

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 1 of 58

[1- Upcoming Events](#)  
[2- 1440 News Headlines](#)  
[3- C/JV Sponsors for M/P VB Match](#)  
[3- Today on GDILIVE.COM](#)  
[4- Weekly Vikings Roundup](#)  
[5- Prairie Doc: "From Maiden to Mother to Matriarch: Understanding the Transition of Perimenopause"](#)  
[6- Lincoln County Fatal Crash](#)  
[6- Sanborn County Fatal Crash](#)  
[7- Groton Chamber Ad](#)  
[8- October Calendar of Events](#)  
[11- EarthTalk - Cleaning Up Chesapeake Bay](#)  
[12- SD SearchLight: Every community needs somebody asking tough questions](#)  
[14- Weather Pages](#)  
[18- Daily Devotional](#)  
[19- Subscription Form](#)  
[20- Lottery Numbers](#)  
[21- Upcoming Groton Events](#)  
[22- News from the Associated Press](#)

## 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.  
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 (Gym: 7th-4, 8th-5; Arena: C-4, JV-5, V-6:15).

## Tuesday, Sept. 7

Senior Menu: Meat loaf, baked potato, antigua blend, fruited Jello, whole wheat bread.  
School Breakfast: Breakfast sliders.  
School Lunch: Tater tot hot dish, mixed vegetables.  
State Golf Tournament in Vermillion  
First Round Soccer Playoffs  
St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid LWML, 1 p.m.  
First Grade GBB, 3:30 p.m.  
Fifth Grade GBB, 4:15 p.m.  
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.  
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.  
Wage Memorial Library Meeting, 6 p.m.



## Wednesday, Sept. 8

Senior Menu: Oven fried chicken, sweet potatoes, green beans, pears, whole wheat bread.  
School Breakfast: Omelets.  
School Lunch: Pasta primavera, cooked carrots.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.  
St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:30 pm.  
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.  
Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.  
Fourth Grade GBB, 3:30 p.m.  
Sixth Grade GBB, 6 p.m.

**Groton Daily Independent**  
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# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 2 of 58

# 1440

**Why 1440? The printing press was invented around the year 1440, spreading knowledge to the masses and changing the course of history. More facts: In every day, there are 1,440 minutes. We're here to make each one count.**

## Weiss Arrives at CBS News

Journalist Bari Weiss is expected to be named editor in chief of CBS News today, ending weeks of speculation over the outlet's future under new parent company Paramount Skydance. Paramount will also reportedly pay \$150M to acquire Weiss' news media startup, The Free Press.

Weiss made a high-profile split with The New York Times in 2020, accusing the outlet of being hostile to her self-described centrist views and being overly influenced by Twitter (now X). Weiss launched The Free Press in January 2021, describing it as a counter to "legacy press." As of April, the site had a reported 1.25 million readers and 155,000 paid subscribers. Critics argue that Weiss, who built a career largely in newspaper-based op-ed roles, lacks experience in broadcast journalism.

The hire is the latest move by David Ellison—son of Oracle cofounder Larry Ellison, currently the world's second-richest person—after taking control of Paramount Skydance in August.

## Rite Aid Closes Shop

Rite Aid has shuttered all remaining stores, the company revealed Friday. The announcement ends a 63-year run for what was once the US' third-biggest pharmacy chain.

Rite Aid's history dates back to 1962, when distributor Alexander Grass opened a drugstore in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Within several years, there were dozens of locations, and Grass renamed the chain from "Thrif D Discount Center" to "Rite Aid." At its height, Rite Aid operated over 5,000 stores and was known for its popular Thrifty Ice Cream brand, but it was accused of complicity in the opioid epidemic and accumulated over \$4B in debt. The company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy twice in two years—the first time in October 2023, and again in May.

Most of Rite Aid's locations were purchased by competitors CVS Pharmacy, Walgreens, Albertsons, and Kroger. Customers can use the website to find a different pharmacy and transfer their prescription history.

## Pharaoh's Tomb Reopens

Egypt reopened the tomb of Amenhotep III Saturday after more than two decades of renovation. The announcement comes weeks before the country is set to open its massive Grand Egyptian Museum on Nov. 1.

Pharaoh Amenhotep III ruled over 3,000 years ago, during ancient Egypt's 18th Dynasty. During his reign from roughly age 12 to 50, Amenhotep is credited with some of ancient Egypt's most impressive architectural achievements, including a massive mortuary temple, the palace at Malkata, and the Temple of Luxor. Amenhotep III's tomb—on the west bank of the Nile River—was rediscovered in 1799 by two French engineers dispatched by Napoleon. The sarcophagus and other contents were already believed to have been looted. Watch a documentary [here](#).

The tomb's main burial chamber follows a 118-foot-long, 45-foot-deep descending passageway beneath the Valley of the Kings. Its inscriptions include scenes from the Book of the Dead, designed to guide the deceased through the underworld.

## Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Taylor Swift's "The Life of a Showgirl" sells 2.7 million copies on its opening day and 1.2 million vinyl albums in the first week, a modern-era (1991-present) record | ... and the album's release launch film hauls in \$46M at global box office



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 3 of 58

Former NFL quarterback and Fox Sports analyst Mark Sanchez hospitalized, arrested on three misdemeanors after late-night altercation with 69-year-old truck driver

MLB Division Series is underway; see latest playoff bracket and schedule | Las Vegas Aces take 2-0 lead over Phoenix Mercury in WNBA Finals

## Science & Technology

Study reveals enzymes and process that allow ants to ferment milk into yogurt; most modern yogurts rely on two bacterial strains during production

Mushrooms evolved the ability to produce psilocybin—the psychoactive substance in magic mushrooms—in two different ways

Scientists use AI tool to map how an antibiotic known as enterololin helps treat Crohn's disease while leaving the rest of the gut microbiome unaffected; approach accelerates research process from years to months

## Business & Markets

US stock markets close mixed Friday (S&P 500 +0.0%, Dow +0.5%, Nasdaq -0.3%); the Bureau of Labor Statistics does not publish jobs report for October amid federal government shutdown

OPEC+ countries announce an increase in oil production next month by 137,000 barrels per day, amid concerns of a potential supply glut in the fourth quarter


Bitcoin price jumps to record high of over \$125.7K following September's Federal Reserve rate cut

## Politics & World Affairs


US Supreme Court begins its new term today; high-profile cases on the docket address birthright citizenship, conversion therapy, President Donald Trump's tariffs regime, the firing of Federal Reserve Board member Lisa Cook, and more

President Donald Trump authorizes 300 National Guard troops to Chicago after an armed woman rams her vehicle at federal officers, is shot by Border Patrol | Federal judge temporarily blocks deployment of National Guard to Portland, Oregon

Israel and Hamas negotiations begin today in Egypt, after Hamas agrees to elements of a US-proposed peace deal




Varsity Volleyball  
Mobridge-Pollock at  
Groton Area  
on Mon., Oct. 6, 6:15 p.m.




Groton  
Area  
Tigers  
Groton, SD

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Groton  
Area  
Tigers  
Groton, SD

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Anyone interested in sponsoring the  
C and/or JV match with  
Mobridge-Pollock's volleyball match  
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Text Paul at 605-397-7460  
\$25 per match





# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 4 of 58



The Minnesota Vikings and the Cleveland Browns faced off Sunday at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London, England. This was the fifth time the Vikings have played in London, where they were undefeated entering Sunday's game, including a win over the Browns in 2017. With significant injuries along the offensive line (right tackle Brian O'Neill, center Ryan Kelly, left guard Donovan Jackson, and backup center Michael Jurgens), and a Browns pass rush that features Defensive Player of the Year candidate Myles Garrett, this game had the potential to get ugly. It was a back-and-forth game with a wild finish, but the Vikings got the win 21-17.

Despite the game being played on another continent and both teams starting backup quarterbacks, the first quarter was full of action. Minnesota's defense opened with a stop and forced a punt. The Vikings' offense then put together a promising drive, averaging six yards per play, but a Jordan Mason fumble gave Cleveland the ball in good field position. Seven plays and 47 yards later, the Browns found the end zone to open the scoring at 7-0. Minnesota answered with a crisp eight-play, 82-yard drive to even the score. Minnesota averaged 8.4 yards per play, Cleveland averaged 4.9, and it looked like the game might turn into a shootout.

Then came the second quarter, which started with six straight punts. Cleveland did manage to put some points on the board with a field goal at the end of the quarter, however, giving them a three-point lead heading into halftime. Minnesota averaged just 3.5 yards per play in the quarter, while Cleveland was even worse at 3.0.

The Vikings got the ball to begin the second half and immediately drove the length of the field with an eight-play, 71-yard touchdown drive to take a 14-10 lead. That lead didn't last long, though, as Cleveland put together a touchdown drive of their own on the very next possession. A Vikings three-and-out gave the ball right back to the Browns, and we were headed to the fourth quarter, with the Browns leading 17-14.

The fourth quarter started with a Cleveland punt, a Minnesota fumble (Zavier Scott), and another Cleveland punt. The Vikings had a promising drive going on their next possession, but a missed 51-yard field goal kept the score right where it was. A few punts later, the Vikings got the ball with three minutes left on the clock and needed a field goal to tie or a touchdown to take the lead. Carson Wentz methodically led the team down the field, covering 80 yards in 10 plays and culminating in a 12-yard touchdown pass to Jordan Addison that gave them a 21-17 lead with less than 30 seconds left in the game. A few hold-your-breath moments later and the clock hit zeros, locking in the Vikings' win.

Carson Wentz completed 25 of 34 passes for 236 yards and one TD. Jordan Mason led the team on the ground with 13 carries for 52 yards and a TD. Justin Jefferson had seven catches for 123 yards, Jordan Addison had five catches for 41 yards and a TD, and Josh Oliver caught the other TD (which was thrown by Cam Akers on a trick play).

Defensively, the Vikings had two sacks (Ivan Pace Jr. and Tyrion Ingram-Dawkins) and held rookie QB Dillon Gabriel to only 190 passing yards, but they did allow Browns' rookie running back Quinshon Judkins to rush for 110 yards on 23 carries (4.8 yards per carry).

Looking ahead, the Vikings (3-2) return home after spending two weeks in Europe and get a much-needed bye week. With the laundry list of injuries and a matchup with the Philadelphia Eagles looming, the bye couldn't have come at a better time.



## **"From Maiden to Mother to Matriarch: Understanding the Transition of Perimenopause"**

Women experience distinct stages throughout their lives. In literature, these are often described as the maiden, the mother, and the matriarch phases. The transitions between these phases can be challenging times for a woman. Perimenopause is the transition between mother to matriarch.

The prefix peri- means around, about or near, and menopause is defined as the point when a woman has not had a menstrual period for 12 consecutive months. The average age of menopause is 51 years old. Perimenopause typically starts for women in their 40s and lasts between four to ten years. In some cases, it can start as early as 30s or as late as 50s.

During perimenopause, the ovaries start producing fewer hormones. Estrogen and progesterone levels can vary significantly week to week leading to the symptoms associated with perimenopause. Because of these hormonal shifts, lab tests for hormone levels can be unreliable for diagnosis. Elevated Follicle Stimulating Hormone (FSH) and low Estradiol levels in a woman over the age of 45 can suggest menopause, although repeated testing is usually needed to confirm a diagnosis. Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (TSH) is often checked in women, since low TSH can mimic perimenopause or menopause symptoms.

One of the first perimenopause symptoms many women experience is menstrual cycle changes. Menstrual cycles may become more irregular, longer, shorter, heavier or lighter. Hormonal changes can also lead to hot flashes, night sweats, vaginal dryness, sleep problems, mood changes, and 'brain fog'. Slower metabolism during perimenopause can also lead to weight gain in some women.

While perimenopause is a natural part of aging, there are lifestyle changes and medications that can help minimize its symptoms. Limiting alcohol and caffeine, improving sleep quality, and reducing stress can all help diminish hot flashes. Doing more weight bearing exercises and taking a Calcium with Vitamin D supplement can help reduce the increased risk of osteoporosis and heart disease, which is caused by the decrease in estrogen. Quitting smoking is also an important step to help minimize symptoms of perimenopause and menopause. Discussing with your physician can help you find one of the multiple prescription medications that are available to help reduce symptoms.

Although this transition from mother to matriarch is not always smooth or easy, knowing what to expect can help alleviate anxiety and fear. Making healthy lifestyle choices and maintaining regular doctor visits are key. If you are experiencing symptoms, speak with your doctor about possible treatments and how to best support your well-being through this important life phase.

*Dr. Jill Kruse is a hospitalist at the Brookings Health System in Brookings, SD. She serves as one of the Prairie Doc Volunteer Hosts during its 24th Season providing Health Education Based on Science, Built on Trust. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org), Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB, YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).*



**Jill Kruse, DO**



# Groton Daily Independent

**Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 6 of 58**

## **Lincoln County Fatal Crash**

What: Single vehicle fatal crash

Where: 275th Street and SD Highway 17, Four miles north of Lennox, SD

When: 11:12 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025

Driver 1: 21-year-old male from Sioux Falls, SD, life-threatening injuries

Vehicle 1: 2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee

Seat belt Used: Yes

Passenger 1a: 51-year-old male from Sioux Falls, SD, fatal injuries

Seat belt Used: No

Lincoln County, S.D.- One man died and another seriously injured in a single vehicle crash late Saturday night four miles north of Lennox, SD.

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

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee was traveling eastbound on 275th Street just west of SD Highway 17. The Jeep crossed the center line then entered the north ditch, hit a field approach and rolled, ejecting the passenger.

The driver was taken to a Sioux Falls hospital with life-threatening injuries. The passenger died at the scene.

## **Sanborn County Fatal Crash**

What: Train/pick-up fatal crash

Where: 399th Avenue and 237th Street, seven miles southwest of Woonsocket, SD

When: 4:39 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025

Driver 1: 30-year-old male from Rosharon, TX, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2012 Ford F350 Super Duty

Seat belt Used: Under investigation

Passenger 1a: 29-year-old male from Rosharon, TX, minor injuries

Seat belt Used: Under investigation

Driver 2: 41-year-old male from Aberdeen, SD, no injuries

Vehicle 2: BNSF Train

Sanborn County, S.D.- One man died and another was injured Saturday afternoon when their pick-up was struck by a train seven miles southwest of Woonsocket.

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

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2012 Ford F350 and a passenger was near the intersection of 399th Avenue and 237th Street in Sanborn County working in the area along the tracks. The truck was unable to get off the tracks before being struck by a BNSF train.

The driver died at the scene. A passenger was taken to a Mitchell with minor injuries. The engineer on the train was not injured.

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

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



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 7 of 58

## 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

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 8 of 58

## October Calendar of Events

### 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.  
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 (Gym: 7th-4, 8th-5; Arena: C-4, JV-5, V-6:15).

### Tuesday, Sept. 7

Senior Menu: Meat loaf, baked potato, antigua blend, fruited Jello, whole wheat bread.  
School Breakfast: Breakfast sliders.  
School Lunch: Tater tot hot dish, mixed vegetables.  
State Golf Tournament in Vermillion  
First Round Soccer Playoffs  
St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid LWML, 1 p.m.  
First Grade GBB, 3:30 p.m.  
Fifth Grade GBB, 4:15 p.m.  
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.  
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.  
Wage Memorial Library Meeting, 6 p.m.

### Wednesday, Sept. 8

Senior Menu: Oven fried chicken, sweet potatoes, green beans, pears, whole wheat bread.  
School Breakfast: Omelets.  
School Lunch: Pasta primavera, cooked carrots.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.  
St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:30 pm.  
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.  
Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.  
Fourth Grade GBB, 3:30 p.m.  
Sixth Grade GBB, 6 p.m.

### Thursday, Sept. 9

Senior Menu: Baked fish, au gratin potatoes, 3-bean salad, peach cobbler, whole wheat bread.  
School Breakfast: Biscuits.  
School Lunch: Sloppy joe, tri taters.  
Flu Shot at Groton Area, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Northeast Conference Cross Country Meet, 1 p.m. at Webster  
Parent-Teacher Conferences, 1:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Third Grade GBB, 5 p.m.  
Third through Sixth Grade GBB Skills, 6 p.m.  
Groton Lions Club meeting, 6 p.m., at 104 N Main.

### Friday, Sept. 10

NO SCHOOL  
Senior Menu: Creamed chicken over biscuits, peas and carrots pineapple..  
Lake Region Marching Festival, 10 a.m.  
JV Football vs. Sisseton at Langford, 7 p.m.

### Saturday, Sept. 11

Second Round Soccer Playoffs  
Junior High Volleyball Tournament at Warner  
Pumpkin Fest, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
United Methodist Charge Conference with lunch, noon.

### Sunday, Oct. 12

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Sunday School 10:15 a.m.; Choir 6 p.m.  
St. John's Lutheran: Worship St. John's, 9 a.m., and Zion, 11 a.m.  
United Methodist: Worship 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.  
1st Grade GBB, 3:30 p.m.  
2nd Grade GBB Practice, 6 p.m.  
Dance Team Practice, 5 p.m.

### Monday, Oct. 13

Native American Day  
No School  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.  
4th Grade GBB, 4 p.m.  
Volleyball hosts Britton-Hecla ((Gym: 7th-5, 8th-6; Arena: C-5, JV-6, V-7:15)



# Groton Daily Independent

**Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 9 of 58**

Senior Citizens meet at the Community Center, 1 p.m.

## **Tuesday, Oct 14**

Senior Menu: Baked chicken, mashed potatoes, cauliflower, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Muffins.

School Lunch: Pasta with meat sauce, corn.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, 6 p.m.

5th Grade GBB, 4:15 p.m.

2027 Washington DC Informational Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

## **Wednesday, Oct. 15**

Senior Menu: Chili with beans, tossed salad, peaches, corn bread/muffin.

School Breakfast: Oatmeal.

School Lunch: Soup, ham and cheese sandwich.

Region 1A Cross Country Meet at Webster, 11 a.m.

6th Grade GBB, 6 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.

## **Thursday, Oct. 16**

Senior Menu: Baked meatballs with gravy, mashed potatoes, California blend, mixed fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Maple French toast bake.

School Lunch: Chicken tacos, Fiesta beans.

Emmanuel Lutheran: WELCA: 1:30 p.m. Final Day of packing LWR kits. Hostess: Potluck.

Volleyball hosts Deuel: (Gym: 7th-5, 8th-6; Arena: C-5, JV-6, V-7:15)

4th Grade GBB, 4 p.m.

3rd Grade GBB, 5 p.m.

MS Football hosts Sisseton at Doney Field, 4 p.m.

## **Friday, Oct. 17**

Senior Menu: Kielbasa with mac and cheese, Catalina blend, pears, dinner roll.

School Breakfast: Breakfast boats.

School Lunch: Garlic cheese bread, cooked carrots.

End of First Quarter

Football at Baltic, 7 p.m.

## **Saturday, Oct. 18**

Boys and Girls Soccer Second Round Playoffs.

C and JV VB Tournament at Northwestern

Varsity VB Tournament at Milbank

United Methodist North Highland Coat Give A Way, 9 a.m.

## **Sunday, Oct. 19**

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

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

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

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

2nd Grade GBB Practice, 4 p.m.

Dance Team Practice, 5 p.m.

5th Grade GBB Practice, 4 p.m.

## **Monday, Oct. 20**

Senior Menu: Hot beef combination, mashed potatoes, carrots, mixed fruit.

School Breakfast: Eggs.

School Lunch: Corn dogs, baked beans.

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

1st Grade GBB Practice, 3:30 p.m.

Volleyball at Langford Area: (JH-4, JV-6:30, V-7:30)

Senior Citizens meet at the Community Center, 1 p.m.

## **Tuesday, Oct. 21**

Senior Menu: Roast pork, baked potato, cauliflower, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Scones.

School Lunch: Pizza burger, waffle fries.

4th Grade GBB Practice, 3:30 p.m.

5th Grade GBB Practice, 4:14 p.m.

Volleyball hosts Northwestern Area: (Gym: 7th-5, 8th-6; Arena: C-5, JV-6, V-7:15)



# Groton Daily Independent

**Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 10 of 58**

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.  
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

## **Wednesday, Oct. 22**

Senior Menu: Hamburger cabbage soup, chicken salad sandwich, Mandarin oranges, oatmeal raisin cookie.

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.

School Lunch: Mac and cheese, peas.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

6th Grade GBB Practice, 6 p.m.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.

## **Thursday, Oct. 23**

Senior Menu: Goulash, green peas, apple crisp, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Cereal.

School Lunch: Burrito bowl.

3rd Grade GBB Practice, 5 p.m.

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

First Round FB Playoffs, 7 p.m.

## **Friday, Oct. 24**

Senior Menu: Parmesan chicken, creamy noodles, California blend, fruit cocktail.

School Breakfast: Egg wraps.

School Lunch: Cheese pizza, green beans.

Volleyball at Redfield: (Aux. Gym: 7th-5, 8th-6; Greeno Gym: C-5, JV-6, V-7:15)

## **Saturday, Oct. 25**

State Cross Country Meet at Huron.

## **Sunday, Oct. 26**

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

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

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

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

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

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

4th-6th GBB hosts Britton-Hecla, 2 p.m.

1st Grade GBB Practice, 3:30 p.m.

5th Grade GBB Practice, 4 p.m.

2nd Grade GBB Practice, 4 p.m.

Dance Team Practice, 5 p.m.

## **Monday, Oct. 27**

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

Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, potluck at noon.

4th Grade GBB Practice, 4 p.m.

Volleyball hosts Faulkton: (JV-6, V-7:15)

## **Tuesday, Oct. 28**

5th Grade GBB practice, 4:15 p.m.

Volleyball host s Milbank: (Arena: C-5, JV-6, V-7:30)

FFA National Convention, Indianapolis, Ind.

## **Wednesday, Oct. 29**

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.; UMYF, 6:15 p.m.

FCCLA Blood Drive, 8 a.m.

6th Grade GBB Practice, 6 p.m.

4th-6th Grade GBB hosts Britton-Hecla, 6 p.m.

## **Thursday, Oct. 30**

3rd Grade GBB Practice, 5 p.m.

Football Playoffs

## **Friday, Oct. 31**

St. John's Lutheran: Reformation Day Service, 7 p.m.

United Methodist: Trunk or Treat, 5 p.m.

Downtown Trick or Treat, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 11 of 58



## Cleaning Up Chesapeake Bay by Shashwat Mishra

Dear EarthTalk: How is the ecology of the Chesapeake Bay doing? Have clean-up efforts in recent years been effective?

--H.M. Smith, Portland, OR

The Chesapeake Bay has long been one of the most closely watched and studied bodies of water in the U.S. After decades of heavy pollution, major efforts were launched to clean up the Bay and restore its ecosystems. Progress has been made in some areas, but the Bay is not improving as quickly as hoped.

The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) gave the Bay a 50 percent health score in its 2024 report card, a drop from 2023, due in part to weather extremes that caused excess nutrient runoff. Intense storms followed by long dry spells made it harder for vegetation to absorb pollution before it reached the water. Bill Dennison a scientist at UMCES, explained that extreme rainfall washed too many nutrients into the Bay. When nitrogen and phosphorus from farms, lawns and roads reach the water, they feed algae blooms that reduce oxygen and harm fish and other marine life. Over the past decade, clean-up programs have focused on reducing these nutrient loads. Some gains have been made, but non-point sources like farm runoff and stormwater have proven hard to manage. The program set 2025 as a target for meeting major restoration goals. With just months left, many goals will likely fall short, but Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia are working to invest more resources.



**A lot of progress has been made in cleaning up Chesapeake Bay in recent years but there's still lots to be done.** Credit: Pexels.com.

There are also signs of stress in the Bay's wildlife. The 2025 blue crab survey reported one of the lowest crab counts since record-keeping began. Striped bass populations are struggling too, partly due to warmer water and changing salinity. Despite the challenges, conservationists remain hopeful. Alison Prost of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation said the Bay has seen real gains from past investments and that there is still a path forward. She added that more enforcement and better funding will be key to continuing progress.

Looking ahead, experts say stronger collaboration between states, clearer accountability, and a focus on reducing pollution at its source will be needed. Without sustained action, the Bay could lose much of the ground it gained over the past 20 years. Advocates stress the importance of community involvement. Local groups across the Bay watershed continue to lead shoreline cleanups, tree plantings and public education efforts.

• EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: [question@earthtalk.org](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 12 of 58



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### COMMENTARY

#### **Every community needs somebody asking tough questions**

**Kansas publisher gives powerful pep talk while accepting award in South Dakota**  
by Dana Hess

This week, Oct. 5 through 11, is National Newspaper Week. Having spent most of my professional life working for newspapers, I know what you can expect in your local publications. There will be advertisements or columns, like this one, reminding you about all the good that newspapers do for their community. This includes reporting all the news and sports, keeping a watch on local government, providing a marketplace for the ads of local merchants and serving as a safe haven for legal notices.

The columns and advertisements you see explaining National Newspaper Week serve a couple of purposes. First, they remind the public about the value of subscribing and advertising in a newspaper. Second, they serve as a kind of pep talk for the people who work in journalism, reminding them of how important it is to meet the challenges they face every day when they show up for work.

It's a shame that most journalists in this state missed the best pep talk of all. That took place at the South Dakota State University Foundation on July 12 of this year at the annual meeting of the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors.

The society is an organization concerned with all aspects of newspaper journalism. Its members are, however, among some of the best editorial and column writers in the nation. I should know. This year I judged ISWNE's writing contest.

After the writing awards were handed out, there were other awards as well. The most prestigious of ISWNE's honors is the Eugene Cervi Award, given to the journalist who consistently acts with the conviction that "good journalism begets good government."

This year's winner was Eric Meyer, editor and publisher of the Marion County Record in Kansas. Meyer never intended to be a journalism rock star, but that's what happened to him when his weekly newspaper and home were raided by police in August of 2023 in a move by local authorities that was as illegal as it was ill-advised. Local law enforcement took that unprecedented action under the false pretense that a reporter had committed identity theft by looking up a driving record on a public database.

The raid spawned national outrage, a handful of lawsuits and criminal charges against the police chief



**Marion County Record publisher and editor Eric Meyer talks to reporters during an Aug. 16, 2023, news conference at the newspaper office.** (Sherman Smith/Kansas Reflector)



# Groton Daily Independent

**Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 13 of 58**

who led the raid. Eric's mother, 98-year-old Joan Meyer, who was a co-owner of the newspaper, died the day after the raid after the stress of seeing her home and files rifled by police.

After teaching journalism for 20 years at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Eric had returned to the family newspaper as a retirement job. In retirement, however, he was not the editor of a sleepy, small-town rag. As one of the people who recommended him for the Cervi Award put it, "They picked on the wrong small-town newspaper."

In accepting his award, Meyer spoke to the ISWNE crowd for 20 minutes. He needed no notes because this was his story. He told about the challenge of facing the tremendous cost of lawsuits and his luck with a judge's ruling that his opponent would have to pay the newspaper's legal costs. He joked about the newspaper's antiquated bookkeeping system that wasn't equipped to handle the hundreds of new subscriptions coming in from supporters across the nation.

The meat of his message was that the kind of hard-hitting journalism that led up to the police raid was just the sort of thing that all newspapers should be practicing. He admonished his fellow editors and publishers to ask tough questions, write stories that made elected officials uncomfortable and maintain a strong editorial voice.

Every community should have someone like Meyer who is putting in long hours at school board and city council meetings and keeping tabs on the county commission. They need someone asking tough questions about crime in the community and the plans for economic development.

There is no chance of having an Eric Meyer or someone like him in your community if you don't make an effort to support your local newspaper. Subscribe and buy a subscription for someone who has moved away. Advertise and frequent the businesses that advertise in your local newspaper.

This country has seen many smaller newspapers struggle or close. At the same time, larger daily newspapers have cut back on the number of stories they cover. Newspaper journalism is becoming a rarity, often cherished only after it's gone. Just ask the people in Brookings, Huron, Redfield and Flandreau about the gut punch they felt when their newspapers were temporarily closed this fall.

The theme of this year's National Newspaper Week is "Embracing Local Journalism for a Better Future." That's a good slogan, but it misses the urgency of this moment. If readers and advertisers fail to embrace their local newspapers, there's a good chance that the future will be devoid of the kinds of stories they need to make informed decisions..

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

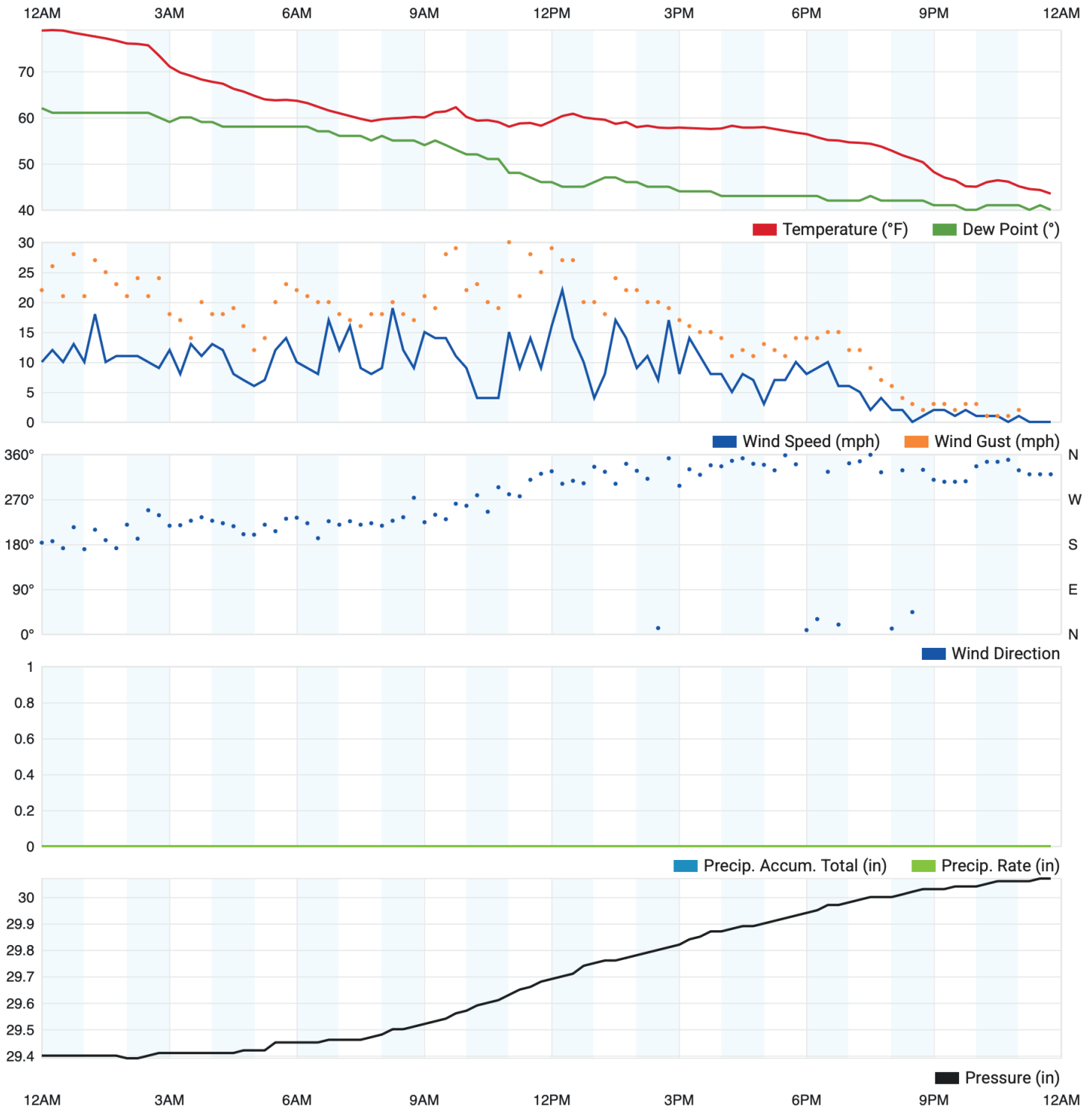


# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 14 of 58

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

October 5, 2025





# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 15 of 58

Today



**High: 61 °F**

Decreasing  
Clouds

Tonight



**Low: 37 °F**

Mostly Clear

Tuesday



**High: 64 °F**

Sunny

Tuesday Night



**Low: 42 °F**

Mostly Clear

Wednesday



**High: 72 °F**

Sunny then  
Sunny and  
Breezy



## Dry For The Week

October 6, 2025  
3:31 AM

Cool to start with a gradual warming trend

***Monday***

**High:**

**58-62°**

***Tuesday***

**High:**

**62-68°**

**Morning Lows:**

**36-41°**

***Patchy  
Morning  
Frost***

***Wednesday***

**High:**

**69-75°**

**Morning Lows:**

**39-46°**

***Thursday***

**High:**

**71-77°**

**Morning Lows:**

**46-52°**

***Friday***

**High:**

**70-74°**

**Morning Lows:**

**42-50°**



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

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

The week ahead will be mostly dry, with fairly seasonal (cool) temperatures to start but with a gradual warming trend that puts up back up around 5 to 15 degrees above normal.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 16 of 58

## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 79 °F at 12:14 AM**

**Low Temp: 44 °F at 11:23 PM**

**Wind: 30 mph at 10:59 AM**

**Precip: : 0.00**

## Today's Info

Record High: 91 in 1993

Record Low: 19 in 2012

Average High: 65

Average Low: 38

Average Precip in Oct.: 0.47

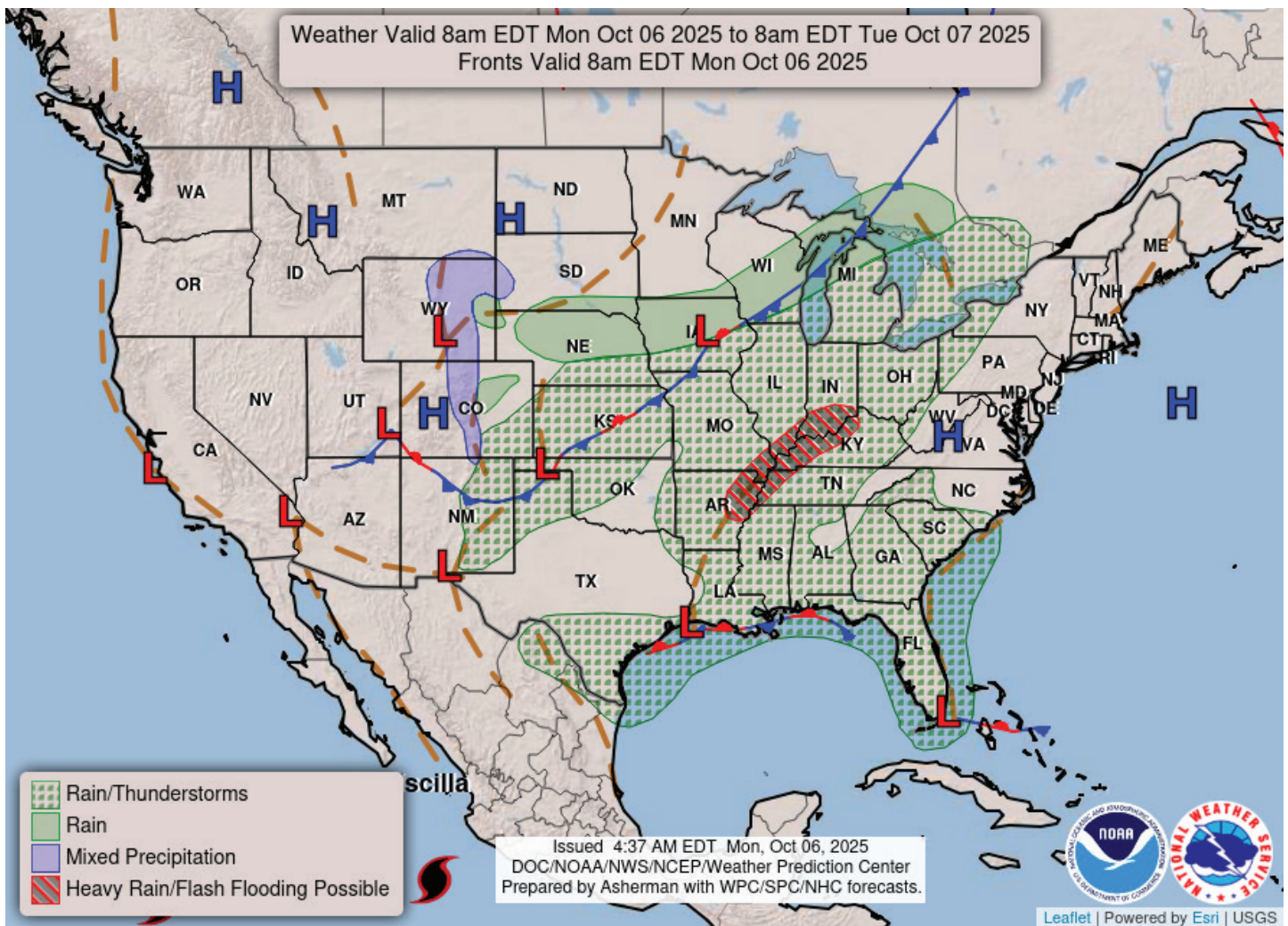
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 18.80

Precip Year to Date: 22.92

Sunset Tonight: 7:03 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:38 am





# Groton Daily Independent

**Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 17 of 58**

## **Today in Weather History**

October 6, 1994: During the late afternoon hours, a small tornado traveled for 3 miles along an intermittent path east of Browns Valley, damaging several buildings on a local farmstead. Another tornado touched down east of Wilmot, South Dakota, in Roberts County. The tornado was on the ground for eight miles and destroyed several small farm buildings, a garage, damaged farm machinery, blew down a grain bin, and uprooted several trees. Several hogs were killed when their shed was destroyed, and minor damage was done to some homes. The tornado drove a 6-foot long 1x6 piece of lumber through the center of a large tree limb.

1836 - A second early season snowstorm produced eleven inches at Wilkes Barre PA and 26 inches at Auburn NY. All the mountains in the northeastern U.S. were whitened with snow. (David Ludlum)

1952: Sleet fell at several locations, making it the earliest documented winter precipitation in Arkansas.

1967: A Canadian weather record one-day rainfall of 19.3 inches falls at Brynnor Mines at Ucluelet.

1981: The Netherlands' fourth-worst aircraft accident (at the time) occurred on this day. At 5:09 PM, the crew noted heavy rainfall in thunderstorms on the weather avoidance radar and received clearance to avoid this area. At 5:12 pm, the aircraft entered a tornado, which caused the right-wing to separate from the plane. All 17 occupants of the plane perished in the accident.

1984 - The temperature at Honolulu, Hawaii, reached 94 degrees to establish an all-time record at that location. (The Weather Channel)

1985 - A tropical wave, later to become Tropical Storm Isabel, struck Puerto Rico. As much as 24 inches of rain fell in 24 hours, and the severe flooding and numerous landslides resulting from the rain claimed about 180 lives. (Storm Data)

1987 - The western U.S. continued to sizzle. Afternoon highs of 85 degrees at Astoria OR, 101 degrees at Tucson AZ, and 102 degrees at Sacramento CA, equalled October records. It marked the fourth time in the month that Sacramento tied their record for October. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Cool Canadian air prevailed across the central and eastern U.S. Toledo OH reported a record low of 27 degrees. Limestone ME received an inch of snow. Warm weather continued in the western U.S. Boise ID reported a record high of 87 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Temperatures soared into the 90s across southern Texas. Afternoon highs of 93 degrees at Houston, and 96 degrees at Austin and Corpus Christi, were records for the date. Beeville was the hot spot in the nation with an afternoon high of 101 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

2010: A significant severe weather event struck northern Arizona with at least eight confirmed tornadoes. This event will go down in history as the most tornadoes to hit Arizona in a single day. An EF2 tornado was on the ground for 34 miles, ranking as the longest-tracked tornado in Arizona history.

2016: Around a half dozen tornadoes struck Kansas, including an EF-2 and EF-3 in Saline County.

2016: The center of Category 4 Hurricane Matthew passed within 100 miles of Miami, Florida.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 18 of 58



Daily Devotion

## Brokenness: The Principle

**God often does His greatest work in our life during times of brokenness.**

John 12:24-25: 24 Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. 25 Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Most of us would rather live without pain. Yet God can—and does—a great work in our life during times of adversity.

In today's passage, Jesus explains the principle of brokenness through a metaphor comparing our life to a single grain of wheat. If we hold a kernel in our hands, nothing will happen. If we carefully place it in a jar or on a shelf for safekeeping, it will just sit there. Kept in safety, the grain will remain unchanged.

However, if that kernel is placed in the soil where its protective layer is stripped away, something amazing happens. Before long, a sprout will emerge and start to grow into something different, useful, and beautiful. Moreover, that new stalk will produce more grains that can be planted, and the stalks those produce will go on to do the same. It's an amazing cycle of life in which a single kernel can lead to countless stalks of wheat. But it has to start with the brokenness of one grain.

Jesus did not just speak this example; He lived it. After sacrificing Himself, He was broken and placed "in the ground." From that brokenness came new life for us all (Isaiah 53:5). Are you feeling broken today? If so, remember God has not abandoned you; instead, He may be leading you into a season of new growth and joy.

*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

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 19 of 58

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

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

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# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 20 of 58



## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.03.25

18 19 38 54 57 19

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$547,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 6 Mins  
12 Secs

[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: 15 Hrs 21 Mins 12  
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.05.25

4 23 25 32 40 16

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 36 Mins 11  
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.04.25

11 16 24 26 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$41,000**

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 15 Hrs 36  
Mins 11 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.04.25

5 16 40 44 47 7

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 5 Mins 11  
Secs

[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: 16 Hrs 5 Mins 11  
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)



# Groton Daily Independent

**Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 21 of 58**

## **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

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 22 of 58

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

Israel and Hamas prepare for talks in Egypt over possible Gaza ceasefire and release of hostages  
By SAMY MAGDY, MELANIE LIDMAN and WAFAA SHURAFU Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Israeli and Hamas officials are meeting in an Egyptian resort Monday in hopes of hammering out a potential ceasefire in Gaza on the eve of devastating war's second anniversary.

The indirect negotiations will take place in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh where the Israeli delegation, headed by top negotiator Ron Dermer, is set to arrive Monday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said.

Hamas' delegation, headed by Khalil al-Hayyah, arrived Sunday in Egypt, the group said in a statement. It said the negotiations will focus on the first stage of a ceasefire, including the partial withdrawal of Israeli forces as well as the release of hostages held by the militants in Gaza in exchange for Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli detention.

U.S. Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff and President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner are also expected to join the talks, Egypt's state-run Al-Ahram reported.

This latest push for peace comes after Hamas accepted some elements of the U.S. peace plan, a move welcomed by Trump. Israel has said it supported the new U.S. effort. Under the plan, Hamas would release the remaining 48 hostages — about 20 believed to be alive — within three days. It would give up power and disarm.

The talks in Egypt are expected to move fast as Netanyahu said they would be "confined to a few days maximum," though some Hamas officials have warned more time may be needed to locate bodies of hostages buried under rubble.

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi on Monday hailed Trump's efforts to stop the war in Gaza.

"A ceasefire, the return of hostages and detainees, the reconstruction of Gaza, and the start of a peaceful political process leading to the establishment and recognition of a Palestinian state mean that we are on the right path toward lasting peace and solid stability," he said.

He underscored importance of preserving the U.S.-crafted "peace system" in the Middle East since the 1970s, which he said "served as a strategic framework for regional stability."

El-Sisi made the remarks in a televised address commemorating the anniversary of the Oct. 6, 1973, war with Israel that led to Egypt reclaiming the Sinai Peninsula, where Sharm el-Sheikh is located.

Tamping down bombing

Israel's heavy bombardment of Gaza would need to stop for Israeli hostages to be released. Israel says it's largely heeding Trump's call for ending the bombing. The Israeli military said it is mostly carrying out defensive strikes to protect troops, though dozens of Palestinians have been killed since Saturday night when the military made the announcement.

The Israeli military said Monday that it eliminated "a terrorist cell armed with explosive devices and mortars" that on Sunday intended to attack Israeli soldiers.

It also destroyed another "terrorist cell" that launched a mortar injuring one soldier, as well as a structure from where an anti-tank missile was launched against Israeli army engineering machinery.

The Health Ministry in Gaza said Monday the bodies of 19 people, including two aid-seekers killed by Israeli strikes and gunfire, have been brought to hospitals over the past 24 hours. Another 96 were wounded. The deaths brought the toll to 67,160 since the Hamas attack on Oct. 7, 2023, triggered the war, with nearly 170,000 wounded, the ministry said.

The ministry does not differentiate between civilians and combatants, but says more than half of the casualties were women and children. 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.

Hamas-led militants abducted 251 people and killed around 1,200, mostly civilians in the Oct. 7 attack. Most of the hostages have been released in ceasefire or other deals.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 23 of 58

'Living in fear, war and displacement'

In Gaza, Palestinian babies born on the day that the war began are hoping to celebrate their second birthday to the sound of laughter and cheers instead of the cacophony of bombs, missiles and bullets.

The hope of mothers to bring up their children in some semblance of normality that many take for granted has long worn thin amid the despair of repeated displacements, a constant fear for their safety and a lack of access to proper healthcare.

Rola Saqer said the two years since giving birth to her daughter Masa have been full of suffering and misery.

"I was hoping (Masa) would grow up with a strong personality, but she is weak. She has suffered malnutrition. The girl has weighed eight kilos for five months now," Rola, who was displaced from Gaza's northern town of Beit Lahia, said.

Rola and her husband Mohammed Zaqout have been trying to have a child for five years.

"I am scared for my daughter. She is two, and she has been living in fear, war and displacement," said Saqer. Hanging laundry, a plastic chair, a carpet and a basic settee make up the family's possessions in their tent in the Nuseirat refugee camp.

Amal al-Taweel and her husband, Mostafa, had their son Ali after three years of trying for a child. The family is now living in a tent and Amal said Ali is being deprived of proper sanitation, food, vaccinations and even toys.

"I despair because I cannot provide my son with everything. I was envisioning a different life for him... He couldn't live in his house and did not get to see his room. He couldn't experience what a safe family life feels like. There are strikes, destruction and displacement," Amal said.

## The Nobel Prize in medicine goes to 3 scientists for work on the human immune system

By KOSTYA MANENKOV, STEFANIE DAZIO and LAURAN NEERGAARD Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell and Dr. Shimon Sakaguchi won the Nobel Prize in medicine on Monday for their discoveries concerning peripheral immune tolerance.

Brunkow, 64, is a senior program manager at the Institute for Systems Biology in Seattle. Ramsdell, 64, is a scientific adviser for Sonoma Biotherapeutics in San Francisco. Sakaguchi, 74, is a distinguished professor at the Immunology Frontier Research Center at Osaka University in Japan.

The immune system has many overlapping systems to detect and fight bacteria, viruses and other bad actors. Key immune warriors such as T cells get trained on how to spot bad actors. If some instead go awry in a way that might trigger autoimmune diseases, they're supposed to be eliminated in the thymus — a process called central tolerance.

The Nobel winners unraveled an additional way the body keeps the system in check.

The Nobel Committee said it started with Sakaguchi's discovery in 1995 of a previously unknown T cell subtype now known as regulatory T cells or T-regs.

Then in 2001, Brunkow and Ramsdell discovered a culprit mutation in a gene named Foxp3, a gene that also plays a role in a rare human autoimmune disease.

The Nobel Committee said two years later, Sakaguchi linked the discoveries to show that the Foxp3 gene controls the development of those T-regs — which in turn act as a security guard to find and curb other forms of T cells that overreact.

The work opened a new field of immunology, said Karolinska Institute rheumatology professor Marie Wahren-Herlenius. Researchers around the world now are working to use regulatory T cells to develop treatments for autoimmune diseases and cancer.

"Their discoveries have been decisive for our understanding of how the immune system functions and why we do not all develop serious autoimmune diseases," said Olle Kämpe, chair of the Nobel Committee.

Thomas Perlmann, Secretary-General of the Nobel Committee, said he was only able to reach Sakaguchi by phone Monday morning.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 24 of 58

"I got hold of him at his lab and he sounded incredibly grateful, expressed that it was a fantastic honor. He was quite taken by the news," Perlmann said. He added that he left voicemails for Brunkow and Ramsdell.

The award is the first of the 2025 Nobel Prize announcements and was announced by a panel at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm.

Nobel announcements continue with the physics prize on Tuesday, chemistry on Wednesday and literature on Thursday. The Nobel Peace Prize will be announced Friday and the Nobel Memorial Prize in economics Oct. 13.

The award ceremony will be held Dec. 10, the anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel, who founded the prizes. Nobel was a wealthy Swedish industrialist and the inventor of dynamite. He died in 1896.

The trio will share the prize money of 11 million Swedish kronor (nearly \$1.2 million).

## French PM resigns hours after naming government, plunging France further into political chaos

PARIS (AP) — Facing criticism from all sides, France's new prime minister Sébastien Lecornu resigned less than 24 hours after naming his government and after less than a month in office, plunging the country into a deep political crisis.

The French presidency said in a statement Monday that President Emmanuel Macron has accepted his resignation. Lecornu had replaced his predecessor François Bayrou to become France's fourth prime minister in barely a year.

A faithful ally of Macron, Lecornu said conditions were no longer met to remain in office after failing to build a consensus.

"It would take little for it to work," Lecornu said in his resignation speech. "By being more selfless for many, by knowing how to show humility. One must always put one's country before one's party."

Macron's opponents immediately tried to capitalize on the shocking resignation, with the far-right National Rally calling on him to either call for new snap elections or resign.

"This raises a question for the President of the Republic: can he continue to resist the legislature dissolution? We have reached the end of the road," far-right leader Marine Le Pen said. "There is no other solution. The only wise course of action in these circumstances is to return to the polls."

On the far left, France Unbowed also asked for Macron's departure, while voices on the left called for the revival of a coalition made up of leftists, socialists, greens and communists.

The resignation rattled investors, sending the CAC-40 index of leading French companies plunging. The index was down by nearly 2% on its Friday close.

Ministers appointed just the previous night found themselves in the bizarre situation of becoming caretaker ministers — kept in place only to manage day-to-day affairs until a new government is formed — before some of them had even been formally installed in office.

Agnès Pannier-Runacher, the newly reappointed minister for ecology, posted on X: "I despair of this circus."

Lecornu's choice of ministers has been criticized across the political spectrum, particularly his decision to bring back former Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire to serve at the defense ministry, with critics saying that under his watch France's public deficit soared.

Lecornu's main task would have been to pass a budget as France is faced with a massive debt crisis. At the end of the first quarter of 2025, France's public debt stood at 3.346 trillion euros (\$3.9 trillion), or 114% of GDP. Debt servicing remains a major budget item, accounting for around 7% of state spending.

Other key positions remained largely unchanged from the previous cabinet, with conservative Bruno Retailleau staying on as interior minister in charge of policing and internal security, Jean-Noël Barrot remaining as foreign minister and Gérald Darmanin keeping the justice ministry.

French politics have been in disarray since Macron called snap elections last year that produced a deeply fragmented legislature. Far-right and left-wing lawmakers hold over 320 seats at the National Assembly, while the centrists and allied conservatives hold 210.

Seeking consensus at the National Assembly, Lecornu consulted with all political forces and trade unions



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 25 of 58

before forming his Cabinet. He also vowed that he would not employ a special constitutional power his predecessors had used to force budgets through Parliament without a vote and would instead seek compromise with lawmakers from the left and the right.

## **The Latest: Israeli and Hamas officials meet in Egypt on a US peace plan for Gaza**

By The Associated Press undefined

Israeli and Hamas officials are meeting in an Egyptian resort Monday for indirect negotiations on a U.S. peace plan for Gaza.

The talks in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh will focus on the first stage of a ceasefire, including the partial withdrawal of Israeli forces as well as the release of hostages held by the militants in Gaza in exchange for Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli detention, according to a statement from Hamas.

U.S. Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff and President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner are also expected to join the talks, Egypt's state-run Al-Ahram reported.

The latest push for peace comes after Hamas accepted some elements of the U.S. peace plan, a move welcomed by Trump. Israel has said it supported the new U.S. effort. Under the plan, Hamas would release the remaining 48 hostages — about 20 believed to be alive — within three days. It would give up power and disarm.

Hamas-led militants abducted 251 people and killed around 1,200 mostly civilians in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack that triggered the war. Most of the hostages have been released in ceasefire or other deals.

Gaza's Health Ministry said the Palestinian death toll in the war reached 67,139 on Sunday. The ministry does not differentiate how many of those killed were civilians or combatants, but says women and children make up about 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.

Here's the latest:

A wish for babies born on the day the war started

Palestinians in Gaza hope that babies born on the day the Israel-Hamas war began will be able to celebrate their second birthday to the sound of laughter and cheers instead of the cacophony of bombs, missiles and bullets.

Rola Saqer said the two years since giving birth to her daughter Masa have been full of suffering and misery.

Saqer said she was scared for Maza, who is weak and malnourished. Saqer and her husband, Moham-med Zaquout, live in a sparsely furnished tent in the Nuseirat refugee camp.

It's much the same for Amal al-Taweel and her husband, Mostafa, who had their son Ali after three years of trying for a child. Now living in a tent inside an alley, Amal said Ali is being deprived of proper sanitation, food, vaccinations and even toys.

## **Snowstorm traps hundreds of hikers on Mount Everest during China's national holiday**

BEIJING (AP) — Rescuers were helping hundreds of hikers trapped by heavy snow at tourist campsites on a slope of Mount Everest in Tibet, Chinese state media said.

About 350 hikers had reached a meeting point in Tingri country and rescuers were in contact with another 200, state broadcaster CCTV said late Sunday. There was no immediate update on rescue efforts on Monday.

The hikers were trapped at an elevation of more than 4,900 meters (16,000 feet), according to an earlier report from Jimu News, a Chinese online site. Mount Everest is about 8,850 meters (29,000 feet) tall.

A hiker who rushed to descend before snow blocked the way told Jimu News that others still on the mountain told him the snow was 1 meter (3 feet) deep and had crushed tents.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 26 of 58

Hundreds of rescuers headed up the mountain Sunday to clear paths so that trapped people could come down, the Jimu report said. A video shot by a villager showed a long line of people with horses and oxen moving up a winding path in the snow.

The snowstorm struck during a weeklong national holiday in China, when many travel at home and abroad. In another mountainous region in western China, one hiker died of hypothermia and altitude sickness and 137 others were evacuated in the north part of Qinghai province, CCTV said Monday.

The search in an area in Menyuan county with an average altitude of more than 4,000 meters (13,100 feet) was complicated by the terrain, unpredictable weather and continuous snowfall, a CCTV online report said.

Mount Everest, known as Mount Qomolangma in Chinese, straddles the border between China and Nepal, where recent heavy rains have left more than 40 people dead.

Climbers attempt to scale the world's tallest peak from base camps in both countries. The base camp for climbers is separate from the tourist camp where hikers were trapped by the snowfall.

A strong earthquake killed at least 126 people in the same area in January.

The Chinese side of Everest is in Tibet, a remote western region where the government has cracked down harshly on dissent and poured in funds for economic development including roads and tourism.

The Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism, fled during a failed uprising in 1959 and lives in India, where some Tibetans have set up a government in exile.

## **Federal judge temporarily blocks Trump administration from sending National Guard troops to Oregon**

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER and JACK BROOK Associated Press

A federal judge late Sunday temporarily blocked the Trump administration from deploying any National Guard units to Oregon at all, after a legal whirlwind that began hours earlier when the president mobilized California troops for Portland after the same judge blocked him from using Oregon's National Guard the day before.

During a hastily called evening telephone hearing, U.S. District Judge Karin Immergut granted a temporary restraining order sought by California and Oregon.

Immergut, who was appointed by Trump in his first term, seemed incredulous that the president moved to send National Guard troops to Oregon from neighboring California and then from Texas on Sunday, just hours after she had ruled the first time.

"How could bringing in federalized National Guard from California not be in direct contravention to the temporary restraining order I issued yesterday?" she questioned the federal government's attorney, cutting him off.

"Aren't defendants simply circumventing my order?" she said later. "Why is this appropriate?"

The White House did not immediately comment on the judge's decision.

Trump focuses on Oregon after Portland protests

Oregon is fighting to prevent federalized National Guard troops from coming to Oregon's largest city to address ongoing protests at an immigration processing facility there.

Small protests have been going on outside the Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility since Trump's second term began in January. There have been occasional flare-ups, including in June, but for weeks nightly demonstrations attracted only a few dozen people.

Trump, however, has turned his attention to the city, calling Portland "war ravaged," and a "war zone" that is "burning down" and like "living in hell."

Local officials have point out that the protest occupies one city block far from the downtown in a city that covers 145 square miles. They also say many of his claims and social media posts appear to rely on images from 2020, when unrest that grew out of the Black Lives Matter protests roiled the city for several months. Trump sent federal law enforcement to the city then, as well.

Under a new mayor and police chief, the city has reduced crime, and the downtown has seen a decrease



# Groton Daily Independent

**Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 27 of 58**

in homeless encampments and increased foot traffic.

On Sept. 28, when the Trump administration mobilized the Oregon National Guard over Gov. Tina Kotek's wishes, the protests increased in size. On Saturday about 400 people gathered outside the ICE facility before federal agents shot tear-gas canisters into the crowd.

Trump also authorized the deployment of 300 Illinois National Guard troops to protect federal officers and assets in Chicago on Saturday.

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker's office said the situation in Chicago "does not require the use of the military and, as a result, the Governor opposes the deployment of the national guard under any status."

**Sending in the National Guard from other states**

This weekend, about 200 federalized members of the California National Guard who had been on duty around Los Angeles were reassigned to Portland, a Pentagon spokesperson said.

Approximately 100 California National Guard troops landed in Portland after midnight Sunday and around 100 more arrived by early evening, Alan Gronewold, commander of Oregon's National Guard, said in a court filing before the emergency hearing late Sunday.

The state of Oregon also included in its filing a memo written by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth that ordered up to 400 Texas National Guard personnel activated for deployment to Oregon, Illinois and possibly elsewhere.

**A hasty court hearing**

At the emergency hearing late Sunday, Immergut grilled the attorney for the federal government and accused them of seeking an end run around her order from the day before that temporarily blocked the deployment of National Guard troops in Oregon.

Scott Kennedy, the attorney representing Oregon, said he learned of the Texas National Guard mobilization just 24 minutes before the emergency hearing on Sunday night.

"It feels a little bit like we're playing a game of rhetorical whack-a-mole here," he told Immergut.

Lawyers for the federal government tried to argue that Oregon and Portland did not have standing and that California could show no harm by having some of its National Guard dispatched to another state.

Immergut issued a temporary order that expires in 14 days unless it is extended at a hearing set for Oct. 17. Arguments for a preliminary injunction — a more permanent block on sending federalized National Guard troops to Oregon — are set for Oct. 29.

In a related court filing, an attorney in the California Military Department said the U.S. Army Northern Command advised the department on Sunday that an order will be issued keeping the 300 guard personnel federalized through the end of January.

**Oregon and California react to Sunday's ruling**

Kotek, the governor of Oregon, applauded Immergut's ruling and said Trump can "expect Oregon to stand up to him at every turn."

"President Trump's actions are an effort to occupy and incite cities and states that don't share his politics, and I believe that we should expect him to continue to push the limits of his authority," she said in a statement late Sunday.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta said Trump's move to deploy the National Guard of one state to another "is well outside of the norms or practices" of any president.

"But this President is determined to take as much power as the courts will give him. This fight isn't over, but today's rebuke of the President's illegal actions is a step in the right direction," Bonta said in a statement after Sunday night's ruling.

Portland Mayor Keith Wilson said Sunday that he saw federal agents engaged in what he described as unjustified use of force and indiscriminately spraying pepper spray and impact munitions during a protest outside the ICE facility.

"This is an aggressive approach trying to inflame the situation that has otherwise been peaceful," Wilson said, adding that he has alerted the civil rights division of the Department of Justice to the agents' actions.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 28 of 58

## Voting is underway in California on new maps that could swing US House control, check Trump's power

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD AP Political Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The midterm elections might be a year away, but the fight for control of the U.S. House is underway in California.

Voting opened statewide Monday on whether to dramatically reshape California's congressional districts to add as many as five Democrat-held seats in Congress — a possible offset to President Donald Trump's moves in Texas and elsewhere to help Republicans in the 2026 election.

The outcome of the 70-word, "yes" or "no" question could determine which party wins control of the closely divided House, and whether Democrats will be able to blunt Trump's power in the second half of his term on issues from immigration to reproductive rights.

The proposal is "a starting point for the 2026 race," said Democratic consultant Roger Salazar.

"2026 is the whole ball game," he said.

The national implications of California's ballot measure are clear in both the money it has attracted and the figures getting involved. Tens of millions of dollars are flowing into the race — including a \$5 million donation to opponents from the Congressional Leadership Fund, the super PAC tied to House Speaker Mike Johnson. Former action-movie star and Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has spoken out to oppose it, while former President Barack Obama is in favor, calling it a "smart" approach to counter Republican maneuverings aimed at safeguarding House control.

The election that concludes Nov. 4 will also color the emerging 2028 presidential contest in which Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom — the face of the campaign for the new, jiggered districts — is widely seen as a likely contender.

So goes California, so goes the nation?

"Heaven help us if we lose," Newsom wrote in a recent fundraising pitch to supporters. "This is an all-hands-on-deck moment for Democrats."

An election gamble that could check Trump's power

The unusual special election amounts to a Democratic gambit to blunt Trump's attempt in Texas to gain five Republican districts ahead of the midterms, a move intended to pad the GOP's tenuous grip on the House.

The duel between the nation's two most populous states has spread nationally, with Missouri redrawing House maps that are crafted state by state. Other states could soon follow, while the dispute also has become entangled in the courts.

A major question mark has emerged in Texas, where a panel of federal judges is considering whether the state can use a redrawn congressional map that boosts Republicans.

If the Texas map is blocked even temporarily, it's not clear how that decision would influence California — if at all — where voting is underway. Newsom has previously indicated that California could keep its current map if other states pull back efforts to remake districts for partisan advantage, but that language was not included in the final version of what's officially known as Proposition 50.

GOP could be left with just four House seats in California

If approved in California, it's possible the new political map could slash five Republican-held House seats while bolstering Democratic incumbents in other battleground districts. That could boost the Democratic margin to 48 of California's 52 congressional seats, up from the 43 seats the party now holds.

Liberal-tilting California has long been a quirk in House elections — the state is heavily Democratic but also is home to a string of some of the most hotly contested congressional districts in the country, a rarity at a time when truly competitive House elections have been dwindling in number across the U.S.

The contours of the race have taken shape, with Newsom framing the contest as a battle to save democracy against all things Trump, while Republicans and their supporters decry the proposal as a blatant power grab intended to make the state's dominant Democrats even more powerful while discarding House maps developed by an independent commission. Democrats crafted the proposed lines behind closed doors.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 29 of 58**

Republicans hold a 219-213 majority in the U.S. House, with three vacancies.

New maps are typically drawn once a decade after the census is conducted. Many states, including Texas, give legislators the power to draw maps. California is among states that rely on an independent commission that is supposed to be nonpartisan — the Democratic ballot proposal would shelve that group's work and postpone its operation until the next census.

Creative boundary lines create districts to favor Democrats

In some cases, the recast districts would slice across California, in one case uniting rural, conservative-leaning northern California with Marin County, a famously liberal coastal stronghold north of San Francisco. In others, district lines are left unchanged or have only minor adjustments.

With rural and farming areas in some cases being combined in new districts with populous cities, there is "worry about us losing our voice," said John Chandler, a partner in almond-and-peach grower Chandler Farms in the state's Central Valley farm belt. "It hurts us," Chandler said during an online event organized by proposition opponents.

Who will show up and vote?

Democrats come to the contest with significant advantages — they outnumber registered Republicans in the state by a nearly 2-to-1 margin, and a Republican candidate hasn't won a statewide election in nearly two decades.

Still, ballot questions can be unpredictable. Voters are in a grumpy mood nationally and hold mixed views of both political parties.

It's difficult to determine precisely who might show up in an election with no candidate on the statewide ballot — only a question involving a constitutional amendment on the arcane subject of redistricting, or the realignment of House district boundaries. And campaigns are competing for attention in a nation of nonstop distraction, from wars abroad to the political stalemate in Washington.

Supporters and opponents are running a cascade of ads in the state's big media markets. Trump is trying to "steal congressional seats and rig the 2026 election," one ad from supporters warns. Opponents are spotlighting a recent appearance by Schwarzenegger, who in one ad clenches his fist and says, "Democracy — we've got to protect it and we've got to go and fight for it."

In the state's Central Valley, Kelsey Hinton is working to mobilize infrequent Latino voters hitched to hectic jobs and child care who are often overlooked by major campaigns. Her group, the Community Water Center Action Fund, dispatches canvassers to knock on doors to explain the stakes in the election.

Operating separately from Newsom's campaign, and backed by funding from a left-leaning political group known as the Progressive Era Issues Committee, they hope to boost voter participation in an area where turnout can be among the sparsest in the state.

What are they finding? "People don't even know there is an election," Hinton said.

## **What we know about National Guard deployment in Chicago and Portland**

By The Associated Press undefined

A federal judge blocked President Donald Trump from sending National Guard troops to Oregon, where protesters have gathered in the block surrounding a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building in Portland, setting back his latest attempt at federal intervention in cities.

The ruling came late Sunday, hours after his administration announced plans to send hundreds of National Guard members from California and Texas to the state, following an order issued Saturday that barred it from mobilizing Oregon guard troops to protect federal buildings.

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek said 101 California National Guard members arrived in her state Saturday night by plane and more were on the way before the ruling was handed down.

"There is no need for military intervention in Oregon," Kotek said Sunday.

The previous day, Trump authorized the deployment of 300 Illinois National Guard troops to protect federal officers and assets in Chicago.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 30 of 58**

Here's a snapshot of where things stand with federal law enforcement activity in Portland, Chicago and elsewhere:

Trump's latest federal deployments targeted Portland and Chicago

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 ICE facilities, including in Chicago and Portland.

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.

Protesters have frequently rallied near an immigration facility outside the city, and federal officials reported the arrests of 13 protesters Friday near the ICE 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

Judge Immergut issued her first 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 that 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."

The Trump administration responded with another attempt to send in National Guard troops from California and Texas, prompting the democratic governors of Oregon and California to go back to court Sunday seeking a broader ruling. Immergut granted the request during a hastily called evening telephone hearing,



# Groton Daily Independent

**Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 31 of 58**

blocking any National Guard troops from being sent to Oregon for 14 days.

On Saturday, before the judge's ruling was released, about 400 protesters marched from a park to the Portland ICE 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.

People gathered outside the ICE facility on Sunday cheered when they heard of the latest ruling.

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 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 California 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.

## **Israel and Hamas prepare for negotiations in Egypt ahead of possible Gaza ceasefire**

By SAMY MAGDY and MELANIE LIDMAN Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Israel and Hamas prepared for indirect negotiations in Egypt on Monday, as hopes for a possible ceasefire in Gaza grew after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said a hostage release could be announced this week.

Tuesday marks two years since the Hamas attack that sparked the war.

President Donald Trump has welcomed the Hamas statement accepting some elements of the U.S. peace plan. Israel has said it supported the new U.S. effort. Under the plan, Hamas would release the remaining 48 hostages — about 20 believed to be alive — within three days. It would give up power and disarm.

The delegation led by top Israeli negotiator Ron Dermer will leave Monday for the talks in Sharm el-Sheikh, Netanyahu's office said. An Egyptian official said the Hamas delegation had arrived. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to brief reporters, said U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff is joining the talks.

Discussions will focus on the proposed exchange of hostages for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel, Egypt's foreign ministry said.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 32 of 58**

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio called the situation "the closest we've come to getting all of the hostages released."

Speaking on ABC's "This Week," he described two phases after Hamas accepts Trump's framework: The hostages are released and Israel pulls back in Gaza to the "yellow line," where it was in August.

Rubio told CBS that Hamas should release hostages as they are ready, and that bombardment needs to end so they can be released.

The U.S. plan also addresses Gaza's future. In a text exchange with CNN's Jake Tapper, Trump said there would be "complete obliteration" if Hamas stayed in power there. Trump also texted that Netanyahu was on board for ending the bombing and peace in Gaza but added, "soon on the rest."

Support for a ceasefire grows

Israeli government spokeswoman Shosh Badrosian told journalists that Netanyahu is in "regular contact" with Trump and that the prime minister has stressed that the talks in Egypt "will be confined to a few days maximum."

"I hope that we are closest to a hostage deal since the (ceasefire) deal in January," Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar said in a speech.

Anxious relatives of hostages gathered near Netanyahu's residence in Jerusalem, with some urging Trump to continue to apply pressure. Israel's recent military offensive in Gaza City led many to fear for the hostages' lives.

"We cannot allow such a historic agreement to be sacrificed again," said Michel Ilouz, father of Guy Ilouz.

As hundreds of thousands of people marched across several European cities and elsewhere in support of Palestinians, the foreign ministers of eight Muslim-majority countries issued a joint statement welcoming steps toward a possible ceasefire.

They also underlined their commitment to the return of the Palestinian Authority to Gaza, unifying Gaza and the West Bank and reaching an agreement leading to a "full Israeli withdrawal" from Gaza.

Rubio told ABC that decisions regarding a governing structure or international group to manage Gaza can take place simultaneously with the ceasefire's first step.

"That's the part that I think is going to be a little tougher to work through, but that's what's going to provide permanency to the end of the conflict," he said.

At least 12 killed in Gaza on Sunday

Trump has ordered Israel to stop bombing Gaza, but residents and local hospitals said strikes continued across the territory.

The Israeli government spokeswoman, Badrosian, said "certain bombings have actually stopped inside of the Gaza Strip."

But Israel's military chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir, said that "if the political effort does not succeed, we will return to fight."

At least eight people were killed Sunday in multiple strikes in Gaza City, according to Shifa Hospital, which received the casualties. A security official who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media said the strikes were against Hamas militants who were a threat to troops.

Four other people were shot dead near an aid distribution site in the southern city of Rafah, according to Nasser Hospital. Israel's military said it was not involved.

Doctors Without Borders confirmed the death of colleague Abed El Hameed Qaradaya, who was wounded in an attack Thursday that killed another colleague in Gaza.

Gaza's Health Ministry said the Palestinian death toll in the war reached 67,139 on Sunday, with nearly 170,000 injured. The ministry does not differentiate how many of those killed were civilians or combatants, but says women and children make up about half of 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 military has said it continues to dismantle Hamas infrastructure and warned residents not to return to northern Gaza.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 33 of 58

"We're on the brink, and we don't know whether one will die of a strike or starvation," said Mahmoud Hashem, a Palestinian father sheltering in a tent in Gaza City.

## No. 2 Miami jumps Oregon in AP Top 25, Penn State and Texas fall out of poll

By ERIC OLSON AP College Football Writer

Miami moved back to No. 2 in The Associated Press college football poll on Sunday, Texas Tech has its highest ranking since 2008 and Penn State and Texas fell all the way out of the Top 25 for the first time since 2022 after the two top-10 teams lost to unranked opponents.

No. 1 Ohio State was dominant in its win over Minnesota, but its 40 first-place votes were its fewest since ascending to the top five weeks ago. The Hurricanes, who moved ahead of idle Oregon, went from receiving four first-place votes last week to 21 this week after winning at Florida State.

Miami also had been No. 2 two weeks ago following an open date and gave up that spot last week after Oregon's overtime win at Penn State.

Oregon, which received the other five first-place votes, was followed by idle No. 4 Mississippi and No. 5 Texas A&M. The Aggies hammered Mississippi State and earned their highest ranking since Jimbo Fisher's 2021 team was No. 5 in early September.

Oklahoma slipped from No. 5 to No. 6 despite its 44-0 shutout of Kent State. Indiana, which had an open date, is No. 7 and No. 8 Alabama got a two-spot promotion for its 16-point win over Vanderbilt.

No. 9 Texas Tech, which won 35-11 at previously unbeaten Houston, cracked the top 10 for the first time since it was No. 8 in the final regular-season poll in 2008. Georgia moved up two spots to No. 10 after its win over Kentucky.

Texas was the AP's preseason No. 1 team and Penn State was No. 2. Both are now out of the rankings.

Penn State took one of the biggest falls in the 99-year history of the poll for its loss at previously winless UCLA a week after the Bruins fired their coach. The Nittany Lions had slipped from No. 2 to No. 7 following their loss to Oregon. They went to UCLA as 24.5-point favorites, according to BetMGM Sportsbook, and lost 42-37. Penn State is unranked for the first time since September 2022.

The plunge out of the Top 25 matched 1959 Oklahoma for second-biggest drop out of the rankings, not counting preseason polls or the 2020 pandemic season. The '59 Sooners went from No. 2 to out of the Top 20 after losing their opener to Northwestern.

Texas lost at Ohio State as the preseason No. 1 and was No. 9 entering its game at Florida. The Longhorns' 29-21 loss at the Swamp sent it tumbling out of the Top 25. They hadn't been unranked since November 2022.

Before Sunday, the last time two top-10 teams fell out of the poll the same week was Sept. 16, 1986, when it happened to No. 8 Tennessee and No. 10 Ohio State.

In and out

— No. 23 Memphis, four spots out of the Top 25 a week ago, is in for the first time since it was No. 24 in the final poll last season. The Tigers are out to their best start since 2015 and the first team to be 6-0, making them bowl-eligible for the 12th straight year.

— No. 24 South Florida (4-1) has won two straight since its lopsided loss at Miami and is back after a one-month absence.

— Penn State (7) and Texas (9) dropped out.

Poll points

\_\_\_ Ohio State's 40 first-place votes are fewest for a No. 1 team since Alabama also got 40 in the poll Sept. 29, 2024.

\_\_\_ Miami's No. 2 ranking is its highest in an October poll since 2003.

\_\_\_ The teams ranked Nos. 14-19 — Missouri, Michigan, Notre Dame, Illinois, BYU and Virginia — each received five-spot promotions, biggest of the week.

\_\_\_ Iowa State took the biggest fall of any team that remained in the Top 25, falling eight spots to No.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 34 of 58

22 after losing at Cincinnati.

Conference call

SEC (9) — Nos. 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 20.

Big Ten (5) — Nos. 1, 3, 7, 15, 17.

Big 12 (4) — Nos. 9, 18, 21, 22.

ACC (4) — Nos. 2, 13, 19, 25.

American (2) — Nos. 23, 24.

Independent (1) — No. 16.

Ranked vs. ranked

— No. 1 Ohio State (5-0) at No. 17 Illinois (5-1): This is the first meeting since 2017 and first Top 25 matchup since 2001. The Buckeyes have won nine straight in the series and haven't lost in Champaign since 1991. The lone blemish for the Illini was a blowout loss at Indiana.

— No. 7 Indiana (5-0) at No. 3 Oregon (5-0): The Hoosiers didn't have to play Oregon last year, the Ducks' first in the Big Ten. Indiana is 0-2 against top-five opponents under second-year coach Curt Cignetti.

— No. 8 Alabama (4-1) at No. 14 Missouri (5-0): The Crimson Tide beat the Tigers 34-0 in Tuscaloosa last year, are on a four-game win streak and looking to knock off a third straight ranked opponent. Huge opportunity here for Missouri for a marquee win in the chase for the SEC title and College Football Playoff seeding.

## Government shutdown entering sixth day as Republicans and Democrats remain at an impasse

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican and Democratic lawmakers at an impasse on reopening the federal government provided few public signs Sunday of meaningful negotiations taking place to end what is about to be a six-day shutdown — with President Donald Trump saying that layoffs are occurring.

Asked on Sunday night when federal workers would be fired as he has threatened to do, Trump told reporters: "It's taking place right now and it's all because of the Democrats."

"The Democrats are causing the loss of a lot of jobs," Trump added, declining to answer a question about which agencies are subject to the cuts.

The possibility of layoffs would escalate an already tense situation in which Washington lawmakers have struggled to find common ground and build mutual trust. Leaders in both parties are betting that public sentiment has swung their way, putting pressure on the other side to cave.

Democrats are insisting on renewing subsidies to cover health insurance costs for millions of households, while Trump wants to preserve existing spending levels as he believes that Democrats will have to cave because of the jobs and federal projects being put at risk.

The squabble comes at a moment of troubling economic uncertainty. While the U.S. economy has continued to grow this year, hiring has slowed and inflation remains elevated as Trump's import taxes have created a series of disruptions for businesses and hurt confidence in his leadership. At the same time, there is a recognition that the nearly \$2 trillion annual budget deficit is financially unsustainable.

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries, among those appearing on the Sunday news shows, said there have been no talks with Republican leaders since their White House meeting last Monday.

"And, unfortunately, since that point in time, Republicans, including Donald Trump, have gone radio silent," Jeffries said. "And what we've seen is negotiation through deepfake videos, the House canceling votes, and of course President Trump spending yesterday on the golf course. That's not responsible behavior."

The Trump administration sees the shutdown as an opening to wield greater power over the budget, with multiple officials saying they will save money as workers are furloughed by imposing permanent job cuts on thousands of government workers, a tactic that has never been used before.

Even though it would be Trump's choice to cut jobs, he believes he can put the blame on the Democrats



# Groton Daily Independent

**Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 35 of 58**

because of the shutdown.

"It's up to them," Trump told reporters on Sunday morning before boarding the presidential helicopter to celebrate the Navy's 250th anniversary in Norfolk, Virginia.

While Trump rose to fame on the TV show "The Apprentice" with its catchphrase of "You're fired," Republicans on Sunday claimed that the administration would take no pleasure in letting go of federal workers, even though the administration had also put funding on hold for infrastructure and energy projects in Democratic areas without clear signs of remorse.

"We haven't seen the details yet about what's happening" with layoffs, House Speaker Mike Johnson said Sunday morning on NBC. "But it is a regrettable situation that the president does not want."

Kevin Hassett, director of the White House National Economic Council, also said the administration would prefer to avoid the layoffs.

"We want the Democrats to come forward and to make a deal that's a clean, continuing resolution that gives us seven more weeks to talk about these things," Hassett said on CNN. "But the bottom line is that with Republicans in control, the Republicans have a lot more power over the outcome than the Democrats."

Democratic Sen. Adam Schiff of California defended his party's stance on the shutdown, saying on NBC that the possible increase in health care costs for "millions of Americans" would make insurance unaffordable in what he called a "crisis."

But Schiff also noted that the Trump administration has stopped congressionally approved spending from being used. That essentially undermines the value of Democrats trying to seek compromises on the budget since the administration could block the spending of money from any deal. The Trump administration sent Congress roughly \$4.9 billion in "pocket rescissions" on foreign aid, a process that meant the spending was withheld without time for Congress to weigh in before the previous fiscal year ended last month.

"We need both to address the health care crisis and we need some written assurance in the law — I won't take a promise — that they're not going to renege on any deal we make," Schiff said.

The television appearances indicated that Democrats and Republicans are busy talking, deploying internet memes against each other that have raised concerns about whether it's possible to negotiate in good faith.

Vice President JD Vance said a video putting Jeffries in a sombrero and thick mustache was simply a joke, even though it came across as mocking people of Mexican descent as Republicans insist that the Democratic demands would lead to health care spending on immigrants in the country illegally, a claim that Democrats dispute.

Immigrants in the U.S. illegally are not eligible for any federal health care programs, including insurance provided through the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid. Still, hospitals do receive Medicaid reimbursements for emergency care that they are obligated to provide to people who meet other Medicaid eligibility requirements but do not have an eligible immigration status.

The challenge, however, is that the two parties do not appear to be having productive conversations with each other in private, even as Republicans insist they are in conversation with their Democratic colleagues.

On Friday, a Senate vote to advance a Republican bill that would reopen the government failed to notch the necessary 60 votes to end a filibuster. Johnson said the House would close for legislative business next week, a strategy that could obligate the Senate to work with the government funding bill that was passed by House Republicans.

"Johnson's not serious about this," Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said on CBS. "He sent all his congressmen home last week and home this week. How are you going to negotiate?"

Senate Majority Leader John Thune said Sunday that the shutdown on discretionary spending, the furloughing of federal workers and requirements that other federal employees work without pay will go on so long as Democrats vote no.

"They'll get another chance on Monday to vote again," Thune said on Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures."

"And I'm hoping that some of them have a change of heart," he said.



## Using helicopters and chemical agents, immigration agents become increasingly aggressive in Chicago

By SOPHIA TAREEN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Storming an apartment complex by helicopter as families slept. Deploying chemical agents near a public school. Handcuffing a Chicago City Council member at a hospital.

Activists, residents and leaders say increasingly combative tactics used by federal immigration agents are sparking violence and fueling neighborhood tensions in the nation's third-largest city.

"They are the ones that are making it a war zone," Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker said Sunday on CNN. "They fire tear gas and smoke grenades, and they make it look like it's a war zone."

More than 1,000 immigrants have been arrested since an immigration crackdown started last month in the Chicago area. The Trump administration has also vowed to deploy National Guard troops in its agenda to boost deportations.

But U.S. citizens, immigrants with legal status and children have been among those detained in increasingly brazen and aggressive encounters which pop up daily across neighborhoods in the city of 2.7 million and its many suburbs.

Arriving by helicopter

Activists and residents were taking stock Sunday at an apartment building on Chicago's South Side where the Department of Homeland Security said 37 immigrants were arrested recently in an operation that's raised calls for investigation by Pritzker.

While federal agents have mostly focused on immigrant-heavy and Latino enclaves, the operation early Tuesday unfolded in the largely Black South Shore neighborhood that's had a small influx of migrants resettled in Chicago while seeking asylum.

Agents used unmarked trucks and a helicopter to surround the five-story apartment building. NewsNation, which was invited to observe the operation, reported agents "rappelled from Black Hawk helicopters." Agents then went door to door, woke up residents and used zip ties to restrain them.

Residents and the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, which canvassed the area, said those who were zip tied included children and U.S. citizens.

Rodrick Johnson, a U.S. citizen briefly detained, said agents broke through his door and placed him in zip ties.

"I asked if they had a warrant, and I asked for a lawyer," the 67-year-old told the Chicago Sun-Times. "They never brought one."

Dixon Romero with Southside Together, an organization that's also been helping residents, said doors were knocked off the hinges.

"Everyone we talked to didn't feel safe," he said. "This is not normal. It's not OK. It's not right."

Pritzker, a two-term Democrat, directed state agencies to investigate claims that children were zip tied and detained separately from their parents, saying "military-style tactics" shouldn't be used on children. Several Democratic members of the Illinois congressional delegation met near the site Sunday, calling for an end to immigration raids.

DHS officials said they were targeting connections to the Tren de Aragua gang. Without offering details on arrests or addressing how children were treated, DHS said "some of the targeted subjects are believed to be involved in drug trafficking and distribution, weapons crimes, and immigration violators."

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem on Saturday posted heavily edited video clips of the operation to X showing agents blasting through doors, helicopters and adults in zip ties, but music played over most of the roughly 1 minute video.

Agency officials did not return a message left Sunday.

Brandon Lee, with ICIRR, said while some residents were placed on ankle monitors, others remained unaccounted for.

More tear gas and smoke bombs

Meanwhile, the use of chemical agents has become more frequent and visible in the past week. Used



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 37 of 58

initially to manage protesters, agents used it this week on city streets and during immigration operations, according to ICIRR.

An emergency hotline to report immigrant agent sightings topped 800 calls on Friday, the same day activists said agents threw a cannister of a chemical near a school in the city's Logan Square neighborhood. The activity in the northwest side neighborhood prompted nearby Funston Elementary School to hold recess indoors.

The same day Chicago Alderperson Jessie Fuentes was placed in handcuffs at a hospital. She said she asked agents to show a warrant for a person who'd broken his leg while chased by ICE agents who then transported him to the emergency room.

"ICE acted like an invading army in our neighborhoods," said state Rep. Lilian Jiménez, a Democrat. "Helicopters hovered above our homes, terrifying families and disturbing the peace of our community. These shameful and lawless actions are not only a violation of constitutional rights but of our most basic liberty: the right to live free from persecution and fear."

Immigration agents shot a woman they allege was armed and tried to run them over after agents were "boxed in by 10 cars." She and another person were charged Sunday with forcibly assaulting, impeding and interfering with a federal law enforcement officer. However, activists said immigration agents caused the multi-vehicle crash and detained the woman, who is a U.S. citizen.

Noem has defended the aggressive tactics, calling the mission treacherous to agents and alleging threats on officers' lives.

"It's an extremely dangerous situation," she said Sunday on the "Fox & Friends" weekend show.

Going to court

Leaders of a Chicago suburb that's home to an immigration processing center have taken their fight against federal agents to court.

The village of Broadview has become a front line in the immigration operation. The center in the community of 8,000 people is where immigrants are processed for detention or deportation.

Protests outside have become tense with near daily arrests. Civil rights organizations have blasted aggressive tactics by agents, while village officials have launched three separate criminal investigations against federal agents.

City officials have demanded the federal government remove an 8-foot fence they say was "illegally" put up outside the facility. They filed a federal lawsuit Friday seek a temporary restraining order and the immediate removal of the fence they say blocks fire access.

"The fence also constitutes an immediate public safety hazard," the lawsuit said.

Also pending is an expected ruling on alleged violations of a 2022 consent decree on how federal immigration agents can make arrests in six states including Illinois. While the order expired in May, attorneys have sought an extension and filed dozens of more alleged violations in the past month.

## Trump doesn't let shutdown interfere with celebrating Navy's 250th anniversary at rally-like event

By JOSH BOAK and BEN FINLEY Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — President Donald Trump did not let the government shutdown interfere with a stop in Norfolk, Virginia, on Sunday to salute the Navy as it celebrates its 250th anniversary — using his speech to praise both the Navy and himself.

Trump delivered remarks that by his own recognition bordered on making it more like a campaign event, generating some cheers from the crowd before closing out with a recording of his theme song, "YMCA" by Village People.

"Let's face it, this is a rally," Trump told the crowd of about 10,000 sailors in their dress-white uniforms.

Navy planes flew overhead as the president began his speech, fueling the crowd's energy and prompting many of the sailors to chant "USA! USA! USA!"

The president spoke on a pier in between two towering Navy vessels, an aircraft carrier and an amphibious



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 38 of 58

ous assault ship. The carrier displayed a Navy fighter jet, which had the words "President Donald J. Trump '45-47'" printed on the fuselage right under the cockpit window.

The Republican president criticized his political opponents and attacked Democratic lawmakers as the shutdown entered its fifth day, causing military personnel to work without pay until the government reopens.

"I want you to know that despite the current Democrat induced shutdown, we will get our service members every last penny. Don't worry about it," Trump said to cheers from the crowd.

The government shutdown that began Wednesday has sparked partisan blame games as 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. It lurked in the background of the event as Trump praised a Navy that he said has "never failed to hunt, kill and win."

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.

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."

Among those joining Trump for the festivities were first lady Melania Trump, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, Navy Secretary John Phelan, Veterans Affairs Secretary Doug Collins and U.S. Rep. Ronny Jackson, R-Texas, a former Navy rear admiral who was a White House doctor during Trump's first term.

After his arrival in Norfolk, Trump went to the USS George H.W. Bush and spoke to the sailors and handed out challenge coins.

The Trumps then watched a military demonstration while standing on the deck of the aircraft carrier. Navy destroyers launched missiles and fired shells into the Atlantic Ocean, Navy SEALs descended from helicopters and fighter jets catapulted off.

The president has increasingly sought to leverage support from within the military as he has escalated its role in American society, asking troops to patrol the streets of U.S. cities, including Los Angeles, Washington, Chicago, Memphis, Baltimore and Portland, Oregon. California Gov. Gavin Newsom said Trump was seeking to send his state's National Guard to Portland after the administration's previous moves to deploy troops in the Oregon National Guard were blocked in court.

1. In his June speech for the 250th anniversary of the Army, Trump similarly broke down presidential norms by calling protesters in Los Angeles "animals" and "a foreign enemy," claims that left some in the audience feeling uneasy.

The sailors on Sunday were far more engaged and responsive to the president's jokes and political quips than the military's top brass were at a meeting on Tuesday at a base in Quantico, Virginia. They had been abruptly summoned by Hegseth from across the globe.

In his speech to the generals, Trump 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.

## Ex-NFL quarterback Mark Sanchez stabbed multiple times in altercation leading to charges against him

By BRUCE SCHREINER and MIKE MAROT Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Former NFL quarterback Mark Sanchez was pepper-sprayed and stabbed mul-



# Groton Daily Independent

**Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 39 of 58**

multiple times during a late-night altercation with a 69-year-old truck driver in a downtown Indianapolis alley, which resulted in criminal charges against the Fox Sports analyst, according to court records filed Sunday.

Based on hotel video footage of the altercation early Saturday and the driver's statement to police, a police affidavit alleges that Sanchez, smelling of alcohol, accosted the driver of a box truck that backed into a hotel's loading docks, leading to a confrontation outside the vehicle that prompted the driver to defensively pull out a knife.

Sanchez was hospitalized with stab wounds to his upper right torso, the affidavit signed by a police detective said. Sanchez remained hospitalized early Sunday, according to police. The truck driver, identified as P.T., had a cut to his left cheek, it said.

Sanchez was in stable condition, Fox Sports said Saturday. There was no immediate update Sunday.

His initial court hearing was set for Tuesday in a Marion County courtroom.

Sanchez stabbed multiple times

As the altercation escalated, the driver feared "this guy is trying to kill me" and pulled his knife as Sanchez came at him, the affidavit said. Sanchez was initially stabbed two or three times, then stabbed again when he went at the driver again, it said.

"The next thing P.T. knew was Mr. Sanchez looked at him with a look of shock, he slowly turned around, and Mr. Sanchez took off northbound in the alley," the document said.

Sanchez was in Indianapolis to call Sunday's Raiders-Colts game. Instead, he was charged with battery resulting in injury, unauthorized entry of a motor vehicle and public intoxication — all misdemeanors. Police got a warrant to obtain Sanchez's phone and clothes from the hospital, the document said.

There were no immediate court records indicating whether Sanchez had legal representation yet.

Marion County Prosecutor Ryan Mears said Sunday that his office would "follow the facts and the law wherever they lead."

"What began as a disagreement between a 38-year-old former professional athlete and a 69-year-old man should not have escalated into violence or left anyone seriously injured," Mears said in a statement.

Fox Sports announcers acknowledge Sanchez's absence Sunday

Sanchez told police at the hospital that all he could remember was grabbing for a window, the court document said. Sanchez said he didn't know who else was involved or where the altercation happened.

"Friday night in Indianapolis, one of our team members, Mark Sanchez, was involved in an incident that, to be honest, we are still trying to wrap our heads around," Curt Menefee said Sunday on Fox's primary NFL pregame show. "At this time our thoughts and prayers are with Mark and his family and all of those involved."

Fox Sports play-by-play announcer Chris Myers also acknowledged Sanchez's absence on Sunday before introducing Sanchez's replacement, Brady Quinn. Myers said he wanted to send thoughts and prayers to Sanchez and everyone involved in the incident.

Police officers found Sanchez with the stab wounds when they were dispatched to a downtown pub about 12:35 a.m. Saturday. The truck driver was found in the alley.

Details of the confrontation were disclosed in the affidavit, based on video footage and the truck driver's statement to police.

The video showed a man believed to be Sanchez running in the alley toward the truck, the affidavit said. The driver works for a company that specializes in commercial cooking oil recycling and disposal, and he was performed his work duties, it said.

Sanchez opened the truck door and began talking to the driver, the affidavit said. Sanchez told the driver he couldn't be at the loading dock and that Sanchez had spoken to the hotel manager, the document said. Sanchez smelled of alcohol and his speech was slurred, the driver told police.

Affidavit says Sanchez threw truck driver to ground

Sanchez followed the driver from side to side of the truck, the court document said. When the driver darted toward the driver's door, video showed Sanchez "grabbing and throwing" the driver toward a hotel wall, it said. The fight continued against a dumpster and Sanchez threw the driver to the ground, it said.

Sanchez climbed into the truck but got out when told by the driver he wasn't allowed in, it said. Sanchez



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 40 of 58

repeated that he spoke to a manager and didn't want the driver to replace fryer oil, the document said. Sanchez tried again to get into the truck and blocked the driver from calling his manager, it said.

Believing he was in danger, the driver grabbed pepper spray from his pocket and sprayed Sanchez's face, it said. Sanchez wiped his face and advanced toward the driver again, it said.

The driver then pulled his knife and stabbed Sanchez as the ex-quarterback came at him, it said. The driver fell onto pallets on the ground, he told police.

"While P.T. was on the ground, he could only see the feet of Mr. Sanchez coming at him, making P.T. realize that he was in a life-or-death situation," the affidavit said.

The driver made it to his feet and stabbed Sanchez the last time as Sanchez came at him, it said.

Sanchez 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. Sanchez also appeared in games with Philadelphia, Dallas and Washington.

Sanchez is married to actor Perry Mattfeld, a former USC cheerleader whose credits include "Shameless," "In the Dark" and "Chad Powers." She told Glamour recently that the couple had twin daughters in March.

## **Gunmen kill two, injure 12 in a shootout in a crowd in Alabama capital city's downtown**

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Rival gunmen shot at each other in a crowded downtown nightlife district in Alabama's capital city Saturday night, killing two people and injuring 12 others in a chaotic street scene that left authorities trying to find out who started it, police said.

The dead included a 43-year-old woman, identified by police as Shalanda Williams, and a 17-year-old identified as Jeremiah Morris. Five of the wounded were hospitalized with life-threatening injuries, including a juvenile, Montgomery police said.

No one had been arrested as of Sunday afternoon as police appealed to the public for information and sorted through a complicated crime scene that involved multiple people firing weapons in a crowd just after the Tuskegee University-Morehouse College rivalry football game ended blocks away.

"We're gonna do whatever we can not only to arrest those responsible, we're going to do whatever to arrest those connected in any way, who knew what may have happened, who knew what could take place," Montgomery Mayor Steven Reed told a Sunday news conference. "We're not going just to stop with those folks that were pulling the trigger last night."

The shooters "had no regard for human life," he said.

Police were reviewing surveillance video, interviewing witnesses and potential suspects and trying to piece together a motive for why the shooting started.

Police were called around 11:30 p.m. to what Montgomery Police Chief James Graboys described as a "mass shooting" that broke out near the Hank Williams Museum, the Rosa Parks Museum and the Alabama Statehouse, within earshot of officers on routine patrol in downtown Montgomery.

The shooting began when someone targeted one of the 14 victims, prompting multiple people to pull their own weapons and start firing back, Graboys said.

"This was two parties involved that were basically shooting at each other in the middle of a crowd," Graboys said.

The shooters, he said, "did not care about the people around them when they did it."

Seven of the 14 victims were under 20, and the youngest was 16, Graboys said. At least two of the victims were armed, Graboys said.

Multiple weapons and shell cases were recovered from the scene, Graboys said.

Few other details were available.

It was a particularly busy weekend in Montgomery, with Alabama State University's homecoming football game that day at Hornet Stadium, the Alabama National Fair ongoing at Garrett Coliseum and the Tuskegee University-Morehouse College game having just ended at nearby Cramton Bowl.



Reed said there were police patrols within 50 feet (15 meters) when the shooting broke out. One officer was so quick to arrive on the scene that he transported a victim to the hospital before an ambulance arrived, Graboys said.

## Kids in New York keep dying while 'subway surfing' on top of trains. Can they be stopped?

By CEDAR ATTANASIO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Ka'Von Wooden loved trains. The 15-year-old had an encyclopedic knowledge of New York City's subway system and dreamed of becoming a train operator.

Instead, on a December morning in 2022, Ka'Von died after he climbed to the roof of a moving J train in Brooklyn and then fell onto the tracks as it headed onto the Williamsburg Bridge.

He is one of more than a dozen New Yorkers, many young boys, who have been killed or badly injured after falling off speeding trains. Other risks include being crushed between the train and tunnel walls and being electrocuted by high-voltage subway tracks. "Subway surfing" dates back a century but it has been fueled by social media.

Two girls found dead Saturday

Early Saturday morning, New York City police found two girls dead — ages 12 and 13 — in what apparently was a subway surfing game that turned fatal, authorities said. Metropolitan Transportation Authority President Demetrius Crichlow said in a statement that "getting on top of a subway car isn't 'surfing' — it's suicide."

Authorities have tried to address the problem with public awareness campaigns — including a new one featuring Grammy Award-winning rapper Cardi B — and by deploying drones to catch thrill-seekers in the act. But for some, a more fundamental question is not being addressed: Why are kids like Ka'Von able to climb on top of subway cars in the first place?

"When Ka'Von died ... literally two weeks later, another child died. And another one. That makes no sense," his mother, Y'Vonda Maxwell, told The Associated Press, saying transit and law enforcement officials haven't done enough. "Why should my child have not been the end?"

MTA says it is studying the issue

Making trains harder to climb, and train surfers more easy to detect with cameras and sensors, could be part of the solution, some experts say. The MTA, which operates the subway system, has said it is studying the issue. But it has yet to report any broad new rollout of technology or physical barriers that might make it harder for people to get on top of trains.

In June, Crichlow told a news conference to introduce a new public awareness campaign that the MTA was experimenting with pieces of circular rubber tubing designed to prevent a person from being able to climb between two cars to the top of a train.

It was being piloted in between two cars to make sure it would fit into the tight spacing of the tunnels and that it wouldn't break down or harm service or riders, he said.

"So far the equipment seems to be holding up," he said.

Six deaths last year from subway surfing

Six people died surfing subway trains in the city last year, up from five in 2023.

Tyesha Elcock, the MTA worker who operated the train Ka'Von rode the day he died, is among those who thinks more should be done to prevent deaths.

The first sign of trouble that day was when the train's emergency brake kicked in, she said.

Elcock discovered Ka'Von's body between the train's seventh and eighth cars. A group of sad-faced teens on the train made it clear what had happened. "Did y'all leave your friend back there?" she asked them.

Elcock said another operator traveling in the opposite direction saw Ka'Von on the train's roof and reported it over a radio. Because of patchy radio service, she said, she didn't get the warning.

But she thinks an even simpler solution could have saved Ka'Von's life: locking the doors at the ends of



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 42 of 58

subway cars. That would cut off access to the narrow gaps between train cars where subway surfers use handholds to hoist themselves onto the roof.

"Lock it when we're in service so people can't climb up and be on top of the train," Elcock said.

The MTA's leaders have said that they looking into possible ways to prevent subway surfing, including engineering solutions, but the agency declined to make any of its safety experts available for an interview.

In 2023, Richard Davey, then the head of buses and subways for the MTA, said officials were "weighing" the option of locking doors between cars — which is now done only on a handful of 1980s-era trains. But he said that locking doors "brings its own risk." Some New Yorkers have complained that locking the passageways between train cars might prevent them from escaping to another part of the train during an emergency.

Under questioning from City Council members and reporters last year, MTA officials ruled out some other physical interventions, including building more barriers to prevent access to tracks, or putting covers over the gaps between train cars to prevent would-be surfers from climbing up.

"Listen, you have to be able to do work on top of a train car," MTA CEO Janno Lieber said at a news conference, adding that you can't "cover it with barbed wire."

MTA asks social media companies to help stop the trend

The MTA has asked social media companies to take down videos glamorizing subway surfing, and reported in June that, in 2025, more than 1,800 videos had been taken down.

It's also promoted public service announcements telling people to "Ride inside, stay alive," in voices of local teens and, with the city's schools, released a comic-book themed campaign this past summer designed to show the dangers of subway surfing and impact on loved ones.

More than 300,000 New York City school children use the subway to get to and from school each day.

The NYPD reported that arrests of alleged subway surfers rose to 229 last year, up from 135 the year before. Most were boys, with an average age of around 14, according to police. The youngest was 9 years old.

Branislav Dimitrijevic, an engineering professor of the New Jersey Institute of Technology, said retrofitting trains to prevent roof access would be expensive.

"There's so many stories in transportation where things can be fixed, but they cost a lot of money. And then you ask the public, 'Are you willing to (pay) for us to fix this? But your taxes would go up tremendously.' And people say 'no,'" Dimitrijevic said.

Dimitrijevic suggested the MTA might be able to install cameras and use artificial intelligence to detect riders trying to climb a train. Andrew Albert, a nonvoting member of the MTA board, said he has been asking the agency about the plausibility of physical sensors but hasn't gotten a response.

The NYPD has patrolled popular subway surfing routes with field response teams and drones, reporting in July that it had used them to make 200 rescues, mostly of teens. But the missions can't be everywhere at once. They also say they make home visits to the homes of subway surfers they've identified.

Trains in some other cities, such as Hong Kong and Dubai, aren't easily climbable. They have streamlined bodies, lack handles on the outside and don't open between cars.

Some rail systems have resorted to extreme tactics to keep people from riding on top of trains. In Indonesia, railway officials once installed hanging metal flails to try and deter passengers from riding atop train cars to avoid overcrowding. They also tried spraying riders with red paint and hitting them with brooms.

The MTA purchased a few new subway cars that don't have the outdoor gaps exploited by subway surfers, but they represent just a sliver of the number currently in service, and won't be deployed on lines popular for surfing anytime soon.

## Taylor Swift's 'The Official Release Party of a Show Girl' debuts at No. 1 with \$33 million

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr. AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — This weekend's box office belonged to two undeniable draws: Taylor Swift and



# Groton Daily Independent

**Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 43 of 58**

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.

It might have looked like a heavyweight matchup, but Swift's devoted fanbase once again proved unstoppable with her film "The Official Release Party of a Show Girl," which debuted at No. 1 with \$33 million in North America, according to Sunday estimates from Comscore. The AMC Theatres release -- announced only two weeks ago with minimal promotion -- served as a companion piece to Swift's 12th studio album, packaging music videos, behind-the-scenes footage and profanity-free lyric visuals into an 89-minute experience.

The film played at all 540 AMC theaters in the U.S. for three days, ending after Sunday. AMC aired the show in Mexico, Canada and across Europe.

"For Taylor Swift to harness the power of the movie theater to build her brand, create excitement among her fans, and create a communal experience outside of her touring, outside of her live performances, is really a stroke of genius," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "To be able to add another \$33 million to the box office bottom line is much welcomed by theater owners who were looking for content for their big screens."

It comes nearly two years after her "The Eras Tour" concert film opened to \$96 million, with Swift extending her streak of box office dominance.

Meanwhile, Johnson saw a more modest showing. His A24 drama "The Smashing Machine," co-starring Emily Blunt, opened in third place with a mere \$6 million, trailing Paul Thomas Anderson's "One Battle After Another," which earned \$11.1 million and has now accumulated \$107 million globally.

Despite strong reviews and a 15-minute standing ovation at the Venice Film Festival -- where Johnson drew praise for portraying MMA legend Mark Kerr -- the film marked one of the lowest openings as a lead.

"When major movie stars branch out into more indie roles, like Tom Cruise in "Magnolia," they're trying to redefine their career," Dergarabedian said. "They can straddle both universes, so Dwayne Johnson and all the acclaim he's getting. That prestige factor. That's the currency. He knows box office. He studies this and he's a business person. But also realize that when you go outside of your comfort zone, it puts him in a certain light. ... Dwayne Johnson is redefining what he can do."

Beyond the two marquee names, the rest of the weekend lineup offered a wide mix ranging from animated adventures to horror sequels and international releases.

DreamWorks Animation's family adventure "Gabby's Dollhouse: The Movie" debuted in fourth place with \$5.2 million, expanding the popular Netflix preschool series to the big screen. Warner Bros.' supernatural thriller "The Conjuring: Last Rites" followed in fifth with \$4 million, pulling in \$458.2 million globally.

In sixth was "Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba – Infinity Castle," the latest entry in the hit Japanese anime saga, earning \$3.5 million. A re-release of "Avatar: The Way of Water" made a splash in seventh with \$3.1 million -- a solid return for the 2022 blockbuster ahead of "Avatar: The Fire and Ash" on Dec. 19.

Rounding out the top 10 were "The Strangers: Chapter 2" with \$2.8 million, the IFC dark comedy "Good Boy" with \$2.2 million, marking the company's second-best opening weekend ever. "Kantara: A Legend – Chapter 1" with \$1.7 million.

Dergarabedian said he's looking forward to October films such as "Tron: Ares," "Kiss of the Spider Woman" and "Roofman," starring Channing Tatum.

Top 10 movies by domestic box office

With final domestic figures being released Monday, this list factors in the estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore:

1. "The Official Release Party of a Show Girl," \$33 million
2. "One Battle After Another," \$11.1 million.
3. "The Smashing Machine," \$6 million.
4. "Gabby's Dollhouse: The Movie," \$5.2 million.
5. "The Conjuring: Last Rites," \$4 million.
6. "Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba – Infinity Castle," \$3.5 million.
7. "Avatar: The Way of Water," \$3.1 million.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 44 of 58

8. "The Strangers: Chapter 2," \$2.8 million.
9. "'Good Boy,'" \$2.2 million.
10. "Kantara A Legend: Chapter 1," \$1.7 million.

## Hundreds of thousands march across Europe in support of Palestinians

By ANDREW WILKS Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of people across several European cities marched Sunday in support of Palestinians and an aid flotilla's attempt to reach Gaza.

Istanbul held the largest of multiple demonstrations being staged in Turkey. Footage showed crowds walking from the iconic Hagia Sophia to the banks of the Golden Horn, where they were greeted by dozens of boats decked in Turkish and Palestinian flags. The marchers called for Muslim solidarity with Palestinians following midday prayers in front of the former Byzantine cathedral, now converted to a mosque.

The protests were among others planned Sunday in European cities to mark the second anniversary of Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel that triggered the war in Gaza. Israel's attacks have killed more than 67,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry that is part of the Hamas-run government.

In the Turkish capital Ankara, protesters held up flags and placards condemning the "genocide" in Gaza. "This oppression, which began in 1948, has been continuing for two years, turning into genocide," Recep Karabal of the Palestine Support Platform told crowds in the northern city of Kirikkale.

Support for Palestinians is widespread in Muslim-majority Turkey and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is a leading critic of Israel's military operations in Gaza.

"The bloodshed must stop"

In the Netherlands, an estimated 250,000 people, most dressed in red, gathered in Amsterdam to press the government to take tougher action against Israel.

Sunday's protest and march through the Dutch capital comes less than four weeks before national elections. Two "Red Line" demonstrations in The Hague earlier this year also drew tens of thousands of people.

After packing the central Museum Square, the protesters walked through the city center, holding Palestinian flags and peace emblems. One placard read, "Ashamed of the government."

The Dutch government has long been a staunch supporter of Israel but has in recent months been more critical as international support for Israel has ebbed. On Friday, Foreign Minister David van Weel said it was unlikely he would grant an export license to send parts for F-35 fighter jets to Israel.

"The bloodshed must stop. And that we unfortunately have to stand here because we have such an incredibly weak government that doesn't dare to draw a red line. That's why we are here. In the hope that it helps," protester Marieke van Zijl said.

Marjon Rozema, a spokesperson for Amnesty International, one of the protest organizers, called for the use of "all economic and diplomatic means to increase pressure on Israel."

Mourning the victims of the synagogue attack

In Britain, meanwhile, hundreds of people rallied to mark Hamas' 2023 attack and mourn the victims of an attack on a synagogue in Manchester.

A crowd gathered outside Manchester Cathedral, holding Israeli and U.K. flags and signs calling for the release of hostages held by Hamas.

A banner paid tribute to two men who died in the synagogue attack on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish year. It said their "bravery will never be forgotten." The attacker was shot dead by police on Thursday outside the Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation Synagogue, after he rammed a car into pedestrians and attacked them with a knife.

Paris also saw an outpouring of support for the hostages held by Hamas. Hundreds of demonstrators, many waving or draped in Israeli flags, marched through the city's streets shouting "Free the hostages," some 20 of whom are believed to be alive.

Marches in Bulgaria and Morocco demand the release of flotilla activists



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 45 of 58

In the Bulgarian capital Sofia, demonstrators marched with signs including "Gaza: Starvation is a Weapon of War" and "Gaza is the Biggest Graveyard of Children."

Organizers said they wanted to "pay tribute to the heroes of the Global Sumud Flotilla," including Bulgarian activist Vasil Dimitrov.

"Our society – and the world – needs to hear that we stand with the Palestinian people," protester Valya Chalamova said.

Moroccans from all walks of life took to the streets of the capital Rabat in support of the Palestinians in Gaza, many wearing Arab keffiyehs. An Israeli flag was burned near the front of the march as people called for a reversal of the kingdom's decision five years ago to normalize relations with Israel.

Protesters demanded the release of the flotilla activists, including Moroccan human rights defender Aziz Ghali, who remains in an Israeli prison.

A weekend of rallies across Europe

A day after mass demonstrations across Spain, thousands of people held smaller marches in several cities, calling for an "end to genocide" and trade relations with Israel.

Rallies in Santiago and Gijon, both in the north of Spain, were among the largest, with several thousand attendees. In Gijon, a group of women marched carrying white bundles symbolizing the bodies of children killed in Gaza.

Sunday's demonstrations came a day after hundreds of thousands marched in Rome, Barcelona and Madrid in a show of growing international outrage at Israel's two-year military campaign in Gaza. Smaller rallies took place in Paris, Lisbon, Athens and Skopje, North Macedonia, and in London and Manchester.

Hamas said that it has accepted some elements of a plan laid out by U.S. President Donald Trump to end the war, which has left Gaza's largest city in famine and stirred accusations of genocide against Israel.

## **Somali government forces end a 6-hour siege at a major prison, killing all 7 attackers**

By OMAR FARUK Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — Somali government forces successfully ended a six-hour siege by militants at a major prison located near the president's office in the capital, Mogadishu, killing all seven attackers, the government said Sunday.

The government said no civilian or security officers were killed in the Saturday attack, which was claimed by the al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabab militant group that has in the past staged numerous attacks in Somalia.

Saturday's attack came just hours after the federal government lifted several long-standing roadblocks in Mogadishu. The barriers had been in place for years to safeguard critical government sites, but many residents argued that they obstructed traffic and commerce.

Mogadishu had been relatively calm in recent months as government forces, backed by local militias and African Union troops, pushed al-Shabab fighters out of several areas in central and southern Somalia.

The government said that no prisoners escaped from the Godka Jilacow prison during the attack.

A private ambulance owner, Abdulkadir Adam, said his vehicles had transported almost 25 patients from the scene to various hospitals.

A private hospital director, Abdulkadir Yousuf Abdullahi, said his facility received an unspecified number of patients, provided emergency and life-saving care, and was working on identifying the patients and connecting them to their loved ones.

Somalia's state media reported that the militants used a vehicle disguised to look like those of the intelligence unit's security forces.

## **Some referees took the floor in NBA camps this year, and coaches welcomed their presence**

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 46 of 58

MIAMI (AP) — Milwaukee coach Doc Rivers is, by his own admission, not the best referee. When he is calling fouls in practice, he doesn't call much.

The NBA sent him and his colleagues some help this fall.

Scrimmages in training camps around the NBA might have seemed a little more crowded this season. The league has sent referees to camp to call fouls and violations, giving the officials a bit of extra work and helping teams understand how games will be called.

"We've been pushing for this for at least 20 years — and I am not exaggerating," Rivers said after the Bucks scrimmaged in camp at Florida International University this weekend, with three NBA refs on the floor for the matchup. "Every competition committee meeting I've been on, I'm like, 'Why can't we do this?' ... They should be at every practice."

It's a new program the NBA installed this season, and it seems to be a hit. Teams were allowed to invite referees in for two days in the opening week of camp and let them blow the whistle in scrimmages and drills — plus offer candid answers to questions. Denver's Nikola Jokic spent several minutes on the floor with referees after a Nuggets workout, pleading his case on various matters while getting explanations back from the crew.

"I think it was terrific," Washington coach Brian Keefe said. "We had some discussions about some rules, but it was also the professionalism that they brought. ... It wasn't me reffing out there, which can be atrocious."

Portland coach Chauncey Billups echoed the remarks of Keefe and several other coaches. "I think it was genius," he said.

It's a win-win scenario, at least from the NBA's perspective.

Monty McCutchen, the NBA's senior vice president and head of referee development and training, said one of the benefits is that the officials and players get to reconnect without the stress of true game situations. The NBA has been preaching a "respect for the game" mantra for several years, and part of what the league wants is a positive, respectful relationship among players, coaches and officials. Sending refs into camp, the league thinks, will help.

"It allows for relationship building in a less competitive environment," McCutchen said.

Oklahoma City coach Mark Daigneault lauded the league for the idea, calling it "a really good program" and said it allows the defending champion Thunder to start getting a real feel for how live play will be called this season.

"From the feedback I've gotten from these guys, they like it," Daigneault said. "And it's good relationship building. These are human beings and we're human beings. You get into the heat of competition, and it can sometimes go over that line. Getting in front of them and them getting in front of us is a very positive thing."

Make no mistake, there still is some dismay over calls that don't go a certain way. There was a blocked shot late in the Bucks' scrimmage that those on offense thought was goaltending and those on defense — predictably — thought was a clean block.

In the end, Rivers was just happy he wasn't the one making that call.

"I hope we just keep doing it and keep increasing it every year," Rivers said.

## At least 5 people are killed in a large-scale Russian attack on Ukraine

By The Associated Press undefined

Russia launched drones, missiles and guided aerial bombs across Ukraine early Sunday, killing five people in a major nighttime attack that Ukrainian officials said targeted civilian infrastructure.

Moscow fired 53 ballistic and cruise missiles and 496 drones, Ukraine's air force said. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reported that nine regions were targeted.

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.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 47 of 58**

It was the largest aerial assault on the historic western city and surrounding region since Russia's full-scale invasion on Feb. 24, 2022, according to Maksym Kozytskyi, head of the local military administration. Earlier in the war, Lviv was seen as a haven from the fighting and destruction farther east.

In a Telegram post, Kozytskyi said Russia launched about 140 Shahed drones and 23 ballistic missiles across the region. At least six more people were injured, according to a statement by Ukraine's police force.

The strike left two districts of Lviv without power and disrupted public transportation for a few hours early Sunday, Mayor Andriy Sadovyi reported. He added that a business complex on Lviv's outskirts caught fire following the strike, describing it as a civilian facility unlinked to Ukraine's war effort.

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

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

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

Russia's Defense Ministry said the overnight strikes targeted Ukraine's "military-industrial complex" and energy facilities that supply it.

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

Russia blasts Ukraine's power grid as winter approaches

Zelenskyy on Sunday reiterated his call for 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.

Russia's Defense Ministry said its forces shot down 32 Ukrainian drones during the night, with at least 50 more downed during the day over southwestern Russia.

Drones damaged several homes, cars and a power line in the Belgorod region bordering Ukraine, according to local Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov. Separately, he reported that Ukrainian shelling gravely wounded the deputy head of a border village.

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 weather by denying civilians heat, light and running water.

Serhii Koretskyi, CEO of Ukraine's state-owned Naftogaz Group, said Sunday's attack inflicted further large-scale damage on gas infrastructure that supplies civilians, just two days after what the company said was the largest Russian strike on its facilities since the all-out invasion.

Russia's goal was to deprive Ukrainians of gas, heat, and electricity, Koretskyi was quoted as saying in a Naftogaz statement. The company did not elaborate on the damage from the latest strike.

In his nightly address to Ukrainians on Sunday, Zelenskyy charged that Moscow is "openly trying to destroy our civilian infrastructure now, before winter -- our gas infrastructure, electricity generation and transmission."

"Unfortunately, there's been no dignified, powerful global response to everything that's happening, to the ever-increasing scale and brazenness of the strikes, he said, adding that Russian President Vladimir Putin is "simply laughing at the West's silence and lack of a strong response."

Moscow has also stepped up airstrikes on Ukraine's railway network, which is essential for military transport, hitting it almost daily in the past two months. Russian drones on Saturday struck a railway station



in the northern city of Shostka, killing one and wounding dozens.

Putin warns US against arming Kyiv

On Thursday, Putin doubled down on warnings that any supplies of long-range weapons by the U.S. to Ukraine would badly hurt bilateral ties.

The potential supply of U.S. Tomahawk cruise missiles to Kyiv will signal a "qualitatively new stage of escalation, including in relations between Russia and the U.S.," Putin said at a forum of international foreign policy experts in Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi.

Putin's remarks followed an apparent dramatic shift in Washington's Ukraine policy, after U.S. President Donald Trump said late last month that he believed Ukraine could win back all territory lost to Russia.

Trump previously repeatedly called on Kyiv to make concessions to end the war, and ended Putin's diplomatic isolation in the West by hosting him at a summit in Alaska on Aug. 15.

## Gaza flotilla activists allege mistreatment 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 mistreatment at the hands of Israeli guards, claims that Israel denies.

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.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry said it offered voluntary deportation to all of the activists and those that remain in detention chose to stay there in order to go through a legal deportation process.

On his return at Rome's Fiumicino Airport late Saturday, Italian journalist Saverio Tommasi said Israeli soldiers withheld medicines and treated prisoners "like monkeys."

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

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.

"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."

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 interception of the flotilla came as U.S. President Donald Trump attempted to broker a fresh ceasefire initiative in Gaza, as he ordered Israel to stop bombing Gaza. Israel said it had accepted Trump's proposal, and Hamas has said it accepts some aspects. Negotiators are expected in Cairo on Monday.

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," 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. They forced us to stay on our knees for four hours."



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 49 of 58

Ben-Gvir 'proud' of treatment

In a statement, far-right 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."

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.

## George Russell wins F1's Singapore GP as McLaren secures constructors' title

SINGAPORE (AP) — McLaren was crowned Formula 1's top team at the Singapore Grand Prix on a tricky day for all three of the main contenders for the drivers' title.

George Russell won the race in dominant style Sunday as McLaren secured the Formula 1 constructors' championship with six races to go.

Russell stayed in control from pole position to take his and Mercedes' second win of the year ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen, who held off Lando Norris for second place despite struggling with car problems.

Verstappen may have got the better of the two McLaren drivers, but it was little help to his title defense, since he didn't make significant inroads into their large points advantage.

Norris said it was "a shame" to spend much of the race staring at the back of Verstappen's car, while standings leader Oscar Piastri was aggrieved over Norris colliding with him as he overtook at the start.

Russell makes it right

"We don't really know where this performance came from," admitted Russell, who said he'd expected Mercedes to struggle on Singapore's tight, twisty street circuit.

It was a personal milestone for Russell, who crashed on the last lap while fighting for the podium places in Singapore in 2023.

"It feels amazing, especially after what happened a couple of years ago. It was a bit of a missed opportunity, but we more than made up for it today," he said.

Norris banged wheels with his McLaren teammate Piastri, who finished fourth, as he overtook at the start. Piastri complained to the team over the radio about Norris' driving.

"Are we cool with Lando just barging me out of the way?" the Australian asked.

"I had a small correction but nothing more than that. It was good racing," Norris said after the race.

Norris cut into Piastri's standings lead for the third race in a row. The Australian now leads Norris by 22 points, with Verstappen 41 further back.

Piastri finished outside the top three in back-to-back races for the first time since the Australian Grand Prix in March.

Hamilton's brakes fail

Russell's teammate Kimi Antonelli recovered to finish fifth after a poor start. Lewis Hamilton was closing on the Italian near the end when the brakes on the seven-time champion's Ferrari failed.

Leclerc in the other Ferrari then passed Hamilton for sixth. The British driver only just held onto seventh in his ailing car ahead of Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso, but lost the place anyway after getting a five-



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 50 of 58

second penalty for going off-track while struggling with his brake problem.

That lifted Alonso to seventh and dropped Hamilton to eighth, while Oliver Bearman was ninth for Haas and Carlos Sainz, Jr. took a point in 10th despite having to start near the back of the grid for a technical infringement.

Heat hazard

It was the first F1 race to be officially declared a "heat hazard" by the governing body, the FIA, under new rules that came in this season.

The heat and humidity in Singapore have long been a challenge for drivers, who were required to have cooling equipment fitted in their cars. Some, like Verstappen, chose not to wear the associated cooling vest.

## **Nepalese villages are swept away by heavy rainfall and landslides, leaving at least 44 dead**

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Landslides, a lightning strike and floodings triggered by severe rainfall killed at least 44 people in Nepal on Sunday, with five others reported missing, authorities said.

Those killed included at least 37 people in the eastern mountain district of Ilam, where whole villages were swept away by landslides, Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority said. Several other people are still missing.

Heavy rainfall was reported since Friday in the district, which borders India and is known for growing tea.

Six people in the same family were killed when a landslide crushed their home while they slept, Ilam'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.

The government said helicopters were also evacuating people needing medical evacuations and ground troops were helping move people to safer areas.

One more person was killed in landslide in a neighboring district.

Three people in another district were killed as they were struck by lightning, while three more people died in flooding in southern Nepal.

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.

By Sunday evening, one route was partially opened for traffic.

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.

Neighboring India, which surrounds landlocked Nepal on three sides, has offered to help.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said on social platform X that the loss of lives and damage caused by heavy rains in Nepal are distressing.

"We stand with the people and Government of Nepal in this difficult time," he said. "As a friendly neighbor and first responder, India remains committed to providing any assistance that may be required."

There was no comment from Nepal on the offer.

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



## Nepalese villages are swept away by heavy rainfall and landslides, leaving at least 44 dead

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There was no comment from Nepal on the offer.

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

## 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.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 52 of 58

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.

## 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 protesters defy government ban

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 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 that said, "I oppose geno-



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 53 of 58

cide, 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.

Defend Our Juries, the group that organized Saturday's demonstration, said the government's "extraordinary new affront to our democracy will only fuel the growing backlash to the ban."

Vigils mark anniversary of Hamas attack

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.

Hundreds of people waving Israeli and British flags rallied in London and Manchester on Sunday to mark two years since Oct. 7, demand the hostages' release and mourn the victims of the synagogue attack.

Mahmood, the home secretary, said she was worried about the state of community relations in Britain, amid a "rising tide of antisemitism" and other forms of hatred.

"There are clearly malign and dark forces running amok across our country," she told Times Radio.

Police said they were treating a suspected arson attack on a mosque on England's south coast as a hate crime. No one was injured in the fire Saturday at the Peacehaven Community Center, which damaged the front door of the building and a car outside.

## 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 "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.

DHS later identified her as Marimar Martinez, and said she's in FBI custody after being treated and released from the hospital. DHS said the driver of another vehicle involved in the ramming, Anthony Ian Santos Ruiz, was apprehended. It's unclear if they are represented by attorneys who could comment on their behalf.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 54 of 58

No officers were seriously injured, McLaughlin said.

In an interview with Fox & Friends on Sunday, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem again called Chicago “a war zone” and said protesters are being paid to disrupt operations and stir violence against officers.

“Our intelligence indicates these people are organized and making plans to ambush and kill them,” she said. “Somebody is funding them.”

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, 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 was appointed by Trump during his first term in office.

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.

## 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.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 55 of 58**

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.

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.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 56 of 58

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.

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## 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 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.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 57 of 58**

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 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.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 124 ~ 58 of 58

## Today in History: October 6, Anwar Sadat assassinated

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, Oct. 6, the 279th day of 2025. There are 86 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 6, 1981, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat was shot to death by members of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad while reviewing a military parade.

Also on this date:

In 1927, the era of talking pictures arrived with the opening of "The Jazz Singer" starring Al Jolson, a feature film containing both silent and sound-synchronized sequences.

In 1973, war erupted in the Middle East as Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on Israeli forces in the Sinai Peninsula and the Golan Heights during the Yom Kippur holiday, starting a nearly three-week conflict that would become known as the Yom Kippur War.

In 1976, Republican President Gerald R. Ford, in his second presidential debate with Democrat Jimmy Carter, asserted that there was "no Soviet domination of eastern Europe." Carter went on to narrowly defeat Ford.

In 1979, Pope John Paul II, on a weeklong U.S. tour, became the first pontiff to visit the White House, where he was received by President Jimmy Carter.

In 2007, British adventurer Jason Lewis completed the first human-powered circumnavigation of the globe, spanning 13 years and more than 46,000 miles (74,000 kilometers).

In 2010, Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Roy Halladay tossed just the second postseason no-hitter in MLB history, blanking the Cincinnati Reds 4-0.

In 2014, the Supreme Court unexpectedly cleared the way for a dramatic expansion of gay marriage in the United States as it rejected appeals from five states seeking to preserve their bans, effectively making such marriages legal in 30 states.

In 2018, in the narrowest Senate confirmation of a Supreme Court justice in nearly a century and a half, Brett Kavanaugh was confirmed by a 50-48 vote; he was sworn in hours later.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Britt Ekland is 83. Irish politician Gerry Adams is 77. Pro Football Hall of Fame coach Tony Dungy is 70. Bowler Walter Ray Williams Jr. is 66. Actor Elisabeth Shue is 62. House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., is 60. Actor Emily Mortimer is 54. Basketball Hall of Famer Rebecca Lobo is 52. Actor Ioan Gruffudd (YOH'-ihn GRIH'-fihth) is 52. Actor Jeremy Sisto is 51. Football Hall of Famer Richard Seymour is 46. NFL quarterback Trevor Lawrence is 26. Social media personality Addison Rae is 25. Basketball player Bronny James is 21.