father!"

The secretary could have said, "Your father is too busy for you. Let me get you a teacher who can help you with your problems." Or, he could have said, "Let me get you an attorney who will represent you wisely and get you out of any problem you might have."

The child knew who he wanted, and it was not the Secretary of State or some other highly qualified person. He wanted his father. No one else could fill that need.

And, that is essentially what the Psalmist said when he cried, "In my anguish I cried to the Lord, and He answered by setting me free." God was his first responder.

Sometimes it is easy to turn to the person who we consider to be our closest friend when we face a tough time in our lives. Or, we may look for a person who is known for his brilliance or knowledge or wisdom or status to rescue us from any number of problems that are beyond our capabilities. That may not be wise.

When we face the uncertainties of life, the first person we need to call on for guidance is God. We must go to him as a child to a father knowing He is waiting to help.

Prayer: Lord, we know that no one cares for us as much as You do. Teach us to look to You first when we are in need, knowing that You are "for" us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: – In my anguish, I cried to the Lord, and He answered me by setting me free. Psalm 118:5

*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

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 23 of 54

## The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.2% Sales Tax

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to [paperpaul@grotonsd.net](mailto:paperpaul@grotonsd.net)

## Groton Daily Independent [www.397news.com](http://www.397news.com) Subscription Form

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Password \_\_\_\_\_

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

[paypal.me/paperpaul](https://paypal.me/paperpaul)

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 24 of 54



## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.23.25

13 24 41 42 70 18

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$474,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 17 Mins  
12 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.24.25

6 24 27 35 46 2

All Star Bonus: 5x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$3,570,000**

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 16 Hrs 32  
Mins 12 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.24.25

3 26 29 40 45 3

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 47 Mins 12  
Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.24.25

5 6 11 13 30

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$32,000**

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 16 Hrs 47  
Mins 12 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.24.25

10 21 23 30 56 25

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 17 Hrs 16 Mins  
12 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.24.25

15 31 45 49 53 19

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$145,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 17 Hrs 16 Mins  
12 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 25 of 54

## 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

## News from the **AP** Associated Press

### **South Dakota to replace one of the country's oldest prisons**

By SARAH RAZA Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers have agreed to replace one of the nation's oldest prisons, a lockup that predates the state itself.

Legislators narrowly passed a bill Tuesday night in a special session to spend \$650 million to build a 1,500-bed men's prison and close a penitentiary built 140 years ago when the state was part of the Dakota Territory. It will be the most expensive taxpayer-funded project since the state's founding in 1889.

"Few things that we've done are as significant as what we're doing here today," Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden said before signing the bill.

South Dakota is imposing harsher criminal punishments and spending money on new criminal justice facilities at a time when Democratic-led states are pursuing more lenient policies and even closing prisons.

The state's new prison, like the old one, will be located in Sioux Falls, where the municipal services needed to support it are already in place and trained corrections workers are already available.

Lawmakers have been debating for years whether to build a new prison, given overcrowding at the old site and serious problems including inmate deaths, fights and drug smuggling. In addition to being larger, officials say the new prison will have a modern design that will help alleviate those problems.

Some legislators had blamed the Corrections Department secretary for trouble at the penitentiary. Her recent resignation prompted increased support for building a new prison.

Winning approval for the facility is seen as a victory for Rhoden, who has focused on the project since taking over the state's top office when former Gov. Kristi Noem left to join the Trump administration.

Rhoden is expected to run for reelection in 2026.

After an \$825 million prison plan failed in this year's annual legislative session, Rhoden created a task force of lawmakers and state officials to come up with a plan for the size and location of a new facility.

"You could say a lot of things about this process. I would not call it rushed," said Lieutenant Gov. Tony Venhuizen, who chaired the summer task force.

A truth-in-sentencing bill that requires some violent offenders to serve the full length of their sentences before parole has contributed to South Dakota's overcrowding problem, according to a consultant's report. The report projected that South Dakota may need to spend up to \$2 billion within the next decade to keep up with the increasing inmate population.

Proponents of the new prison argued that rehabilitative programming, mental health support and work opportunities require more space than is available in the current facility.

Construction is estimated to take four years.

### **Former French President Sarkozy found guilty on key charge, acquitted of others in Libya case**

By SYLVIE CORBET Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A Paris court found former French President Nicolas Sarkozy guilty on a key charge but acquitted him on three others Thursday in his trial for the alleged illegal financing of his 2007 presidential campaign with money from the government of then-Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi.

The court is still detailing its ruling and hasn't immediately sentenced the 70-year-old Sarkozy. That step would come later in the court proceedings Thursday. Sarkozy can appeal the guilty verdict, which would suspend any sentence pending the appeal.

The court found Sarkozy guilty of criminal association in a scheme from 2005 to 2007 to finance his campaign with funds from Libya in exchange for diplomatic favors. But it cleared him of three other charges -- including passive corruption, illegal campaign financing and concealment of the embezzlement of public

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 27 of 54

funds.

Still, criminal association is a serious charge, carrying a potential sentence of up to 10 years in prison.

The court also found two of Sarkozy's closest associates when he was president -- former ministers Claude Gueant and Brice Hortefeux — guilty of criminal association but likewise acquitted them of some other charges.

Overall, the verdicts appeared to suggest that the court believed that the men conspired together to seek Libyan funding for Sarkozy's 2007 campaign but that judges weren't convinced that the conservative leader himself was guilty of then putting the scheme in place.

Sarkozy, accompanied by his wife, the singer and model Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, was present in the courtroom, which was also filled with reporters and members of the public. Sarkozy sat in the front row of the defendant's seats. His three adult sons were also in the room.

Sarkozy, who was elected in 2007 but lost his bid for reelection in 2012, denied all wrongdoing during a three-month trial earlier this year that also involved 11 co-defendants, including three former ministers.

Despite multiple legal scandals that have clouded his presidential legacy, Sarkozy remains an influential figure in right-wing politics in France and in entertainment circles, by virtue of his marriage to Bruni-Sarkozy.

## Alleged Libya financing

The accusations trace their roots to 2011, when a Libyan news agency and Gadhafi himself said the Libyan state had secretly funneled millions of euros into Sarkozy's 2007 campaign.

In 2012, the French investigative outlet Mediapart published what it said was a Libyan intelligence memo referencing a 50 million-euro funding agreement. Sarkozy denounced the document as a forgery and sued for defamation.

French magistrates later said that the memo appeared to be authentic, though no conclusive evidence of a completed transaction was presented at the three-month Paris trial.

Investigators also looked into a series of trips to Libya made by people close to Sarkozy when he served as interior minister from 2005 and 2007, including his chief of staff.

In 2016, Franco-Lebanese businessman Ziad Takieddine told Mediapart that he had delivered suitcases filled with cash from Tripoli to the French Interior Ministry under Sarkozy. He later retracted his statement.

That reversal is now the focus of a separate investigation into possible witness tampering. Both Sarkozy and his wife were handed preliminary charges for involvement in alleged efforts to pressure Takieddine. That case has not gone to trial yet.

Takieddine, who was one of the co-defendants, died on Tuesday in Beirut. He was 75. He had fled to Lebanon in 2020 and did not attend the trial.

Prosecutors alleged that Sarkozy had knowingly benefited from what they described as a "corruption pact" with Gadhafi's government.

Libya's longtime dictator was toppled and killed in an uprising in 2011, ending his four-decade rule of the North African country.

## Sarkozy denounced a 'plot'

The trial shed light on France's back-channel talks with Libya in the 2000s, when Gadhafi was seeking to restore diplomatic ties with the West. Before that, Libya was considered a pariah state.

Sarkozy has dismissed the allegations as politically motivated and reliant on forged evidence. During the trial, he denounced a "plot" he said was staged by "liars and crooks" including the "Gadhafi clan."

He suggested that the allegations of illegal campaign financing were retaliation for his call — as France's president — for Gadhafi's removal.

Sarkozy was one of the first Western leaders to push for military intervention in Libya in 2011, when Arab Spring pro-democracy protests swept the Arab world.

"What credibility can be given to such statements marked by the seal of vengeance?" Sarkozy asked in comments during the trial.

## Stripped of the Legion of Honor

In June, Sarkozy was stripped of his Legion of Honor medal — France's highest award — after his conviction in a separate case.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 28 of 54

Earlier, he was found guilty of corruption and influence peddling for trying to bribe a magistrate in 2014 in exchange for information about a legal case in which he was implicated.

Sarkozy was sentenced to wear an electronic monitoring bracelet for one year. He was granted a conditional release in May due to his age, which allowed him to remove the electronic tag after he wore it for just over three months.

In another case, Sarkozy was convicted last year of illegal campaign financing in his failed 2012 reelection bid. He was accused of having spent almost twice the maximum legal amount and was sentenced to a year in prison, of which six months were suspended.

Sarkozy has denied the allegations. He has appealed that verdict to the highest Court of Cassation, and that appeal is pending

## Danish officials believe drone flyovers at 4 airports meant to sow fear

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Drones flew over Aalborg Airport in northern Denmark overnight Wednesday into Thursday, as well as three smaller airports in the country, but it was not immediately clear who was behind the incidents, authorities said.

Defense Minister Troels Lund Poulsen said it appeared a "professional actor" was behind the "systematic" flights, without providing additional details during a news conference Thursday morning.

Authorities said there was no danger to the public.

The goal of the flyovers was to sow fear and division, Danish Minister of Justice Peter Hummelgaard said Thursday, adding that the country will seek additional ways to neutralize drones including proposing legislation to allow infrastructure owners to shoot them down.

Flights were halted for several hours at Aalborg Airport, which also serves as a military base. Drone sightings began shortly before 10 p.m. Wednesday and ended just before 1 a.m. Thursday.

The airports in Esbjerg, Sønderborg and Skrydstrup also were impacted. Skrydstrup is an air base that is home to some of the Danish military's fighter jets.

The drones appeared to be flying around the airports with their lights turned on but authorities decided against attempting to shoot down the drones, police said. Additional details were not immediately available.

The latest drone activity comes just a few days after a similar incident at Copenhagen Airport, conducted by what police call a "capable actor."

The Copenhagen drones grounded flights in the Danish capital for hours Monday night, prompting concerns that Russia could be behind the flyover above Scandinavia's largest airport.

It was not immediately clear whether the Copenhagen flyover was related to the incidents later in the week.

## For the first time in nearly six decades, a Syrian president steps up to speak at the UN

By JENNIFER PELTZ and BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Turning the page on decades of distance, Syria's president addressed the U.N. General Assembly on Wednesday, marking the first time any president from his country has done so in almost 60 years. As he spoke, hundreds of people gathered in front of giant screens in Syrian cities and towns to witness the speech while waving the country's flags.

After six decades of dictatorship that killed 1 million people and tortured hundreds of thousands, "Syria is reclaiming its rightful place among the nations of the world," Ahmad al-Sharaa told the international community.

Al-Sharaa became the first Syrian head of state to speak at the United Nations since Nouredine Attasi gave a speech in 1967 shortly after the Arab-Israeli war, during which Damascus lost control of the Golan Heights. Israel annexed it in 1981.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 29 of 54**

Since the Assad family came to power in Syria in 1970 in a bloodless coup that overthrew Attasi, relations with the United States have been mostly cold, as Damascus was an ally of the former Soviet Union. Over the past decades, Syrian foreign ministers represented the country at the U.N. General Assembly.

An appearance after the collapse of the Assad family's regime

The Assad family dynasty's autocratic, repressive 54-year rule abruptly collapsed in December, when then-President Bashar Assad was ousted in a lightning insurgent offensive led by al-Sharaa. Assad's fall marked a major shift in the 14-year civil war.

Al-Sharaa blasted Israel in his speech, saying that it did not stop its threats to his country since Assad's fall and adding that its policies "contradict with the international community's support to Syria and its people" and endanger the region.

Negotiations have been ongoing for a security deal that al-Sharaa has said he hopes will bring about a withdrawal of Israeli forces and return to a 1974 disengagement agreement. While al-Sharaa said last week that a deal could be reached in a matter of days, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday appeared to downplay the odds of a breakthrough.

Later Wednesday, Netanyahu's office said in a statement that negotiations are underway, adding that their conclusion "involves ensuring Israel's interests, which include, among other things, the demilitarization of southwestern Syria and maintaining the safety and security" of the Druze religious minority in the country.

Since assuming power, al-Sharaa has preached coexistence and sought to reassure Syria's minority communities, but the country has been threatened by outbreaks of sectarian violence that left hundreds dead earlier this year. Gunmen affiliated with the new government were also accused of atrocities against civilians from the Druze and Alawite religious minorities in southern Syria's Sweida province and the coastal region.

Al-Sharaa said in his speech that the Syrian state has worked on forming fact-finding missions and gave the United Nations the right to investigate the killings.

"I promise to bring anyone whose hands are tainted with the blood of Syrian people to justice," he added.

The fight against drugs has progressed

Al-Sharaa said Syria's new authorities have destroyed the drug business that Assad used to fund his government as it was under harsh Western sanctions that, along with the war, paralyzed the economy. Assad's fall revealed industrial-scale manufacturing facilities of the amphetamine-like stimulant Captagon, also known as fenethylline, which experts say fed a \$10 billion annual global trade in the highly addictive drug.

Over the past months, Syrian authorities have closed Captagon factories in different parts of Syria part of their campaign to end the illegal trade.

Al-Sharaa urged Western countries to lift the Assad-era sanctions "so that they are not a tool to shackle the Syrian people."

U.S. President Donald Trump met with al-Sharaa in Saudi Arabia in May and announced that he would lift decades of sanctions. He followed through by ordering a large swath of them lifted or waived.

However, the most stringent sanctions were imposed by Congress in 2019 and will require a congressional vote to permanently remove them.

Speaking to reporters outside the U.N. after his speech, al-Sharaa said that he hopes that the sanctions would eventually be lifted.

"Syria does not wish the pain it passed through for anyone" and feels "the suffering of war and destruction," al-Sharaa said, expressing support for Palestinians in Gaza amid Israel's war there.

Syrian divisions manifest in New York

In Damascus, cheering crowds gathered in the central Umayyad Square to celebrate al-Sharaa's speech. At Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza near the U.N., members of the Syrian diaspora faced off in dueling demonstrations, one in support of the new authorities in Damascus and one against.

Pro-government demonstrators hoisted the three-starred "revolution flag" that has now become the official flag of Syria. On the other side, many lifted the five-color Druze flag. Some shouted and cursed at each other across the barricades.

On the Druze side, Farah Taki, originally from Sweida, said her aunts there were displaced by the recent violence and she had come from Chicago to protest al-Sharaa's visit.

"It's disgrace that New York is welcoming an ex-Qaida member at the U.N., and allowing him even to speak," she said. The insurgent group that al-Sharaa formerly led was once affiliated with al-Qaida but later cut ties.

On the other side of the barricades, Dina Keenawari, a Syrian American originally from Damascus, had come from Florida to show her support for al-Sharaa.

"We've lived under tyranny for the past 50 years, and now we're turning a new chapter, and we're looking forward," she said. "And we're proud of him."

## Motive of shooter who officials say opened fire at Dallas ICE facility remains unclear

By JAMIE STENGLE and JACK BROOK Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — For the second time in two weeks a shooter on a rooftop inflicted death on the ground, this time at a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in Dallas where a detainee was killed and two others were critically wounded by a gunman who then fatally shot himself.

The Department of Homeland Security said in a statement that shots were fired early Wednesday "indiscriminately at the ICE building, including at a van in the sallyport," a secure and gated entryway. The detainees were in the van. No ICE personnel were injured.

The shooter was identified as 29-year-old Joshua Jahn by a law enforcement official who could not publicly disclose details of the investigation and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. Investigators were seeking to determine the motive.

FBI Director Kash Patel posted a photo on social media showing a bullet found at the scene with "ANTI-ICE" written on it. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem ordered more security at ICE facilities across the U.S., according to a post by the DHS on the social platform X.

The attack was the latest high-profile targeted killing in the U.S., coming two weeks after conservative activist Charlie Kirk was killed by a shooter on the roof of a building at Utah Valley University and as heightened immigration enforcement has prompted backlash against ICE agents and fear in immigrant communities.

The American Immigration Lawyers Association called the shootings "a stark reminder that behind every immigration case number is a human being deserving of dignity, safety, and respect."

"Whether they are individuals navigating the immigration process, public servants carrying out their duties, or professionals working within the system, all deserve to be free from violence and fear," the group said in a statement.

'Targeted violence'

Authorities have given few details about the shooting and did not publicly release the names of the victims or the gunman. The FBI said it was investigating the shooting as "an act of targeted violence."

The gunman used a bolt-action rifle, according to a law enforcement official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Edwin Cardona, an immigrant from Venezuela, said he was entering the ICE building with his son for an appointment around 6:20 a.m. when he heard gunshots. An agent took people who were inside to a more secure area and said there was an active shooter.

"I was afraid for my family, because my family was outside. I felt terrible, because I thought something could happen to them," Cardona said, adding that they were later reunited.

The ICE facility is along Interstate 35 East, just southwest of Dallas Love Field, a large airport serving the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area, and blocks from hotels.

Who was Joshua Jahn?

Hours after the shooting, FBI agents gathered at a suburban Dallas home that public records link to Jahn.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 31 of 54

It sits on a tree-lined cul-de-sac in a neighborhood dotted with one- and two-story brick homes. The street was blocked by a Fairview police vehicle, and officials wearing FBI jackets could be seen in the front yard.

A spokesperson for Collin College in nearby McKinney, said via email that a Joshua Jahn studied there "at various times" between 2013 and 2018.

In late 2017, Jahn drove cross-country to work a minimum-wage job harvesting marijuana for several months, said Ryan Sanderson, owner of a legal cannabis farm in Washington state.

"He's a young kid, a thousand miles from home, didn't really seem to have any direction, living out of his car at such a young age," Sanderson told the AP.

**Calls for an end to political violence**

Shortly after the shooting and before officials said at least one victim was a detainee, Vice President JD Vance posted on X that "the obsessive attack on law enforcement, particularly ICE, must stop."

Republican U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, who represents Texas, continued in that direction, calling for an end to political violence.

The Catholic Legal Immigration Network, an advocacy group, said the shootings are "a heartbreaking reminder of the violence and fear that too often touch the lives of migrants and the communities where they live."

**Noem: ICE agents targeted**

Noem noted a recent uptick in targeting of ICE agents.

On July 4, attackers in black, military-style clothing opened fire outside the Prairieland Detention Center in Alvarado, southwest of Dallas, federal prosecutors said. One police officer was injured. At least 11 people have been charged in connection with the attack.

Days later, a man with an assault rifle fired dozens of rounds at federal agents leaving a U.S. Border Patrol facility in McAllen. The man, identified as Ryan Louis Mosqueda, injured a responding police officer before authorities shot and killed him.

In suburban Chicago, federal authorities erected a fence around an immigration processing center after tensions flared with protesters. President Donald Trump's administration has stepped up immigration enforcement in the Chicago area, resulting in hundreds of arrests.

**Attacks, escapes concern at some ICE offices**

Dozens of field offices across the country house administrative employees and are used for people summoned for check-in appointments and to process people arrested before they are transferred to long-term detention centers. They are not designed to hold people in custody.

Security varies by location, with some in federal buildings and others mixed with private businesses, said John Torres, a former acting director of the agency and former head of what is now called its enforcement and removals division.

Some, like Dallas, have exposed loading areas for buses, which pose risks for escape and outside attack, Torres said. Other vulnerabilities are nearby vantage points for snipers and long lines forming outside without protection.

## **Kimmel is back on ABC to big ratings, but some affiliates still refuse to air his show**

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Jimmy Kimmel is back on his ABC late-night show, but it's still a mystery when — or if — viewers in cities such as Washington, Seattle and St. Louis will be able to see him again on their televisions.

ABC stations owned by the Nexstar and Sinclair corporations took Kimmel off the air last week on the same day the network suspended him for comments that angered supporters of slain conservative activist Charlie Kirk. Those stations kept him off the air Tuesday, when ABC lifted the suspension. The unusual dispute attracted the attention of U.S. senators, who said they wanted to investigate the relationship between the affiliates and President Donald Trump's administration.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 32 of 54

Kimmel returned with no apologies, but in an emotional monologue where he appeared close to tears, the host said that he was not trying to joke about the assassination. He also paid tribute to Kirk's widow.

And it got a large audience, with ABC reporting nearly 6.3 million people tuned in to the broadcast alone, despite the blackouts in many cities. As is often the case with late-night hosts' monologues, there was a larger audience online, with more than 15 million people watching Kimmel's opening remarks on YouTube by Wednesday evening. ABC says more than 26 million people watched Kimmel's return on social media, including YouTube.

Typically, he gets about 1.8 million viewers each night on television. The numbers released by ABC do not include viewership from streaming services.

A spokesman for Nexstar said Wednesday that Kimmel will continue to be preempted from its stations while the company evaluates his show. Together, the Nexstar and Sinclair groups account for about a quarter of ABC's affiliates, many in smaller cities such as Nashville, Tennessee; Lubbock, Texas; or Topeka, Kansas.

"We are engaged in productive discussions with executives at the (ABC parent) Walt Disney Co., with a focus on ensuring the program reflects and respects the diverse interests of the communities we serve," Nexstar said.

Dispute highlights relationship between networks and local stations

The dispute focused attention on the business relationships between television networks and the local stations that carry their programming. In the past, local stations occasionally balked at airing a network show, but it was usually an individual market or two worried about pushing boundaries in language or sexual content, said Ted Harbert, a former top executive at ABC and CBS.

What's different this time is groups that have gobbled up multiple stations acting collectively on content for largely political reasons.

"This is how much the country's political divisions have seeped their way into something that has been, for the last 50 or 75 years, a relatively orderly business," Harbert said.

Leadership of ownership groups is generally more conservative than the media and entertainment figures on the stations they broadcast, said Ken Basin, author of "The Business of Television." Both Sinclair, with conservative political content, and Nexstar have reason to curry favor with the Trump administration, he said. Nexstar is seeking regulatory approval for the purchase of a rival, he said.

"I worry that this is not going to be the only dispute of this nature in the years ahead," Basin said.

It's possible that Disney could play hardball if negotiations on Kimmel's return drag on, such as threatening to withhold other ABC programming — even the "nuclear option" of football games. It's unclear how the affiliate agreements are worded.

But Matt Dolgin, senior equity analyst at Morningstar Research Service, said he doubts the dispute reaches that point. The station groups have a far less diversified business portfolio than Disney, and the expiration of affiliate agreements next year looms as a deadline, he said. They have few good options if they lose ABC programming.

"From a business perspective, the best course on this issue (for Disney) is to stay above the fray," Dolgin said. "The dollars associated with this show are very low."

As they climb, the stunning number of YouTube views of Kimmel's monologue serve to make television broadcasting less important, hurting the negotiating position of the stations.

For the station groups, the biggest goal should be to negotiate their way out of this — while finding a way to save face, he said. Sinclair initially took a strong stance, saying Kimmel would not return to its stations without apologizing to Kirk's widow and donating money to Kirk's political organization. That's not likely to happen.

Kimmel was at risk of losing show entirely

Last week, Kimmel seemed to be in real danger of losing his show entirely until advocates for free speech protested, including many who canceled subscriptions for Disney services.

"The backlash was stronger than they expected, stronger than I expected," Basin said. "There was a sense of despair within the industry that this was a 'canary in a coal mine' moment."



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 33 of 54

Four Democratic senators said late Tuesday that they wanted to look into what happened with the station groups.

"If Nexstar or Sinclair traded the censorship of a critic of the administration for official acts by the Trump administration, your companies are not only complicit in an alarming trampling of free speech but also risk running afoul of anti-corruption law," Sens. Elizabeth Warren, Ed Markey, Ron Wyden and Chris Van Hollen wrote to the companies.

On Wednesday, another group of senators led by California Democrat Adam Schiff said they wanted to question FCC Chairman Brendan Carr about "implicit threats" made to Disney over Kimmel.

In his monologue Tuesday, Kimmel tried to thread the needle between both sides in a raw political moment, and seemed to realize its difficulty.

"I don't think what I'm going to say is going to make much of a difference," he said. "If you like me, you like me. If you don't, you don't. I have no illusions about changing anyone's mind."

Within hours, many proved his point. Andrew Kolvet, a spokesperson for Turning Point USA, the organization that Kirk founded that is now headed by his widow, posted on X that Kimmel's monologue was "not good enough."

In another corner of social media, comic Ben Stiller posted that it was a "brilliant monologue."

## Drone fired by Yemen's Houthis wounds 22 in southern Israel, in a rare breach of missile defenses

By IBRAHIM HAZBOUN, SAMY MAGDY and JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — A drone launched by Yemen's Houthi rebels wounded 22 people in the southern Israeli city of Eilat on Wednesday, according to medics. It was a rare breach of Israel's sophisticated missile defenses, which have greatly limited casualties from such attacks.

In the Gaza Strip, at least 41 Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire, according to local hospitals. U.S. President Donald Trump's Mideast envoy expressed optimism over a new plan for ending the war, without saying what it entails or if Israel or Hamas have accepted it.

Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen have regularly fired drones and missiles at Israel — and attacked international shipping — in what they say is support for the Palestinians. The vast majority of the drones and missiles fired at Israel have been shot down or fallen in open areas without wounding anyone.

The Houthis said in a statement that they had fired two drones at Israel. Israel has carried out retaliatory airstrikes on Yemen after past attacks, and Defense Minister Israel Katz, in a post on X, warned the Houthis that "anyone who harms Israel will be harmed sevenfold."

The Israeli military said it had tried to intercept the drone. The Magen David Adom rescue service said the wounded were taken to a hospital, two of them with "severe shrapnel injuries to their limbs."

Israeli strikes on Gaza kill dozens

In Gaza, at least 22 people were killed when an Israeli strike hit tents sheltering displaced people in Gaza City, according to Dr. Fadel Naim, director of the Al-Ahli hospital, which received the casualties. Three children and nine women were among those killed, he told The Associated Press.

The Israeli military said it targeted two Hamas militants, using precise munitions and taking other measures to avoid harming civilians. Israel blames Hamas for civilian deaths because the militants are embedded in densely populated areas.

Another Israeli strike hit a group of Palestinians in the built-up Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza, killing at least 12 of them, according to the Al-Awda Hospital. Another 18 people were wounded, it said. Four people — two children and their parents — were killed in a strike on their home in Nuseirat, according to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the nearby city of Deir al-Balah.

There was no immediate comment from the military on those strikes.

Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza said that it received the bodies of three people killed by gunfire while seeking aid. Health officials in Gaza and the U.N. human rights office say hundreds of people have been killed by Israeli fire while seeking humanitarian aid in recent months.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 34 of 54

The military has said it only fires warning shots when people approach its forces in what it considers a threatening manner.

In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, a 24-year-old Palestinian was shot and killed by Israeli forces near the northern city of Jenin, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. The military said soldiers shot and killed a man after he hurled an explosive device at them.

Trump officials talk up new plan to end the war

The latest violence came as the Mideast crisis was front and center at the U.N. General Assembly.

At separate events, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Trump's lead negotiator Steve Witkoff both offered optimistic views about what Witkoff called a "Trump 21-point plan for peace" that was presented to Arab leaders on Tuesday.

"We had a very productive session," Witkoff said at a conference in New York. "I think it addresses Israeli concerns, as well as the concerns of all the neighbors in the region. And we're hopeful, and I might say even confident, that in the coming days, we'll be able to announce some sort of breakthrough."

Speaking to senior officials from the Gulf Cooperation Council, Rubio said "some very important work is ongoing even as we speak, and we're hoping to achieve this as soon as possible."

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, in a post on X, said the latest proposals are "an important foundation upon which we can build further in the coming period to achieve peace."

The U.S., along with Egypt and Qatar, have spent months trying to broker a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release. Those efforts suffered a major setback earlier this month when Israel carried out an airstrike targeting Hamas leaders in Qatar.

The war in Gaza began when Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing around 1,200 people and taking 251 hostage. Forty-eight captives are still inside Gaza, around 20 of them believed by Israel to be alive, after most of the rest were freed in ceasefires or other deals.

Israel's ongoing retaliatory offensive has killed more than 65,000 people, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. It doesn't say how many were civilians or combatants, but says women and children make up around half the fatalities. The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government. U.N. agencies and many independent experts consider its figures to be the most reliable estimate of wartime casualties.

Israel launched another major ground operation earlier this month in Gaza City, which experts say is experiencing famine. More than 300,000 people have fled, but up to 700,000 are still there, many because they can't afford to relocate.

## China, world's largest carbon polluting nation, announces new climate goal to cut emissions

BY SETH BORENSTEIN and MELINA WALLING Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — With China leading the way by announcing its first emission cuts, world leaders said Wednesday they are getting more serious about fighting climate change and the deadly extreme weather that comes with it.

At the United Nations' high-level climate summit, Chinese president Xi Jinping announced the world's largest carbon-polluting country would aim to cut emissions by 7% to 10% by 2035. China produces more than 31% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions, and they have long been soaring.

The announcement came as more than 100 world leaders gathered to talk of increased urgency and the need for stronger efforts to curb the spewing of heat-trapping gases.

With major international climate negotiations in Brazil 6½ weeks away, the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres convened a special leaders summit Wednesday during the General Assembly to focus on specific plans to curb emissions from coal, oil and natural gas.

After more than six hours of speeches, promises and announcements, about 100 nations — responsible for about two-thirds of the world's emissions — gave plans or some kind of commitments to further curb fossil fuel emissions and fight climate change, Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed said.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 35 of 54**

In a video address, Xi pledged that China would increase its wind and solar power sixfold from 2020 levels, make pollution-free vehicles mainstream and "basically establish a climate adaptive society."

Europe then followed with a less detailed and not quite official new climate change fighting plan. Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, said last week, member states agreed that their emissions cutting targets would range between 66% and 72%. The EU will formally submit its plan before the November negotiations.

While the new promises are in the right direction and show stronger commitment to fighter climate change, "these targets will not be enough to keep us safe from climate destruction," said Jake Schmidt, senior strategic director for international climate at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Trump's climate comments challenged

Xi and Brazil's leader also made statements on Wednesday afternoon that may have referred to U.S. President Donald Trump's attacks a day earlier on renewable energy and the concept of climate change. "While some countries are acting against it, the international community should stay focused on the right direction," Xi said.

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who is hosting the upcoming climate conference, said, "no one is safe from the effect of climate change. Walls at borders will not stop droughts or storms," Lula said. "Nature does not bow down to bombs or warships. No country stands above another."

Said Guterres: "The science demands action. The law commands it. The economics compel it. And people are calling for it."

Time to 'wake up' amid catastrophes

Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine said she was there to issue "a demand for us all to wake up from a community whose hospitals and schools are being destroyed" by rising tides. She said she has regularly been awakened by floods and drought emergencies in her small island nation and that it will soon be others' turn.

"If we fail to wake up now and end our dependence on fossil fuels the leaders of every country in this room will be woken up by calls about catastrophes of wildfires, of storms, of heatwaves, and of starvation and drought," she said.

Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said his country knows this all too well, with recent floods that have affected 5 million people across over 4,000 villages, killing over 1,000.

"As I speak to you, my country is reeling from intense monsoon rains, flash floods, mudslides and devastating urban flooding," he said. "We are facing this calamity at a time when the scars of the 2022 floods that inflicted losses exceeding \$30 billion and displaced millions are still visible across our land."

Anthony Albanese, prime minister of Australia, called this a decisive decade for climate action and said Australians know the toll of more frequent and extreme weather events like cyclones, floods, bush fires and droughts. "Australia knows we are not alone," he said.

'Here we must admit failure'

"Warming appears to be accelerating," climate scientist Johan Rockstrom said in a science briefing that started the summit. "Here we must admit failure. Failure to protect peoples and nations from unmanageable impacts of human-induced climate change."

"We're dangerously close to triggering fundamental and irreversible change," Rockstrom said.

Texas Tech climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe told leaders that every tenth of a degree of warming is connected to worsening floods, wildfires, heat waves, storms and many more deaths: "What's at stake is nothing less than everything and everyone we love."

In a news conference, Lula said he invited both Trump and Xi to the November climate negotiations, saying it's important that leaders listen to scientists.

Under the 2015 Paris climate accord, 195 nations are supposed to submit new more stringent five-year plans on how to curb carbon emissions from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas.

U.N. officials said countries really need to get their plans in by the end of the month so the U.N. can calculate how much more warming Earth is on track for if nations do what they promise. Former U.S. President Joe Biden submitted America's plan late last year before leaving office and the Trump adminis-

tration has distanced itself from the plan.

Before 2015, the world was on path for 4 degrees Celsius (7.2 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming since pre-industrial times, but now has trimmed that to 2.6 degrees Celsius (4.7 degrees Fahrenheit), Guterres said.

However, the Paris accord set a goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since the mid 19th century and the world has already warmed about 1.3 degrees Celsius (2.3 degrees Fahrenheit) since.

Simon Stiell, UN's climate chief, said the Chinese plan "is a clear signal that the future global economy will run on clean energy. And that for every country, stronger and faster climate action means more economic growth, jobs, affordable and secure energy, cleaner air, and better health, for all of us, everywhere."

Lula also praised China's announcement, but some advocates were underwhelmed, but they said China has reputation for under-promising and over-delivering on climate action.

"China's latest climate target is too timid given the country's extraordinary record on clean energy," said former Colombia President Juan Manuel Santos, chair of the group The Elders. "China must go further and faster"

## **Ukraine's president says the world is in 'the most destructive arms race in human history'**

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told global leaders Wednesday that the world is in "the most destructive arms race in human history" and urged the international community to act against Russia now, asserting that Vladimir Putin wants to expand his war in Europe.

In a bleak view of today's world, he told the annual high-level meeting of the U.N. General Assembly that weak international institutions including the United Nations haven't been able to stop wars in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan and elsewhere, and international law can't help nations survive.

"Weapons decide who survives," the Ukrainian leader said. "There are no security guarantees except friends and weapons."

Zelenskyy spoke from the podium of the vast assembly chamber a day after he met with President Donald Trump, who expressed support for Ukraine's efforts and criticized Russia. Trump said Tuesday that he believed Ukraine could win back all territory lost to Russia, a dramatic shift from the U.S. leader's repeated calls for Kyiv to make concessions to end the war sparked by President Vladimir Putin's February 2022 invasion of its smaller neighbor.

Zelenskyy did not comment on the surprise U.S. pivot, saying only that he had "a good meeting" with Trump and with many other "strong leaders."

"Together, we can change a lot," he said, expressing appreciation for support from the United States and Europe and urging all U.N. member nations to condemn Russia while it "keeps dragging this war on."

If Putin isn't stopped now, the Ukrainian president warned the assembly that he will keep driving the war forward, "wider and deeper."

"Ukraine is only the first, and now Russian drones are already flying across Europe, and Russian operations are already spreading across countries," he said.

Worries about Moldova

Zelenskyy said neighboring Moldova is defending itself again from Russian interference and should not be allowed to move toward dependency on Russia as Georgia and Belarus are. "Europe cannot afford to lose Moldova, too," he said, stressing that the country needs funding and energy support, not just "political gestures."

Since Russia invaded Ukraine, Zelenskyy said, weapons and especially drones "are evolving faster than our ability to defend ourselves."

While drones previously were used by major countries, he said, "Now, there are tens of thousands of people who know how to professionally kill using drones."



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 37 of 54

Recently, European airports had to shut down because of drones, Zelenskyy said, and last week North Korea announced the test of "a tactical drone" which means even countries with limited resources can build dangerous weapons.

"We are now living through the most destructive arms race in human history, because this time it includes artificial intelligence," he said. "Companies are already working on drones that can shoot down other drones, and it's only a matter of time -- not much -- before drones are fighting drones, attacking critical infrastructure and attacking people all by themselves -- fully autonomous and no human involved except the few who control AI system."

Zelenskyy echoed U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in calling for global rules on how AI can be used in weapons, stressing that "this is just as urgent as preventing the spread of nuclear weapons."

Stopping Putin now is cheaper than trying to protect every port and airport and every ship from drone attacks, and having to build underground schools and health centers as Ukraine has been forced to do to protect its citizens, he said. "Stopping Russia now is cheaper than wondering who will be the first to create a simple drone carrying a nuclear warhead."

"So we must use everything we have together to force the aggressor to stop, and only then do we have a real chance that this arms race will not end in catastrophe for all of us," the Ukrainian leader said.

The Ukrainian leader said his country doesn't have "big fat missiles dictators love to show off in parades" but it is producing drones that can fly 2,000 to 3,000 kilometers which have been used against Russia.

Zelenskyy said Ukraine is building a new security architecture, and more than 30 countries are part of its coalition, and "we have decided to open up for arms exports -- and these are powerful systems tested in a real war when every international institution failed."

## **1 detainee killed and 2 others critically injured in Dallas ICE facility, Homeland Security says**

By JAMIE STENGLE and JACK BROOK Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — A shooter with a rifle opened fire from a nearby roof onto a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement location in Dallas on Wednesday, killing one detainee and wounding two others in a transport van before taking his own life, authorities said.

The suspect was identified by a law enforcement official as 29-year-old Joshua Jahn. The official could not publicly disclose details of the investigation and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The exact motivation for the attack was not immediately known. FBI Director Kash Patel posted a photo on social media showing a bullet found at the scene with "ANTI-ICE" written on it.

The attack is the latest public, targeted killing in the U.S., coming two weeks after conservative activist Charlie Kirk was killed by a rifle-wielding shooter and as heightened immigration enforcement has prompted backlash against ICE agents and fear in immigrant communities.

The American Immigration Lawyers Association called the shootings "a stark reminder that behind every immigration case number is a human being deserving of dignity, safety, and respect."

"Whether they are individuals navigating the immigration process, public servants carrying out their duties, or professionals working within the system, all deserve to be free from violence and fear," the group said in a statement.

The Department of Homeland Security said in a statement that shots were fired "indiscriminately at the ICE building, including at a van in the sallyport," a secure and gated entryway.

The wounded detainees were in critical condition at a hospital, said DHS, which previously said two detainees were killed and one was wounded before issuing a correction.

No ICE agents were injured.

By the evening, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem ordered more security at ICE facilities across the U.S., according to a post by DHS on the social platform X.

'Targeted violence'

At a midday news conference, authorities gave few details about the shooting and did not release the

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 38 of 54

names of the victims or the gunman.

The FBI said it was investigating the shooting as "an act of targeted violence."

Officers responded to a call to assist an officer on North Stemmons Freeway around 6:40 a.m. and determined that someone had opened fire at a government building from an adjacent building, Dallas police spokesperson Officer Jonathan E. Maner said via email.

The gunman used a bolt-action rifle, according to a law enforcement official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Edwin Cardona, an immigrant from Venezuela, said he was entering the ICE building with his son for an appointment around 6:20 a.m. when he heard gunshots. An agent took people who were inside to a more secure area and said there was an active shooter.

"I was afraid for my family, because my family was outside. I felt terrible, because I thought something could happen to them. Thank God, no," Cardona said.

Cardona said they were later reunited.

The ICE facility is along Interstate 35 East, just southwest of Dallas Love Field, a large airport serving the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area, and blocks from hotels.

Who was Joshua Jahn?

Hours after the shooting, FBI agents gathered at a suburban Dallas home that public records link to Jahn.

It sits on a tree-lined cul-de-sac in a neighborhood dotted with one- and two-story brick homes. The street was blocked by a Fairview police vehicle, but officials wearing FBI jackets could be seen in the front yard.

A spokesperson for Collin College in nearby McKinney, said via email that a Joshua Jahn studied there "at various times" between 2013 and 2018.

Martyna Kowalczyk, CEO of Texas-based Solartime USA, said in a statement that Jahn worked for her company for less than a few months "many years ago."

In late 2017, Jahn drove cross-country to work a minimum-wage job harvesting marijuana for several months, according to Ryan Sanderson, owner of a legal cannabis farm in Washington state.

"He's a young kid, a thousand miles from home, didn't really seem to have any direction, living out of his car at such a young age," Sanderson told AP. "I don't remember him being that abnormal. He didn't seem to fight with anyone or cause trouble. He kept his head down and stayed working."

Sanderson said he tried to keep Jahn longer because he "felt bad for him."

Calls for an end to political violence

Shortly after the shooting and before officials said at least one victim was a detainee, Vice President JD Vance posted on X that "the obsessive attack on law enforcement, particularly ICE, must stop."

Republican U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, who represents Texas, continued in that direction, calling for an end to political violence.

"To every politician who is using rhetoric demonizing ICE and demonizing CBP: Stop," Cruz told reporters, referencing Customs and Border Protection.

Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson called the shooting not just an attack on law enforcement and the victims but "an attack on our community and on our nation's heritage of civil and democratic discourse."

The Catholic Legal Immigration Network, an advocacy group, said the shootings are "a heartbreaking reminder of the violence and fear that too often touch the lives of migrants and the communities where they live."

"Violence must never be allowed to define how we respond to migration," said Anna Gallagher, the group's executive director.

The Rev. Ashley Anne Sipe, who prays outside the Dallas ICE facility every Monday said: "Violence doesn't heal anything."

Sipe and other local faith leaders who have decried deportations hold weekly vigils and serve as "moral witnesses." They pray and observe for about three hours, watching as immigrants enter the building to meet with advisers and report for check-ins.

Sipe said she has noticed in recent months that people who enter are shuttled away on buses.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 39 of 54

"They're taking them away, and we don't know where they're taking them," Sipe said.

Noem: ICE agents targeted

Noem noted a recent uptick in targeting of ICE agents.

On July 4 attackers in black, military-style clothing opened fire outside the Prairieland Detention Center in Alvarado, southwest of Dallas, federal prosecutors said. One police officer was injured. At least 11 people have been charged in connection with the attack.

Days later a man with an assault rifle fired dozens of rounds at federal agents leaving a U.S. Border Patrol facility in McAllen. The man, identified as Ryan Louis Mosqueda, injured a police officer who responded to the scene before authorities shot and killed him.

And in suburban Chicago, federal authorities erected a fence around an immigration processing center after tensions flared with protesters. President Donald Trump's administration has stepped up immigration enforcement in the Chicago area, resulting in hundreds of arrests.

Ahead of the latest immigration operation, federal officials boarded up windows at the center. Sixteen people have been arrested outside, according to authorities who called the activists "rioters."

Attacks, escapes concern at some ICE offices

Dozens of field offices across the country house administrative employees and are used for people summoned for check-in appointments and to process people arrested before they are transferred to long-term detention centers. They are not designed to hold people in custody.

Security varies by location, with some located in federal buildings and others mixed with private businesses, said John Torres, a former acting director of the agency and former head of what is now called its enforcement and removals division.

Some, like Dallas, have exposed loading areas for buses, which pose risks for escape and outside attack, Torres said. Other vulnerabilities are nearby vantage points for snipers and long lines forming outside without protection.

"I would assure you that ICE, after today, is going to be taking a hard look at physical security assessments for all of their facilities," said Torres, currently head of security and technology consulting at Guidepost Solutions.

## What to know about the shooting at a Dallas immigration facility

By R.J. RICO Associated Press

A gunman fired upon a Dallas immigration field office from a nearby roof Wednesday morning, killing one detainee and critically wounding two others before taking his own life in what authorities called an indiscriminate attack on U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

All three victims were in a van outside the facility at the time, the Department of Homeland Security said in a statement. Authorities said they found ammunition with anti-ICE messaging at the scene.

The attack is the latest public, targeted killing in the U.S. and comes two weeks after conservative leader Charlie Kirk was killed by a rifle-wielding shooter on a roof. After the shooting in Dallas, DHS Secretary Kristi Noem ordered increased security at ICE facilities nationwide.

Here are some of the things to know about the shooting.

Who are the victims?

All three were detainees, but officials have not released any additional information about their identities.

Mexico's foreign affairs ministry said one of the wounded was from Mexico and was hospitalized with serious injuries. The consulate reached out to the family to offer support and legal help, it said.

DHS initially said two victims were dead, but hours later it issued a correction saying one was killed and two were critically wounded.

No law enforcement officers were injured, authorities said.

Who was the shooter?

Authorities say the gunman died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, but they have not released additional details.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 40 of 54

A law enforcement official identified the suspect as 29-year-old Joshua Jahn. The official could not publicly disclose details of the investigation and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

FBI agents could be seen Wednesday afternoon at a house in suburban Dallas that public records link to Jahn.

Jahn briefly worked at a Texas-based solar company and in the marijuana industry, including a stint in Washington in 2017, said Ryan Sanderson, owner of a legal cannabis farm in that state. Jahn slept in his car during that time, he added.

"He was lost, and I didn't expect him to be crazy," Sanderson told AP. "Didn't really seem to have any direction, living out of his car at such a young age."

"I don't remember him being that abnormal, he didn't seem to fight with anyone or cause trouble, he kept his head down and stayed working," Sanderson said.

In 2016 Jahn pleaded guilty to felony charges of marijuana delivery, according to court records in Collin County, Texas. He served five years probation.

The gunman in the Dallas shooting used a bolt-action rifle, according to a law enforcement official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Hours later authorities were on top of a law office building near the ICE facility. A white van from the medical examiner's office arrived. A crew could be seen loading a body in a black bag before driving away.

What was the motive?

The exact motivation for the attack was not immediately known. The FBI said at a morning news conference that ammunition found at the scene had anti-ICE messaging, and the Director Kash Patel released a photo on social media showing a bullet with the words "ANTI-ICE" written on it.

DHS spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin also posted photos showing bullet holes in a window and a glass case holding an American flag.

In a statement DHS Secretary Kristi Noem said, "This vile attack was motivated by hatred for ICE."

At a news conference, Sen. Ted Cruz said, "This is the third shooting in Texas directed at ICE or CBP. This must stop. To every politician who is using rhetoric demonizing ICE and demonizing CBP: Stop. To every politician demanding that ICE agents be doxed and calling for people to go after their families: Stop. This has very real consequences."

But Democrats accused Cruz and others of selectively releasing information and trying to "control the narrative" to fit Republican arguments that ICE agents are under siege.

Immediately after an earlier news conference in which authorities refused to say whether detainees were among the victims, Democratic U.S. Rep. Marc Veasey called in to Dallas' WFAA-TV newscast and said he was "absolutely sickened" by officials' comments.

"If they are trying to control this narrative and they don't want migrants to be the victim in this story, then they may want to slow-walk giving us any information about this so they can still keep on talking about attacks on ICE," Veasey said.

Where did the shooting occur?

The shooting occurred at the local field office in Dallas, where agents conduct short-term processing of people in custody. The victims may have been recently arrested by ICE.

The facility is along Interstate 35 East, just southwest of Dallas Love Field, a large airport serving the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area, and blocks from hotels catering to airport travelers.

What other recent attacks have there been at ICE facilities?

On July 4 a police officer was shot in the neck at a Texas immigration detention center. Attackers dressed in black, military-style clothing opened fire outside the Prairieland Detention Center in Alvarado, southwest of Dallas, federal prosecutors said. At least 11 people have been charged in connection with the attack.

On July 7 a man with an assault rifle fired dozens of rounds at federal agents as they were leaving a U.S. Border Patrol facility in McAllen, which abuts Mexico. The man, identified as Ryan Louis Mosqueda, injured a police officer who responded to the scene before authorities shot and killed him. Police later found other weaponry, ammunition and backpacks in his car.



## Trump's Rose Garden Club is a lavish new hangout for political allies and business elites

By CHRIS MEGERIAN and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Washington's hottest club has everything — Cabinet secretaries, a new stone patio, food from the White House kitchen and even a playlist curated by President Donald Trump.

But good luck getting a spot on the guest list. So far, only some of the president's political allies, business executives and administration officials have been invited.

In Trump's remake of the White House, the Rose Garden is now the Rose Garden Club, with the iconic lawn outside the Oval Office transformed into a taxpayer-supported imitation of the patio at Mar-a-Lago, the president's private Florida resort.

Trump debuted the name during his first formal dinner there this month and has included it on his official public schedule, too. He hosted another event Wednesday evening with members of his Cabinet and senior staff, according to an official who wasn't authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

The event went off despite rain earlier in the evening. It was closed to the press, but an aide posted video of the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon performing on the South Lawn.

Presidents have always used invitations to the White House as a prestigious reward for friends and supporters, but Trump's rebranding of an iconic area of the People's House is unprecedented. It's a fresh example of how the billionaire Republican is replicating the gilded and cloistered bubble of his private life inside the confines of the most famous government housing in the country.

Trump has long understood the allure of exclusive spaces

In his first term, Trump had an eponymous hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue a few blocks away from the White House and would go there often for dinner. But the Trump family sold the property during President Joe Biden's administration, leaving him without a uniquely Trump establishment in the city in his second term.

Now he doesn't need to go anywhere to enter his comfort zone and, in fact, has been spending less time at his home on his golf course in central New Jersey than he did in the first year of his first term.

To make the Rose Garden his own, Trump paved over the grass and set out tables and chairs, complete with yellow-and-white striped umbrellas that resemble the ones at Mar-a-Lago, in Palm Beach, Florida. He also installed a speaker system to play his favorite tunes as he does in Florida.

The project cost about \$2 million and was paid for by private donations to the Trust for the National Mall, a nonprofit that works with the National Park Service.

The events on the new White House patio so far have been official in nature and are part of the long tradition of presidential entertaining at the Executive Mansion, with military social aides on hand to escort guests and the kitchen staff tasked to whip up the sustenance.

Trump, who rose to fame as a New York real estate executive, also ran casinos and hotels, and he still loves playing host. He frequently flatters his guests as brilliant and beautiful and relishes the ability to gather the country's most powerful people.

So who pays for them?

All presidents invite family members and friends, lawmakers and political allies, donors and business leaders and others to the White House for reasons that range from bill signings and policy announcements to picnics and lavish state dinners.

Trump is expected to entertain on the white marble patio, in the shadow of the Washington Monument, as often as he can, the White House said.

Taxpayers pick up the tab for some of the social events hosted by a president, like the gathering for Republican lawmakers. Congress gives the White House money to pay for events like these since the Executive Mansion is also the president's home.

Events of a more personal nature, like a birthday party or the funeral service Trump held at the White House in 2020 for his younger brother, Robert, would have to be paid for by the president since it is not considered government, or the people's, business.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 42 of 54

Tech titans lose out to GOP lawmakers for club's opening

The official debut of the Rose Garden Club was supposed to be with tech titans such as Meta's Mark Zuckerberg, Google's Sundar Pichai and Microsoft's Satya Nadella. However, rain forced Trump to move the Sept. 4 event indoors to the ornate State Dining Room.

The honor of being first instead went to Republican lawmakers, who gathered around two dozen tables under a clear night sky on Sept. 5.

Holding a microphone, Trump welcomed his guests by saying "you are the first ones in this great place." He described it as "a club" for "people that can bring peace and success to our country."

Table settings featured white tablecloths and yellow roses, plus a place card that said, "The Rose Garden Club at the White House."

Dinner started with a Rose Garden Salad that included tomatoes and iceberg lettuce, followed by steak or chicken, or pasta primavera for vegetarians. Chocolate cake was dessert.

Trump sat at a corner table with House Speaker Mike Johnson of Louisiana, Rep. Ronny Jackson of Texas and Sen. Dave McCormick of Pennsylvania. Other lawmakers circulated by Trump's table for photos with the president. Some were posted online.

"It was a honor to be there," wrote Rep. John McGuire of Virginia.

## What to know before you try foraging for edible plants and mushrooms in backyards or public spaces

By RODRIQUE NGOWI Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Amid renewed interest in foraging for edible wild plants, mushrooms and other food-stuffs, experts caution aspiring foragers to prioritize safety, plan carefully and learn proper identification. Here are some things to consider before venturing out to gather food from forests, urban landscapes and elsewhere.

**Confirm plant identification**

It's critical to avoid accidental poisoning. If you have even the slightest doubt about a plant's safety, don't touch or taste it. Relying solely on photos from a quick online search also can be dangerous, as those are often misidentified, said Iris Phoebe Weaver, a longtime herbalist and foraging instructor in Massachusetts.

**Know toxic look-alikes**

Many wild edible plants have poisonous doppelgangers. A variety of printed field guides advise foragers to familiarize themselves with the dangerous species in their area, including potential similarities to edible plants they intend to harvest.

**Avoid polluted areas**

Plants can act like sponges and absorb pollutants from the environment, so it's advisable to gather plants in clean areas, away from busy roads, toxic sprays, mining sites, railroads, industrial sites or places where chemicals have been used. When harvesting aquatic plants, field guides suggest ensuring the water is clean and rinsing thoroughly before eating.

**Respect land ownership and local rules**

In the U.S., it is illegal to forage on private property without the landowner's permission. Many state and federal parks prohibit or limit foraging, so field guides recommend foragers check local regulations and permit requirements and to also be mindful of signage about not disturbing vegetation and avoiding areas where pesticides have been applied.

**Consider sustainability**

People focused on ethical foraging often aim to avoid overharvesting and leave enough for the plant to survive and replenish itself. Some follow a rule of taking no more than one-third of a species from a particular patch. But abundant invasive species, including dandelions or garlic mustard, can be harvested more freely, said Evan Mallett, a chef and forager in New Hampshire.

**Understand optimal harvest**

The edibility and palatability of a plant depend on gathering the correct part at the appropriate stage of

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 43 of 54

growth, so foragers typically want to know when plants are at their prime for eating. Leaves can be best when young and tender, often before flowering, while many roots and tubers are best harvested after the tops have died back or gone dormant in autumn or winter, according to Althea Press' "Edible Wild Plants for Beginners: The Essential Edible Plants and Recipes to Get Started."

Start small and cross-reference

When trying a foraged edible for the first time, taste only a small amount and wait 24 hours to ensure you don't have an allergic or adverse reaction. And because information can vary or be inaccurate, some field guides recommend cross-checking new plants with at least two or three publications or experts to verify identification.

Seek in-person instruction

Aspiring foragers can hone their skills with help from an experienced local forager, herbalist or naturalist, or by joining a class or a local Native Plant Society.

Learn preparation techniques

Some wild plants are indigestible, bitter, tough or even toxic if eaten raw and require specific preparation — like boiling, cooking or drying — to become palatable or safe. For instance, certain lichens contain powerful acids that must be leached away before consumption, and acorns must often be leached to remove bitter tannins. Field guides warn foragers not to assume edibility based on flavor alone, as some poisonous plants taste fine.

## **Trump's touting of an unproven autism drug surprised many, including the doctor who proposed it**

MATTHEW PERRONE AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — When President Donald Trump's administration announced it would repurpose an old, generic drug as a new treatment for autism, it came as a surprise to many experts — including the physician who suggested the idea to the nation's top health officials.

Dr. Richard Frye told The Associated Press that he'd been talking with federal regulators about developing his own customized version of the drug for children with autism, assuming more research would be required.

"So we were kinda surprised that they were just approving it right out of the gate without more studies or anything," said Frye, an Arizona-based child neurologist who has a book and online education business focused on the experimental treatment.

It's another example of the haphazard rollout of the Trump administration's Monday announcement on autism, which critics say has elevated an unproven drug that needs far more study before being approved as a credible treatment for the complex brain disorder.

A spokesperson for the Republican administration did not immediately respond to a request for comment Wednesday morning.

The nation's leading autism groups and researchers quickly distanced themselves from the decision on leucovorin, a derivative of vitamin B, calling the studies supporting its use "very weak" and "very small."

"We have nothing resembling even moderate evidence that leucovorin is an effective treatment for autism symptoms," said David Mandell, a psychiatrist at the University of Pennsylvania.

Mandell and other researchers say the evidence suggests autism is mostly rooted in genetics, with input from other factors, including the age of the child's father.

Nevertheless, a growing number of doctors are prescribing the medication, repurposing versions used for chemotherapy or ordering new formulations from compounding pharmacies.

Many researchers agree the drug warrants additional study, particularly for patients with a deficiency of folate, or vitamin B9, in the brain that may play a role in autism. But for now, they say, it should only be taken in carefully controlled clinical trials.

"We often say our job is to stay between the yellow lines," said Dr. Lawrence Gray, a pediatric developmental specialist at Northwestern University. "When people just decide to go outside of current guidelines,

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 44 of 54

then they're outside of that. And nobody knows what's going to happen out there."

The evidence for leucovorin isn't settled

The case for leucovorin's use in autism begins with established science but quickly veers into uncertain terrain.

When metabolized, the drug turns into folate, which is essential for healthy prenatal development and is recommended before and during pregnancy. But far less is known about its role after birth.

The issue caught the attention of Frye and others more than 20 years ago, when research suggested some people with autism had low levels of folate in the brain due to antibodies blocking the vitamin's absorption.

The theory linking autism to folate levels was mostly abandoned, however, after research showed that the siblings of people with autism can also have low folates without any symptoms of the condition.

"I honestly thought this had died out as a theory for autism and was shocked to see its reemergence," Mandell said.

In 2018, Frye and his colleagues published a study of 48 children in which those taking leucovorin performed better on several language measures than those taking a placebo.

Four small studies in other countries, including China and Iran, showed similar results, albeit using different doses, metrics and statistical analyses, which researchers say is problematic.

Frye struggled to get funding to continue within the traditional academic system.

"I decided to move out of academia to be more innovative and actually do some of this stuff," he said.

Researchers saw an opening to approach Trump's top health officials

Earlier this year, Frye and several other researchers formed a new entity, the Autism Discovery Coalition, to pitch their work to Trump administration officials including Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

"After Kennedy got in, we thought they'd hopefully be friendly to autism scientists," he said.

An August meeting with National Institutes of Health Director Jay Bhattacharya quickly led to further discussions with the Food and Drug Administration about testing a proprietary, purified version of leucovorin.

A new formulation of the decades-old drug would mean new patents, allowing Frye and his yet-to-be-formed drug company to charge far more than the cheap generics currently on the market.

"We have a lot of investors who are excited about leucovorin and want to do something high quality for kids with autism," he said.

But the FDA's announcement Monday may have scuttled that plan. Instead of previewing a new version, the agency said it would simply update the label on the generic drug to mention use in boosting folate brain levels, including for patients with autism. That's expected to encourage more doctors to prescribe it and insurers to cover it.

Promising autism treatments often fail after more study

Specialists who have spent decades treating autistic patients say it's important to proceed carefully.

Gray recalls other experimental treatments that initially looked promising only to fail in larger studies.

"Small studies often find populations that are very motivated," Gray said. "But when those therapies are moved into larger studies, the initial positive findings often disappear."

Among the challenges facing leucovorin: There isn't agreement about what portion of autism patients have the folate-blocking antibodies supposedly targeted by the drug.

Frye screens his patients for the antibodies using a test developed at a laboratory at the State University of New York. Like many specialty tests, it has not been reviewed by the FDA.

Gray says the only way to definitively test for the antibodies would be by extracting cranial fluid from children with autism through a spinal tap.

"That's a big limiting factor in having these large, randomized controlled trials," Gray said.

Online sources are driving interest from parents

While the Trump administration discusses fast-tracking leucovorin, interest in the drug continues to swirl online, including in forums and social media groups for parents of children with autism.

Brian Noonan, of Phoenix, found out about the drug earlier this year after asking ChatGPT for the best autism drug options for his 4-year-old son.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 45 of 54

The FDA has never approved any drug for the underlying causes of autism, but the chatbot directed Noonan to Frye's research.

After an evaluation and confirmatory blood test, the boy started on a formulation of the drug from a compounding pharmacy in June.

Within days, Noonan says, he saw improvement in his son's ability to make eye contact and form sentences.

"He's not cured, but these are just areas of improvement," Noonan said. "It's been a big thing for us."

## Iran's president blasts US, Israeli attacks for dealing 'grievous blow' to peace as sanctions loom

By FARNOUSH AMIRI and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Addressing the world's leaders, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Wednesday blamed the United States and Israeli attacks for "dealing a grievous blow" to peace negotiations as Tehran braces for the reinstatement of sanctions in the next week, barring a last-minute diplomatic breakthrough. Hours before his speech, Iran's rial currency fell to a new all-time low.

Pezeshkian's remarks before the U.N. General Assembly are the first in a global forum since the 12-day Israel-Iran war over the summer that saw the assassination of many of the Islamic Republic's highest military and political leaders and broke down weeks of negotiations with the United States.

"Ladies and gentlemen, you all bore witness that this past June, my country was subjected to a savage aggression and flagrant contravention of the most elementary principles of international law," said the president, who, within Iran's political landscape, is considered a moderate politician.

Pezeshkian is in New York as Tehran seeks to engage in last-minute talks with European nations to stop the coming reimposition of U.N. sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program. But before even landing in the U.S., any diplomatic efforts planned by Pezeshkian and Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, were overshadowed when Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei rejected any direct nuclear talks with America in a speech on Tuesday.

"The U.S. has announced the results of the talks in advance," he said. "The result is the closure of nuclear activities and enrichment. This is not a negotiation. It is a diktat, an imposition."

A deadline is coming for sanctions to resume

France, Germany and the United Kingdom triggered the so-called "snapback mechanism" to reinstate sanctions — barring a last-minute accord — over Iran's failure to comply with conditions of a 2015 nuclear deal aimed at preventing Tehran from developing nuclear weapons.

"Snapback" was designed to be veto-proof at the U.N. It started a 30-day window for the resumption of sanctions, which ends Sunday, unless the West and Iran reach a diplomatic agreement.

European nations have said that they would be willing to extend the deadline if Iran resumes direct negotiations with the U.S. over its nuclear program, allows U.N. nuclear inspectors access to its nuclear sites, and accounts for the more than 400 kilograms (880 pounds) of highly enriched uranium that the U.N. watchdog says it has. Iran is the only nation in the world that enriches uranium up to 60% — a short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels — that doesn't have a weapons program.

A European diplomat said that the talks in New York between Araghchi and the E3 "did not produce any new developments, any new results." Therefore, European sources "expect that the snapback procedure will continue as planned."

Pezeshkian used his U.N. speech to criticize the E3 for having operated in "bad faith" for years to dictate Iranian compliance with a deal that the U.S. abandoned in 2018. "They falsely presented themselves as parties of good standing to the agreement, and they disparaged Iran's sincere efforts as insufficient," he said.

If no diplomatic deal is found this week, the sanctions will automatically "snapback" on Sunday. That would again freeze Iranian assets abroad, halt arms deals with Tehran and penalize any development of

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 46 of 54

Iran's ballistic missile program, among other measures, further squeezing the country's reeling economy.

Nuclear maneuvering continues

Earlier this month, the U.N. nuclear watchdog and Iran signed an agreement mediated by Egypt to pave the way for resuming cooperation, including on ways of relaunching inspections of Iran's nuclear facilities. However, that agreement has yet to fully take hold.

In July, Pezeshkian had signed a law adopted by his country's parliament suspending all cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency. That followed Israel's 12-day war with Iran in June, during which Israel and the U.S. bombed Iranian nuclear sites.

Iran has long insisted its program is peaceful, though Western nations and the Vienna-based IAEA assess that Tehran had an active nuclear weapons program until 2003. Khamenei again said Tuesday that Iran doesn't seek atomic bombs.

However, he added, "Science will not be demolished by threats and bombing."

Iran's economy reels in anticipation

Iran's rial currency fell to a new all-time low on Wednesday, reaching 1,074,000 to the U.S. dollar just before Pezeshkian took the rostrum at the U.N. The country's frail economy has been wrecked by international sanctions, corruption and years of mismanagement.

The June war also shut down Tehran's stock market and currency exchange shops, pausing a collapse of the currency. Back in 2015, when Iran reached its nuclear deal with world powers, the rial traded at 32,000 to \$1.

The economy has sparked unrest in the past. After state-set gasoline prices rose in 2019, protests spread across some 100 cities and towns, with gas stations and banks being burned down.

## Ryder Cup has power to divide -- or unite -- during fraught and fragile time in the US

By EDDIE PELLIS AP National Writer

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Often sports, at their best, are the purest form of competition. They offer a chance to pick winners and losers in showdowns between rival teams, countries, sometimes even worldviews, in an arena where the games are played for high stakes but, ultimately, not for life and death.

This week's Ryder Cup is an example of that.

It's the biennial U.S. vs. Europe matchup on the golf course — an affair that has grown more contentious, occasionally uncomfortable and at times alarmingly petty over the past four decades.

This year's edition has the added intrigue of being played in front of what is historically one of golf's most bombastic and least-forgiving crowds that will converge at the country's toughest public course — Bethpage Black on Long Island. Adding to the mix, none other than President Donald Trump is set to be on hand for Day 1, just days after telling many European leaders their countries were "going to hell."

As much as teasing out Scottie Scheffler's chances against the fan favorite-turned-loyal opposition Rory McIlroy, one of the biggest challenges heading into these matches is figuring whether golf might have the power to unite a divided country.

Could it give Americans — or its sports fans, at least — a break in the nonstop news cycle that has made the country feel all the more fraught and fragile since the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk earlier this month?

Could it bring Democrats and Republicans together to scour the daily pairings and root for nothing more than a few made putts by the guys in red, white and blue?

And if it accomplishes any of that, how will McIlroy — along with another gallery favorite, Tommy Fleetwood — and 10 teammates from Europe bear the brunt of this newfound (if only temporary) unity?

An individual sport for 51 weeks every year

For 51 weeks in a typical year, the dividing lines at the highest level of pro golf are not about countries or continents.

This dynamic took a complicated twist four years ago when investors from Saudi Arabia piled billions

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 47 of 54

into a breakaway league, LIV Golf, that fractured and forever changed this game.

Back then, McIlroy, from Northern Ireland, was considered the good guy by lovers of the status quo because he refused to abandon the PGA Tour.

Bryson DeChambeau, from California, was viewed differently because he left for LIV.

A few years passed, both players won majors — McIlroy completed his career grand slam by capturing the Masters — and their reputations shifted.

McIlroy was perceived as more aloof while DeChambeau opened a new trove of fan worship by establishing himself as an entertaining fixture on YouTube.

More recently, they've been exchanging barbs in the press, the freshest of which was McIlroy telling The Guardian: "To get attention he will mention me or Scottie (Scheffler) or others."

Those trends would seem to line up perfectly for an "Us vs. Them" storyline in New York: the growingly detached European against the American golfing everyman.

But how to handicap the reaction for, say, Fleetwood or Patrick Cantlay?

Five short weeks ago, American golf fans rejoiced when Fleetwood, the hard-luck Brit known as "Fairway Jesus" for his flowing locks of brown hair, broke through for his first PGA Tour win and the \$10 million prize that went with it at the Tour Championship.

Among those he held off was Cantlay, an American who goes around the course in relative peace these days.

Things haven't quite been the same for him since two years ago, when his decision not to wear a "USA" hat at the Ryder Cup was speciously portrayed as a protest for not being paid to play in the event. Cantlay insisted — then and now — the hat simply didn't fit.

Asked about it this week, Cantlay said "I think we need to put 100% of our focus on playing the best golf we can and let the noise be exactly what it is, just noise."

U.S. vs. Europe creates easy-to-figure dividing lines

There has always been plenty of noise.

Their pasts aside, if this Ryder Cup is like many recent versions, the Americans, even Cantlay, will be treated like the beloved home team. And the Europeans, even Fleetwood, will be treated with polite disregard.

That would be under the best of circumstances.

European captain Sam Torrance called the American green-storming celebration during the 1999 comeback at Brookline "the most disgusting thing I've ever seen in my life."

Eight years before that, bickering and bad feelings infiltrated a tight U.S. victory in what was billed, however unfittingly, as the "War on the Shore," while the country was on a high after wrapping up the Gulf War in Iraq.

Just two years ago, McIlroy and Cantlay's caddie, Joe LaCava, got into a shouting match on the 18th green that led to McIlroy having to be restrained when another American caddie, Jim "Bones" Mackay, tried to smooth things over. That became a rallying cry for a European win in Rome.

Now the stage is New York, and it brings potential for all sorts of reactions. Bethpage Black is the course where a former European stalwart, Sergio Garcia, flipped off heckling fans at the U.S. Open in 2002.

Jerry Tarde, the longtime Golf Digest editor-in-chief, tells of spearheading a "Be Nice to Monty" campaign ahead of that same U.S. Open. Monty is Colin Montgomerie, the tart Scotsman and one-time Ryder Cup regular who was routinely brutalized by American crowds, taking on nicknames like "Mrs. Doubtfire" and worse.

By 2006, Tarde says, the campaign had worked and "Monty" had become a folk hero of sorts — his double bogey on 18 at another New York course, Winged Foot, eliciting groans, not jeers, from the crowd as he squandered a chance to win the U.S. Open.

"Rory and Tommy are different," Tarde said. "They're already heroes, in Europe and America. Despite some drunken outliers, I think they'll get fair treatment here."

U.S. plays for country, Europe for an idea

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 48 of 54

In maybe the strangest twist of all, it's the Europeans — players representing not a single country but a conglomeration of them that are struggling to absorb the U.S.'s changing role in the international hierarchy — who have better adapted to the Us vs. Them ethos that overtakes golf every two years.

Europe is 13-6-1 in the Ryder Cup since 1985. The momentum took off with a push from the great Spanish champion, Seve Ballesteros.

To Americans, who loved him as much as anyone during a normal week, Ballesteros stood too close to his opponents, coughed too loudly while they hit, celebrated too hard when he won.

To Europeans, he is everything. Ballesteros died in 2011, but Team Europe has made a point of placing his likeness on team uniforms, plastering it in its locker rooms and conjuring memories to keep his spirit alive.

McIlroy might have best embodied that spirit four years ago at Whistling Straits, when he cried toward the end of a rare European blowout loss.

"I have never really cried or got emotional over what I've done as an individual. I couldn't give a (expletive)," he said.

But the Ryder Cup, he said, means more than that.

It will mean something more — or something different, at least — over three days at unforgiving Bethpage Black.

## **The economy was a strength for Trump in his first term. Not anymore, according to recent polling**

By LINLEY SANDERS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's second-term strengths look different from his first, according to recent polling.

Once strengthened by economic issues, Trump's approval is now relatively low on the economy and he's leaning on his stronger issues of crime, border security and immigration. Concerns about the economy and immigration helped propel him to the White House, but polling over the past year shows that Americans' faith in the Republican president's handling of the economy is low, particularly among independents, and his approval on immigration has fallen slightly.

Now, Trump's strongest issues are border security and crime, but there were signs of potential weakness on crime in the most recent poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

At the same time, Trump's overall approval has been fairly steady in AP-NORC polling since the beginning of his second term in January. This month, 39% of U.S. adults approve of how Trump is handling his job as president, which is back in line with his average approval rating after a slight uptick in August. There was a similar pattern during his first White House term, when his approval stayed within a narrow range.

Here are the issues on which he's been strongest and weakest in his second term:

Trump's biggest strengths are border security and crime

Trump has turned border security into a strength of his second term, a sharp reversal from his first term in office.

Most U.S. adults approve of Trump's approach to border security, according to the poll. He gets higher marks on that than on his handling of the presidency overall or other issues that had previously been top strengths, including immigration and crime. This has also emerged as a unique strength of his second term. Only about 4 in 10 U.S. adults approved of Trump's approach to border security in 2019, during which time Trump was focused on securing money for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

His approval on immigration is slightly lower than it was early in his second term, but it remains a bit higher than his overall job approval.

In March, about half of U.S. adults approved of his handling of immigration. The most recent measure found his approval on immigration at 43%, a tick higher than his overall approval rating.

Even with the slight dip, immigration remains a strength in a way it was not in his first term, when closer to 4 in 10 U.S. adults approved of his immigration approach. When he started his second term, it was about half who approved.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 49 of 54

Trump has taken steps to deport immigrants who are living in the United States illegally, and the recent poll finds a sizable share of Americans — about half — say Trump has “gone too far” in pursuit of that goal. That is roughly the same share as held that stance in a poll conducted in April.

His approval on how he is handling crime is down slightly to 46%, after reaching 53% in August as he deployed the National Guard in the District of Columbia. But that still exceeds his overall job approval, and it also is an advantage among certain groups such as independents. About 4 in 10 independents approve of Trump’s approach to crime, compared with 25% who approve of his approach to the presidency overall.

Trump is weaker on the economy with independents

The economy is often a fraught point for presidents, and there are indications that Americans continue to be concerned about the country’s economic state.

Just 37% of U.S. adults approve of Trump’s handling of the economy. That is down slightly from August, when 43% approved, but broadly in line with his overall approval.

The economy is a particularly weak issue for Trump among independents. Only about 2 in 10 independents approve of how Trump is handling the economy, much lower than the share who approve of his handling of border security and crime.

In Trump’s first term, closer to half of U.S. adults approved of his handling of the economy. This height of his success on this issue came at the beginning of 2020, right before the COVID-19 pandemic sparked an economic downturn.

His approval on this issue varied throughout the pandemic, and about half of U.S. adults approved of his economic approach just before he lost the 2020 presidential election. At that point, however, more were more worried about the coronavirus pandemic than the economy. His approval has been consistently lower in his second term. When he came into office, only about 4 in 10 approved of how he handled the economy.

Trump’s lowest issues among Republicans: Trade and health care

About 7 in 10 Republicans approve of Trump’s approach to trade negotiations with other countries and health care, marking the lowest issue ratings among his base. While he has a majority approval among Republicans on those issues, it falls short of his much higher approvals on topics such as border security and crime.

Overall, U.S. adults are not thrilled about how he is handling these issues, either. Only about one-third approve of how Trump is handling either trade negotiations with other countries or health care. These have been steadily low in recent AP-NORC polls but roughly track with Trump’s overall approval. They were also similarly low in his first term.

About 6 in 10 U.S. adults say Trump has “gone too far” when it comes to imposing new tariffs on other countries. That includes about 9 in 10 Democrats but also roughly 6 in 10 independents and 3 in 10 Republicans. Very few people, including Republicans, want Trump to go further on imposing tariffs.

Trump is earning lower marks on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Some 37% of U.S. adults approve of the way Trump is handling the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians, down from the 44% who approved in March.

Slightly fewer Republicans approve of how Trump is handling the conflict — 72%, compared with 82% of Republicans who approved of the way Trump was handling the issue in March. Democrats are also slightly less likely to approve: 9% now, down from 14% in March.

Despite this, Trump’s approval on foreign policy has been steady. About 4 in 10 U.S. adults approve, in line with April.

## Europe has a Russian drone problem. Here are ways it could be solved

By EMMA BURROWS AP European Security Correspondent

VINSKI, Estonia (AP) — Estonia is extending a fence along its border with Russia and building anti-tank ditches and bunkers in preparation for a potential conflict with Moscow. But those defenses won’t guard against the threat that Estonia and its NATO allies face from Russian drones and electronic warfare.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 50 of 54

From the Baltics to the Black Sea, countries bordering Russia, Belarus and Ukraine are facing the spillover from Moscow's war in Ukraine.

The incursion of about 20 Russian drones into Poland this month shone a spotlight on holes in NATO's air defenses, as multimillion-dollar jets had to be scrambled to respond to drones that cost thousands and that ended up crashing into the Polish countryside. Russia denied that it targeted Poland, but Polish officials suggested that it was intentional.

Faced with a growing problem, some European Union defense ministers will meet Friday to discuss creating a "drone wall."

NATO warned Russia on Tuesday that it would defend against any further breaches of its airspace, after Estonia said that Russian fighter jets violated it last week. But although the alliance knows how to identify threats from jets and missiles, dealing with drones is a greater challenge, officials said.

In Poland, "most of the drones were not detected," Estonian Defense Minister Hanno Pevkur said. "This is a real gap we have to solve."

Military and defense officials from the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — NATO and EU members that border Russia — told The Associated Press that defending against drones requires solving a complex set of technological, financial and bureaucratic problems.

Europe needs cheaper technology to buy and to speed up slow production and procurement cycles, they said. But even then, drone technology is advancing so quickly that anything bought now could be outdated in months.

"What I need," said Lt. General Andrus Merilo, who commands Estonia's military, is technology that is "good enough, it's affordable and can be produced in mass."

"I don't need high-end capabilities of which I can fire only one, against targets which will be attacking in hundreds," he said.

## Europe's drone challenge

Russia is using drones every night in Ukraine, because each drone is a "lottery ticket that always wins," said Kusti Salm, a former top official at Estonia's Defense Ministry.

That's because a drone either hits something or, if Ukraine shoots it down with a missile, it drains Kyiv's air defenses and finances, since missiles are more expensive than drones, said Salm who now runs Frankenburg Technologies, a company developing low-cost anti-drone missiles.

Although NATO countries have a "very good understanding" of how to defend against conventional threats such as missiles and planes, they need to rapidly improve at dealing with drone threats, said Tomas Godliauskas, Lithuania's vice-minister of national defense.

When the Russian drones flew into Poland, NATO nations deployed fighter jets and attack helicopters and put missile defense systems on alert. But none of those options was specifically designed for drone warfare.

Although Russia and Ukraine have been firing more and more drones at each other, there has been less investment in counter-drone systems, Salm said. He suggested that's partly because it's easier to get a drone to fly than it is to develop something to detect or intercept it.

Slow, low-flying drones made from wood, fiberglass, plastic or polystyrene might not be detected by radar systems searching for a fast-moving missile made of metal, or they might look like birds or a plane. Enemy operatives can also bypass defenses by launching drones from inside a country, as Ukraine did to devastating effect when it attacked Russian airfields this year.

There are also other technological hurdles, including trying to jam the enemy's drones and communications without cutting your own, Merilo said.

## Multiple drone incidents

In August, a Ukrainian drone — possibly sent off course by Russian electronic jamming — landed in a field in southeastern Estonia. It crashed because the military wasn't capable of detecting it, Merilo said.

The Estonian military and border force have also lost drones — used for surveillance and to stop illegal border crossings — to Russian jamming, which has also been blamed for disrupting flights.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 51 of 54

Other drones have crashed in Romania, Moldova, Lithuania and Latvia, and there have been multiple unidentified drone sightings over military facilities and airports in Europe, including in Germany, the U.K., Norway and Denmark, where air traffic was halted for several hours at Copenhagen Airport on Monday.

The number of incidents shows that Europe needs to solve its drone problem "right now," said Col. Māris Tūtins, head of information analysis and operations at Latvia's Joint Forces Headquarters.

## Drone wall

There is growing support among European leaders for establishing some sort of drone wall along the EU's eastern border, though the 27-nation bloc in March denied funding to a joint Estonia-Lithuania proposal to establish one.

The EU needs to prioritize funding for the project, Pevkur said. But although support for the idea is growing, actually creating a drone defense system won't be easy.

"Drones are not mosquitoes," the Estonian defense minister said, suggesting that they would be unlikely to be zapped by an "electronic wall" along NATO's borders.

There are many types of drones, including those used for intelligence and reconnaissance, that fly at high altitude, that are used in attacks or that even remain attached to a thin fiber-optic cable while flying, making them impossible to jam. Russia also uses decoy drones in Ukraine that carry no payload and are designed to exhaust air defenses.

Any plan to defend against drones needs a multilayered approach, including sensors, "electronic warfare ... also low-cost small missiles or attack drones," Merilo said.

## Need for cheaper and more plentiful technology

Although the need for better drone defenses isn't new, it's still largely only possible to buy systems that are "really expensive," take a long time to develop and can't be mass-produced, Merilo said.

He suggested that's partly because big defense companies that have spent decades developing billion-dollar air defense systems might not want something new — and cheaper — on the market.

"We have to understand this game," Merilo said, adding that some technology does exist, but "the question is who — and how fast they can start producing."

Facing nightly onslaughts, Ukraine is rapidly developing its own technology, including long-range attack drones and smaller ones for use on the front lines.

While big defense companies play a critical role in the defense of Europe, Latvia and some other NATO countries have turned to smaller companies — such as Salm's Frankenburg — to acquire its small anti-drone missiles once they're in production.

But a piecemeal approach isn't ideal, Salm said. Instead, the EU needs to invest more in European start-ups, which can turbocharge drone defense production that can be used by allies across different weapons systems, he said.

Europe needs to switch to "semi-wartime thinking" and foster greater collaboration between the military, government and defense industries to be able to fill its technology gap, Godliauskas said.

In Ukraine, it's sometimes only a matter of weeks between drone technology being developed and used on the battlefield. Europe "doesn't have time" to spend years waiting to acquire equipment, the Lithuanian official said.

Another lesson from Ukraine is that what works today, might not work tomorrow, Godliauskas said.

While drone defense is critical now, it would be wrong to forget about everything else, Tūtins said. That's because Moscow is using "all means possible" to destabilize Europe, including hybrid warfare and cyberattacks, he said.

## What to know about Typhoon Ragasa, the strongest storm of the year

By SIMINA MISTREANU Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Known as the strongest storm of the year in the world, Typhoon Ragasa churned through parts of the Western Pacific and slammed into southern China, whipping massive waves, triggering

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 52 of 54

floods and leaving at least 27 dead in its wake in Taiwan and the Philippines.

The typhoon was moving west across southern China toward Vietnam after touching down on Hailing Island in southern Guangdong province on Wednesday afternoon. It earlier registered maximum gusts of 241 kph (150 mph) in the city of Jiangmen.

Here are some key facts about the typhoon, dubbed the "King of Storms" by China's meteorological agency:

A super typhoon began over the Western Pacific

As it formed over Micronesia in the Western Pacific earlier this month, Ragasa rolled over unusually warm ocean waters, gathering strength. By Monday, it had been labeled a super typhoon, packing maximum sustained winds of 265 kph (165 mph).

Meteorologists classify tropical cyclones in the Western Pacific based on their maximum sustained wind speeds. Once they reach at least 119 kph (74 mph), the storms are labeled typhoons. Super typhoons pack one-minute sustained winds of at least 241 kph (150 mph), according to the U.S. Navy meteorologists' system. The criteria vary slightly based on the country.

On Wednesday afternoon, Hong Kong weather authorities downgraded Ragasa from a super typhoon to a severe typhoon. By then, the storm was registering maximum sustained winds of 175 kph (109 mph) near its center. It was expected to continue to weaken as it advanced into southern China.

The typhoon led to a deadly lake burst in Taiwan

Before reaching Hong Kong, Ragasa had brought devastation to parts of Taiwan and the Philippines.

In Taiwan's eastern Hualien County, the typhoon caused a barrier lake to burst its banks, sending water gushing into nearby Guangfu township. Muddy torrents destroyed a bridge, turning the roads in Guangfu into churning rivers that carried vehicles and furniture away.

At least 17 people died in the floods, with authorities searching for another 17.

More than half the township's roughly 8,450 people sought safety on higher floors of their homes or on higher ground on Wednesday morning, according to local media.

In the northern Philippines, seven fishermen drowned after their boat was battered by huge waves and fierce wind and flipped over on Monday off Santa Ana town in northern Cagayan province. At least three other people died in the region, and five other fishermen remained missing, provincial officials said.

The 'King of Storms' displaced nearly 2 million in China

In China, the typhoon led to nearly 1.9 million people being evacuated in southern Guangdong province. Schools, factories and transportation services were shut down in about a dozen cities.

In the financial hub of Hong Kong, at least 80 people were injured as the typhoon's massive winds knocked down hundreds of trees. At least 700 flights were canceled.

A video showed water bursting through the doors of an oceanside hotel, sweeping patrons off their feet.

## Is AI a threat to jobs? A 'Tomb Raider' affair poses the question

By JOHN LEICESTER and NICOLAS GARRIGA Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A lifelong fan of "Tomb Raider," French gamer Romain Bos was on tenterhooks when an update of the popular video game went online in August.

But his excitement quickly turned to anger.

The gamer's ears — and those of other "Tomb Raider" fans — picked up something amiss with the French-language voice of Lara Croft, the game's protagonist.

It sounded robotic, lifeless even — shorn of the warmth, grace and believability that French voice actor Françoise Cadol has given to Croft since she started playing the character in 1996.

Gamers and Cadol herself came to the same conclusion: A machine had cloned her voice and replaced her. "It's pathetic," says Cadol, who straight away called her lawyer. "My voice belongs to me. You have no right to do that."

"It was absolutely scandalous," says Bos. "It was artificial intelligence."

AI encroaching 'everywhere'



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 53 of 54

Aspyr, the game developer based in Austin, Texas, didn't respond to e-mailed questions from The Associated Press. But it acknowledged in a post last week on its website that what it described as "unauthorized AI generated content" had been incorporated into its Aug. 14 update of "Tomb Raider IV-VI Remastered" that angered fans.

"We've addressed this issue by removing all AI voiceover content," Aspyr's post said. "We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused."

Still, the affair has triggered alarms in the voiceover community, with campaigners saying it's a sobering example of dangers that AI poses to human workers and their jobs.

"If we can replace actors, we'll be able to replace accountants, and a whole range of other professions that could also be automated," says Patrick Kuban, a French-language voice actor who is also a co-president of United Voice Artists, an international federation of voiceover artists.

"So we need to ask ourselves the right questions: How far should we go, and how do we regulate these machines?"

Hollywood has seen similar concerns, with video game performers striking for 11 months for a new contract this year that included AI guardrails.

"This is happening pretty much everywhere. We're getting alerts from all over the world — from Brazil to Taiwan," Kuban said in an Associated Press interview.

"Actors' voices are being captured, either to create voice clones — not perfect ones — but for illicit use on social media by individuals, since there are now many apps for making audio deepfakes," Kuban said.

"These voices are also being used by content producers who aren't necessarily in the same country," he said. "So it's very difficult for actors to reclaim control over their voices, to block these uses."

Cadol's 'Voice Guardians'

Cadol says that within minutes of the release of the "Tomb Raider" update, her phone began erupting with messages, emails and social media notifications from upset fans.

"I took a look and I saw all this emotion — anger, sadness, confusion. And that's how I found out that my voice had been cloned," she said in an AP interview.

Cadol says 12 years of recording French-language voiceovers for Lara Croft — from 1996 to 2008 — built an intimate bond with her fans. She calls them the "guardians" of her work.

Once the initial shock subsided, she resolved to fight back. Her Paris lawyer, Jonathan Elkaim, is seeking an apology from Aspyr and financial redress.

Grammar error

In the update, new chunks of voiceover appear to have been added to genuine recordings that Cadol says she made years ago.

Most notably, fans picked up on one particularly awkward segment. In it, a voice instructs players how to use their game controllers to make Lara Croft climb onto an obstacle, intoning in French: "Place toi devant et appuyez sur avancer" — Stand in front and press 'advance.'

Not only does it sound clunky but it also rings as grammatically incorrect to French speakers — mixing up the polite and less polite forms of language that they use, depending on who they're addressing.

Gamers were up in arms. Bos posted a video on his YouTube channel that same evening, lamenting: "It's half Françoise Cadol, half AI. It's horrible ! Why have they done that?"

"I was really disgusted," the 34-year-old said in an AP interview. "I grew up with Françoise Cadol's voice. I've been a 'Tomb Raider' fan since I was young kid."

"Lara Croft is a bit — how should I say — a bit sarcastic at times in some of her lines. And I think Françoise played that very, very well," he said.

"That's exactly why now is the time to set boundaries," he added. "It's so that future generations also have the chance to experience talented actors."

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 113 ~ 54 of 54

## Today in History: September 25

### Military escorts Little Rock Nine into Central High

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Thursday, Sept. 25, the 268th day of 2025. There are 97 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 25, 1957, nine Black students who had been forced to withdraw from Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, because of unruly white crowds were escorted to class by members of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division and the National Guard.

Also on this date:

In 1513, Spanish explorer Vasco Nunez de Balboa crossed the Isthmus of Panama and sighted the Pacific Ocean.

In 1789, the first United States Congress adopted 12 amendments to the Constitution and sent them to the states for ratification. (Ten of the amendments became the Bill of Rights.)

In 1956, the first trans-Atlantic telephone cable officially went into service with a three-way ceremonial call between New York, Ottawa and London.

In 1978, 144 people were killed when a Pacific Southwest Airlines Boeing 727 and a private plane collided over San Diego.

In 2005, in the presence of disarmament observers, the Irish Republican Army decommissioned its arsenal of weapons, officially ending a 36-year armed campaign for a unified Irish state.

In 2012, President Barack Obama, speaking to the U.N. General Assembly, pledged U.S. support for Syrians trying to oust President Bashar Assad, calling him "a dictator who massacres his own people."

In 2013, skipper Jimmy Spithill and Oracle Team USA won the America's Cup with one of the greatest comebacks in sports history, speeding past Dean Barker and Emirates Team New Zealand in the winner-take-all Race 19 on San Francisco Bay.

In 2018, Bill Cosby was sentenced to three-to-10 years in prison for drugging and molesting a woman at his suburban Philadelphia home. (After serving nearly three years, Cosby went free in June 2021 after the Pennsylvania Supreme Court overturned his conviction.)

Today's Birthdays: Basketball Hall of Famer Hubie Brown is 92. Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates is 82. Actor-producer Michael Douglas is 81. Model Cheryl Tiegs is 78. Actor Mimi Kennedy is 77. Film director Pedro Almodovar is 76. Actor-director Anson Williams is 76. Actor Mark Hamill is 74. Basketball Hall of Famer Bob McAdoo is 74. Actor Heather Locklear is 64. Actor Aida Turturro is 63. Actor Tate Donovan is 62. Actor Maria Doyle Kennedy is 61. Basketball Hall of Famer Scottie Pippen is 60. Actor Will Smith is 57. Actor Catherine Zeta-Jones is 56. Football Hall of Famer John Lynch is 54. Basketball Hall of Famer Chauncey Billups is 49. Actor Clea DuVall is 48. Rapper T.I. is 45. Actor-rapper Donald Glover (Childish Gambino) is 42. Actor Zach Woods is 41. Actor Jordan Gavaris is 36. Actor Leah Jeffries is 16.