

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 1 of 103**

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- We the People Column: With Insufficient Resistance, Trump Overtaking Checks and Balances at Rapid Pace](#)
- [3- C/JV Sponsors for M/P VB Match](#)
- [3- This week in Tiger Sports](#)
- [4- Tigers Take Four Wins and Runner-Up Finish at Redfield Tournament](#)
- [10- Groton Chamber Ad](#)
- [11- Wolves Football falls to Bemidji State in October opener](#)
- [12- Mobridge/Pollock Volleyball Info](#)
- [13- Sunday Extras](#)
- [31- Gov. Rhoden's Weekly Column](#)
- [32- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column](#)
- [33- Rep. Dusty Johnson's Weekly Column](#)
- [34- Rev. Snyder's Column](#)
- [36- South Dakota Average Gas Prices](#)
- [37- Drought Monitor](#)
- [38- EarthTalk - lab-based cultivation](#)
- [39- SD SearchLight: South Dakota Gov. Larry Rhoden issues 65 pardons, one commutation since taking office](#)
- [41- Weather Pages](#)
- [45- Daily Devotional](#)
- [46- Subscription Form](#)
- [47- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [48- Upcoming Groton Events](#)
- [49- News from the Associated Press](#)



## **Sunday, Oct. 5**

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

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

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

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

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

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m. 5th Grade GBB, 4 p.m.

2nd Grade GBB Practice, 4 p.m.

Dance Team Practice, 5 p.m.

## **Monday, Sept. 6**

Senior Menu: Sweet and sour pork, steamed rice, carrot and broccoli medley, corn, honey fruit salad.

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.

School Lunch: Oriental chicken, rice.

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

St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid LWML, 1 p.m.

State Golf Tournament in Vermillion

MS Football vs. Roncalli in Groton (7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.; JV at 6 p.m.)

4th Grade GBB, 4 p.m.

Volleyball hosts Mobridge-Pollock (7th/C @ 4pm, 8th/JV @ 5pm, Varsity @ 6pm)

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

© 2025 Groton Daily Independent

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 2 of 103

## We the People

The South Dakota Humanities Council is making available a weekly column -- "We the People" -- that focuses on the U.S. Constitution. It is written by David Adler, who is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality, and civic education.



By David Adler

### With Insufficient Resistance, Trump Overtaking Checks and Balances at Rapid Pace

President Donald Trump's authoritarian assault on America's constitutional democracy, as unbearable to the naked eye as watching an eclipse, has proceeded at a pace that has shocked academic experts who have spent their careers chronicling the rise of autocratic leaders in foreign nations across the years. By comparison, the entrenchment of authoritarianism in Russia under Putin, Hungary under Orban and Turkey under Erdogan, make those autocrats look like the proverbial tortoise to Trump's hare.

The pace of Trump's trampling of the Constitution, a reflection of insufficient political and institutional resistance, is largely attributable to the demise of checks and balances, seen by the founders of our nation as the backbone of the Constitution, designed to maintain the health, safety and integrity of the republic by pinning the three branches of the government to the terms of the Constitution. Trump's raw usurpation of congressional power, facilitated by abject acquiescence of the GOP majority in Congress, has crumpled the working premise and promise of checks and balances as a critical mechanism for maintaining constitutional accountability. As James Madison explained it in Federalist No. 51, members of Congress would have both the personal and political ambition to defend their powers against executive acts of usurpation. The interest of the man in preserving power, Madison explained, would fit the interest of the place—the institution of Congress—in preserving its power.

GOP congressional leaders, as well as the rank and file, however, have abandoned all semblance of the Madisonian commitment to institutional independence, as manifested in their betrayal of a constitutional duty to defend, for example, the legislative power to tax and spend. Their obeisance to President Trump undermines nearly everything that the framers understood about the capacity, efficacy and resiliency of checks and balances. For traditional conservatives--unlike MAGA loyalists-- who have sported champions, however imperfect, of checks and balances over the years—Robert Taft, William F. Buckley, Barry Goldwater, Howard Baker, John McCain and Alan Simpson— we ask, where have all the statesmen and leaders gone? Those leaders distinguished themselves by their belief in constitutional government and the rule of law.

The doctrine of checks and balances, while not on its death bed, is failing, for lack of GOP stewardship in Congress. Federal courts, on the other hand, have rallied to the defense of the Constitution—enumeration of powers, checks and balances and Article II limitations—and thus done their part to check Trump's usurpations, ruling against him in some 200 cases. These rulings, attentive readers will note, have been rendered by judges appointed by presidents from Reagan to Obama to Trump, who have cast aside politics and partisanship in upholding the rule of law—precisely what the framers expected of a judiciary clothed with independence. The Trump Administration, however, has ignored and flouted many of these rulings, in a flagrant act of contempt for judicial authority and the rule of law. Trump officials' unprecedented public, personal and political attacks on judges, moreover, are true to the authoritarian's creed: the ends justify the means.

Trump's acts of usurpation have been aided by an activist Supreme Court, in thrall to the president. This Court has sucked the bone marrow from historic precedents, sapping their strength and value as a means of restraining the executive in a manner that can only be described as an effort to assist Trump's derangement of separation of powers and checks and balances. Last week, for example, in *Trump v. Slaughter*, the Court ignored a 100-year-old precedent and permitted Trump to fire without cause—in violation of the governing statute—a member of the Federal Trade Commission, thus gutting the independence of the agency.

Authoritarian presidents—Putin, Orban and Erdogan, for example-- are impervious to constitutional

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 3 of 103

principles. Like those autocrats, for whom Trump has expressed admiration and envy, there are only the ends. The means to the ends are irrelevant. This anti-constitutional perspective, which Trump shares, stands in stark contrast to Chief Justice John Marshall's landmark opinion in *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819), in which he explained the sanctity in a constitutional system of legal means to legal ends. Without such prescription, there is no law, but only the will of an authoritarian. *McCulloch* stands for the proposition that government is obligated to adhere to the law of land. For an authoritarian, however, constitutional limitations and restraints are but trifling inconveniences.

*David Adler is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality and civic education. This column is made possible with the support of the South Dakota Humanities Council, South Dakota NewsMedia Association and this newspaper.*

Groton  
Area  
Tigers  
Groton, SD

# GDILIVE

 YouTube

A production of the  
**Groton Daily Independent**

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





Anyone interested in sponsoring the  
C and/or JV match with  
Mobridge-Pollock's volleyball match  
on [GDILIVE.COM](http://GDILIVE.COM)?

Text Paul at 605-397-7460  
\$25 per match



## This Week in Tiger Sports:

### Monday, the 6th:

- STATE A Golf @ The Bluffs in Vermillion
- Volleyball vs. Mobridge/Pollock (7th/C @ 4pm, 8th/JV @ 5pm, Varsity @ 6pm)
- JH FB vs. Roncalli (7th grade @ 4pm, 8th grade @ 5pm)
- JV FB vs. Roncalli (6pm)

### Tuesday, the 7th:

Soccer Playoffs in Groton:

- Boys vs. Belle Fourche @ 3pm
- Girls vs. West Central @ 5pm (could be earlier)

### Thursday, the 9th:

- NEC Cross Country @ Webster (1pm)

### Friday, the 10th:

- JV Football vs. Sisseton @ Langford (7pm)

### Saturday, the 11th:

- Second Round Soccer Playoffs (TBD)
- JH VB @ Warner Tournament

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 4 of 103

## Tigers Take Four Wins and Runner-Up Finish at Redfield Tournament

The Groton Area Tigers volleyball team put together a strong performance at the Redfield Tournament, winning four of five matches and finishing as tournament runners-up after a hard-fought championship match against Northwestern.

### Groton Area Sweeps Redfield

Groton opened the day with a steady two-set win over Redfield, taking the match 25-19 and 25-18.

Jaedyn Penning led the Tigers with 7 kills on 18-of-21 hitting and 3 service aces. Chesney Weber was perfect at the net with 6 kills on 12-of-12 hitting and handed out 16 assists. Rylee Dunker added 7 kills, Taryn Traphagen chipped in 4 kills with a solo block, and Tevan Hanson finished with 3 kills and a block assist.

The Tigers were sharp at the service line, going 46-of-49 with 5 aces, and hit 65-of-80 with 27 kills as a team.

Coach Chelsea Hanson said the team's energy wasn't at full strength to start the day, but she was pleased to see them secure the win and get an early look at a future opponent.

"It was an okay start — not super energetic," Hanson said. "But overall we got a win, so that was good. Obviously we don't see them until later in the season, so it's nice to get a chance to see what they're doing earlier in the season before we have to play them in a conference game that matters."

Redfield was led by Hayden Gall with 3 kills and a block, and Kinley Smith added 2 kills and a service ace.

### vs. Redfield

Player	Serving	Hitting	Assists	Digs	Blocks
J. Penning	10/12, 3 aces	18/21, 7 kills		3	
T. Wright	10/10, 1 ace		4	2	
C. Weber	6/6	12/12, 6 kills	16	7	
S. Locke	5/5			9	
J. Locke	6/6		1	9	
M. Tietz	9/10, 1 ace		1	4	
R. Dunker		12/15, 7 kills			1 assist
T. Hanson		10/15, 3 kills	1	2	1 assist
T. Traphagen		7/9, 4 kills		1	1 solo, 1 assist
K. Tracy		6/8, 0 kills		3	1 assist

### Team Totals:

Serving – 46/49, 5 aces

Hitting – 65/80, 27 kills

Assists – 23

Digs – 40

Blocks – 3 total



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 5 of 103

## Tigers Outlast North Central in Three Sets

In their second match, Groton held off North Central in a hard-fought three-set battle, winning 25-20, 15-25, 25-11.

The first set was tightly contested, featuring six ties. North Central held an early 6-5 lead before Groton seized momentum with a six-point run to make it 12-7. The Tigers controlled the rest of the set, closing it out 25-20.

North Central struck back in the second set, jumping out to a 3-0 lead and stretching it to 16-8, then 22-11, before taking the set 25-15. But the Tigers came out firing in the third set, racing to a 6-0 start and leading 10-1 on their way to a dominant 25-11 win. Chesney Weber and Rylee Dunker provided a defensive spark at the net in the decisive set, teaming up for a pair of assisted blocks that helped shut down the Thunder attack.

Penning paced Groton offensively with 9 kills on 19-of-24 hitting. Weber added 4 kills on 13-of-14 swings and dished out 28 assists, while Dunker was outstanding in the middle with 10 kills on 17-of-19 hitting. Taryn Traphagen chipped in 6 kills with a solo block and 2 block assists. Sydney Locke served a perfect 10-for-10 with an ace and tallied 7 digs.

As a team, Groton was 61-of-64 from the service line with 7 aces and finished with 35 kills on 77-of-96 hitting, 46 digs, and 6 total blocks.

Hanson said the Tigers showed some fatigue from the opener.

"I think we're a little out of gas," Hanson said. "We didn't play well in the first match, and I didn't think we played well in that set either."

She credited her coaching staff for resetting the team's focus between sets.

"All of our coaches know what to say," she explained. "Jenna (Strom) takes stats and she basically tells them how the points are being scored — whether we're scoring for ourselves or for them. If we could clean that up, we'd be just fine."

Hanson added that there was no reason to let the second set slip away.

"There's no reason we should have lost the second set," she said. "We're a better team, we're a stronger team. It is what it is — you're going to have games like that in tournaments sometimes. Obviously, I'm glad to come out with a win. But we're going to have to play better. We play Madison next — that's going to be tough competition."

### vs. North Central

Player	Serving	Hitting	Assists	Digs	Blocks
J. Penning	13/15, 1 ace	19/24, 9 kills		12	2 assists
T. Wright	5/6		3	4	
C. Weber	12/12, 3 aces	13/14, 4 kills	28	8	1 solo, 2 assists
S. Locke	10/10, 1 ace			7	
J. Locke	9/9, 1 ace		2	6	
M. Tietz	8/8 1 ace			2	
R. Dunker	4/4	17/19, 10 kills		1	2 assists
T. Hanson		12/16, 4 kills		1	
T. Traphagen		10/12, 6 kills	1	2	1 solo, 2 assists
K. Tracy		6/11, 2 kills		3	

Team Totals:

Serving — 61/64, 7 aces

Hitting — 77/96, 35 kills

Assists — 34

Digs — 46

Blocks — 6 total

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 6 of 103

## Tigers Rally Past Madison After Dropping Opening Set

The Groton Area Tigers volleyball team showed grit and resilience Thursday afternoon, rallying after a slow start to defeat the Madison Bulldogs in three sets, 19-25, 25-19, 25-21, during tournament play.

Madison came out firing on all cylinders in the opening set. The two teams battled evenly early on, with the set tied eight times before the Bulldogs seized control. Madison broke a 12-12 deadlock with a four-point run to go up 16-12. Groton closed the gap but fell behind again 20-15, and Madison finished strong to take the first set 25-19.

Hanson said she was pleased with how her team responded after that opening set.

"That was a fun game. Madison's a good team. They play a lot of good competition. That's the kind of style of volleyball we need to be playing — being comfortable playing side-out volleyball," Hanson said. "Sometimes when you play teams that you beat 25-10, you get used to scoring six or seven points in a row. Against good teams, you have to be comfortable going point for point."

The Tigers did exactly that in the second set. The action was intense throughout, with seven ties and four lead changes. After the score was knotted at 14, Groton strung together a four-point rally to pull ahead 16-14 and never looked back, closing out a 25-19 win to even the match.

The decisive third set saw Groton jump to a 5-1 start, but Madison chipped away to tie it at 15 and briefly went ahead 16-15. The Tigers answered immediately, tying the score at 16 and reclaiming the lead at 17-16. After another tie at 21, Groton surged ahead with four straight points to seal the 25-21 victory and the match.

Hanson noted the turnaround came down to composure and energy.

"We made a lot of errors in the first set, and then they made the errors in the second and third," she said. "Our girls are tough to stop when they play with energy. To come out with a win against a team from the DAK12 is big."

On the stat sheet, Jaedyn Penning paced the Tigers at the net with 9 kills on 19-of-22 hitting and also recorded 14 digs. Rylee Dunker led all hitters with 10 kills on 21-of-26 attacks, while Tevan Hanson added 7 kills. Chesney Weber and Taryn Traphagen chipped in 5 kills apiece. Weber also dished out 26 assists to guide the offense.

Defensively, Penning tallied 14 digs while Jerrica Locke had 11. Sydney Locke added 6. Traphagen anchored the net with 1 solo and 4 block assists, while Dunker, Hanson, and Kella Tracy each contributed 2 block assists.

At the service line, Groton finished 59-of-64 with 4 aces. Talli Wright delivered two aces, while Penning and Jerrica Locke each added one.

Hanson highlighted the importance of players stepping up in key moments.

"Rylee's playing really, really well right now," Hanson said. "We needed someone to dominate for us, and when it's a middle, it opens up the floor for everything else. We're having different people lead us in scoring, and that's exactly what you need on good teams — not panicking and playing comfortable."

Looking ahead, the Tigers were set to face Timber Lake next in tournament play, with Hanson emphasizing that the work wasn't done.

"The day's not done yet. We have work to do," she said. "That was a really gritty win for us. I'm proud of the way they battled."

### vs. Madison

Player	Serving	Hitting	Assists	Digs	Blocks
J. Penning	13/13 – 1 ace	19/22 – 9 kills	1	14	1 assist
T. Wright	11/12 – 2 aces		1	3	
C. Weber	9/9	16/19 – 5 kills	26	4	1 assist
S. Locke	8/9		1	6	
J. Locke	8/10 – 1 ace		1	11	
M. Tietz	7/8		1	5	
R. Dunker	3/3	21/26 – 10 kills		2	2 assists
T. Hanson		12/19 – 7 kills		1	2 assists
T. Traphagen		6/11 – 5 kills		2	1 solo, 4 assist
K. Tracy		6/10 – 0 kills		3	2 assists

### Team Totals

Serving: 59/64 – 4 aces

Hitting: 88/109 – 30 kills

Assists: 30

Digs: 51

Blocks: 7 total

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 7 of 103

## Tigers Cruise Past Timber Lake to Reach Championship

In their fourth match of the day, Groton Area rolled to a 25-11, 25-12 sweep over Timber Lake to advance to the tournament championship.

The Tigers jumped out early in the first set, scoring nine straight points to take control and never looking back. In the second set, Timber Lake put up a bit more resistance, tying the score four times — the last at 6–6 — before Groton grabbed a 9–6 lead and finished strong by scoring the final seven points of the match.

Jaedyn Penning went 11-of-12 from the service line with 2 aces and added 2 kills. Chesney Weber dominated with 7 kills on 10-of-10 hitting, 5 service aces, and 19 assists. Rylee Dunker added 6 kills, while Taryn Traphagen chipped in 6 kills with a solo block and block assist. Tevan Hanson added 5 kills to round out the balanced attack.

As a team, Groton served 45-of-50 with 9 aces and hit 53-of-60 with 28 kills.

Timber Lake was led by Jaymee Archambault with 2 kills, a block, and an ace.

Hanson noted that matches like Timber Lake present a unique mental challenge in the middle of a long tournament day.

"The hardest part of coming into this game is just the chaos of going from playing right there to coming over here and then it being game number five for the day," Hanson said. "The thing that's hard about games like that is that you don't have to play very well and most of the time you still win. It's hard to stay focused and disciplined when you know you can have a lot of errors and still get that game."

She added that maintaining a consistent mindset regardless of opponent is key.

"You don't want to have a different mindset for different opponents — you want to go in and compete every game," she said. "If you can beat a team 25-5 or 25-6, that's what you have to do sometimes. Overall, coming out of this tournament 4-1 is big for us."

### vs. Timber Lake

Player	Serving	Hitting	Assists	Digs	Blocks
J. Penning	11/12, 2 aces	11/12, 2 kills	1	7	
T. Wright	6/6, 1 ace		4		
C. Weber	17/18, 5 aces	10/10, 7 kills	19	2	
S. Locke	3/4		1	4	
J. Locke	2/3		1	7	
M. Tietz	4/4			2	
R. Dunker		11/13, 6 kills		2	
T. Hanson		6/8, 5 kills	1		
T. Traphagen		9/10, 6 kills		1	1 solo, 1 assist
K. Tracy		6/7, 2 kills		1	1 assist
M. Krause	2/3, 1 ace		1	1	
Team Totals:					
Serving: 45/50, 9 aces					
Hitting: 53/60, 28 kills					
Assists: 28					
Digs: 27					
Blocks: 2 total					

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 8 of 103

## Tigers Fall in Tight Championship Battle with Northwestern

The Timber Lake win set up a championship showdown with Northwestern.

The first set was tied twice early but the Wildcats held the upper hand the rest of the way, winning 25-20. The second set was a back-and-forth thriller with nine ties and four lead changes, but Northwestern prevailed 26-24 to take the match.

Penning led Groton with 7 kills on 27-of-34 hitting, while Weber added 5 kills on 14-of-17 and 19 assists. Dunker and Hanson each chipped in 5 kills, and Traphagen added 6 kills. Sydney Locke and Jerrica Locke anchored the back row, combining for 30 digs.

The Tigers served 44-of-45 with 3 aces and recorded 28 kills on 84-of-104 hitting.

Northwestern was led by Ashley Haven with 10 kills and a block, Elixis Kramp with 5 kills, and Taylor Vetter with 3 kills and 2 aces.

"We've had a lot of really good games today," Hanson said. "A little bit of fatigue set in, but for the most part I thought we did really good things. The good thing is we get to play them again in two weeks. I'd play Northwestern every night of the week if I could because that's where you really get better. To compete with one of the best teams in the state on our fifth match of the day says a lot."

### vs. Northwestern

Player	Serving	Hitting	Assists	Digs	Blocks
J. Penning	6/6	27/34, 7 kills	1	5	
T. Wright	5/5		3	1	
C. Weber	7/7, 1 ace	14/17, 5 kills	19	8	
S. Locke	13/13, 1 ace		1	11	
J. Locke	8/9, 1 ace			19	
M. Tietz	5/5		1	7	
R. Dunker		15/20, 5 kills			
T. Hanson		16/17, 5 kills		2	
T. Traphagen		10/13, 6 kills	1	1	1 assist
K. Tracy		2/3	1	1	1 assist

Team Totals:

Serving: 44/45, 3 aces

Hitting: 84/104, 28 kills

Assists: 27

Digs: 54

Blocks: 1 total

## Coach Hanson Reflects on Strong Showing

Hanson praised her team's effort across five matches, noting both their depth and the value of facing elite competition.

She also noted the mental shift required after an easier Timber Lake match leading into the championship.

"The hardest part is the chaos of going from one court to another and it being game number five," she explained. "When you play a team like Timber Lake, you don't have to play very well and still win, so it's hard to stay disciplined. But coming out of this tournament 4-1 is big for us."

Hanson pointed to several standout performances across the day, including Penning's consistency, Dunker's dominance in the middle, and Weber's offensive versatility.

"Those three, and Chesney having five kills as a setter, that's helpful," Hanson said. "Our team has so much depth and the ability to score in different places. If someone's having an off set, someone else picks them up. That's exactly what we want to see."

The Tigers will now get a short break before returning to action against Mobridge-Pollock on Monday.

*All of the matches were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Agtegra, Avantara, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Bierman Farm Service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Full Circle Ag, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, Groton Legion, Heartland Energy, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge and The MeatHouse in Andover.*



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 9 of 103

## Pheasant Fall VB Classic Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

POOL A				POOL B			
Northwestern	25	25		Groton Area	25	25	
Florence-Henry	14	8		Redfield	19	18	
Ab.Christian	25	30		Madison	25	25	
Roncalli	16	28		Timber Lake	8	8	
Ab. Christian	25	25		North Central	20	25	11
Gettysburg	15	11		Groton Area	25	15	25
Florence-Henry	17	26	17	Redfield	23	26	21
Roncalli	25	24	25	North Central	25	24	25
Gettysburg	7	12		Madison	25	19	21
Northwestern	25	25		Groton Area	19	25	25
Ab. Christian	12	16		Timber Lake	7	7	
Northwestern	25	25		North Central	25	25	
Roncalli	25	25		Redfield	18	26	
Gettysburg	16	21		Madison	25	28	
Northwestern	21	25	24	Timber Lake	11	12	
Roncalli	25	19	26	Groton Area	25	25	
Florence-Henry	25	25		Madison	25	23	25
Gettysburg	23	17		North Central	15	25	13
Ab. Christian	25	25		Redfield	25	25	
Florence-Henry	13	21		Timber Lake	6	15	

## Championship Match

Northwestern	25	26	
Groton Area	20	24	

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 10 of 103

## Groton's Events



**Nov. 11: Veteran's Day Program,  
2 p.m.**



**Dec. 5: Tour of Trees at Wage  
Memorial Library, 3:30-5:30 p.m.**



**Nov. 27:  
Community  
Thanksgiving  
at the  
Community  
Center,  
11:30 a.m.  
to 1:30 p.m.**



**Dec. 6: Olive Grove Holiday  
Party, 6 p.m.**

### Snow Queen Festival

**Nov. 30: Groton Snow Queen  
Contest, 4 p.m.**

**Nov. 15:  
Legion Post  
#39 Turkey  
Party,  
6:30 p.m.**



**Jan. 25, 2026:  
88th Carnival  
of Silver  
Skates,  
2 p.m. &  
6:30 p.m.**



**Jan. 25, 2026:  
Groton Robotics  
Pancake Feed at  
the Community  
Center,  
10 am. to 1 p.m.**



# GROTON

**Chamber of Commerce  
120 N Main, Groton, SD 57445  
605/397-8422 ~ GrotonChamber.com**



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 11 of 103

## Wolves Football falls to Bemidji State in October opener

Bemidji, Minn. – The Northern State University football team fell to Bemidji State on Saturday on the road in a game that saw three lead changes. The Wolves fought from behind, however a third quarter field goal by the Beavers was the 3-point difference in the game. Northern led in five offensive categories in the game, however inopportune turnovers and missed field goals made the difference for the Wolves.

### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 21, BSU 24

Records: NSU 3-2 (3-2 NSIC), BSU 1-5 (1-4 NSIC)

Attendance: 2534

### HOW IT HAPPENED

The two teams played a scoreless first quarter, with Bemidji State breaking through at 11:40 in the second on a 1-yard touchdown run

Brock Bagozzi connected with Louie Schwabe as the first half closed out on a 4-play, 21-second, game-tying drive capped off by Schwabe's 35-yard touchdown reception

The Beavers regained the lead with a minute remaining in the third on a 40-yard field goal by Connor Mantelli

Northern responded in the early minutes of the fourth on a 3-yard rushing score by Trey Birdsong, giving NSU their first lead of the contest

BSU rallied on the following drive as Connor Carver tallied the longest run of the afternoon, a 51-yarder to the Wolves' endzone

Jake Hill and the Beavers extended their lead 24-14 with just under 2-minutes to play in regulation

NSU rallied trotting 75-yards and ten plays down field for a 1-yard rushing score by Wyatt Block with 43 seconds remaining

Northern attempted an onside kick, however the Beavers recovered the ball and secured their first win of the season

The Wolves tallied a game leading 24 first downs, 260 yards passing, and 398 yards of total offense, adding 138 yards rushing

The converted on 8-of-16 third downs and 1-of-2 fourth downs, scoring two of the three times they entered the redzone

The Northern defense forced one interception and two sacks, holding the Beavers to 7-of-12 on third down

Bagozzi threw for a season high 260 yards, completing 25-of-38 attempts with an interception and touchdown

Block recorded his second straight 100-plus yard game with 107 yards rushing, averaging 5.1 yards per carry with a touchdown

Jacoby Boykins led the team in the air with 68 yards receiving

Cooper Logan had a career day for the Wolves with 13 tackles including ten solo stops and 1.0 tackle for the loss

Logan also grabbed Northern's interception in the first quarter, with the Beavers in the redzone on 2nd and 11

Gabe Gutierrez tallied his second straight game leading the team in sacks with 1.5 for a total loss of nine yards; Noah Hutmacher assisted on the first sack of the game for NSU

Jake Adams and Tasean Young Jr. followed with eight and seven tackles respectively

DJ Smith led the returners with 45 yards, while Jackson Isakson averaged 46.0 yards per punt

### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Brock Bagozzi: 260 yards passing, 65.8 pass completion %, 1 touchdown, 11 yards rushing

Wyatt Block: 107 yards rushing, 1 touchdown

Cooper Logan: 13 tackles, 10 solo tackles, 1 interception, 1.0 tackle for a loss

UP NEXT! Northern returns to the friendly confines of Dacotah Bank Stadium next Saturday for a 3-week home stand. The Wolves are set to host nationally ranked Minnesota Duluth at 6 p.m. from the Bank as a part of Wolves Club Appreciation Weekend.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 12 of 103



## High School Girls Volleyball Game *Mobridge/Pollock @ Groton Area* *Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

### Game Times/Locations:

<b>Main Court in Arena</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 4:00PM → C</li><li>- 5:00PM → JV</li><li>- 6:15PM → Varsity</li></ul>	<b>Main Court in Old Gym:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 4:00PM → 7<sup>th</sup> Grade</li><li>- 5:00PM → 8<sup>th</sup> Grade</li></ul>	<b>Ticket Takers (Report @ 3pm):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Kyle Gerlach</li><li>- Lindsey VanderWal</li><li>- Jordan Carson</li></ul> <b>Admin on Duty:</b> Joe Schwan
--	---	--

### Pre-Game Introductions:

1. National Anthem
2. Varsity Introductions/Lineups

**LOCKER ROOM:** Mobridge/Pollock will use the last locker room on the left down the JH hallway.

**ATHLETIC TRAINER:** There will be an athletic trainer on site. AED is located near the ticket booth.

**ADMISSION & SPECTATORS:** Adults: \$5.00 Students: \$4.00.

**CONCESSIONS:** Will be available

**JV/Varsity Refs:** Scott Deutsch and Wade Veflin

**JV/Varsity Line Judges:** Kristi Zoellner and Melanie Johnson

**C Ref:** Melanie Johnson

**JH Scoreboard/JH Refs/JH Line Judges/C Line Judges:** HS VB Players

**C/JV/Varsity Scoreboard:** Kristen Dolan/Justin Hanson

**JV/V Official Book:** Lynette Grieve

**JV/V Libero Tracker:** Becky Erickson

**Announcer:** Mike Imrie

**National Anthem:** GHS Pep Band under the direction of Mr. Joshua Friez

### Team Benches –

**Groton:** South Bench

**Mobridge/Pollock:** North Bench

### Livestream:

- [Groton High School | High School Sports | Home | Hudl](https://groton-high-school.sportshudl.com/)  
fan.hudl.com/usa/sd/groton/organization/12097/groton-high-school
- GDlive.com (must pay \$5 to watch)



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 13 of 103



## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

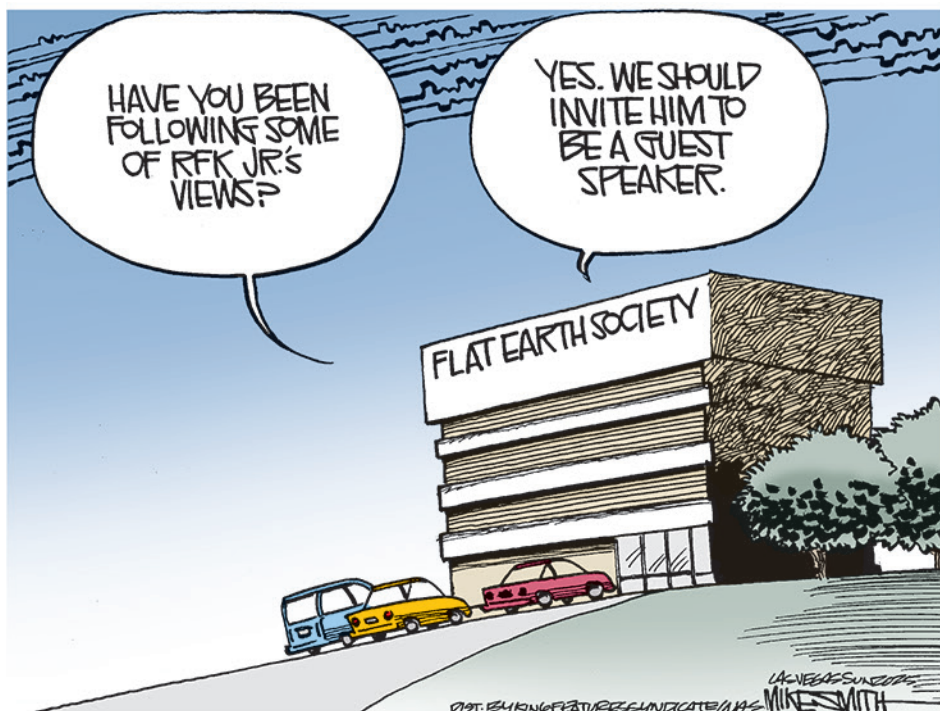


Detail of "Christ Preaching"  
by Rembrandt (circa 1646-1650)

*My little children, these things  
I write to you, so that you may  
not sin. And if anyone sins, we have  
an Advocate with the Father,  
Jesus Christ the righteous.  
And He Himself is the propitiation  
for our sins, and not for ours  
only but also for the whole world.*

❧ 1 JOHN 2:1,2 ❧

© 2025 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.



## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Acts (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. Who honored a man by letting him ride the royal steed through city streets? *Silas, Hosea, Ahasuerus, Asa*

3. From Job 4, who was so frightened by a dream that his hair stood on end? *James, Eliphaz, Noah, Cain*

4. Pharaoh gave what burnt city to his daughter for a gift? *Cana, Gezer, Joppa, Bethel*

5. From Acts 9, what dressmaker was restored to life by Peter's prayers? *Dorcas, Leah, Jezebel, Miriam*

6. Where did Gideon meet an angel? *Prison, Field, Oak tree, Well*

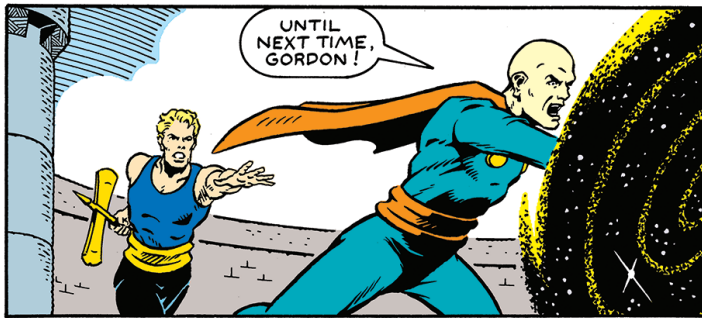
ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Ahasuerus, 3) Eliphaz, 4) Gezer, 5) Dorcas, 6) Oak tree

*Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.*



# Groton Daily Independent

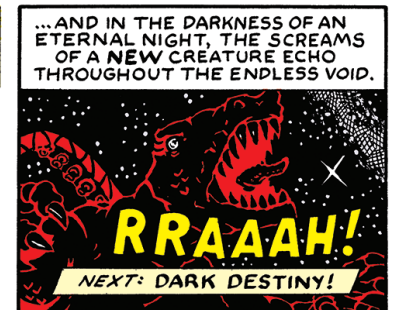
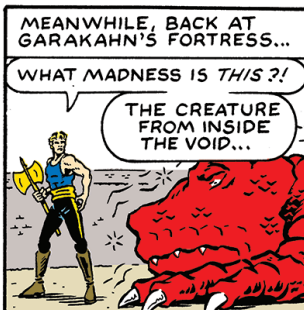
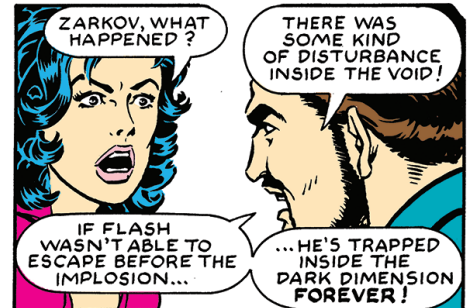
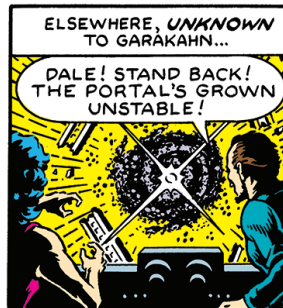
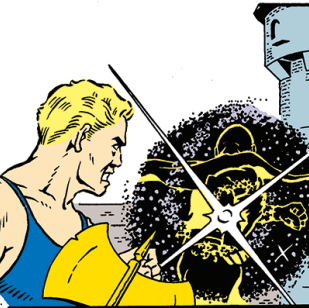
Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 15 of 103



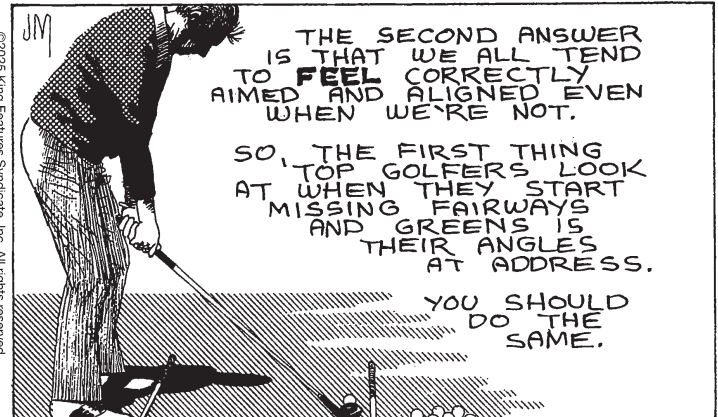
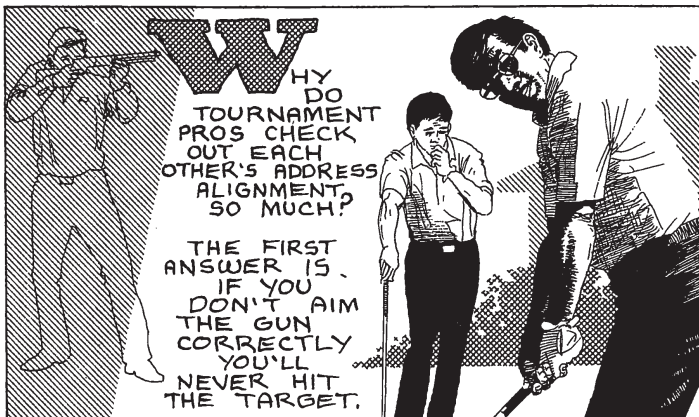
## FLASH GORDON

GARAKAHN LEAPS INTO THE DARK VOID! BEFORE FLASH CAN FOLLOW, THE PORTAL, CLOSING IN ON ITSELF, IMPLODES!

©2003 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.



## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





## Chikungunya Disease Leaves Woman in Immense Pain for Years

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have a friend who lives in Paraguay and had been diagnosed with chikungunya. It has been extremely painful for her for several years. Her doctor prescribed 90 mg of etoricoxib daily and a shot of duodecadron once a month.

I've never heard of chikungunya, and the medical care she is getting seems sketchy. I wish there was a solution for her immense pain. Do you have any knowledge of this virus and/or the medication for it? Are you aware of any new or trial drugs that might be worth trying? -- J.

ANSWER: Chikungunya may not sound like a real medical condition, but it is a viral disease that was first found in West Africa. It has since spread

to the Caribbean and the Americas with transmission occurring in the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, and a few cases in Florida.

It is spread mainly through mosquitoes. The word "chikungunya" is from an African language and roughly translates to "stooped walk" due to the joint pain caused by the disease. In addition to joint pain, people with chikungunya usually have a fever and a skin rash. Headache and even meningitis may occur. However, joint pain is the most common long-term complication.

While most people will clear their joint symptoms within six months, symptoms can go on for years in some people. Your friend is receiving a COX-2 inhibitor (etoricoxib), which has the potential for heart damage, so it is not approved in the United States.

She is also on a chronic steroid, dexamethasone, which is used in North America but may not be the best long-term treatment as it has numerous long-term side effects. In North America, people with chronic joint pain from chikungunya are treated similarly to those with rheumatoid arthritis. This often includes methotrexate or another disease-modifying antirheumatic drug. I urge your friend to see a rheumatologist.

\*\*\*

DEAR DR. ROACH: In your column, I frequently read letters from people who have to get up during the night to urinate. My husband had this problem and got up hourly. We assumed it was as a prostate issue.

After prostate surgery, he had a catheter for a few days, and we found that he was producing almost two liters of urine at night. The urologist immediately ordered a sleep study to determine if sleep apnea was present.

He tested positive, was started on a CPAP machine, and only needed to get up once on the very first night. It changed his life. -- D.S.

ANSWER: I thank D.S. for writing. Obstructive sleep apnea is a well-known cause for urinating at night, but we often forget to think about it. A really useful tool for sleep apnea, the STOP-Bang questionnaire, doesn't include excessive urinating at night, but your letter is a good reminder that we should consider this diagnosis in people who are at risk for sleep apnea.

The risk factors in the STOP-Bang questionnaire are Snoring; Tired enough to fall asleep easily during the day; Observed stopped breathing or gasping for breath during the night; high blood Pressure; a Body mass index over 35; an Age older than 50; a Neck size larger than 16 inches (40 centimeters); and the Gender of male.

A person who answers positively to three or more of these risk factors should at least prompt a consideration of whether sleep apnea is likely enough to test the person for it.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).

(c) 2025 North America Synd., Inc.  
All Rights Reserved



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 17 of 103



"The Woman in Cabin 10" (R) -- Kiera Knightley of "Pirates of the Caribbean" fame is back in a leading role in this psychological thriller premiering Oct. 10. She plays Laura Blacklock, an award-

winning journalist who gets assigned to cover a three-day voyage of a luxury cruise. While on board the extravagant yacht, Laura encounters a variety of guests who apparently "run the world," including yacht owner Richard Bullmer (Guy Pearce), Heidi (Hannah Waddingham), and Grace (Kaya Scodelario). Later on in the voyage, Laura coincidentally sees someone in the water who looks as if they were thrown overboard, but upon reporting it, she is told that every guest and crew member is accounted for. Knowing that what she saw was real and not a figment of her imagination, as others suggest, Laura must decide whether she wants to chase the story or let herself be silenced. If you liked the thriller film "Opus," this pick will be right up your alley! (Netflix)



**Keira Knightley, left, and Daniel Ings star in "The Woman in Cabin 10."** (Courtesy of Netflix)

"Play Dirty" (R) -- Mark Wahlberg ("Flight Risk") is back in another action-packed film, co-starring LaKeith Stanfield ("Sorry to Bother You") and Rosa Salazar ("Undone"). The film follows a thief named Parker (Wahlberg), who had a romantic encounter with another thief Zen (Salazar), and is now suffering the consequences of their affair after she killed everyone who was a part of his last job. Once Parker tracks her down, he forces her to divulge the heist that she's currently working on: stealing sunken treasure that is worth \$1 billion. The only catch is that they have to outsmart a South American dictator, the New York mafia, and one of the world's richest men. With his ragtag team behind him and Zen now on his side, Parker attempts to pull off this heist of a lifetime. Out now! (Amazon Prime Video)

"Honey Don't!" (R) -- Sticking with the thriller theme for this week, this neo-noir detective film is directed by Ethan Coen ("No Country for Old Men"), who claims that this is the second film in his "lesbian B-movie trilogy." (The first was "Drive-Away Dolls.") Margaret Qualley is back as Coen's leading woman as a private investigator named Honey O'Donahue. Honey gets called to the scene of a staged car accident, where she recognizes the dead driver as a client who had asked to meet with her earlier that same day. Through some clues found at the scene, she is led to a cultish church called the Four-Way Temple, led by Reverend Drew Devlin (Chris Evans). Since Honey is convinced that Drew has something to do with the staged accident, she probes deeper with the help of police officer MG (Aubrey Plaza). But trust me, you won't be able to guess how this mystery gets solved. Watch it now! (Peacock)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 18 of 103



1. Who wrote and released "Band on the Run"?
2. Which group released "Winchester Cathedral"?
3. Who wrote and was the first to release "Rhinestone Cowboy"?
4. Which group released "Don't Leave Me This Way"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Now I've got a guy and his name is Dooley, He's my guy and I love him truly."

Answers

1. Paul McCartney, in 1974. Demo tapes of the song and others were stolen from McCartney and his Wings band when they were recording in Nigeria. They had to record all the

music again from memory.

2. The New Vaudeville Band, in 1966. It was intentionally made to sound like the singer was using a megaphone. It later won a Grammy for Best Contemporary Song.

3. Singer-songwriter Larry Weiss, in 1974. The most popular version was covered the following year by Glen Campbell.

4. Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes, in 1975. Their album version clocked in at 6 minutes 8 seconds.

5. "Pink Shoe Laces," by Dodie Stevens, in 1959. In the song, the singer loves her guy because of his clothes, not just his pink shoe laces, but a polka-dot vest and a hat with a purple band.

(c) 2025 King Features Syndicate

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



## GRIN and BEAR IT



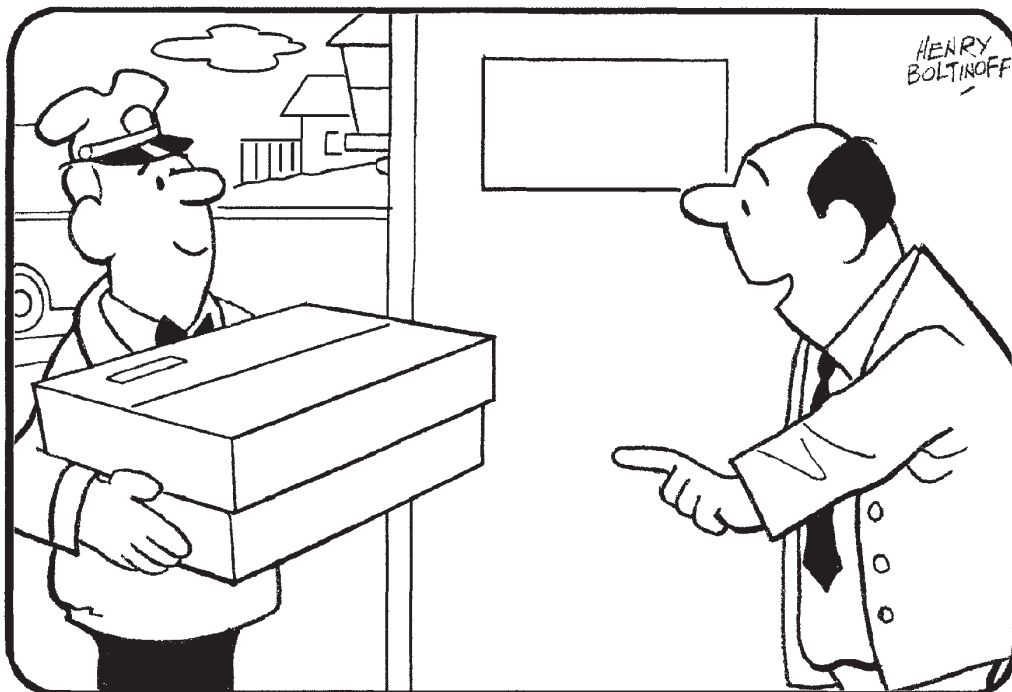
"Early man learned to fashion crude tools, leading to the first tool belt."

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 19 of 103

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Differences: 1. Box is smaller. 2. Arm is longer. 3. Tie is longer. 4. Thumb is moved. 5. Man has more hair. 6. Cap is a different shape.



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 20 of 103



\* "To speed the healing of bruises, try eating pineapple. Drink lots of water, too. I play contact sports, and this has always helped me." -- R.E. in Missouri

\* Need new tires? Don't overlook big-box stores with automotive departments. Sometimes the best deals aren't at the tire places!

\* Are you dreaming of a beach vacation right about now? Maybe you're looking to make an early booking. Here's a travel tip: Skip the ocean views from your hotel room. The rooms facing the ocean have a 20-25% higher rate. There's usually a nice common area where you can admire the view, anyway.

\* "If you're thinking of getting a new TV, don't forget about safety. Be sure to use a wall strap, or just go ahead and mount

it to the wall!" -- E.S. in Virginia

\* Ease stress when dropping off a child at day care by creating a special, just-for-the-two-of-you ritual. Maybe a secret handshake or a kiss for your cheek and one in the hand to "save for later." Reinforce with your attitude that it's a good and fun thing to go to school.

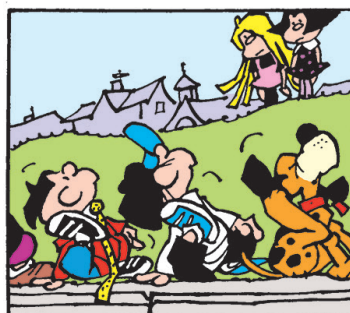
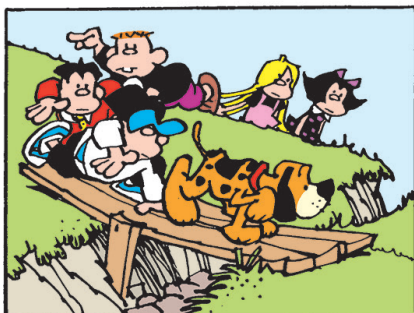
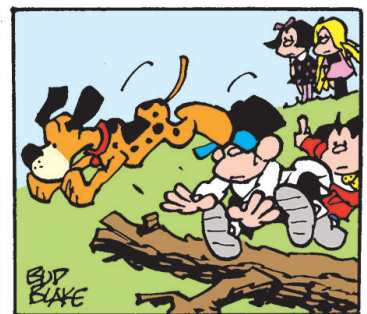
\* Here's a great school tip from a young reader, P.J. in Florida: "Take a photo of your spelling words with your mom or dad's cellphone, and you can go over them anytime, anywhere!"

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

(c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

**TIGER**

by BUD BLAKE



© King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 21 of 103

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Surrenders  
6 Tennis match division  
9 Cover  
12 Fold  
13 Sch. founded by Jefferson  
14 Blackbird  
15 Shadow  
16 Utter disaster  
18 Author Lurie  
20 Bump into  
21 Soup cooker  
23 Cowboys quarterback Prescott  
24 Has an intense craving  
25 Actor Guinness  
27 Toothpaste holders  
29 Strange thing  
31 Deceived  
35 Welsh pooch  
37 Bargain  
38 "Downton —"  
41 ER workers  
43 Quilters' get-together  
44 Tragic king  
45 Rum cocktail  
47 TV anchor Norville  
49 "Glee" guitarist  
52 Packed away  
53 Historic period

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11
12						13				14		
15						16				17		
		18				19				20		
21	22			23				24				
25				26		27		28				
29				30			31			32	33	34
				35			36			37		
38	39	40				41		42		43		
44						45				46		
47				48				49			50	51
52				53				54				
55				56				57				

- 54 Property claims  
55 Radiator sound  
56 Tiara sparkler  
57 Stows cargo  
8 Bar bill  
9 Shoe fasteners  
10 Cove  
11 Losing ventures?  
17 Tickled  
19 Nymph pursuer  
21 Kung — chicken  
22 Vintage  
24 Floral garland  
26 Roman orator  
28 Russian pancakes  
30 Playpen item  
32 Deducted  
33 — kwon do  
34 Flamenco cheer  
36 Cracker type  
38 Actors Robert and Alan  
39 Borscht base  
40 Innocents  
42 Play for time  
45 Stallion's mate  
46 Operatic solo  
48 Rule, for short  
50 Chemical suffix  
51 Curved letter

### DOWN

- 1 PC's brain  
2 Shade tree  
3 Battled verbally  
4 — Grey tea  
5 Composed  
6 Number puzzle  
7 Divisible by two

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 22 of 103

## — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

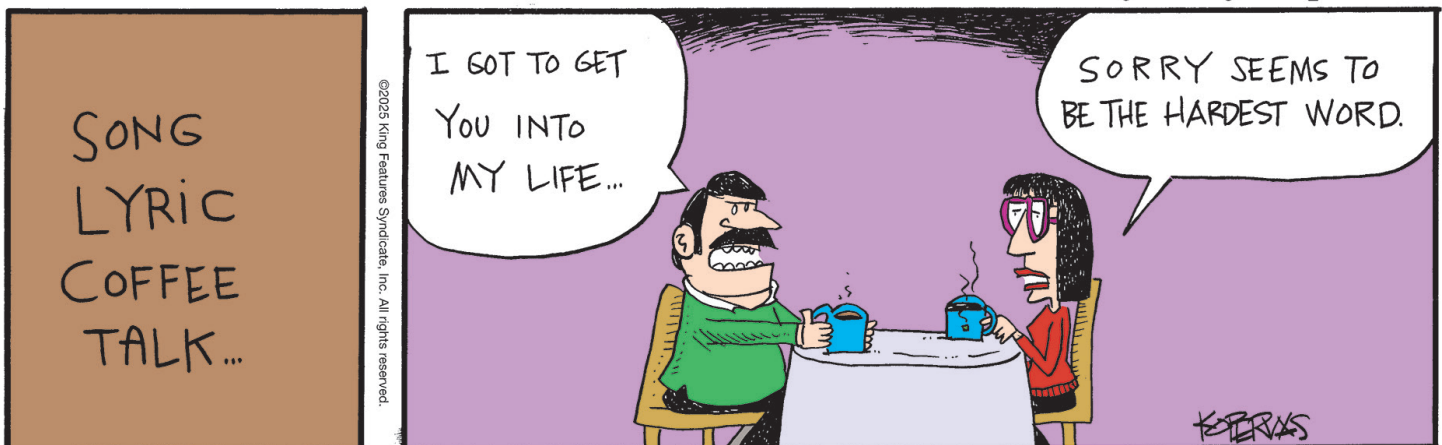
C	E	D	E	S		S	E	T		L	I	D
P	L	E	A	T		U	V	A		A	N	I
U	M	B	R	A		D	E	B	A	C	L	E
		A	L	I	S	O	N		M	E	E	T
P	O	T		D	A	K		L	U	S	T	S
A	L	E	C		T	U	B	E	S			
O	D	D	I	T	Y		L	I	E	D	T	O
			C	O	R	G	I		D	E	A	L
A	B	B	E	Y		R	N	S		B	E	E
L	E	A	R		M	A	I	T	A	I		
D	E	B	O	R	A	H		A	R	T	I	E
A	T	E		E	R	A		L	I	E	N	S
S	S	S		G	E	M		L	A	D	E	S

Olive



Out on a Limb

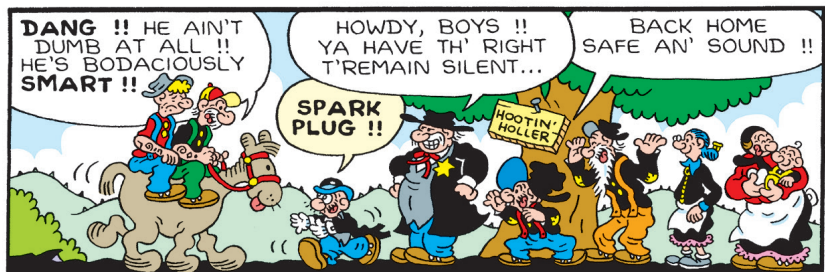
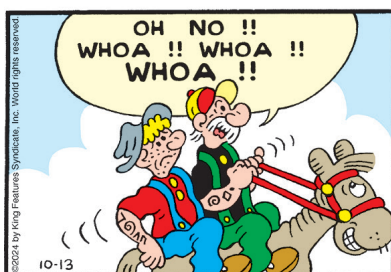
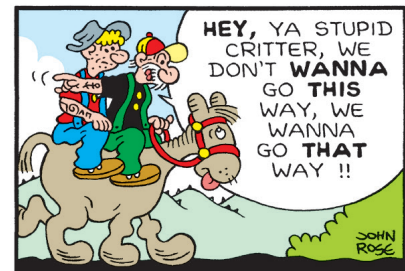
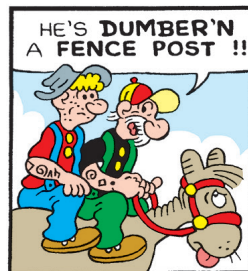
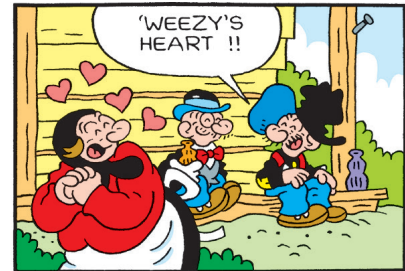
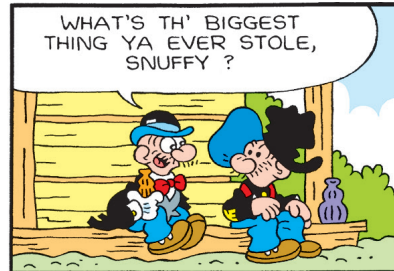
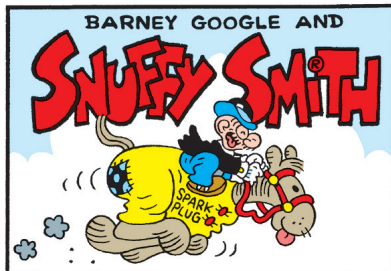
by Gary Kopervas





# Groton Daily Independent

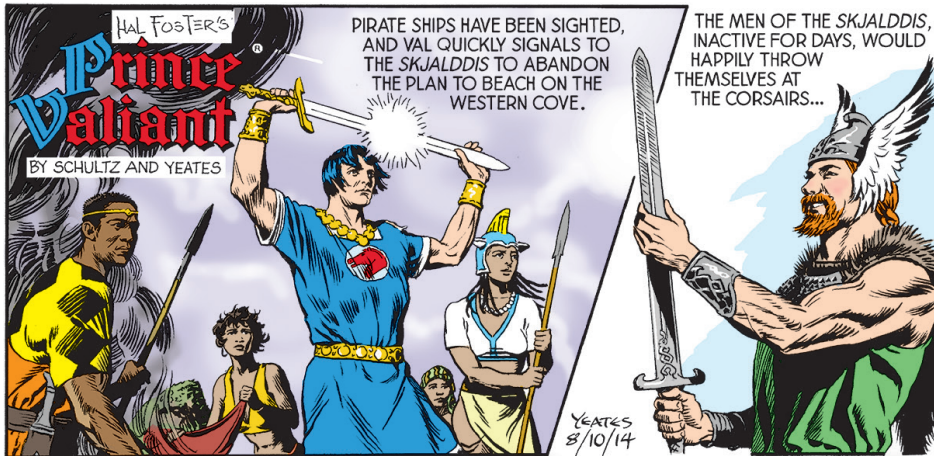
Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 23 of 103





# Groton Daily Independent

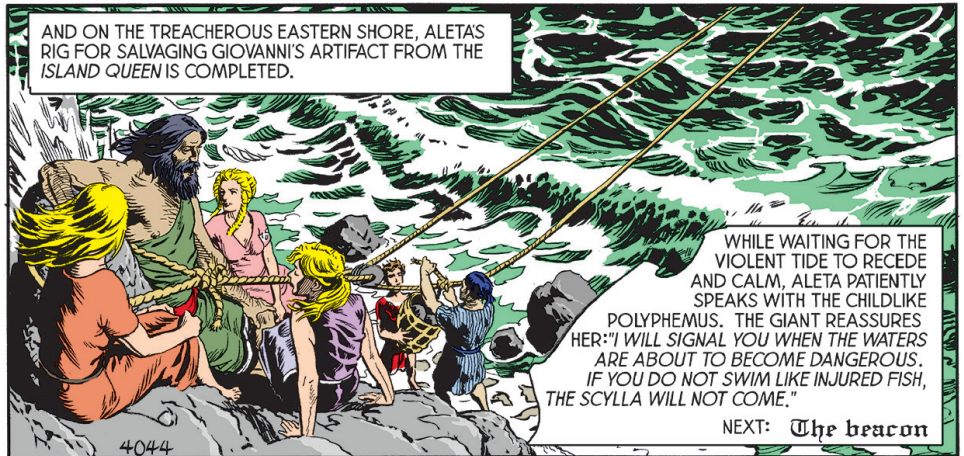
Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 24 of 103



...BUT VAL KNOWS THAT THAT NOBLE EFFORT WOULD BE WASTED AGAINST SUCH ODDS. THE PIRATES HAVE, OF COURSE, SEEN HIS SIGNALS AND KNOW THE ISLAND IS INHABITED. THE IMAZIGHEN GROW UNEASY, FOR...

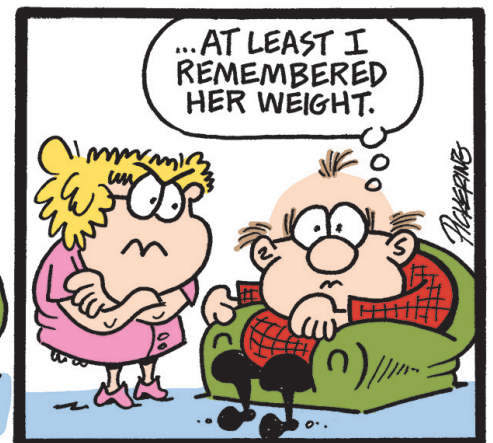
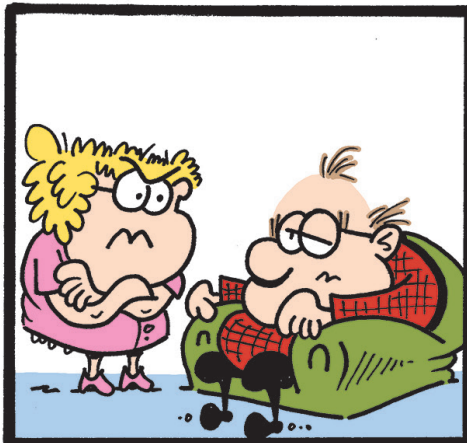


... "WE CANNOT SING OUR LURING SONG AGAINST THIS WIND," SAYS ZULFA. THIS GIVES VAL AN IDEA: "PERHAPS THE SKJALDDIS WILL DO THE LURING—LET THEM COME!" NEW ORDERS ARE SIGNALLED TO HARALDR.



## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering





# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 25 of 103

## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Don't touch the thermostat

By the time you read this, many of us in cold-weather areas will be listening for (and dreading) the click sound that heralds the arrival of warm air through the furnace vents. The dread comes in when we mentally calculate just how much it's costing us to stay warm.

The temptation, always, is to set the thermostat at a lower temperature and cut costs. However, for seniors this can be dangerous. We're no longer physically equipped to handle cold and are vulnerable to hypothermia if the temperature is too low. If you already have a preexisting condition, your risks are even higher. The National Institute on Aging suggests that we don't set our indoor temperature to lower than 68-70 degrees.

And the math doesn't really support lowering the temperature too much.

Rule of thumb is that for every degree you lower the temperature, you can save 1-3% on your costs. If your monthly bill is \$100, that means you can potentially save \$1-\$3 on your costs. If you're gone for the day, they say that if you lower your thermostat by 7-10 degrees for an eight-hour day, you can save 10% on your bill. But when you come home it's going to be very cold inside and take hours to warm up to your normal temperature, with the furnace running every minute.

Ways to stay warm:

Investing in the clear plastic film that covers windows on the inside can block a lot of cold air that blows in through even the most modern windows. Experts say this can save 10-30% on your heating bill. Based on my experiences, I believe this.

Open the curtains on the sunny side of the house to let the sun in during the day. Have an annual inspection of your furnace to keep it running well.

And put on an insulated vest. You'll be surprised how much warmer you'll feel!

(c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

15 N Main St. - Ste. 101  
Downtown Groton

Call/Text Paul: 605-397-7460  
Call/Text Tina: 605-397-7285



Open 24/7

Senior Citizens 65+  
Physical Therapy.

**\$20 a month**

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 26 of 103

1. What basketball star from Delta State University became the first woman officially drafted by an NBA team when the New Orleans Jazz selected her in 1977?

2. What bruising fullback from Arkansas State University won two Super Bowls during his NFL career with the New York Giants from 1985 to 1991?

3. How many playoff games did the Atlanta Thrashers win during their existence in the NHL from 1999 to 2011?

4. Who holds several Toronto Blue Jays team records, including home runs (336), RBI (1,058) and walks (827)?

5. What team selected University of Alabama quarterback Bryce Young with the first overall pick in the 2023 NFL Draft?

6. First held in 1985, what biennial multi-sport event includes nine participating countries that each have a population of less than 1 million?

7. What Baseball Hall of Fame relief pitcher, known for his knuckleball, received a Purple Heart for wounds suffered in World War II's Battle of the Bulge?



by Ryan A. Berenz

## Answers

1. Lusia Harris.

2. Maurice Carthon.

3. Zero (They were swept in their only playoff appearance in 2007).

4. Carlos Delgado.

5. The Carolina Panthers.

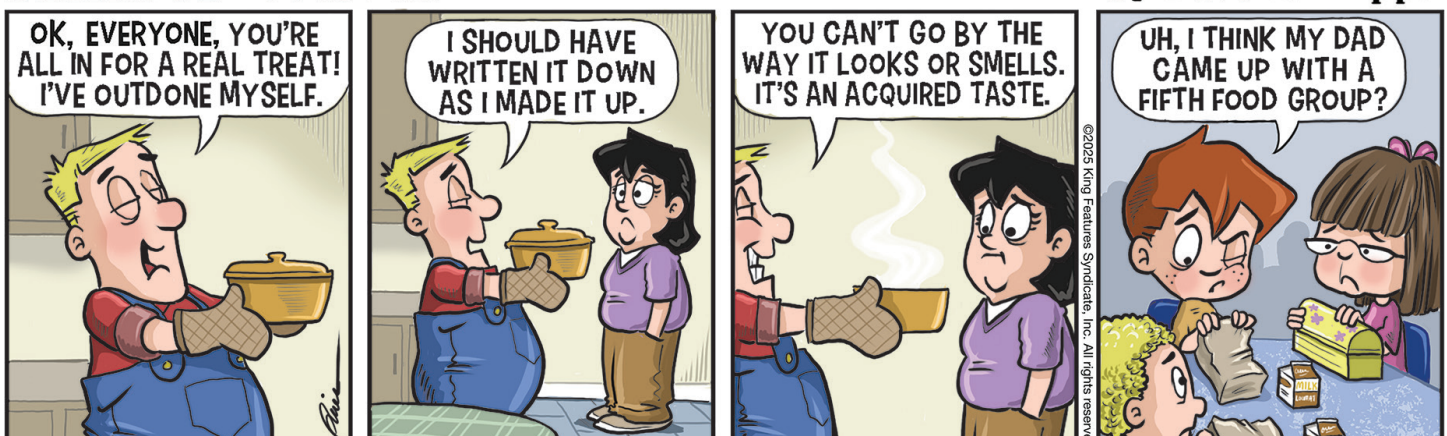
6. Games of the Small States of Europe.

7. Hoyt Wilhelm.

(c) 2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





## Readers sound off on dog peeing in a neighbor's yard

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Unbelievable that someone wouldn't take responsibility for keeping their dog off the neighbor's property! I just wanted to thank you for your response to the question. -- LEONARD H.

DEAR PAWS: Although you were correct that any dog should not go on a neighbor's lawn, you also may have hurt the chances for shelter dogs to get homes. We have had dogs for years, and they did their business in our yard, but we did not have a yard full of awful bare spots surrounded by yellow dying grass. What you stated could, sadly, make a family decide not to adopt a dog. -- Nancy D., via email

DEAR NANCY: While I'm not sure why being a responsible neighbor would preclude a family from adopting a dog, I'm happy that you agree with me about the bigger problem: trespassing into a neighbor's yard to pee in it.

DEAR PAWS: We have a 7-year-old female Great Pyrenees dog and about 3 acres of lawn. I can tell exactly where our dog has peed, because the 8- to 10-inch area of grass is much greener and about 2 inches taller than the adjacent grass. She also goes on our various neighbors' lawns near the edge of the street, and I've never noticed any yellowing or dead grass areas. So, what gives? Is our dog unique or is it the breed, or maybe what she eats? All the best. -- Gary S.

DEAR GARY: Some strains of grass are more resistant to the nitrogen in dog urine (Kentucky bluegrass, for one), but no grass is completely tolerant of pee. Again, the bigger problem is that a pet owner felt it was just fine to let their pet walk onto their neighbor's lawn to "fertilize" it.

Send your tips, comments or questions to [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto:ask@pawscorner.com).

(c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 28 of 103



\* The atomic clock known as the NIST-F1 Cesium Fountain Clock, created by the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Colorado, is so accurate that it won't gain or lose a second in 20 million years.

\* Compared to the production of standard paper, recycled paper production reduces air pollution to up to 73%.

\* The Towel Museum in Japan showcases a vast collection of towels from different countries, each with its unique designs and cultural significance.

\* Lobsters pee out of their face.

\* A crow funeral is much like a human funeral -- the birds gather around a fallen fellow crow, call to each other and pay close attention to their late peer.

\* The tradition of a wedding cake topper originated in ancient Rome, where figurines depicting the bride and groom were used for good luck.

\* Female turkeys don't gobble.

\* Matthias Buchinger, known as the Little Man of Nuremberg, was born without hands or feet and was only 29 inches tall, but still managed to perform numerous magic feats and illusions, including the famous cups-and-balls routine.

\* The first knitting union, founded in Paris in 1527, allowed only men as members.

\* Will Shortz, a crossword editor for The New York Times, designed a degree program at Indiana University in enigmatology, or the study and science of puzzles.

\* Ancient Romans gargled with urine to whiten their teeth.

\* Since the prosthetics Heath Ledger wore on his mouth during filming of "The Joker" would loosen as he spoke, he kept them on by frequently licking his lips, a trait that suited his character and was therefore incorporated into the film.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "The battles that count aren't the ones for gold medals. The struggles within yourself --the invisible battles inside all of us -- that's where it's at." -- Jesse Owens

(c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.



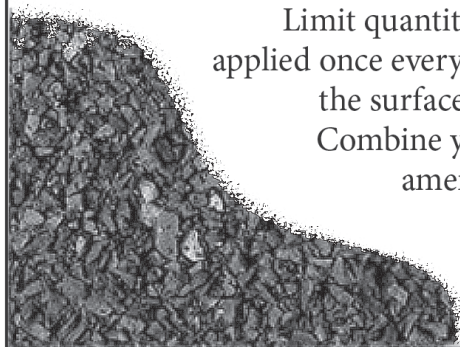
Dry used grounds thoroughly before using in the garden; this prevents mold development and unpleasant odors. Spread them on newspaper or screens for 24-48 hours until completely moisture-free.

## Using coffee grounds

Limit quantities to 1-2 tablespoons per plant, applied once every 3 months. Sprinkle evenly over the surface to avoid thick clumps forming. Combine your grounds with other organic amendments for balanced nutrition.

- Brenda Weaver

Source: [blog.bostonorganics.com](http://blog.bostonorganics.com)





# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 29 of 103



by Freddy Groves

## Using the VA home loan program

The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, gave several benefits to veterans coming back from war, including help to buy homes. Within a few years, 2 million veterans took advantage of the program.

Now, in 2025, they've issued the 29 millionth home loan. Since the Home Loan Guaranty program began, the VA has guaranteed \$4 trillion in home loans.

Are you ready to buy a home? Your first step will be to get a Certificate of Eligibility (VA Form 26-1880). The COE is used for specific VA benefits, such as the home loan or education (Post-9/11 GI Bill). It is your proof of entitlement with details about your service and the benefits you qualify for. The COE confirms to a lender that the VA will back part of your loan.

There are several ways to get the COE, but the fastest might be to go online to complete the form. You'll need to log in at [ID.me](https://id.me) or [Login.gov](https://login.gov). Once in your account, you'll be able to request your COE, see if you already have one or check the status if you've previously asked for one. See [tinyurl.com/yrtr5549](https://tinyurl.com/yrtr5549) to get started. Or if you're working with a lender who specializes in doing VA loans, they'll be set up to process your COE request. You can also do it by mail: Download the form, fill it out and send it in with a copy of your DD-214.

Keep in mind that you still need to pass the lender's scrutiny to get a home loan. (The VA's part of the program is to guarantee that the lender won't lose money if you fail to pay the mortgage.) The COE isn't a preapproval or a promise. You'll need to have a good credit history and adequate income. Your current debts will be factored in.

To see how your basic entitlement is calculated, go online to [www.va.gov/housing-assistance/home-loans/loan-limits](https://www.va.gov/housing-assistance/home-loans/loan-limits).

If you have eligibility questions, call the VA at 877-827-3702.

(c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 30 of 103

## Wishing Well®

8	5	7	5	3	5	7	2	4	5	7	8	6
Y	O	C	T	B	H	H	B	T	E	A	O	L
4	6	7	6	2	7	3	2	4	2	5	7	5
H	I	N	F	E	G	R	A	I	D	R	E	S
7	5	8	7	3	7	8	5	3	6	8	5	4
I	H	U	N	I	H	F	E	G	E	O	L	N
5	2	7	8	7	6	3	4	3	7	4	5	4
P	V	O	R	M	I	H	K	T	E	P	Y	O
5	7	4	7	5	8	3	6	8	3	8	4	8
O	L	S	I	U	M	O	M	B	U	O	I	N
6	2	7	4	2	8	4	6	4	6	2	6	4
P	E	F	T	N	D	I	R	V	O	T	V	E
7	6	3	2	6	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
E	E	T	U	S	L	R	O	O	O	U	K	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

©2025 King Features Syndicate



1. MOVIES: In the United States, what is the title of the first Harry Potter movie?

2. GEOGRAPHY: The Prime Meridian Line runs through which major city?

3. HISTORY: When did federal child labor law start in the United States?

4. ACRONYMS: What does the acronym VPN stand for?

5. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president appeared on the 1960s comedy show "Laugh-In"?

6. TELEVISION: Which teen show starred Mayim Bialik before she got the role as Amy Fowler on "The Big Bang Theory"?

7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Where did the Minoan civilization flourish?

8. SCIENCE: What pH balance is considered neutral?

9. LITERATURE: In which of Shakespeare's plays does the character Polonius appear?

10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: In which African country can the Bonobos species of ape be found in the wild?

### Answers

1. "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

2. Greenwich, London, England.

3. 1938.

4. Virtual Private Network.

5. Richard Nixon.

6. "Blossom."

7. The Island of Crete.

8. 7.

9. "Hamlet."

10. Democratic Republic of the Congo.

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 31 of 103

South Dakota Governor



**Larry Rhoden**



**South Dakota:** *Under God, the People Rule*

## A Symbol of Freedom

Recently, I got to visit one of the greatest symbols of freedom in the world: Mount Rushmore. I've been there many times, but I will never cease to be amazed by the power and splendor of that monument. We were there for a naturalization ceremony, which made that symbol of freedom even more powerful.

72 individuals raised their right hands and swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America. In doing so, they became citizens of our great nation. It was a powerful sight, and I'm glad my friend Secretary Kristi Noem could be there with us.

Every American has a responsibility to defend our Constitution and the freedoms that it enshrines. That's true whether you became a citizen yesterday or your family came on the Mayflower.

Take my great-great-great grandfather, who fought in the Revolutionary War and served as aide to General Lafayette. His four brothers all perished in that war. They died fighting for American freedom. Because of their sacrifice, my great-great-great grandfather got to see the dawn of our great nation. And his descendants got to share in America's freedoms.

It wasn't always easy. Sometimes it required them to fight – like when my grandfather fought in World War I, or when my father fought in World War II. But that's what we signed up for as Americans. It's what our Founding Fathers signed up for 249 years ago. And it's what those 72 new American citizens signed up for when they swore their oath.

How fitting to hold this celebration at Mount Rushmore, where nine months from now, we will celebrate America's 250th birthday! I can't wait to see those fireworks go off again, and all the more for what we'll be celebrating: a nation founded on freedom.

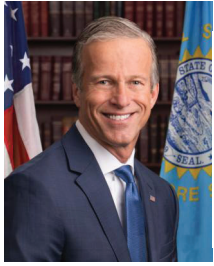
I've often said that South Dakota is the freest state in a nation founded on the principle of freedom. That became truer than ever when my predecessor, Governor Noem, bucked the trend and stood for freedom when no other leader would during COVID. I was by her side at that time. And now that I'm serving as Governor, I am following that example. It's one that we should all follow: protect freedom and the American Constitution, even when it's difficult – especially when it's difficult.

As those 72 brave new Americans complete their journey, I trust that they will take on the same responsibility to defend American freedom. It's a duty that each of us share, whether we serve in uniform or not.

I did swear an oath to support and defend the Constitution when I joined the National Guard. I've sworn it many times since as I held elected leadership positions, including as Governor. This responsibility is mine – and it's all of ours. And we must do our best to fulfill it.

Guard your freedoms jealously, and I promise to do the same for every South Dakotan.





**JOHN THUNE**  
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

## Democrats' Shutdown Holds America Back

At midnight on September 30, the federal government shut down. This shutdown was entirely avoidable, but Democrats chose to hold government funding hostage, and they rejected attempts by Republicans to pass a clean funding extension that would have kept the government open. And the American people are the ones left to suffer the consequences of Democrats' hostage-taking.

Republicans are united around a clean, nonpartisan funding extension that keeps the government open for seven weeks so we can continue work on the regular appropriations process. A clean, nonpartisan extension has already passed the House, and President Trump is ready to sign it. All that stands in the way is Senate Democrats, who have rejected multiple attempts to pass this simple and straightforward bill.

Senate Democrats shut down the government because we would not give in to their demands for \$1.5 trillion in partisan spending. They have demanded more money than the entire defense budget just to keep the government open for four short weeks. It's not a credible proposal, it's a far-left wish list. For Democrats, this isn't about finding a way to fund the government; it's about finding a way to show their far-left base that they're fighting against President Trump.

Democrats may earn some praise from the far left, but I doubt the American people have many kind words. Federal employees – including members of the military, Border Patrol agents, and air traffic controllers – are working without pay. A number of federal programs and services are interrupted or at risk. A government shutdown has serious consequences for the American people. But none of that seems to matter to Democrats.

This shutdown mess holds up important work Congress should be doing for the American people. We have important, bipartisan appropriations bills waiting to be considered. The annual defense authorization bill is also on hold. Democrats have not only halted or jeopardized government services; they're standing in the way of key legislation.

Democrats have spent this entire year with one object in mind: opposing President Trump. But their temper tantrum over last year's election results has to stop. The American people elected President Trump, they gave him a mandate to enact his agenda, and these antics only hold our country back. Republicans are ready to continue our work; the question is whether Democrats will work with us.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 33 of 103



## The Shutdown

The American people expect the federal government to work for them. They expect federal programs and services to be there when they need them, and they expect Congress to make their tax dollars work for

American citizens. Unfortunately, the government is not open, and it is not working as it should.

On Wednesday at midnight, the government shut down after Senate Democrats decided to hold the federal government and American people hostage over partisan policy demands. Their laundry list of demands totals \$1.5 trillion – an absurd amount of money to ask for during a government shutdown. Their wish list includes health care subsidies for illegal immigrants and people making \$110,000 a year. The Democrats' decision to shut the government down is withholding the pay of hundreds of thousands of government employees across the country.

Meanwhile, the Republican proposal is simple: extend the current budget for seven weeks so the House and Senate can finish passing annual funding bills. I voted to keep the government open so taxpaying South Dakotans receive the services they're paying for.

Shutdowns are stupid and no one benefits from them. To stop the repetitive political theater and consequences of shutdowns, I introduced the Eliminate Shutdowns Act to make sure shutdowns never happen again. Additionally, I believe Congress shouldn't get paid when American workers like our men and women in uniform do without. I made sure I won't receive a paycheck during this shutdown – it's just not fair.

I'm working every day to open the government, and my team and I will be available to serve South Dakotans who need help.

If you're wondering how the shutdown might impact you, I've included some updates on common government services below.

**Agencies with minimal changes in services**

Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid will continue to operate as normal. The processing of new benefits may be delayed.

The United States Postal Service will not be interrupted.

All VA Medical Centers, Outpatient Clinics, and Vet Centers will be open. VA benefits, including compensation, pension education, and housing benefits will continue to be processed.

**Where services may be impacted**

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits will continue to be paid. A prolonged shutdown may impact these benefits.

Funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) may stop during the shutdown.

National Parks may be closed to visitors during the lapse in funding. I recommend checking the park's status ahead of any planned visit.

Air traffic controllers and TSA will operate without pay and some delays are possible.

Passport applications are currently taking 4-6 weeks to process for routine applications. Further delays are possible as the shutdown continues.

The Farm Service Agency will continue to service farm loans during this time. It will provide emergency loans, but this service may be slower than usual. Local offices will be closed but an on-call farm loan officer will be available for emergencies should the shutdown be prolonged.

I will continue to work throughout this government shutdown. Please reach out to my office if you have any questions or need assistance.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 34 of 103



Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

## If She Cannot Fix It, It's Not Broken

Life has its many ups and downs. There are some weeks when there are more downs than ups. But if I didn't have a down, I probably wouldn't appreciate an up.

This past week was one of those down weeks. One day, we lost our electricity for maybe six hours, my printer died on me and some scammer tried to get money out of me by telling me my daughter was in jail and needed bail money.

I'm not sure if it can get any worse, but I'm going to keep my eyes open. Fortunately, the electricity came back, and the scammer, well, let's say he didn't get my money.

The printer was the worst thing that happened. I've had my printer for about six years, and I use it just about every day. I never anticipated that it would just completely die on me one day. But, it did.

I ordered a new printer, and it came on Thursday. My whole day was committed to that printer. It was a new printer with all of the latest upgraded gadgets. Personally, I don't like new things with all the confusing gadgets they have. However, I needed to get a new printer, and so I did.

I set up the printer with Wi-Fi, and it worked very well. The next step was to connect it with my computer. The printer isn't worth anything unless it's connected to my computer, so I can print out the work I'm doing. At the time, I thought the worst job would be to set up the Wi-Fi for the printer. I was in for a surprise.

For several hours, I worked trying to connect my printer to my computer. I went through everything I could possibly think of to connect the two. If I can't connect the printer to my computer, what good is it really?

After several hours of unproductive work, I was at the point of giving up.

Just then, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came into my office and asked how my printer was working.

"Well," I stammered, "I can't connect it to my computer. I've tried all morning and it's not working at all. I don't know what to do."

She looked at me and said something I wasn't really expecting to hear, "Let me see, maybe I can fix it for you."

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has many identities, and one of them is Miss-Fixer-Upper. Everybody knows that there is not a problem she cannot fix.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 35 of 103**

I recall about five years ago, the bumper on my truck was loose, and I couldn't fix it. I was about to take it to the garage and have the mechanic fix it. I really didn't want to spend a couple hundred dollars but I didn't have much of a choice.

As I was pondering this, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came out and said, "What's the problem?"

So I explained my problem to her and told her I was about to take it to the garage.

She said, "Let me look at it and see if I can help."

She looked at it for a few moments and then said, "I believe I can fix this, let me go and get something from my craft room."

In a few minutes, she came out with a large paper clip and put it under the bumper, hooking it to the truck. Then she said, "There, I fixed it so you don't have to take it to the garage." That was five years ago, and the paperclip is still working.

I did not think she could fix anything with my printer. But, being the veteran husband that I am, I allowed her to at least look at it. She sat down at my computer, and I walked out to the kitchen to get a cup of coffee, knowing that there was no way she could fix it.

Walking back in with my coffee, she said, "There, it's fixed. Try and see if it prints."

I chuckled; knowing that there was no way she could fix that. I had my computer pull up a document and sent it to the printer.

Wouldn't you know, that document started printing.

"I don't think you will have any trouble with your printer now. But if you do just let me know."

Every time I print something on that printer, I think about The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage who made it possible.

This past year, we celebrated our 54th wedding anniversary. In all those years, I can't think of one problem she hasn't been able to fix. If she can't fix it, then it's not broken. If it's broken, she can fix it. How she does that is above my pay scale.

Pondering this, I came to one conclusion. The only thing she hasn't been able to fix is me. Maybe one day she'll fix me, but then people may not recognize me.

As I was printing a few things, I thought of a verse of scripture.

"He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3).

There is no problem or difficulty in my life that God cannot fix, if I let him. That's the problem. I need to turn everything over to God and allow Him to do in my life what He is great in doing.

Everything God fixes in my life reveals His amazing grace.

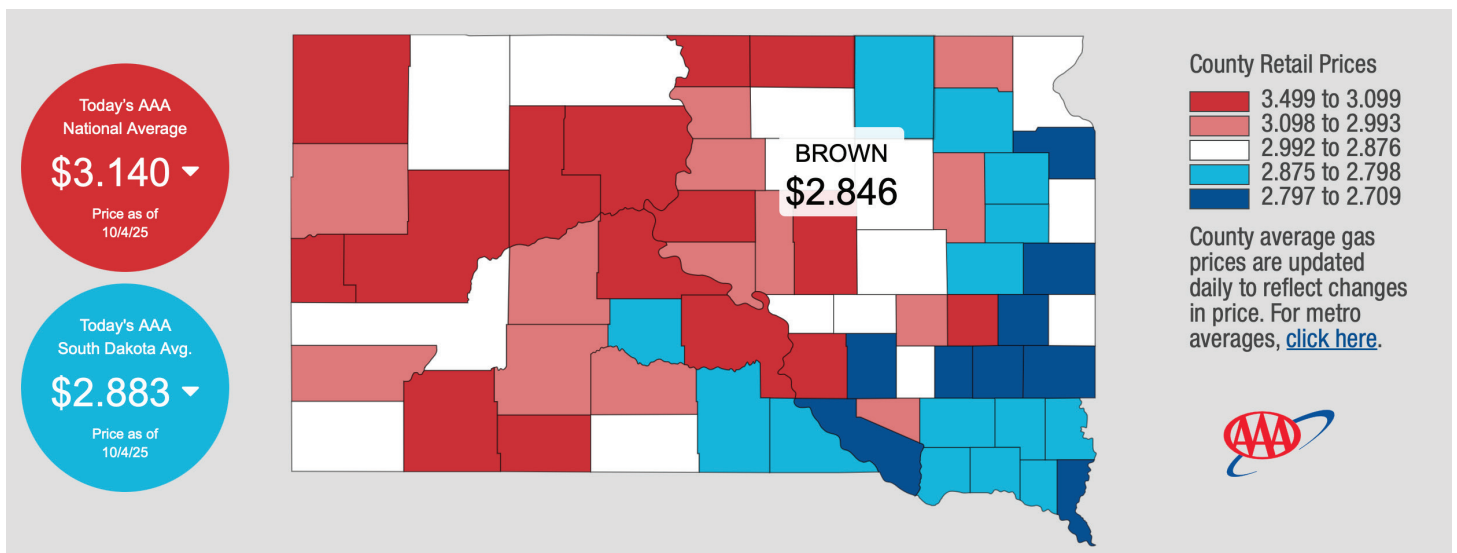
# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 36 of 103

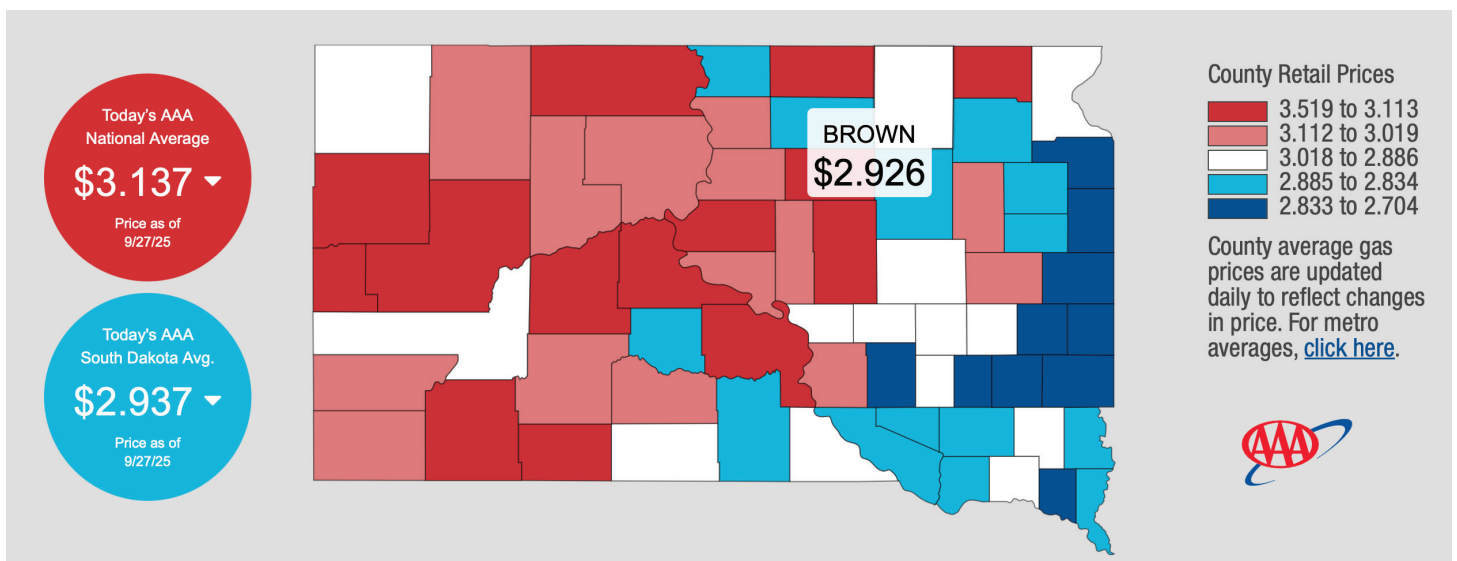
## South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$2.883	\$3.056	\$3.525	\$3.349
Yesterday Avg.	\$2.896	\$3.067	\$3.541	\$3.354
Week Ago Avg.	\$2.937	\$3.119	\$3.575	\$3.369
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.021	\$3.188	\$3.641	\$3.379
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.066	\$3.270	\$3.696	\$3.271

### This Week



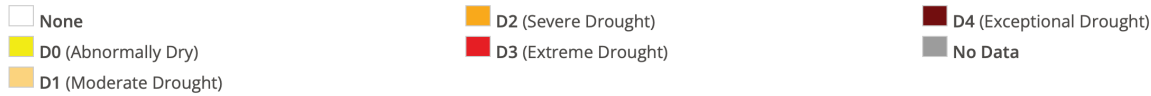
### Last Week



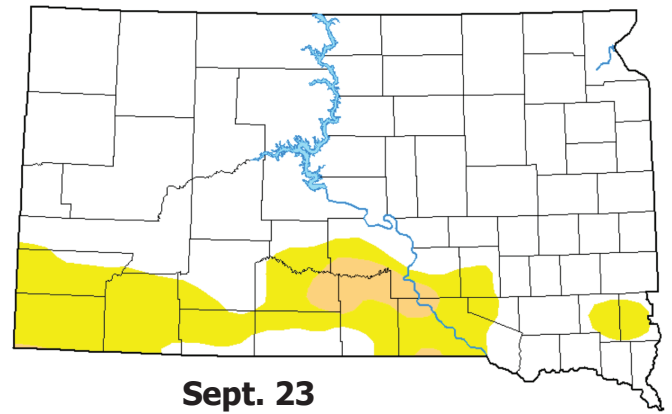
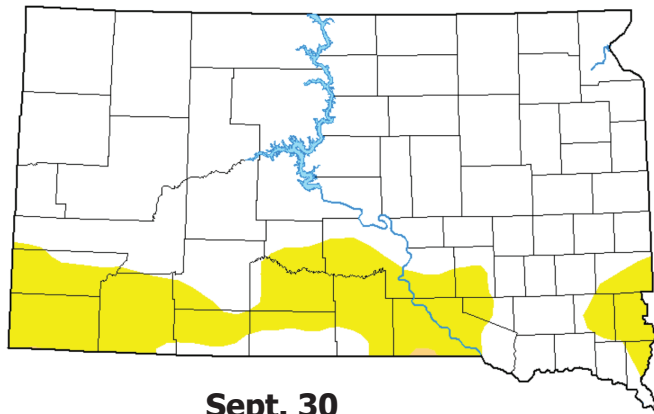
# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 37 of 103

## Drought Classification



## Drought Monitor



Mostly warmer-than-normal temperatures occurred across the High Plains this week, except for central and southern parts of Colorado. The Dakotas and northern Wyoming were especially warm as September reached its end, with temperatures mostly 6-10 degrees above normal. Widespread moderate to heavy precipitation fell from southwest Nebraska and northwest Kansas into northern Colorado and southeast Wyoming, including some wintry precipitation at higher elevations. Rainfall amounts locally exceeded 2 inches in parts of northeast Colorado and adjacent parts of Nebraska and Kansas.

In northern Colorado and southeast Wyoming, recent precipitation improved soil moisture and streamflow and reduced precipitation shortfalls, leading to widespread 1-category improvements in these areas. In south-central South Dakota, recent wetter weather led to the removal of moderate drought, as conditions were re-evaluated this week in that area. Moderate drought expanded slightly in the San Luis Valley of south-central Colorado, where short-term precipitation deficits mounted amid poor vegetation conditions.



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 38 of 103

## EARTHTALK

### Lab-Grown Food Reduces Humanity's Ag Footprint

by Krisha Chhabra

Dear EarthTalk: How are we growing food in labs to lessen the agricultural impact on the planet?

—Bill Jehsen, via email

The U.S. has nearly two million farms, with over half of its land used for agriculture. Climate change affects agricultural productivity, sometimes enhancing or reducing yields, while air pollution from ground-level ozone weakens plant growth and increases disease susceptibility. Also, rising populations and demand for food, feed, fiber and fuel have intensified competition for land, a phenomenon known as the global land squeeze. The New World Resources Institute projects that by 2050, agricultural expansion will need land nearly twice the size of India; demand for wood will require an area the size of the U.S.



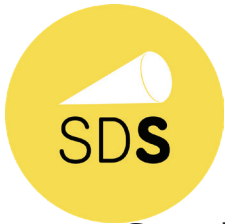
**Coffee is one of the best candidates for lab-based cultivation.** Credit: pexels.com.

Agriculture is the largest driver of land-use change, causing significant carbon loss and biodiversity loss. It has cleared 70 percent of grasslands, 50 percent of savannas, 45 percent of deciduous forests, 27 percent of tropical forests, and 50 percent of wetlands worldwide. Scientists argue that halting ecosystem conversion and degradation is crucial for meeting climate and biodiversity goals, as projected agricultural expansion could use up to 40 percent of the remaining carbon budget needed to limit warming.

One industry particularly affected by this issue is coffee. Brazil, a major coffee producer, may lose 50 percent of arable land by 2050. A potential solution comes from Atomo Coffee, a company that has developed a 'beanless brew' using superfoods and ingredients like date seeds, lemon, sunflower seeds and caffeine from decaffeinated green tea. Andy Kleistch, the CEO, says they "started this company to actually make a difference in the world," and this movement is spreading to larger coffee chains. Atomo has attracted nearly \$52 million in investment, and in 2023 New York's Gumption Coffee introduced it to the market. The company aims to scale up production to 40 million pounds annually.

Meat is another major threat. Pet food accounts for 20 percent of global meat consumption. Lab-grown pet food has recently become available in Europe, with UK consumers now able to buy cultivated chicken-based pet food from London startup Meatly, made by culturing animal cells in bioreactors with water and nutrients, offering a more sustainable alternative with 50-60 percent less land use, 30-40 percent less water use, and 40 percent lower carbon emissions. Meatly also aims to bring cultivated meat to human consumers—though it will still produce emissions. Similar innovation is happening in the dairy industry. Boston-based Brown Foods has developed UnReal Milk, the first lab-grown whole cow's milk made without cows. Independent testing confirms it contains all essential dairy proteins, fats and carbohydrates.

Lab-grown food options could become mainstream, but consumer acceptance is crucial..



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### **South Dakota Gov. Larry Rhoden issues 65 pardons, one commutation since taking office**

**BY: JOHN HULT-OCTOBER 4, 2025 10:29 AM**

Gov. Larry Rhoden has issued 65 pardons and one commutation since taking office in January, according to records on file with the South Dakota Secretary of State.

As of Sept. 29, Rhoden had also denied four pardon requests, and denied one request for a commutation.

A state board makes recommendations, but the South Dakota Constitution grants the governor sole authority to extend clemency to people convicted of crimes.

Pardons scrub all government documentation of a crime from a person's public record. Commutations reduce sentences for inmates, often making them immediately eligible for parole and early release from prison.

In an interview with South Dakota Searchlight, Rhoden said his legal team reviews the notes, video interviews with applicants and records for each pardon and commutation request carefully before he makes the call. He trusts his legal team, he said, but "for me, it boils down to just my personal feelings and beliefs about the goodness of humanity."

"It's just looking for signs that you feel like they deserve a second chance," Rhoden said.

Kristi Noem, who preceded Rhoden in office and departed in January to become secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, issued a total of 348 pardons and 27 commutations during her six years in office.

State law grants the governor the authority to let the state Board of Pardons and Paroles review and recommend pardons and commutations. The board meets and issues recommendations on a monthly basis, in each case after hearing directly from the person requesting clemency and sometimes also from the person's victims or the prosecutors involved in the case.

#### **Rhoden's approach, decisions**

Noem would sometimes wait months between signing each batch of clemency orders. Rhoden signed his clemency orders at least once a month during the first half of 2025, but hasn't issued any since July. His first dozen pardons were signed on March 3.

Parole board rules say a person must be at least five years removed from the date of their sentencing to request a pardon.

Pardons are filed and held as a public record at the Secretary of State's Office for five years after being signed and are sealed thereafter. Commutations, also held by the Secretary of State's Office, are not closed after five years and do not shield any record of a conviction or the circumstances surrounding it from public disclosure.

Noem's pardons typically went to people with lower-level crimes like drunken driving, drug possession or property crimes. She occasionally forgave more serious crimes, such as third-degree rape or assault, often decades after the incidents.

The same pattern has held true for Rhoden in the 65 pardons issued thus far. Few of the crimes pardoned were felonies against other people. One man was pardoned for two charges of attempted sexual contact with a child under 16, for which he was convicted in 2001 and 2003, respectively. Another was pardoned for a robbery and an attempted robbery, both of which took place 41 years ago.

#### **Commutation granted**

Rhoden's sole commutation thus far went to Jack Sidney Hagen, a 64-year-old initially given three con-

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 40 of 103

secutive life sentences for a 1995 break-in and kidnapping in Black Hawk.

At his commutation hearing last year, Hagen told the parole board he'd been foolish and quick to anger, having spent years in the drug trade.

Using a handgun, Hagen threatened a couple whose home he broke into with two other people. He thought the couple had stolen methamphetamine from him. The crime went unreported for more than a year, but the incident came to light when some of the victims were indicted on federal drug charges.

The parole board recommended a commutation for Hagen during Noem's first term in office, but she denied his request.

At his second commutation hearing, in September 2024, Hagen said he'd worked hard to change his life during his nearly three decades in prison.

"Something was not right with my thinking and my drug usage," Hagen said. "I became a Christian. I've been heavily involved in church since I've been in, I've worked hard, kept my mind busy and tried to change, to not act like the person I used to be."

He worked more than two decades for market wages at Metal Craft Industries, a shop operated in the South Dakota State Penitentiary's Jameson Annex by a private company until 2024.

After moving to Springfield's Mike Durfee State Prison, Hagen said, he used money he'd saved to invest in the stock market with the help of friends and family on the outside.

The board recommended that Hagen's three life sentences be commuted to 60-year sentences. That would've made him eligible for parole at the board's discretion next summer, and a release date of 2027 without their approval, based on credits earned for good behavior.

Rhoden granted the commutation, but did not follow the board's advice to the letter. His order changed two of Hagen's life sentences to 153-year sentences, and another to a 114-year sentence. Hagen is still eligible for release by the parole board in June, but wouldn't be able to walk free without their approval until 2075.

## Commutation denial

The most serious crime on Rhoden's list of five denied clemency requests is the conviction of Dawn Frazer. She was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life for participating in the killing of Morningstar Shalimar Standing Bear in 1999 in Sturgis.

During her second commutation hearing, which took place in October 2024, a handful of parole board members expressed concerns, ranging from her downplaying her role in the incident to the crime's severity.

The board also agreed, though, that she was "a changed woman" who'd become a mentor to others at the South Dakota women's prison. They voted for a commutation that would have made the 57-year-old parole eligible when she turns 70.

Rhoden denied Frazier's commutation request in a letter dated June 12.

Rhoden did not comment on any individual cases in his interview on clemency with South Dakota Searchlight. When asked more broadly about his denials, he said the time between an incident and the request has been the primary factor.

Rhoden said he wants to see that enough time has elapsed that "they truly are rehabilitated."

*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.*

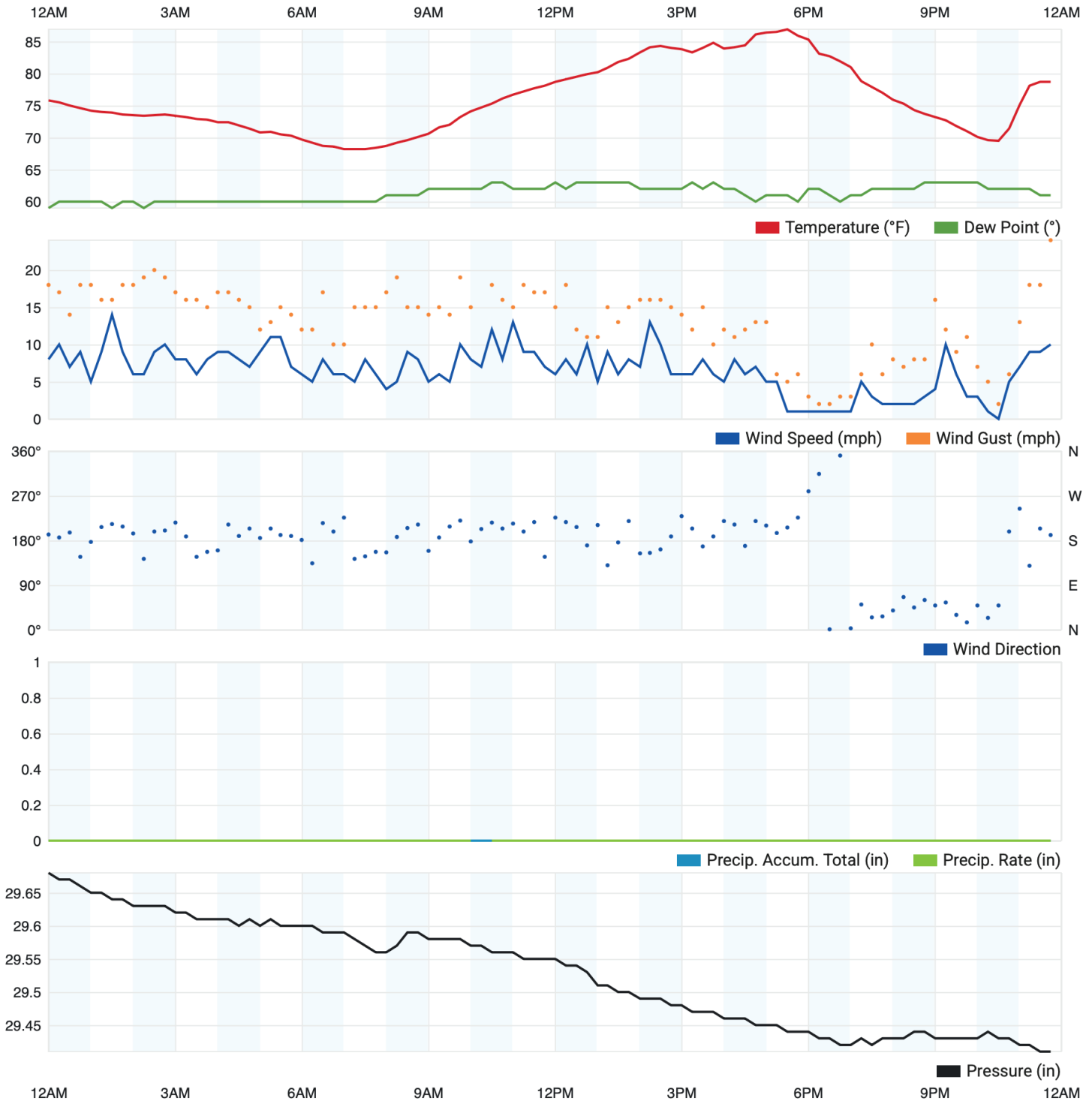


# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 41 of 103

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

October 4, 2025



# Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 42 of 103

## Wind Advisory

### Today



High: 64 °F

Mostly Sunny  
and Breezy

### Tonight



Low: 39 °F

Partly Cloudy

### Monday



High: 60 °F

Mostly Sunny

### Monday Night



Low: 37 °F

Mostly Clear

### Tuesday



High: 65 °F

Sunny



## Cooler Temperatures Ahead

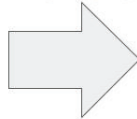
Strong winds to shift from south to northwest

October 5, 2025

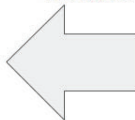
3:31 AM

	Sun						Mon			
	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am
Aberdeen	65	60	62	61	59	52	47	44	41	43
Britton	71	62	62	60	57	49	46	44	41	43
Chamberlain	61	61	67	66	62	56	52	49	48	50
Clark	66	61	62	61	57	51	49	46	44	45
Eagle Butte	52	51	52	53	53	46	45	42	40	41
Eureka	54	53	55	56	54	49	45	42	38	39
Gettysburg	53	53	55	55	54	49	45	42	39	41
McIntosh	50	48	52	54	54	47	43	40	37	37
Milbank	71	67	71	67	62	53	50	47	44	46
Miller	57	59	63	62	59	52	48	44	43	45
Mobridge	55	54	56	57	56	49	47	44	40	42
Murdo	53	54	56	56	54	50	47	44	44	44
Pierre	56	58	59	60	59	54	50	47	45	46
Redfield	63	61	64	63	60	52	49	46	43	46
Sisseton	73	65	66	64	59	52	48	47	44	45
Watertown	69	64	67	66	61	54	50	46	43	45
Webster	69	61	62	61	57	52	48	46	42	44
Wheaton	72	67	69	66	60	52	48	46	44	45

### Wind Trends



### Temperature Trends



	Sun						
	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	
Aberdeen	39↓	40↓	38↓	32↓	26↓	17↓	
Britton	47↓	47↓	45↓	39↓	33↓	20↓	
Chamberlain	26↓	32↓	35↓	35↓	30↓	21↓	
Clark	39↓	38↓	37↓	35↓	29↓	21↓	
Eagle Butte	38↓	40↓	40↓	35↓	26↓	16↓	
Eureka	41↓	45↓	43↓	37↓	26↓	17↓	
Gettysburg	35↓	37↓	37↓	33↓	26↓	17↓	
McIntosh	44↓	44↓	41↓	33↓	24↓	16↓	
Milbank	38↓	39↓	38↓	33↓	29↓	21↓	
Miller	33↓	35↓	35↓	32↓	28↓	20↓	
Mobridge	40↓	41↓	37↓	32↓	25↓	16↓	
Murdo	24↓	32↓	33↓	31↓	26↓	18↓	
Pierre	30↓	32↓	35↓	32↓	28↓	18↓	
Redfield	35↓	36↓	35↓	35↓	28↓	18↓	
Sisseton	44↓	44↓	43↓	36↓	30↓	20↓	
Watertown	43↓	40↓	38↓	35↓	28↓	23↓	
Webster	43↓	43↓	41↓	37↓	30↓	21↓	
Wheaton	39↓	39↓	38↓	33↓	31↓	22↓	



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

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Winds will shift from southerly to westerly but remain gusty as cooler air moves into the region today.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 43 of 103

## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 87 °F at 5:36 PM**

**Low Temp: 68 °F at 7:14 AM**

**Wind: 21 mph at 2:31 AM**

**Precip: : 0.00**

## Today's Info

Record High: 96 in 1963

Record Low: 19 in 1935

Average High: 66

Average Low: 39

Average Precip in Oct.: 0.39

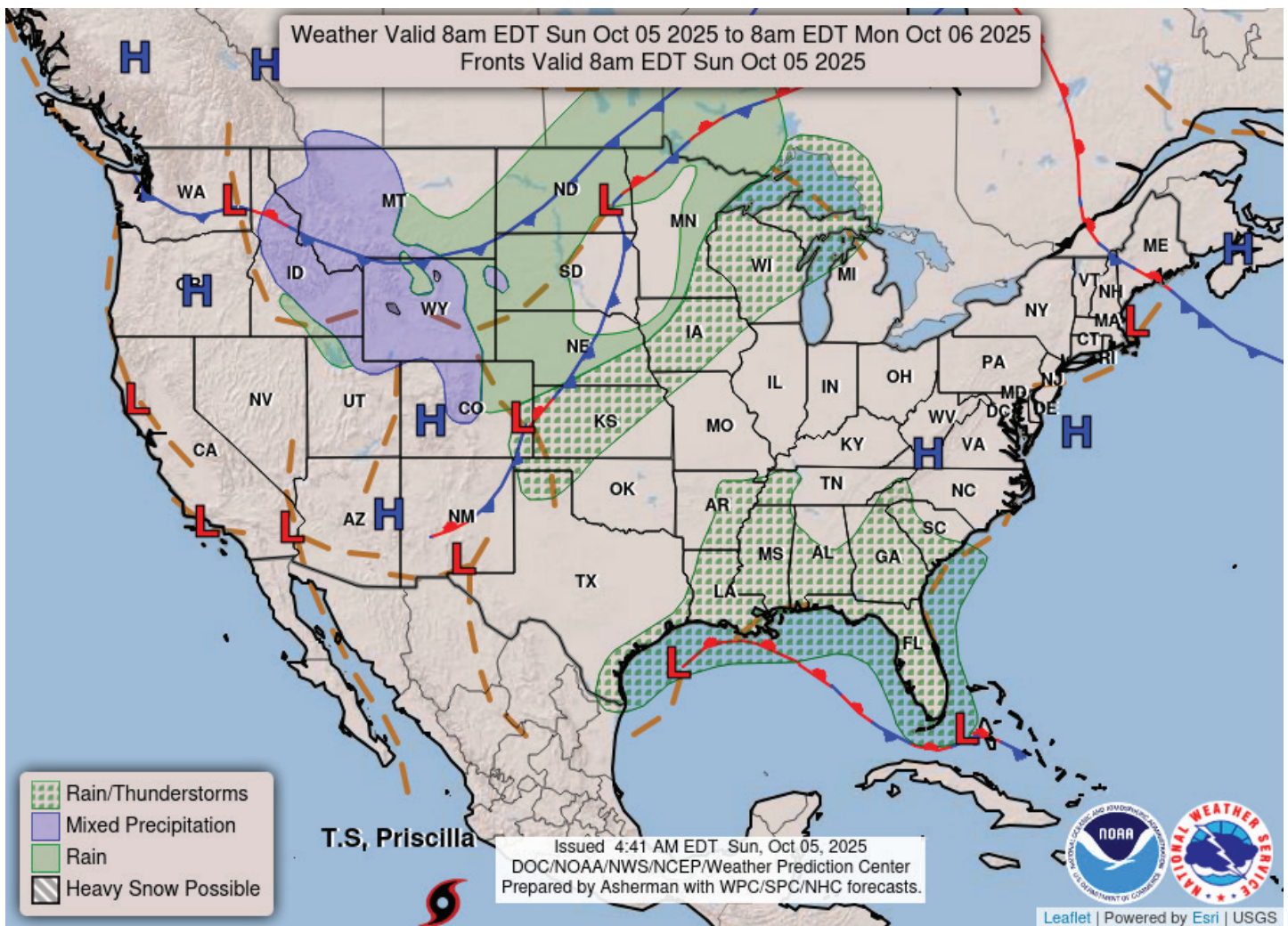
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 18.72

Precip Year to Date: 22.92

Sunset Tonight: 7:05 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:37 am





# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 44 of 103**

## Today in Weather History

October 5, 1982: Strong thunderstorms developed across central South Dakota and raced into portions of southwest Minnesota. The storms were prolific lightning producers in South Dakota, setting several structures on fire. An electrical substation was damaged near Salem, an elementary school was set ablaze in Aberdeen, and several homes in Sioux Falls were struck. One house in Sioux Falls had a hole knocked in a wall by a lightning strike.

Numerous fires were also started in southern Minnesota by the same line of storms. Strong thunderstorm winds leveled several buildings, damaged a house, and moved a hog shed off its foundation on three separate farms near Worthington. The winds also turned over railroad cars near Pipestone. Worthington narrowly escaped damage as a small tornado touched down two miles southwest of town and moved southeast. Fortunately, the tornado's damage was confined to trees and crops.

October 5, 2013: A historic blizzard pounded western South Dakota with record-setting snowfall and high winds for almost 48 hours from October 3 through the afternoon of October 5. One to two feet of snow was reported over the plains of western South Dakota, with three to five feet of snow falling over the northern and central Black Hills. Wind gusts to 70 mph across the plains produced significant blowing and drifting snow, with visibilities near zero for much of the day on October 4. The heavy wet snow and strong winds downed trees and power lines, causing prolonged outages and impassable highways. The roofs of several businesses, a middle school, and a community center collapsed from the heavy snow. Thousands of livestock were killed from hypothermia, suffocation, or drowning. The South Dakota Animal Industry Board received over 21,000 cattle; over 1300 sheep; 400 horses; and 40 bison deaths from the storm. Tree and debris removal costs were several million dollars. An unyielding low-pressure area moving across the region brought an early fall blizzard to most of the counties west of Missouri River on October 4th and 5th. The snowfall and blizzard conditions occurred mainly along with the western parts of the counties. The snowfall amounts varied broadly from 1 to 2 inches to as much as 22 inches in far western Corson County. Very strong northwest winds of 30 to 50 mph with gusts to 60 mph brought blizzard conditions and significant travel problems. Interstate-90 was closed from Murdo to the Wyoming border from 7 pm on October 4th to October 8th. No travel was advised on all roads west of the Missouri River. Many cattle were also lost in western Corson County due to the storm. The heavy snow, along with strong winds, resulted in some power outages and some downed tree branches. The snowfall began in the late morning hours of the 4th and ended in the early afternoon hours of the 5th. Some snowfall amounts that occurred were 1 inch at Murdo; 2 inches at Timber Lake and 5 miles west of Hayes; 4 inches at McIntosh; 16 inches southeast of Morristown; and 22 inches southwest of Keldron.

1786: The famous "Pumpkin Flood" occurred on the Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers. Harrisburg, PA, reported a river stage of twenty-two feet.

1864: A tropical cyclone hit India near Calcutta, devastating the city and killing about 60,000 people.

1972: Tropical Storm Joanne, earlier a hurricane, moved across the Baja California peninsula and came ashore in western Mexico south of Ajo. The storm brought heavy rain and flooding to much of Arizona. This storm is the first documented tropical storm to reach Arizona, with its cyclonic circulation intact. Over 5 inches of rain was reported on the Mogollon rim southeast of Flagstaff. Additional rainfall amounts included 4.44 at Flagstaff, 3.80 at Prescott, 2.21 at Yuma, 1.95 at Phoenix, 1.63 at Nogales, and 1.63 at Tucson.

2010: Large hail pounded Phoenix, Arizona, causing nearly \$3 billion in damage.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 45 of 103



## **"WE'RE IN TERRIBLE SHAPE!"**

It was the first day of geography class after spring break. The teacher was trying to get her class involved in a lively discussion. "What is the shape of the world?" she asked.

Immediately, James held up his hand and said, "My Dad says it's in terrible shape!" And, it seems that most people would agree with his dad.

Years ago a Psalmist gave us a reason for the condition of the world: "The kings and rulers of the earth," he said, "take their stand together against the Lord...and His Anointed One."

This Psalm points to "the One" who was to come – the Messiah. In it we find a description of Jesus – His life, death, resurrection, and future reign. This Psalm also described the rebellion of the nations of the world and their refusal to be obedient to the Word of God. The author wanted his readers to know and understand that God would fulfill His promises of peace and hope, grace and mercy, love and salvation. God, speaking to us through this Psalm, gave us His assurance that He is "the One" who is in control of all things – past, present and future. He wants us to know that through His Word we can become free from the worries and cares of this world and be certain of being with Him in eternity.

"Serve the Lord with reverent fear," said the Psalmist, and "submit to God's royal Son...and there will be joy for all who find protection in Him."

Prayer: Lord, we lift our hearts to You in worship and thanksgiving, knowing that Your peace will calm our fears, quiet our hearts, and bless our lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Submit to God's royal son, or he will become angry, and you will be destroyed in the midst of all your activities - for his anger flares up in an instant. But what joy for all who take refuge in him! Psalm 2:12

*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

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 46 of 103

## 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

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 47 of 103



## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.03.25

18 19 38 54 57 19

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$547,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.04.25

9 27 28 45 51 6

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$4,160,000**

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.04.25

8 17 18 24 35 1

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 32 Mins 0 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.04.25

11 16 24 26 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$41,000**

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.04.25

5 16 40 44 47 7

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.04.25

3 7 47 67 68 2

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$207,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 48 of 103**

## **Upcoming Groton Events**

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 49 of 103

## News from the Associated Press

### PREP VOLLEYBALL

Brandon Valley def. T F Riggs High School, 25-16, 25-10, 25-21  
Burke def. Tripp-Delmont-Armour, 25-23, 30-28  
Deubrook def. Sioux Valley, 25-22, 17-25, 25-22, 25-17  
Edgemont def. Cody-Kilgore, Neb., 25-20, 25-13, 25-13  
Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Sioux Falls Jefferson, 25-18, 23-25, 25-19, 26-24  
Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Sioux Falls Christian, 25-17, 25-21, 25-22  
Tripp-Delmont-Armour def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-11, 25-22  
Tripp-Delmont-Armour def. Avon, 25-14, 25-21  
Tripp-Delmont-Armour def. Scotland, 25-19, 25-13  
Wagner def. Tri-Valley, 25-21, 25-23, 25-23  
Winner def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-17, 25-13, 25-16  
281 Conference Tournament=  
First Round=  
Highmore-Harrold def. Wessington Springs, 23-25, 25-20, 25-15  
Hitchcock-Tulare def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-2, 25-10  
Sanborn Central-Woonsocket def. Iroquois-Lake Preston, 25-20, 25-23  
Wolsey-Wessington def. James Valley Christian School, 25-9, 25-9  
Consolation Semifinal=  
Iroquois-Lake Preston def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-11, 25-13  
Wessington Springs def. James Valley Christian School, 25-9, 25-9  
Semifinal=  
Hitchcock-Tulare def. Sanborn Central-Woonsocket, 25-8, 25-15  
Lakota Nations Invitational=  
Quarterfinal=  
Bennett County def. Mahpíya Lúta Red Cloud, 25-14, 25-18  
Custer def. White River, 25-12, 25-20  
Lakota Tech def. McLaughlin, 25-13, 25-9  
Pine Ridge def. Wyoming Indian, Wyo., 21-25, 25-21, 25-20  
Semifinal=  
Bennett County def. Custer, 25-18, 25-15  
Lakota Tech def. Pine Ridge, 25-12, 25-19  
Third Place=  
Custer def. Pine Ridge, 25-6, 25-18  
Championship=  
Bennett County def. Lakota Tech, 25-15, 25-22  
Mile High Invitational=  
Pool A=  
Belle Fourche def. Wall, 25-20, 22-25, 25-15  
Lead-Deadwood def. Belle Fourche, 25-18, 25-19  
Lead-Deadwood def. New Underwood, 25-19, 25-22  
Lead-Deadwood def. Wall, 24-26, 25-21, 25-20  
New Underwood def. Belle Fourche, 25-20, 25-22  
Wall def. New Underwood, 25-21, 26-24  
Pool B=  
Bison def. Gordon/Rushville, Neb., 18-25, 25-18, 25-16



# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 50 of 103**

Bison def. Newell, 27-25, 18-25, 25-22  
Kadoka def. Bison, 25-4, 25-6  
Kadoka def. Gordon/Rushville, Neb., 25-11, 25-16  
Kadoka def. Newell, 25-13, 25-12  
Newell def. Gordon/Rushville, Neb., 25-23, 22-25, 25-22  
Redfield Tournament=  
Pool A=  
Aberdeen Christian def. Aberdeen Roncalli, 25-16, 30-28  
Aberdeen Christian def. Florence-Henry, 25-13, 25-21  
Aberdeen Christian def. Gettysburg, 25-15, 25-11  
Aberdeen Roncalli def. Florence-Henry, 25-17, 24-26, 25-17  
Aberdeen Roncalli def. Gettysburg, 25-16, 25-21  
Northwestern def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-12, 25-16  
Northwestern def. Aberdeen Roncalli, 21-25, 25-19  
Northwestern def. Florence-Henry, 25-14, 25-8  
Northwestern def. Gettysburg, 25-7, 25-12  
Pool B=  
Groton def. Madison, 18-25, 25-19, 25-21  
Groton def. North Central, 25-20, 15-25, 25-11  
Groton def. Redfield, 25-19, 25-18  
Groton def. Timber Lake, 25-11, 25-12  
Madison def. North Central, 25-15, 23-25, 25-13  
Madison def. Redfield, 25-18, 28-26  
Madison def. Timber Lake, 25-8, 25-8  
North Central def. Redfield, 25-23, 24-26, 25-21  
North Central def. Timber Lake, 25-7, 25-7  
Redfield def. Timber Lake, 25-6, 25-15  
Championship=  
Northwestern def. Groton, 25-20, 26-24  
Spearfish Quad=  
Mitchell def. Douglas, 25-17, 25-18, 23-25, 25-2  
Mitchell def. Spearfish, 25-21, 25-20, 25-17  
Spearfish def. Tea, 25-15, 25-14, 25-15  
Tea def. Douglas, 25-12, 25-20, 25-19  
Twin City Invitational=  
Kearney, Neb. def. Rapid City Christian, 25-14, 25-27, 25-19  
Rapid City Stevens def. Hill City, 25-14, 25-21  
Gold Bracket=  
Losers Bracket=  
Holdrege, Neb. def. Hill City, 19-25, 25-22, 25-14  
Ogallala, Neb. def. Rapid City Christian, 26-24, 25-22  
Winners Bracket=  
Rapid City Stevens def. Adams Central, Neb., 19-25, 25-15, 27-25  
Championship=  
Rapid City Stevens def. Grand Island Northwest, Neb., 25-22, 23-25, 25-18

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 51 of 103

## **Loughridge runs for 176 yards, 4 second-half TDs; S. Dakota State beats Youngstown St. 35-30**

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (AP) — Julius Loughridge ran for 176 yards and four second-half touchdowns to help South Dakota State overcome a 14-point deficit and beat Youngstown State 35-30 on Saturday night in the Missouri Valley Conference opener for two of the top teams in the FCS.

South Dakota State (5-0), ranked No. 2 in the FCS coaches poll, has won seven straight against the Penguins.

Beau Brungard threw a 23-yard TD pass to Max Tomczak about three minutes into the game and ran for a 4-yard score that gave FCS No. 18 Youngstown State (3-2) a 14-0 lead early in the second quarter.

After the Penguins went three-and-out on the opening drive of the second half, Loughridge scored on runs of 3, 14 and 2 yards in the third quarter to make it 28-17 and added a 25-yard TD in the fourth.

Brungard threw two fourth-quarter touchdown passes to Tomczak and finished 29 of 44 for 275 yards passing.

Chase Mason threw a 4-yard TD pass to Greyton Gannon to get South Dakota State on the scoreboard with 5:01 left in the first half.

Alex Bullock had 162 yards on 10 receptions for the Jackrabbits.

## **Phillips rushes for 244 yards, 4 TDs in South Dakota's 49-24 win over Murray State**

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — L.J. Phillips Jr. rushed for 244 yards and four touchdowns and South Dakota rolled past Murray State 49-24 on Saturday.

Phillips ran for three touchdowns in leading the Coyotes to a 35-7 halftime lead. Phillips' fourth TD, a 67-yarder, came early in the second half and South Dakota (3-3, 1-1 Missouri Valley Football Conference), ranked No. 22 in the FCS coaches poll, cruised to its 11th consecutive home win.

Aidan Bouman was 11-of-16 passing for 185 yards and scores to Lorenzo Fenner, Jack Martens and Zach Witte. Fenner had 108 yards receiving including a 41-yard TD two minutes into the game.

The Coyotes outgained the Racers 568-312 and had a season-high 380 yards rushing.

Jim Ogle was 16 of 30 for 183 yards and a touchdown to J'Kalon Carter. Carter also threw a 29-yard TD to Darius Cannon off a reverse. Tyrell Campbell added a short rushing TD late.

The Racers (0-5, 0-1) have lost 14 straight games dating, the longest active streak in Division I. They have lost 16 straight conference games dating to the 2023 season when its sole MVFC win came against Indiana State, 30-28, in the Racers' league opener.

## **Georgia's ruling party claims landslide win in local vote boycotted by main opposition**

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — Georgia's ruling party claimed victory in every municipality across the South Caucasus country in a local election that was boycotted by the two main opposition blocs as a sham.

Tens of thousands poured into the capital, Tbilisi, hours earlier on Saturday to march against the government's monthslong crackdown on dissent, and what they see as Georgia's steady drift into Moscow's orbit.

Riot police used water cannons and tear gas to drive protesters out of the presidential palace, after they smashed the gates and attempted to enter the building.

Five activists, including celebrated opera singer Paata Burchuladze, were detained following the rally. According to Georgia's Interior Ministry, they were accused of calling for a violent overthrow of the government as well as "organizing, leading and participating in group violence."

Protests and political unrest have rocked Georgia since Georgian Dream halted talks on joining the European Union last November, despite it being a cherished goal for many Georgians that has been enshrined in the country's constitution. The move triggered waves of protests that have been met with mass arrests

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 52 of 103**

and police violence. It came after the longtime ruling party declared victory in a parliamentary election the opposition said was rigged.

Georgians went to the polls on Saturday to elect mayors of four major cities, including Tbilisi, the heads of over 50 other municipalities and members of municipal councils. Georgian Dream and 17 other parties fielded candidates, while eight parties, including the two main opposition blocs, boycotted the vote.

The rallies, big and small, have continued despite a multipronged crackdown by the government through laws that target demonstrators, rights groups, nongovernmental organizations and independent media. Critics say some have been modeled on legislation passed in Russia, where President Vladimir Putin has harshly stifled dissent.

## **Trump will celebrate the Navy's 250th anniversary in the midst of the shutdown**

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has decided not to let the government shutdown interfere with a stop in Norfolk, Virginia, on Sunday to salute the Navy as it celebrates its 250th anniversary.

"I believe, 'THE SHOW MUST GO ON!'" Trump posted Friday night on his social media site, Truth Social. "This will be the largest Celebration in the History of the Navy. Thousands of our brave Active Duty Servicemembers and Military Families will be in attendance, and I look forward to this special day with all of them."

The government shutdown that began Wednesday has sparked a series of partisan blame games as military personnel are working without pay, several thousand federal employees are furloughed and key infrastructure and energy projects in Democratic-run areas such as New York and Chicago have been put on hold.

There is the possibility that an event designed to honor the Navy could be dragged into the bitter politics.

Trump accused Democrats in his post of enabling the shutdown and trying "to destroy this wonderful celebration of the U.S. Navy's Birthday."

Senate Democrats rejected efforts to preserve a continuation of government operations when the new budget year started on Wednesday. They cited the lapse in subsidies that could cause health insurance costs to climb rapidly for people who get coverage through the 2010 Affordable Care Act. Democratic lawmakers also have sought to reverse cuts to Medicaid that Trump signed into law.

On top of that, both sides cite a mutual sense of distrust.

Democrats oppose Trump's move to have his administration decline to spend congressionally approved funds, saying it undermines the budgeting process, among other concerns. Meanwhile, Trump has explored laying off federal workers at what he called "Democrat Agencies."

Scheduled to join Trump at the Naval Station Norfolk are first lady Melania Trump, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Navy Secretary John Phelan.

Trump on Tuesday addressed a gathering of military leaders abruptly summoned from across the globe to Virginia by Hegseth. The Republican president proposed using U.S. cities as training grounds for the armed forces and he spoke of needing military might to combat what he called the "invasion from within." Hegseth declared an end to "woke" culture and announced new directives for troops that include "gender-neutral" or "male-level" standards for physical fitness.

The administration is seeking to reshape Pentagon culture and use military resources for the president's priorities, including quelling domestic unrest and violent crime.

Trump has also engaged the military in an armed conflict with drug cartels, leading to four strikes on boats in the Caribbean that Washington says were involved in trafficking.



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 53 of 103

## At America's national parks in the Trump era, the arc of history bends toward revisionism

By CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

HARPERS FERRY, W.Va. (AP) — By the roiling rapids of converging rivers, President Donald Trump's campaign to have the government tell a happier story of American history confronts its toughest challenge. There is no positive spin to be put on slavery.

At frozen-in-time Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, people in the National Park Service are navigating shoals that federal storytellers across the nation must now negotiate. How do you tell the truth if it might not be the whole truth?

As part of a broader Trump directive reaching across the government and the country, the park service is under orders to review interpretive materials at all its historical properties and remove or alter descriptions that "inappropriately disparage Americans past or living" or otherwise sully the American story. This comes as the Republican president has complained about institutions that go too deep, in his view, on "how bad slavery was."

It's too soon to know whether his directive is causing the arc of history to bend toward sanitized revisionism. There are at least scattered indications that the reviewers may be treading carefully in reshaping America's core stories.

Descendant of a John Brown raider wants the whole truth

Brianna Wheeler hopes they stay true to history. She is a direct descendant of one of abolitionist John Brown's anti-slavery raiders who laid siege to the U.S. armory at Harpers Ferry in a bloody 1859 assault that set the stage for the Civil War. The shame of slavery must not be ignored, she said.

"You can't wipe that," she told The Associated Press. "You can't erase that. It's our obligation to not let that be erased."

At some parks, employees on the ground told the AP, brochures with references to "enslavers" have been pulled for revision and everything is getting a hard look.

Yet in the guided tour about Brown's raid, the story presented about slavery remains unflinching. And at Fort Pulaski National Monument outside Savannah, Georgia, a photo of a whipped yet dignified man with welts across his back still occupied its prominent spot on an exhibit in the visitors center during a recent visit.

Its caption: "The enforcement of the slave regime relied on violence."

Few changes are seen yet

The deadline recently passed for parks officials to remove "inappropriate content" from public display. More than 80 Democratic lawmakers then asked the National Park Service chief for a full accounting of changes made in the "pursuit of censorship and erasure."

The Sierra Club, which is tracking changes nationally, said more than 1,000 items were flagged for review at national parks. But it has only confirmed one example of signage being removed. It was at Muir Woods National Monument in California.

It was changed during the Biden administration to highlight the violent displacement of Indigenous peoples, their enslavement by missionaries and other harms wrought by privileged classes. Yellow sticky notes were attached to existing wording to round out that story. Now that the signage is gone.

The Interior Department order covers more than history. At the nature parks, material that "emphasizes matters unrelated to the beauty, abundance, or grandeur" also is to be flagged. That means references to climate change or other human degradations of nature.

At Acadia National Park in Maine, 10 signs citing climate change are now gone, said Rep. Chellie Pingree, D-Maine.

"Our national parks are not billboards for propaganda," she told Interior Secretary Doug Burgum in a letter. "They are places where millions of people come each year to learn, reflect, and confront both the beauty and the difficult truths of our shared history." The Interior Department would not confirm changes at Acadia, saying the review there continues.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 54 of 103**

Pressure to brighten the American story has also come to the Smithsonian Institution museums, which get most of their money from the government.

Trump posted on social media that museum exhibits are about "how horrible our Country is, how bad Slavery was, and how unaccomplished the downtrodden have been," and threatened to cut funding. In fact, the history museum reflects bountiful achievements in industry, science, culture and war as well as the legacies of injustice.

When a picture tells 1,000 words

In the review at parks, a decision was made locally, not from Washington, that the 1863 photograph of a lashed Black man that was on display at Fort Pulaski should be removed, said a federal official involved in the national review who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Two federal officials said the photograph was not taken down at Fort Pulaski, nor will it be removed from any other park service sites.

One of the officials, National Park Service spokesperson Elizabeth Peace, told the AP: "If any interpretive materials are found to have been removed or altered prematurely or in error, the Department will review the circumstances and take corrective action as appropriate. Our goal is accuracy and balance, not removal for its own sake."

The man depicted in the photo had escaped a Louisiana plantation to enlist in the Union Army. It became one of the Civil War's most powerful images, exposing the brutality of slavery, according to the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery.

Still, under marching orders from the Interior Department, national historical parks must focus on "solemn and uplifting public monuments that remind Americans of our extraordinary heritage, consistent progress toward becoming a more perfect Union, and unmatched record of advancing liberty, prosperity, and human flourishing."

A far more complex story was told in a recent guided tour at Harpers Ferry. Brown was held up as a transformational figure whose audacious and deadly raid swelled Northern anti-slavery sentiment on the cusp of a war that produced "a new birth of freedom."

So said the park ranger speaking to a crowd on a bluff overlooking where the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers smash together like the forces of North and South once did.

Was John Brown a hero?

Whether Brown is a hero is explicitly left for you to decide. This fierce abolitionist had plenty of blood on his hands even before he set foot in Harpers Ferry. Witnesses said he and his band killed five pro-slavery men and boys in a Kansas massacre sparked by enmity between pro-slavery and anti-slavery Kansans.

Wheeler is a descendant of Dangerfield Newby, the first of Brown's raiders to die in the Harpers Ferry fighting.

One of more than 20 children from a white enslaver and a Black enslaved woman, Newby was freed in Ohio while his common law wife, Harriet, and their children remained in bondage in Virginia. He was saving up to buy and liberate them when he joined Brown's band of men.

Newby was shot dead by a musket loaded with a railroad spike in a street battle between townspeople and the raiders. His body was mutilated. Wheeler said that the chilling scene with her ancestor and the broader experience of millions of enslaved people are as much a part of the American story as the uplifting episodes.

This country must know "what really made America," Wheeler said. "Who bled, whose blood is in these stones and on these streets. Harpers Ferry is a huge thread in that tapestry."

So is Brown a hero in the eyes of his descendant? "Yes," says Wheeler, because he gave up everything, including his life, for a monumental cause. But "he's not a superhero. He's a flawed character."

He's complicated. Like history itself.

## Will the government shutdown affect next year's election? Recent history provides clues

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Political leaders in Washington are spending considerable energy blaming the other party for what could be an extended government shutdown, and that effort includes shaping the narrative for next year's elections.

The Democratic campaign arm for House members has taken out digital ads in 35 districts it considers competitive. The ads accuse the Republicans of "standing in the way of affordable health care — on purpose." The ads align with Democratic insistence that their health coverage concerns be addressed as part of a bill to fund the government, a demand Republicans have rejected. A Democratic-aligned group, House Majority Forward, also launched a \$3 million ad campaign in 10 Republican-held districts.

The House Republican campaign organization has launched two digital ads in swing districts. "It's sabotage. Democrats are threatening a government shutdown to stop President Trump's policies. Like Trump's crackdown on MS-13 and violent criminals," one of the ads says. Meanwhile, two conservative advocacy groups, One Nation and American Action Network, announced ad buys in New York and Washington markets. "The woke mob demanded a government shutdown," the ad says. "So that's exactly what liberals in Congress are doing."

With narrow margins determining who controls each chamber of Congress, the two parties cannot afford to leave anything to chance when it comes to winning the shutdown's messaging campaign. But recent history suggests there is reason to doubt the shutdown will be a factor in the 2026 election.

Republicans won big after forcing a shutdown in 2013

The October 2013 shutdown that lasted for 16 full days is Exhibit A. Republicans demanded significant changes to Democratic-President Barack Obama's signature health care law in exchange for funding the government and giving the Treasury Department the ability to borrow to pay the nation's bills.

Doug Heye, who served as deputy chief of staff to then-House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., recalls GOP leadership worrying about the political ramifications. But many in the rank and file were convinced by a few GOP senators that they had a winning hand and could use a shutdown as leverage to roll back portions of the Affordable Care Act, he said.

"We basically said, if this is what these guys want, they'll touch the stove, they'll get burned and figure out, well, you don't do that. This is not the smart course," Heye said.

That is pretty much what happened. Republicans gave in as polls showed the GOP faring poorly. But it did not take long for the public to move on.

A little more than a year later, Republicans scored big wins at the ballot box. They gained 13 seats in the House, expanding upon their already significant majority. They also gained nine seats in the Senate, seizing the majority.

Heye said the election was a lesson that unless a shutdown becomes protracted and begins to affect voters on a personal level, the electoral fallout will probably be minimal.

"Voters tend to have short memories on this. Whoever they've blamed, they've moved on to one, or two, or 10 things over the course of a year," Heye said.

The longest shutdown is harder to judge

The election results were mixed following the 2018-2019 partial shutdown that lasted 35 days.

Republican President Donald Trump insisted that a funding bill include billions of dollars for his U.S.-Mexico border wall. Senate Democrats refused to go along. The shutdown ended as Democratic leaders had insisted it must: Reopen the government first, then talk border security.

Trump would go on to lose to Democrat Joe Biden in the 2020 presidential election. But that race happened during a COVID-19 pandemic that clearly was front and center for voters. Democrats would gain three seats in the Senate to forge a 50-50 tie and the majority, with Vice President Kamala Harris the tiebreaker. But Republicans picked up seats in the House, even though many had expected Democrats to expand their majority.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 56 of 103**

While the two most recent extended shutdowns suggests a limited impact on subsequent elections, it is a small sample size. A lengthy and painful shutdown could change the dynamic.

The relatively small amount of money dedicated to the ad buys also signals the two parties are eyeing bigger fights ahead. Still, the ads reinforce themes both parties expect to emphasize going into the midterms.

In the ad war, it's health care vs. immigration

For Democrats, health care is central as millions of people in the United States brace for more expensive health insurance coverage next year if Congress does not extend tax credits that make insurance premiums more affordable for those who purchase through the marketplaces established through "Obamacare." Millions would also lose coverage through the new work requirements and other changes that Republicans made to Medicaid in Trump's package of tax breaks and spending cuts, though the work requirements do not begin until 2027.

Washington Rep. Suzan DelBene, who chairs the Democratic campaign arm, said the No. 1 issue across the country is affordability and rising prices.

"Look, going forward, people are seeing prices going up when Donald Trump promised to lower prices on Day 1. It's a big, big broken promise from Republicans," she said. "And we have candidates who are running to stand up for their communities. It's a big reason why we are going to win next year."

Republicans are using the shutdown to pivot to immigration, an issue they believe was instrumental in sweeping them to power across Washington last year.

"Tell Democrats, don't hold the government hostage to put illegals before us," the National Republican Congressional Committee's digital ad says.

Immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally are not eligible for any federal health care programs, including insurance provided through the Obama health overhaul and Medicaid. And Democrats say they're not looking to change that.

In the two most recent extended shutdowns, Republicans were seeking changes in government policy to keep the government open. This time, it's Democratic lawmakers.

In a statement, North Carolina Rep. Richard Hudson, chair of the House Republican campaign arm, said Republicans voted to keep the government open to ensure critical funding and paychecks to workers and service members were delivered on time. He called the shutdown "wasteful and unnecessary."

"The blame for this reckless decision and the harm it will cause working families rests squarely with the Democrats, and it will cost them their seats next November," Hudson said.

## **Gaza flotilla activists allege abuse and humiliation while being detained in Israel**

By VERONICA ANDREA SAUCHELLI and ANDREW WILKS Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Some of the activists detained while trying to reach Gaza by sea have returned to their home countries to describe abuse and humiliation at the hands of Israeli guards.

Some 450 activists were arrested as Israeli forces intercepted the Global Sumud Flotilla, a fleet of 42 boats seeking to break Israel's naval blockade of Gaza and deliver a symbolic amount of aid to the famine-stricken territory. Those detained between Wednesday and Friday were brought to Israel, where many remain in prison.

Italian journalist Saverio Tommasi said Israeli soldiers withheld medicines and treated prisoners "like monkeys."

"This is called torture. It's called torture, a denial of human rights, even the most basic ones," he said on his return at Rome's Fiumicino Airport late Saturday.

"They took away everyone's medicine: people with heart disease, asthma, even an 86-year-old man... they took away his inhaler."

Among those detained were Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, Nelson Mandela's grandson Mandla Mandela and several European lawmakers.

Tommasi said Thunberg was singled out by Israeli forces after being arrested.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 57 of 103

"We also saw Greta Thunberg at the port, in that case with her arms tied and an Israeli flag next to her, just a mockery," he said. "Let's say the mockery was part of the verbal and psychological violence they always carried out, in order to demean, ridicule and laugh in situations where there is nothing to laugh about."

The interception of the flotilla came as U.S. President Donald Trump was appearing to be brokering a fresh peace initiative in Gaza, including a proposed ceasefire, as he ordered Israel to stop bombing Gaza.

Another Italian journalist, Lorenzo D'Agostino, said detainees were repeatedly woken during the two nights he spent behind bars. They were also intimidated with dogs and by soldiers pointing the laser sights of their guns at prisoners "to scare us."

"Overall, I felt I was being held by a terrorist organization," he said after landing at Istanbul Airport, where 137 activists from 13 countries arrived from Israel on Saturday.

D'Agostino added that his belongings and money had been "stolen by the Israelis."

Activist Paolo De Montis described being crammed into a prison van for hours with his hands secured by zip ties.

"Constant stress and humiliation," he said. "You weren't allowed to look them in the face, always had to keep your head down and when I did look up, a man ... came and shook me and slapped me on the back of the head."

In a statement, Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir said he was "proud" of the way staff behaved at Ketziot prison, a facility in the Negev desert.

"I was proud that we treat the 'flotilla activists' as supporters of terrorism. Anyone who supports terrorism is a terrorist and deserves the conditions of terrorists," he said.

"If any of them thought they would come here and receive a red carpet and trumpets — they were mistaken. They should get a good feel for the conditions in Ketziot prison and think twice before they approach Israel again."

Israel's Foreign Ministry, meanwhile, said the claims of mistreatment were "brazen lies."

In a statement on social media, the ministry said all detainees' legal rights had been "fully upheld," adding that Thunberg had not complained about the "ludicrous and baseless allegations — because they never occurred."

The arrests led to criticism from several governments including Turkey, Colombia and Pakistan. Greece, which had 27 of its nationals in Israeli custody, issued a "strong written protest" to Israel over the "unacceptable and inappropriate behavior of an Israeli minister."

The complaint is thought to refer to footage of Ben-Gvir upbraiding the activists for supporting "terrorism" and mocking their aid initiative after they were brought ashore at the southern port of Ashdod on Friday.

The Swedish Foreign Ministry said it had "acted intensively to ensure that the detained Swedes' rights are observed."

The interception of the flotilla also led to large-scale demonstrations in cities across the world.

## Trump plans aid package for US soybean farmers while seeking trade deal with China

By DIDI TANG and JOSH FUNK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is planning a significant aid package to U.S. soybean farmers to help them survive China's boycott of American beans in response to his trade war even as the president says he is still seeking a soybean deal with Beijing.

But farmers are worried that time is quickly running out to reach a deal in time to sell any of this year's crop to their biggest customer.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Thursday said on CNBC that the public could expect news of "substantial support for our farmers, especially the soybean farmers" as soon as Tuesday.

Details of the aid package are unknown, but it would come as the world's two largest economies have

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 58 of 103**

been unable to reach a trade deal and China has halted purchases of U.S. beans. China, the biggest foreign buyer of American soybeans for many years, last bought American beans in May and has not bought any for this harvest season, which began in September.

"The Soybean Farmers of our Country are being hurt because China is, for 'negotiating' reasons only, not buying," Trump wrote in a Truth Social post on Wednesday. "We've made so much money on Tariffs, that we are going to take a small portion of that money, and help our Farmers."

"I'll be meeting with President Xi, of China, in four weeks, and Soybeans will be a major topic of discussion," Trump wrote.

The soybeans that China imports largely for oil extraction and animal feed are an important crop for U.S. agriculture because they are the top U.S. food export, accounting for about 14% of all farm goods sent overseas and China has been buying 25% of all American soybeans in recent years.

U.S. farmers grew \$60.7 billion worth of soybeans, or nearly 4.3 billion bushels, in the 2022-2023 marketing year, according to the American Soybean Association. Just over half were exported. Illinois is the top soybean growing state, but Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota are also large producers.

Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are expected to meet on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation grouping, to be held at the end of October in South Korea.

In Trump's first trade war with China, he gave American farmers more than \$22 billion in aid payments in 2019 and nearly \$46 billion in 2020, though the latter also included aid related to the COVID pandemic.

Time is running out

Caleb Ragland, a Kentucky farmer who serves as president of the American Soybean Association, welcomed Trump acknowledging the difficulties faced by farmers. He said actions are needed to prevent many farmers from going out of business.

Before the trade war, farmers were already pinched by high costs and low crop prices, he said. Then, their biggest customer vanished.

"It's just unfortunate that we're being used as a bargaining chip in this trade war that's not of our own doing," Ragland said.

He said time is running low for the two governments to strike a deal, because China has already ordered soybeans from countries such as Brazil and Argentina for deliveries through December and, if there's no soybean deal soon, China could skip the U.S. entirely.

"If they get another couple months, they're into new crop soybeans in Brazil and Argentina. And they're going to bypass us altogether if we're not careful," Ragland said.

Deal is still likely

China has slapped 20% tariffs on U.S. soybeans since Trump announced his tariffs on the world in the spring, making U.S. beans uncompetitive in price.

The retaliatory tariffs are in response to Trump's new import taxes on Chinese goods over allegations that Beijing has failed to stem the flow of chemicals used to make fentanyl as well as Trump's across-the-board "Liberation Day" tariffs, which have been reduced to the 10% baseline rate.

Observers say China could ease tariffs on U.S. farm goods should the White House walk back on fentanyl-related tariffs. That has yet to happen.

The White House "has not prioritized fentanyl" since this spring, said Sun Yun, director of the China program at the Washington-based think tank Stimson Center. She said Wang Xiaohong, China's public security minister, showed up in Geneva in May but met no counterpart from the U.S. to negotiate with.

But it is not time yet to write off a soybean deal, she said. "China still needs to have something to show for at the leadership meeting in South Korea," Sun said.

Gabriel Wildau, managing director of the consultancy Teneo, said a soybean deal is "the lowest-hanging fruit" for both governments.

"China needs beans, and the U.S. has them to sell. It costs China basically nothing to shift towards U.S. beans and away from Brazil and Argentina," Wildau said. "If Washington and Beijing can't reach a deal on soybeans, then they don't have much hope of reaching a deal on thornier issues like export controls."

Argentina is a sore subject for U.S. farmers right now because on September 24, Beijing took advantage



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 59 of 103

of a tax holiday in Argentina and ordered nearly 2 million tons of Argentine soybean and soy products. The tax holiday came after the U.S. signaled it would provide a \$20 billion support package to help stabilize the Latin American country's economy.

"That situation was angering to many farmers," Ragland said. "And while I don't think the specific intent was just to give a big chunk, give \$20 billion to Argentina so that they could send China soybeans. That was the result. And the optics of it look absolutely terrible."

Farmers prefer trade over aid

Government aid might be necessary to help farmers get through this year if they cannot sell to China, but farmers say they would rather sell their crops on the market.

"All farmers are proud of what they do and they don't like handouts. We'd rather make it with our own two hands than have it handed to us," Iowa farmer Robb Ewoldt said.

Meanwhile, farmers like Ryan Mackenthun, a fifth-generation farmer in south-central Minnesota, say they will do everything they can to survive.

"It's definitely tighten the belt, to look at the inputs, look at the previous investments I made in fertilizer and see if I can stretch another year or two out of them to reduce costs but maintain the same yield projections, run equipment longer," Mackenthun said.

## **Typhoon Matmo strengthens, prompting China to evacuate 347,000 people ahead of landfall**

BANGKOK (AP) — Typhoon Matmo strengthened ahead of making landfall Sunday in China, prompting the government to evacuate some 347,000 people from the southern provinces of Guangdong and Hainan.

The typhoon had maximum sustained wind speeds of 151 kph (94 mph) on Sunday morning, according to China's National Meteorological Center. It hit Zhanjiang in Guangdong around mid-afternoon Sunday. The weather authority issued a red-level typhoon warning, the highest in its system.

Hainan, which is also in the pathway of the storm, canceled flights and shut down public transport and businesses starting Saturday in preparation for the storm. The province also preemptively evacuated 197,856 people, according to state media, The Paper.

Matmo directly hit the southwestern parts of Guangdong, where 151,000 people evacuated, The Paper reported. Meanwhile, local media aired footage showing large waves washing seawater onto roads in villages by the coast in Guangdong's Zhanjiang.

Authorities are also warning of heavy rain, with rainfall expected to hit 100 to 249 mm (3.93 to 9.8 inches) in some parts of Guangdong and Hainan.

In the region of Macau, which is not in the typhoon's direct path, classes and tutoring sessions were canceled due to weather conditions.

Matmao had passed through the Philippines earlier this week. While there were no reports of casualties or major damage, the storm affected more than 220,000 people in five northern agricultural plains and mountainous regions. Nearly 35,000 of them either moved to emergency shelters or houses of relatives away from landslide- or flood-prone villages, disaster-response officials said on Sunday.

The storm will then move westward and north, toward northern Vietnam and China's Yunnan province.

## **Vivienne Westwood brings beauty from chaos and dying sunflowers in Paris**

By THOMAS ADAMSON AP Fashion Writer

PARIS (AP) — Light streamed through the stained glass of the Institut de France onto a surreal stage: a lone cellist playing a melancholy air, next to an upside-down umbrella and a rotating tableau of dying sunflowers. It was a theatrical overture for Saturday's Paris Fashion Week. This was spring — Vivienne Westwood style.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 60 of 103

Andreas Kronthaler, who has helmed the house since Westwood's death in 2022 and whose name joined the label in 2016, leaned hard into the madhat energy that made the brand a legend. Leopard-print men's underwear sat alongside sheer, ribbed tunics with a medieval air. Punk flashed in a jeweled veil and glittered lapels. Models strode in floppy, swashbuckling '70s boots that turned the grand academic setting into a carnival.

The lineup spoke fluent Westwood: draped and deconstructed silhouettes, gathered dresses with double skirts, tailoring cut just off balance. Colors clashed on purpose, with sour greens near reds — until the eye adjusted and chaos clicked into order. One jeweled necklace made it literal: "CHAOS."

Westwood made her name on King's Road in the 1970s, wiring tartan, corsetry and ripped tees into the grammar of punk. That outsider spirit still drives the house, even as its reach has gone mainstream. Since Sarah Jessica Parker's iconic Westwood bridal gown in "Sex and the City," the label's wedding business has boomed — a point underscored by the hundreds of noisy fans thronging the Institut de France on Saturday, jostling for a glimpse.

Kronthaler has long thrived on turning bourgeois classics inside out — warping jackets, loading corsetry into knits, twisting tartan into punk romance. That maximalist urge can tip into excess, yet it is also the house's lifeblood, keeping Westwood's language loud and elastic rather than embalmed.

Much of Westwood's power has historically come from mining and mutating the archive — the '80s corset legacy, Napoleonic swagger, Shakespearean drama. Since Westwood's passing, Kronthaler has shifted from careful custodian to provocateur, forging new hybrids instead of simply quoting the past. Saturday's show advanced that shift: historic tunics, technical fabrics and second-skin underwear collided by design, not accident.

The finale gave the collection a human punch. Heidi Klum closed the runway to loud cheers. Kronthaler stepped out with a bouquet of sunflowers so heavy he had to rest it on the floor before handing it over — a wry echo of the revolving sunflower still life and a tender nod to the house's stubborn romanticism.

If the collection lacked order, it didn't lack conviction. Few labels turn visual discord into persuasive beauty. Westwood still can — under stained glass and that glinting necklace, it did.

## At least 5 dead in large-scale nighttime Russian strike on Ukraine

By The Associated Press undefined

At least five civilians died after Russia launched drones, missiles and guided aerial bombs at Ukraine overnight into Sunday, in a major nighttime attack that officials there said targeted civilian infrastructure.

Moscow sent over 50 ballistic missiles and around 500 drones into nine regions across Ukraine, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Sunday morning.

Four people, including a 15-year-old, died in a combined drone and missile strike on Lviv, according to regional officials and Ukraine's emergency service. The historic western city is often seen as a haven from the fighting and destruction further east. At least six more people sustained injuries, according to a statement by Ukraine's police force.

The strike left two districts without power and public transport suspended for a few hours early Sunday, mayor Andriy Sadovyi reported. He added that a business complex on the outskirts of Lviv was on fire following the strike, describing it as a civilian facility not linked to Ukraine's war effort.

One person was also injured in the Ivano-Frankivsk region south of Lviv, according to local Gov. Svitlana Onyshchuk.

In the southern city of Zaporizhzhia, a nighttime aerial assault killed a civilian woman and wounded nine other people including a 16-year-old girl, regional Gov. Ivan Fedorov reported. He said Russia attacked with drones and guided aerial bombs.

Fedorov said the strike destroyed residential buildings and left some 73,000 households in Zaporizhzhia and surrounding areas without power.

Separately, six people including a child were injured in Sloviansk, a key city in the eastern Donetsk region that remains under Ukrainian control, after a Russian guided aerial bomb slammed into an apartment block,

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 61 of 103**

regional prosecutors reported on Sunday. They said Russian airstrikes on Saturday evening damaged over two dozen residential buildings in Sloviansk, as well as cars, shops and a cafe.

Zelenskyy on Sunday reiterated his call on Kyiv's Western partners to send additional air defenses to combat Russia's "aerial terror."

"Today, the Russians again targeted our infrastructure, everything that ensures people can live a normal life. We need more protection, a rapid implementation of all defense agreements, especially on air defense, to make this aerial terror pointless," he said in a Telegram post.

Ukraine has for months conducted its own long-range strikes on Russia, many of which have targeted Moscow's oil infrastructure and contributed to persistent fuel shortages.

For its part, the Kremlin has ramped up attacks on Ukraine's power grid ahead of winter, as in previous years since the full-scale invasion on Feb. 24, 2022. Kyiv calls it an attempt to weaponize the cold by denying civilians heat, light and running water.

Moscow has also stepped up airstrikes on Ukraine's railway network, which is essential for military transport, hitting it almost every day over the past two months. Russian drones on Saturday struck a railway station in the northern city of Shostka, killing one and wounding dozens.

## **Tropical Storm Priscilla strengthens in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Mexico**

MIAMI (AP) — Tropical Storm Priscilla was strengthening slowly in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Mexico early Sunday.

The Miami-based National Hurricane Center said Priscilla was a "large tropical storm," with tropical storm-force winds extending as far as 140 miles (220 kilometers) from its center.

Its maximum sustained winds were 65 mph (100 kph), the center said, and it was located about 305 miles (495 kilometers) south-southwest of Cabo Corientes and headed toward the northwest at 5 mph (7 kph).

A tropical storm watch was issued for part of the coast of southwestern Mexico, from Punta San Telmo to Punta Mita, with tropical storm conditions possible in the area Sunday and Monday. Rainfall of up to 6 inches (15 centimeters) was possible, and there was a danger of life-threatening surf and rip current conditions on the coast.

Priscilla was forecast to reach hurricane status by Sunday night or early Monday and generally move parallel to the coast in the coming days.

Another tropical storm off Mexico in the Pacific, Octave, was meandering far from shore with no landfall in the forecast and no coastal watches or warnings in effect due to the system.

Its maximum sustained winds strengthened slightly to 70 mph (110 kph).

## **UK says it will restrict repeated protests after 500 arrests at pro-Palestinian vigil**

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British police will get stronger powers to restrict repeated protests, the government said Sunday, after almost 500 people were arrested at a demonstration in support of a banned pro-Palestinian group.

The Home Office said police forces will be able to consider the "cumulative impact of frequent protests" on local areas when they impose conditions on marches and demonstrations.

"The right to protest is a fundamental freedom in our country," Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood said. "However, this freedom must be balanced with the freedom of their neighbors to live their lives without fear. Large, repeated protests can leave sections of our country, particularly religious communities, feeling unsafe, intimidated and scared to leave their homes."

Pro-Palestinian demonstrations have been held regularly since the start of Israel's military offensive in Gaza, which has so far killed more than 67,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry that is

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 62 of 103**

part of the Hamas-run government. The U.N. and many independent experts consider its figures to be the most reliable estimate of wartime casualties.

The protests have been overwhelmingly peaceful, but some people say they have allowed antisemitism to spread. Some Jews say they feel threatened by chants such as "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free." A handful of pro-Palestinian protesters have been arrested for supporting Hamas, which is banned in the U.K.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his supporters have frequently accused critics of Israel or its conduct of the war in Gaza of antisemitism. Israel's detractors see it as an attempt to stifle even legitimate criticism.

British police and politicians had urged protesters to stay home this weekend after Thursday's attack on a synagogue in Manchester that left two Jewish men dead. Prime Minister Keir Starmer said that organizers should "recognize and respect the grief of British Jews this week" and postpone.

But on Saturday, about 1,000 people gathered in Trafalgar Square to protest against the banning of Palestine Action, a direct-action group that has vandalized British military planes and targeted sites with links to the Israeli military. It has been labeled a terrorist organization by the government, making support for the group illegal.

Critics say the government is restricting free speech and the right to protest.

Police officers carried away a number of people who sat silently holding signs saying "I oppose genocide, I support Palestine Action." Police said they made 488 arrests for supporting the outlawed organization, and a handful for other offenses.

More than 2,000 people have now been arrested at protests since Palestine Action was proscribed in July, and more than 130 charged with terrorism offenses.

The war in the Palestinian enclave was triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Southern Israel that left more than 1,200 people dead and 251 others taken hostage. The Palestinian militant group said Saturday it was willing to return all remaining hostages, 20 of whom are believed to be alive, and the bodies of the dead in accordance with U.S. President Donald Trump's peace plan.

## **What to expect as Syria goes to the polls for the first time since Assad's ouster**

By ABBY SEWELL Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria is holding parliamentary elections on Sunday for the first time since the fall of the country's longtime autocratic leader, Bashar Assad, who was unseated in a rebel offensive in December.

Under the 50-year rule of the Assad dynasty, Syria held regular elections in which all Syrian citizens could vote. But in practice, the Assad-led Baath Party always dominated the parliament, and the votes were widely regarded as sham elections.

Outside election analysts said the only truly competitive part of the process came before election day — with the internal primary system in the Baath Party, when party members jockeyed for positions on the list.

The elections to be held on Sunday, however, will not be a fully democratic process either. Rather, most of the People's Assembly seats will be voted on by electoral colleges in each district, while one-third of the seats will be directly appointed by interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa.

Despite not being a popular vote, the election results will likely be taken as a barometer of how serious the interim authorities are about inclusivity, particularly of women and minorities.

Here's a breakdown of how the elections will work and what to watch.

How the system works

The People's Assembly has 210 seats, of which two-thirds will be elected on Sunday and one-third appointed. The elected seats are voted upon by electoral colleges in districts throughout the country, with the number of seats for each district distributed by population.

In theory, a total of 7,000 electoral college members in 60 districts — chosen from a pool of applicants



# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 63 of 103**

in each district by committees appointed for the purpose — should vote for 140 seats.

However, the elections in Sweida province and in areas of the northeast controlled by the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces have been indefinitely postponed due to tensions between the local authorities in those areas and the central government in Damascus, meaning that those seats will remain empty.

In practice, therefore, around 6,000 electoral college members will vote in 50 districts for about 120 seats.

The largest district is the one containing the city of Aleppo, where 700 electoral college members will vote to fill 14 seats, followed by the city of Damascus, with 500 members voting for 10 seats.

All candidates come from the membership of the electoral colleges.

Following Assad's ouster, the interim authorities dissolved all existing political parties, most of which were closely affiliated with the Assad government, and have not yet set up a system for new parties to register, so all candidates are running as individuals.

Why no popular vote

The interim authorities have said that it would be impossible to create an accurate voter registry and conduct a popular vote at this stage, given that millions of Syrians were internally or externally displaced by the country's nearly 14-year civil war and many have lost personal documents.

This parliament will have a 30-month term, during which the government is supposed to prepare the ground for a popular vote in the next elections.

The lack of a popular vote has drawn criticism of being undemocratic, but some analysts say the government's reasons are legitimate.

"We don't even know how many Syrians are in Syria today," because of the large number of displaced people, said Benjamin Feve, a senior research analyst at the Syria-focused Karam Shaar Advisory consulting firm.

"It would be really difficult to draw electoral lists today in Syria," or to arrange the logistics for Syrians in the diaspora to vote in their countries of residence, he said.

Haid Haid, a senior research fellow at the Arab Reform Initiative and the Chatham House think tank said that the more concerning issue was the lack of clear criteria under which electors were selected.

"Especially when it comes to choosing the subcommittees and the electoral colleges, there is no oversight, and the whole process is sort of potentially vulnerable to manipulation," he said.

There have been widespread objections after electoral authorities "removed names from the initial lists that were published, and they did not provide detailed information as to why those names were removed," he said.

Questions about inclusivity

There is no set quota for representation of women and religious or ethnic minorities in the parliament.

Women were required to make up 20% of electoral college members, but that did not guarantee that they would make up a comparable percentage of candidates or of those elected.

State-run news agency SANA, citing the head of the national elections committee, Mohammed Taha al-Ahmad, reported that women made up 14% of the 1,578 candidates who made it to the final lists. In some districts, women make up 30 or 40% of all candidates, while in others, there are no female candidates.

Meanwhile, the exclusion of the Druze-majority Sweida province and Kurdish-controlled areas in the northeast as well as the lack of set quotas for minorities has raised questions about representation of communities that are not part of the Sunni Arab national majority.

The issue is particularly sensitive after outbreaks of sectarian violence in recent months in which hundreds of civilians from the Alawite and Druze minorities were killed, many of them by government-affiliated fighters.

Feve noted that electoral districts had been drawn in such a way as to create minority-majority districts.

"What the government could have done if it wanted to limit the number of minorities, it could have merged these districts or these localities with majority Sunni Muslim districts," he said. "They could have basically drowned the minorities which is what they didn't do."

Officials have also pointed to the one-third of parliament directly appointed by al-Sharaa as a mechanism to "ensure improvement in the inclusivity of the legislative body," Haid said. The idea is that if few women

or minorities are elected by the electoral colleges, the president would include a higher percentage in his picks.

The lack of representation of Sweida and the northeast remains problematic, Haid said — even if al-Sharaa appoints legislators from those areas.

“The bottom line is that regardless of how many people will be appointed from those areas, the dispute between the de facto authorities and Damascus over their participation in the political process will remain a major issue,” he said.

## **Indonesian rescuers search for missing students after school collapse kills 37**

By TRISNADI and NINIEK KARMINI Associated Press

SIDOARJO, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesian rescuers are searching on Sunday for missing students after a prayer hall at an Islamic boarding school collapsed almost a week ago. They have recovered 23 bodies over the weekend search, bringing the death toll to 37.

Using jackhammers, circular saws and sometimes their bare hands, rescue teams diligently removed rubble in an attempt to find the 26 missing students.

The structure fell on top of hundreds of students, mostly boys between the ages of 12 and 19, on Sept. 30 at the century-old Al Khoziny school in Sidoarjo on the eastern side of Indonesia’s Java island. Only one student escaped unscathed, authorities said, while 95 were treated for various injuries and released. Eight others suffered serious wounds and remained hospitalized Sunday.

Police said two levels were added to the two-story building without a permit, leading to structural failure. This has triggered widespread anger over illegal construction in Indonesia.

“The construction couldn’t support the load while the concrete was pouring (to build) the third floor because it didn’t meet standards and the whole 800 square meters (8,600 square feet) construction collapsed,” said Mudji Irmawan, a construction expert from Tenth November Institute of Technology.

Irmawan also said students shouldn’t have been allowed inside a building under construction.

Sidoarjo district chief, Subandi, confirmed what the police had announced: The school’s management had not applied for the required permit before starting construction.

“Many buildings, including traditional boarding school extensions, in non-urban areas were built without a permit,” Subandi, who goes by a single name, told The Associated Press on Sunday.

Indonesia’s 2002 Building Construction code states that permits have to be issued by the relevant authorities prior to any construction, or else face fines and imprisonment. If a violation causes death, this can lead to up to 15 years in prison and a fine of up to 8 billion rupiah (nearly \$500,000).

The school’s caretaker is Abdus Salam Mujib, a respected Islamic cleric in East Java. He offered a public apology in a rare appearance a day after the incident.

“This is indeed God’s will, so we must all be patient, and may God replace it with goodness, with something much better. We must be confident that God will reward those affected by this incident with great rewards,” he said.

Criminal investigations involving Muslim clerics remain sensitive in the world’s most populous Muslim-majority nation.

There has been no comment from school officials since the collapse.

“We will investigate this case thoroughly,” East Java Police Chief Nanang Avianto said Sunday. “Our investigation also requires guidance from a team of construction experts to determine whether negligence by the school led to the deaths.”

## **Landslides, a lighting strike and flooding kill 22 in Nepal as officials warn of severe rainfall**

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Landslides, a lighting strike and flooding triggered by severe rainfall killed at least 22 people in Nepal and 12 others were reported missing on Sunday, officials said.

Several villages in Nepal's eastern mountain district of Illam were swept away by landslides on Sunday, killing at least 18 people and leaving seven others missing, Nepal police spokesman Binod Ghimire said.

Six people in the same family were killed when a landslide crushed their home while they slept, Illam's assistant administrative officer Bholanath Guragai said.

Rainfall was hampering efforts to reach the villages and many roads were swept away or blocked by the landslides. Guragai said helicopters from the central government were needed for medical evacuations.

Three other people in a separate district were killed as they were struck by lighting and one person died in flooding in southern Nepal.

Authorities have rescued 114 people, Ghimire said.

Nepal's government issued a severe rainfall warning in the eastern and central parts of the country from Saturday to Monday, while shutting down major highways. All domestic flights were grounded on Saturday by aviation authorities because of heavy rainfall and poor visibility but were reopened on Sunday.

The major highways connecting the capital, Kathmandu, with other areas were closed by the authorities as some parts were blocked by landslides and others were shut as a precautionary measure.

The blockage of roads and transport came as hundreds of thousands of people were returning to Kathmandu after celebrating Dashain, the biggest festival in the Himalayan nation. Thursday was the main day of the two-week festival when people travel to their home villages to be with their families.

Highways were clogged with vehicles on Sunday, as the government assessed the situation.

In Kathmandu, some areas near the river were flooded but no major damage or casualties were reported.

The government had declared a national holiday until Monday because of the heavy rainfall.

Flooding and landslides last year around the same time killed 224 people and left 158 injured.

The weekend's heavy rainfall arrived at the end of Nepal's monsoon season, which usually begins in June and ends by mid-September.

## **Pereira dethrones Ankalaev with a 1st-round stoppage at UFC 320**

By W.G. RAMIREZ Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Fan favorite Alex Pereira dethroned Magomed Ankalaev at UFC 320, taking the light heavyweight championship with a first-round stoppage Saturday night.

Pereira (13-3-0) floored Ankalaev (21-2-1) after hurting him with a huge right hand and quickly went to work using thunderous elbows during a ground-and-pound before referee Herb Dean stepped in to stop the bout at the 1:20 mark.

Pereira brought an end to Ankalaev's 14-match unbeaten streak, while exacting revenge for a loss in the fighters' first meeting in March.

"I wasn't well that night, but tonight I was very well," Pereira said through his translator.

Pereira lost to Ankalaev by unanimous decision on March 8, when the judges graded the fight on aggressiveness. This time, Pereira wasted no time in attacking Ankalaev with relentless pressure.

The 38-year-old Brazilian landed 28 of the 45 significant strike attempts, while Ankalaev, 33, was only able to land four of his nine attempts.

Pereira closed +200 at BetMGM Sportsbook, which means a \$100 wager would have won \$200. A Pereira by KO or TKO in under 2.5 rounds was +475.

While Pereira entered the arena with the sold-out crowd standing and roaring in approval, Ankalaev was greeted by a chorus of boos.

The 19,081 in attendance, which included Golden State Warriors stars Draymond Green and Jimmy

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 66 of 103**

Butler and Los Angeles Rams wide receiver Puka Nacua, went into a frenzy the moment Dean stepped in to stop the fight.

Earlier in the night, in what some might have considered a title eliminator bout in the light heavyweight division for the right to face Pereira, second-ranked contender Jiri Prochazka (32-5-1) delivered a brutal left hand at the 3:04 mark of the third round to knock out No. 4 Khalil Rountree Jr. (15-7-0) in what earned the fight of the night.

Pereira had beaten Prochazka twice already, second-round knockouts at UFC 295 and 303.

After his victory, Pereira used his spotlight during the post-fight interview with Joe Rogan to call for a moment of silence in honor of Jon Jones' older brother, Arthur, who died unexpectedly earlier this week.

"He was such a great guy," UFC president Dana White said. "When somebody passes away so young in their sleep, it's brutal. The conversations I've had with Jon, he's handling it well."

In the co-main event, champion Merab Dvalishvili (21-4-0) successfully defended his bantamweight title with a unanimous decision (49-45, 49-45, 49-46) over Cory Sandhagen (18-6-0). Dvalishvili, who strengthened his argument a Fighter of the Year contender, registered a UFC record for takedowns landed (20) with 37 attempts. His victory extended the division's longest-ever win streak at 14 fights.

In their scheduled three-round featherweight bout, the stunned crowd watched No. 9 contender Youssef Zalal (18-5-1) top No. 8 Josh Emmett (19-6-0) by way of verbal submission at 1:38 of the first round with a wicked arm bar.

In the scheduled three-round middleweight bout, Joe Pyfer (15-3) came out aggressive in the second round with two quick punches to drop Abus Magomedov (28-7-1), and then dominated on the ground until winning by submission via rear naked choke at the 1:44 mark.

## **Bad Bunny kicks off 'SNL' 51st season with a group of new faces and jabs at his Super Bowl critics**

By JOCELYN NOVECK AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Bad Bunny kicked off the 51st season of "Saturday Night Live" with a few timely jokes about his next high-profile gig: the Super Bowl.

"I think everybody is happy about it — even Fox News," the music superstar quipped in his monologue, referring to opposition in some quarters to his being named headliner of the Super Bowl halftime show.

He segued into a few sentences in Spanish, expressing Latino pride and joy over the achievement, after which he noted: "If you didn't understand what I just said, you have four months to learn!" Bad Bunny will be making history by performing entirely in Spanish, a landmark moment for Latino culture.

Launching a season that introduces some new faces in the cast, the show's cold open featured a sketch mocking Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's presentation to generals earlier this week.

"Weekend Update" host Colin Hanks played Hegseth, highlighting the defense secretary's remarks in which he said it's "tiring to look out at combat formations or really any formation and see fat troops" and said it was unacceptable to see fat generals and admirals at the Pentagon.

"No fatties, no facial hair, no body hair," Hanks's Hegseth said. "Just hot, shredded hairless men who are definitely not gay. ... "Because this is serious, we are facing the greatest threat to freedom and democracy the world has ever known. And we all know what that threat is."

"Late night TV!" replied James Austin Johnson as President Donald Trump, bursting in.

"SNL' 51 off to a rough start," Johnson's Trump added. "Seventeen new cast members and they got the 'Update' guy doing the open."

After a fanfare-filled 50th season celebrating the past, "Saturday Night Live" is looking to the future with a cast that includes five new featured players. Several cast members have departed the show.

Bad Bunny is having what can only be described as an enormous week: in addition to hosting "SNL," he's coming off a historic residency in Puerto Rico, and on Sunday came the Super Bowl news.

His moment in the spotlight hasn't come without some political discourse. The Puerto Rican artist has said one of the reasons his residency bypassed the continental U.S. was a concern that U.S. Immigration



# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 67 of 103**

and Customs Enforcement officials could target immigrants for deportation outside his shows.

Asked Friday by a podcaster whether ICE officials would be conducting enforcement at the Super Bowl, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said they would, because DHS "is responsible for keeping it safe." She didn't specify whether the officials would be conducting immigration enforcement or other law enforcement duties that are typical at the event.

The issue made for a key joke in the "Weekend Update" segment. "A Trump adviser said ICE agents will attend the Super Bowl after Bad Bunny was announced as the halftime performer," noted co-host Michael Che, then quipping: "You know, to catch all those farmworkers who can afford Super Bowl tickets."

In his second "SNL" hosting gig, Bad Bunny was joined by musical guest Doja Cat, making her debut in that role.

He was featured in many of the show's comedy segments, including a spinoff of the popular sketches in which George Washington attempts to educate soldiers about his new country's language and customs. Here, Bad Bunny played a Spanish ruler in 900 A.D. explaining how the language would have both masculine and feminine nouns — with Benicio Del Toro making a surprise appearance.

Bad Bunny will be followed as hosts in subsequent weeks by Amy Poehler and Sabrina Carpenter. All three were highlights of the 50th season celebrations, with Bad Bunny performing at the "SNL50: The Homecoming Concert" and also serving as the final musical guest last season.

SNL alumna Poehler, in her second solo hosting gig, will front the Oct. 11 episode alongside first-time musical guest Role Model. Her episode will air 50 years to the day of the very first episode of "Saturday Night Live," on Oct. 11, 1975.

Carpenter, who was a major attraction of the anniversary celebrations, is pulling double duty as host and musical guest on Oct. 18.

The revamped cast comes on the heels of several high-profile departures, including Ego Nwodim and Devon Walker. Ben Marshall, already an "SNL" writer, becomes a featured player, along with newcomers Tommy Brennan, Jeremy Culhane, Kam Patterson and Veronika Slowikowska.

Nwodim, Walker, Emil Wakim and Michael Longfellow all confirmed last month on their social media accounts that they are leaving the show.

The show picked up 12 Emmys last month for its 50th season and anniversary programming, including an award for outstanding variety special.

"I won this award for the first time 50 years ago, in 1975," Michaels said, accepting the Emmy, adding that he didn't dream of doing the same show for the next 50 years.

## **Judge temporarily blocks Trump administration from deploying troops in Portland, Oregon**

By CLAIRE RUSH and REBECCA BOONE Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A federal judge in Oregon temporarily blocked President Donald Trump's administration from deploying the National Guard in Portland, ruling Saturday in a lawsuit brought by the state and city.

U.S. District Judge Karin Immergut issued the order pending further arguments in the suit. She said the relatively small protests the city has seen did not justify the use of federalized forces and allowing the deployment could harm Oregon's state sovereignty.

"This country has a longstanding and foundational tradition of resistance to government overreach, especially in the form of military intrusion into civil affairs," Immergut wrote. She later continued, "This historical tradition boils down to a simple proposition: this is a nation of Constitutional law, not martial law."

The Trump administration late Saturday filed a notice of appeal to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. State and city officials sued to stop the deployment last week, one day after the Trump administration announced that 200 Oregon National Guard troops would be federalized to protect federal buildings. The president called the city "war-ravaged."

Oregon officials said that characterization was ludicrous. The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforce-

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 68 of 103**

ment building in the city has been the site of nightly protests that typically drew a couple dozen people in recent weeks before the deployment was announced.

Judge: The federal response didn't match the facts

Generally speaking the president is allowed "a great level of deference" to federalize National Guard troops in situations where regular law enforcement forces are not able to execute the laws of the United States, the judge said, but that has not been the case in Portland.

Plaintiffs were able to show that the demonstrations at the immigration building were not significantly violent or disruptive ahead of the president's order, the judge wrote, and "overall, the protests were small and uneventful."

"The President's determination was simply untethered to the facts," Immergut wrote.

White House says it will appeal

Following the ruling, White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson said that "President Trump exercised his lawful authority to protect federal assets and personnel in Portland following violent riots and attacks on law enforcement — we expect to be vindicated by a higher court."

Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield called the ruling "a healthy check on the president."

"It reaffirms what we already knew: Portland is not the president's war-torn fantasy. Our city is not ravaged, and there is no rebellion," Rayfield said in a statement. He added: "Members of the Oregon National Guard are not a tool for him to use in his political theater."

Trump has deployed or threatened to deploy troops in several U.S. cities, particularly ones led by Democrats, including Los Angeles, Washington, Chicago and Memphis. Speaking Tuesday to U.S. military leaders in Virginia, he proposed using cities as training grounds for the armed forces.

Last month a federal judge ruled that the president's deployment of some 4,700 National Guard soldiers and Marines in Los Angeles this year was illegal, but he allowed the 300 who remain in the city to stay as long as they do not enforce civilian laws. The Trump administration appealed, and an appellate panel has put the lower court's block on hold while it moves forward.

Portland protests were small, but grew after deployment was announced

The Portland protests have been limited to a one-block area in a city that covers about 145 square miles (375 square km) and has about 636,000 residents.

They grew somewhat following the Sept. 28 announcement of the guard deployment. The Portland Police Bureau, which has said it does not participate in immigration enforcement and only intervenes in the protests if there is vandalism or criminal activity, arrested two people on assault charges. A peaceful march earlier that day drew thousands to downtown and saw no arrests, police said.

On Saturday, before the ruling was released, roughly 400 people marched to the ICE facility. The crowd included people of all ages and races, families with children and older people using walkers. Federal agents responded with chemical crowd control munitions, including tear gas canisters and less-lethal guns that sprayed pepper balls. At least six people were arrested as the protesters reached the ICE facility.

Later in the evening, federal agents again emerged from the facility and deployed tear gas on a crowd of about 100 people.

Trump sent federal officers to Portland over the objections of local and state leaders in 2020 during long-running racial justice protests following George Floyd's killing by Minneapolis police. The administration sent hundreds of agents for the stated purpose of protecting the federal courthouse and other federal property from vandalism.

That deployment antagonized demonstrators and prompted nightly clashes. Federal officers fired rubber bullets and used tear gas.

Viral videos captured federal officers arresting people and hustling them into unmarked vehicles. A report by the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general found that while the federal government had legal authority to deploy the officers, many of them lacked the training and equipment necessary for the mission.

The government agreed this year to settle an excessive force lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union by paying compensating several plaintiffs for their injuries.

## Hernández's homer lifts Ohtani and the Dodgers over the Phillies 5-3 in NL Division Series opener

By DAN GELSTON AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Teoscar Hernández tries to stuff any mistakes — like an earlier defensive lapse that led to a two-run triple — “in the trash” before the Dodgers right fielder faces any clutch playoff moment at the plate.

He felt euphoric once he put one in the seats.

Hernández rallied the Dodgers with a three-run homer in the seventh inning that bailed out Shohei Ohtani, both on the mound and at the plate, and led Los Angeles to a 5-3 win over the Philadelphia Phillies in Game 1 of their NL Division Series on Saturday night.

“It was a great moment. It’s definitely a highlight for us and for the team,” Ohtani said through a translator.

Ohtani needed a pick-me-up after he struck out four straight times at the plate, the final time in the seventh with no outs and two runners on against Matt Strahm.

No worries, at least for the reigning World Series champions.

Following a Mookie Betts popout, Hernández silenced a roaring Phillies crowd with an opposite-field drive to right off Strahm for a 5-3 lead. The veteran slugger gestured in wild celebration during his trot around the bases.

His hat off, Ohtani rose from his dugout seat to join in the fun, and exhale once he was on track for the win.

Hernández went up with modest expectations with the game in the balance.

“Maybe a hit. Try to bring in one run to tie the game,” he said. “But he left it over the strike zone.”

A three-time MVP, Ohtani recovered from a three-run second in his first career playoff pitching start to shut down the Phillies the rest of the way and finish with nine strikeouts over six innings.

Alex Vesia retired pinch-hitter Edmundo Sosa with the bases loaded in the eighth to preserve the lead. Roki Sasaki worked the ninth for his first career save.

Ohtani and Sasaki are the first Japanese-born starter and reliever to earn a win and a save in the same postseason game.

Ohtani had admitted to nerves about playing in front of a crowd that voraciously tried to live up to its four hours of hell moniker — he was jeered as he stepped on the field during warmups — and he never found his footing at the plate.

Ohtani walked in the ninth.

Phillies starter Cristopher Sánchez struck out Ohtani three times, including a called strike three in the fifth inning that sent a towel-waving crowd into delirium.

Sánchez was even fired up on that one, and punched his fist in the air as he left the mound.

The Oh-4 became but a mere footnote — though Ohtani is the first player to strike out four times as a batter and strike out nine batters as a pitcher in the same postseason game — in an exhilarating comeback for a Dodgers team riding high after thumping the Reds for a two-game sweep in their Wild Card Series.

Game 2 in the best-of-five playoff is Monday in Philadelphia.

“We’ve got to put it behind us. These guys are pretty good at that,” Phillies manager Rob Thomson said.

Sánchez was thrust into the ace role when Zack Wheeler was ruled out for the season in August with complications from a blood clot. Wheeler was in full uniform and received a roaring ovation during pre-game introductions.

Sánchez pitched early like a No. 1 starter.

He fanned Ohtani on three pitches to start the game and breezed through five scoreless innings.

Kiké Hernández chased Sánchez in the sixth when he ripped a two-out, two-run double down the left-field line that made it 3-2. David Robertson retired pinch-hitter Max Muncy to end the threat.

Robertson, the 40-year-old late-season pickup, allowed a single and hit Will Smith with a pitch to open the seventh before yielding to Strahm.

While the Phillies’ bullpen couldn’t hang on, Vesia saved Tyler Glasnow in the eighth. Glasnow, pitching

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 70 of 103

out of the bullpen in a short series, loaded the bases before he got the hook. Vesia got Sosa, who hit three home runs in a game last month, to fly out to center field.

The Phillies had only two hits after they scored three times in the third on J.T. Realmuto's two-run triple — Hernández lollygagged after the ball and let it roll to the wall — and Harrison Bader's sacrifice fly.

Trea Turner, NL home run and RBI champion Kyle Schwarber, Bryce Harper and cleanup hitter Alec Bohm went a combined 1 for 13 with one run scored and no RBIs.

"We jumped on 'em and kind of laid low there for a little bit," Harper said. "They took some good swings and got ahead and we weren't able to do any more than that. I thought we missed some pitches over the plate and were chasing a little bit."

Up next

Jesús Luzardo will start for the Phillies on Monday in Game 2. Luzardo went 15-7 with a 3.92 ERA and a career-high 216 strikeouts in his first season with the Phillies after he was acquired from Miami in an offseason trade. The Dodgers already had announced that two-time Cy Young Award winner Blake Snell was expected to start Game 2, with Yoshinobu Yamamoto on the bump in Game 3.

## Japan's first female governing-party leader is an ultra-conservative star in a male-dominated group

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — In a country that ranks poorly internationally for gender equality, the new president of Japan's long-governing Liberal Democrats, and likely next prime minister, is an ultra-conservative star of a male-dominated party that critics call an obstacle to women's advancement.

Sanae Takaichi, 64, admires former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and is a proponent of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's conservative vision for Japan.

Takaichi is the first female president of Japan's predominantly male ruling party that has dominated Japan's postwar politics almost without interruption.

She hardly touched on gender issues during the campaign, but on Saturday, as she tried out the party president's chair and posed for a photo as is customary for the newly elected leader, Takaichi said: "Now that the LDP has its first female president, its scenery will change a little."

First elected to parliament from her hometown of Nara in 1993, she has served in key party and government posts, including minister of economic security, internal affairs and gender equality.

Female lawmakers in the conservative Liberal Democratic Party who were given limited ministerial posts have often been shunned as soon as they spoke up about diversity and gender equality. Takaichi has stuck with old-fashioned views favored by male party heavyweights.

Takaichi also admits she is a workaholic who would rather study at home instead of socializing. After unsuccessfully running for party presidency twice in the past, she made efforts to be more sociable to build connections as advised, she said.

But on Saturday, as she called for an all-out effort to rebuild the party and regain public support, she asked all party lawmakers to "work like a horse." Then she added, "I will abandon the word 'work-life balance.' I will work, work, work and work."

The "work-life balance" quickly trended on social media, triggering mixed reactions — support for her enthusiasm and concern about her work ethic.

Women comprise only about 15% of Japan's lower house, the more powerful of the two parliamentary chambers. Only two of Japan's 47 prefectural governors are women.

A drummer in a heavy-metal band and a motorbike rider as a student, Takaichi has called for a stronger military, more fiscal spending for growth, promotion of nuclear fusion, cybersecurity and tougher policies on immigration.

She vowed to drastically increase female ministers in her government. But experts say she might actually set back women's advancement because as leader she would have to show loyalty to influential male heavyweights. If not, she risks a short-lived leadership.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 71 of 103**

Takaichi has backed financial support for women's health and fertility treatment as part of the LDP policy of having women serve in their traditional roles of being good mothers and wives. But she also recently acknowledged her struggles with menopausal symptoms and stressed the need to educate men about female health to help women at school and work.

Takaichi supports the imperial family's male-only succession, opposes same-sex marriage and a revision to the 19th-century civil law that would allow separate surnames for married couples so that women don't get pressured into abandoning theirs.

She is a wartime history revisionist and China hawk. She regularly visits Yasukuni Shrine, which Japan's neighbors consider a symbol of militarism, though she has declined to say what she would do as prime minister.

Political watchers say her revisionist views of Japan's wartime history may complicate ties with Beijing and Seoul.

Her hawkish stance is also a worry for the LDP's longtime partnership with Komeito, a Buddhist-backed moderate party. While she has said the current coalition is crucial for her party, she says she is open to working with far-right groups.

## **Trump plans to federalize 300 troops in Illinois, as judge blocks a similar mobilization in Oregon**

Associated Press undefined

President Donald Trump authorized the deployment of 300 Illinois National Guard troops to protect federal officers and assets in Chicago on Saturday, marking the latest escalation of the his use of federal intervention in cities.

But the same day, a similar mobilization of 200 National Guard troops in Oregon was temporarily blocked after a federal judge found President Donald Trump was likely overstepping his legal authority in responding to relatively small protests near a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building in Portland.

White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson confirmed that the president authorized using the Illinois National Guard members, citing what she called "ongoing violent riots and lawlessness" that local leaders have not quelled.

Trump has characterized both Portland and Chicago as cities rife with crime and unrest, calling the former a "war zone" and suggesting apocalyptic force was needed to quell problems in the latter. Since the start of his second term, he has sent or talked about sending troops to 10 cities, including Baltimore, Maryland; Memphis, Tennessee; the District of Columbia; New Orleans, Louisiana; and the California cities of Oakland, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

But the governors of Illinois and Oregon see the deployments differently.

"This morning, the Trump Administration's Department of War gave me an ultimatum: call up your troops, or we will," Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker said in a statement. "It is absolutely outrageous and un-American to demand a Governor send military troops within our own borders and against our will."

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek talked to Trump in late September and said the deployment was unnecessary. She refused to call up any Oregon National Guard troops, so Trump did so himself in an order to Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. That prompted the lawsuit from city and state officials.

Attorney General Pam Bondi has issued a memo that also directs component agencies within the Justice Department, including the FBI, to help protect U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities, including in Chicago and Portland.

Here's a snapshot of where things stand with federal law enforcement activity in Chicago, Portland, and elsewhere:

In Chicago, alarms raised about racial profiling

The sight of armed, camouflaged and masked Border Patrol agents making arrests near famous downtown landmarks has amplified such concerns. Many Chicagoans were already uneasy after an immigration crackdown began earlier this month. Agents have targeted immigrant-heavy and largely Latino areas.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 72 of 103**

Protesters have frequently rallied near an immigration facility outside the city, and federal officials reported the arrests of 13 protesters Friday near the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement processing facility in Broadview.

The Department of Homeland Security acknowledged that federal agents shot a woman Saturday morning on the southwest side of Chicago. A statement from the department said it happened after Border Patrol agents patrolling the area "were rammed by vehicles and boxed in by 10 cars."

"The officers exited their trapped vehicle, when a suspect tried to run them over, forcing the officers to fire defensively," the statement said.

No law enforcement officers were seriously injured, DHS spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said.

The woman who was shot was a U.S. citizen and was armed with a semiautomatic weapon, according to McLaughlin. She said the woman drove herself to a hospital for treatment, but a Chicago Fire Department spokesperson told the Chicago Sun-Times that she was found near the scene and taken to a hospital in fair condition.

Immigrants' rights advocates and residents separately reported that federal agents used tear gas near grocery or hardware stores targeted for enforcement elsewhere in Chicago on Friday and detained a city council member as she questioned the attempted arrest of a man.

Deployment in Portland blocked by judge

U.S. District Court Judge Karin J. Immergut and issued the ruling temporarily blocking the deployment on Saturday afternoon, saying the relatively small protests the city has seen did not justify the use of federalized forces and allowing the deployment could harm Oregon's state sovereignty.

"This country has a longstanding and foundational tradition of resistance to government overreach, especially in the form of military intrusion into civil affairs," Immergut wrote. She later said: "This historical tradition boils down to a simple proposition: this is a nation of constitutional law, not martial law."

Trump has called Portland "war-ravaged" and suggested the city is "burning down." But local officials have said many of his claims and media posts appear to rely on images from 2020, when demonstrations and unrest gripped the city following the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police.

On Saturday, before the judge's ruling was released, about 400 protesters marched from a park to the Portland Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detention facility. The group included people of all ages and races, families with children and retirees with walkers, the Oregonian reported. Federal agents used chemical crowd control munitions, including tear gas canisters and less-lethal guns that sprayed pepper balls, and arrested at least six people as the group reached the ICE facility.

By 4 p.m. the crowd had thinned significantly.

A federal 'crime force' in Memphis

On Wednesday, Hegseth, Bondi and White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller rallied members of a federal law enforcement task force that began operating in Memphis as part of Trump's crime-fighting plan. Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee, a Republican, has supported the effort.

Bondi said via social media that the task force made more than 50 arrests over a two-day period. More than 200 officers were deputized, including personnel from immigration and drug enforcement. They were serving criminal arrest warrants and teaming with state agencies on traffic stops.

Some residents, including Latinos, have expressed concerns that agents will detain people regardless of immigration status.

Louisiana's governor asks for National Guard

On Sept. 30, Republican Gov. Jeff Landry asked for a guard deployment to New Orleans and other cities to help fight crime.

In a letter to Hegseth, Landry also praised the president's decision to send troops to Washington and Memphis.

He said there has been "elevated violent crime rates" in Shreveport, Baton Rouge and New Orleans, as well as shortages in local law enforcement.

But crime in some of the state's biggest cities has actually decreased recently, with New Orleans seeing

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 73 of 103**

a particularly steep drop in 2025 that has it on pace for the lowest number of killings in over five decades.

Appellate court weighs California deployment

Trump deployed guard soldiers and active duty Marines in Los Angeles during the summer over the objections of Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom, who sued and won a temporary block after a federal judge found the president's use of the guard was likely unlawful.

The Trump administration appealed, and the block was put on hold by a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The appellate case is still underway, but the panel has indicated that it believes the administration is likely to prevail.

## **International journalists visit Gaza City under the supervision of Israel's army**

By SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — An Israeli army vehicle rumbles through the empty streets of a shattered neighborhood in Gaza City, and with help from a video camera, a soldier spots people standing inside a blasted out nearby building. The armored personal carrier revs its engine and moves on.

A little further along, the vehicle stops near an empty hospital formerly overseen by the Jordanian government. A senior official speaking on condition of anonymity in line with military rules says soldiers recently found a tunnel used by Hamas adjacent to the hospital.

On Friday, the Israeli military escorted international journalists through Gaza City, the focus of a new offensive to root out Hamas, offering a rare – and limited -- glimpse into the territory devastated by nearly two years of war and where tens of thousands of Palestinians have been killed.

In August, international experts said the city was in a famine and warned that Israel's offensive and mass displacement of people would exacerbate the humanitarian crisis.

The soldiers escorting the journalists through Gaza City portrayed their military operations as deliberate, to minimize harm to civilians – yet justified, to eliminate a militant group that has been severely weakened but remains dug in, capable of carrying out attacks and still in possession of 48 hostages.

Israel has for two years banned international journalists from entering Gaza, except for rare, brief visits supervised by the military, such as this one.

A city under siege

The drive into and out of Gaza City was through the Netzarim corridor, which separates northern and southern Gaza and is used as a military zone. The route was littered with destroyed buildings and mounds of concrete. Few signs of life were seen during the tour, which lasted several hours.

Once in Gaza City's Sabra neighborhood, the army took journalists to a lookout point several hundred meters away from the deserted Jordanian hospital. The army said Hamas had been making weapons in a room beneath the hospital while the Jordanians were aboveground, in control of the health care facility — one of many struggling to operate in recent weeks as Israeli attacks intensified.

Surrounded by destruction and collapsed buildings, the hospital shut down about two weeks ago. What appeared to be a tube extended from one of its buildings into a mound of dirt in front of it, which soldiers said was where the tunnel was located. A few hundred feet away, excavators moved piles of sand, as the sound of gunfire and artillery reverberated in the background.

Of Gaza's 36 hospitals, 22 are no longer operational and the remaining 14 are only partially functional, according to the World Health Organization.

Israel accuses Hamas of using health facilities as command centers and for military purposes, putting civilians in harm's way, though it has presented little evidence. Hamas security personnel have been seen in hospitals and have kept some areas inaccessible.

A soldier showed journalists videos taken from a drone that flew through the 1.5 km (1 mile) long tunnel. The video showed narrow tunnels that led to rooms, one which showed explosives lined against the wall.

A Jordanian official speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter denied that its hospital was being used by Hamas. The AP could not independently verify the Israeli army's claims.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 74 of 103**

A few hundred meters from the Jordanian hospital, soldiers with the 36th division were positioned in a house they say had previously been used by Hamas. Shards of glass and concrete blanketed the floor, wires hung from the ceiling and on the walls were handwritten instructions in Hebrew about being on duty.

Soldiers warned journalists not to stand too close to the windows because of snipers. A day earlier, the building beside the house was hit by sniper fire, one soldier said.

The fate of Gaza City

On the eve of the war, Gaza City was home to roughly 1 million people. Throughout the conflict, it has been the focus of regular Israeli bombardment and ground operations. Several neighborhoods have been almost completely destroyed. Hundreds of thousands fled under Israeli evacuation orders at the start of the war but many returned during a ceasefire earlier this year.

Before their latest campaign in Gaza City began last month, Israel warned Palestinians to evacuate south. Earlier this week, Israel's Defense Minister Israel Katz said people had one last chance to go, and that anyone left behind would be considered a Hamas supporter.

The senior army official leading the journalists' through Gaza City on Friday was more measured, however. "We're trying every day to explain how much safer it is to go down to the south," the senior official said. "And when we get closer to areas with a lot of population, we stop and we try with other means to get them out of this area."

While hundreds of thousands have left, many have remained, some unable to afford to move, others too weak to leave or not wanting to be displaced once again.

Trump's proposed deal to end the war

After Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people and abducting 251, Israel launched a retaliatory offensive that has killed more than 67, 000 Palestinians. That number is according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many were civilians or combatants. It says women and children make up around half the dead.

The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government, and the U.N. and many independent experts consider its figures to be the most reliable estimate of wartime casualties.

Israel's army said Saturday that it would advance preparations for the first phase of U.S. President Donald Trump's plan to end the war and return all the remaining hostages, after Hamas said it accepted parts of the deal and that others still needed to be negotiated.

The army will move to a defensive position rather than an offensive one, according to an official who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media on the record.

Still, it's unclear how that will affect people in Gaza City. On Saturday, the army warned Palestinians in the rest of Gaza from returning there, calling it a dangerous combat zone.

## **Democrat in Virginia attorney general race apologizes for 2022 texts depicting political violence**

By BRUCE SCHREINER and OLIVIA DIAZ Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Virginia's Democratic candidate for attorney general has apologized for widely condemned text messages from 2022 that revealed him suggesting that a prominent Republican get "two bullets to the head."

The texts put the Democratic challenger, Jay Jones, on the defensive in what has been a hard-hitting campaign. Early voting is well underway in Virginia ahead of the November general election.

Jones' campaign didn't challenge the accuracy of the texts, first reported by The National Review, and he offered a public apology to Todd Gilbert, the target of the messages. Jones said he took "full responsibility for my actions." Gilbert was speaker of Virginia's House of Delegates at the time of the text messages but is no longer a legislator.

Jones has faced a torrent of bipartisan criticism since the messages surfaced. Jones is challenging Republican incumbent Jason Miyares for the job as Virginia's top prosecutor.

Miyares ripped into Jones on Saturday, questioning his challenger's fitness for the job.



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 75 of 103

"You have to be coming from an incredibly dark place to say what you said," Miyares told reporters. "Not by a stranger. By a colleague. Somebody you had served with. Someone you have worked with."

Jones and Republican House Delegate Carrie Coyner spoke in a phone conversation following the text exchange, in which Jones described Gilbert's children dying in the arms of their mother, according to the National Review's report.

"I have been a prosecutor, and I have been obviously serving as attorney general," Miyares said. "I have met quietly one-on-one with victims. There is no cry like the cry of a mother that lost her child. None."

A spokesperson for the Virginia House Republican caucus, contacted on Saturday by The Associated Press, said Gilbert was not commenting on the text messages. Gilbert stepped down as a legislator to become a federal prosecutor this year but resigned a month later.

The revelation about the text messages shook up the campaign and comes as both parties seek advantage in statewide races being closely watched for trends heading into next year's midterm elections, when control of Congress is at stake. And it comes amid an escalating threat of political violence in the country following the shooting deaths of conservative activist Charlie Kirk and former Minnesota Democratic House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband.

In Virginia, other Democrats running for statewide office didn't mince words in criticizing Jones.

Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic gubernatorial candidate, said in a statement Friday that she "spoke frankly with Jay about my disgust with what he had said and texted. I made clear to Jay that he must fully take responsibility for his words." She vowed to "always condemn violent language in our politics."

Ghazala Hashmi, the Democrat running for lieutenant governor, said "political violence has no place in our country and I condemn it at every turn." Hashmi added that "we must demand better of our leaders and of each other." Candidates for governor and lieutenant governor run separately in Virginia.

The Republican Attorneys General Association said Jones should withdraw from the campaign for his "abhorrent" text messages. The group's chairman, Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach, said the messages were unacceptable "from someone who wants to represent law enforcement."

"There is no place for political violence, including joking about it – especially from an elected official," Kobach said.

Jones did not hold elected office when he sent the text messages about Gilbert to Coyner, who is seeking reelection in a competitive House district. Jones had formerly served as a state legislator, and stepped down in 2021.

In his texts, Jones wrote: "Three people two bullets ... Gilbert, hitler, and pol pot ... Gilbert gets two bullets to the head." Pol Pot was the leader of the murderous Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia.

Coyner replied: "Jay ... Please stop." Jones responded: "Lol ... Ok, ok."

In his statement Friday, Jones said: "Reading back those words made me sick to my stomach. I am embarrassed, ashamed and sorry."

"I have reached out to Speaker Gilbert to apologize directly to him, his wife Jennifer, and their children," he added. "I cannot take back what I said; I can only take full accountability and offer my sincere apology."

## Japan's ruling party elects Sanae Takaichi as new leader, likely to become first female PM

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's governing party on Saturday elected former Economic Security Minister Sanae Takaichi, a hard-line ultra-conservative and China hawk, as its new leader, making her likely to become the country's first female prime minister.

In a country that ranks poorly internationally for gender equality, the 64-year-old Takaichi makes history as the first female leader of Japan's long-governing conservative Liberal Democratic Party. Takaichi is one of the most conservative members of the male-dominated party.

An admirer of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Takaichi is a protege of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ultra-conservative vision and a regular at the Yasukuni Shrine, seen as a

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 76 of 103**

symbol of Japan's wartime militarism, which could complicate Tokyo's relations with its Asian neighbors. Takaichi beat Agriculture Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, the son of popular former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, in a runoff in a vote by the LDP on Saturday.

Takaichi replaces Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba as the party hopes to regain public support and stay in power after major election losses.

She is likely to be Japan's next prime minister because the party remains by far the largest in the lower house, which determines the national leader, and because opposition groups are highly splintered.

"Now that the LDP has its first female president, its scenery will change a little," Takaichi said as she tried out the president's chair.

Takaichi vows to strengthen Japan-US alliance

Takaichi later said she will immediately work on stemming rising prices, while also focusing on diplomatic and security challenges.

A parliamentary vote is expected in mid-October. The LDP, which has been criticized by opposition leaders for creating a prolonged political vacuum, said Takaichi needs to hurry because the winner will soon face a diplomatic test: a possible summit with U.S. President Donald Trump, who could demand that Japan increase its defense spending.

A meeting is reportedly being planned for late October. Trump will travel to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in South Korea starting Oct. 31.

Takaichi said ensuring the Japan-U.S. alliance is her top diplomatic priority.

"It is essential to ... confirm the reinforcement of the Japan-U.S. alliance," she said. Takaichi stressed the importance of their cooperation through three-way frameworks that also include regional partners such as South Korea, Australia and the Philippines, pledging Japan's greater role in achieving a free and open Indo-Pacific.

She said she respects all tariffs and investment agreements struck between Tokyo and Washington under the Ishiba government.

Takaichi faces major domestic challenges

The LDP, whose consecutive losses in parliamentary elections in the past year have left it in the minority in both houses, needs its new leader to quickly bring back voter confidence and stability and to address challenges in and outside Japan. Takaichi will also need cooperation from key opposition groups to implement her party's policies.

Ishiba, who achieved a 15% tariff deal with Washington and put Japan's ties with South Korea and other Asian countries on track during his one-year stint, said "I hope the LDP will band together under new (party) president Takaichi to serve for the country and the people, as well as the world and for the new era."

Ishiba, a centrist known as archrival of Abe, was virtually forced into resigning by ultra-conservative wings in the party.

There were five candidates for the job

Five candidates — two currently serving and three former ministers — vied for the LDP presidency.

Saturday's vote only involved 295 LDP parliamentarians and about 1 million dues-paying members. It only reflected 1% of the Japanese public.

The LDP's choice of Takaichi, instead of the more centrist-to-liberal Koizumi, apparently underscores the party's hope to win back conservative voters who supported emerging far-right groups such as Sanseito in the July parliamentary election.

But the LDP also needs help from the opposition, which it has long neglected. The party will likely look to expand its current coalition with the moderate centrist Komeito with at least one of the key opposition parties, which are more centrist.

Takaichi shied away from her conservative and anti-China views during campaigning

Takaichi like other candidates called herself a "moderate conservative" during the run-up to the election to show their willingness to work with the opposition and stayed away from stressing her opposition to liberal social issues or anti-China policies.

Takaichi on Saturday said the Yasukuni issue should not be a diplomatic issue and that she will think

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 77 of 103

about how she can "pay respect to the war dead and pray for peace."

She supports bigger fiscal spending for growth, a stronger military and cybersecurity, as well as tougher regulations on increasing foreign tourists and laborers. She was criticized for citing unconfirmed reports to slam foreigners for kicking deer in Nara, her hometown, and saying many foreign law offenders escaped indictments due to a shortage of translators.

Experts say candidates avoided discussing their usual political views on historical issues, same-sex marriage and other contentious topics, including the party's political funds scandal, which was the biggest reason for their election losses, and anti-corruption measures. Their avoidance of these subjects raised doubts over the party's ability to regain public trust, analysts said.

Voters in downtown Tokyo said they hoped that Takaichi, as first female leader, will bring changes.

"I do have expectations," said Masami Nakagawa, though he expressed concern about her past nationalist comments. "I'm hopeful that she'll develop a stronger sense of balance once she becomes prime minister."

## Trump says he'll send National Guard to Chicago, but details remain unclear

By THOMAS PEIPERT Associated Press

President Donald Trump moved to deploy the National Guard in another city Saturday by authorizing 300 troops to protect federal officers and assets in Chicago, where the government said Border Patrol agents shot and injured a woman while firing at someone who tried to run them over.

White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson confirmed that the president authorized using the Illinois National Guard members, citing what she called "ongoing violent riots and lawlessness" that local leaders have not quelled.

"President Trump will not turn a blind eye to the lawlessness plaguing American cities," Jackson said.

Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker said the guard received notice from the Pentagon early in the day. He called the move unnecessary and "a manufactured performance — not a serious effort to protect public safety."

"This morning, the Trump Administration's Department of War gave me an ultimatum: call up your troops, or we will," Pritzker said in a statement. "It is absolutely outrageous and un-American to demand a Governor send military troops within our own borders and against our will."

Trump has long threatened to send troops to Chicago, but it was not immediately clear when or exactly where they would be deployed.

Meanwhile the Department of Homeland Security acknowledged the shooting of the woman on the southwest side of Chicago. It said in a statement that Border Patrol agents on patrol "were rammed by vehicles and boxed in by 10 cars," and when they got out of their trapped vehicle, "a suspect tried to run them over, forcing the officers to fire defensively."

The woman who was shot was a U.S. citizen and was armed with a semiautomatic weapon, DHS spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said, noting that the woman was accused in a U.S. Customs and Border Protection intelligence bulletin last week of doxing agents.

The woman was treated and released in the afternoon, according to Mount Sinai Hospital. No officers were seriously injured, McLaughlin said.

The Chicago Police Department confirmed a shooting in the area but offered few details, saying it responded only to "document the incident" and control traffic.

"CPD is not involved in the incident or its investigation. Federal authorities are investigating this shooting," it said in a statement, referring questions to federal officials.

The escalation of federal law enforcement follows similar deployments in other parts of the country. Trump sent the National Guard to Los Angeles over the summer and to Washington, D.C., as part of his law enforcement takeover there. Tennessee National Guard troops are expected to arrive in Memphis to help police.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom sued to stop the deployment in Los Angeles and won a temporary block in federal court. The Trump administration has appealed that ruling that the use of the guard was illegal,

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 78 of 103**

and a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has indicated that it believes the government is likely to prevail.

Pritzker criticized the Illinois deployment for pulling the National Guard troops away from their families and regular jobs, saying, "For Donald Trump, this has never been about safety. This is about control."

He also noted that state, county and local law enforcement have been coordinating to ensure the safety of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Broadview facility on the outskirts of Chicago.

Federal officials reported the arrests of 13 people protesting Friday near the facility, which has been frequently targeted during the administration's surge of immigration enforcement this fall.

Trump also said last month that he was sending federal troops to Portland, Oregon, calling the city war-ravaged. But local officials have suggested that many of his claims and social media posts appear to rely on images from 2020, when demonstrations and unrest gripped the city following the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police.

Oregon officials sued to stop the deployment the next day. U.S. District Judge Karin J. Immergut heard arguments Friday and temporarily blocked the Trump administration on Saturday from deploying the guard in Portland.

Immergut issued the order pending further arguments in the lawsuit. The plaintiffs said a deployment would violate the U.S. Constitution as well as a federal law that generally prohibits the military from being used to enforce domestic laws.

Trump has federalized 200 National Guard troops in the state, but so far it does not appear that they have moved into Portland. They have been seen training on the coast in anticipation of a deployment.

## **New Supreme Court term confronts justices with Trump's aggressive assertion of presidential power**

By MARK SHERMAN and LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A monumental Supreme Court term begins Monday with major tests of presidential power on the agenda along with pivotal cases on voting and the rights of LGBTQ people.

The court's conservative majority has so far been receptive, at least in preliminary rulings, to many of President Donald Trump's aggressive assertions of authority. Liberal Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson invoked the Calvin and Hobbes comic strip after one such decision allowing the cut of \$783 million in research funding.

"This is Calvinball jurisprudence with a twist," Jackson wrote. "Calvinball has only one rule: There are no fixed rules. We seem to have two: that one, and this administration always wins."

The conservative justices could be more skeptical when they conduct an in-depth examination of some Trump policies, including the president's imposition of tariffs and his desired restrictions on birthright citizenship.

If the same conservative-liberal split that has marked so many of Trump's emergency appeals endures, "we are in for one of the most polarizing terms yet," said Irv Gornstein, executive director of the Supreme Court Institute at Georgetown University's law school.

The justices will pass judgment in the next 10 months on some of Trump's most controversial efforts.

3 major cases on presidential power are on the docket

The justices are hearing a pivotal case for Trump's economic agenda in early November as they consider the legality of many of his sweeping tariffs. Two lower courts have found the Republican president does not have the power to unilaterally impose wide-ranging tariffs under an emergency powers law.

States and small businesses argue Trump cannot usurp Congress's taxation powers by declaring national emergencies and using tariffs to address them.

The administration, though, says the law does give the president the power to regulate importation, and that includes tariffs. Four dissenting judges on a federal appeals court in Washington bought that argument, mapping out a possible legal path at the high court.

In December, the justices will take up Trump's power to fire independent agency members at will, a case



# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 79 of 103**

that probably will lead the court to overturn, or drastically narrow, a 90-year-old decision. It required a cause, like neglect of duty, before a president could remove the Senate-confirmed officials from their jobs.

The outcome appears to be in little doubt because the conservatives have allowed the firings to take effect while the case plays out, even after lower-court judges found the firings illegal. The three liberal justices have dissented each time.

Another case that has arrived at the court but has yet to be considered involves Trump's executive order denying birthright citizenship to children born in the United States to parents who are in the country illegally or temporarily.

The administration has appealed lower-court rulings blocking the order as unconstitutional, or likely so, flouting more than 125 years of general understanding and an 1898 Supreme Court ruling. The case could be argued in the late winter or early spring.

The court could hand Republicans significant victories on voting rights and campaign finance

The future of electoral districts with majorities of Black, Hispanic or Native American voters hangs in the balance in a case about congressional redistricting in Louisiana that will be argued in mid-October.

The Republican-led state has abandoned its defense of a political map that elected two Black members of Congress. Instead, Louisiana wants the court to reject any consideration of race in redistricting in a case that could bring major changes to the Voting Rights Act.

Chief Justice John Roberts and the other five conservative justices have been skeptical of the consideration of race in public life, including a decision in 2023 that ended affirmative action in college admissions.

Louisiana's position would allow it and other Republican-controlled states in the South to draw new political maps that eliminate virtually all majority Black House districts, which have been Democratic strongholds, voting rights experts say.

The justices failed to decide the case in June after hearing arguments during its last term. The court does not need to go as far as Louisiana wants to reject the congressional map.

But a second round of arguments is a rare occurrence at the Supreme Court, and sometimes presages a major change by the justices. The Citizens United decision in 2010 that led to dramatic increases in independent spending in U.S. elections came after it was argued a second time.

Republicans, including the Trump administration, also are behind a drive to wipe away limits on how much political parties can spend in coordination with candidates for Congress and president.

The justices are reviewing an appellate ruling that upheld a provision of federal election law that is more than 50 years old. Democrats had asked the court to leave the law in place, and the Supreme Court upheld it in 2001.

But Roberts, who just marked his 20th anniversary as chief justice, has led a court that has struck down one campaign finance regulation after another.

No date for arguments has been set.

Transgender women and girls face a test over their participation on school sports teams

More than two dozen states have enacted laws barring transgender women and girls from participating in certain sports competitions.

The justices are hearing cases from Idaho and West Virginia, where transgender athletes won lower court rulings.

The Supreme Court in June upheld a ban on gender-affirming care for transgender youth, but pointedly did not decide any broader issues about transgender rights.

They quickly agreed to take up the state appeals, which raised questions under the Constitution's guarantee of equal treatment and the federal law known as Title IX that dramatically expanded the participation of girls and women in sports in public schools and colleges.

The court has yet to set an argument date.

Justice Samuel Alito is most likely possible retirement in 2026

Alito turns 76 in April, young by Supreme Court standards. But he might not want to stay around and gamble on the possibility of Democrats flipping the Senate in next year's elections and seeing a Democrat capture the White House two years later.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 80 of 103

Retiring next summer would allow Trump to name a similarly conservative but much younger replacement who would almost certainly win confirmation from the Republican-led Senate.

For close watchers of the court, Alito has done only one thing out of the ordinary: signed a contract to write a book that is expected out next year. Even as his junior colleagues have moved quickly to sign book deals. Alito, by contrast, waited nearly 20 years.

He did not respond to a request for comment for this story.

Alito is not the oldest justice. Clarence Thomas is 77, but he has shown no signs of leaving, certainly not before he is set to become the longest-serving justice in U.S. history in 2028.

## DC's shutdown hasn't stopped the stock market. Here's what may

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — If the U.S. government's latest shutdown can't stop the stock market, what can?

Stock prices keep rising, even as the shutdown delays important economic reports that usually steer trading. The S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average set all-time highs Friday.

It's not just Big Tech driving the market, which has often been the case in recent years. Sure, Nvidia and other darlings of the artificial-intelligence frenzy are still climbing, but almost everything on Wall Street is coming up a winner. The Russell 2000 index of smaller stocks has set a record after taking nearly four years to get back to its prior all-time high. Gold also hit a record in an unusual confluence, while the most popular U.S. bond fund is on track for its best year in at least five.

Past shutdowns have had minimal effect on the stock market or on the economy, and the bet on Wall Street is that something similar will happen again. Many professional investors expect the market to climb still more, even after a 35% surge from its low in April.

That's not to say there aren't risks. Much of the optimism is built on expectations for certain things to happen. If they don't, the pretty picture on Wall Street could become much uglier. Among the potential concerns:

Stocks are expensive

This is the easiest criticism to make about the stock market following its nearly relentless rally since April. Stock prices tend to follow the path of corporate profits over the long term, but stock prices have surged much faster than profits lately.

One measure popularized by Nobel-winning economist Robert Shiller, which looks at profits over the preceding 10 years, shows the S&P 500 near its most expensive level since the 2000 dot-com bubble. Some critics have made parallels between that bubble, which saw the S&P 500 eventually halve in value, and the recent AI bonanza.

It's not just the big household names in the S&P 500 index raising concern. Ann Milette, head of equity investments for Allspring Global Investments, has been struck by how much stock prices have shot up for speculative kinds of stocks, such as smaller, money-losing companies. They've done much better than their profitable counterparts in recent months.

She said she's feeling relatively optimistic about conditions for stocks going into 2026, but "it's these little bubbles that are concerning to me. When you see things like this, it's generally not a good thing."

To be sure, signals suggesting a too-expensive stock market are famously bad at predicting turning points in the market. Stocks can stay expensive for a while, as long as investors stay willing to pay the high prices.

Profits need to climb

For stocks to look more typical in valuation, either stock prices need to drop, or corporate profits need to rise. That's raising stakes for the upcoming profit reporting season.

Companies are lining up to tell investors how much profit they made during the summer, with PepsiCo and Delta Air Lines scheduled to lead off on Thursday. JPMorgan Chase and other big banks will follow quickly afterward.

Analysts are looking for S&P 500 companies to report collective growth of 8% in earnings per share from a year earlier, according to FactSet. They'll need not only to hit that target, but also to forecast continued

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 81 of 103

growth for the rest of this year into next.

That's even though companies are still trying to figure out how to deal with tariffs, stubbornly high inflation and other shifts in an uncertain economy.

The Federal Reserve needs to cut interest rates

One of the main reasons the stock market has boomed is the expectation that the Fed will deliver a string of cuts to interest rates.

Lower rates give the economy a boost by making it cheaper for U.S. households and companies to borrow and spend. They can also make investors willing to pay higher prices for stocks, bonds and other investments.

Traders on Wall Street are largely expecting the Fed to cut interest rates at least three more times by the middle of next summer, according to data from CME Group. Fed officials themselves have indicated they're likely to cut because the job market is slowing.

But Chair Jerome Powell has insisted they may have to change plans quickly. That's because inflation has remained stubbornly above the Fed's 2% target, and lower interest rates can give inflation more fuel.

"I feel like interest rates and expectations of what the Fed is going to do are driving everything right now," Milette said.

"If the Fed doesn't cut as much as people are expecting, any of these areas that look a little speculative, because they're not based on fundamentals, those areas will have some real problems."

The AI boom needs to pay off

"This is the question of the decade," said Yung-Yu Ma, chief investment strategist at PNC Asset Management Group.

Ma does not feel that AI-related stocks look too expensive, even after their big climbs, but that's only as long as gangbusters growth and sales for the industry keep going.

Hopes for AI also seem to be helping to keep down longer-term interest rates and worries about inflation. AI will need to make the economy more productive in order to offset the upward pressure on inflation and interest rates that are coming from the huge mountains of debt that the U.S. and other governments worldwide are building.

"If we do achieve these benefits for companies and for people's lives, everything can go well for years," said Ma. "I think everyone is tying their fortunes to that ship, whether they realize it or not."

## NFL analyst Mark Sanchez arrested while he was hospitalized with stab wounds

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Former NFL quarterback and current Fox Sports analyst Mark Sanchez was arrested Saturday after he was apparently stabbed in an overnight altercation in downtown Indianapolis.

Sanchez, who was in Indianapolis to call Sunday's Raiders-Colts game, was charged with battery with injury, unlawful entry of a motor vehicle and public intoxication — all misdemeanors.

Indianapolis police said Sanchez was in a hospital and had not been booked into a detention center. He was in stable condition, according to Fox Sports.

Police said the Marion County prosecutor's office would make the final charging decision. That office didn't immediately respond to an inquiry from The Associated Press.

Indianapolis police said earlier in the day that they were investigating a confrontation that occurred around 12:30 a.m. Saturday between two men, one of whom was hospitalized with stab wounds. The other man received treatment for lacerations, police said.

Detectives had reviewed video footage of the confrontation, which police said occurred in the popular downtown nightlife Wholesale District next to the Indiana statehouse.

Police said neither man was a local resident and called it an "isolated incident between the two men and not a random act of violence."

Few other details were available.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 82 of 103**

"We are deeply grateful to the medical team for their exceptional care and support. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mark, and we ask that everyone please respect his and his family's privacy during this time," Fox Sports said.

Sanchez, 38, had a 10-year NFL career before retiring in 2019. He appeared on ABC and ESPN for two years before joining Fox Sports as a game analyst in 2021.

The Long Beach, California, native starred at Southern California before he was selected by the New York Jets with the fifth pick in the 2009 NFL draft.

He passed for 3,207 yards and 34 touchdowns while leading the Trojans to a 12-1 record during his junior year, which included a victory over Penn State in the 2009 Rose Bowl.

He spent four seasons with the Jets, starting each of his 62 games while throwing for 12,092 yards and 68 touchdowns with 69 interceptions. The Jets lost in the AFC championship in each of Sanchez's first two years in the league.

Sanchez also appeared in games with Philadelphia, Dallas and Washington. He finished his playing career with 15,357 yards passing, 86 TD passes and 89 interceptions.

The Jets and several of Sanchez's former teammates posted message of support on social media on Saturday.

"Sending our thoughts and love to Mark Sanchez and his family. Hoping for a speedy recovery, 6," the Jets said, using Sanchez's former jersey number.

"Send prayers up for my former teammate mark.. sucks so much to see this," Kerry Rhodes wrote.

"So sad. Pray for his recovery," Nick Mangold wrote.

## **Netanyahu hopes to announce the release of all hostages from Gaza 'in the coming days'**

By SAM MEDNICK and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he hopes to announce the release of all hostages from Gaza "in the coming days," as Israel and Hamas prepare for indirect talks in Egypt on Monday on a new U.S. plan to end the war.

In a brief statement late Saturday, Netanyahu said he has sent a delegation to Egypt "to finalize technical details," adding that "our goal is to contain these negotiations to a time frame of a few days."

But Netanyahu signaled there would not be a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, something Hamas has long demanded. He said Israel's military will continue to hold territories it controls in Gaza, and that Hamas will be disarmed in the plan's second phase, diplomatically "or through a military path by us."

The prime minister spoke after Hamas said it has accepted some elements of the U.S. plan. President Donald Trump welcomed the militant group's statement but on Saturday warned that "Hamas must move quickly, or else all bets will be off."

Trump later said the ceasefire would begin immediately once Hamas confirms the "initial withdrawal line" in Gaza. A map with his social media post appeared to show much of Gaza still open to Israeli forces.

Trump has also ordered Israel to stop bombing Gaza. Some in Gaza City reported a notable easing of Israeli strikes Saturday, though hospital officials said at least 22 people were killed, including women and children.

Israel's army said leaders instructed it to prepare for the U.S. plan's first phase. Israel has moved to a defensive-only position in Gaza and will not actively strike, said an official who was not authorized to speak to the media on the record.

Still, an Israeli strike on Gaza City's Tuffah neighborhood killed at least 17 and injured 25 others, said Al-Ahli hospital director Fadel Naim. "The strikes are still ongoing," Naim said. Israel's military said it struck a Hamas member and "regrets any harm caused to uninvolved civilians."

Shifa Hospital director Mohamed Abu Selmiyah earlier Saturday said Israeli strikes killed five Palestinians across Gaza City.

Momentum ahead of war's anniversary



# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 83 of 103**

Trump appears determined to deliver on pledges to end the war and return all hostages ahead of Tuesday's second anniversary of the Hamas attack that sparked it on Oct. 7, 2023. His proposal has widespread international support. On Friday, Netanyahu's office said Israel was committed to ending the war.

Monday's indirect talks are meant to prepare the way for the release of hostages from Gaza and Palestinians from Israeli detention, mediator Egypt said.

A senior Egyptian official said U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff will travel to Egypt to head the U.S. negotiating team. The talks also will discuss maps showing the expected withdrawal of Israeli forces from certain areas in Gaza, said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to brief the media.

The official also said Arab mediators are preparing for a comprehensive dialogue among Palestinians aimed at unifying their position toward Gaza's future. The Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Gaza's second most powerful militant group, said it accepted Hamas' response after rejecting the plan days earlier.

**Progress, but uncertainty ahead**

Under the plan, Hamas would release the remaining 48 hostages — around 20 of them believed to be alive — within three days. It would give up power and disarm.

In return, Israel would halt its offensive and withdraw from much of Gaza, release hundreds of Palestinian prisoners and allow an influx of humanitarian aid and eventual reconstruction.

Hamas said it was willing to release the hostages and hand over power to other Palestinians, but that other aspects of the plan require further consultations among Palestinians. It didn't address the issue of Hamas demilitarizing.

Amir Avivi, a retired Israeli general and chairman of Israel's Defense and Security Forum, said while Israel can afford to stop firing for a few days in Gaza so the hostages can be released, it will resume its offensive if Hamas doesn't lay down its arms.

Others said that Hamas' position fundamentally remains unchanged. Its rhetoric "simply repackages old demands in softer language," said Oded Ailam, a researcher at the Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs.

Still, two vocal members of the right-wing bloc of Netanyahu's coalition, Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir, criticized the plan's progress but didn't threaten to immediately leave the government.

And some speakers at the large weekly rally in Tel Aviv over the war expressed a cautious hope not heard for months.

A group representing some hostages' families said the prospect of seeing loved ones return "has never been closer." They appealed to Trump to keep pushing "with full force" and warned that "extremists on both sides" will try to sabotage the plan.

Meanwhile, protests have erupted across Europe calling for the war's end.

**Palestinians are 'truly tired'**

Some Palestinians in Gaza worried that talks will break down again.

"We want practical implementation. We want a truce on the ground," said Sameer Qudeeh in Khan Younis.

"I hope Hamas ends the war, because we are truly tired," said Mohammad Shaat in Khan Younis, as anxious people roamed the shattered streets.

On Saturday, Israel's army warned Palestinians against trying to return to Gaza City, calling it a "dangerous combat zone." Two residents said that since the morning, Israeli tanks and troops had not advanced but artillery shells and airstrikes were heard.

"We can still see the quadcopters everywhere," Mohamed al-Nashar said.

In southern Gaza, the Palestine Red Crescent Society said its Saraya field hospital received 10 bodies and over 70 injured after Israeli strikes on Saturday afternoon.

Gaza's Health Ministry said the Palestinian death toll in the war has topped 67,000. The toll jumped after the ministry said it added more than 700 names whose data had been verified.

The Health Ministry does not say how many were civilians or combatants. It says women and children make up around half the dead. The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government, and the U.N. and many independent experts consider its figures to be the most reliable estimate of wartime casualties.

## What to know about the attack at a synagogue in England on Yom Kippur

LONDON (AP) — An assailant rammed a car into people at a synagogue in northwest England and then attacked with a knife in what authorities have called a terrorist assault that left two people dead and three seriously wounded.

Police fatally shot the suspect in the attack Thursday at the Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation Synagogue in Manchester on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish year, which once again was being observed amid high tensions over the conflict in Gaza between Israel and Hamas.

Here's what to know:

7-minute attack

— At 9:31 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 3, police were called to the synagogue in the Manchester suburb of Crumpsall, about 200 miles (320 kilometers) northwest of London, by a member of the public, who said he had seen a car being driven toward people, and that one man had been stabbed.

— At 9:34 a.m., police were on site. Worshippers had barricaded themselves inside the synagogue.

— At 9:37 a.m., police declared the national code word — Plato — for first responders when concluding that a "marauding terror attack" is taking place.

— At 9:38 a.m., the assailant was shot dead by police. A suspected explosives vest he was wearing was later found to be fake.

The victims

Greater Manchester Police said two people died during the attack: Adrian Daulby, 53, and Melvin Cravitz, 66, both worshippers at the synagogue.

Police say Daulby was accidentally shot by a police officer as worshippers tried to stop the attacker entering the building by barricading the door shut. Police said it was a "tragic and unforeseen consequence" of the response to the attack.

Daulby's family said in a statement that he "was a hero" whose "final act was one of profound courage."

Cravitz was killed outside the synagogue. His family said "Melvin would do anything to help anyone. He was so kind, caring and always wanted to chat and get to know people."

Police also said that one of the three people who were hospitalized was also hit by a bullet. Another sustained a stab wound and the third was struck by the car driven by the attacker.

Police praised the "quick response" of the witness as well as the bravery of security guards and worshippers for preventing the suspect from entering the synagogue.

The suspect

Police said the man responsible for the attack was Jihad Al-Shamie, a 35-year-old British citizen of Syrian descent who came to the U.K. as a young child and became a citizen in 2006.

Authorities said he was not previously known to counterterrorism police or the security services, but police confirmed Friday that he was on bail over an alleged rape.

A statement on Facebook from the attacker's family condemned the "heinous act."

Six other people, three men and three women, were arrested after the attack on suspicion of preparing or committing acts of terrorism. Police have not released their names or relationship to Al-Shamie. On Saturday detectives were granted more time to question four of those arrested. Two others were released without charge.

Act of terror

Police said late Friday that Al-Shamie "may have been influenced by extreme Islamist ideology" but that establishing the full circumstances of the attack is "likely to take some time."

The attack took place on Yom Kippur, the day of atonement and the most solemn day in the Jewish calendar. Synagogues are filled with people on the holy day.

On Thursday, the Metropolitan Police in London, which leads counterterror policing operations across the U.K., confirmed that the incident was being treated as a terrorist attack and that patrols at synagogues and other Jewish sites are being stepped up "to provide reassurance."

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 85 of 103

## Government response

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer returned early Thursday from a summit of European leaders in Copenhagen, Denmark, to London where he chaired an emergency security meeting. On Friday, Starmer visited the scene of the attack with his wife Victoria, and said it was designed to "inflict fear." He promised to protect the Jewish community across the U.K.

At a vigil, Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy was heckled by members of the crowd who accused the government of allowing antisemitism to spread by, for example, not clamping down on regular pro-Palestine protests in London and other cities. They have been mostly peaceful, but some say that chants such as "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" incite violence. Some British Jews also say the U.K.'s recognition of a Palestinian state this month has emboldened antisemitism — a claim the government rejects.

Police and the government urged those planning a pro-Palestinian protest on Saturday to postpone it, but organizers said it would go ahead.

## Jewish community's reaction

In a statement released on Friday, Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation Rabbi Daniel Walker, its president Hilary Foxler and chairman of trustees Alan Levy described the terror attack as a "desecration" and "an episode that has changed us all forever".

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday in the aftermath of the attack that "weakness in the face of terrorism only brings more terrorism. Only strength and unity can defeat it."

## King's shock

King Charles III said he and his wife, Queen Camilla, were "deeply shocked and saddened to learn of the horrific attack in Manchester, especially on such a significant day for the Jewish community."

Politicians from across the political spectrum also condemned the attack, as did Muslim, Christian and other religious leaders.

Anglican bishop Sarah Mullally, who was named Friday as the next leader of the Church of England, said that "hatred and racism of any kind cannot be allowed to tear us apart."

## Rising antisemitism

The U.K. has traditionally been a safe country for Jewish people though antisemitic incidents have risen following Hamas' October 2023 attack on Israel and Israel's military campaign in Gaza.

Starmer acknowledged that antisemitism is "a hatred that is rising once again, and Britain must defeat it once again."

## UK police given more time to question 4 suspects over deadly Manchester synagogue attack

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — U.K. police were given extra time Saturday to question four people arrested on suspicion of terror offenses after an attack on a synagogue in northwest England that left two people dead and Britain's Jewish community shocked and grieving.

Two other people who had been arrested were released without charge.

Jihad Al-Shamie, 35, was shot dead by police on Thursday outside the Heaton Park Congregation Synagogue in Manchester after he rammed a car into pedestrians, attacked them with a knife and tried to force his way into the building.

Congregation members Melvin Cravitz, 66, and Adrian Daulby, 53, died in the attack on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish year. Police say Daulby was accidentally shot by an armed officer as he and other congregants barricaded the synagogue to block Al-Shamie from entering. Three other men are hospitalized with serious injuries.

Detectives say Al-Shamie, a British citizen of Syrian origin who lived in Manchester, may have been influenced by "extreme Islamist ideology." He wore what appeared to be an explosives belt, which was found to be fake.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 86 of 103**

Police said that Al-Shamie was on bail over an alleged rape at the time of the attack, but hadn't been charged.

Three men and three women were arrested in the greater Manchester area on suspicion of the "commission, preparation and instigation of acts of terrorism," as police work to determine whether the attacker acted alone. A court on Saturday granted police five more days to hold four of the suspects: men ages 30 and 32, and women ages 46 and 61. An 18-year-old woman and a 43-year-old man were released with no further action, police said.

Police haven't identified those arrested or disclosed their links to Al-Shamie.

Antisemitic incidents on the rise

The attack has devastated Britain's Jewish community and intensified debate about the line between criticism of Israel and antisemitism.

Recorded antisemitic incidents in the U.K. have risen sharply since Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel and Israel's ensuing campaign against Hamas in Gaza, according to Community Security Trust, a charity that provides advice and protection for British Jews.

Some politicians and religious leaders claimed pro-Palestinian demonstrations, which have been held regularly since the war in Gaza began, had played a role in spreading hatred of Jews. The protests have been overwhelmingly peaceful, but some say chants such as "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" incite anti-Jewish hatred.

Some also say that the U.K.'s recognition of a Palestinian state last month has emboldened antisemitism — a claim that the government rejects. Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy was interrupted by boos and shouts of "Shame on you" on Friday as he addressed a vigil for victims of the attack in Manchester.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his supporters have frequently accused critics of Israel or its conduct of the war of antisemitism. Critics see it as an attempt to stifle even legitimate criticism.

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, the head of Orthodox Judaism in Britain, said that the attack was the result of "an unrelenting wave of Jew hatred" on the streets and online.

Pro-Palestinian rallies in Manchester and London

Pro-Palestinian demonstrators were held in Manchester and London on Saturday despite objections from police and politicians. U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer said that organizers should "recognize and respect the grief of British Jews this week" and postpone the protests.

About 100 people gathered in a central Manchester square in heavy rain, waving Palestinian flags and demanding an end to the war in Gaza.

In London, organizers said that about 1,000 people demonstrated against the banning of Palestine Action, a direct-action group that has vandalized British military planes and targeted sites with links to the Israeli military. It has been labeled a terrorist organization by the government, making support for the group illegal. Critics say that tramples on free speech and the right to protest.

Police officers carried away a number of people who sat silently in Trafalgar Square holding signs saying "I oppose genocide, I support Palestine Action." Police said they made at least 493 arrests.

More than 2,000 people have now been arrested at protests since Palestine Action was proscribed in July, and more than 130 charged with terrorism offenses.

Campaigner Jonathon Porritt said that protesters would "demonstrate huge respect and real grief for those affected by the absolute atrocity at Heaton Park.

"But I don't think that means that we should be asked to give up on our right to stand up for those who are being devastated by an ongoing, real-time genocide in Gaza," he told the BBC.

## What to know after Hamas welcomes US peace plan for Gaza

By CARA ANNA and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Both Israel and now Hamas have signaled support for the new U.S. plan to end the war in Gaza and release all remaining hostages there. President Donald Trump says he thinks Hamas is ready for a "lasting peace" and has told Israel to stop bombing the territory, but he warns that "all bets will be



# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 87 of 103**

off" if Hamas doesn't move quickly. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says he hopes to announce the release of all hostages "in the coming days."

Many uncertainties remain around the plan ahead of indirect talks between Israel and Hamas in Egypt on Monday. Already, Netanyahu says there will not be a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. Tuesday marks two years since the war began.

Here's what we know.

The plan's essentials

All hostilities would immediately end. Within 72 hours, Hamas would release all hostages it holds, living or dead. The militants still have 48 hostages. Israel believes 20 of them are alive.

Israel would free 250 Palestinians serving life sentences in its prisons and 1,700 people detained from Gaza since the war began, including all women and children. Israel also would hand over the bodies of 15 Palestinians for each body of a hostage handed over.

Israeli troops would withdraw from Gaza after Hamas disarms, and an international security force would deploy. The territory would be placed under international governance, with Trump and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair overseeing it.

An interim administration of Palestinian technocrats would run day-to-day affairs. Hamas would have no part in administering Gaza, and all its military infrastructure, including tunnels, would be dismantled. Members who pledge to live peacefully would be granted amnesty. Those who wish to leave Gaza can.

Palestinians will not be expelled from Gaza. Large amounts of humanitarian aid would be allowed and would be run by "neutral international bodies," including the U.N. and the Red Crescent.

What Hamas has said

A Hamas statement on Friday said it was willing to release the hostages and hand over power to other Palestinians, but that other aspects of the plan require further consultations among Palestinians. The statement made no mention of Hamas disarming, which is a key Israeli demand.

The statement also reiterated its longstanding openness to handing power over to a politically independent Palestinian body.

What Israel has said

Netanyahu on Friday said Israel was prepared for the implementation of the "first stage" of Trump's plan, apparently referring to the release of hostages. But his office said in a statement that Israel was committed to ending the war based on principles it has set out before. Netanyahu has long said Hamas must surrender and disarm.

Israel's army on Saturday said the country's leaders had instructed it to prepare for the first phase of the U.S. plan. Late on Saturday, Netanyahu said the military will continue to hold territories it controls in Gaza, and that Hamas will be disarmed in the plan's second phase, diplomatically "or through a military path by us."

What remains uncertain

Questions include the timing of key steps. One Hamas official said it would need days or weeks to locate some hostages' bodies. And senior Hamas officials have suggested there are still major disagreements requiring further negotiations.

It's not clear Hamas officials can agree among themselves on the plan. One official, Osama Hamdan, told Al Araby television that Hamas would refuse foreign administration of the Gaza Strip and that the entry of foreign forces would be "unacceptable."

Parts of the plan remain unclear. Hamas wants Israel to leave Gaza completely, but the plan says Israel would maintain a "security perimeter presence," which could mean it would keep a buffer zone inside the territory.

And the future of Gaza remains in question. The plan says that if the Palestinian Authority, which administers the West Bank, reforms sufficiently and Gaza redevelopment advances, "the conditions may finally be in place for a credible pathway to Palestinian self-determination and statehood."

What happens next

A senior Egyptian official on Saturday said U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff will travel to Egypt to lead the U.S.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 88 of 103

negotiating team. Delegations from Israel and Hamas will join the talks under way.

The official also said Arab mediators are preparing for a comprehensive dialogue among Palestinians aimed at unifying their position toward Gaza's future. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to brief the media.

What Palestinians and Israelis say

There is cautious hope but also memories of negotiations failing earlier in the war.

"We want to end the war by any means possible because we are tired," one displaced Palestinian in Gaza, Arafa al-Amour, said Saturday. Others said they hoped Arab nations would pressure Hamas to end it.

A group representing some families of hostages in Gaza said Saturday that the prospect of seeing loved ones return home "has never been closer." They appealed to Trump to keep pushing "with full force" and warned that "extremists on both sides" will try to sabotage the plan.

Two vocal members of the right-wing bloc of Netanyahu's coalition, ministers Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir, have criticized the plan's progress but didn't threaten to immediately leave the government.

## **Abrego Garcia wins request for hearing on whether smuggling charges are illegally 'vindictive'**

By MARC LEVY Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — A federal judge has concluded that the Department of Justice's prosecution of Kilmar Abrego Garcia on human smuggling charges may be an illegal retaliation after he successfully sued the Trump administration over his deportation to El Salvador.

The case of Abrego Garcia, a Salvadoran national who was a construction worker in Maryland, has become a proxy for the partisan struggle over President Donald Trump's sweeping immigration policy and mass deportation agenda.

U.S. District Court Judge Waverly Crenshaw late Friday granted a request by lawyers for Abrego Garcia and ordered discovery and an evidentiary hearing in Abrego Garcia's effort to show that the federal human smuggling case against him in Tennessee is illegally retaliatory.

Crenshaw said Abrego Garcia had shown that there is "some evidence that the prosecution against him may be vindictive." That evidence included statements by various Trump administration officials and the timeline of the charges being filed.

The Department of Homeland Security referred questions to the Department of Justice, which did not immediately respond to an inquiry about the case Saturday.

In his 16-page ruling, Crenshaw said many statements by Trump administration officials "raise cause for concern," but one stood out.

That statement by Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche, on a Fox News program after Abrego Garcia was charged in June, seemed to suggest that the Department of Justice charged Abrego Garcia because he won his wrongful deportation case, Crenshaw wrote.

Blanche's "remarkable statements could directly establish that the motivations for (Abrego Garcia's) criminal charges stem from his exercise of his constitutional and statutory rights" to sue over his deportation "rather than a genuine desire to prosecute him for alleged criminal misconduct," Crenshaw wrote.

Likewise, Crenshaw noted that the Department of Homeland Security reopened an investigation into Abrego Garcia days after the U.S. Supreme Court said in April that the Trump administration must work to bring back Abrego Garcia.

Abrego Garcia was indicted on May 21 and charged June 6, the day the U.S. brought him from a prison in El Salvador back to the U.S. He pleaded not guilty and is now being held in Pennsylvania.

If convicted in the Tennessee case, Abrego Garcia will be deported, federal officials have said. A U.S. immigration judge has denied Abrego Garcia's bid for asylum, although he can appeal.

The Salvadoran national has an American wife and children and has lived in Maryland for years, but he immigrated to the United States illegally as a teenager.

In 2019, he was arrested by immigration agents. He requested asylum but was not eligible because he

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 89 of 103**

had been in the U.S. for more than a year. But the judge ruled he could not be deported to El Salvador, where he faced danger from a gang that targeted his family.

The human smuggling charges in Tennessee stem from a 2022 traffic stop. He was not charged at the time.

Trump administration officials have waged a relentless public relations campaign against Abrego Garcia, repeatedly referring to him as a member of the MS-13 gang, among other things, despite the fact he has not been convicted of any crimes.

Abrego Garcia's attorneys have denounced the criminal charges and the deportation efforts, saying they are an attempt to punish him for standing up to the administration.

Abrego Garcia contends that, while imprisoned in El Salvador, he suffered beatings, sleep deprivation and psychological torture. El Salvador's president, Nayib Bukele, has denied those allegations.

## **Sean 'Diddy' Combs' lawyers plan to appeal as convicted hip-hop star faces more years behind bars**

By BRUCE SCHREINER Associated Press

Attorneys for Sean "Diddy" Combs are planning to appeal after the Grammy-winning artist and music executive was sentenced Friday to more than four years in prison for transporting people across state lines for sexual encounters. The case shattered his carefully cultivated reputation as an affable celebrity entrepreneur, A-list party host and reality TV star.

It culminated a public reckoning for the 55-year-old hip-hop star, who made a plea for leniency and wept as his lawyers played a video portraying his family life, career and philanthropy.

U.S. District Judge Arun Subramanian also fined Combs \$500,000, the maximum allowed.

Combs was convicted in July of flying his girlfriends and male sex workers around the country to engage in drug-fueled sexual encounters over many years and in multiple places.

The sordid, nearly two-month trial in a federal court in Manhattan featured harrowing testimony from women who said Combs beat, threatened, sexually assaulted and blackmailed them.

He was acquitted of sex trafficking and racketeering charges that could have put him behind bars for life.

Here's what to know about the case.

How much time will Combs serve

Combs was sentenced to four years and two months in prison.

He has already served a year in jail, meaning he could get out in about three years.

Prosecutors sought a sentence of more than 11 years. Combs' lawyers wanted him freed immediately and said the time behind bars has already forced his remorse and sobriety. On the eve of his sentencing, Combs wrote the judge proclaiming himself to be a new man after realizing he was "broken to my core."

Combs' lawyers said they will appeal.

There is no chance of parole in the federal system.

Prosecutor Christy Slavik said that sparing Combs serious prison time would excuse years of violence.

Key witnesses against Combs urged the judge to reject leniency for the hip-hop mogul, saying they feared for their safety if he was freed.

Where is Combs doing time

Combs was sent to a Brooklyn federal lockup a year ago after his lawyers unsuccessfully fought to keep him out of jail following his arrest.

The lockup is used mainly for post-arrest detention for people awaiting trial in federal courts in Manhattan or Brooklyn. Other inmates are there to serve short sentences following convictions.

The facility has been plagued by problems since opening in the 1990s. In recent years, its conditions have been so stark that some judges have refused to send people there.

Combs' lawyers were denied a request to let him await trial under house arrest at his mansion on an island in Miami Beach, Florida.

It wasn't immediately clear where he will serve the remainder of his sentence.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 90 of 103

There is a federal lockup for men near Combs' home. It's a low-security federal correctional institution at Miami with an adjacent minimum security satellite camp. The inmate population there totals 1,000, including 174 at the camp and 826 at the correctional institution, according to its website.

## Testimony at trial

During trial testimony, former girlfriend and R&B singer Casandra "Cassie" Ventura told jurors that Combs ordered her to have "disgusting" sex with strangers hundreds of times during their decade-long relationship. Jurors saw video of him dragging and beating her in a Los Angeles hotel hallway after one such multiday "freak-off."

Another woman, identified as "Jane," testified she was pressured into sex with male workers during drug-fueled "hotel nights" while Combs watched and sometimes filmed.

The Associated Press does not typically name people who say they have been sexually abused unless they come forward publicly.

Combs' lawyers argued at trial that the government was trying to criminalize consensual, if unconventional, sexual tastes.

## Federal law that was violated

Combs was sentenced for violating the federal Mann Act, an anti-prostitution law with a century-old history. The Mann Act makes it illegal to transport someone across state lines for the purpose of prostitution or other illegal sex acts.

The law was amended in the 1980s and today it is primarily used for prosecuting interstate prostitution crimes or people accused of taking underage children across state lines for sexual purposes.

Defense attorney Jason Driscoll argued Friday the law was misapplied.

## "Diddy's" long descent

Combs' reputational free fall began when Ventura, the criminal trial's key witness, sued him in 2023, alleging years of sexual and physical abuse. They settled within hours for \$20 million — an amount she disclosed publicly for the first time during the trial. Dozens of other people have since made similar legal claims.

The revelation of the federal sex trafficking investigation on the day of a bicoastal raid of Combs' houses took the allegations to another level of seriousness and public knowledge.

## How the case played in popular culture

The revelation that feds had seized 1,000 bottles of baby oil and other lubricant as part of the raid entered the popular culture immediately.

The case turned Combs into a punchline as much as a villain. Talk shows, "Saturday Night Live" and social media posters milked it for jokes about "freak-offs" and the voluminous amounts of baby oil he had for the sex marathons.

Fellow celebrities were called out for past Diddy associations — though no others were implicated in the criminal allegations.

## Gen Z protests are shaking Morocco. Here's what to know

By SAM METZ and AKRAM OUBACHIR Associated Press

RABAT, Morocco (AP) — Demonstrations in more than a dozen cities have jolted Morocco for a week straight, with the young people behind them showing they can translate digital discontent into a real-world movement that authorities can't ignore.

The North African nation is the latest to be rocked by "Gen Z" protests against corruption, lack of opportunity and business as usual.

Similar movements have risen in countries such as Madagascar, Kenya, Peru, and Nepal. They differ in origin but share in common a refusal to go through institutions like political parties or unions to be heard.

In Morocco, anger has boiled over contrasts between government spending on stadiums in the lead-up to the 2030 FIFA World Cup and a subpar health system that lags behind countries with similarly sized economies.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 91 of 103**

Here's what to know:

Meet the protesters

A leaderless collective called Gen Z 212 — named after Morocco's dialing code — is the engine behind the protests. Members debate strategy on Discord, a chat app popular with gamers and teens. The core group has about 180,000 members, but spinoffs have also sprouted, organizing demonstrations in towns independently.

Like other nations swept by Gen Z protests, Morocco is experiencing a youth bulge, with more than half of the population under 35. Yet as the country pours billions into infrastructure and tourism, unemployment for Moroccans ages 15-24 has climbed to 36%. And with opportunity lacking, more than half of Moroccans under 35 say they have considered emigrating, according to a June survey from Afrobarometer.

When midweek demonstrations turned violent, officials said most participants were minors and rights groups say many detained were under 18.

What they are protesting

Morocco is Africa's most visited country, appealing to tourists from around the world with its medieval palaces, bustling markets, and sweeping mountain and desert landscapes. But not far from tourist routes, the daily reality for most of Morocco's 37 million people includes soaring costs of living and stagnating wages.

The North African Kingdom has made significant strides in lifting standards of living, but development has been uneven and critics say it has even exacerbated inequities.

Morocco boasts Africa's only high-speed rail line and is constructing seven new stadiums and renovating seven others in preparation for the 2030 FIFA World Cup. It plans to spend more than \$5 billion on infrastructure for the event, some from the private sector. Yet with a monthly minimum wage of around \$300, many languish in poverty in areas where roads are unpaved, hospitals lack doctors and classrooms are underfunded and overcrowded.

Morocco has only 7.7 medical professionals per 10,000 inhabitants and far fewer in parts of the south and east where protests have become most heated. The public health system provides more than 80% of care, but accounts for only 40% of spending, with the rest coming from private or out-of-pocket costs.

Before Gen Z 212, localized protests against regional inequities and government priorities erupted, including in Al Haouz, where many remain in tents more than two years after a deadly 2023 earthquake. Anger boiled over in September after eight women died giving birth in a public hospital in the coastal city of Agadir. Despite its renovated airport and reputation as a destination for tourists, the city is the capital of one of Morocco's poorest provinces, Sousse-Massa, where residents have decried a lack of doctors and quality medical care.

Protesters, angry over corruption, have likened the government to a mafia and targeted Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch and Health Minister Amine Tahraoui, his former business associate. Akhannouch, one of Morocco's richest men, controls most of the country's gas stations, and one of his companies recently won controversial government contracts for new desalination projects.

Morocco's business interests, including the royal family's investment fund Al Mada, have also projected substantial profits from World Cup-related developments, including new stadiums, train lines and hotels, according to the magazine Jeune Afrique.

Gen Z's key chants

"Stadiums are here, but where are the hospitals?" A jab at Morocco's spending on spectacle projects for the World Cup and what many see as the government's blindness to everyday hardship.

"Freedom, dignity and social justice" is a slogan carried over from past movements denouncing limited political freedoms and economic exclusion, without offering specific demands for reform.

The protesters' demands

After officials called on Gen Z 212 to clarify its demands, the group on Thursday published a letter addressed to King Mohammed VI, asking him to dismiss the government and corrupt political parties, release detainees and convene a government forum to hold officials accountable.

The series of political demands diverged from the nebulous calls for dignity and social justice, reflecting

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 92 of 103**

a broad sentiment of how Morocco has not made serious strides to overcome what King Mohamed VI described as the “paradoxes” of living conditions during the 2017 mass demonstrations. At the time, he acknowledged development had not adequately trickled down to benefit all and promised progress was underway.

Though the king is the country’s highest authority, Gez Z protesters directed their ire at government officials and called on him to oversee reforms. Many on the streets shouted: “The people want the King to intervene,” underscoring his image among Moroccans as an anchor of stability.

How the government has responded

Security forces have alternated between crackdown and retreat.

Riot police and plainclothes officers arrested demonstrators en masse on the weekend of Sept. 27 and 28. Police in a small town outside of Agadir fired on demonstrators they claimed were storming one of their posts on Wednesday, killing three, and a police van rammed into protesters in the eastern city of Oujda, injuring one, the night before. But elsewhere, security forces eased their presence, standing aside as rioters and looters set cars ablaze and smashed storefronts.

After days of protests, Akhannouch and several of his Cabinet members said the government was open to dialogue with protesters and suggested fortifying existing hospitals with additional staff and opening new medical facilities.

“The government launched a comprehensive plan from the beginning, and today we are accelerating its pace so that citizens can feel the improvements more clearly,” Tahraoui told the outlet Hespress on Friday.

But as Moroccans watch stadiums built in a matter of months, promised changes have rung hollow to many demonstrators, for until now, no official has proposed redirecting stadium funds to social services.

“The government is taking patchwork measures to ease the pressure,” Youssef, a 27-year-old demonstrator, said. “Their reforms will take years.”

## How to grow a giant pumpkin, with help from science

By ADITHI RAMAKRISHNAN and SHELBY LUM AP Science Writer

WAPPINGERS FALLS, N.Y. (AP) — The pumpkin in Tony Scott’s backyard weighs almost as much as a small car.

He’s been tending to it for months, feeding it fertilizer and covering it with a blanket at night to keep it at a stable temperature. A roll of measuring tape wrapped around the pumpkin gives him a rough estimate of its size.

“I’ve never seen anything grow this fast,” said Scott, a semiconductor engineer from upstate New York.

Every year, growers like Scott push their pumpkins to the limit. They compete in annual weigh-offs with colossal fruits that are well over 2,000 pounds (900 kilograms). Scott’s pumpkin took third place this year, coming in at 1,931 pounds (876 kilograms).

Pumpkins aren’t the only crops that can get giant. Other members of the gourd family like squashes, cucumbers and watermelons are capable of a similar feat. But the orange behemoths are especially massive and have earned a place of honor at fall festivals and Halloween fairs.

How to grow a giant pumpkin

A giant pumpkin starts off as the perfect seed. Growers choose seeds that have yielded large pumpkins in the past or test new ones. Scott and many other growers rely on the tried-and-true Atlantic Giant pumpkin seeds.

After that, it comes down to the right combination of water, nutrients and care.

Giant pumpkins can guzzle hundreds of gallons of water in a day and make their own food from sunlight just like regular-sized plants do. Their internal plumbing system is more robust, allowing them to drink up sugary water and nutrients faster.

As the leafy patch begins to expand, growers remove smaller pumpkins so all the water and nutrients funnel into a single fruit.

“That helps make it extra big in a way that you might not see in the wild,” said Aleca Borsuk, a plant

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 93 of 103

scientist at the New York Botanical Garden.

Because of gravity, giant pumpkins grow wide but not tall. They often resemble lopsided, lumpy pancakes. Scott's pumpkin is also lighter in color because he covers it with a tarp during the day, protecting it from sunlight which can ripen and harden the skin. He waters it using an overhead sprinkler system.

Can giant pumpkins grow forever?

"The answer is no," Borsuk said. No matter how big a pumpkin gets, it'll eventually mature and its natural aging cycle will kick in.

Scott has nurtured giant pumpkins for eight years. It still blows his mind watching them inflate, putting on around 40 pounds to 50 pounds (18 kilograms to 23 kilograms) a day. He sets up reflective panels and even a fake wolf cutout to ward off hungry deer and other intruders looking for an orange-colored snack. Woodchucks have nibbled on the pumpkin's vines in previous years.

After the all-important weighing competition, Scott shows off the giant pumpkin at various themed events and drives it around on a trailer. Eventually, he donates it to be displayed or carved.

On the way to events, he often gets stopped by people who ask what he's got in the back.

"The first question they ask is, 'Is it real?'" Scott said. "Where would you buy a fake pumpkin this big?"

## Journalists work in dire conditions to tell Gaza's story, knowing that could make them targets

By BASSEM MROUE and ADAM GELLER Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Minutes after journalists gathered outside a Gaza hospital to survey the damage of an Israeli strike, Ibrahim Qannan pointed his camera up at the battered building as the others climbed its external stairs. Then Qannan watched in horror — while broadcasting live — as a second strike killed the friends and colleagues he knew so well.

"We live side by side with death," Qannan, a correspondent for the Cairo-based Al-Ghad TV said in an interview.

"I still cannot believe that five of our colleagues were struck in front of me on camera and I try to hold up and look strong to carry the message. May no one feel such feelings. They are painful feelings."

The deaths of the five journalists in the Aug. 25 strikes on Nasser Hospital add to a toll of nearly 200 news workers killed by Israeli forces while working to bring Gaza's story to the world. Those killed in the attack, which left a total of 22 people dead, included Mariam Dagga, 33, a visual journalist who freelanced for The Associated Press and other outlets.

Like the vast majority of Gaza's population, most of its journalists have seen their homes destroyed or damaged during the war and have been repeatedly displaced after evacuation orders by Israel's military. Many have mourned the deaths of family members.

But journalists and advocates say the trials go well beyond. Every workday, they say, is shadowed by an awareness that covering the news in Gaza makes them singularly visible in the conflict, putting them at extraordinary risk.

For journalists in Gaza, "it's about dying or living, escaping violence or not. It's something we cannot compare (to other wartime journalism) at any level," said Mohamed Salama, a former reporter in Egypt who is now an academic, researching the life of news workers in the Strip.

Israel calls strikes 'a tragic mishap' but also levels accusations

After the August strikes, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted that the military was not deliberately targeting journalists and called the killings a "tragic mishap." After a preliminary review, the military said the attack had targeted what it believed to be a Hamas surveillance camera and that six of the people killed were militants, but offered no evidence.

Late last month, the AP and Reuters — which lost a cameraman and a freelancer in the attack on the hospital — demanded that Israel provide a full account of what happened and "take every step to protect those who continue to cover this conflict." The news organizations issued their statement on the one-

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 94 of 103**

month anniversary of the strikes.

Israeli officials have previously accused some journalists in Gaza of being current or former militants. They include Anas al-Sharif, a well-known correspondent for Al Jazeera who was killed in an early August strike on a media tent outside another Gaza hospital. Four other journalists were also killed in the attack.

The Israeli military, citing documents it purportedly found in Gaza, as well as other intelligence, had long claimed that al-Sharif was a member of Hamas. He was killed after what press advocates said was an Israeli "smear campaign" stepped up when al-Sharif cried on air over starvation in the territory.

There is a long, sometimes tragic history of journalists risking personal safety to cover conflicts. But the risks, trials and toll of doing so have never been higher than they are in Gaza right now, experts say.

Since the war was ignited by the Hamas attack on Israel nearly two years ago, 195 Palestinian media workers have been killed by Israeli forces in Gaza, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

The toll recently prompted Brown University's Costs of War project to label Gaza a "news graveyard." Journalist deaths in Gaza have now surpassed the combined number killed during the U.S. Civil War, World Wars I and II, the Vietnam and Korean wars, the war in Yugoslavia that ended in 2001 and the Afghanistan War, the project said in a report issued earlier this year.

In a separate survey of Gaza news workers last year by Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism, nine in 10 said their homes had been destroyed in the war. About one in five said they had been injured and about the same number had lost family members. That was before Israel resumed fighting in March after a brief ceasefire.

One Gaza journalist, Nour Swirki, told the AP in an interview that since her home was destroyed early in the war she has been displaced seven times. Swirki and her husband, who is also a journalist, arranged for their son and daughter to exit Gaza in 2024 and stay with family in Egypt while the couple continued to work.

"I preferred their safety to my motherhood," said Swirki, who works for the Saudi-based Asharq News and was a friend of Dagga's.

"Death is there (in Gaza) every moment, every second and everywhere," Swirki said. She is reminded of that reality whenever she skims through photos and videos stored on her phone and is met by the faces and voices of the many colleagues and friends who have been killed in the war.

"We get afraid and terrified and we work under the harshest conditions," she said, "but we still stand up and work."

Journalists are pressured by violence, hunger

Qannan, who saw his colleagues killed in the August strike, said Israel's refusal to let foreign reporters enter Gaza puts tremendous pressure on local journalists, many of whom see their work as a duty to their fellow Palestinians.

He recounted working without a break since the war's start, grabbing sleep between live broadcasts. His family has been displaced seven times. Now he and other journalists struggle to find food. In a recent social media post, he and fellow journalists gathered to cook a kilogram (2.2 pounds) of pasta that had cost them the equivalent of \$60.

Yet when he goes on camera, Qannan said he makes an effort to appear strong in hopes of reassuring viewers. In fact, he and others journalists are exhausted and scared, he said.

Qannan says his fears have increased since he aired video of his colleagues being killed in the hospital attack, because it could draw the attention of the Israeli military. "The situation is terrifying more than the human brain can imagine," he said. "The fear that we are living and fear of being targeted are worse than is being described."

Another Gaza journalist, Mohammed Subeh, said the Israeli strike that killed the Al Jazeera reporter earlier in August left him with shrapnel lodged in his back and an injury to his foot. But hospitals are so overwhelmed with critical cases that he's been unable to get treatment.

"A journalist in Gaza lives between covering the war on the ground, following the news and at the same time trying to take care of his safety and the safety of his family," said Subeh, who reports for Al-Ekhbariya,



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 95 of 103

a Saudi Arabian news channel.

Salama, who together with colleagues interviewed more than 20 Gaza journalists for their academic research, said that unlike foreign correspondents covering a war, Palestinian reporters have experienced decades of conflict firsthand. That experience makes them uniquely capable of telling Gaza's story, he said — but they can never step away from it.

"You don't have the luxury to break your soul away from what is happening on the ground," said Salama, now a doctoral student at the University of Maryland.

Subeh, who works for the Saudi news channel, said he'd thought repeatedly of quitting and trying to flee. But, despite the extreme difficulties and dangers, he can't bring himself to do it.

"I feel that my presence here is important and that the voice of Gaza should be sent to the world from its own residents," he said. "Journalism is not only a job for me, but a mission."

## Trump is reviving large sales of coal from public lands. Will anyone want it?

By MATTHEW BROWN and MEAD GRUVER Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — U.S. officials in the coming days are set to hold the government's biggest coal sales in more than a decade, offering 600 million tons from publicly owned reserves next to strip mines in Montana and Wyoming.

The sales are a signature piece of President Donald Trump's ambitions for companies to dig more coal from federal lands and burn it for electricity. Yet most power plants served by those mines plan to quit burning coal altogether within 10 years, an Associated Press data analysis shows.

Three other mines poised for expansions or new leases under Trump also face declining demand as power plants use less of their coal and in some cases shut down, according to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration and the nonprofit Global Energy Monitor.

Those market realities raise a fundamental question about the Republican administration's push to revive a heavily polluting industry that long has been in decline: Who's going to buy all that coal?

The question looms over the administration's enthusiastic embrace of coal, a leading contributor to climate change. It also shows the uncertainty inherent in inserting those policies into markets where energy-producing customers make long-term decisions with massive implications, not just for their own viability but for the future of the planet, in an ever-shifting political landscape.

Rushing to approve projects

The upcoming lease sales in Montana and Wyoming are in the Powder River Basin, home to the most productive U.S. coal fields.

Officials say they will go forward beginning Monday despite the government shutdown. The administration exempted from furlough those workers who process fossil fuel permits and leases.

Democratic President Joe Biden last year acted to block future coal leases in the region, citing their potential to make climate change worse. Burning the coal from the two leases being sold in coming days would generate more than 1 billion tons of planet-warming carbon dioxide, according to a Department of Energy formula.

Trump rejected climate change as a "con job" during a Sept. 23 speech to the U.N. General Assembly, an assessment that puts him at odds with scientists. He praised coal as "beautiful" and boasted about the abundance of U.S. supplies while deriding solar and wind power. Administration officials said Wednesday that they were canceling \$8 billion in grants for clean energy projects in 16 states won by Democrat Kamala Harris in the 2024 presidential election.

In response to an order from Trump on his first day in office in January, coal lease sales that had been shelved or stalled were revived and rushed to approval, with considerations of greenhouse gas emissions dismissed. Administration officials have advanced coal mine expansions and lease sales in Utah, North Dakota, Tennessee and Alabama, in addition to Montana and Wyoming.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 96 of 103**

Interior Secretary Doug Burgum said Monday that the administration is opening more than 20,000 square miles (52,000 square kilometers) of federal lands to mining. That is an area bigger than New Hampshire and Vermont combined.

The administration also sharply reduced royalty rates for coal from federal lands, ordered a coal-fired power plant in Michigan to stay open past planned retirement dates and pledged \$625 million to recommission or modernize coal plants amid growing electricity demand from artificial intelligence and data centers.

"We're putting American miners back to work," Burgum said, flanked by coal miners and Republican politicians. "We've got a demand curve coming at us in terms of the demand for electricity that is literally going through the roof."

Coal demand plummets

The AP's finding that power plants served by mines on public lands are burning less coal reflects an industrywide decline that began in 2007.

Energy experts and economists were not surprised. They expressed doubt that coal would ever reclaim dominance in the power sector. Interior Department officials did not respond to questions about future demand for coal from public lands.

But it will take time for more electricity from planned natural gas and solar projects to come online. That means Trump's actions could give a short-term bump to coal, said Umed Paliwal, an expert in electricity markets at the University of California, Berkeley.

"Eventually coal will get pushed out of the market," Paliwal said. "The economics will just eat the coal generation over time."

The coal sales in Montana and Wyoming were requested by Navajo Nation-owned company. The Navajo Transitional Energy Co. (NTEC) has been one of the largest industry players since buying several major mines in the Powder River Basin during a 2019 bankruptcy auction. Those mines supply 34 power plants in 19 states.

Twenty-one of the plants are scheduled to stop burning coal in the next decade. They include all five plants using coal from NTEC's Spring Creek mine in Montana.

In filings with federal officials, the company said the fair market value of 167 million tons of federal coal next to the Spring Creek mine was just over \$126,000.

That is less than one-tenth of a penny per ton, a fraction of what coal brought in its heyday. By comparison, the last large-scale lease sale in the Powder River Basin, also for 167 million tons of coal, drew a bid of \$35 million in 2013. Federal officials rejected that as too low.

NTEC said the low value was supported by prior government reviews predicting fewer buyers for coal. The company said taxpayers would benefit in future years from royalties on any coal mined.

"The market for coal will decline significantly over the next two decades. There are fewer coal mines expanding their reserves, there are fewer buyers of thermal coal and there are more regulatory constraints," the company said.

In central Wyoming on Wednesday, the government will sell 440 million tons of coal next to NTEC's Antelope Mine. Just over half of the 29 power plants served by the mine are scheduled to stop burning coal by 2035.

Among them is the Rawhide plant in northern Colorado. It is due to quit coal in 2029 but will keep making electricity with natural gas and 30 megawatts of solar panels.

Aging plants and optimism

The largest U.S. coal company has offered a more optimistic take on coal's future. Because new nuclear and gas plants are years away, Peabody Energy suggested in September that demand for coal in the U.S. could increase 250 million tons annually — up almost 50% from current volumes.

Peabody's projection was based on the premise that existing power plants can burn more coal. That amount, known as plant capacity, dropped by about half in recent years.

"U.S. coal is clearly in comeback mode," Peabody's president, James Grech, said in a recent conference call with analysts. "The U.S. has more energy in its coal reserves than any nation has in any one energy

source.”

No large coal power plants have come online in the U.S. since 2013. Most existing plants are 40 years old or older. Money pledged by the administration to refurbish older plants will not go very far given that a single boiler component at a plant can cost \$25 million to replace, said Nikhil Kumar with GridLab, an energy consulting group.

That leads back to the question of who will buy the coal.

“I don’t see where you get all this coal consumed at remaining facilities,” Kumar said.

## **The Oval Office meeting didn’t stop a shutdown, but the Trump 2028 hats and a sombrero set a tone**

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Halfway through Donald Trump’s inaugural White House meeting with congressional leadership days before a government shutdown, the red hats appeared on the president’s desk.

“Trump 2028,” they said, situated across from the seated lawmakers, Vice President JD Vance and several untouched Diet Cokes.

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries leaned over to Vance, himself a potential 2028 contender, and quipped, “Hey, bro, you got a problem with this?”

The room chuckled in response.

“It was the random-most thing in the world, because we’re sitting there, we’re having a serious conversation, and all of a sudden these two red hats appear,” Jeffries recalled later at the Capitol.

“It was all so unserious,” Jeffries said, describing a roving cameraman capturing the moment. “We were there for serious reasons that it wasn’t really a big part of, you know, the discussion. It was theatrics.”

The moment was vintage Trump — grabbing the attention and seeking to throw negotiators off their game — but it also underscored the president’s regard for Congress, a coequal branch of the government, and in particular his opponents across the political aisle.

From historic first meeting to viral trolling

What was once was considered a historic occasion — the president of the United States convening his first “big four” meeting of congressional leaders from the House and Senate — was reduced to another viral souvenir of Trump trolling his opponent.

And after the more than hourlong session, Trump failed to strike a deal with the leaders to prevent a federal government closure.

“We don’t want it to shut down,” Trump said at the White House the next day, hours before the midnight deadline.

This wasn’t just a routine meeting of the president and congressional leadership. It was the first time Trump had gathered the leaders of Congress, more than eight months into his presidency — and the first time he and Jeffries had officially met.

But more surprising was how little came from it.

Health care funds up for debate as president listens

During the White House meeting, Jeffries and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer laid out their arguments for saving health care funding as part of the shutdown talks.

Trump said very little, doing more listening than talking, the leaders said.

“He didn’t seem to know about the health care premiums going up so much,” Schumer said.

With the Republican leadership, House Speaker Mike Johnson and Senate Majority Leader John Thune, the conversation ranged across their views of the health care situation.

“Lively,” as Thune said later.

The discussion included the Democrats’ demands to ensure subsidies to help people buy private insurance on the exchanges run by the Affordable Care Act are made permanent. The subsidies were put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic and are set to expire at year’s end, spiking premiums as much as

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 98 of 103

double, in some estimates.

The conversation also touched on the new rural hospital fund that is important to Republicans, set up under Trump's big bill as a way to compensate for its cuts to Medicaid health care providers.

Johnson said Trump showed "strong, solid leadership. He listened to the arguments."

Trying to catch the president's attention

This is the best the Democrats could have hoped for — to have an airing before the president that began to turn the dial toward their demands. And it is what the GOP leaders had tried to avoid as each party tries to blame the shutdown on the other.

Johnson had suggested Trump back out of an initial meeting with the Democrats — after the president had agreed to one — arguing it would be a "waste of time."

But Trump relented, and granted them Monday's closed-door Oval Office session.

The Democrats have been here before. During Trump's first term, the president repeatedly negotiated deals with the Democrats — "Chuck and Nancy," as he called Schumer and Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi — to fund the government, raise the debt limit and achieve other goals.

Those bargains by Trump frustrated his own Republican Party.

Republicans, aware of that history, are trying to steer the conversation in a different direction, leaving the door open to discuss the health care issue with Democrats later — once the government has reopened. They also took issue with the characterization of Trump as unaware of the depth or magnitude of the health care situation.

"I'm highly skeptical the president was hearing about it for the first time," Vance said afterward.

One Republican unauthorized to publicly discuss the private meeting and granted anonymity to do so said Schumer's suggestion that Trump didn't know about the subsidy problem was overblown.

So far in his second term, the president has been able to accomplish his priorities either on his own, with executive actions and the Elon Musk-led cuts that tore through federal offices, or with a compliant Congress passing his signature tax breaks and spending cuts bill, commonly called the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, that is also fueling his mass deportation agenda.

But Washington doesn't run on the White House alone, and Congress is not a majority-takes-all institution. Turning most bills into laws requires the give-and-take of bipartisan compromise, particularly in the Senate, and particularly when it comes to the annual appropriations needed to keep government running.

Then came the sombrero taunts

Hours after the lawmakers left the meeting, Trump's team posted a fake video that showed Jeffries adorned in a sombrero with a faux mustache standing beside Schumer outside the White House. It was widely seen as racist.

"When I was practicing law, there was a Latin phrase that was always one of my favorites," Jeffries said back at his office at the Capitol. "Res ipsa loquitur. It means: The thing speaks for itself."

"We had a full airing of our positions on Monday, which should have set the baseline for a follow-up conversation from the administration to try to reignite a meaningful bipartisan path toward funding the government," he said.

"Unfortunately, the president's behavior subsequent to the White House meeting deteriorated into unhinged and unserious action."

## At least 1 dead and dozens injured as Russian drones strike a Ukrainian railway station

By The Associated Press undefined

Russian drones struck a Ukrainian railway station on Saturday, killing one and wounding dozens, as Moscow stepped up strikes on Ukraine's rail and power grids before the fourth winter since its all-out invasion.

At least 30 people were wounded in the "savage" attack, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said following the attack on Shostka, a city in the Sumy region northeast of Kyiv that lies about 70 kilometers



# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 99 of 103**

(43 miles) from the Russian border. Hours later, local prosecutors said that a 71-year-old man was found dead in one of the wrecked carriages.

Russia struck two passenger trains in quick succession, first targeting a local commuter service and then one bound for Kyiv, said Oleksiy Kuleba, Ukraine's deputy prime minister and reconstruction minister. He said that the second drone hit while an evacuation was underway.

The head of Ukraine's national rail operator, Ukrzaliznytsia, Oleksandr Pertsovsky, called the strike "a vile attack aimed at stopping communication with our front-line communities."

"This is one of the most brutal Russian tactics — the so-called 'double tap,' when the second strike hits rescuers and people who are evacuating," said Ukraine's top diplomat, Andrii Sybiha, according to a Telegram post by the Foreign Ministry.

Both Zelenskyy and local Gov. Oleh Hryhorov posted what they said were photos from the scene showing a passenger carriage on fire. The drone strikes also knocked out the power supply in Shostka, home to more than 70,000 people before the war, and surrounding areas, according to Hryhorov.

Elsewhere in the Sumy region, a Russian drone struck a fishing boat on a lake near the border, killing a 63-year old man and wounding his 65-year old companion, local prosecutors said Saturday.

Ukraine's rail and power networks hit

Moscow has recently stepped up airstrikes on Ukraine's railway network, which is essential for military transport, hitting it almost every day over the past two months. As in previous years since the full-scale invasion on Feb. 24, 2022, the Kremlin has also ramped up attacks on Ukraine's power grid, in what Kyiv calls an attempt to weaponize the approaching winter by denying civilians heat, light and running water.

Overnight into Saturday, Russian drones and missiles pounded Ukraine's power grid again, a Ukrainian energy firm said, a day after what officials described as the biggest attack on Ukrainian natural gas facilities since the war began. Friday's strike damaged energy facilities near Chernihiv, a northern city west of Shostka, and sparked blackouts set to affect about 50,000 households, according to regional operator Chernihivoblenergo.

The attack was the biggest so far targeting natural gas facilities run by Ukraine's state-owned Naftogaz Group, Ukrainian officials said.

Naftogaz's chief executive, Serhii Koretskyi, said Friday that the attacks had no military purpose, while Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko accused Moscow of "terrorizing civilians." Moscow claimed the strikes targeted facilities that support Kyiv's war effort.

Russian forces overnight launched a further 109 drones and three ballistic missiles, the Ukrainian military reported. It said 73 of the drones were shot down or sent off course.

Russia faces fuel shortages

The Ukrainian military on Saturday reported it again hit one of Russia's largest oil refineries. It said a nighttime drone strike caused blasts and a fire at the Kirishi refinery near St. Petersburg, more than 1,200 kilometers (745 miles) from the Ukrainian border.

The refinery, operated by Russian oil major Surgutneftegas, produces close to 17.7 million metric tons per year (355,000 barrels per day) of crude, and is one of Russia's top three by output.

Telegram news channels from Russia and Ukraine posted videos they said had been sent in by residents near the city of Kirishi. They show drone-like objects whizzing against a night sky lit up by an orange glow, as blasts thunder in the background.

Local Gov. Alexander Drozdenko on Saturday reported that seven drones were shot down overnight near Kirishi. He said that a fire had been put out in its "industrial zone," without specifying what was hit or commenting on damage.

Ukraine has repeatedly struck the Kirishi refinery, with the most recent strike on Sept. 14 also sparking a blaze, according to Russian officials.

Russia remains the world's second-largest oil exporter. But Moscow moved to pause gasoline exports after a seasonal rise in demand and sustained Ukrainian drone strikes have caused shortages in recent months.

Russian forces shot down 117 Ukrainian drones during the night, and at least 37 more on Saturday, the

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 100 of 103**

Defense Ministry in Moscow reported that day. A married couple and two other civilians were injured in the Belgorod region, which borders Ukraine, after a drone struck an unspecified commercial facility, according to regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov.

French journalist killed

Elsewhere, a Russian drone strike killed a French photojournalist late Friday as he was reporting from the front lines in eastern Ukraine, according to the Ukrainian military.

Antoni Lallican, 37, died near the town of Druzhkivka, in the Donetsk region, according to a Facebook post by the 4th Separate Mechanized Brigade. The strike also wounded Hryhory Ivanchenko, a Ukrainian photographer who accompanied him, the military unit said.

Lallican's work had been featured by numerous French and international media outlets, including Le Monde, Le Figaro, Der Spiegel and Die Zeit. He was nominated for the RSF press photography award in 2024.

He is the 14th reporter and fourth French national to be killed while covering Russia's full-scale invasion.

## **Germany's Munich Airport reopens after second closure in less than 24 hours due to drones**

By MATTHIAS SCHRADER Associated Press

MUNICH (AP) — Germany's Munich Airport reopened Saturday morning after authorities shut it down the night before for the second time in less than 24 hours after two additional drone sightings, officials said.

The closures are the latest after mysterious drone overflights in the airspace of European Union member countries.

The airport, one of Germany's largest, reopened gradually beginning at 7 a.m. (0500 GMT) Saturday. Planes typically begin taking off at 5 a.m.

Federal police said two drone sightings were confirmed shortly before 11 p.m. Friday near the airport's north and south runways, the agency said in a statement Saturday. The drones flew away before they could be identified.

Delays were expected to continue throughout Saturday, the airport said in a statement. At least 6,500 passengers were impacted by the overnight closure Friday into Saturday.

The previous closure, Thursday night into Friday, affected almost 3,000 passengers.

Authorities were not immediately able to provide any information about who was responsible for the overflights.

The incident was the latest in a series of incidents of mysterious drone sightings over airports as well as other critical infrastructure sites in several European Union member countries. Drones also were spotted overnight in Belgium above a military base.

A drone incident in Oslo, the capital of Norway, which is a NATO member but not part of the EU, also affected flights there late last month.

It wasn't immediately clear who has been behind the flyovers. European authorities have expressed concerns that they're being carried out by Russia, though some experts have noted that anybody with drones could be behind them. Russian authorities have rejected claims of involvement, including in recent drone incidents in Denmark.

Alexander Dobrindt, Germany's interior minister, on Saturday cautioned the public that not every drone is a threat.

Even if a drone flight is initiated by a foreign power, he said, it does not automatically mean people are in danger. The flyover might just be a provocation, he added.

Still, the minister said drones are the latest arms race and Germany, along with the rest of the EU, must face it. Dobrindt said he is planning a joint drone defense center to coordinate between Germany's federal government and the states.

## Legal setbacks mount for Trump's birthright order before likely Supreme Court review

By MICHAEL CASEY and SUDHIN THANAWALA Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Over a span of a month this summer, four separate federal courts rejected President Donald Trump's executive order ending automatic citizenship for the children of people in the country illegally or temporarily.

On Friday, one more court weighed in, and the result was no different.

A three-judge panel of the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston said in a unanimous decision that the Republican president cannot enforce the order. The court joined the four others that earlier had issued or upheld decisions blocking it nationwide.

The U.S. Supreme Court is almost certain to have the final word on birthright citizenship. The Trump administration has already asked the high court to take up the issue.

Federal judges have made clear how much his order conflicts with Supreme Court precedent, to say nothing of the Constitution. The Supreme Court is not bound by what those lower court judges have said or even its own past rulings. Nonetheless, those losses could mean an uphill fight for his administration even in front of the justices, who have so far sided with the president on many legal challenges to his effort to remake the government.

The 14th Amendment

The right to citizenship at birth has long been a bedrock principle in the United States, widely accepted to have been granted by the 14th Amendment to the Constitution in 1868. It was intended to ensure that Black people, including former slaves, had citizenship.

The amendment includes a citizenship clause that says all people born or naturalized in the U.S. and "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" are citizens.

Administration lawyers have argued that inclusion of the phrase "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" means that citizenship is not automatically conferred to children based on their birth in the U.S. They contend it requires children to have primary allegiance to the U.S., and people who are in the U.S. illegally or temporarily — and by extension, their children — cannot claim that because their permanent home is another country to which that allegiance is tied.

White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson said in a statement Friday that the 1st Circuit was misinterpreting the 14th Amendment.

Legal scholars say the administration's interpretation is countered by the amendment's history and subsequent Supreme Court rulings.

Experts say members of Congress who debated the amendment clearly understood it would establish an expansive definition of birthright citizenship that included the children of immigrants, and they meant the phrase "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" as subject to U.S. law. The children of Native Americans on tribal land and the children of foreign diplomats — both of whom had immunity from U.S. sovereign authority — were the primary groups of people the clause was meant to exclude from birthright citizenship, according to scholars.

Supreme Court rulings

In 1898, the Supreme Court, in a landmark decision, found that the son of Chinese immigrants was a U.S. citizen under the 14th Amendment, based on his birth in San Francisco. The high court has never ruled directly on the citizenship clause's application to children of immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally, but a footnote in a 1982 decision suggests there should be no difference between them and the children of foreign-born parents who are in the U.S. legally.

The court's conservative majority took up a challenge to the birthright order earlier this year, but did not decide its constitutionality. Instead, the court used the case to issue a ruling in June limiting the power of lower courts to issue nationwide injunctions, a victory for the administration.

Lower court decisions

Starting with a federal judge in New Hampshire, court after court has blocked the order.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 102 of 103**

The justices in June did not rule out court orders with nationwide effects in class-action lawsuits and lawsuits brought by states.

Two of the judges who recently ruled against the birthright order certified a class of all children born in the U.S. after the order's February effective date who would be denied citizenship on its basis.

In two other rulings, courts agreed with states that a patchwork approach to implementing the order would not relieve them of its financial burden, noting the regular movement of people between states and the possibility of a state resident giving birth in another state. Citizenship status is a prerequisite for certain government benefits, so the plaintiff states would have to overhaul their eligibility systems to account for such distinctions, the rulings by the 9th U.S. Circuit and a federal judge in Boston said.

The 1st Circuit said its decision was easy.

"The length of our analysis should not be mistaken for a sign that the fundamental question that these cases raise about the scope of birthright citizenship is a difficult one," Chief Judge David Barron wrote. "It is not, which may explain why it has been more than a century since a branch of our government has made as concerted an effort as the Executive Branch now makes to deny Americans their birthright."

White House response

In her statement on Friday, Jackson said the administration looked forward to "being vindicated by the Supreme Court."

To enforce the order, government officials would need to confirm parental citizenship or immigration status before issuing Social Security numbers. Passport applications would also require proof of parental citizenship or immigration status, according to recent guidance documents from the administration.

## **Today in History: October 5, Steve Jobs dies at 56**

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Oct. 5, the 278th day of 2025. There are 87 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 5, 2011, Steve Jobs, the Apple founder and former chief executive who invented and master-marketed ever-sleeker gadgets that transformed everyday technology, died in Palo Alto, California, at age 56.

Also on this date:

In 1892, the Dalton Gang, notorious for its train robberies, was practically wiped out while attempting to rob a pair of banks in Coffeyville, Kansas.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman delivered the first televised White House address as he spoke on the world food crisis.

In 1953, Earl Warren was sworn in as the 14th chief justice of the United States, succeeding Fred M. Vinson.

In 1958, racially desegregated Clinton High School in Clinton, Tennessee, was nearly leveled by an early morning bombing.

In 1983, Solidarity founder Lech Walesa (lek vah-WEN'-sah) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Starting in 1980, Walesa spearheaded Poland's pro-democracy movement that nine years later led to the peaceful end of the country's communist rule. In 1990-95 he served as democratic Poland's first popularly elected president.

In 1986, Nicaraguan Sandinista government soldiers shot down a cargo plane carrying weapons and ammunition bound for Contra rebels; the event exposed a web of illegal arms shipments, leading to the Iran-Contra Scandal.

In 1989, a jury in Charlotte, North Carolina, convicted evangelist Jim Bakker of using his television show to defraud followers. Initially sentenced to 45 years in prison, Bakker was freed in December 1994 after serving 4 1/2 years.

In 2001, tabloid photo editor Robert Stevens died from inhaled anthrax, the first of a series of anthrax cases in Florida, New York, New Jersey and Washington.

In 2018, a jury in Chicago convicted white police officer Jason Van Dyke of second-degree murder in



# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 123 ~ 103 of 103**

the 2014 shooting of Black teenager Laquan McDonald.

In 2020, President Donald Trump made a dramatic return to the White House after leaving the military hospital where he was being treated for COVID-19.

Today's Birthdays: College Football Hall of Fame coach Barry Switzer is 88. Rock musician Steve Miller is 82. Rock singer Brian Johnson (AC/DC) is 78. Actor Karen Allen is 74. Singer-songwriter Bob Geldof is 74. Astrophysicist-author Neil deGrasse Tyson is 67. Architect-designer Maya Lin is 66. Golf Hall of Famer Laura Davies is 62. Hockey Hall of Famer Mario Lemieux is 60. Hockey Hall of Famer Patrick Roy is 60. Actor Guy Pearce is 58. Actor Josie Bissett is 55. Actor Parminder Nagra (pah-MIHN'-da NAH'-grah) is 50. Actor Kate Winslet is 50. Actor Jesse Eisenberg is 42. NFL tight end Travis Kelce is 36. Actor Jacob Tremblay is 19.