

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 1 of 59

[1- Upcoming Events](#)
[2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
[3- Today on GDILIVE.COM](#)
[4- Photos of the double rainbows](#)
[7- Prairie Doc: The What Ifs](#)
[8- EarthTalk - bees](#)
[9- SD SearchLight: With Guard call-up, governor enhances Trump's vanity project](#)
[11- Weather Pages](#)
[15- Daily Devotional](#)
[16- Subscription Form](#)
[17- Lottery Numbers](#)
[18- Upcoming Groton Events](#)
[19- News from the Associated Press](#)

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)
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.

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

© 2025 Groton Daily Independent

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 2 of 59

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.

Afghanistan-Pakistan Clashes

The Taliban say they captured 25 Pakistani army posts Saturday night. The group also claimed responsibility for killing 58 Pakistani soldiers and wounding 30 others, calling the attacks a response to Pakistani military operations in Afghanistan.

The Taliban blame Pakistan for two nonlethal bombings Thursday: one in Afghanistan's capital and a market blast in the eastern province of Paktika. Pakistan has not acknowledged carrying out the strikes, but has previously conducted military operations in Afghanistan targeting militants of the banned Pakistani Taliban group. Following the Taliban's announcement yesterday, Pakistan said it destroyed Afghan checkpoints and killed 200 Taliban and affiliated militants. The claim could not be independently verified as of this writing.

The cross-border attacks come months after a separate May 2025 border conflict between India and Pakistan that killed dozens of people.

Diane Keaton Dies

Oscar-winning actress Diane Keaton died at age 79 Saturday. The cause of death was not immediately known.

Keaton began her acting career in the Broadway musical "Hair." In 1969, she received a Tony nomination for her role in Woody Allen's "Play It Again, Sam." Keaton expanded to films in the 1970s and was cast as Michael Corleone's love interest in "The Godfather" trilogy. She earned an Oscar for her role in Allen's "Annie Hall" (1977) and appeared regularly in his other films, including the critically acclaimed "Manhattan" (1979). Keaton appeared in more than 100 movies, including the box office hit "The First Wives Club" (1996). She received Oscar nominations for "Reds" (1981), "Marvin's Room" (1996), and "Something's Gotta Give" (2003).

Keaton also directed films including the 1987 documentary "Heaven" and the 2000 dramedy "Hanging Up." She wrote roughly a dozen books, including her memoir "Then Again."

Europe's Border System

The European Union began implementing its new border screening process yesterday. The updated protocol involves taking non-EU passengers' photographs and fingerprints upon arrival, and will replace manually stamping passports beginning April 10.

Twenty-nine countries are adopting the new system: most Schengen Area countries, as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. The process involves passengers using a kiosk to register biometric information (children under 12 are exempt from fingerprinting). The data will be kept for three years by default and can be shared with other countries or international organizations under certain conditions. Passengers who refuse to participate will be denied entry.

Estonia, Luxembourg, and the Czech Republic have begun applying the new system to all passengers, with other countries updating their protocols in a phased process. France—the world's leading tourist destination—is hiring hundreds of new staff to help manage the rollout.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 3 of 59

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

The Las Vegas Aces sweep the Phoenix Mercury to win third WNBA championship in four years; A'ja Wilson wins finals MVP.

"Family Matters" star Darius McCrary arrested near US-Mexico border after being declared a fugitive for having missed a court appearance over unpaid child support.

The Milwaukee Brewers advance to the National League Championship Series for first time since 2018; will face off against the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 1 of the NLCS tonight (8 pm ET, TBS).

Science & Technology

Nobel Prize in economic sciences announced this morning at 5:30 am ET, see here for updates.

Cofounder of Thinking Machines Lab, an AI startup launched by Mira Murati, leaves to join Meta; Andrew Tulloch previously turned down a package worth up to \$1.5B from Meta.

Scientists develop injectable gel to treat voice loss and help recovery from vocal cord injuries.

Business & Markets

Stocks drop sharply Friday (S&P 500 -2.7%, Dow -1.9%, Nasdaq -3.6%) following renewed threats by President Donald Trump to levy tariffs on China.

Cryptocurrency market capitalization loses roughly \$800B in 24-hour period.

AstraZeneca and the Trump administration strike drug pricing deal, will sell some medications to Medicaid patients at a price equal to the lowest rate offered in other high-income countries.

Warner Bros. Discovery rejects \$20-per-share takeover bid from Paramount Skydance; Paramount completed a \$150M acquisition of the Free Press last week.

Politics & World Affairs

More than 4,000 civil service workers are laid off amid federal government shutdown, per court filing; hundreds of employees at the Centers for Disease Control have since been reinstated.

Madagascar's president says coup attempt is underway as elite army unit takes control of the military and joins weeklong anti-government protests.

French Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu races to form a new government and present a budget by tomorrow's deadline after being reappointed to his role late Friday.



Varsity Volleyball
Britton-Hecla at Groton Area
Mon., Oct. 13, 7:15 pp.m.



Groton
Area
Tigers
Groton, SD

GDILIVE

 YouTube

A production of the
Groton Daily Independent

For more info: GDILIVE.COM



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 4 of 59



The double rainbow drew lots of attention last night. This photo taken by Paul Kosel . . .

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 5 of 59



. . . and this one by April Abeln . . .

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 6 of 59



. . . and this one by John Aldrich.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 7 of 59

"The What If's"

Let's call her Sarah, although that wasn't her name. I'd had the privilege of delivering her, and the fun of watching her grow into a precocious toddler, with an impish smile and a joyous laugh. Then I had the responsibility of explaining her autopsy report to her devastated parents.

She'd died from an infection that her young, previously healthy body just couldn't fight. It hadn't taken long; she'd started running a fever the night before, and her parents brought her to the clinic the next afternoon. The flight crew hadn't even gotten to our ER before she lost the battle.

Of course we all had "what ifs" to torment ourselves with. What if mom had breast fed for longer? What if dad hadn't taken her to that play date, with the little friend who had a runny nose? What if the doctor (me) been more detailed in the "how to tell when she's really sick" discussion? What if her parents had brought her to the ER that morning, instead of to the clinic that afternoon?

The "what if" that has tormented me the most, though, is what if she'd been born just a year or two later?

The infection that killed my little patient was caused by streptococcus pneumoniae. The original version of the Prevnar vaccine, which taught a child's immune system to fight 7 strains of that bacteria, was introduced in 2000. Shortly after, the rates of serious infections from these bacteria dropped precipitously, and not just in the children who got the shots. Adults also benefited, to varying degrees.

One modernized version of the Hippocratic oath contains the phrase "I will prevent disease whenever I can, for prevention is preferable to cure." I don't remember if my classmates and I said those particular words on graduation day, but it's a philosophy I wholeheartedly endorse, and one I try to live by. I nag my patients to eat more fruits and vegetables, and to get their calcium. I nag them to exercise more. I nag them to quit smoking. I urge them to get to the eye doctor, and to the dentist. I remind them that seatbelts save lives, that helmets save lives, that smoke detectors save lives. That vaccines save lives.

I don't know that the Prevnar vaccine would have saved little Sarah. No vaccine is perfectly protective. She might still have gotten seriously ill. She might still have died.

But I do know it would have shifted the odds in her favor.

Dr. Debra Johnston is a Family Medicine Physician at Avera Medical Group Brookings 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, Face-book, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok. 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).



Debra Johnston, MD

EARTHTALK

Pesticide-Resistant Varroa Mites Behind Honeybee Die-Off

by Choyoung Kim

Dear EarthTalk: Have scientists figured out what's causing honeybees to die off across the country and is there anything we can do about it?

-- Millie Swan, Sumpter, SC

The beekeeping industry is in crisis as honeybee deaths have reached record levels in the U.S. While honeybee colonies have begun declining at a noticeable frequency over the past decade, the U.S. experienced the worst die-off yet, with 62 percent of commercial honeybee colonies collapsing between June 2024 and January 2025. This rapid decline in population may be "the biggest loss of honeybee colonies in U.S. history," explained Scott McArt, a Cornell University associate professor of entomology.

Honeybees are among the most efficient pollinators; as they play a crucial role in the ecosystem and food production. In fact, they pollinate around 75 percent of the plants grown in the U.S., contributing to approximately \$18 billion worth of crops. Blake Shook, a Texas beekeeper and founder of The Bee Supply, told CBS News that if present trends continue, the food industry could collapse as "we cannot pollinate at the scale that we need to produce food in the United States."

What is behind this massive die-off? Scientists have identified the Varroa mite as the main cause; infection by these parasitic mites weakens honeybees by spreading viruses, suppressing their immune systems, and hindering their ability to break down pesticides. Alarming, more than 98 percent of the dead colonies in the U.S. have tested positive for viruses spread by Varroa infestations. Recent research found that all Varroa mites have developed resistance to Amitraz, the only remaining pesticide that gets rid of these mites. The extensive use of Amitraz not only contributed to the decline in bee populations but also posed environmental risks, with potential effects on ecosystems and non-target organisms.

However, the mites alone weren't responsible for the record die-offs last year. The causes behind the massive decline in bees are complex, as biodiversity loss, climate change and shifting weather patterns have also contributed. A major contributor is the spread of monoculture agriculture and urbanization, which have drastically reduced the diversity of flowers and plants, limiting the food sources bees rely on. Moreover, global warming has brought unusually warm winters, causing plants to shift their blooming schedules earlier and thus leaving bees with fewer supplies of flowers after they emerge from hibernation.

This population decline isn't just a problem for the bee industry but a threat to national food security. To help honeybee populations stabilize and grow, individuals can purchase local honey directly from beekeepers to support the local industry and plant native wildflowers or bee-friendly flowers like sunflowers, poppies and lavender. Finally, urging corporations and bee farms to reduce the sale and usage of harmful pesticides is also effective in protecting bee populations.



The Varroa mite might be the main cause of honeybee dieoffs recently but other human-caused environmental factors are also at play.

Credit: Pexels.com.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

COMMENTARY

With Guard call-up, governor enhances Trump's vanity project

by Dana Hess

Late in August, Gov. Larry Rhoden called out the South Dakota National Guard to serve for 30 days as crime-stoppers in Washington, D.C. It's hard not to wonder why he did that.

By calling up the 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, maybe Rhoden is showing his belief that the pen is mightier than the sword.

Maybe he reasoned that the 12-member unit from Rapid City could make the mean streets of D.C. safer — one news release at a time.

With a Republican primary for governor coming up next June, perhaps Rhoden saw the Guard deployment as a way to curry favor with President Donald Trump and get his endorsement.

If any of those is the reason, it's not good enough.

Rhoden called out the Guard unit at the request of the president. Since there really was no "crime emergency" in Washington, D.C., Rhoden would have been better off giving the president a polite but firm "no."

The images of armed soldiers on the streets of the nation's capital are reminiscent of the images from third world dictatorships. The presence of the Guard in D.C. may have curbed some crime, but the president's reasons for that deployment, and others he has threatened, are less than compelling.

According to Trump, troops are needed to patrol the streets of crime-ridden cities ruled by Democratic mayors. Cities with similar or worse crime statistics that are governed by Republican mayors are exempt from an invasion of troops. Politics shouldn't play a part in public safety, but it's the first rule of the president's plan to make big city streets safer.

Rhoden's decision to so easily buy into the president's vanity project is troubling. Perhaps he learned from his predecessor that the best way to curry favor with the president and polish up some conservative credentials is to call out the troops.

Gov. Kristi Noem had a bad habit of sending the Guard to the southern border and a willingness to let South Dakota taxpayers foot the bill. In announcing the D.C. deployment, Rhoden was sure to mention that the cost would be covered by the federal government. So taxpayers are still on the hook for the cost, but out of a different account.

A sampling of the D.C. work of the 129th shows they dutifully recorded the patrolling of the Guard as part of the effort to stop crime. They also recorded troops cleaning up parks and tidying national memorials — a good sign of the Guard's work ethic and a bad sign that perhaps there's not enough crime-stopping to go around for all the troops on the ground.

One of the South Dakota unit's videos features U.S. Army Col. Larry Doane, commander of Joint Task Force D.C. After thanking the Guard troops for coming to D.C., he gives a short lecture on self-care, admonishing them to take time for themselves by hitting the gym, going for a run or watching a movie. Doane must not have read his marching order as those are just the kind of activities that Trump says the good citizens of Washington, D.C., can't do safely because the city is so crime-ridden.

While the troops take time for themselves, it's easy to wonder how their families are doing with self-care. Going for a run or watching a movie probably sounds pretty good to them. Trump's vanity project leaves the husbands and wives of Guard members with a month of single parenthood. Employers may need a little relaxation as well, since they're short-handed for a month.

At the end of their deployment, the 129th will have worked hard to chronicle the Guard's activities in

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 10 of 59

D.C.—a lasting record of how not to fight urban crime. It will also be a testament to one president's ego and one governor's hope that his eagerness to help during this "emergency" will not be forgotten.

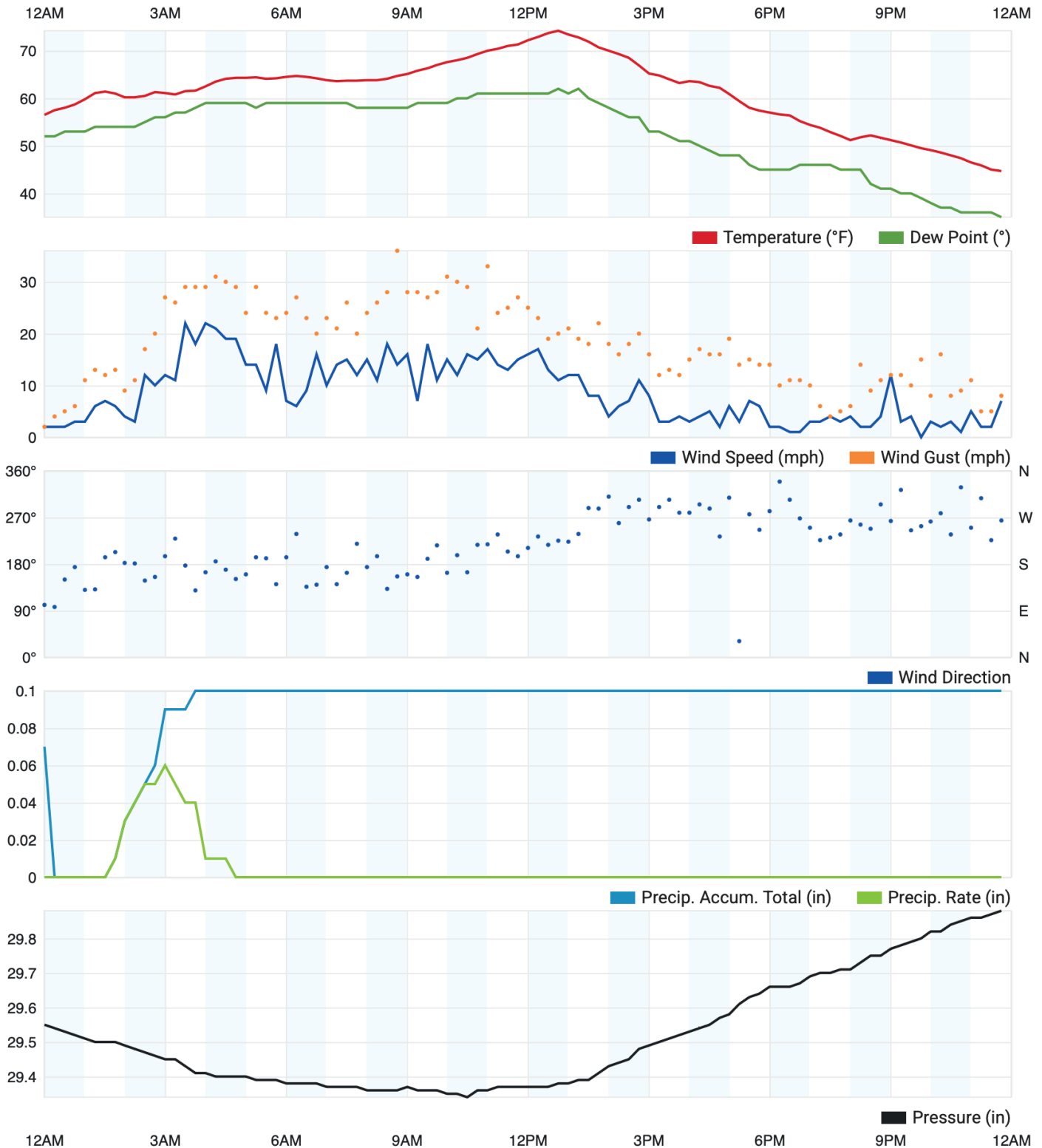
Dana Hess spent more than 25 years in South Dakota journalism, editing newspapers in Redfield, Milbank and Pierre. He's retired and lives in Brookings, working occasionally as a freelance writer.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 11 of 59

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

October 12, 2025



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 12 of 59

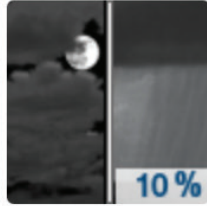
Columbus Day



High: 56 °F

Frost then
Sunny

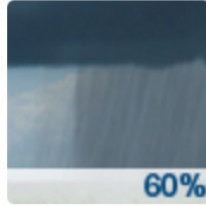
Tonight



Low: 41 °F

Mostly Cloudy
then Slight
Chance
Showers

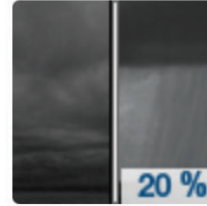
Tuesday



High: 50 °F

Showers
Likely

Tuesday Night



Low: 43 °F

Cloudy then
Slight Chance
Showers

Wednesday



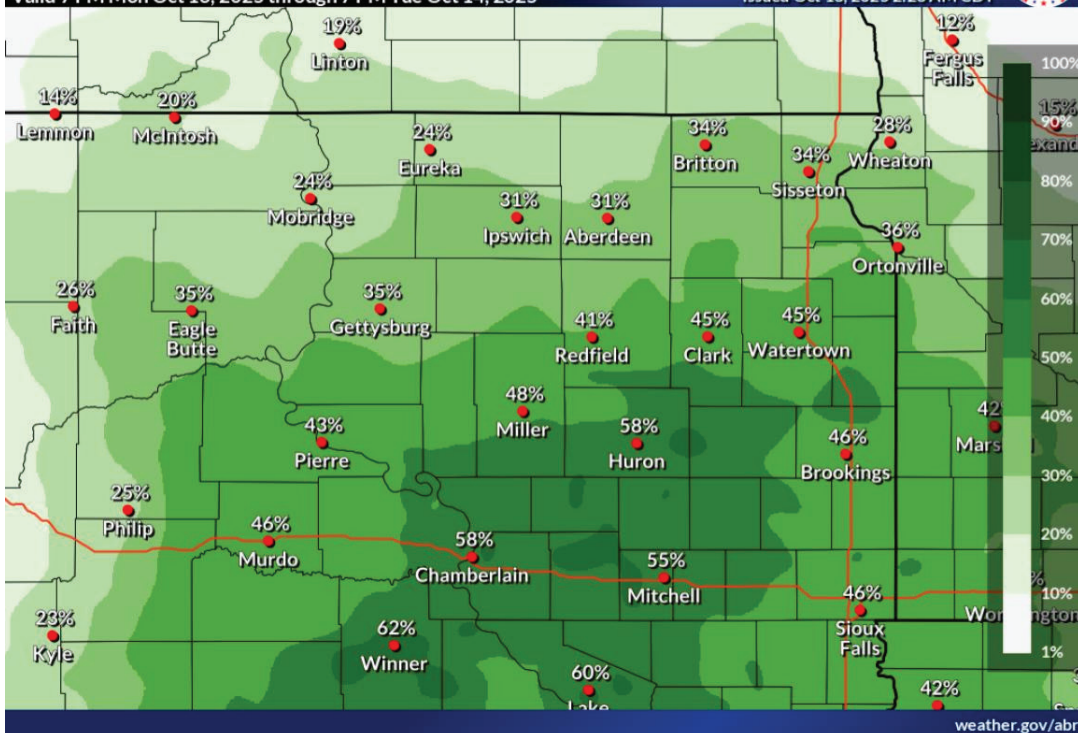
High: 60 °F

Chance
Showers

Percent Chance of 0.25" Liquid Precipitation or More

Valid 7 PM Mon Oct 13, 2025 through 7 PM Tue Oct 14, 2025

Weather Forecast Office
Aberdeen, SD
Issued Oct 13, 2025 2:23 AM CDT



- Showers move into south central SD tonight and spread northeast into northeastern SD and west central MN.
- **Between 0.1" - 0.5"** of rain is expected south of US Highway 212.
- The heaviest rainfall is expected late Tuesday morning into Tuesday afternoon

Showers will move into south central SD late tonight and spread northeast into northeastern SD and west central MN through Tuesday. The heaviest rainfall is expected late Tuesday morning into Tuesday afternoon with 0.1-0.5 inches expected south of US Highway 212.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 13 of 59

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 75 °F at 12:38 PM

Low Temp: 45 °F at 11:26 PM

Wind: 36 mph at 8:41 AM

Precip: : .10

Today's Info

Record High: 87 in 1958

Record Low: 10 in 1909

Average High: 61

Average Low: 35

Average Precip in Oct.: 0.98

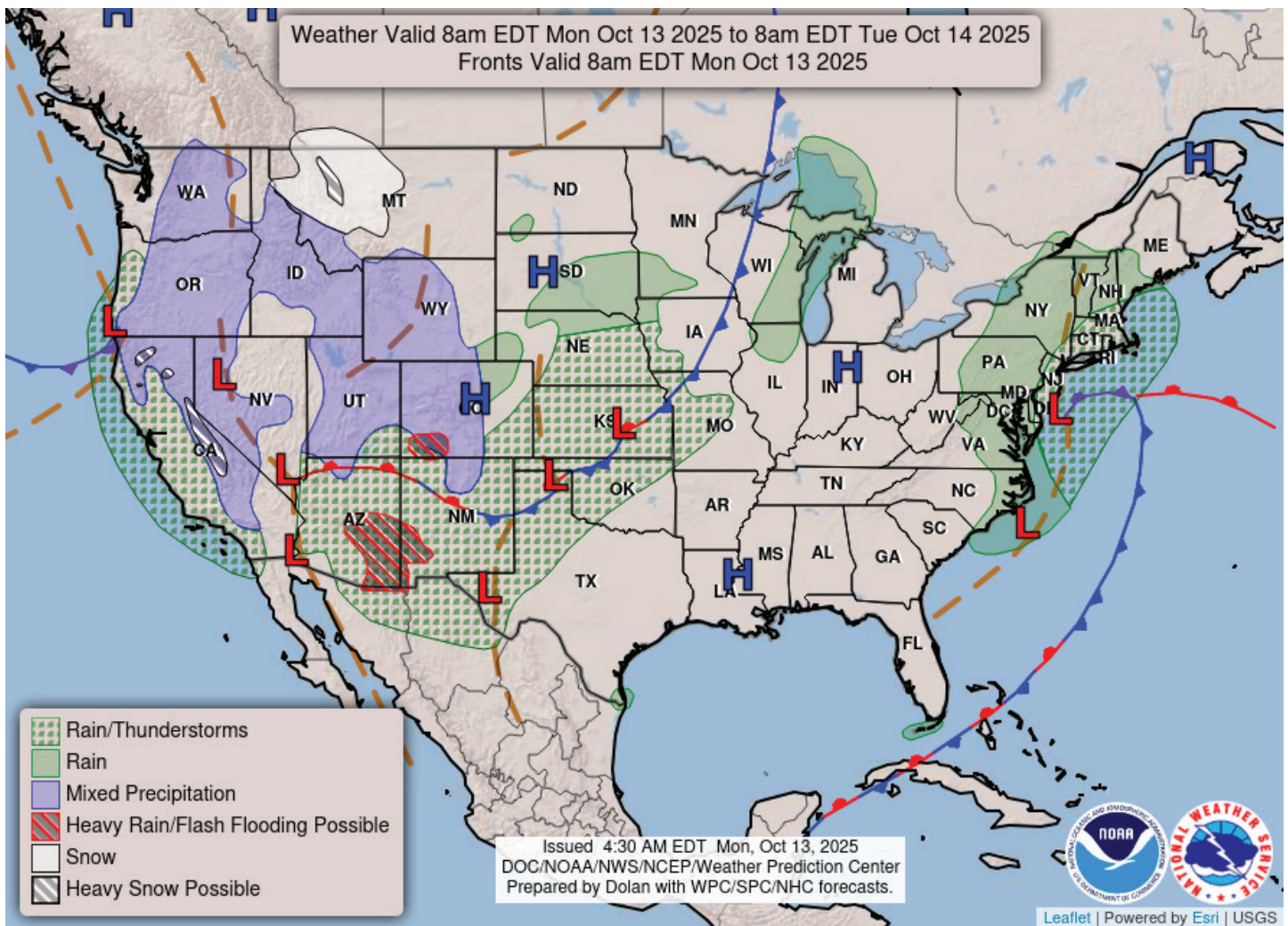
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.17

Average Precip to date: 19.31

Precip Year to Date: 23.09

Sunset Tonight: 6:52 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:46 am



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 14 of 59

Today in Weather History

October 13, 1966: Late season thunderstorms brought hail and high winds to southeast South Dakota, causing extensive damage to some soybean fields. The greatest damage was in the Garretson area. The strong winds also damaged many utility lines along with many farm structures. Lightning struck a church at Lake Andes, and the resulting fire destroyed it. The storms occurred from late on the 13th to the morning of the 14th.

1846 - A great hurricane tracked across Cuba, Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas, Virginia and Pennsylvania. The hurricane inflicted major damage along its entire path, which was similar to the path of Hurricane Hazel 108 years later. The hurricane caused great damage at Key West FL, and at Philadelphia PA it was the most destructive storm in thirty years. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1983: Severe weather in Falls Church, VA, produced 2-3 tornadoes and caused \$1 million in damages.

1986 - Four tornadoes struck southeastern Virginia late in the night causing three million dollars damage. Tornadoes at Falls Church VA caused a million dollars damage. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders)

1987 - Fifteen cities in the eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Record lows included 34 degrees at Meridian MS, 28 degrees at Paducah KY, and 26 degrees at Beckley WV. Another surge of arctic air entered the north central U.S. bringing snow to parts of Wyoming and Colorado. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A total of forty-three cities in the eastern U.S. and the Upper Midwest reported record low temperatures for the date, including Elkins WV and Marquette MI where the mercury dipped to 18 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Sixteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date as readings warmed into the 80s and low 90s from the Southern and Central Plains to the Southern and Middle Atlantic Coast. Evansville IND and North Platte NE reported record highs of 91 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

2006: The October 2006 Buffalo storm was an unusual early-season lake effect snowstorm that hit the Buffalo, New York area, and other surrounding areas of the United States and Canada. Downtown Buffalo reported 15 inches from this event. Depew and Alden record 24 inches, the most from this lake effect storm.

2011: Three tornadoes hit central and Eastern Virginia on this day. One of the EF1 tornadoes caused damage to the Sylvania Plantation home that was built in 1746. The storm peeled the roof off the house.



The Benefits of Gratitude

Giving thanks moves our eyes from our situation to the Lord's faithfulness.

Psalms 105:1-5: Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.

2 Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.

3 Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

4 Look to the Lord and his strength;
seek his face always.

5 Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,

Thanking God glorifies and magnifies Him, but did you know it also benefits us? Giving thanks . . .

Refocuses our attention. Life is filled with things that keep us from seeing all God has done. Instead of carrying the weight of the world on our shoulders, we should try refocusing on the Lord by thanking Him for His provision, guidance, and faithfulness.

Relieves anxiety. We all deal with pressures, expectations, and responsibilities. But when we bring our concerns to the Lord with thanksgiving, the burden shifts to Him, and His peace comes to us (Philippians 4:6-7).

Refreshes our relationship. Gratitude keeps us from thinking that the Christian walk is all about us. Our fellowship with God is enhanced because we're focused on Him instead of ourselves.

Reinforces our faith. When we thank the Lord for His past faithfulness, our confidence in His present faithfulness soars.

Rejoices our spirit. Thanksgiving brings us a sense of joy and helps us combat discouragement.

Although gratitude is always beneficial, that doesn't mean it's easy. Shifting our focus and thanking the Lord for all He's done is the fastest way to change our attitude and reenergize ourselves to push through whatever challenges we face.

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. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 16 of 59

The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.2% Sales Tax

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

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

Groton Daily Independent www.397news.com Subscription Form

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

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

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

E-mail _____

Password _____

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

paypal.me/paperpaul

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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 17 of 59



Winning Numbers

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.10.25

3 18 23 32 56 8

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$600,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 41 Mins 17 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.11.25

1 17 31 35 39 3

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$4,650,000

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 56 Mins 17 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.12.25

5 11 15 22 45 14

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 11 Mins 17 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.11.25

9 12 14 21 30

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$44,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 16 Hrs 11 Mins 17 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.11.25

12 22 41 46 56 15

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 40 Mins 17 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.11.25

13 16 18 20 27 10

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$258,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 40 Mins 17 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 18 of 59

Upcoming Groton Events

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

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office says will not attend summit in Egypt

By WAFAA SHURAF, SAMY MAGDY and MELANIE LIDMAN Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said Monday that he will not travel to Egypt for a summit on the Israel-Hamas war due to a Jewish holiday.

The statement came after Egypt's presidency said Netanyahu would attend the summit.

The Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah ends the weeklong Sukkot holiday. It was on this holiday, two years ago, that Hamas launched the Oct. 7, 2023, attack that began the Israel-Hamas war. Jewish holidays run on a lunar calendar.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. AP's earlier story follows below.

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Hamas released all 20 remaining living hostages held in Gaza on Monday, as part of a ceasefire pausing two years of war that pummeled the territory, killed tens of thousands of Palestinians, and had left scores of captives in militant hands.

Buses carrying dozens of freed Palestinian prisoners, meanwhile, arrived in the West Bank city of Ramallah and in the Gaza Strip, the Hamas-run Prisoners Office said. Israel is freeing more than 1,900 prisoners as part of the ceasefire deal.

The 20 hostages, all men, arrived back Israel, where they will reunite with their families and undergo medical checks. The bodies of the remaining 28 dead hostages are also expected to be handed over as part of the deal, although the exact timing remained unclear.

While major questions remain about the future of Hamas and Gaza, the exchange of hostages and prisoners raised hopes for ending the deadliest war ever between Israel and the militant group.

The ceasefire is also expected to be accompanied by a surge of humanitarian aid into Gaza, parts of which are experiencing famine.

U.S. President Donald Trump arrived in the region, where he plans to discuss the U.S.-proposed deal and postwar plans with other leaders.

The war began when Hamas-led militants launched a surprise attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, in which some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, were killed and 251 taken hostage.

In Israel's ensuing offensive, more than 67,000 Palestinians have been killed, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants but says around half the dead 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.

The toll is expected to grow as bodies are pulled from rubble previously made inaccessible by fighting.

The war has destroyed large swaths of Gaza and displaced about 90% of its some 2 million residents. It has also triggered other conflicts in the region, sparked worldwide protests and led to allegations of genocide that Israel denies.

"Much of Gaza is a wasteland," U.N. humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher told the AP on Sunday.

Living hostages released first

People gathered in a square in Tel Aviv sobbed as photos of the hostages reuniting with their families flashed up on the large screens. The hostages have become household names and their faces familiar across Israel over the past two years, and tens of thousands of Israelis watched the transfers at public screenings across the country.

Soon after the hostages arrived back — after being handed first to the Red Cross, then to the military — Israel released the first photos of hostages arriving home. They included one showing 28-year-old twins Gali and Ziv Berman embracing as they were reunited. Hostages previously released had said the twins from Kfar Aza were held separately.

The photos of the first seven hostages released Monday showed them looking pale but less gaunt than

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 20 of 59

some of the hostages freed in January.

Meanwhile, in Ramallah, cheering crowds greeted freed Palestinian prisoners. The buses arrived in Ramallah after leaving Ofer prison, in the Israel-occupied West Bank, said the Prisoners Office. At least one bus also crossed into the Gaza Strip, it said.

Earlier, while Palestinians awaited the release of prisoners, an armored vehicle flying an Israeli flag fired tear gas and rubber bullets at a crowd near Ofer Prison. As drones buzzed overhead, the group scattered.

The tear gas followed the circulation of a flier warning that anyone supporting what it called "terrorist organizations" risked arrest. Israel's military did not respond to questions about the flier, which The Associated Press obtained on site.

The prisoners slated for release include 250 people serving life sentences for convictions in attacks on Israelis, in addition to 1,700 seized from Gaza during the war and held without charge. They will be returned to the West Bank or Gaza or sent into exile.

A painful chapter

The hostages' return caps a painful chapter for Israel. Since they were captured in the attack that ignited the war, newscasts have marked their days in captivity and Israelis have worn yellow pins and ribbons in solidarity. Tens of thousands have joined their families in weekly demonstrations calling for their release.

As the war dragged on, demonstrators accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of dragging his feet for political purposes, even as he accused Hamas of intransigence. Last week, under heavy international pressure and increasing isolation for Israel, the bitter enemies agreed to the ceasefire.

It remains unclear when the remains of 28 dead hostages will be returned. An international task force will work to locate deceased hostages who are not returned within 72 hours, said Gal Hirsch, Israel's coordinator for the hostages and the missing.

Trump is traveling to Israel and Egypt

Trump arrived Monday in Israel, where he was to speak at the Knesset, Israel's parliament. Vice President JD Vance said Trump was likely to meet with newly freed hostages.

"The war is over," Trump told reporters as he departed — even though his ceasefire deal leaves many unanswered questions about the future of Hamas and Gaza.

Among the most thorny is Israel's insistence that a weakened Hamas disarm. Hamas refuses to do that and wants to ensure Israel pulls its troops completely out of Gaza.

So far, the Israeli military has withdrawn from much of Gaza City, the southern city of Khan Younis and other areas. Troops remain in most of the southern city of Rafah, towns of Gaza's far north, and the wide strip along the length of Gaza's border with Israel.

The future governance of Gaza also remains unclear. Under the U.S. plan, an international body will govern the territory, overseeing Palestinian technocrats running day-to-day affairs. Hamas has said Gaza's government should be worked out among Palestinians.

Later Monday, Trump will head to Egypt, where he and Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi will lead a summit with leaders from more than 20 countries on the future of Gaza and the broader Middle East.

Netanyahu will also attend the meeting in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, the Egyptian presidency said in a statement. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli side.

Mahmoud Abbas, leader of the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority, is also expected, according to a judge and adviser to Abbas, Mahmoud al-Habbash. The plan envisions an eventual role for the Palestinian Authority — something Netanyahu has long opposed. But it requires the authority, which administers parts of the West Bank, to undergo a sweeping reform program that could take years.

The plan also calls for an Arab-led international security force in Gaza, along with Palestinian police trained by Egypt and Jordan. It said Israeli forces would leave areas as those forces deploy. About 200 U.S. troops are now in Israel to monitor the ceasefire.

The plan also mentions the possibility of a future Palestinian state, another nonstarter for Netanyahu.

Trump is in Israel to tout a ceasefire he believes could foster lasting Middle East peace

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — President Donald Trump was in Israel on Monday to celebrate the U.S.-brokered ceasefire and hostage deal between Israel and Hamas before continuing on to Egypt for a key summit that he hopes will solidify an end to the war and pave the way for a more durable peace in the Middle East.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will join Trump in Egypt, along with more than two dozen other leaders, according to the White House. The plans were finalized during a phone call with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi while Trump was at the Knesset, the Israeli parliament — Trump's first stop on a whirlwind trip to the region.

Trump may also stop at the Sheba Medical Center to meet some of the newly released Israeli hostages. Twenty were released as part of an agreement intended to end the conflict that began on Oct. 7, 2023, attack by Hamas-led militants. By early afternoon, Israel also began to release Palestinian prisoners.

'Historic dawn of a new Middle East'

"This is a great day, this is a whole new beginning," Trump told reporters after arriving at the Knesset. "And I think there's never been an event like it, I've never seen anything like it."

The U.S. leader was planning to declare "the historic dawn of a new Middle East" in a speech to lawmakers and that "generations from now, this will be remembered as the moment that everything began to change," according to excerpts released by the White House.

Trump will also insist that "Israel has won all that can be won by force of arms" and "it is time to translate these victories against terrorists on the battlefield into the ultimate prize of peace and prosperity."

In a gesture to Iran, which fought a brief war with Israel earlier this year, Trump plans to say that "the hand of friendship and cooperation is always open."

Israeli President Isaac Herzog and Netanyahu greeted Trump on the tarmac as a military band played. In Hostages Square in Tel Aviv, the site of continuous demonstrations during two years of war, the crowd cheered for Trump.

Amir Ohana, the Knesset speaker, welcomed Trump to the parliament by saying "we've been longing for this day." Some people in the gallery wore red hats that said "Trump, The Peace President."

A fragile moment

The moment remains fragile, with Israel and Hamas still in the early stages of implementing the first phase of the plan intended

The first phase of the ceasefire agreement calls for the release of the final 48 hostages held by Hamas; the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel; a surge of humanitarian aid to Gaza; and a partial pullback by Israeli forces from Gaza's main cities.

With families overjoyed at the impending reunions and Palestinians eager for a surge of humanitarian assistance, Trump thinks there is a narrow window to reshape the region and reset long-fraught relations between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

"The war is over, OK?" Trump told reporters traveling with him aboard Air Force One.

"I think people are tired of it," he said, emphasizing that he believed the ceasefire would hold because of that.

The Republican president said the chance of peace was enabled by his administration's support of Israel's decimation of Iranian proxies, including Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The White House said momentum is also building because Arab and Muslim states are demonstrating a renewed focus on resolving the broader, decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict and, in some cases, deepening relations with the United States.

In February, Trump had predicted that Gaza could be redeveloped into what he called "the Riviera of the Middle East." But on Sunday aboard Air Force One, he was more circumspect.

"I don't know about the Riviera for a while," Trump said. "It's blasted. This is like a demolition site." But he said he hoped to one day visit the territory. "I'd like to put my feet on it, at least," he said.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 22 of 59

Trump will visit Israel first to meet with hostages' families and address the Knesset, or parliament, an honor last extended to President George W. Bush in 2008.

On to Egypt

The president then will continue on to Egypt, where he and Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi will lead a summit in Sharm el-Sheikh with leaders from more than 20 countries on peace in Gaza and the broader Middle East.

Both Israel and Egypt announced that Trump would receive their counties' highest civilian honors.

The truce remains tenuous and the sides have not agreed on Gaza's postwar governance, the territory's reconstruction and Israel's demand that Hamas disarm. Negotiations over those issues could break down, and Israel has hinted it may resume military operations if its demands are not met.

Much of Gaza has been reduced to rubble and the territory's roughly 2 million residents continue to struggle in desperate conditions. Under the deal, Israel agreed to reopen five border crossings, which will help ease the flow of food and other supplies into Gaza, parts of which are experiencing famine.

Roughly 200 U.S. troops will help support and monitor the ceasefire deal as part of a team that includes partner nations, nongovernmental organizations and private-sector players.

Bus crash in mountainous region of South Africa kills at least 42 people

By MICHELLE GUMEDE and GERALD IMRAY Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — A bus veered off a road and plunged down an embankment on a steep mountain pass in northern South Africa, killing at least 42 people and leaving another 49 passengers injured, authorities said Monday.

The crash happened around 6 p.m. Sunday on the N1 highway near the town of Louis Trichardt, around 400 kilometers (248 miles) north of the capital, Pretoria.

The Transport Ministry said in a statement that the victims included seven children, 17 men and 18 women. It said six people were critically injured and another 31 had serious injuries and had been taken to several hospitals. One critically injured child was airlifted to a hospital, the ministry said.

Images released by authorities showed the blue bus lying upside down in the embankment with rescuers working underneath it to search for victims. The Limpopo provincial government said rescue operations continued late into Sunday night.

The bus was traveling to Zimbabwe and was carrying Zimbabwean and Malawian nationals who were on their way to their home countries, the Transport Ministry said. It said the cause of the crash was not yet known.

In a statement, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa offered "his deep condolences to the nations of Zimbabwe and Malawi who have lost compatriots."

"This sadness is compounded by the fact that this incident has taken place during our annual transport month, where we place a special focus on the importance of safety on our roads," Ramaphosa said.

Last year, 45 people were killed in a bus crash in the same Limpopo province when their vehicle veered off a bridge and into a ravine. An 8-year-old girl was the only survivor of that crash. That bus was carrying mainly Botswana nationals who were traveling to an Easter church gathering in South Africa.

Ex-French President Nicolas Sarkozy to learn prison date and location Monday

PARIS (AP) — Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy is set to learn Monday when and where he will serve time in prison for criminal conspiracy for a scheme to use funds from Libya to finance his winning 2007 campaign.

The first ex-president in modern French history to be imprisoned, Sarkozy maintains his innocence and has protested the decision to put him behind bars pending his appeal.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 23 of 59

The National Financial Prosecutor's office, or PNF, will instruct the 70-year-old Sarkozy which prison to report to and when, in what is expected to be a relatively short and formal meeting on Monday afternoon.

"We will tell him the date, the place and the hour he has to be there," said Bérénice Dinh, the PNF's general secretary and spokesperson.

But the PNF doesn't intend to make that information public, to spare Sarkozy the ordeal of being filmed at the start of his incarceration.

While long retired from active politics, Sarkozy remains an influential figure in conservative circles. He served as president from 2007 to 2012. He was previously convicted in another corruption case but hasn't had to serve jail time.

For safety reasons, Sarkozy is expected to be incarcerated under conditions reserved for high-profile inmates, possibly in a special "VIP area" of La Santé prison in Paris, where some of France's most notorious criminals have been imprisoned.

Once behind bars, Sarkozy will be able to file a release request to the appeals court. Judges will then have up to two months to process the request.

Sarkozy was handed a five-year sentence on Sept. 25 in a sprawling legal case after a decade of investigation. The Paris court said the prison sentence was effective immediately instead of suspending it pending appeal, citing "the seriousness of the disruption to public order caused by the offense."

Sarkozy was given 18 days after the ruling to "organize his professional life" before Monday's imprisonment decision.

The French justice ministry said in 2024 that 90% of adults convicted and sentenced to at least two years in prison are immediately incarcerated.

The court said Sarkozy, as a presidential candidate and interior minister, used his position "to prepare corruption at the highest level" from 2005 to 2007 to finance his presidential campaign with funds from Libya, then led by longtime ruler Moammar Gadhafi.

The court cleared Sarkozy of three other charges and said there is no evidence the money transferred from Libya to France ended up being used in Sarkozy's 2007 campaign or for his "direct personal enrichment."

Sarkozy consistently has said he is innocent and the victim of a plot by people linked to the Libyan government.

He suggested the allegations were retaliation for his call in 2011 for Gadhafi's removal. Gadhafi was toppled and killed amid Arab Spring pro-democracy protests that year.

An appeal trial will take place at a later date, possibly in the spring.

China shows no sign of backing down while issuing call for US to withdraw tariff threat

By HUIZHONG WU Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — China did not back down Monday in a back-and-forth with the U.S. over trade, calling for U.S. President Donald Trump to withdraw his latest threat of a 100% tariff and other export control measures announced over the weekend.

In the latest escalation of the trade war between the two nations, Trump issued the tariff threat on all Chinese imports into the U.S. after China placed stricter restrictions Thursday on rare earths, a vital resource used in electronics.

The Chinese announcement was an apparent surprise to Trump, who called it an "out of the blue" move. While Trump did not withdraw the economic threat, he sounded more conciliatory than in the past, saying in a Truth Social post Sunday, "The U.S.A. wants to help China, not hurt it!!!"

China's Ministry of Commerce issued a lengthy response Sunday saying the U.S. was "severely damaging the atmosphere of trade negotiations."

"China urges the U.S. to promptly correct its erroneous practices," Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Lin Jian said Monday. "If the U.S. insists on going its own way, China will certainly take resolute

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 24 of 59

measures to safeguard its legitimate rights and interests.”

Both nations have leveraged multiple dimensions of the trade relationship in the trade war, with actions ranging from U.S. restrictions on China’s ability to import advanced computer chips, China ending purchases of American soybeans and an exchange of tit-for-tat port fees.

Economic indicators show the retaliatory actions and uncertainty are impacting trade between the countries. Chinese trade data release Monday showed exports to the U.S. have fallen for six straight months, dropping 27% in September from the year before.

What to know as Israel receives 20 hostages freed by Hamas and Trump arrives in the Middle East

By The Associated Press undefined

A critical day is unfolding for the Middle East as Israel began receiving the last 20 living hostages held by Hamas and prepared to release nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners in exchange in a breakthrough Gaza ceasefire deal.

U.S. President Donald Trump arrived on Air Force One to a red carpet in Tel Aviv on Monday, where he will address Israel’s parliament in Jerusalem before heading to Egypt for a ceremony marking the ceasefire plan.

More ramped-up aid was being readied for Gaza, much of which is in ruins after two years of war that began when Hamas-led militants attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people and taking about 250 hostage. In Israel’s ensuing offensive, more than 67,600 Palestinians were killed in Gaza, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry.

What we know and what remains unknown:

Hostages are being released

Monday was day 738 since the hostages were taken, a number many Israelis have updated daily on strips of adhesive tape worn in national commemoration.

Twenty living hostages were returned Monday to Israel and will be reunited with their families and then transferred to hospitals, the Israeli military said.

Hamas first released seven and then 13 hostages on Monday. Israel is expected to free over 1,900 Palestinian prisoners. The exchange comes as part of the ceasefire reached in the two-year Israel-Hamas war that is the first phase of a peace plan brokered by the Trump administration.

It appeared unlikely the remains of up to 28 others will be returned at the same time. Medical experts and advocates say that would be crucial to begin the healing process for many families, and for society at large, but one ceasefire document contains stipulations for remains that aren’t returned within 72 hours of the end of the fighting. That deadline is roughly noon Monday in the Middle East (0900 GMT).

On Sunday, Israel said “an international body” will help locate the remains if they are not released Monday.

Palestinian prisoners slated for release

As part of the ceasefire deal, Israel is to release around 2,000 Palestinians. Among them are some 1,700 people that troops seized from Gaza during the war and have held without charge since.

Also among those being released are some 250 Palestinians serving prison sentences.

Many are members of Hamas and the Fatah faction who were imprisoned over shootings, bombings or other attacks that killed or attempted to kill Israelis, as well as others convicted on lesser charges. They’ll return to the West Bank or Gaza or be sent into exile.

It is unclear who will be among the prisoners released back into Gaza, and whether any will be deported.

Aid expected to surge in Gaza

Humanitarian organizations said they’re preparing to surge aid into the Gaza Strip, especially food that’s been in short supply in many areas.

That includes some 400 trucks from Egypt on Sunday that will have to undergo Israeli inspection before being allowed into the strip. The Israeli defense body in charge of humanitarian aid in Gaza said around 600 trucks of aid per day will be entering soon, as stipulated in the ceasefire agreement.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 25 of 59

The world's leading authority on food crises said in August that the Gaza Strip's largest city was gripped by a famine that was likely to spread across the territory without a ceasefire and an end to restrictions on humanitarian aid.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification said famine was devastating Gaza City — home to hundreds of thousands of people. That famine was expected to spread south to the cities of Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis by around now if the situation did not change.

The larger task of rebuilding Gaza is daunting, as much of it is in rubble and most of its two million residents displaced.

Trump to travel to Israel and Egypt

Trump, who pushed to clinch the ceasefire deal, arrived in Israel to a red carpet Monday morning.

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Isaac Herzog greeted Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, his daughter Ivanka Trump, her husband Jared Kushner and advisor Steve Witkoff, who is thought to be leading the U.S. negotiation team in Egypt.

Trump is scheduled to meet with families of hostages and speak at the Knesset, Israel's parliament, before traveling to Egypt for a "peace summit" attended by regional and international leaders later on Monday. From there, he was slated to return to the White House, arriving overnight Tuesday.

Daunting issues remain unsolved

The ceasefire and release of hostages is the first step in the proposed peace plan. Competing demands remain on the next steps, casting uncertainty on whether the conflict is indeed over.

Israel wants Hamas to disarm, and Hamas wants Israel to pull its troops out of all of Gaza. The future of Gaza's government, which has been in Hamas' hands for two decades, also remains to be worked out.

Gaza's Health Ministry doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants but says around half the 67,600 deaths 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

A look at the living hostages released by Hamas under ceasefire deal

By MELANIE LIDMAN Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Their faces stare down from every street corner in Israel on posters now sun-faded and ripped. Their stories, told by anguished family members, are almost as well-known as celebrities. They are civilians and soldiers, fathers and sons. Some were at the Nova music festival, where almost 400 people were killed and dozens kidnapped.

On Monday, Hamas released 20 hostages into the custody of the Red Cross, which then brought them to Israel as part of a new ceasefire deal that many hope will signal an end to two years of war in the devastated Gaza Strip. Under the agreement, all living hostages were to be released, as well as the bodies of the deceased.

Also Monday, two hostages previously thought to be living were confirmed dead.

The war was triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel, when some 1,200 people were killed and 251 kidnapped.

The fighting has killed more than 67,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants but says around half the deaths were women and children, and displaced around 90% of the Gaza population of some 2 million. The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government, and the United Nations and many independent experts consider its figures to be the most reliable estimate of wartime casualties in Gaza.

Prior to Monday's release, there were 48 hostages held in Gaza, including the body of one soldier from a previous war. Israel had determined that at least 25 of the hostages were killed on Oct. 7, 2023, or died while in captivity. Just before the release of the first hostages under the ceasefire, Hamas informed Israel that two additional hostages were no longer alive, Tamir Nimrodi and Bipin Joshi. Israel had previously expressed "grave concern" over their status.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 26 of 59

There is only one remaining female hostage, who Israel believes was killed in captivity.

Under the ceasefire agreement that took effect last Friday, the remaining hostages were to be released within 72 hours. Israel is set to release around 2,000 Palestinian prisoners in exchange.

Here is a look at the 20 hostages released Monday:

Gali Berman & Ziv Berman, 28

The fraternal twins were taken from their homes in kibbutz Kfar Aza, on the border with Gaza, during the Oct. 7 attack. Seventeen others were also abducted from Kfar Aza, but the Berman twins were the only hostages from the kibbutz who remained in captivity. The family had heard from hostages who returned in a previous deal that, as of February, the brothers were alive but being held separately. Liran Berman, their older brother, said it's the longest the two have ever spent apart. In Kfar Aza, the twins lived in apartments across from each other. Gali is more outgoing, while Ziv is more reserved and shy with a sharp sense of humor, their brother said.

Omri Miran, 48

Omri Miran was kidnapped from the Nahal Oz kibbutz. During the attack, militants held his family, including his two daughters, ages 2 and 6 months, hostage in the kitchen of a neighbor's house and then broadcast it on Facebook Live. Miran and the father of the other family, Tsachi Idan, were kidnapped. Idan's body was released during the last hostage exchange after he was killed in captivity. Lishay Miran Lavi, Miran's wife, said their younger daughter knew "daddy Omri" only through photos and videos, and didn't really understand what a father is.

Matan Angrest, 22

Matan Angrest, an Israeli soldier, was taken from his military tank in southern Israel. He is the oldest of four children from Kiryat Bialik, outside of Haifa. His family has been among the most vocal protesters and very critical of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. On Tuesday's two-year anniversary of the Oct. 7 attack, his mother, Anat Angrest, addressed her son at a rally. "I know you're in pain, and I can't hug you. I hear you whisper, 'Come for me, Mom,' and I can't protect you," she said.

Eitan Mor, 25

Eitan Mor was working as a security guard at the Nova music festival, where he helped evacuate people injured in the attack. Mor's parents helped found the Tikva Forum, a loosely organized group of hostage families. They advocated for military pressure, not an immediate ceasefire or hostage release deal, as the best chance for bringing the hostages home. That stance has put Mor's father at odds with many of the other families of hostages.

Alon Ohel, 24

Alon Ohel, who also has German and Serbian citizenship, was kidnapped at the Nova music festival from a mobile bomb shelter along with Hersh Goldberg-Polin, an American-Israeli who was killed in captivity in August 2024. A talented pianist, his family has placed pianos across Israel and several sites around the world to raise awareness of his plight. Three other hostages who had been held with Ohel for more than a year were released during the previous ceasefire, including Eli Sharabi, who said Ohel was like his adopted son. Sharabi said they were kept chained for the entire period of their captivity and subsisted on a moldy pita per day. Ohel has shrapnel in his eye from the attack on the bomb shelter and his family is worried he may be partially blind.

Guy Gilboa-Dalal, 24

Guy Gilboa-Dalal was among those abducted from the Nova music festival, while his brother managed to escape. In the past year, he's appeared in two videos released by Hamas. In one, he appears alongside his childhood friend, David, with militants filming them pleading for their freedom in a vehicle while they watch three other hostages on stage being released to the Red Cross.

Elkana Bohbot, 36

Elkana Bohbot was kidnapped from the Nova music festival. In the past year, Hamas has published multiple videos of Bohbot, filmed under duress, including one where he has a fake telephone conversation with his wife, Rivka; their son, Reem; his mother and his brother — pleading with them to help him get out of Gaza. His son made binoculars in kindergarten which he often used to go out and "look for his

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 27 of 59

father," according to Bohbot's mother, Ruhama.

Rom Braslavski, 21

Braslavski was working as a security guard at the Nova festival. He attempted to help festival goers evacuate and was wounded in both hands before being kidnapped, witnesses said. In August, the Islamic Jihad militant group released a video of a skeletal Braslavski sobbing and pleading for his life, adding that injuries to his foot prevent him from standing. The videos of Braslavski and Evyatar David digging his own grave horrified Israelis, sparking some of the largest attendance in months at weekly protests. His father, Ofir, said Rom is usually a strong, happy-go-lucky kid, and that video is the first time he's seen his son cry.

Nimrod Cohen, 21

Nimrod Cohen was taken from a tank where he was stationed as a soldier in southern Israel. Cohen is obsessed with Rubik's cubes, his family said, and a burned Rubik's cube was found in the tank he was abducted from. This year, his mother, Viki Cohen, illustrated a Passover haggadah, the text laying out the rituals and story recited during the Passover holiday, in honor of hostages, partly because her family stopped celebrating holidays after the attack. "We don't gather as a family, because it reminds us how much he is missing," Cohen said. The only time the extended family would gather is at protests, she said.

Ariel Cunio, 28

The youngest of four Cunio brothers, Ariel was kidnapped from the Nir Oz kibbutz with his girlfriend, Arbel Yehoud, and her brother, Dolev, a married father of four who was later killed in captivity. According to news reports, Cunio and Yehoud had returned from an extended trip to South America weeks before the attack and had just adopted a puppy. Yehoud was released during the ceasefire in January.

David Cunio, 35

David Cunio, brother of Ariel Cunio, was kidnapped with his wife, Sharon, and their 3-year-old twins from the Nir Oz kibbutz. Sharon's sister Danielle and her 5-year-old daughter, who were visiting, also were kidnapped. All were released in November, except for David Cunio. In July, Sharon shared a photo of the twins marking their fifth birthday, their second without their father, writing on Facebook that the girls have changed so much while he's been in captivity that "they're not the same little girls he knew."

Evyatar David, 24

Evyatar David was taken hostage at the Nova music festival along with his childhood friend, Guy Gilboa-Dalal. In August, Hamas released a video of David, gaunt and pale, who said he was digging his own grave. The condition of the hostages in the videos horrified Israelis and led tens of thousands of protesters to take to the streets and demand a ceasefire deal, in one of the largest turnouts for the weekly hostage protests in months.

Maksym Harkin, 37

Maksym Harkin was abducted from Nova, which was the first festival he had ever attended, according to his family. Harkin was born in Ukraine and moved to Israel with his family, where he lived in Tirat HaCarmel in the north. He has a 3-year-old daughter and was the primary provider for his mother and 11-year-old brother. Just before he was taken, his mother said he sent a final text message that said, "I love you." In July, Hamas released a video of him filmed under duress several months prior.

Eitan Horn, 38

Eitan Horn, originally from Kfar Saba, was visiting his brother Iair at the Nir Oz kibbutz on Oct. 7. Both were kidnapped. For most of the war, the two were held with three other hostages in a filthy cell underground. In early February, militants filmed the emotional interaction between the brothers as they were told that Iair would be released and Eitan would stay in Gaza. Since his release, Iair Horn has campaigned for his brother and the other hostages, flying frequently to the United States and meeting with politicians.

Segev Kalfon, 27

Segev Kalfon was kidnapped from the Nova music festival, where he was last seen attempting to flee militants along the highway. Before the attack, he worked at his family's bakery in Dimona, in southern Israeli. The middle child of three, Kalfon had recently been diagnosed with an anxiety disorder, a condition his family has highlighted in urging his release. Kalfon's family received a sign of life from him after

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 28 of 59

the last ceasefire, when some of the hostages said they were held with him for months. Kalfon's family has focused on religious rituals in their fight for his release, including traveling to the grave of prominent rabbis and dedicating a Torah scroll in his honor.

Bar Kupershtein, 23

Bar Kupershtein was working at the Nova festival as a security guard when he was abducted. Witnesses said Kupershtein stayed at the festival to try to provide first aid to people who had been shot and injured. Kupershtein was the main financial support for his family after his father was severely injured in an accident several years ago, his aunt, Ora Rubinstein, told reporters. She said that his father worked with a physical therapist to regain the ability to speak, so he could meet with politicians to advocate for his son's release. He has told the family that he would walk again when his son came home, she said.

Yosef-Chaim Ohana, 25

Yosef-Chaim Ohana was kidnapped from the Nova music festival, where he was working as a bartender. Witnesses saw him attempting to help others escape before he was kidnapped. He is the oldest of three brothers, one of whom previously died from an illness.

Avinatan Or, 32

Avinatan Or was kidnapped from the Nova music festival along with his girlfriend, Noa Argamani, who was rescued by Israeli forces in June 2024. On Oct. 7, Hamas released a video of the pair that has become one of the most well-known videos from that day. It showed Argamani on an all-terrain vehicle crying, "Don't kill me!" and reaching out her arms to Or, who is being marched away from her by militants. Or worked in hi-tech in Tel Aviv before his abduction.

Matan Zangauker, 25

Matan Zangauker was kidnapped from kibbutz Nir Oz along with his girlfriend, Ilana Gritzewsky. The two met while working on a medical cannabis farm there. Gritzewsky was released after 55 days and has since advocated tirelessly for his release, wearing a hat of Zangauker's she rescued from their burned home. His mother, Einav, has been a constant presence at protests, giving impassioned speeches and even being hoisted in a cage above the crowd to draw attention to the hostages' plight. Zangauker, who said she was previously a Netanyahu supporter, has emerged as one of his harshest critics.

Two hostages determined to be dead on Monday: Bipin Joshi, 24

Bipin Joshi arrived in Israel from his native Nepal a month before the attack. He is the only non-Israeli hostage believed to be alive in Gaza. He came to Israel on a student exchange to work and study agriculture at kibbutz Alumim on the Gaza border. Ten of the 17 Nepali students in the program were killed during the attack. Joshi, who was able to throw a number of live grenades out of the bomb shelter where they were hiding, was injured and kidnapped. Joshi's sister, 17-year-old Pushpa Joshi, regularly travels eight hours each direction on buses to Kathmandu from her home in western Nepal to lobby officials to secure her brother's release. In August, his family traveled to Israel to meet with President Isaac Herzog and join families demonstrating in Tel Aviv's Hostage Square. Last week, Joshi's family released footage of him in captivity filmed under duress from around November 2023.

Tamir Nimrodi, 20

Tamir Nimrodi was taken from Erez, a crossing on the northern border of Gaza that had been the main route for people entering and leaving the territory. He had been serving with the Israeli defense body overseeing humanitarian aid in Gaza. Nimrodi was taken with two other soldiers by militants who walked them to the Gaza gate and forced them to cross. Israel confirmed the deaths of the two soldiers who were taken with Nimrodi. There had been no sign of life from Nimrodi in the two years since he was seen in footage walking into Gaza in shorts and a T-shirt without his glasses. Herut Nimrodi, his mother, said she didn't know what was worse: to think he has been killed in captivity, or that he was alive but being held in terrible conditions. "I'm scared to even imagine," she said. ____

Associated Press writer Sam Metz in Jerusalem contributed to this report.

From a hilltop village and across Israel: Tears of joy as the living hostages are returned

By GIOVANNA DELL'ORTO Associated Press

LAVON, Israel (AP) — It was a day of joy and tears across Israel. Families, loved ones and friends watched as Hamas released the last living hostages held captive for over two years in the Gaza Strip.

On day 738 since Alon Ohel was taken hostage, family and friends of the young music lover jumped to their feet, cheered, blew into shofars — traditional horns that announce glad tidings — and hugged each other when they saw his picture on a livestream among the seven hostages Hamas first released to the Red Cross on Monday morning.

"This is the best morning in my life. I just want to hug him," Ohel's cousin, Noam Rozen, 24, said before choking up.

By midday, 13 more hostages were freed, bringing the final number of the living hostages released to 20.

With other members of his family, and dozens of supporters cheering, Rozen took down one of the hostage posters that had long been hanging by the village's entrance and replaced it with a banner saying in Hebrew: "Welcome back home — the heart returned to beating and now we can breathe."

The wait on a Galilee hilltop village

Hundreds had been packing the small community center of the hilltop village of Lavon in the Galilee since before dawn for one of the most important days of their lives — when the last 20 living hostages were scheduled to be released, first to the Red Cross and then to the Israeli military, as part of a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war.

"I told God many months ago, 'If Alon is coming home, I bring shofar and I say thank you for this,'" said Yaniv Shema Zion, who's known Ohel since he was a toddler.

Wearing T-shirts emblazoned with pictures of Ohel, people from Lavon waved flags, sang hymns, hugged and wiped away tears before falling silent in front of the projected screen carrying images from Gaza of the release.

"Knowing Alon, there was no chance not to get him back with us," his aunt, Nirit Ohel said, though she added the family was still worried about his health.

Alon Ohel had had shrapnel in his eye from the Oct. 7, 2023 attack on the bomb shelter in southern Israel where he had sought refuge.

People in Lavon jumped on chairs and shouted with joy when the first images of Ohel were broadcast, showing him thin but smiling.

People in Tel Aviv's Hostages Square sobbed as photos of the hostages reuniting with their families flashed on the large screens. The names and faces of the hostages and their families have become household names across Israel over the past two years.

Endless days in chains

Ohel was kidnapped at the Nova music festival from a mobile bomb shelter along with Hersh Goldberg-Polin, an American-Israeli who was killed in captivity in August 2024.

Eli Sharabi, another hostage held with Ohel and released in a previous ceasefire said they were kept chained, with only a moldy pita bread per day for food.

Ohel became a symbol of the hostage crisis because of his piano playing. At his mother initiative, pianos in his honor appeared across the country, including next to Jerusalem's city hall and in Tel Aviv's square devoted to the hostages.

"She wanted people to play and through it, to send their love to him," Nirit Ohel said.

Another of Ohel's aunts, Einat Rozen, said she was finally able to feel joy again, and praised the community's support.

"Our community was with us all the time," she said, tears streaming down her face.

The hostages' plight

The fate of the 251 hostages taken by Hamas-led militants in the attack on southern Israel just over two

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 30 of 59

years ago, has weighed on every aspect of daily life in this country.

Hostage posters and stickers are plastered everywhere — from seaside promenades to countryside bus stops — and many Israelis have been wearing yellow ribbons on their lapels, their wrists, their cars and their gardens for more than two years.

Weekly vigils and protests were held in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and small communities like the Ohels' home of Lavon — 230 families in northern Galilee — bonded together to help the hostages' relatives. Tens of thousands gathered to watch news of the release.

The country erupted with joy on Monday morning when the first group of the last 20 living hostages still held in Gaza were seen transferred to the Red Cross as part of the ceasefire deal.

"I think what you are seeing here, the people that are celebrating in the square, something for me that is very Israeli, to see so many people gathering around to celebrate not the death of our enemies but the life of our people, of Israeli people," Gili Roman said as he and tens of thousands of others celebrated in Tel Aviv.

His sister Yarden Roman-Gat was freed from Gaza during the first ceasefire in November 2023 but his sister-in-law Carmel Gat was killed in captivity last year.

A long journey

It's the first step on a long journey to healing for the hostages, whose condition wasn't immediately known. Another 28 who are believed deceased are also to be handed over to Israel as part of the deal, although when wasn't clear.

Many Israelis feel that the country won't fully begin to recover from its collective trauma until their remains are brought back as well, bringing closure to their families too.

Ruby Chen, father of Itay Chen, who is believed to be dead, said those with relatives who aren't coming home alive will urge U.S. President Donald Trump not to forget them.

"The hostage families meeting President Trump today will express from the bottom of their heart their sincere gratitude," Chen said. "However we will also highlight the mission is not complete and we will not be able to begin to rehabilitate without the last deceased hostage returned to his family."

For observant Jews, Monday held an extra special meaning.

Both the Oct. 7, 2023, attack and the release of hostages overlapped with the Jewish people's celebration of the holiday of Simchat Torah, which marks the beginning of a new annual cycle of the reading of the scrolls. It is one of the most joyous days of the Jewish calendar, with festive dancing around a Torah.

The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people and taking 251 as hostages.

In Israel's ensuing offensive, more than 67,600 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants but says around half the deaths 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.

New Jersey declares emergency as nor'easter approaches, while Alaska flooding carries away homes

By KATHY McCORMACK Associated Press

A nor'easter churned its way up the East Coast on Sunday, washing out roads and prompting air travel delays as heavily populated areas of the Northeast experienced excessive rain, lashing winds and coastal flooding. Across the continent in western Alaska, the remnants of Typhoon Halong brought hurricane-force winds and catastrophic flooding to coastal communities, pushing entire houses off their foundations.

Rescue aircraft were sent to the tiny Alaskan villages of Kipnuk and Kwigillingok, where there were reports of up to 20 people possibly unaccounted for, said Jeremy Zidek, spokesperson for the state Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

"We have received reports that people's homes have floated away and that people were potentially in those homes," Zidek told The Associated Press.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 31 of 59

Alaska governor says 'help is on the way'

At least eight homes were swept away in Kipnuk and at least four homes were swept away in nearby Kwigillingok, Zidek said.

He said Sunday evening that search efforts were continuing, and that they were still trying to determine exactly how many people hadn't been accounted for.

The area is among one of the most isolated in the U.S., where some communities have few roads and residents use boardwalks, boats and snowmobiles to get around, Zidek said.

Roads and boardwalks were inundated and power lines were damaged in Bethel, Napaskiak, Napakiak, and other Yukon-Kuskokwim communities. Crews worked to clear the airport runway in Bethel, which was littered with debris from high winds.

According to the nonprofit Coastal Villages Region Fund, nearly 600 people in Kipnuk were taking shelter at a local school while around 300 people in Kwigillingok were sheltering in a school there.

"Every effort will be made to help those hit by this storm. Help is on the way," Gov. Mike Dunleavy said in a statement.

National Guard activated in Delaware

Heavy rain fell from the Carolinas all the way north into New England.

"The greatest effects are going to be the coastal flooding potential," said meteorologist Bob Oravec with the National Weather Service in College Park, Maryland.

In Delaware, emergency management officials activated the state National Guard in response to rising floodwaters and harsh winds. A voluntary evacuation order was issued for the town of Bowers Beach, where the Murderkill River flows into Delaware Bay.

In North Carolina's Outer Banks, an area that's seen significant storm damage this season, ocean overwash spread across Highway 12 at a motel near Buxton, the Dare County Sheriff's Office posted online Sunday. The office urged travelers to be cautious and put property owners on alert as high tide approached.

The waves were ferocious at the Hatteras Island town of Buxton, where several beachfront homes have fallen into the water in recent weeks. One house was losing its pilings Sunday and appeared close to collapsing.

"The waves are crashing really hard into the houses and the dunes, and it's all eroding," said Robert Splawn, who was watching on the beach.

Water rescues in South Carolina

Flooding was widespread down the coast in Georgetown County, South Carolina, where several motorists had to be rescued when rising waters inundated their cars, Emergency Services Director Brandon Ellis told the Post and Courier on Sunday.

The weather service said parts of the county received up to 7 inches (18 centimeters) of rain.

Further south in Charleston, South Carolina, many downtown streets were closed because of flooding. Homeowner David Graubner spent the weekend pumping out his property, hoping to avoid a repeat of Friday, when the high tide brought nearly a foot (30 centimeters) of water into his garage, where his new Corvette was parked.

"And I got all my toys in the garage and tools and stuff. So whatever helps. Even lowering the water by a few inches makes a difference," Graubner told WCIV-TV.

There were several road closures in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, as heavy rain overwhelmed that city's stormwater system.

"Please be safe and stay home, if possible," Myrtle Beach officials posted on Facebook.

Emergency declarations for New York and New Jersey

All of New Jersey has been under a state of emergency since Saturday night. It's expected to last into Monday, authorizing the state's emergency services personnel to be activated as necessary.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul issued an emergency declaration for eight southern counties in her state as the storm gained strength Sunday evening. She urged people to monitor forecasts and avoid travel.

Parts of the state are forecast to experience moderate to major coastal flooding, inland flash flooding,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 32 of 59

winds up to 60 mph (97 kph), up to 5 inches (about 13 centimeters) of rain and high surf, potentially causing beach erosion. Some volunteers were putting sandbags at beaches.

The National Weather Service placed New York City, Long Island and southern Westchester County under a coastal flood warning and wind advisory through at least Monday afternoon. Coastal areas of suburban Long Island could see flooding, with up to 3 inches (about 8 centimeters) of rain and high winds, the weather service said.

Wind gusts of more than 30 mph (48 kph) were already being recorded in the region on Sunday morning. Utilities in the area have added more than 1,600 workers to respond to the storm.

Some flight delays and cancellations were announced in airports from Washington to Boston.

The storm was expected to move out by Monday night.

Madagascar's president says a coup is underway after soldiers joined anti-government demonstrations

By SARAH TETAUD and GERALD IMRAY Associated Press

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar (AP) — Madagascar's president said Sunday that an attempted coup was underway in the Indian Ocean country, just a day after members of an elite army unit joined youth-led protests against the government and called for the president to step down.

President Andry Rajoelina's office offered no details on who was behind the attempt and no signs of violence were immediately visible on the streets on Sunday, although there was a large military presence.

A commander of the elite CAPSAT unit, Col. Michael Randrianirina, denied any coup had taken place, but the unit claimed to have taken control of all of Madagascar's armed forces and said it had installed a new leader of the military, Gen. Demosthene Pikulas.

"We responded to the people's call," Randrianirina told reporters. Pikulas, who spoke alongside Randrianirina, declined to say if they had asked Rajoelina to resign, but the CAPSAT army unit appeared to be in a position of authority.

Madagascar has been shaken by three weeks of the most significant unrest in years in the nation. The protests were led by a group calling itself "Gen Z Madagascar," and the United Nations says the demonstrations have left at least 22 people dead and dozens injured. The government has disputed this number.

The whereabouts of the president were not immediately known on Sunday. His office said he "wishes to inform the nation and the international community that an attempt to seize power illegally and by force" has been "initiated."

"In view of the extreme gravity of this situation," the president's office "strongly condemns this attempt at destabilization and calls upon all forces of the nation to unite in defense of constitutional order and national sovereignty," it said.

CAPSAT is the same army unit that was pivotal in a 2009 military-backed coup that first brought Rajoelina to power as the head of a transitional government.

A turning point in these protests came Saturday when soldiers from CAPSAT joined weekslong anti-government demonstrations and called for Rajoelina and government officials to step down.

Saturday's protests were among the largest since the unrest began on Sept. 25 and Randrianirina said his troops had exchanged fire with security forces who were attempting to quell the protests and that one of his soldiers had been killed.

Speaking to crowds from an armored vehicle, Randrianirina said Saturday that Rajoelina, his new prime minister, the minister of the gendarmerie and the commander of the gendarmerie "must leave power. That's all."

"Do we call this a coup? I don't know yet," Randrianirina had said.

Madagascar, a large island of 31 million people off the east coast of Africa, has had several leaders removed in coups and has a history of political crises since it gained independence from France in 1960.

The 51-year-old Rajoelina first came to prominence as the leader of a transitional government following

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 33 of 59

a 2009 coup that forced then-President Marc Ravalomanana to flee the country and lose power. Rajoelina was elected president in 2018 and reelected in 2023 in a vote boycotted by opposition parties.

As the news of Rajoelina's statement broke, the U.S. Embassy in Madagascar advised American citizens to shelter-in-place due to a "highly volatile and unpredictable" situation. The African Union urged all parties, "both civilian and military, to exercise calm and restraint."

The youth-led protests first erupted last month over electricity and water outages but have snowballed into larger dissatisfaction with the government and the leadership of Rajoelina.

Protesters have brought up a range of issues, including poverty and the cost of living, access to tertiary education, and alleged corruption and embezzlement of public funds by government officials and their families and associates.

Civic groups and trade unions have joined the protests, which have resulted in nighttime curfews being enforced in the capital, Antananarivo, and other major cities. The U.N. criticized the security forces for a "violent response" in the early days of the protests that led to the deaths of largely peaceful protesters, it said.

Rajoelina attempted to appease the protesters by firing his entire government, including the prime minister, on Sept. 29. But the protesters have not relented.

The Gen Z protesters who inspired the uprising have mobilized over the internet and say they were inspired by other protests that toppled governments in Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Mexico looks for missing people and rushes to help after torrential rains killed at least 47

POZA RICA, Mexico (AP) — The death toll from Mexico's torrential rains rose to 47 on Sunday as the fallout mounted from flooding and landslides in different states around the country, as the authorities were rushing to help affected residents, look for missing people and try to clean several areas.

Days after heavy rains drenched several parts of Mexico, the country saw over the weekend the extension of devastation in some states, where the flooding swept away vehicles and destroyed houses and roads.

President Claudia Sheinbaum traveled to some of the states and said the government will begin a census among affected people to distribute aid.

Mexico's Civil Protection agency said as of Sunday night, the heavy rains had killed 18 people in Veracruz state on the Gulf Coast and 16 people in Hidalgo state, north of Mexico City. At least 12 people were killed in Puebla, east of Mexico City. Earlier, in the central state of Querétaro, a child died being caught in a landslide.

That toll could still rise as rescue workers continued to dig through sodden villages clogged with mud and debris on Sunday.

Civil Protection said at least 38 people were missing in three different states.

Authorities have attributed the deadly downpours to two tropical systems that formed off the western coast of Mexico and have since dissipated, Hurricane Pricilla and Tropical Storm Raymond.

In Veracruz and Puebla, hundreds of army personnel, police officers and firefighters conducted rescue operations and set up temporary shelters where stranded residents could find food and medical attention. Thousands of residents across the country were still struggling with a lack of running water and electricity.

"There are still various communities in Veracruz that find themselves cut off that fortunately today they were able to establish air bridges to be able to take food, water and attend to any sick people," Sheinbaum said on a visit to Veracruz Sunday. "We know that there is a lot of desperation and worry. We're going to get to everyone."

Parts of Veracruz state received some 21 inches (54 centimeters) of rain from Oct. 6 to 9.

In Poza Rica, an oil town 170 miles (275 kilometers) northeast of Mexico City, where Sheinbaum spoke with residents in muddy streets, some low-lying neighborhoods saw 12 feet of water or more when the Cazones River jumped its banks Friday.

Steve Martin, Bette Midler and Goldie Hawn are among stars paying tribute to Diane Keaton

By The Associated Press undefined

Oscar winning actor Diane Keaton, who died at 79, was known for her performances and style that helped shaped some of the most indelible films of all time, including "The Godfather," "Annie Hall," "Father of the Bride" and "Something's Gotta Give."

She was beloved by fans and fellow actors, many of whom paid tribute Saturday after news of Keaton's death broke. They included co-stars such as Bette Midler, Mandy Moore and Steve Martin, who shared an excerpt of an interview with Keaton and Martin Short that he said "sums up our delightful relationship with Diane."

Here is a roundup of some notable reaction to Keaton's death and legacy:

Bette Midler

"She was hilarious, a complete original, and completely without guile, or any of the competitiveness one would have expected from such a star. What you saw was who she was ... oh, la, lala!" — On Instagram. Midler co-starred with Keaton in "The First Wives Club."

Francis Ford Coppola

"I saw her in the film 'Lovers and Other Strangers' and knew I had to have her play Kay in The Godfather, (which she told me she based on my wife Ellie) and her wonderful work in 'Annie Hall' while simultaneously setting a new fashion trend. Everything about Diane was creativity personified." - On Instagram.

Kimberly Williams-Paisley

"Diane, working with you will always be one of the highlights of my life. You are one of a kind, and it was thrilling to be in your orbit for a time. Thank you for your kindness, your generosity, your talent, and above all, your laughter." — On Instagram. Williams-Paisley played Keaton's daughter in the "Father of the Bride" films.

Steve Martin

"Loved!" — On the social platform X. Martin, who co-starred with Keaton in "Father of the Bride," also posted on Instagram an interview exchange in which Short asked Keaton who was sexier, him or Martin. Keaton's response: "I mean, you're both idiots."

Goldie Hawn

"How do we say goodbye? What words can come to mind when your heart is broken? You never liked praise, so humble, but now you can't tell me to "shut up" honey. There was, and will be, no one like you." — in an Instagram post.

Amanda Seyfried

"I think she was just really outspoken and I think it was kind of beautiful the way she saw the world, the way she talked about it and the way that she communicated through it. I don't know, I felt like she always said what was on her mind which is important and impossible not to rub off on one who's with her. But she was always very optimistic, really. It's really sad. She seemed very vital, very young." — in an interview with The Associated Press.

Carly Simon

"Diane had a warmth and wit that drew you in, and a courage in her work that left you in awe. I've always believed she was one of the greatest actors ever to grace the screen. Losing her feels deeply personal. I'll miss her light, her laughter, and the connection we shared." - On Instagram. Simon said they were "almost like sisters."

Cynthia Nixon

"When I was a kid, Diane Keaton was my absolute idol. I loved her acting. I loved her vibe. I loved her everything." — On Instagram. Nixon also recalled working with Keaton on the film "Five Flights Up" as a "dream come true."

Mandy Moore

"They say don't meet your heroes but I got to work with one of mine and even call her 'mom' for a few

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 35 of 59

months. An honor of a lifetime. What an incandescent human Di is and was." — On Instagram. Moore starred opposite Keaton in the 2007 film "Because I Said So."

Octavia Spencer

"Thank you, Diane, for reminding us that authenticity never goes out of fashion." — On Instagram.

Ben Stiller

"One of the greatest film actors ever. An icon of style, humor and comedy. Brilliant. What a person." — On X.

Naked bike riders demonstrate against federal troops in 'quintessentially Portland' protest

By JENNY KANE and CHRISTOPHER WEBER Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Protesters rallying against the Trump administration in Portland put the city's quirky and irreverent reputation on display Sunday by pedaling through the streets wearing absolutely nothing — or close to it — in an "emergency" edition of the annual World Naked Bike Ride.

Crowds that have gathered daily and nightly outside the immigration facility in Oregon's largest city in recent days have embraced the absurd, donning inflatable frog, unicorn, axolotl and banana costumes as they face off with federal law enforcement who often deploy tear gas and pepper balls.

The bike ride is an annual tradition that usually happens in the summer, but organizers of this weekend's hastily called event said another nude ride was necessary to speak out against President Donald Trump's attempts to mobilize the National Guard to quell protests.

Rider Janene King called the nude ride a "quintessentially Portland way to protest."

The 51-year-old was naked except for wool socks, a wig and a hat. She sipped hot tea and said she was unbothered by the steady rain and temperatures in the mid-50s (about 12 Celsius).

"We definitely do not want troops coming into our city," King said.

Bike riders made their way through the streets and to the city's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building. Authorities there ordered people to stay out of the street and protest only on sidewalks or risk being arrested.

The city is awaiting the ruling of an appeals court panel on whether Trump can send out the federalized troops after a federal judge on Oct. 5 ordered a temporary hold on deployment.

"Joy is a form of protest. Being together with mutual respect and kindness is a form of protest," the ride's organizers said on Instagram. "It's your choice how much or little you wear."

Fewer people were fully naked than usual — likely because of the cool, wet weather — but some still bared it all and rode wearing only bike helmets.

Naked bike rides have thronged the streets of Oregon's largest city every year since 2004, often holding up traffic as the crowd cycles through with speakers playing music. Some years have drawn roughly 10,000 riders, according to Portland World Naked Bike Ride.

Trump warns Russia he may send Ukraine long-range Tomahawks if Moscow doesn't settle war soon

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE (AP) — President Donald Trump on Sunday warned Russia that he may send Ukraine long-range Tomahawk missiles if Moscow doesn't settle its war there soon — suggesting that he could be ready to increase the pressure on Vladimir Putin's government using a key weapons system.

"I might say, 'Look: if this war is not going to get settled, I'm going to send them Tomahawks,'" Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One as he flew to Israel. "The Tomahawk is an incredible weapon, very offensive weapon. And honestly, Russia does not need that."

Trump also said, "I might tell them that if the war is not settled -- that we may very well." He added, "We may not, but we may do it. I think it's appropriate to bring up."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 36 of 59

His comments came after Trump spoke with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and Trump said he mentioned possibly sending Tomahawks during that conversation.

"Do they want to have Tomahawks going in that direction? I don't think so," Trump said of Russia. "I think I might speak to Russia about that." He added that "Tomahawks are a new step of aggression."

His suggestions followed Russia having attacked Ukraine's power grid overnight, part of an ongoing campaign to cripple Ukrainian energy infrastructure before winter. Moscow also expressed "extreme concern" over the U.S. potentially providing Tomahawk cruise missiles to Ukraine.

Putin himself has previously suggested that the United States supplying long-range missiles to Ukraine will seriously damage relations between Moscow and Washington.

For his part, Zelenskyy described his latest call with Trump as "very productive," and said the pair had discussed strengthening Ukraine's "air defense, resilience, and long-range capabilities," along with "details related to the energy sector."

In an interview with Fox News Channel's "The Sunday Briefing" after his call with Trump, Zelenskyy was asked whether Trump had approved the Tomahawks and said, "we work on it."

"I'm waiting for president to yes," Zelenskyy said. "Of course we count on such decisions, but we will see. We will see."

The Ukrainian president said Friday that he was in talks with U.S. officials about the possible provision of various long-range precision strike weapons, including Tomahawks and more ATACMS tactical ballistic missiles.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said in remarks published Sunday that "the topic of Tomahawks is of extreme concern."

Trump, who has been frustrated by Russia in his efforts to end the war, said last week that he has "sort of made a decision" on whether to send Tomahawks to Ukraine, without elaborating. A senior Ukrainian delegation is set to visit the U.S. this week.

The U.S. president in recent weeks has taken a notably tougher tact with Putin, after the Russian leader has declined to engage in direct talks with Zelenskyy about easing fighting.

Last month, Trump announced that he now believes Ukraine could win back all the territory lost to Russia — a dramatic shift from the Republican's repeated calls for Kyiv to make concessions to end Russia's war in Ukraine.

But Trump, at least so far, has resisted Zelenskyy's calls for Tomahawks. They would allow Ukraine to strike deeper into Russian territory and put the sort of pressure on Putin that Zelenskyy argues is needed to get the Russians to seriously engage in peace talks.

Trump said aboard Air Force One of the war: "I really think Putin would look great if he got this settled" and that "It's not going to be good for him" if not.

Trump sets off for the Mideast to mark a ceasefire deal and urge Arab leaders to seize the moment

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, AAMER MADHANI and JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE (AP) — President Donald Trump set off for Israel and Egypt on Sunday to celebrate the U.S.-brokered ceasefire and hostage deal between Israel and Hamas and urge Middle East allies to seize the opportunity to build a durable peace in the volatile region.

It's a fragile moment with Israel and Hamas only in the early stages of implementing the first phase of the Trump agreement designed to bring a permanent end to the war sparked by the Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel by Hamas-led militants.

Trump thinks there is a narrow window to reshape the Mideast and reset long-fraught relations between Israel and its Arab neighbors. "The war is over, OK?" Trump told reporters traveling with him to the region ahead of the expected release of hostages from Gaza.

"I think people are tired of it," he said, emphasizing that he believed the ceasefire would hold because of that.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 37 of 59

It is a moment, the Republican president says, that has been helped along by his administration's support of Israel's decimation of Iranian proxies, including Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The White House says momentum is also building because Arab and Muslim states are demonstrating a renewed focus on resolving the broader, decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict and, in some cases, deepening relations with the United States.

Trump has said that he expects wealthy regional players to take the lead in rebuilding war-torn Gaza, but acknowledged that the work would take years.

In February, Trump had predicted that Gaza could be redeveloped into what he called "the Riviera of the Middle East." But on Sunday aboard Air Force One, he was more circumspect.

"I don't know about the Riviera for a while," Trump said. "It's blasted. This is like a demolition site." But he said he hoped to one day visit the territory. "I'd like to put my feet on it, at least," he said.

A tenuous point in the agreement

The first phase of the ceasefire agreement calls for the release of the final 48 hostages held by Hamas, including about 20 believed to be alive; the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel; a surge of humanitarian aid to Gaza; and a partial pullback by Israeli forces from Gaza's main cities.

Israeli troops on Friday finished withdrawing from parts of Gaza, triggering a 72-hour countdown under the deal for Hamas to release the Israeli hostages, potentially while Trump is on the ground there. He said he expected their return to be completed on Monday or Tuesday.

Trump will visit Israel first to meet with hostage families and address the Knesset, or parliament, an honor last extended to President George W. Bush during a visit in 2008. Vice President JD Vance on Sunday said Trump also was likely to meet with newly-freed hostages, too.

"Knock on wood, but we feel very confident the hostages will be released and this president is actually traveling to the Middle East, likely this evening, in order to meet them and greet them in person," Vance told CBS' "Face the Nation."

Trump then stops in Egypt, where he and Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi will lead a summit in Sharm el-Sheikh with leaders from more than 20 countries on peace in Gaza and the broader Middle East.

It is a tenuous truce and it is unclear whether the sides have reached any agreement on Gaza's post-war governance, the territory's reconstruction and Israel's demand that Hamas disarm. Negotiations over those issues could break down, and Israel has hinted it may resume military operations if its demands are not met.

"I think the chances of (Hamas) disarming themselves, you know, are pretty close to zero," H.R. McMaster, a national security adviser during Trump's first term, said at an event hosted by the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies on Thursday. He said he thought what probably would happen in the coming months is that the Israeli military "is going to have to destroy them."

Israel continues to rule over millions of Palestinians without basic rights as settlements expand rapidly across the occupied West Bank. Despite growing international recognition, Palestinian statehood appears exceedingly remote because of Israel's opposition and actions on the ground,

The war has left Israel isolated internationally and facing allegations of genocide, which it denies. International arrest warrants against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defense minister are in effect, and the United Nations' highest court is considering allegations of genocide brought by South Africa.

Hamas has been militarily decimated and has given up its only bargaining chip with Israel by releasing the hostages. But the Islamic militant group is still intact and could eventually rebuild if there's an extended period of calm.

Netanyahu reiterated that Israel would continue with its demilitarization of Hamas after the hostages are returned.

"Hamas agreed to the deal only when it felt that the sword was on its neck — and it is still on its neck," Netanyahu said Friday as Israel began to pull back its troops.

Trump wants to expand the Abraham Accords

Much of Gaza has been reduced to rubble and the territory's roughly 2 million residents continue to

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 38 of 59

struggle in desperate conditions.

Under the deal, Israel agreed to reopen five border crossings, which will help ease the flow of food and other supplies into Gaza, parts of which are experiencing famine.

Trump is also standing up a U.S.-led civil-military coordination center in Israel to help facilitate the flow of humanitarian aid as well as logistical and security assistance into Gaza.

Roughly 200 U.S. troops will help support and monitor the ceasefire deal as part of a team that includes partner nations, nongovernmental organizations and private-sector players. U.S. troops will not be sent to Gaza, Adm. Brad Cooper, the U.S. military commander for the region, said in a social media post Saturday.

The White House has signaled that Trump is looking to quickly return attention to building on a first-term effort known as the Abraham Accords, which forged diplomatic and commercial ties between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco.

A permanent agreement in Gaza would help pave the path for Trump to begin talks with Saudi Arabia as well Indonesia, the most populous Muslim country, toward normalizing ties with Israel, according to a senior Trump administration official who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity.

Such a deal with Saudi Arabia, the most powerful and wealthy Arab state, has the potential to reshape the region and boost Israel's standing in historic ways.

But brokering such an agreement remains a heavy lift as the kingdom has said it won't officially recognize Israel before a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Penn State fires coach James Franklin amid midseason free fall in a lost season

By TRAVIS JOHNSON Associated Press

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — From the day he was hired more than a decade ago, James Franklin stressed the importance of creating a family atmosphere at Penn State.

Over the course of 11-plus seasons in Happy Valley, that approach helped the Nittany Lions churn out pros and double-digit victory seasons with regularity.

Yet it also never translated into Penn State beating the programs it considers its peers with regularity, either. And while the stakes kept getting higher, the results took on a certain sameness.

Until the last three weeks, anyway, when one tough loss turned into another improbable loss turned into one unforgivable loss that ended up costing Franklin his job.

Penn State fired Franklin on Sunday, less than 24 hours after a 22-21 home upset at the hands of Northwestern all but ended whatever remote chance the preseason No. 2 team had of reaching the College Football Playoff.

Terry Smith will serve as the interim head coach for the rest of the season for the Nittany Lions (3-3, 0-3 Big Ten), who began the year with hopes of winning the national title only to have those hopes evaporate by early October with three consecutive losses, each one more stinging than the last.

Penn State, which reached the CFP semifinals 10 months ago, fell at home to Oregon in overtime in late September. A road setback at previously winless UCLA followed. The final straw came Saturday at Beaver Stadium, where the Nittany Lions let Northwestern escape with a victory and lost quarterback Drew Allar to injury for the rest of the season.

Franklin deflected questions about his job security afterward, as always turning his attention toward the players. It didn't stop the administration from making the very expensive decision that it couldn't wait any longer to act. Penn State swallowed a nearly \$50 million buyout to part ways with the coach who put the program back on the national map.

Franklin went 104-45 during his 11-plus seasons at Penn State. Yet the Nittany Lions often stumbled against top-tier opponents, going 4-21 against teams ranked in the top 10 during his tenure.

Hired in 2014 in the wake of Bill O'Brien's departure for the NFL, Franklin inherited a team still feeling the effects of unprecedented NCAA sanctions in the wake of the Jerry Sandusky scandal.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 39 of 59

Armed with relentless optimism and an ability to recruit, Franklin's program regularly churned out NFL-level talent, from Philadelphia Eagles running back Saquon Barkley to Green Bay Packers edge rusher Micah Parsons. Franklin guided the Nittany Lions to the 2016 Big Ten title and a seemingly permanent spot in the rankings.

There was hope this fall might be the one when Penn State would finally break through and win its third national championship and first since 1986. Yet after three easy wins during a light nonconference schedule, the Nittany Lions crumbled.

Athletic director Pat Kraft said the school owes Franklin an "enormous amount of gratitude" for leading the Nittany Lions back to relevance. Yet Franklin's inability to finish the job led to his ouster.

"We hold our athletics programs to the highest of standards, and we believe this is the right moment for new leadership at the helm of our football program to advance us toward Big Ten and national championships," Kraft said.

Smith now will be tasked with trying to stop the bleeding on what has become a disastrous season. He will have his work cut out for him: Penn State's next three games are at Iowa on Saturday, at No. 1 Ohio State on Nov. 1 and home against No. 3 Indiana on Nov. 8.

The matchups with the Buckeyes and Hoosiers were expected to be a chance for the Nittany Lions to bolster their CFP credentials. In the span of a handful of weeks, Penn State will instead find itself in the role of spoiler.

The move will cost Penn State at a time the athletic department has committed to a \$700 million renovation to Beaver Stadium. The project is expected to be completed by 2027.

Former athletic director Sandy Barbour signed Franklin to a 10-year contract extension worth up to \$85 million in 2021. According to terms of the deal, Penn State will have to pay Franklin's base salary of \$500,000, supplemental pay of \$6.5 million and insurance loan of \$1 million until 2031.

It's a steep price, but one the university appears willing to pay to find a coach who can complete the climb to a national title.

"We have the best college football fans in America, a rich tradition of excellence, significant investments in our program, compete in the best conference in college sports and have a state-of-the-art renovated stadium on the horizon," Kraft said. "I am confident in our future and in our ability to attract elite candidates to lead our program."

There will be no shortage of interested coaches. Kraft has ties to at least one. He was the athletic director at Temple when he hired current Nebraska coach Matt Rhule back in 2013.

Rhule and the Cornhuskers will visit Beaver Stadium in Penn State's home finale on Nov. 22. What back in August looked like one of the final hurdles for the Nittany Lions to clear on their way to a CFP berth might instead be both an audition for Rhule and a chance for the Nittany Lions to potentially salvage a shot at a bowl game of any variety, let alone a premier one.

Israel expects hostages to be freed from Gaza 'in a few hours' as ceasefire holds

By SAMY MAGDY, SARAH EL DEEB and MELANIE LIDMAN Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Israel said Sunday it expected all living hostages held in Gaza to be released Monday in its breakthrough ceasefire deal with Hamas, as Palestinians awaited the release of hundreds of prisoners held in Israel and a surge of aid into the famine-stricken territory.

"In a few hours, we will all be reunited," Israel's military chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir, said in a statement.

U.S. President Donald Trump planned to visit Israel and Egypt on Monday to celebrate the ceasefire announced last week in the two-year war.

"The war is over," Trump asserted to reporters as he departed, adding he thought the ceasefire would hold. He said he would be "proud" to visit Gaza.

Living hostages expected first

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 40 of 59

Israeli government spokesperson Shosh Bedrosian said all 20 living hostages were expected to be released at one time to the Red Cross, then driven to a military base to reunite with families or, if needed, immediately to a hospital.

After the hostages are freed, Israel was ready to release about 2,000 Palestinian detainees and receive the 28 hostages believed to be dead.

An international task force will start working to locate deceased hostages who are not returned within 72 hours, said Gal Hirsch, Israel's coordinator for the hostages and the missing.

"The reality is, some of the hostages we may never get back," U.S. Vice President JD Vance told Fox News.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose name was booed repeatedly Saturday at a weekly rally for the hostages in Tel Aviv, said Monday would be a "path of healing." Many Israelis have accused him of drawing out the war for political aims, which he has denied.

Timing has not been announced for the release of Palestinian prisoners. They include 250 people serving life sentences in addition to 1,700 seized from Gaza during the war and held without charge.

A Palestinian official said a Hamas delegation was in Cairo speaking with mediators about the list of prisoners. The official said Hamas is pressing for the release of Marwan Barghouti, the most popular Palestinian leader and a potentially unifying figure, along with several others serving life sentences. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. There was no immediate comment from Israel, which views Barghouti as a terrorist leader.

Israel has warned Palestinians in the West Bank against celebrating after the releases, according to a prisoner's family and a Palestinian official who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss it. Israel's military did not immediately respond to questions.

Preparing a surge of aid

The United Nations late Sunday reported "real progress" on humanitarian aid in Gaza, saying it and partners distributed hundreds of thousands of hot meals and bread. Cooking gas entered the territory for the first time since March, during the previous ceasefire. The U.N. said Israel has now approved 190,000 metric tons of aid to enter, up from 170,000.

The Israeli military body in charge of humanitarian aid in Gaza said the amount of aid entering was expected to increase to around 600 trucks per day, as stipulated in the agreement.

"Much of Gaza is a wasteland," U.N. humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher told The Associated Press. He said the U.N. has a plan for the next two months to also restore basic medical and other services and remove rubble.

Food distribution sites run by the controversial U.S. and Israel-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation are being shut down, an Egyptian official and another official in the region told the AP.

Preparations for Trump's visit

Trump, who pushed to clinch the ceasefire deal, was expected to arrive Monday morning in Israel. He will meet with families of the hostages and speak at the Knesset, Israel's parliament, according to the White House.

Trump will continue to Egypt, where the office of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi has said he will co-chair a "peace summit" Monday with regional and international leaders. Mahmoud Abbas, leader of the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority, will attend, Mahmoud al-Habbash, a judge and adviser to Abbas, told the AP.

Key questions about governance of Gaza and the post-war fate of Hamas, including its proposed disarmament, have yet to be resolved.

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said on X that he had instructed the military to prepare to begin destroying the network of Hamas-built tunnels under Gaza "through the international mechanism that will be established under the leadership and supervision of the U.S." once the hostages are released.

How that will be achieved, as Israeli forces have pulled back within Gaza, was not immediately clear.

Gaza residents return to rubble

Palestinians streamed back to areas vacated by Israeli forces. Satellite photos taken Saturday and ana-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 41 of 59

lyzed by the AP showed a line of vehicles traveling north to Gaza City.

Palestinian flags stood out against the dust-covered ruins. Mohamed Samy said he immediately went to check his home.

"It was flattened, just like everything else in Jabaliya," Samy said. It was an empty plot of land. "It was like the building never even existed in that place. I questioned my sanity."

Armed police in Gaza City and southern Gaza patrolled the streets and secured aid trucks in areas where Israel's military had withdrawn, residents said. The police force is part of the Hamas-run Interior Ministry.

The ministry said it would allow members of armed gangs not involved in the killing of Palestinians to turn themselves in as early as Monday to "repent and be pardoned."

First responders searched previously inaccessible areas for bodies under rubble. Health officials said 233 had been brought to hospitals since Friday, when the truce went into effect. Some were only bones.

Yasser el-Bureis, at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, said his family had finally retrieved the remains of two cousins.

"For five months, we didn't manage to recover the bodies," he said.

2 years of war

The war began when Hamas-led militants launched a surprise attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, in which some 1,200 people were killed and 250 taken hostage.

In Israel's ensuing offensive, more than 67,000 Palestinians have been killed, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants but says around half the deaths 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.

The war has destroyed large swaths of Gaza and displaced about 90% of its 2 million residents. It has also triggered other conflicts in the region, sparked worldwide protests and led to allegations of genocide that Israel denies.

Shooting at packed South Carolina bar kills 4 and injures at least 20 others

By LEWIS LEVINE Associated Press

ST. HELENA ISLAND, S.C. (AP) — A mass shooting early Sunday at a crowded bar on an idyllic island considered to be the largest Gullah community on the South Carolina coast has left four people dead and at least 20 injured, officials said.

A large crowd was at Willie's Bar and Grill on St. Helena Island when sheriff's deputies arrived and found many people with gunshot wounds. An estimated 5,000 or more Gullah people living on the island trace their ancestry back to enslaved West Africans who once worked rice plantations in the area before being freed by the Civil War.

Bar owner Willie Tural was inside the establishment, which was packed for a high school alumni event, when he heard shots going off "in bursts" outside. He described the scene: "Screaming and panic and fear."

The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office said in a statement on the social platform X that many people ran to nearby businesses seeking shelter from the gunfire.

"This is a tragic and difficult incident for everyone," the statement said. "We ask for your patience as we continue to investigate this incident. Our thoughts are with all of the victims and their loved ones."

Among the injured, four were in critical condition at hospitals Sunday afternoon. The victims' identities were not released.

Tural said the bar was hosting an event for alumni of Battery Creek High School in Beaufort, about 10 miles (16 kilometers) northwest of St. Helena Island. He said people were having a good time when the shots were heard.

"It was scary from the inside," he said, with "people not knowing what's really going on outside, people trying to get to safety."

U.S. Rep. Nancy Mace posted on X that she was "COMPLETELY HEARTBROKEN to learn about the dev-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 42 of 59

astating shooting.”

Willie's Bar and Grill advertises itself as serving authentic Gullah-inspired cuisine and describes itself on its website as “not just a restaurant but a community pillar committed to giving back, especially to our youth.”

Smaller enclaves of Gullah, referred to as Geechee in some areas, are scattered along the Southeast coast from North Carolina to Florida. Scholars say separation from the mainland caused the Gullah to retain much of their African heritage, including a unique dialect and skills such as cast-net fishing and basket weaving.

Vance warns ‘deeper’ cuts ahead for federal workers as shutdown enters 12th day

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

Vice President JD Vance on Sunday said there will be deeper cuts to the federal workforce the longer the government shutdown goes on, adding to the uncertainty facing hundreds of thousands who are already furloughed without pay amid the stubborn stalemate in Congress.

Vance warned that as the federal shutdown entered its 12th day, the new cuts would be “painful,” even as he said the Trump administration worked to ensure that the military is paid this week and some services would be preserved for low-income Americans, including food assistance.

Still, hundreds of thousands of government workers have been furloughed in recent days and, in a court filing on Friday, the Office of Management and Budget said well over 4,000 federal employees would soon be fired in conjunction with the shutdown. The effects of the shutdown also grew Sunday with the Smithsonian announcing its museums, research centers and the National Zoo are temporarily closed going forward for lack of funding.

“The longer this goes on, the deeper the cuts are going to be,” Vance said on Fox News’ “Sunday Morning Futures.” “To be clear, some of these cuts are going to be painful. This is not a situation that we relish. This is not something that we’re looking forward to, but the Democrats have dealt us a pretty difficult set of cards.”

Labor unions have already filed a lawsuit to stop the aggressive move by President Donald Trump’s budget office, which goes far beyond what usually happens in a government shutdown, further inflaming tensions between the Republicans who control Congress and the Democratic minority.

The shutdown began on Oct. 1 after Democrats rejected a short-term funding fix and demanded that the bill include an extension of federal subsidies for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act. The expiration of those subsidies at the end of the year will result in monthly cost increases for millions.

Trump and Republican leaders have said they are open to negotiations on the health subsidies, but insist the government must reopen first.

For now, negotiations are virtually nonexistent. Dug in as ever, House leaders from both parties pointed fingers at each other in rival Sunday appearances on “Fox News Sunday.”

“We have repeatedly made clear that we will sit down with anyone, anytime, anyplace,” said House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York. “Republicans control the House, the Senate and the presidency. It’s unfortunate they’ve taken a my-way-or-the-highway approach.”

House Speaker Mike Johnson blamed Democrats and said they “seem not to care” about the pain the shutdown is inflicting.

“They’re trying their best to distract the American people from the simple fact that they’ve chosen a partisan fight so that they can prove to their Marxist rising base in the Democratic Party that they’re willing to fight Trump and Republicans,” he said.

Progressive activists, meanwhile, expressed new support for the Democratic Party’s position in the shutdown fight.

Ezra Levin, co-founder of the leading progressive protest group Indivisible, said he is “feeling good about the strength of Dem position.” He pointed to fractures in the GOP, noting that Georgia Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene publicly warned last week that health care insurance premiums would skyrocket for average

Americans — including her own adult children — if nothing is done.

"Trump and GOP are rightfully taking the blame for the shutdown and for looming premium increases," Levin said. "Their chickens are coming home to roost."

And yet the Republican administration and its congressional allies are showing no signs of caving to Democratic demands or backing away from threats to use the opportunity to pursue deeper cuts to the federal workforce.

Thousands of employees at the departments of Education, Treasury, Homeland Security and Health and Human Services, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency, are set to receive layoff notices, according to spokespeople for the agencies and union representatives for federal workers.

"You hear a lot of Senate Democrats say, well, how can Donald Trump possibly lay off all of these federal workers?" Vance said. "Well, the Democrats have given us a choice between giving low-income women their food benefits and paying our troops on the one hand, and, on the other hand, paying federal bureaucrats."

Democrats say the firings are illegal and unnecessary.

"They do not have to do this," said Democratic Sen. Mark Kelly of Arizona on CNN's "State of the Union." "They do not have to punish people that shouldn't find themselves in this position."

Community near site of deadly Tennessee plant blast recalls the lives of the 16 killed

OBED LAMY and SOPHIA TAREEN Associated Press

NUNNELLY, Tenn. (AP) — Just miles from a rural Tennessee plant leveled by a devastating explosion, the congregants of Maple Valley Baptist Church devoted Sunday's service to the 16 deceased victims and their families.

Several of the dozens of people praying at the small church knew someone who worked at the plant owned by Accurate Energetic Systems, which supplies and researches explosives for the military and is a well-known employer in the area.

"There's a somber kind of vibe right now in the community just because it's so many lives that have been affected by it," said Pastor Jimmy Andrews of the church in Nunnelly. "It's family and friends just trying to hold each other up during this most difficult time."

Churches across many of the area's small close-knit communities, including another one attended by Gov. Bill Lee on Sunday, did the same through vigils and services as many tried to make sense of the devastation.

"The losses are staggering," Lee told reporters after surveying the damage by helicopter and attending Compassion Church in nearby Waverly.

The cause of Friday's blast remained under investigation. Crews were carefully going through incinerated property, searching for possible evidence. Authorities warned of smaller controlled explosions Sunday to dispose of hazardous materials.

"Extraordinary precautions are in place to prevent further damage and injuries," the Humphreys County sheriff's office said in a statement. "The community around the area is safe but you may hear noise and see some smoke."

The initial blast was felt for more than 20 miles (32 kilometers), leaving a smoldering wreck of twisted and charred metal and burned-out vehicles at the plant. Authorities said there were no survivors. They had not identified the deceased by Sunday.

The plant is located in a heavily wooded area of middle Tennessee, between the vital Tennessee River to the west and Nashville to the east.

Brandon Brake, 42, said many in the area were leaning on their "church families" to make it through. He attended Maple Valley Baptist.

"It's been a tragic time," he said. "We're going to pull through."

The community of McEwen lowered its flags to half-staff on Saturday out of respect. A Sunday evening candlelight vigil was planned outside the Humphreys County Courthouse. Schools in the county said

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 44 of 59

counseling services would be available to students on Monday.

"We will continue to play a support role to those affected in any way possible as they are our friends, neighbors, and citizens of our community," McEwen Mayor Brad Rachford said in an email Sunday.

Andrews, the pastor of Maple Valley Baptist, told congregants to look out for each other.

"Lord, I just pray we lift up those that are continuing to suffer through this tragic event," he said.

Macron's France now has a new Cabinet. It will face an uphill battle to end the political crisis

By ANGELA CHARLTON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France's newly reappointed Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu named a new government Sunday, as he faces pressure to urgently produce a budget and quell political turmoil that is scaring businesses and investors and staining the country's image.

The Cabinet includes several familiar faces from previous governments who hail from French President Emmanuel Macron's centrist camp as well as allied conservatives, and some people from outside the political sphere.

It is unclear how long this new team will last. Macron, whose term ends in 2027, lacks a majority in the deeply fractured parliament and is losing support from his own ranks. Meanwhile Marine Le Pen's ascendant far-right National Rally party is calling for new elections, while far-left France Unbowed wants the president to resign.

Immediately after the president's office announced the new Cabinet, the conservative Republicans party announced it was expelling the six party members who agreed to join the government.

Lecornu, a 39-year-old centrist and close ally of Macron, and his government will now have to seek compromises to avoid an immediate vote of no confidence in the National Assembly, deeply fractured among far right, centrist and left-wing camps.

Among new appointments is a new defense minister, former Labor Minister Catherine Vautrin, who will help oversee French military support for Ukraine and address threats to European security posed by Russia.

Paris police chief Laurent Nunez, who oversaw security for the 2024 Olympics, becomes interior minister, in charge of national security. Roland Lescure will be finance minister, a crucial job as France tries to produce a budget that tackles ballooning debt and growing poverty.

Those keeping their jobs include Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot, who travels Monday with Macron to Egypt for an international ceremony marking the Gaza ceasefire.

Lecornu, France's fourth prime minister in a year, appointed his first government a week ago — then resigned hours later amid protests by a key conservative coalition member. That unleashed days of political uncertainty.

Macron persuaded Lecornu to stay on as prime minister and renamed him Friday. Lecornu acknowledged Saturday that there weren't "a lot of candidates" for his job — and that he might not last long in the post given the country's deep political divides.

Lecornu may be forced to abandon an unpopular pension reform that was one of Macron's signature policies in his second presidential term. Rammed through parliament without a vote in 2023 despite mass protests, it gradually raises the retirement age from 62 to 64. Opposition parties want it scrapped.

Macron's shock decision last year to dissolve the National Assembly produced a hung parliament and political paralysis as it faces a debt crisis that has worried domestic businesses, global financial markets and EU partners.

Russia attacks Ukraine's power grid as Moscow worries over US Tomahawk missiles

By The Associated Press undefined

Russia attacked Ukraine's power grid overnight, part of an ongoing campaign to cripple Ukrainian energy

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 45 of 59

infrastructure before winter, and expressed "extreme concern" over the U.S. potentially providing Tomahawk cruise missiles to Ukraine.

Kyiv regional Gov. Mykola Kalashnyk said two employees of Ukraine's largest private energy company DTEK were wounded in Russian strikes on a substation. Ukraine's Energy Ministry said that infrastructure was also targeted in the regions of Donetsk, Odesa and Chernihiv.

"Russia continues its aerial terror against our cities and communities, intensifying strikes on our energy infrastructure," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote on X, noting that Russia had launched "more than 3,100 drones, 92 missiles, and around 1,360 glide bombs" over the past week.

Zelenskyy called for tighter secondary sanctions on buyers of Russian oil. "Sanctions, tariffs, and joint actions against the buyers of Russian oil — those who finance this war — must all remain on the table," he wrote, adding he had a "very productive" phone call with U.S. President Donald Trump, in which they discussed strengthening Ukraine's "air defense, resilience, and long-range capabilities," along with "details related to the energy sector."

Their discussion followed an earlier conversation on Saturday, Zelenskyy said, during which the leaders agreed on Sunday's topics.

In an interview with Fox News Channel's "The Sunday Briefing" after his call with Trump, Zelenskyy was asked whether Trump had approved the Tomahawks.

"We work on it," he said. "And I'm waiting for president to yes. Of course we count on such decisions, but we will see. We will see."

Zelenskyy said Friday that he was in talks with U.S. officials about the possible provision of various long-range precision strike weapons, including Tomahawks and more ATACMS tactical ballistic missiles.

Trump, who has been frustrated by Russia in his efforts to end the war, said last week that he has "sort of made a decision" on whether to send Tomahawks to Ukraine, without elaborating. A senior Ukrainian delegation is set to visit the U.S. this week.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said in remarks published Sunday that "the topic of Tomahawks is of extreme concern."

"Now is really a very dramatic moment in terms of the fact that tensions are escalating from all sides," he told Russian state television reporter Pavel Zarubin.

Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko, a close ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin, also said in comments released Sunday that he doubts the U.S. will provide Ukraine with Tomahawk cruise missiles.

"I think we need to calm down in this regard. Our friend Donald ... sometimes he takes a more forceful approach, and then, his tactic is to let go a little and step back. Therefore, we shouldn't take this literally, as if it's going to fly tomorrow," Lukashenko told Zarubin, who posted them on his Telegram channel on Sunday.

Ukraine's energy sector has been a key battleground since Russia launched its all-out invasion more than three years ago.

The latest attacks on Ukraine's energy grid came after Russian drone and missile strikes wounded at least 20 people in Kyiv, damaged residential buildings and caused blackouts across the country Friday, which Prime Minister Yuliia Svyrydenko described as "one of the largest concentrated strikes" against Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

Each year, Russia has tried to cripple the Ukrainian power grid before the bitter winter season, apparently hoping to erode public morale. Winter temperatures run from late October through March, with January and February the coldest months.

Ukraine's air force said Saturday that its air defenses intercepted or jammed 103 of 118 Russian drones launched against Ukraine overnight, while Russia's Defense Ministry said it had shot down 32 Ukrainian drones over Russian territory.

World's oldest president could extend his rule as Cameroon votes in an election

By NALOVA AKUA and WILSON MCMAKIN Associated Press

YAOUNDE, Cameroon (AP) — Cameroon voted in an election Sunday that could see Africa's oldest leader extend his rule by another seven years.

Analysts have predicted a victory for President Paul Biya. Now 92, he would be 99 by the time his term finishes. He first came to power in 1982 following the resignation of Cameroon's first president, Ahmadou Ahidjo, and has ruled the country since then. Biya was declared the winner of seven subsequent elections. Cameroon has seen just two leaders since independence in 1960.

However, cracks may be appearing in Biya's image.

His health has routinely been a topic of speculation as he spends most of his time in Europe, leaving day-to-day governing to key party officials and family members.

Dr. Benjamin Akih, an activist and professor at Syracuse University, believes that the opposition candidate Issa Tchiroma Bakary may win due to Biya's age and his long track record of running Cameroon.

"I think this election is different. Mr. Biya was the weakest candidate the CPDM could put forward on account of his age and the poor state of the country after his 43 years in power," he said.

"In the face of increasingly difficult international environment, the challenges facing us are more and more pressing," Biya said in announcing another run. "In such a situation, I cannot shirk my mission."

Biya faces nine opposition candidates, including some former allies and appointees. They include Bello Bouba Maigari, who was minister for tourism, and Issa Tchiroma Bakary, who until recently served as the minister of employment.

Biya voted at a primary school in the capital Yaounde, telling reporters that he wouldn't comment on his plans until the results were in.

Results are expected at the latest by Oct. 26.

Joshua Osih, an opposition candidate for president for the Social Democratic Front and a member of parliament who came fourth in the 2018 election, told The Associated Press his party was worried about voter fraud but stressed that the process of counting the votes will be long.

"There is still a lot of room for progress to make things smoother. Unfortunately, the bottlenecks as we usually say are the multiple ballots instead of single ballots and also the fact that the process is really cumbersome," said Osih. "The system makes it such that the elections cannot be free and fair, that we know."

There is a single round of voting in Cameroon and whoever gets the most votes is the winner.

Cheukam Ginette, a 34-year-old environmentalist and first-time voter, said she won't choose Biya.

"Things have to change. First of all, life is expensive, getting medical care is not easy," she said outside of a polling station in Yaounde. "There are no roads, we have potholes everywhere. Everything is ruined. That's why I voted for the opposition. I do not have confidence in the electoral process because we know our country but I'm hopeful."

At a campaign rally last week in the northern city of Maroua, Biya promised change for one of Cameroon's poorest areas. The predominantly Muslim north accounts for nearly 20% of the eligible voters, and Maigari and Bakary command strong followings there.

Cameroon faces escalating security crises. In the western region, a secessionist war is being fought between mainly English-speaking separatists who claim they are marginalized by the French-speaking majority, and government forces. In the north, the Boko Haram insurgency spills over from neighboring Nigeria, with armed groups routinely attacking border towns.

At least 43% of the population live in poverty as measured by core living standards such as income, education and health, according to U.N. estimates.

Around 8 million voters, including over 34,000 overseas, are eligible to vote at more than 31,000 polling stations in the Central African nation. Cameroon has a population of over 29 million people, a majority overwhelmingly young.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 47 of 59

No. 3 Indiana has its highest ranking ever in AP Top 25, Texas, USC back in the rankings

By ERIC OLSON AP College Football Writer

Indiana moved up to No. 3 in The Associated Press college football poll Sunday for its highest ranking in program history and Texas was among five teams entering the Top 25 after eight ranked teams, three of them previously unbeaten, lost over the weekend.

Ohio State and Miami remained the top two teams while the Hoosiers earned a four-spot promotion for their 10-point win at then-No. 3 Oregon. No. 4 Texas A&M and No. 5 Mississippi traded places after the Aggies' 17-point home win over Florida and the Rebels' three-point home win over Washington State.

The Buckeyes strengthened their hold on No. 1 with a solid road win against then-No. 17 Illinois and received 50 first-place votes, 10 more than last week. Miami, which was idle, earned 13 first-place votes and Indiana got the other three.

Alabama moved up two spots to No. 6 and was followed by Texas Tech, Oregon, Georgia and LSU. Oregon dropped five spots and has its lowest ranking in 20 polls since it was No. 8 in September 2024.

Indiana's groundbreaking run under second-year coach Curt Cignetti has been one of the biggest stories in college football since last season. The Hoosiers went into the Oregon game 0-46 on the road against top-five teams and, before Sunday, had never been ranked higher than No. 4. Their three first-place votes are their most in a poll since they got the same number when they were ranked No. 6 on Nov. 5, 1945.

Oklahoma plunged eight spots to No. 14 with its first loss, 23-6 to Texas. The Longhorns were the pre-season No. 1 team, but a season-opening loss at Ohio State and Week 6 loss at Florida dropped them out of the Top 25. In beating the rival Sooners, they held a top-10 opponent without a touchdown for the first time since 1979 and re-entered the poll at No. 21.

Missouri, which started 5-0, fell two spots to No. 16 after its three-point home loss to Alabama.

In and out

— No. 20 Southern California, ranked two weeks in September, returned on the strength of its 18-point home win over Michigan.

— No. 21 Texas picked up its first win of the season against a ranked opponent and won't see another one for at least three weeks.

— No. 23 Utah is back after a three-week absence following a 32-point win over Arizona State.

— No. 24 Cincinnati beat UCF at home for its fifth straight win and is ranked for the first time since 2022.

— No. 25 Nebraska came from behind to beat Maryland on the road and has its first ranking of the season.

— Michigan (15), Illinois (17), Arizona State (21), Iowa State (22) and Florida State (25) dropped out.

Poll points

— No. 4 Texas A&M has its highest ranking in a regular season since it was No. 3 in September 1995.

— No. 25 Nebraska is ranked in consecutive seasons for the first time since 2013-14.

— With five teams dropping out, it was the most turnover in a regular-season poll since seven teams fell out Oct. 2, 2022.

Conference call

SEC (10) — Nos. 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 21.

Big Ten (5) — Nos. 1, 3, 8, 20, 25.

Big 12 (4) — Nos. 7, 15, 23, 24.

ACC (3) — Nos. 2, 12, 18.

American (2) — Nos. 19, 22.

Independent (1) — No. 13.

Ranked vs. ranked

— No. 5 Mississippi (6-0) at No. 9 Georgia (5-1): Judging by their close call against Washington State, the Rebels might have been looking ahead to this one. They've lost six straight in Athens since 1996.

— No. 10 LSU (5-1) at No. 17 Vanderbilt (5-1): Tigers have won 10 straight in the series. Both teams will be ranked in this matchup for the first time since 1947.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 48 of 59

— No. 11 Tennessee (5-1) at No. 6 Alabama (5-1): A Top 25 matchup for fifth straight year. Both teams coming off hard-fought, three-point wins.

— No. 20 Southern California (5-1) at No. 13 Notre Dame (4-2): High stakes in this storied series with both teams clinging to playoff hopes.

— No. 23 Utah (5-1) at No. 15 BYU (6-0): First Top 25 matchup in this one since 2009. Last year, Cougars benefited from a questionable fourth-down defensive holding penalty before kicking field goal with 4 seconds left for a 22-21 win.

'Tron: Ares' tops box office but falls short of expectations with \$33.5 million debut

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr. AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Tron: Ares" powered up the box office grid in the top spot this weekend, but Disney's third entry in the sci-fi franchise fell short of expectations.

Despite some favorable reviews — including a three-out-of-four-star one from The Associated Press — the new "Tron" film starring Jared Leto, Greta Lee and Jeff Bridges earned \$33.5 million, according to Comscore estimates on Sunday. The big-budget project, reported to cost around \$150 million, arrived 15 years after "Tron: Legacy" opened to \$44 million before grossing more than \$400 million globally.

The latest chapter follows a battle between two powerful technology firms, Emcom and Dillinger, who face off against the same artificial intelligence barrier. Both can generate physical creations using laser-based 3D printers — but each creation lasts only 29 minutes before collapsing into ash.

"Tron: Ares" was packed with action and nostalgia, but it wasn't enough to draw big numbers across more than 4,000 theaters.

"It's been tough for that franchise to gain traction for it to become a big mega franchise," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. He noted that the original "Tron" movie in 1982 initially struggled at the box office, but it ultimately grew a cult following.

Dergarabedian said the international numbers could play a key role toward the film's profitability.

"It still topped the box office," he said. "It picked a solid release date. All eyes are on a big Disney film that is a huge brand, known and has been around for decades."

It wasn't the only new release that struggled to connect.

"Roofman," which starred Channing Tatum and Kirsten Dunst in the blue-collar dramedy about a construction worker trying to rebuild his life, opened in second place with a modest \$8 million debut.

Paul Thomas Anderson's "One Battle After Another" came in third with \$6.6 million. "Gabby's Dollhouse: The Movie" held steady in fourth place with \$3.3 million. The Netflix and DreamWorks family release — based on the popular preschool series — continues to perform well with younger audiences in its third weekend.

In fifth, "Soul on Fire" debuted with \$3 million. The faith-based drama tells the true story of burn survivor and motivational speaker John O'Leary, featuring performances from Joel Courtney, William H. Macy and John Corbett.

"The Conjuring: Last Rites" followed with \$2.9 million, marking another steady entry in Warner Bros.' long-running horror franchise.

In seventh, "Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba – Infinity Castle" brought in \$2.2 million, continuing the anime franchise's strong theatrical momentum worldwide.

"The Smashing Machine," starring Dwayne Johnson as UFC legend Mark Kerr, added \$1.7 million in eighth place.

Rounding out the top 10 were "The Strangers: Chapter 2" with \$1.5 million and "Good Boy" with \$1.3 million.

After a couple big weekends last month, the box office has taken a hit in October — a month that Dergarabedian calls a bridge month between summer and holiday movie seasons. He said this month is perfect for films like "The Smashing Machine" and "After the Hunt," which releases Oct. 17, to shine in

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 49 of 59

their own way.

"If you're a movie fan, particularly in the indie, art house, award season types of film, this is a great month," he said. "Moviegoers should embrace the eclectic offerings out there on the big screen."

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. "Tron: Ares" \$33.5 million
2. "Roofman," \$8 million.
3. "One Battle After Another," \$6.6 million.
4. "Gabby's Dollhouse: The Movie," \$3.3 million.
5. "Soul on Fire," \$3 million.
6. "The Conjuring: Last Rites," \$2.9 million.
7. "Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba – Infinity Castle," \$2.2 million.
8. "The Smashing Machine," \$1.7 million.
9. "The Strangers: Chapter 2," \$1.5 million.
10. "Good Boy," \$1.3 million.

China vows to stand firm against Trump's tariff threat. He urges Beijing to be less confrontational

By KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China signaled on Sunday that it would not back down in the face of a 100% tariff threat from President Donald Trump and urged the United States to resolve differences through negotiations instead of threats. Trump responded by taking a less confrontational approach without retreating from his demands, while his vice president seemed to warn Beijing not to react aggressively.

"China's stance is consistent," the Commerce Ministry said in a statement posted online. "We do not want a tariff war but we are not afraid of one."

It was China's first official comment on Trump's threat to jack up the tax on imports from China by Nov. 1 in response to new Chinese restrictions on the export of rare earths, which are vital to a wide range of consumer and military products.

Hours later, Trump used his Truth Social platform to send a message to Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

"Don't worry about China, it will all be fine!" the Republican president wrote. "Highly respected President Xi just had a bad moment. He doesn't want Depression for his country, and neither do I. The U.S.A. wants to help China, not hurt it!!!"

Trump may have had an eye toward to U.S. financial markets on the eve of the new business week. The stock market will be open Monday, though bond markets will close for the Columbus Day holiday. On Friday, the broad S&P 500 stock market index plunged 2.7%, its worst day in about six months after Trump's tariff threat.

The back and forth threatens to derail a possible meeting between Trump and Xi and end a truce in a trade war in which new tariffs from both sides briefly topped 100% in April.

Vice President JD Vance said Trump was committed to protecting America's economic livelihoods while making the U.S. more self-sufficient. He said the fact that China has "so much control over critical supply in the United States of America" is the definition of a national emergency and therefore justifies Trump's move to impose tough tariffs.

"It's going to be delicate dance and a lot of it is going to depend on how the Chinese respond. If they respond in a highly aggressive manner, I guarantee you the president of the United States has far more cards than the People's Republic of China," Vance said on Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures."

"If, however, they're willing to be reasonable, then Donald Trump is always willing to be a reasonable negotiator. We're going to find out a lot in the weeks to come about whether China wants to start a trade war with us or whether they actually want to be reasonable," Vance continued. "I hope they choose the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 50 of 59

path of reason. The president of the United States is going to defend America regardless.”

Trump has raised taxes on imports from many U.S. trading partners since taking office in January, seeking to win concessions. China has been one of the few countries that hasn’t backed down, relying on its economic clout.

“Frequently resorting to the threat of high tariffs is not the correct way to get along with China,” the Commerce Ministry said in its post, which was presented as a series of answers from an unnamed spokesperson to four questions from unspecified media outlets.

The statement called for addressing any concerns through dialogue.

“If the U.S. side obstinately insists on its practice, China will be sure to resolutely take corresponding measures to safeguard its legitimate rights and interests,” the post said.

In addition to the 100% tariff, Trump threatened to impose export controls on what he called “critical software,” without specifying what that means.

Both sides accuse the other of violating the spirit of the truce by imposing new restrictions on trade.

Trump said in a social media post that China is “becoming very hostile” and that it is holding the world captive by restricting access to rare earth metals and magnets.

The Chinese Commerce Ministry post said the U.S. has introduced several new restrictions in recent weeks, including expanding the number of Chinese companies subject to U.S. export controls.

On rare earths, the ministry said that export licenses would be granted for legitimate civilian uses, noting that the minerals also have military applications.

The new regulations include a requirement that foreign companies get Chinese government approval to export items that contain rare earths sourced from China, no matter where the products are manufactured.

China accounts for nearly 70% of the world’s rare earths mining and controls roughly 90% of their global processing. Access to the material is a key point of contention in trade talks between Washington and Beijing.

The critical minerals go into many products, from jet engines, radar systems and electric vehicles to consumer electronics including laptops and phones. China’s export controls have hit European and other manufacturers, as well as American ones.

The Commerce Ministry statement said that the U.S. is also ignoring Chinese concerns by going forward with new port fees on Chinese ships that take effect Tuesday. China announced Friday that it would impose port fees on American ships in response.

Portugal holds municipal elections with attention on Lisbon after streetcar crash

By HELENA ALVES Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Voters in Portugal cast ballots Sunday in local elections, with attention on the mayoral race in Lisbon after a deadly streetcar crash last month.

Mayor Carlos Moedas, head of a right-of-center coalition, faces left-of-center Alexandra Leitão, a law professor, in the municipal race for a four-year term.

The vote comes after 16 people including 11 tourists were killed in a streetcar crash Sept. 3, causing a public outcry. Moedas rejected any blame and refused to resign.

Carris, the company operating the streetcar service and other public transport in the city, is overseen by Lisbon City Council.

But many say their vote is influenced far more by other issues in the city, such as housing policies and trash collection as Lisbon creaks under the strain of a surge in tourists and a steep climb in real estate prices.

“Chaotic traffic, a total mess, garbage like we hadn’t seen in many years,” said José Rosa, 72. “Of course this garbage issue is the result of a series of reasons but it needs planning. Politics is not just about performing in the face of issues, it is about anticipating them.”

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 51 of 59

His vote would not be influenced by the streetcar crash, he said.

For Sandra Almeida, one of the main issues is housing. "Us Lisbonites, we cannot live in Lisbon, we are being expelled from our own city," she said. The streetcar crash would not influence her vote either, she said. "It was an accident that happened, I think it's not related to political parties."

An official investigation into the crash is focusing on whether poor maintenance was to blame for problems with the streetcar's brakes and a safety cable.

"We're talking about mechanical failures, not political responsibility," Moedas said before the election.

He refused to convene a session with city councilors to discuss the crash before Sunday's election, saying he didn't want the tragedy to become a political football.

Lisbon voter Ana Btelho said the streetcar crash "only reinforced my opinion of the person representing us on the City Hall at the moment, and I think he represents us quite badly."

Moedas, 55, is viewed as a rising star in Portugal's center-right Social Democratic Party and widely regarded as a potential future prime minister. After earning a Harvard MBA, Moedas worked for Goldman Sachs and later set up his own investment management fund.

After a brief spell as a junior government minister and as a lawmaker, he became in 2014 a European commissioner in charge of the bloc's research, innovation and science arm. His election as mayor four years ago was a common career route for politicians eyeing higher office, with political responsibility for the capital regarded as a steppingstone.

Diane Keaton, Oscar-winning star of 'Annie Hall' and 'The Godfather,' dies at 79

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

Diane Keaton, the Oscar-winning star of "Annie Hall," "The Godfather" films and "Father of the Bride," whose quirky, vibrant manner and depth made her one of the most singular actors of a generation, has died. She was 79.

A family member told The Associated Press that Keaton died in California with loved ones. People magazine first reported the death on Saturday, noting that her health had suddenly declined. No other details were immediately available and representatives did not respond to request for comment.

The unexpected news was met with shock around the world.

Francis Ford Coppola, who cast her in "The Godfather," wrote on Instagram that, "Words can't express the wonder and talent of Diane Keaton. Endlessly intelligent, so beautiful...Everything about Diane was creativity personified."

Bette Midler, who she costarred with Keaton in "The First Wives Club," wrote, "She was hilarious, a complete original, and completely without guile, or any of the competitiveness one would have expected from such a star. What you saw was who she was...oh, la, lala!"

Leonardo DiCaprio, who played her nephew in "Marvin's Room" when he was 18, wrote on Instagram that she was "one of a kind. Brilliant, funny and unapologetically herself...she will be deeply missed."

Keaton was the kind of actor who helped make films iconic and timeless, from her "La-dee-da, la-dee-da" phrasing as Annie Hall, bedecked in that necktie, bowler hat, vest and khakis, to her heartbreaking turn as Kay Adams, the woman unfortunate enough to join the Corleone family.

Her star-making performances in the 1970s, many of which were in Woody Allen films, were not a flash in the pan either, and she would continue to charm new generations for decades thanks in part to a long-standing collaboration with filmmaker Nancy Meyers.

She played a businessperson who unexpectedly inherits an infant in "Baby Boom," the mother of the bride in the beloved remake of "Father of the Bride," a newly single woman in "The First Wives Club," and a divorced playwright who gets involved with Jack Nicholson's music executive in "Something's Gotta Give."

Keaton won an Oscar for "Annie Hall" and would go on to be nominated three more times, for "Reds," playing the journalist and suffragist Louise Bryant, "Marvin's Room," as a caregiver who suddenly needs

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 52 of 59

care herself, and "Something's Gotta Give," as a middle-aged divorcee who is the object of several men's affections.

In her very Keaton way, upon accepting her Oscar in 1978 she laughed and said, "This is something."

A child of Hollywood breaks through in New York

Keaton was born Diane Hall in January 1946 in Los Angeles, though her family was not part of the film industry she would find herself in. Her mother was a homemaker and photographer, and her father was in real estate and civil engineering, and both would inspire her love in the arts, from fashion to architecture.

Keaton was drawn to theater and singing while in school in Santa Ana, California, and she dropped out of college after a year to make a go of it in Manhattan. Actors' Equity already had a Diane Hall in their ranks, and she took Keaton, her mother's maiden name, as her own.

She studied under Sanford Meisner in New York and has credited him with giving her the freedom to "chart the complex terrain of human behavior within the safety of his guidance. It made playing with fire fun."

"More than anything, Sanford Meisner helped me learn to appreciate the darker side of behavior," she wrote in her 2012 memoir, "Then Again." "I always had a knack for sensing it but not yet the courage to delve into such dangerous, illuminating territory."

She started on the stage as an understudy in the Broadway production for "Hair," and in Allen's "Play It Again, Sam" in 1968, for which she would receive a Tony nomination. And yet she remained deeply self-conscious about her appearance and battled bulimia in her 20s.

Becoming a star with "The Godfather" and Woody Allen

Keaton made her film debut in the 1970 romantic comedy "Lovers and Other Strangers," but her big breakthrough would come a few years later when she was cast in Francis Ford Coppola's "The Godfather," which won best picture and become one of the most beloved films of all time. And yet even she hesitated to return for the sequel, though after reading the script she decided otherwise.

She summed up her role as Kay, a role she never related to even though she savored memories of acting with Al Pacino.

The 1970s were an incredibly fruitful time for Keaton thanks in part to her ongoing collaboration with Allen in both comedic and dramatic roles. She appeared in "Sleeper," "Love and Death," "Interiors," "Manhattan," and the film version of "Play it Again, Sam." The 1977 crime-drama "Looking for Mr. Goodbar" also earned her raves.

Allen and the late Marshall Brickman gave Keaton one of her most iconic roles in "Annie Hall," the infectious woman from Chippewa Falls whom Allen's Alvy Singer cannot get over. The film is considered one of the great romantic comedies of all time, with Keaton's eccentric, self-deprecating Annie at its heart.

In the New York Times, critic Vincent Canby wrote, "As Annie Hall, Miss Keaton emerges as Woody Allen's Liv Ullman. His camera finds beauty and emotional resources that somehow escape the notice of other directors. Her Annie Hall is a marvelous nut."

She acknowledged parallels between Annie Hall and real life, while also downplaying them.

"My last name is Hall. Woody and I did share a significant romance, according to me, anyway," she wrote. "I did want to be a singer. I was insecure, and I did grope for words."

Keaton and Allen were also in a romantic relationship, from about 1968, when she met him while auditioning for his play, until about 1974. Afterward they remained collaborators and friends. She later appeared in "Radio Days," in 1987, and "Manhattan Murder Mystery," in 1993.

"He was so hip, with his thick glasses and cool suits," Keaton wrote in her memoir. "But it was his manner that got me, his way of gesturing, his hands, his coughing and looking down in a self-deprecating way while he told jokes."

She was also romantically linked to Pacino, who played her husband in "The Godfather," and Warren Beatty who directed her and whom she co-starred with in "Reds." She never married but did adopt two children when she was in her 50s: a daughter, Dexter, and a son, Duke.

"I figured the only way to realize my number-one dream of becoming an actual Broadway musical comedy star was to remain an adoring daughter. Loving a man, a man, and becoming a wife, would have to be put aside," she wrote in the memoir.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 53 of 59

"The names changed, from Dave to Woody, then Warren, and finally Al. Could I have made a lasting commitment to them? Hard to say. Subconsciously I must have known it could never work, and because of this they'd never get in the way of achieving my dreams."

When Keaton met Nancy Meyers

Not all of Keaton's roles were home runs, like her foray into action in George Roy Hill's John le Carré adaptation of "Little Drummer Girl." But in 1987 she'd begin another long-standing collaboration with Nancy Meyers, which would result in four beloved films. Reviews for that first outing, "Baby Boom," directed by Charles Shyer, might have been mixed at the time but Pauline Kael even described Keaton's as a "glorious comedy performance that rides over many of the inanities."

Their next team-up would be in the remake of "Father of the Bride," which Shyer directed and co-wrote with Meyers. She and Steve Martin played the flustered parents to the bride which would become a big hit and spawn a sequel.

In 2003, Meyers would direct her in "Something's Gotta Give," a romantic comedy in which she begins a relationship with a playboy womanizer, played by Jack Nicholson, while also being pursued by a younger doctor, played by Keanu Reeves. Her character Erica Barry, with her beautiful Hamptons home and ivory outfits was a key inspiration for the recent costal grandmother fashion trend. It earned her what would be her last Oscar nomination and, later, she'd call it her favorite film.

She also directed occasionally, with works including an episode of "Twin Peaks," a Belinda Carlisle music video and the sister dramedy "Hanging Up," which Nora Ephron and Delia Ephron co-wrote, and she starred in alongside Meg Ryan and Lisa Kudrow.

Keaton continued working steadily throughout the 2000s, with notable roles in "The Family Stone," as a dying matriarch reluctant to give her ring to her son, in "Morning Glory," as a morning news anchor, and the "Book Club" films.

She wrote several books as well, including memoirs "Then Again" and "Let's Just Say It Wasn't Pretty," and an art and design book, "The House that Pinterest Built."

Keaton was celebrated with an AFI Life Achievement Award in 2017, telling the AP at the time that it was a surreal experience.

"I feel like it's the wedding I never had, or the big gathering I never had, or the retirement party I never had, or all these things that I always avoided — the big bash," she said. "It's really a big event for me and I'm really, deeply grateful."

In 2022, she "cemented" her legacy with a hand and footprint ceremony outside the TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles, with her children looking on.

"I don't think about my film legacy," she said at the event. "I'm just lucky to have been here at all in any way, shape or form. I'm just fortunate. I don't see myself anything other than that."

California expands privacy protections as Democratic-led states resist Trump's immigration agenda

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

Immigrants selling food, flowers and other merchandise along the sidewalks of California will have new privacy protections intended to keep their identities secret from federal immigration agents.

The measure, signed into law this past week by Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom, comes on the heels of other recently enacted state laws meant to shield students in schools and patients at health care facilities from the reach of President Donald Trump's immigration enforcement actions.

Democratic-led states are adding laws resisting Trump even as he intensifies his deportation campaign by seeking to deploy National Guard troops to Democratic-led cities to reinforce U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers who are arresting people suspected of being in the U.S. illegally.

By contrast, some Republican-led states are requiring local law enforcement agencies to cooperate with ICE agents.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 54 of 59

"The actions of the states really reflect the polarization of the country on this issue," said Jessica Vaughan, director of policy studies at the Center for Immigration Studies, which supports immigration restrictions. "We have seen some states move to cooperate to the greatest extent that they possibly can" with Trump's administration and others "doing what they can to try to thwart immigration enforcement in their state."

Across the U.S, state lawmakers this year have passed more than 100 bills relating to immigration, according to an Associated Press analysis aided by the bill tracking software Plural. The measures are divided almost evenly between those providing and denying protections to immigrants.

California is shielding immigrant information

Immigrants comprise a significant portion of California's urban sidewalk vendors. Some have been swept up in immigration enforcement actions, in part, because their outdoor work in public places makes them easier targets than people behind closed doors.

California's street vendors typically need permits from cities or counties. The new law prohibits local governments from inquiring about vendors' immigration status, requiring fingerprinting or disclosing personal information — name, address, birth date, social media identifiers and telephone, driver's license and Social Security numbers, among other things — without a judicial subpoena.

The law, which will take effect Jan. 1, was prompted by concerns that vendor databases kept by local governments could be accessed by federal immigration agents to target people for detention and deportation.

"We're talking about really security — security for businesses, security for human beings, security for people who have gone through so much," said Sergio Jimenez, a street vending organizer with the non-profit Community Power Collective in Los Angeles.

Additional laws recently signed by Newsom add immigration status to a list of protected medical information and prohibit schools from granting access to immigration enforcement officials without a court warrant. Another new California law directs schools and higher education institutions to immediately notify staff and students or parents when immigration officials are on campus.

Democratic states create safe places for immigrants

Upon taking office, Trump reversed a policy restricting federal immigration agents from arresting people at sensitive locations such as schools, churches and hospitals. Like California, other Democratic-led states responded with laws attempting to create safe places for immigrants.

A Maryland law enacted earlier this year requires public schools, libraries and health care facilities to restrict access for immigration enforcement officials unless presented with a court warrant. Nevada's Republican governor vetoed a similar measure for schools that had been passed by the Democratic-led Legislature.

Meanwhile, a new Colorado law allows civil penalties of up to \$50,000 for public child care centers, schools, colleges, health care facilities and libraries that collect information about people's immigration status, with some exceptions. New laws in Rhode Island prohibit health care providers and landlords from inquiring about people's immigration status. Oregon also enacted a similar law for landlords.

States split on aiding federal immigration agents

By contrast, Republican-led states have passed numerous laws intended to bolster Trump's immigration policies.

New laws in Texas, Florida and Arkansas require sheriffs who run jails to enter into federal agreements for their officers to be trained to help U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. State and local participation in the federal 287(g) immigration enforcement program — named after the section of law that created it — has exploded from 135 agreements in 21 states before Trump took office in January to more than 1,000 agreements presently in place in 40 states.

But some Democratic-led states have refused to take part. A new Delaware law prohibits participation in the program, similar to statutes already in place in California and Illinois. Democratic-led Vermont also tightened its restrictions on participating in federal immigration enforcement programs, repealing an exemption that had allow it during emergencies.

A Connecticut law that took effect in October allows people to sue local governments that cooperate with federal immigration authorities in violation of the state's "Trust Act."

Public benefits are a point of contention

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 55 of 59

In Washington, new state laws allow workers to take paid leave to attend immigration proceedings for themselves or family members and prohibit employers from using immigration status to coerce their employees.

But some Republican-led states have enacted laws limiting benefits for people in the country illegally.

A new Idaho law prohibits immigrants without legal status from receiving some publicly funded health benefits, including vaccinations, crisis counseling and prenatal and postnatal care for women. A new Louisiana law requires applicants for public benefits to be screened for legal immigration status and, if lacking it, reported to federal immigration authorities

Several Republican-led states — including Florida, Louisiana, New Hampshire, Tennessee and Wyoming — have adopted laws invalidating certain driver's licenses issued to immigrants in the U.S. illegally.

College tuition discounts are diminishing

Entering into this year, nearly half the states provided in-state tuition to public colleges and universities for residents living in the U.S. illegally. But that number has dwindled since Trump took office and the U.S. Department of Justice began suing states. The federal lawsuits assert states are violating the Constitution by providing in-state tuition for people without legal status while not offering the same benefit to out-of-state U.S. citizens.

Florida repealed its decade-old law allowing in-state tuition for students lacking legal status, effective July 1. Republican-led Texas and Oklahoma both ended similar tuition policies after getting sued by the Justice Department. Kentucky, which has a Democratic governor, also has taken steps to halt its policy after getting sued.

California lawmakers attempted to enhance tuition benefits for immigrants with a first-of-its kind measure allowing community college students who get deported or voluntarily leave the U.S. to continue receiving in-state tuition while taking online courses from afar. But Newsom vetoed the measure earlier this month, citing "significant constitutional concerns" that the tuition break was offered only to students who left the country and not also to residents of other U.S. states.

A bill passed by New Mexico's Democratic-led Legislature this year would have expanded in-state tuition breaks to immigrants who earned income in New Mexico during the previous two years or who attended at least two semesters of adult education courses. But Democratic Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham let the bill die without her signature.

Feeling hopeless in custody, many drop claims to remain in the US, leave voluntarily

By MARTHA BELLISLE Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Ramón Rodríguez Vazquez was a farmworker for 16 years in southeast Washington state, where he and his wife of 40 years raised four children and 10 grandchildren. The 62-year-old was a part of a tight-knit community and never committed a crime.

On Feb. 5, immigration officers who came to his house looking for someone else took him into custody. He was denied bond, despite letters of support from friends, family, his employer and a physician who said the family needed him.

He was sent to a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center in Tacoma, Washington, where his health rapidly declined in part because he was not always provided with his prescription medication for several medical conditions, including high blood pressure. Then there was the emotional toll of being unable to care for his family or sick granddaughter. Overwhelmed by it all, he finally gave up.

At an appearance with an immigration judge, he asked to leave without a formal deportation mark on his record. The judge granted his request and he moved back to Mexico, alone.

His case is an exemplar of the impact of the Trump administration's aggressive efforts to deport millions of migrants on an accelerated timetable, casting aside years of procedure and legal process in favor of expedient results.

Similar dramas are playing out at immigration courts across the country, accelerating since early July,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 56 of 59

when ICE began opposing bond for anyone detained regardless of their circumstances.

"He was the head of the house, everything — the one who took care of everything," said Gloria Guizar, 58, Rodriguez's wife. "Being separated from the family has been so hard. Even though our kids are grown, and we've got grandkids, everybody misses him."

Leaving the country was unthinkable before he was held in a jail cell. The deportation process broke him. 'Self deport or we will deport you'

It is impossible to know how many people left the U.S. voluntarily since President Donald Trump took office in January because many leave without telling authorities. But Trump and his allies are counting on "self-deportation," the idea that life can be made unbearable enough to make people leave voluntarily.

The Justice Department's Executive Office for Immigration Review, which oversees immigration courts, said judges granted "voluntary departure" in 15,241 cases in the 12-month period that ended Sept. 30, allowing them to leave without a formal deportation mark on their record or bar to re-entry. That compares with 8,663 voluntary departures for the previous fiscal year.

ICE said it carried out 319,980 deportations from Oct. 1, 2024 to Sept. 20. Customs and Border Protection declined to disclose its number and directed the question to the Department of Homeland Security.

Secretary Kristi Noem said in August that 1.6 million people have left the country voluntarily or involuntarily since Trump took office. The department cited a study by the Center for Immigration Studies, a group that advocates for immigration restrictions.

Michelle Mittelstadt, spokesperson for the Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank, said 1.6 million is an over-inflated number that misuses the Census Bureau data.

The administration is offering \$1,000 to people who leave voluntarily using the CBP Home app. For those who don't, there is a looming threat of being sent to a third country like Eswatini, Rwanda, South Sudan or Uganda.

Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said the voluntary departures show that the administration's strategy is working, and is keeping the country safe.

"Ramped-up immigration enforcement targeting the worst of the worst is removing more and more criminal illegal aliens off our streets every day and is sending a clear message to anyone else in this country illegally: Self-deport or we will arrest and deport you," she said in a statement sent to The Associated Press.

"They treat her like a criminal"

A Colombian woman dropped her asylum claim at a June appearance in a Seattle immigration court, even though she was not in custody.

"Your lawyer says you no longer wish to proceed with your asylum application," the judge said. "Has anyone offered you money to do this?" he asked. "No, sir," she replied. Her request was granted.

Her U.S. citizen girlfriend of two years, Arlene Adrono, said she planned to leave the country as well.

"They treat her like a criminal. She's not a criminal," Adrono said. "I don't want to live in a country that does this to people."

At an immigration court inside the Tacoma detention center, where posters encourage migrants to leave voluntarily or be forcibly deported, a Venezuelan man told Judge Theresa Scala in August that he wanted to leave. The judge granted voluntary departure.

The judge asked another man if he wanted more time to find a lawyer and if he was afraid to return to Mexico. "I want to leave the country," the man responded.

"The court finds you've given up all forms of relief," Scala said. "You must comply with the government efforts to remove you."

"His absence has been deeply felt"

Ramón Rodriguez crossed the U.S. border in 2009. His eight siblings who are U.S. citizens lived in California, but he settled Washington state. Grandview, population 11,000, is an agricultural town that grows apples, cherries, wine grapes, asparagus and other fruit and vegetables.

Rodriguez began working for AG Management in 2014. His tax records show he made \$13,406 that first year and by 2024, earned \$46,599 and paid \$4,447 in taxes.

"During his time with us, he has been an essential part of our team, demonstrating dedication, reliability,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 57 of 59

and a strong work ethic," his boss wrote in a letter urging a judge to release him from custody. "His skills in harvesting, planting, irrigation, and equipment operation have contributed significantly to our operations, and his absence has been deeply felt."

His granddaughter suffers from a heart problem, has undergone two surgeries and needs a third. Her mother doesn't drive so Rodriguez transported the girl to Spokane for care. The child's pediatrician wrote a letter to the immigration judge encouraging his release, saying without his help, the girl might not get the medical care she needs.

The judge denied his bond request in March. Rodriguez appealed and became the lead plaintiff in a federal lawsuit that sought to allow detained immigrants to request and receive bond.

On September 30, a federal judge ruled that denying bond hearings for migrants is unlawful. But Rodriguez won't benefit from the ruling. He's gone now and is unlikely to come back.

Estonia closes road through Russian territory due to presence of Russian troops

TALLIN, Estonia (AP) — Estonia has temporarily closed access for its citizens to a road they normally use that passes through a stretch of Russian territory, after the interior minister reported on a group of Russian soldiers standing there, Estonia's public broadcaster said Sunday.

Estonia's Police and Border Guard Board said in a statement Friday that the closure took place that day "after border guards observed a larger-than-usual unit moving on the territory of the Russian Federation."

The Estonian border agency said that the closure of the kilometer- (half-mile-) long road through the Saatse Boot is necessary to ensure the safety of people in Estonia and to prevent possible incidents.

The Saatse Boot in southeastern Estonia is a small, boot-shaped area of Russian territory extending into Estonia. Estonians and other citizens can drive through the area without a permit, but are not allowed to stop.

Estonian media reported that the Russian unit was made up of about 10 men. While Russian border patrols are normal in the area, it is unusual for them to stand in the middle of the road that is also used by Estonians, media reports said.

Interior Minister Igor Taro was quoted as saying Saturday that the Russian soldiers had left the area again. He added that the situation was calm but that the road would remain closed at least until Tuesday.

"There is no direct threat of war. This has been constantly confirmed by the Estonian Defense Forces. The Saatse Boot incident has not changed the situation," he was quoted as saying by the daily newspaper Postimees, according to the public broadcaster EER.

Later on Sunday, Estonian Foreign Minister Margus Tsahkna tried to alleviate possible concerns writing on X that "reports suggesting that the situation on the Estonian-Russian border is becoming tense are exaggerated."

He added that "in the longer term, we plan to stop using this road altogether. An alternative route that bypasses Russian territory is already available, and a new one is under construction. The current arrangement is a historical anomaly."

"To be clear: Nothing acute is happening on the border," he wrote. "The Russians are acting somewhat more assertively and visibly than before, but the situation remains under control."

Estonia has been on alert for Russian border incursions after three Russian fighter aircraft entered its airspace without permission last month and stayed there for 12 minutes.

A week earlier, Russian drones violated Poland's airspace in the most serious cross-border incident involving a NATO member since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Other NATO countries on the bloc's eastern flank have reported similar incursions and drone sightings on their territory.

A Myanmar town lies in shambles as both sides in civil war vie for control

By AUNG SHINE OO Associated Press

KYAUKME, Myanmar (AP) — Ten days after it was recaptured by Myanmar's military government, the town of Kyaukme stands eerily silent. Schools have reopened but the town's once-busy market is mostly empty. Vendors at some stalls closed them at the sight of visiting journalists, visibly nervous.

The once-thriving town in Myanmar's Shan State is in shambles, an Associated Press journalist confirmed on Friday in a rare visit to the war-torn area allowed by the country's military government.

The army allowed an AP photographer to join a trip organized by pro-military Myanmar media, the only representative of foreign media who was permitted to do so. The military doesn't allow a free press and bars journalists from entering conflict zones independently.

The journalists saw the charred wreckage of official buildings, such as the courthouse, police station and government housing. Much of the area around the town's hospital was destroyed, with its operations temporarily shifted to a nearby Chinese temple. At least one of the town's fire engines was burnt out.

Civilian houses seemed to be mostly unscathed, except those near damaged official buildings, but most of the town's original population of 46,000 had fled.

The ethnic militia that previously controlled the town accused the army of causing the damage with airstrikes and heavy weapons, while the government soldiers who took over the town said the militia destroyed structures as it retreated.

Because of its strategic location on a highway connecting central Myanmar to China, Kyaukme has been much fought over. About 115 kilometers (70 miles) northeast of Mandalay, the country's second-largest city, it has changed hands twice since the army in 2021 ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, setting off the current civil war between the military government and an alliance of militias representing ethnic minorities and pro-democracy activists.

Kyaukme was captured by the Ta'ang National Liberation Army in August 2024, amid a wave of victories by opponents of military rule that left them apparently in control of most of the country's territory. The TNLA is the guerrilla army of the Palaung ethnic minority.

The town fell back into the hands of the military government on Oct. 1 after a three-week battle, in a significant victory for government forces.

The army has mounted a succession of successful offensives in recent months, ahead of elections set for the end of the year. Critics say the polls will be neither free nor fair, but the army hopes that high turnout will help legitimize the vote.

Before attacking Kyaukme, the army in July recaptured the town of Nawngkhio, considered a gateway to Myanmar's heartland because it sits at the crossroads of Myanmar's eastern hills and its central flatlands.

From there, the 55 kilometers (33 miles) to Kyaukme is flanked by buildings damaged by bombs and bullets, or pummeled into debris.

Army checkpoints manned by newly drafted soldiers stand every 500 to 1,000 meters (yards) along the route. A major bridge was damaged, but remains standing and is under repair.

The authorities blocked journalists' access to some residential areas, which they said were dangerous.

"There are still land mines that haven't been cleared in parts of the neighborhood," said Capt. Wai Yan Kyaw, who was stationed at one of the town's gates.

The journalists saw unexploded ordnance, including a mortar shell sunk into the ground inside the compound of a Buddhist monastery.

Locals who spoke to the AP said that only a small part of the town's population had returned since its recapture.

A resident who had stayed behind during the fighting said that the overwhelming majority fled after fighting broke out last year, and those who stayed, like him, did so because they couldn't afford to leave. He spoke on condition of anonymity to avoid harassment from the authorities.

Kyaukme is near the front line of the continuing army offensive, with soldiers saying they believe TNLA

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 131 ~ 59 of 59

forces are in the hills just 32 kilometers (20 miles) away.

A motorbike taxi driver in his mid-30s, who also asked not to be named for his own security, said he believed residents would be unwilling to return until the army recaptures more nearby towns.

"People are unwilling to live near the front line," said the driver, who came back on Tuesday.

Today in History: October 13, Chilean miners rescued after 69 days underground

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, Oct. 13, the 286th day of 2025. There are 79 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 13, 2010, 33 men were rescued from a collapsed Chilean mine after being lifted one by one in capsules 69 days after they were trapped 2,300 feet (700 meters) underground.

Also on this date:

In 1792, the cornerstone of the executive mansion, later known as the White House, was laid by President George Washington during a ceremony in the District of Columbia.

In 1932, President Herbert Hoover and Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes laid the cornerstone for the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington.

In 1943, Italy declared war on Germany, its one-time Axis partner.

In 1960, the Pittsburgh Pirates won the World Series, defeating the New York Yankees in Game 7, 10-9, on a home run hit by Bill Mazeroski.

In 1972, a Uruguayan chartered flight carrying 45 people crashed in the Andes. In order to stay alive, survivors resorted to feeding off the remains of some of the dead; 16 people were rescued more than two months later.

In 1999, in Boulder, Colorado, the JonBenet Ramsey grand jury was dismissed after 13 months of work with prosecutors saying there wasn't enough evidence to charge anyone in the 6-year-old beauty queen's slaying.

In 2011, Raj Rajaratnam (rahj rah-juh-RUHT'-nuhm), the hedge fund billionaire at the center of one of the biggest insider-trading cases in U.S. history, was sentenced by a federal judge in New York to 11 years behind bars. He was released early, in 2019.

In 2016, Bob Dylan was named winner of the Nobel prize in literature.

In 2021, Hollywood's Captain Kirk, 90-year-old William Shatner, blasted into space aboard a ship built by Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin company; the "Star Trek" actor and three fellow passengers reached an altitude of 66.5 miles (107 kilometers) during a flight lasting just over 10 minutes.

Today's Birthdays: Gospel singer Shirley Caesar is 87. Singer-musician Paul Simon is 84. Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones is 83. Singer-musician Sammy Hagar is 78. Model Beverly Johnson is 73. Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., is 67. Singer/TV personality Marie Osmond is 66. NBA coach Doc Rivers is 64. Actor T'Keyah Crystal Keymah (tuh-KEE'-ah KRYIS'-tal kee-MAH') is 63. Football Hall of Famer Jerry Rice is 63. Comedian and actor Matt Walsh is 61. Baseball Hall of Famer Trevor Hoffman is 58. Actor Kate Walsh is 58. Actor Tisha Campbell is 57. Olympic silver medal figure skater Nancy Kerrigan is 56. Actor Sacha Baron Cohen is 54. Olympic gold medal swimmer and TV personality Summer Sanders is 53. Football Hall of Famer Brian Dawkins is 52. Basketball Hall of Famer Paul Pierce is 48. Singer Ashanti is 45. Olympic gold medal swimmer Ian Thorpe is 43. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., is 36. First daughter Tiffany Trump is 32. Actor Caleb McLaughlin is 24.