

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 1 of 62

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
- [3- Today on GDILIVE.COM](#)
- [4- Tigers Shut Out Baltic 43-0 to Seal Playoff Berth](#)
- [7- Junior High Football Teams](#)
- [8- Family Farmers & Ranchers Donate 35,000 Pounds of Ham to Feeding South Dakota](#)
- [9- Mosquito Update](#)
- [10- October Students of the Month](#)
- [11- SD SearchLight: Jet fuel company's leader calls South Dakota 'a difficult place to do business'](#)
- [13- SD SearchLight: Ellsworth squadron honored for involvement in operations against Iran](#)
- [14- SD SearchLight: Tariff 'curveball' complicates anti-inflation efforts, Fed official says in South Dakota](#)
- [15- SD SearchLight: Detroit Airport asks TSA to stop playing Noem video faulting Democrats for government shutdown](#)
- [16- SD SearchLight: No Kings day expected to draw millions for anti-Trump mass protests](#)
- [18- SD SearchLight: U.S. Supreme Court, federal courts to run out of money, limit operations amid shutdown](#)
- [19- SD SearchLight: Explanation released for potential ballot measure to replace property taxes with transaction tax](#)
- [20- SD SearchLight: SNAP benefits on pace to run out in two weeks if shutdown persists](#)
- [21- SD Searchlight: More work is needed to unlock the full benefits of rural telehealth, Sanford summit speakers say](#)
- [22- SD SearchLight: Trump's new \\$100K visa fee could worsen state doctor shortages, experts say](#)
- [25- Weather Pages](#)
- [29- Daily Devotional](#)
- [30- Subscription Form](#)
- [31- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [32- Upcoming Groton Events](#)
- [33- News from the Associated Press](#)

## Saturday, Oct. 18

Boys and Girls Soccer Second Round Playoffs.  
C and JV VB Tournament at Northwestern  
Varsity VB Tournament at Milbank  
United Methodist North Highland Coat Give A Way,  
9 a.m.



## Sunday, Oct. 19

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

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

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

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

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

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

2nd Grade GBB Practice, 4 p.m.

Dance Team Practice, 5 p.m.

5th Grade GBB Practice, 4 p.m.

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

© 2025 Groton Daily Independent

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 2 of 62

# 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.

## **Venezuela Tensions Mount**

President Donald Trump yesterday confirmed another strike on an alleged drug-carrying boat off Venezuela's coast. The attack, carried out Thursday, is believed to be the sixth since early September and the only one with survivors, now reportedly in US custody. It's unclear whether the survivors will be treated as prisoners of war or criminal defendants.

The news comes amid the largest US military buildup in the Caribbean since the 1980s in service of what Trump has characterized as an armed conflict against drug cartels. Earlier this week, the president revealed he had authorized CIA covert operations in the South American nation and was considering a potential land invasion. Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has responded by mobilizing troops and airing anti-American propaganda on state-run media.

Meanwhile, a bipartisan group of senators yesterday introduced legislation barring military action in Venezuela without congressional approval. The Navy admiral overseeing Latin American operations also unexpectedly announced his retirement Thursday.

## **Trump commutes former Rep. George Santos' prison sentence.**

President Donald Trump commuted the over seven-year prison sentence of former Republican Rep. George Santos, ordering his immediate release. Santos began his sentence in July after pleading guilty to wire fraud and aggravated identity theft. He was expelled from Congress in December 2023—after less than a year representing New York's 3rd congressional district—following his federal indictment.

## **Trump and Zelenskyy meet in Washington.**

President Donald Trump appeared hesitant to give Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy the long-range Tomahawk missiles requested during yesterday's meeting. Trump cited a need to keep a domestic stockpile, despite days earlier suggesting he was open to the proposition. The tone shift followed a Thursday phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin, during which the two agreed to meet in Budapest.

## **New York GOP disbands Young Republicans over controversial messages.**

Republican officials in New York unanimously voted to suspend the state's Young Republicans after racist and antisemitic messages sent by chapter leaders surfaced Tuesday. The leaked chat also included Kansas, Arizona, and Vermont chapter leaders. The Kansas Young Republicans dissolved earlier this week, and several chat members lost their jobs, including a New York assemblyman's chief of staff.

## **Prince Andrew relinquishes royal titles and honors amid Epstein accusations.**

The 65-year-old brother of King Charles III has dropped his "Duke of York" title, among other honors, noting speculation around his ties to late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein distracts from the royal family's work. Andrew was stripped of his military titles and several charity positions in 2022 amid a now-settled lawsuit alleging sexual abuse in coordination with Epstein. Andrew has denied wrongdoing.

## **John Bolton pleads not guilty in federal court.**

The first-term Trump administration national security adviser surrendered to authorities yesterday after being indicted Thursday. Bolton, who left the White House in 2019 after a falling out with President Donald Trump, pleaded not guilty to 18 criminal charges of mishandling classified documents. He was released on his own recognizance and is expected back in court Nov. 21.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 3 of 62

## Wearable monitor warns of overexposure to sunlight.

Researchers in South Korea created a sensor to warn of overexposure to ultraviolet A radiation. The device wirelessly transmits data to a user's phone, sending an alert when UVA exposure reaches 80% of the level that can cause a sunburn. The team is testing the sensor's durability and working to make it small enough to be integrated into glasses and watches before bringing it to market.

## OpenAI blocks MLK Jr. deepfakes on new video app.

The ChatGPT maker disabled AI-generated videos of Martin Luther King Jr. on Sora after a request from King's family. OpenAI acknowledged free speech interests in depicting historical figures but said their families should ultimately control the use of their likeness. Since Sora's launch last month, videos depicting Stephen Hawking, Robin Williams, and Queen Elizabeth II have also drawn criticism.

## Humankind(ness)

Today, we're sharing a story from reader Ina P. in Chicago, IL.

"A friend of a friend of a friend asked if I could help a young man find a position in a Chicago restaurant while he was in culinary school. I spoke to the young man, read his resume, and determined that he was serious about a career in culinary. A chef friend interviewed him, agreed, and hired him.

"I went to the opening of that restaurant last night and had a chance to meet the young man in person. The chef brought him over to my table and said in front of him he was 'killing it on the line!' The young man took my hand in both of his and thanked me for changing the trajectory of his life. It doesn't get any better than that."



Volleyball  
Milbank Tournament  
Sat., Oct. 18

Groton  
Area  
Tigers  
Groton, SD

GDILIVE



A production of the

Groton Daily Independent

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



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 4 of 62

## Tigers Shut Out Baltic 43-0 to Seal Playoff Berth

The Groton Area Tigers finished their regular season in commanding fashion Friday night, blanking the Baltic Bulldogs 43-0 on the road and locking in a berth in the Class 11B football playoffs.

Groton scored on six of its ten possessions, pairing explosive offense with a suffocating defense that allowed only three first downs and eight total rushing yards.

### Early Momentum and Defensive Dominance

The Tigers' opening drive began with a spark as Anthony Tracy returned a punt 40 yards to the Baltic 24. Penalties, however, halted the push, and Groton punted.

Moments later, Lincoln Krause intercepted a pass and returned it to the Bulldog 35. Two first downs later, Tracy powered across the goal line from one yard out. Asher Johnson added the two-point run to make it 8-0 with 3:04 left in the first quarter.

Baltic again went three-and-out, and Groton took over at the 46. The drive stretched into the second quarter, where Johnson hit Keegen Tracy on an 8-yard touchdown pass. The conversion failed, but Groton extended the lead to 14-0 with 9:43 to go in the half.

After another defensive stop, the Tigers marched 73 yards before Johnson scored on a 1-yard keeper. Karson Zak's kick made it 21-0.

Just before halftime, Ryder Johnson grabbed another interception, returning it to the 35. One play later, Asher Johnson broke free on a 30-yard touchdown run with one second left. Zak's PAT sent the Tigers into the break up 28-0.

### Halftime Perspective from the Booth

At halftime, longtime team statistician Tom Woods joined the GDI Live broadcast to summarize what had been one of Groton's cleanest halves of football this season.

"Our Tigers have held Baltic to one first down and 10 yards rushing," Woods reported. "They've attempted five passes, and the only ones they've completed have been to our guys—Lincoln Krause and Ryder Johnson."

Woods, who was keeping stats solo for the night, credited volunteer helper Keenan Moody for spotting tackles:

"He's doing a smashing job," Woods laughed. "I owe him a couple of chicken-strip baskets at Dairy Queen."

Through the first two quarters, Woods tallied 11 first downs for Groton, Asher Johnson 4-of-11 passing for 70 yards, and 93 yards rushing on 23 carries. He praised the Tigers' preparation, noting the team's ability to anticipate Baltic's outside runs:

"The coaches drilled on that all week, and you can see it in the stats."

Woods closed his halftime segment on a reflective note:

"In a world full of craziness, take time to think about the good things in your life. For me—besides my family and my Heavenly Father—I think about Groton Tiger football, and I'm thankful for that."

### Second-Half Control

Groton opened the third quarter with a steady march capped by a 13-yard touchdown pass from Johnson to Jordan Schwan. Zak's kick extended the lead to 35-0.

Minutes later, Krause snagged his second interception of the night, again giving Groton the ball at the 35. Anthony Tracy finished that drive with a 5-yard scoring run, and Tristin McGannon's two-point conversion closed the scoring at 43-0.

The defense did the rest, forcing multiple turnovers on downs while preserving the shutout.

### Wanner: "This Group Never Cashed It In"

After the game, Head Coach Shaun Wanner praised his players' commitment through a challenging season.

"This was a good group to coach," Wanner said. "Even though we weren't winning a few games on Friday night, when I woke up on Saturday I always felt good, because these guys were going to show up on Monday ready to go. They could have cashed it in weeks ago, but they never did."

He emphasized that steady improvement was the theme of the season.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 5 of 62

"We just kept getting better," he said. "The record doesn't mean anything now—next week everybody's 0-0. We're healthy, our younger kids are improving, and our older kids keep playing hard."

Wanner credited continuity for the Tigers' strong finish:

"We haven't had to move anybody around, and that's a big part of football. Those years we went deep into the playoffs, guys played the same spots for seven, eight, nine games. We're starting to see that again."

Looking ahead to the playoffs, Wanner said the opponent would be known once all scores were finalized.

"We could end up anywhere from 14 to 16 [seed]," he said. "We'll find out later tonight. Whatever happens, we'll be ready."

Stat Highlights

First Downs: Groton 18 – Baltic 3

Rushing: Groton 37 att., 194 yds, 5 TDs

Passing: 7-of-16, 98 yds, 1 TD

Total Offense: 292 yds

Interceptions: 3 (Krause 2, R. Johnson 1)

Leading Tacklers: Tucker Hardy 6; Connor Glines 4; Jordan Schwan 4

Baltic was led by Jackson Goehring with 8 carries for 20 yards. Quarterback Elias Oakley finished 3-of-12 passing for 33 yards.

## Next Up

Groton (3-5) advances to the first round of the Class 11B playoffs and is expected to travel to Clark-Willow Lake next week.

Baltic ends its season 0-8, still seeking its first win since 2021.

### Team Totals

Category	Groton Area	Baltic
First Downs	18	3
Rushing Attempts	37	17
Rushing Yards	194	8
Rushing Touchdowns	5	0
Pass Completions / Attempts	7 / 16	3 / 12
Passing Yards	98	33
Passing Touchdowns	1	0
Interceptions Thrown	0	3
Total Offensive Yards	292	41
Fumbles / Lost	1 / 0	1 / 0
Penalties / Yards	5 / 45	7 / 60
Turnovers (INT + Fumbles Lost)	0	3

### Groton Area Rushing

Player	Carries	Yards	TD
Anthony Tracy	9	61	2
Asher Johnson	11	45	1
Ryder Johnson	11	39	0
Keegen Tracy	2	34	0
Ryder Johnson (add'l)	1	12	0
Tristin McGannon	3	3	0

### Groton Area Passing

Player	Comp	Att	Yards	TD	INT
Asher Johnson	7	14	98	2	0
Keegen Tracy	0	1	0	0	0
T.C. Schuster	0	1	0	0	0

### Groton Area Receiving

Player	Rec	Yards	TD
Keegen Tracy	4	68	1
Jordan Schwan	1	13	1
Ryder Johnson	1	19	0
Ryder Schelle	1	-2	0

### Groton Area Defense

Player	Tackles	INT
Tucker Hardy	6	-
Connor Glines	4	-
Jordan Schwan	4	-
Lincoln Krause	-	2
Ryder Johnson	-	1

### Scoring Summary



Qtr	Time	Team	Scoring Play	Conversion	Score
1	3:04	Groton	A. Tracy 1 yd run	A. Johnson run	8-0
2	9:43	Groton	K. Tracy 8 yd pass from A. Johnson	Failed	14-0
2	4:02	Groton	A. Johnson 1 yd run	Zack kick	21-0
2	0:01	Groton	A. Johnson 30 yd run	Zack kick	28-0
3	7:24	Groton	J. Schwan 13 yd pass from A. Johnson	Zack kick	35-0
3	3:04	Groton	A. Tracy 5 yd run	T. McGannon run	43-0

# Groton Daily Independent



Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 6 of 62

## Class 11B - State

### #1 -

	1 Elk Point-Jefferson	8-0	10/23 TBD
	16 Flandreau	2-6	


### #2 -

	8 Sioux Valley	4-4	10/23 TBD
	9 Parker	5-3	

### #3 -

	4 Deuel	7-1	10/23 TBD
	13 McCook Central/Montrose	5-3	

### #4 -

	5 Wagner	6-2	10/23 TBD
	12 Chamberlain	4-5	

### #5 -

	2 St. Thomas More	8-0	10/23 TBD
	15 Hot Springs	4-4	



### #6 -

	7 Mount Vernon/Plankinton	4-4	10/23 TBD
	10 Mobridge-Pollock	6-2	

### #7 -

	3 Clark/Willow Lake	7-1	10/23 TBD
	14 Groton Area	3-5	

### #8 -

	6 Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central	7-1	10/23 TBD
	11 Winner	5-4	

Seed Points Averages (calculated Oct. 17): #1 Elk Point-Jefferson 46.875 - #2 St. Thomas More 45.000 - #3 Clark/Willow Lake 44.500 - #4 Deuel 43.750 - #5 Wagner 43.500 - #6 Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 43.000 - #7 Mount Vernon/Plankinton 41.875 - #8 Sioux Valley 41.875 - #9 Parker 41.375 - #10 Mobridge-Pollock 41.250 - #11 Winner 41.111 - #12 Chamberlain 40.556 - #13 McCook Central/Montrose 40.250 - #14 Groton Area 39.375 - #15 Hot Springs 39.250 - #16 Flandreau 38.750

Tie Breakers: #7 Mount Vernon/Plankinton over Sioux Valley based on average of opponents' seed points (345.89 vs. 335.00)



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 7 of 62



## Eighth Grade Football Team

Back row- Lance Hawkins, Major Dolan, Liam Lord, Ryder Schwan, Trayce Schelle, Keegan Kucker, Xavier Klebsch, Ryker Bruns, and Jordan Carson.

Front row- Kyson Kucker, Eli Heilman, Trey Tietz, Jameson Penning, Kade Woltjer, Asher Zimmerman, and Gavin Hanten.



## Seventh Grade Football Team

In back, left to right, are Coach Lance Hawkins, Knox Mulder, Ivan Schwan, Quinton Flores, Carter Boerger, Drew Fjeldheim, Zach Pahl, Kinton Tracy, Bentley Ehresmann and Coach Jordan Carson; in front, left to right, are Colton Morehouse, Gradyn Rowen, Hank Hill, Mason Locke, Booker Hardy, Parker Zoellner and Preston Hinkelman.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 8 of 62

## Junior High Football Teams have success season

The junior high football boys wrapped up a successful season on October 17th. In combined games, the team as a whole for 7th and 8th went through the year undefeated. The 8th grade won all of their individual games. The 7th grade lost one game.

Below is a list of all of the games.

Groton over Ellendale/Edgely/Kulm	14-6
Groton over Webster	30-0
7th Groton over Milbank	20-0
8th Groton over Milbank	16-14
Groton over Florence/Henry	16-6
Groton over Clark/Willow Lake	8-6
Groton over Tiospa Zina	28-14
Groton over Clark/Willow Lake	24-6
7th Groton over Roncalli	14-12
8th Groton over Roncalli	36-0
7th Groton loss to Sisseton	12-14
8th Groton over Sisseton	46-0

## Family Farmers & Ranchers Donate 35,000 Pounds of Ham to Feeding South Dakota

By Lura Roti

Feeding others is the life's work of family farmers and ranchers. And caring for neighbors in need matters to the members of South Dakota's largest agriculture organization. For these reasons South Dakota Farmers Union donated 35,000 pounds of pork on October 17 to Feeding South Dakota.

"Farmers and ranchers and Feeding South Dakota have a lot in common – we all spend our days doing work that feeds people," explained Doug Sombke, a Brown County farmer and President of South Dakota Farmers Union. "This donation is the right thing for our organization to do, because right now a lot of our neighbors are struggling to feed their families. In fact, this harvest there are a lot of farmers struggling financially because the Trade War took away our soybean markets, so many of us are losing money this harvest"

The 35,000 pounds of ham could not come at a better time, explained Hailey Srtska, Vice President of Operations for Feeding South Dakota.

"Protein is in high demand for the guests we serve because it is at an all-time high in the grocery store and we do not have access to protein like we typically do because of federal commodity food cuts to our program," Srtska said. "And with the government shutdown we expect our lines of guests to grow."

Several thousand South Dakotans are among the federal employees who will not be receiving a paycheck during the shutdown.

Through Feeding South Dakota's extensive network of partnering food pantries, the ham donated by South Dakota Farmers Union will be distributed to rural communities across South Dakota.

"It means so much to our organization that Farmers Union made this donation," Srtska said. "To be able to add these hams to our menu and make this wonderful source of protein available to families across the state is huge right now."

To learn more about how South Dakota Farmers Union works to support family farmers, ranchers and rural communities, visit [www.sdfu.org](http://www.sdfu.org).



## South Dakota Mosquito



SD WNV (as of October 17):

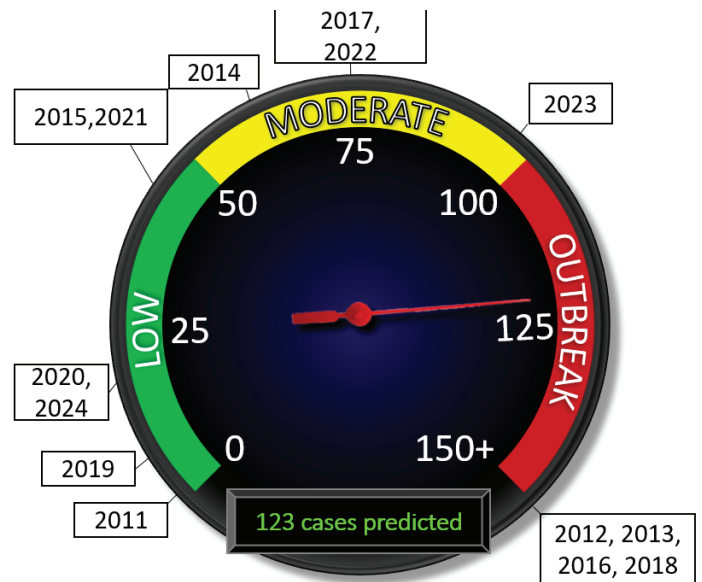
86 human cases (Aurora, Beadle, Bon Homme, Brookings, Brown, Corson, Codington, Charles Mix, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Gregory, Haakon, Hamlin, Hand, Hughes, Hutchinson, Lawrence, Lincoln, Marshall, Meade, Miner, Minnehaha, Pennington, Roberts, Sanborn, Stanley, Spink, Todd, Yankton, Walworth) and 4 deaths

10 human viremic blood donors (Brookings, Brown, Codington, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Spink)

7 counties with positive mosquito pools (Beadle, Brown, Brookings, Codington, Hughes, Lincoln, Minnehaha)

US WNV (as of October 14): 1564 cases (AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NJ, NM, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WI, WV, WY)

WNV Prediction Model – Total Number of Cases Projected for 2025, South Dakota (as of October 15)



Mosquito Surveillance Summary for 2025

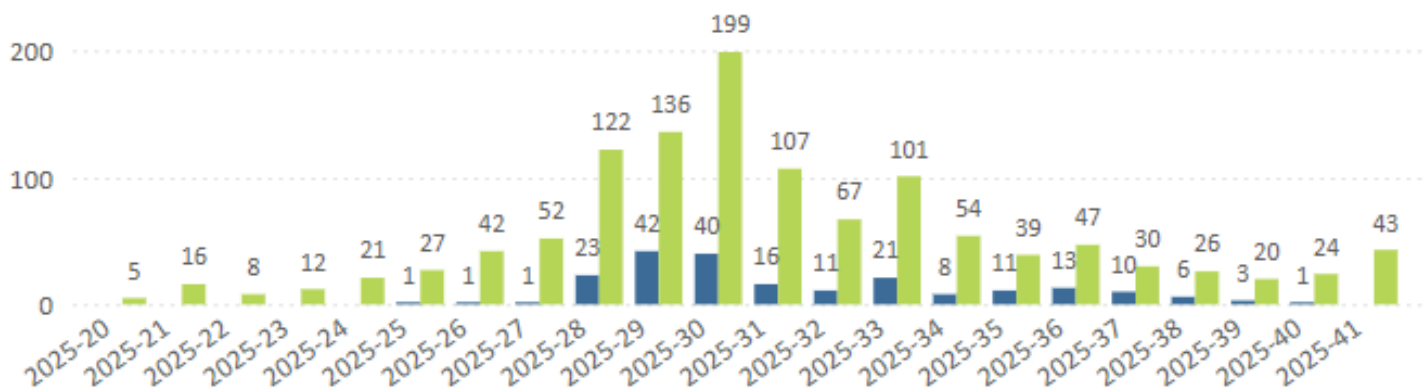
Total sites collecting mosquitoes: 57

Total mosquito pools tested: 1,406

% positivity: 14.79%

### Number of Mosquito Pools Tested by MMWR Week and Status

Test Status: ● Positive ● Negative



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 10 of 62

## *Groton Area October Students of the Month*



Pictured in back, left to right, are Junior Kira Clocksene, sophomore T.C. Schuster, sixth grader Arthur Eichler and senior Carly Gilbert; in front, left to right, are seventh grader Libby Johnson, eighth grader Hudson Eichler and freshman Wesley Borg.

Groton Area School works to ensure that all levels of academic instruction also include the necessary life skills teaching, practicing, and modeling that encourages essential personal life habits that are universally understood to facilitate helping our students become good human beings and citizens.

It is learning with our heads, hearts, and hands to be caring and civil, to make healthy decisions, to effectively problem solve, to be respectful and responsible, to be good citizens, and to be empathetic and ethical individuals.

Students are selected based on individual student growth in the areas of: positive behavior, citizenship, good attendance, a thirst for knowledge, and high academic standards.



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### Jet fuel company's leader calls South Dakota 'a difficult place to do business'

**Gevo moved its focus from Lake Preston to North Dakota amid carbon pipeline debate**

**BY: JOHN HULT-OCTOBER 17, 2025 5:38 PM**

The leader of the company that abandoned its immediate plans to build a \$2.6 billion ethanol-based jet fuel plant in Lake Preston said Friday that South Dakota is no longer a friendly place to do business.

In 2022, Gevo CEO Patrick Gruber stood alongside South Dakota Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden, then the lieutenant governor, at the ceremonial groundbreaking for the project, billed as the largest economic development project in state history.

This week, Gruber and his Colorado-based company announced plans for a smaller jet fuel facility at an ethanol plant in Richardton, North Dakota.

Gevo bought the plant a year ago in the wake of South Dakota pushback on a carbon sequestration pipeline that was critical to the company's Lake Preston business plan.

"South Dakota is a very difficult place to do business," Gruber told South Dakota Searchlight on Friday. "Everything is oppositional. North Dakota is a breath of fresh air."

Gruber said his company still hopes to build something on the 200-odd acres it owns in Kingsbury County at some point in the future. It wouldn't be a standalone ethanol plant, he said, but it could be a jet fuel plant that uses corn oil or ethanol, or be used as a chemical production plant.

Gruber sees a future where 70 of the nation's approximately 180 ethanol plants use designs like Gevo's to convert to jet fuel production. Demand is growing, he said, and the U.S. can't keep up with the petroleum-based refineries it has.

That's long-term, though. Whether the Lake Preston site is a part of that conversation or is used for another offshoot of Gevo's operations is also a ways off.

At this point, after watching opposition to the Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline drive policy changes over the past three years, Gruber said he's wary of engaging South Dakota leaders.

In 2022, he said, there was strong support in state leadership for both the pipeline and Gevo's Net Zero-1 complex in Kingsbury County.

Then the political winds shifted.

"Having lived through the change, I'm not doing that again," Gruber said.

#### **Carbon sequestration drives business**

Summit Carbon Solutions had hoped to gather carbon dioxide from ethanol plants across multiple states and deliver it via underground pipe to a site in North Dakota for sequestration. In doing so, the company would cash in on federal carbon capture tax credits.

Gevo, were it to build its operations in Lake Preston and connect to that line, would be able to lower the carbon emissions of its jet fuel, boosting its value in certain markets.

Gevo's North Dakota plant sits atop the same formation that would be used to sequester carbon by Summit. This year, Gevo's been pumping the carbon from that plant underground and selling carbon credits to other companies that want to offset their carbon footprint. Sequestering carbon also lowers an ethanol plant's carbon score, so Gevo can sell it for more in some areas.

Gruber said the company can also sell carbon to fossil fuel companies in North Dakota's oilfields for use in enhanced oil recovery — pumping gas underground to force more crude oil toward a well.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 12 of 62

"We did good by buying that plant," Gruber told Searchlight.

Summit, meanwhile, is in limbo. Gov. Rhoden signed a bill banning the use of eminent domain by carbon pipeline companies this year. Eminent domain is the legal process by which land access can be obtained for use in projects that benefit the public, with compensation for landowners determined by a court. The specter of eminent domain sparked landowner opposition, litigation and political activism in South Dakota, leading to the ban.

The Public Utilities Commission denied Summit's permit application twice, but the company vowed to reapply.

## Issue splits governor candidates

On Thursday, Rhoden said he's glad to hear that Gevo may still build in South Dakota. He also said signing the eminent domain ban for carbon pipelines was the right thing to do in response to citizen concerns, and that Summit has a chance to "reset" its plans and work with landowners.

Rhoden has not announced if he'll be a candidate to keep his job in 2026, but he's spent much of his first year in office on an "Open for Opportunity" tour to meet business leaders across the state.

South Dakota Speaker of the House Jon Hansen, R-Dell Rapids, was the first Republican to announce his intention to run for governor. He's been among the loudest opponents of the carbon pipeline.

Hansen said he's not saddened to hear about Gevo's shift to North Dakota. He pointed to a \$12.2 million tax rebate authorized for Gevo by the Governor's Office of Economic Development in 2023 and said companies ought to be able to thrive in South Dakota without incentives.

"This is yet another example of what I've been fighting against: politicians and bureaucrats in the Governor's Office of Economic Development getting duped by green-energy and other scams — abusing so-called 'economic development' programs to hand out our tax dollars to out-of-state corporations."

Hansen said South Dakotans "want our money back," and that "corporate welfare waste" would end if he were elected governor.

Gruber said Friday, however, that Gevo never used its tax rebate, because it was predicated on building the Net Zero-1. Since that hasn't happened, "we have not taken any money from South Dakota." Josie Harms, Rhoden's spokeswoman, confirmed that Gevo hasn't collected any state money, and that it has paid sales taxes on anything it purchased in South Dakota to prepare the site.

Nothing has been done to the land for about two years.

Another Republican candidate for governor, Aberdeen businessman Toby Doeden, also leaned in on opposition to publicly funded economic development incentives in his statement on Gevo. He said companies that want to locate in South Dakota should "share our values" and be able to "succeed without politicians putting their fingers on the scale."

"As governor, I will attract businesses, large and small, who will come here on fair terms," Doeden said in a statement. "Businesses that move here should do so on their own two feet without demanding hundreds of millions in state subsidies or abusing residents in the process."

Republican U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, who's also declared his candidacy for governor in 2026, has talked recently about wanting to make South Dakota's business climate more friendly again. This week, he sent out a press release on a "Data Centers Done Right" initiative, which he said would incentivize their placement in South Dakota and make the state "be a national leader in the AI revolution."

Hansen and Doeden each responded to that announcement by saying they're opposed to tax breaks.

Johnson, in a statement on the Gevo situation, said anti-development attitudes are the reason the state lost ground in the latest iteration of CNBC's "America's Top States for Business" rankings.

"Unfortunately, this isn't the only project looking to leave South Dakota," Johnson wrote. "Our state has slid down the rankings to the 35th best state for business. South Dakota has many strengths, but if we are going to meet our potential, we'll need vision and a plan."

Robert Arnold, the only declared Democratic candidate for governor, said South Dakotans have made their feelings on the carbon pipeline clear. But he also said he'd like to see Gevo follow through and build in South Dakota.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 13 of 62**

"I hope that we haven't turned this industry completely away from us and we can negotiate a deal down the road," Arnold said in a statement.

## **Lake Preston anticipated loss**

Lake Preston Mayor Donna Bumann said pipeline opposition wasn't an issue in her community.

"For the farmers in our area that Summit has connected with, it's been quite positive," Bumann said. "I realize that's not the same in other areas."

Bumann said her community had embraced Gevo and the benefits its proposed jet fuel plant promised. In a presentation offered to investors last year, the company included a slide that said Net Zero-1 would return \$170 million annually to the South Dakota economy, create 1,300 short-term and 100 long-term jobs, partner with universities to promote science education and draw graduates to its operations, and pay area farmers a premium for corn.

"We are hopeful that, in due time, circumstances will make it possible for Gevo to move forward," Bumann said.

Kingsbury County Commission Chairman Kyle Lee wasn't surprised by the news, either.

"Once the state said that they weren't going to allow for Summit to do any eminent domain, I think we knew that was going to end up being the straw that broke the camel's back," Lee said.

Net Zero-1's footprint would've included an ethanol plant, a plant to turn that ethanol into jet fuel, and a wind farm proposed by a company called Zero6. It also spurred East River Electric Cooperative to invest in a switching station near the Gevo site, meant to help service the company's power needs.

This month, however, Zero6 pulled its application for interconnection from the Southwest Power Pool's queue. The Southwest Power Pool manages the wholesale power market for the central U.S.

Chris Studer of East River Electric said the cooperative will still build its switching station and use it to serve existing customers.

"We weren't just building lines to serve Gevo," Studer said, but he added that the upgrades will ready the area for any large-scale industrial project that might come along.

*John is the senior reporter for South Dakota Searchlight. He has more than 15 years experience covering criminal justice, the environment and public affairs in South Dakota, including more than a decade at the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.*

## **Ellsworth squadron honored for involvement in operations against Iran**

**BY: JOSHUA HAIAR-OCTOBER 17, 2025 4:53 PM**

South Dakota Gov. Larry Rhoden on Friday recognized a remotely piloted aircraft squadron at Ellsworth Air Force Base for its role in a June U.S. military operation that officials say helped end a 12-day war between Israel and Iran.

A news release from the governor said that "for the safety of all those involved," Friday was "the first day the governor could publicly acknowledge" the squadron's involvement in the operation.

The 89th Attack Squadron remotely pilots MQ-9 Reaper drones from ground control facilities at the base near Rapid City. In June, the squadron participated in Operation Midnight Hammer, which culminated in strikes on Iranian nuclear sites ordered by President Donald Trump, according to the governor's office.

The operation destroyed three Iranian nuclear sites, according to statements from the Trump administration. Trump said at the time that the strikes were intended to end Iran's nuclear weapons program, calling them a "spectacular military success."

Rhoden praised the squadron for what he described as "heroic service and sacrifice in defense of America and our freedoms." He declared Friday as "89th Attack Squadron Appreciation Day" in South Dakota.

The governor's office said the squadron conducted 177 hours of intelligence operations and provided information that helped safeguard more than 17,000 U.S. troops and informed the president's decision-making on the military strikes.

Rhoden presented the recognition during a ceremony at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

*Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public af-*

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 14 of 62

*fairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked for five years as a multimedia specialist and journalist with South Dakota Public Broadcasting.*

## Tariff 'curveball' complicates anti-inflation efforts, Fed official says in South Dakota

BY: SETH TUPPER-OCTOBER 17, 2025 11:46 AM

RAPID CITY — A national leader in monetary policy said during a visit to South Dakota that the Federal Reserve was "making good progress" bringing down inflation until "tariffs threw a curveball at us."

Neel Kashkari, president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, addressed dozens of people during a question-and-answer session Thursday at the Hyatt Place in downtown Rapid City. A local economic development group, Elevate Rapid City, hosted the event.

A tariff is a tax on imported goods. Kashkari said the duration and severity of tariff-caused price increases is still unknown.

"The impact of tariffs on the economy is taking longer to be felt than I would have guessed when they were announced," he said.

That's partly because some businesses have used their inventories to avoid buying imported goods, which has allowed them to avoid passing the cost of tariffs on to their customers.

"But as that inventory gets worked down, they have to replenish it," Kashkari said. "They're telling us, 'Hey, at the beginning of the year, we might start to see more of a tariff impact on prices.'"

### Effects on farmers

Farmers are already feeling the effects of higher tariffs. Responding to a question about China's retaliatory boycott of U.S. soybean purchases, Kashkari said the situation is changing the global marketplace.

"What's happening is you're seeing other countries respond by growing more beans," he said. "And so more supply is coming online, and that is going to have a permanent effect on the price of soybeans, and it really disrupts our markets."

He added that "when our whole supply lines are set up to ship to China, it's not so easy to now turn it around and ship it someplace else."

Yet he said there's little the Fed can do for affected farmers: "All we can do is try to keep inflation in check, and it really is a question for our elected leaders and for fiscal policy to try to address."

### Interest rates

Kashkari is a member of the Federal Open Market Committee, which sets the target for the influential federal funds interest rate. The Fed has kept the rate higher in recent years while trying to bring inflation down to 2% over the long term.

The Trump administration has publicly pressured the Fed to lower the key interest rate faster. At the same time, the administration has been imposing and threatening higher tariffs on an array of imports from numerous countries.

The measure of annual inflation used by the Fed, the personal consumption expenditures price index, peaked above 7% three years ago and was down to 2.3% this April, but has since risen to 2.7%. Last month, the Fed reduced its key interest rate for the first time this year, lowering its short-term rate from about 4.3% to about 4.1%. Kashkari supported the move and said at the time that two more reductions could be warranted by the end of the year.

On Thursday, he said "I don't think it's likely that we're going to wake up to 4 or 5% inflation," because the Fed can "do the math" to determine how tariff rates will impact inflation.

"So, I think the risk of inflation is more one of persistence, that it's not so much of a one-time event, but it stays at 3% for an extended period of time," Kashkari said.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 15 of 62

## Other topics

Kashkari spoke about numerous other topics raised by audience members Thursday, including the following.

**Politics:** Regarding pressure from the Trump administration, Kashkari said that “the best thing we can do when we face political uncertainty is to do our jobs to the best of our ability, leaving politics at the door. And the more we do that and the more we are seen and acknowledged to be doing that, the more credibility I believe we will have with the American people.”

**Artificial intelligence:** Kashkari said he’s “long-term bullish” on the technology’s potential but “short-term skeptical” about predictions it will cause mass layoffs, because most major new technologies take decades to “get woven into the fabric of society.”

**Immigration:** The two sources of economic growth are productivity and population growth, Kashkari said, and without the latter, “you’re going to have slower growth unless you decide to embrace immigration. And that’s just math.”

**Housing affordability:** Home prices will go up if interest rates are cut without more homes being built, Kashkari said, so “localities need to look at what can you do locally to try to remove some of the barriers that are preventing more supply from coming in.”

**Consumer outlook:** “Consumers keep getting asked questions: ‘How are you feeling about the economy?’” Kashkari said. “And for the last three years, consumers have said, ‘The economy stinks. I’m gloomy as heck.’ And then they go spend thousands of dollars on Taylor Swift tickets, and they get on planes, and they go out to restaurants, and people are spending money like crazy. And so there’s a disconnect between how people are feeling and what they are actually doing.”

*Seth is editor-in-chief of South Dakota Searchlight. He was previously a supervising senior producer for South Dakota Public Broadcasting and a newspaper journalist in Rapid City and Mitchell.*

## Detroit Airport asks TSA to stop playing Noem video faulting Democrats for government shutdown

BY: KYLE DAVIDSON-OCTOBER 17, 2025 6:36 PM

Officials from the Wayne County Airport Authority have asked Transportation Security Administration officials to stop playing a video that blames Congressional Democrats for the ongoing federal government shutdown, which has contributed to thousands of flight delays across the country.

The video in question features Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem.

Matt Morawski, director of communications and external affairs for the Wayne County Airport Authority, confirmed on Tuesday that the TSA was playing the video on monitors in the space it leases at Detroit Metro Airport.

On Wednesday, the airport authority issued a statement noting that it had asked the TSA to stop playing the video. The airport authority reiterated that it does not control the checkpoint monitors within TSA-leased airport space, and that the administration did not request permission to play the message.

The airport is also displaying signs at the entrances of TSA checkpoints that read: “The views expressed in this TSA controlled video do not represent the views of the Wayne County Airport Authority. The Wayne county airport authority does not engage in partisan politics. Thank You.”

In the video, Noem says that Democrats in government have refused to fund the federal government, noting that most TSA employees are working without pay.

“We will continue to do all that we can to avoid delays that will impact your travel,” Noem said. “And our hope is that Democrats will soon recognize the importance of opening the government.”

When asked about the Wayne County Airport Authority’s request via email, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security – which oversees the TSA – responded with a statement from Assistant Secretary For Public Affairs Tricia McLaughlin.

“It is TSA’s top priority to ensure that travelers have the most safe, pleasant and efficient airport experi-

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 16 of 62

ence possible," McLaughlin said. "However, Democrats in Congress refuse to fund the federal government, and because of this, most of our TSA employees are working without pay. While this creates challenges for our people, our security operations remain largely unimpacted at this time."

McLaughlin added: "It's unfortunate our workforce has been put in this position due to political gamesmanship. Our hope is that Democrats will soon recognize the importance of opening the government."

On Monday, spokespeople for Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority and Flint Bishop International Airport confirmed they were not playing the video.

On Thursday, Heidi Groenboom, communications and events associate for the Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority, also said that the digital screens owned by the airport authority are designated for static content offering travel information and helping travelers find their way.

Kasey Posa, director of marketing and public relations for Flint Bishop International airport, said the airport is not showcasing the video on any monitors owned or operated by the Bishop International Airport Authority.

However, Posa also said that the TSA is an independent federal agency that manages security in leased space within airports. For this reason, the TSA has its own internal communications system and has the discretion to air federally distributed content independent of the Airport Authority.

"Because the message in the referenced video violates [Bishop International Airport Authority's] Airport Rules and Regulations, we have requested that TSA stop playing the video," Posa said.

Since the shutdown began, the Trump Administration has taken to blasting Democrats through various official channels, displaying messages on several federal agencies' websites blaming Democrats for the shutdown.

However, Democrats have pushed back, noting that Republicans, as the party in control of the White House and both chambers of Congress, the government shutdown is the GOP's crisis to own.

The Hatch Act bars federal employees from engaging in partisan political activities while on duty, and the federal government is now facing several legal challenges due to its shutdown messaging.

Consumer advocacy watchdog Public Citizen filed legal challenges against nine government agencies, while the Center for Biological Diversity filed complaints against the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Democracy Defenders Fund, a nonpartisan organization focused on protecting democracy and defending the rule of law, filed two letters with the Government Accountability Office calling for an investigation into whether the U.S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Treasury, Agriculture, Justice, State, and Health and Human Services violated the Anti-Deficiency Act, as well as other bans against using federal funds for political propaganda.

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

*Kyle Davidson covers state government alongside health care, business and the environment. A graduate of Michigan State University, Kyle studied journalism and political science. He previously covered community events, breaking news, state policy and the environment for outlets including the Lansing State Journal, the Detroit Free Press and Capital News Service.*

## No Kings day expected to draw millions for anti-Trump mass protests

**BY: SHAUNEEN MIRANDA-OCTOBER 17, 2025 6:10 PM**

WASHINGTON — More than 2,600 nonviolent demonstrations against President Donald Trump's administration are slated Saturday as part of No Kings day.

The second No Kings day, following another in June, is in response to what a broad coalition of liberal advocacy and labor organizations say is "the increasing authoritarian excesses and corruption of the Trump administration, which they have doubled down on since June."

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 17 of 62**

Organizers expect millions of Americans to join in peaceful events in Washington, D.C., across the country and internationally. Locations are pinpointed on a map on the organization's website.

"No Kings is back," said Eunic Epstein-Ortiz, a national spokesperson, at a press conference Thursday. "And over the past few months, thousands of people have organized once again in their communities, on the ground locally, volunteering to bring their neighbors, families and friends together to say, unequivocally, we have no kings. Together, they're the ones making this Saturday's mobilization the largest single-day protest in modern history."

## **Among the states:**

- In Utah, Salt Lake City's No Kings protest organizers canceled the march portion of the event and are instead holding a longer demonstration at the state Capitol, according to the Utah News Dispatch.
- In Maine, at least 30 No Kings events are set to be held, per the Maine Morning Star.
- In Nevada, demonstrators in downtown Las Vegas will again be confined to sidewalks, the Nevada Current reports, citing high permit costs.
- In Kentucky, nearly 30 No Kings protests are popping up in the Bluegrass State, according to the Kentucky Lantern.
- Ten No Kings protests are planned in North Dakota, according to the North Dakota Monitor.
- In Arkansas, the Arkansas Advocate reports that the protests in more than a dozen cities come as the potential for severe weather ratchets up at the same time the events are scheduled.

## **Shutdown, Trump crackdown since June protests**

The demonstrations build off the No Kings protests in June, which coincided with Trump's massive military parade on his 79th birthday.

Four months later, the federal government is mired in an ongoing shutdown that began Oct. 1 with no clear end in sight. The administration has also cracked down on U.S. cities, deploying National Guard troops and partaking in sweeping immigration raids.

Leading voices from labor and advocacy groups that are part of the broad No Kings coalition amplified their message ahead of the planned protests during the Thursday press conference, underscoring a peaceful day of action on Saturday.

"We're going to vigorously exercise our democratic rights peacefully and nonviolently, and against this tyrannical threat of Donald Trump and his administration, we are going to protect American democracy," said Robert Weissman, co-president of Public Citizen.

## **House speaker criticizes No Kings day**

National leaders from the coalition also pushed back against U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson's depiction of the demonstrations as the "hate America rally."

The Louisiana Republican claimed on Fox News Oct. 10 that "it's all the pro-Hamas wing and the antifa people — they're all coming out," adding: "Some of the House Democrats are selling T-shirts for the event, and it's being told to us that they won't be able to reopen the government until after that rally because they can't face their rabid base."

Leah Greenberg, co-founder of Indivisible, said "there is nothing more American than saying that we don't have kings and exercising our right to peaceful protest," adding: "America doesn't have kings. That's our entire point."

Greenberg said: "I also want to be clear: it is ridiculous, it's also sinister, because it is part of a broader effort to create a permission structure to crack down on organized opposition and peaceful dissent in this country."

"They are sending the National Guard into American cities, they are terrorizing our immigrant friends and neighbors with their secret police, they are prosecuting political opponents, and now they are trying to smear millions of Americans who are coming out to protest so that they can justify a crackdown on peaceful dissent."

Katie Bethell, executive director of MoveOn, said "let's be crystal clear about who is peacefully taking the streets on Saturday — it's teachers, federal workers, nurses, families, our neighbors and our friends."



# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 18 of 62**

"All of our leaders, Republicans and Democrats alike, should listen to what these patriotic Americans have to say," Bethell said.

"The millions of people protesting are centered around a fierce love of our country, a country that we believe is worth fighting for," she said. "This is the reality across cities and towns, large and small, rural and suburban, in red areas, blue areas — millions of us are peacefully coming together on Saturday to send a clear and unmistakable message: The power belongs to the people."

## **In other states:**

- The Ohio Capital Journal noted dozens of No Kings protests set to take place in the Buckeye State.
- About 40 No Kings protests are planned in Indiana, according to the Indiana Capital Chronicle.
- Rhode Island is expected to see at least 10 No Kings protests, according to the Rhode Island Current.
- More than 100 communities across Michigan plan to hold No Kings rallies, the Michigan Advance reports.
- In Arizona — where more than 60 No Kings protests are anticipated — high turnout is expected even in the state's rural Republican strongholds, according to the Arizona Mirror.

## **Protests in South Dakota**

### **FROM SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT**

No Kings protests are planned in South Dakota cities including Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Spearfish, Pierre, Mitchell, Huron, Watertown, Brookings and Vermillion.

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

## **U.S. Supreme Court, federal courts to run out of money, limit operations amid shutdown**

**BY: JENNIFER SHUTT-OCTOBER 17, 2025 6:02 PM**

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court and the rest of the federal judiciary are set to run out of funding in the next few days, a new development in the ongoing government shutdown that will likely reverberate throughout much of the country.

The Supreme Court, which is in the middle of its fall term and slated to hear oral arguments for the next several months, will run out of funding Saturday, according to a statement from public information officer Patricia McCabe.

"At that point, if new appropriated funds do not become available, the Court will make changes in its operations to comply with the Anti Deficiency Act," McCabe wrote. "The Supreme Court will continue to conduct essential work such as hearing oral arguments, issuing orders and opinions, processing case filings, and providing police and building support needed for those operations."

The building, she added, will be closed to the public but remain open for official business.

A spokesperson for the Supreme Court told States Newsroom in late September that it planned to "rely on permanent funds not subject to annual approval, as it has in the past, to maintain operations through the duration of short-term lapses of annual appropriations."

U.S. federal courts will run out of funding "to sustain full, paid operations" Monday due to the ongoing government shutdown, though they "will maintain limited operations necessary to perform the Judiciary's constitutional functions," according to an announcement released Friday.

"Federal judges will continue to serve, in accordance with the Constitution, but court staff may only perform certain excepted activities permitted under the Anti-Deficiency Act," the U.S. Courts statement said.

The shutdown began on Oct. 1 after Congress was unable to find a bipartisan path forward on a stopgap spending bill. The U.S. Courts said at the time they would be able to use "court fee balances and other funds not dependent on a new appropriation" to keep up and running through Friday.

The new announcement from the courts said that several activities are excepted and can legally continue

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 19 of 62**

during the funding lapse. Those include anything necessary "for the safety of human life and protection of property, and activities otherwise authorized by federal law.

"Excepted work will be performed without pay during the funding lapse. Staff members not performing excepted work will be placed on furlough."

The statement said that each individual court throughout the federal system will make its own decision about how active cases will proceed during the shutdown.

"Anyone with Judiciary business should direct questions to the appropriate clerk of court's office, probation and pretrial supervision office, or federal defender organization, or consult their websites," the announcement read.

People summoned for federal jury duty will still need to report as instructed, since that program "is funded by money not affected by the appropriations lapse and will continue to operate."

The online case management and electronic filing system, known as PACER, will keep operating despite the shutdown's impact on the courts.

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

## **Explanation released for potential ballot measure to replace property taxes with transaction tax**

**BY: SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT STAFF-OCTOBER 17, 2025 6:00 PM**

The South Dakota Attorney General's office released a proposed explanation Friday for a potential citizen-initiated ballot question that would repeal property taxes and replace them with a retail transaction tax.

The sponsor of the measure is Abolish Property Taxes SD, a statewide ballot question committee formed by former legislator Julie Frye-Mueller, Matt Smith and Mike Mueller. They're seeking to place a state constitutional amendment on the ballot in the November 2026 general election.

Attorney General Marty Jackley is required to provide a fair and neutral explanation of the measure.

His Friday news release said the measure would repeal South Dakota's property tax system set forth in the state constitution and replace it with a tax on each retail transaction. For each retail transaction of \$15 or more, a flat tax of \$1.50 would be assessed. For each retail transaction less than \$15, a 10% tax would be assessed.

The transaction taxes would be added on top of current sales taxes, which include the state 4.2% sales tax, up to 2% city sales taxes, and up to 1% additional city taxes on alcohol, restaurants, event admissions and lodging.

The public has 10 days, until Oct. 27, to provide written comment on the explanation. The final explanation is due to the Secretary of State's Office on Nov. 5.

The sponsors will have to circulate petitions and gather at least 35,017 signatures from registered South Dakota voters to qualify the measure for the ballot.

### **How to comment**

Comments on the proposed explanation (but not the merits of the proposed ballot question itself) may be submitted by mail or hand-delivered to:

Office of the Attorney General  
Ballot Comment  
1302 S.D. E. Hwy. 1889, Suite #1  
Pierre, SD 57501

Comments may also be emailed to [ATGballotcomments@state.sd.us](mailto:ATGballotcomments@state.sd.us). Comments should be clearly expressed in the body of the email. The Attorney General's Office will not open attachments, in an effort to prevent malware or other digital threats. Please include your name and contact information when submitting your comment. The title of the comment must be included in the subject line of the email.

The deadline is Oct. 27.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 20 of 62

## **SNAP benefits on pace to run out in two weeks if shutdown persists**

**South Dakota department says there is 'some uncertainty beyond that date'**

**BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA-OCTOBER 17, 2025 3:56 PM**

WASHINGTON — As the federal government shutdown extends to day 17, and with congressional leaders nowhere near negotiating, state officials are beginning to raise concerns of potential cuts to nutrition assistance benefits that feed millions if the government isn't reopened.

Minnesota has already halted new enrollments in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. And officials in Kansas, New Hampshire and New Mexico have warned their residents could miss their food assistance payments for November.

More than 42 million Americans rely on the program, which the U.S. Department of Agriculture administers. The federal government funds nearly all the program benefits, with states administering the program.

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins warned Thursday that SNAP will run out of funds in two weeks if Congress fails to strike a deal and end the government shutdown.

"You're talking about millions and millions of vulnerable families of hungry families that are not going to have access to these programs because of this shutdown," she said outside the White House Thursday.

USDA could not be reached for comment Friday.

USDA has directed regional SNAP directors to stop working on benefits for November, according to an Oct. 10 letter obtained by Politico, written by the program's acting associate administrator, Ronald Ward.

"Considering the operational issues and constraints that exist in automated systems, and in the interest of preserving maximum flexibility, we are forced to direct States to hold their November issuance files and delay transmission to State EBT vendors until further notice," Ward wrote. "This includes on-going SNAP benefits and daily files."

USDA has already shuffled more than \$300 million in tariff revenue into the agency's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, or WIC, through the rest of the month.

The shutdown started Oct. 1 after Congress failed to find a bipartisan path forward on a stopgap spending bill.

Senate Democrats have pushed for negotiations to extend the enhanced tax credits that are set to expire at the end of the year for people who buy their health insurance from the Affordable Care Act marketplace.

Republicans have insisted on passing the House's version of the stopgap funding bill that does not address insurance premiums.

## **SD department acknowledges 'uncertainty' as governor, Democrats assign blame**

FROM SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

The South Dakota Department of Social Services said in a statement Friday that it expects to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program funding from the federal government through at least Oct. 31.

"While there is some uncertainty beyond that date, DSS is working proactively to stay informed and prepared," the statement said. "We will continue to share updates as soon as reliable information becomes available."

The South Dakota Democratic Party, meanwhile, issued a news release Friday saying the department "has been instructed by the federal government to freeze" program payments. The party did not disclose a source for the claim or provide documentation.

The most recently available statistics from August showed 74,802 people on the program in South Dakota, including 33,490 children. Dan Ahlers, executive director of the state Democratic Party, called attention to the numbers in a press release.

"While Democrats are fighting to protect working families and keep costs down, Republicans in Congress are holding the country hostage to protect tax breaks for their wealthiest donors," Ahlers said. "It's immoral to use hungry families as bargaining chips."

Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden took an opposite position in a statement to South Dakota Searchlight, saying congressional Democrats have known that program payments would not be available in November if the government shutdown continues.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 21 of 62

"Let's deal in facts: congressional Republicans have voted several times, alongside a handful of Democrats, to reopen the government," Rhoden said. "Senate Democrats need to end their obstruction and join Republicans in reopening the government."

*South Dakota Searchlight's Joshua Haiar and Seth Tupper contributed to this report.*

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

## More work is needed to unlock the full benefits of rural telehealth, Sanford summit speakers say

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER-OCTOBER 17, 2025 10:32 AM

SIOUX FALLS — The key to improving rural health care in the Dakotas is more than telehealth, according to health and innovation experts.

It'll require providing rural residents with tools to monitor their own health, and nearby hubs or health care access to conduct basic tests ahead of telehealth visits with specialists.

"How do we have both the tools and the training to tell you how to use them so that the care can start even before the ambulance gets there?" said Nworah Ayogu, a physician and investor in health care technology.

Ayogu, who is also a member of the Sanford Health Plan board, was one panelist to speak about efforts to improve rural access to affordable and quality health care at the fourth annual Summit on the Future of Rural Health Care hosted by Sanford Health in Sioux Falls on Tuesday.

Investments in tech aim to relieve some challenges, panelists say

Ateev Mehrotra, a physician and professor at Brown University School of Public Health, urged caution in the health care industry's rush to invest in artificial intelligence.

As a panelist alongside Ayogu, Mehrotra added that the investment shouldn't be made to the detriment of patient care and that health systems should ensure there is evidence supporting the technology is a good investment of their money.

Mehrotra highlighted the gap in telehealth use nationwide for rural and urban patients. Even though telehealth was created in large part to address rural needs, he said, urban patients tend to use the technology more consistently. Rural patients nationwide will also sometimes bypass their local, smaller hospitals to get care from larger hospital systems hundreds of miles away.

"It's not the technology; the technology can fix this problem. It's rather how we're deploying it right now in the United States," Mehrotra said. "And so that's really what I'm focused on, which is how do we change the way that we're using telehealth in the United States so that we can finally address that big gap."

The gap could also be due to a lack of adequate technology access, Mehrotra said.

Most patients Dave Newman sees have access to broadband, said the Fargo, North Dakota-based endocrinologist and chief medical officer of virtual care at Sanford. But he has had telehealth visits with farmers on their phones during harvest season or with a patient still with a rotary phone.

Telehealth does not require complex technology, but simply meeting the patients where they're at, Newman said. The virtual care center has more than 75 specialties now, he added.

Health systems like Sanford are working to improve virtual care, including training providers on "webside manners" and establishing a network of clinics and access points close to rural residents, Newman said.

"We consider ourselves a hub and we support multiple different spokes," Newman said. "What the spokes are is dependent on what patients need."

As an example, he said a clinic in Williston, North Dakota, with a nurse, lab and imaging facilities can run tests a patient needs before a telehealth visit with a subspecialist in Fargo or Sioux Falls "without having to travel the huge distance."

Avera Health, another major health system in South Dakota, was awarded a three-year federal grant to invest in its virtual nursing program, which connects virtual nurses to patients in hospital rooms. The

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 22 of 62

program also uses AI to monitor patient falls in hospitals, which Avera Virtual Health Director Kristine Becker told South Dakota Searchlight after the award announcement will “shape the way” hospital systems deliver care.

Further investment in remote patient monitoring, equipment at home and other technology can improve rural care even further, participants at the conference said.

Although AI could potentially increase efficiencies, nurses and clinicians are still needed to care for South Dakota’s growing and aging population, panelists said.

## **\$50 billion for rural health**

State governments can further help address rural health needs by bringing partners together, Ayogu and Newman said, and ensuring medical students and doctors receive training pertinent to practicing in a “new world.”

Mehrotra added that the state could facilitate e-consults across the state and across health care systems to improve care, and it could provide licensure reciprocity with nearby states so South Dakotans could receive virtual care from out-of-state providers rather than traveling hundreds of miles to Minneapolis or other larger health care systems.

Adequately reimbursing telehealth services for patients on Medicare or Medicaid, which brings together state and federal players, was top of mind for Newman and other panelists.

“We know it’s effective, and there have been temporary fixes,” Newman said. “We have had kind of a Band-Aid instead of an actual fix to the problem. The funding bills now have a longer fix, but nothing has been done to reassure the health care systems or the providers that are doing this care that they will continue to see reimbursement.”

Republican South Dakota Gov. Larry Rhoden highlighted the state’s efforts in recent years at the conference, including a “game changer” telemedicine program meant to bolster rural ambulance services. The program was launched with pandemic relief funds during former Gov. Kristi Noem’s administration.

He added that the \$50 billion Rural Health Transformation Program will be a new opportunity, with over \$500 million of those funds expected to reach South Dakotans in the next five years. The fund was created to offset the impact of Medicaid changes on rural hospitals created by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, signed by President Donald Trump in July.

“I think that there’s going to be a sizable investment in rural health care in South Dakota,” Rhoden said.

American Hospital Association President and CEO Rick Pollack called the \$50 billion five-year investment “modest” compared to the \$1 trillion in funding hospitals nationwide are expected to lose in the next decade.

“They’re going to look for transformation in terms of different approaches,” Pollack said during a panel discussion, “whether it’s expanding access to behavioral health services, whether it’s telehealth, whether it’s using different technologies in terms of virtual care, whether it’s how you can retain and grow a workforce in rural areas.”

*Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan who regularly reports on the intersection of politics and policy with health, education, social services and Indigenous affairs. Her work with South Dakota Searchlight earned her the title of South Dakota’s Outstanding Young Journalist in 2024, and she was a 2024 finalist for the national Livingston Awards.*

## **Trump’s new \$100K visa fee could worsen state doctor shortages, experts say**

### **Immigrant doctors help fill the gaps in underserved communities**

**BY: NADA HASSANEIN-OCTOBER 17, 2025 7:00 AM**

In Kentucky, patients drive up to two hours to see Dr. Manikya Kuriti, one of the few endocrinologists who serve the rural communities surrounding Louisville.

Kuriti’s husband, a pulmonologist, drives from Louisville to small hospitals an hour south and north, in Indiana, to help small teams treat critically ill patients.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 23 of 62

Rural communities have long struggled to recruit and retain doctors. Many rural hospitals are struggling financially, and have had to eliminate services or even shut down. The shortage of providers is critical in rural communities that tend to have higher rates of chronic illness and early death compared with their urban counterparts.

Many immigrant physicians help fill those gaps thanks in part to the H-1B visa, which allows skilled foreign workers to come work in the U.S. Both Kuriti and her husband came to the U.S. via the H-1B visa.

But last month, President Donald Trump announced a new \$100,000 fee for H-1B visas. The announcement quickly drew criticism from leading medical organizations, which note immigrant physicians make up a significant portion of the health care workforce. They're concerned the move will hinder the flow of immigrant doctors to the U.S. and exacerbate the nation's doctor shortage, which is expected to worsen in the coming decades.

Earlier this month, labor unions and other groups filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California against the administration over the payment. They argue that the move is unlawful and that the president doesn't have the authority to circumvent Congress to collect such revenue. The plaintiffs — represented by the South Asian American Justice Collaborative, the Justice Action Center and others — include the AFL-CIO Committee of Interns and Residents and Global Nurse Force.

Last month, the American Medical Association and more than 50 other organizations sent a letter to the Department of Homeland Security urging the administration to exempt international medical school graduates from the fee.

According to projections by the Association of American Medical Colleges, the U.S. could see a shortage of up to 86,000 doctors by the year 2036, the groups emphasized in the letter.

## National interest

The president's order says the secretary of homeland security can, at her discretion, waive the \$100,000 requirement for prospective H-1B workers in specific industries if it's in the "national interest and does not pose a threat to the security or welfare" of the nation.

The AMA's joint letter urges the secretary "to clarify that all physicians, including medical residents, fellows, researchers, and those working in nonclinical settings" are "critical to our national interest" and therefore exempt.

The Department of Homeland Security referred a Stateline request for comment to the White House, which hadn't responded as of Thursday.

Dr. Tom Price, who served as secretary of health and human services during Trump's first term, said in an interview that medical workers should be exempt from the \$100,000 fee.

"A significant fee for any further H-1B visas in the area of the health care workforce will be detrimental ... especially in low-served areas or rural areas," said Price, a former Republican member of Congress.

In 2024, nearly a quarter of licensed physicians in the U.S. were foreign-trained and roughly 46% of foreign-trained physicians practiced in rural areas, according to data from the Federation of State Medical Boards cited by the AMA. And between 2001 and last year, almost 23,000 H-1B physicians worked in communities considered underserved.

Trump and other critics of H-1B visas say that some employers, especially tech companies, have abused the program by using it to replace native-born workers with foreigners who will work for less, rather than using it to fill jobs they can't find Americans to do. But tech companies would have an easier time paying the fee than many hospitals.

Elizabeth Ricci, a Tallahassee, Florida-based immigration lawyer and national expert in immigration law, said at least one hospital in the South has asked her whether it must pay the fee itself or whether it can pass it on to the prospective physician. Before the new \$100,000 fee, employers had to pay between \$2,000 and \$5,000 for each potential H-1B employee.

"It's probably going to require litigation to get that guidance," Ricci said. "And in the meantime, people aren't filing because they are concerned that they're going to be responsible for \$100,000," Ricci added.

The University of Washington said it has paused H-1B visa petitions.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 24 of 62

"The uncertainty around visas creates a significant disruption for talented individuals who hope to train and work at UW Medicine," Dr. Tim Dellit, CEO of UW Medicine and dean of the UW School of Medicine, wrote in email to Stateline. "It represents a loss for the research and education communities, as well as for the vital clinical care we provide on behalf of our patients and the broader community."

Iowa, West Virginia and North Dakota — conservative-leaning, largely rural states — had the largest share of physician applicants under the H-1B visa relative to total physicians, according to a study published in July in the Journal of General Internal Medicine.

## 'The need is there'

When Dr. Sridevi Alla arrived in Mississippi two decades ago, she was part of a small team of hospitalists at a rural clinic in Kosciusko, in the central part of the state. She now practices in Jackson, and on any given day, she could be treating patients having a stroke, complications from untreated diabetes, or someone with dangerously high blood pressure.

"In a state which already has a physician shortage, I think that's definitely going to affect primary care," Alla said, referring to the payment.

Alla said she considers herself a Mississippian, and that she's always felt welcomed and valued by hospital leadership and patients.

"We never felt [like] foreigners in the medical community," she said. "Maybe from an immigration standpoint we are, but not around being a part of health care."

She noted Mississippi's high rates of diabetes, heart disease, infant mortality and poverty.

"This is where I was trained. I sincerely feel like the need is there," she said. "Even though maybe there are opportunities out [there], I never sincerely looked outside because I felt this is the home after home."

## Four-year limit proposal

Many physicians come to the U.S. under the temporary J-1 visa, which allows medical graduates to come for training and graduate medical education. They are then required to return to their home countries for at least two years. But they can apply for a waiver to stay if they work in rural or underserved communities, which allows them to transfer to an H-1B visa.

In addition to the new \$100,000 fee, the administration has proposed a four-year limit on how long J-1 visa holders can stay in the U.S.

AMA President Dr. Bobby Mukkamala, a Flint, Michigan, otolaryngologist, said both his parents immigrated to the U.S. from India to complete their medical residencies.

"In that same hospital where they did their training back in 1970, here in 2025, we still have 30 to 35 international medical graduates that come in," he said.

Now, hospitals have to "figure out where we're going to get \$100,000 per doctor."

"We need to not just have the physicians talking about this, but to add to that the understanding of our own lawmakers," he said.

Dr. Mette Strand, an internal medicine physician at Livingston HealthCare, a 25-bed critical access hospital serving rural Montana, emigrated from Norway. Many of those who mentored her, including specialist colleagues, are immigrants, too.

"Cutting IMGs [international medical graduates], we would be in further need of doctors in an already underserved state," she said. "I would have a hard time seeing how we would run our hospitals and our clinics."

*Stateline reporter Nada Hassanein can be reached at [nhassanein@stateline.org](mailto:nhassanein@stateline.org).*

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

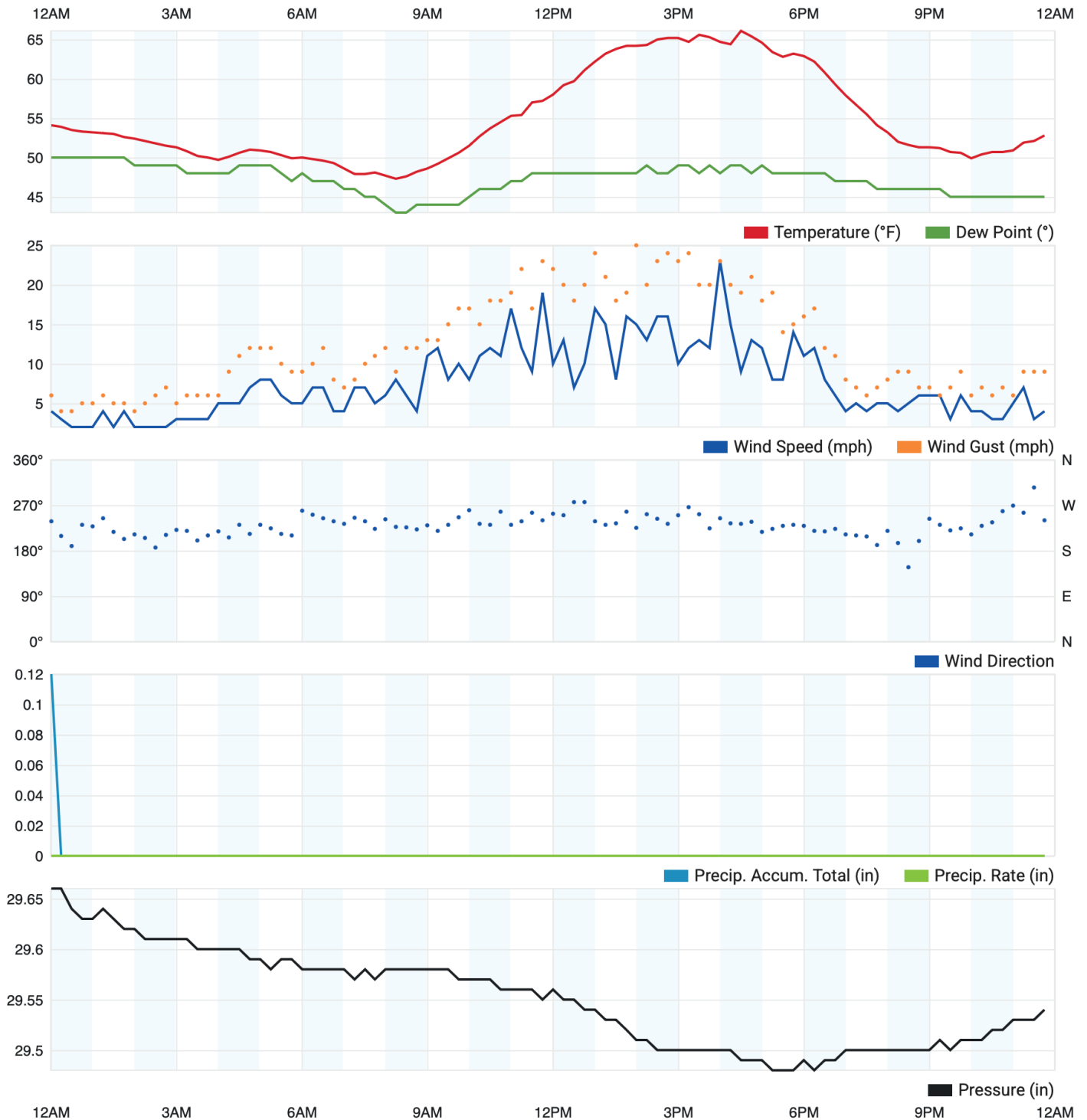
*Nada Hassanein is a health care reporter for Stateline with a focus on inequities.*

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 25 of 62

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

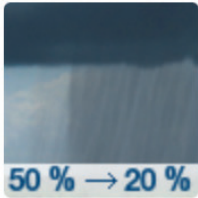
October 17, 2025



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 26 of 62

Today



**High: 56 °F**

Chance  
Showers then  
Slight Chance  
Showers and  
Breezy

Tonight



**Low: 31 °F**

Mostly Clear

Sunday



**High: 59 °F**

Sunny

Sunday Night



**Low: 43 °F**

Increasing  
Clouds

Monday



**High: 58 °F**

Mostly Sunny  
and Breezy



Today



Highs: 51-57°F  
Winds: NW 15-30mph

Sunday



Highs: 56-65°F  
Winds: W-SW 10-20mph



A quick moving disturbance will bring scattered showers to the area today. The rain will mostly affect the area the first half of the day with conditions drying out through the afternoon. Northwest winds will increase and become rather gusty by midday into the afternoon. Temperatures will remain cool, but seasonal for this time of year. More sunshine, less wind and slightly warmer conditions are expected on Sunday.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 27 of 62

## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 66 °F at 4:29 PM

Low Temp: 47 °F at 8:13 AM

Wind: 26 mph at 1:22 PM

Precip: : 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 90 in 1910

Record Low: 12 in 1930

Average High: 58

Average Low: 32

Average Precip in Oct.: 1.37

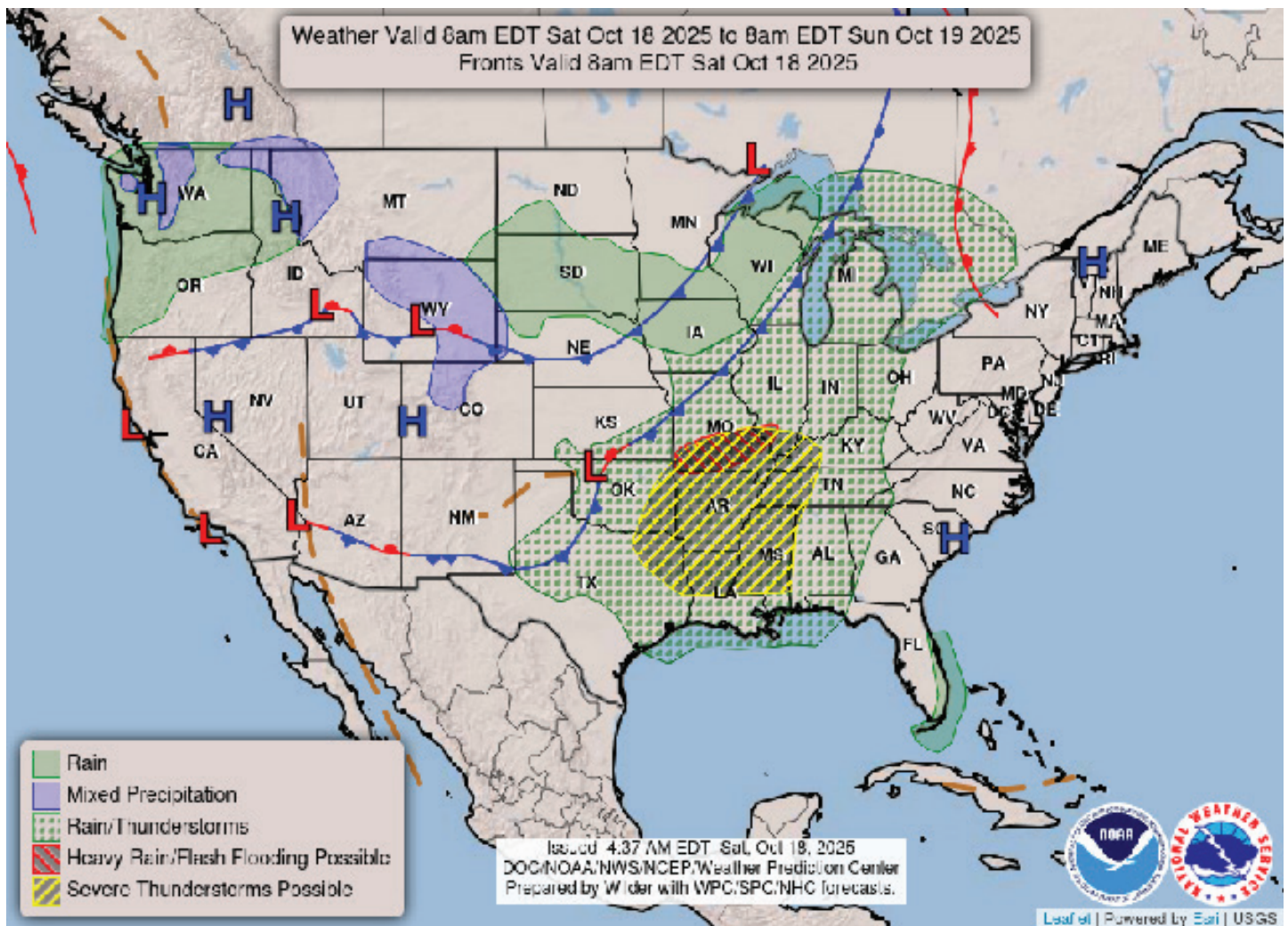
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.48

Average Precip to date: 19.70

Precip Year to Date: 23.40

Sunset Tonight: 6:41 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:54 am



# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 28 of 62**

## Today in Weather History

October 18, 2012: An area of low pressure rapidly intensified once it moved east of the northern plains. This strengthening resulted in very strong northwest winds across the region. Some of the higher reported wind gusts include 77 mph at the Fort Pierre and Grand River RAWS sites, 74 mph at the Pierre airport, and 70 mph at Murdo, Presho, and Hayes public observation sites.

1906 - A hurricane struck South Florida drowning 124 persons stranded in the Florida Keys. (David Ludlum)

1910 - Northeasterly winds as high as 70 mph (from a hurricane moving northward up the Florida peninsula) carried water out of Tampa Bay and the Hillsboro River. The water level lowered to nine feet below mean low water. Forty ships were grounded. (The Weather Channel)

1916: A tropical depression organized to a tropical storm on October 11 in the western Caribbean. It moved westward, reaching hurricane strength on the 13th before hitting the Yucatán Peninsula on the 15th as a 110 mph hurricane. It weakened over land, and it emerged over the southern Gulf of America as a tropical storm. It quickly re-strengthened to a Category 3 hurricane, hitting Pensacola on October 18. The maximum wind velocity at Mobile was 115 mph from the east at 8:25 am. Pensacola had winds of 120 mph at 10:13 am when the wind instrument tower was blown down.

1930 - A big early season lake effect snowburst on the lee shores of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario produced 47 inches at Gouverneur NY and 48 inches just south of Buffalo. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Thunderstorms in northeastern Texas produced golf ball size hail at Atlanta, along with wind gusts to 86 mph, and four inches of rain. Damage from the storm was estimated at more than a million dollars. Sunny and mild weather continued across much of the rest of the nation. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Eight cities in the southwestern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Red Bluff CA with a reading of 96 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Unseasonably cold air began to invade the central and eastern U.S. Light snow fell across northern Maine, and snow was also reported in the Great Lakes Region, including the Chicago area. Bismarck ND was the cold spot in the nation with a low of 9 degrees above zero. Five cities in Florida reported record high readings for the date, as temperatures warmed above 80 degrees. Miami FL reported a record high of 90 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

2005 - With the formation of Hurricane Wilma, the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season tied the record for the most named storms for any season (21 storms in 1933), and also tied the record for the most hurricanes in a single season (12 in 1969). Wilma peaked at category-5 intensity on the 19th, with a minimum central pressure falling to 882 millibars (26.05 inches of mercury), the lowest pressure ever recorded in the Atlantic Basin. Wilma also became the most rapidly-intensifying storm on record, with a maximum-sustained surface wind speed increase of 105 mph in a 24-hour period.

2007: A destructive fall tornado hit Nappanee, Indiana causing extensive damage along its 20-mile path across northeast Marshall, Northwest Kosciusko and southwest Elkhart Counties. High-end EF3 intensity winds near 165 mph were estimated based on the most severe damage over southeast Nappanee. Over 100 structures sustained significant damage or were destroyed in town alone. Despite the widespread damage and time of day, only minor injuries were reported.



## How to Foster True Friendships

**Healthy friendships don't just happen—they require intentional effort**

1 Samuel 18:1-3: 1 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

2 And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house.

3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

We all want to be in genuine relationships with others. God created us with this longing (Genesis 2:18), but healthy friendships don't just happen. They require intentional effort.

Yesterday, in looking to Jonathan and David for a biblical model of godly companions, we saw that mutual respect is vital. Now, let's look at two more aspects of their relationship. Both of these men expressed selfless love for the other; their hearts were knit together (1 Sam. 18:1). When one man experienced joy or sadness, the other man felt it as well.

They also had genuine devotion for one another, which is a type of commitment that involves giving. To show loyalty, Jonathan gave his friend material items—his robe, belt, and weapons. But even more than that was offered: Jonathan risked his life and future kingship to save David from execution. Notice, too, that Jonathan was a prince, whereas David was a lowly shepherd. Social status shouldn't interfere with cultivating a true friendship.

We were designed for true companionship based on respect, affection, and commitment. This requires not only time but also transparency and selfless devotion. Trust is needed when taking a risk for friendship, but such relationships are worth the effort.

*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

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 30 of 62

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

All prices listed include 6.2% Sales Tax

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

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

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

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

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

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

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

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

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

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

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

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Password \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 31 of 62



## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.17.25

9 21 27 48 56 10

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$650,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.15.25

8 24 33 46 47 4

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$5,010,000**

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 26 Mins 26  
Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.17.25

7 24 34 45 47 11

TOP PRIZE:  
**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 41 Mins 26  
Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.15.25

8 20 26 33 34

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$51,000**

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 41 Mins 26  
Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.15.25

5 20 27 44 51 21

TOP PRIZE:  
**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 10 Mins 26  
Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.15.25

10 13 28 34 47 15

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$295,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 10 Mins 26  
Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 32 of 62**

## **Upcoming Groton Events**

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 33 of 62

News from the **AP** Associated Press

## PREP FOOTBALL

Alcester-Hudson 64, Scotland/Menno 16  
Belle Fourche 55, Lakota Tech 0  
Brandon Valley 24, Harrisburg 0  
Britton-Hecla 56, Waverly-South Shore 6  
Brookings 59, Douglas 8  
Canton 47, Madison 12  
Chamberlain 24, Winner 0  
Clark-Willow Lake 50, Webster 0  
DeSmet 38, Estelline-Hendricks 0  
Deuel 40, Mobridge-Pollock 36  
Elk Point-Jefferson 41, Sioux Valley 26  
Elkton-Lake Benton 46, Hamlin 14  
Flandreau 21, Beresford 14  
Garretson 42, Chester 22  
Great Plains Lutheran 52, Wilmot 8  
Groton 43, Baltic 0  
Hanson 50, Canistota 12  
Huron 27, Mitchell 3  
Kimball-White Lake 55, Wolsey-Wessington 8  
Lennox 41, Tri-Valley 0  
Milbank 22, West Central 21  
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 30, WWSSC 6  
Parker/Marion 34, Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan 28  
Parkston 42, Gregory 20  
Philip 45, New Underwood 8  
Rapid City Christian 41, Custer 10  
Sioux Falls Christian 41, Dell Rapids 15  
Sioux Falls Jefferson 52, Rapid City Central 10  
Sioux Falls Lincoln 58, Aberdeen Central 14  
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 41, Rapid City Stevens 0  
St Thomas More 55, Lead-Deadwood 0  
Stanley County 52, Gettysburg 6  
Vermillion 27, Dakota Valley 6  
Viborg-Hurley 32, Howard 22  
Wagner 52, Miller 0  
Warner 33, Leola-Frederick High School 6  
Watertown 29, Sturgis Brown High School 15  
Waubay/Summit 39, Florence-Henry 22  
Yankton 31, Tea 7

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

## **'No Kings' protests against Trump planned nationwide, in what the GOP calls 'hate America' rallies**

By LISA MASCARO, SAFIYAH RIDDLE and KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Protesting the direction of the country under President Donald Trump, people will gather Saturday in the nation's capital and communities across the U.S. for "No Kings" demonstrations — what the president's Republican Party is calling "Hate America" rallies.

This is the third mass mobilization since Trump's return to the White House and it is expected to be the largest. It comes against the backdrop of a government shutdown that not only has closed federal programs and services, but is testing the core balance of power as an aggressive executive confronts Congress and the courts in ways that organizers warn are a slide toward American authoritarianism.

Trump himself is away from Washington at his Mar-a-Lago home in Florida.

"They say they're referring to me as a king. I'm not a king," Trump said in a Fox News interview airing early Friday, before he departed for a \$1 million-per-plate MAGA Inc. super PAC fundraiser at Mar-a-Lago. Protests are expected nearby Saturday.

While the earlier protests this year — against Elon Musk's cuts in spring, then to counter Trump's military parade in June — drew crowds, organizers say this one is building a more unified opposition movement. Top Democrats such as Senate Leader Chuck Schumer and Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders are joining in what organizers view as an antidote to Trump's actions, from the administration's clampdown on free speech to its military-style immigration raids.

"There is no greater threat to an authoritarian regime than patriotic people-power," said Ezra Levin, a co-founder of Indivisible, among the key organizers.

As Republicans and the White House dismiss the protests as a rally of radicals, Levin said their own sign-up numbers are growing. More than 2,600 rallies are planned in cities large and small, organized by hundreds of coalition partners. They said rallies are being planned within a one-hour drive for most Americans.

Overseas, a few hundred Americans already gathered in Madrid to chant slogans and hold signs at a protest organized by Democrats Abroad, with similar rallies planned in other major European cities.

Republicans have sought to portray participants in Saturday's rallies as far outside the mainstream of American politics, and a main reason for the prolonged government shutdown, now in its 18th day.

From the White House to Capitol Hill, GOP leaders disparaged the rallygoers as "communists" and "Marxists."

They say Democratic leaders, including Schumer, are beholden to the far-left flank and willing to keep the government shut down to appease those liberal forces.

"I encourage you to watch — we call it the Hate America rally — that will happen Saturday," said House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La.

"Let's see who shows up for that," Johnson said, listing groups including "antifa types," people who "hate capitalism" and "Marxists in full display."

Democrats have refused to vote on legislation that would reopen the government as they demand funding for health care. Republicans say they are willing to discuss the issue later, only after the government reopens.

But for many Democrats, the government closure is also a way to stand up to Trump, and try to push the presidency back to its place in the U.S. system as a co-equal branch of government.

In a Facebook post, Sanders of Vermont, himself a former presidential contender, said, "It's a love America rally."

"It's a rally of millions of people all over this country who believe in our Constitution, who believe in American freedom and," he said, pointing at the GOP leadership, "are not going to let you and Donald Trump turn this country into an authoritarian society."

The situation is a potential turnaround from just six months ago, when Democrats and their allies were divided and despondent, unsure about how best to respond to Trump's return to the White House. Schumer in particular was berated by his party for allowing an earlier government funding bill to sail through the



Senate without using it to challenge Trump.

In April, the national march against Trump and Elon Musk had 1,300 registered locations. In June, for the first "No Kings" day, there were 2,100 registered locations. The march Saturday will have more than 2,600 registered locations, Levin said.

"What we are seeing from the Democrats is some spine," Levin said. "The worst thing the Democrats could do right now is surrender."

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries said he wasn't sure if he would join the rallygoers Saturday, but he took issue with the Republicans' characterization of the events.

"What's hateful is what happened on January 6th," he said, referring to the 2021 Capitol attack, as Trump's supporters stormed the building to protest Joe Biden's election victory. "What you'll see this weekend is what patriotism looks like, people showing up to express opposition to the extremism that Donald Trump has been unleashing on the American people."

## **One scandal too many forces UK monarchy to sideline Prince Andrew after years of tabloid fodder**

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

It was one scandal too many.

After emails emerged this week showing that Prince Andrew remained in contact with the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein longer than he previously admitted, the House of Windsor finally moved to insulate the monarchy from years of tawdry headlines about Andrew's dodgy friends and suspicious business deals.

Buckingham Palace on Friday released a statement from Andrew saying that he had agreed to give up use of his last remaining royal titles so that continued allegations about him "don't distract from the work of His Majesty."

This week's revelations demonstrated that Andrew had committed the unforgivable sin of misleading the British public, said Craig Prescott, an expert on the monarchy and constitutional law at Royal Holloway University of London.

"To say something which is proven not to be true, I think, is the straw that broke the camel's back," he said.

Signs of a new direction

The move comes as Charles, who is 76 and undergoing treatment for an undisclosed form of cancer, works to ensure the long-term stability of the monarchy under his son and heir Prince William.

William recently gave an interview in which he set out his vision for the monarchy, saying that the institution needed to change to make sure that it is a force for good.

"In some ways, Prince Andrew has been the exact opposite of that," Prescott said. "And there is no space for that in the modern monarchy."

Andrew, 65, is the second son of the late Queen Elizabeth II. He spent more than 20 years as an officer in the Royal Navy before leaving to take up his royal duties in 2001.

Following Friday's announcement, Andrew will no longer use his remaining royal titles, including the Duke of York, though he technically retains them. Formally stripping him of those titles would be a time-consuming process requiring an act of Parliament.

A long time coming

Andrew's banishment completes a process that began in November 2019, when he gave up all of his public duties and charity roles.

That was triggered by a disastrous interview Andrew gave to the BBC as he sought to counter media reports about his friendship with Epstein and deny allegations that he had sex with a 17-year-old girl, Virginia Giuffre, who was trafficked by Epstein in 2001. The prince was widely criticized for failing to show empathy for Epstein's victims and for offering unbelievable explanations for his friendship with the disgraced financier.

The interview also sowed the seeds of this week's upheaval, when Andrew told the BBC that he had cut

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 36 of 62**

off contact with Epstein in December 2010.

British newspapers on Sunday revealed that Andrew wrote an email to Epstein on Feb. 28, 2011. Andrew wrote the note after renewed reporting on the Epstein scandal, telling him they were "in this together" and would "have to rise above it."

Andrew has recently faced another round of grimy stories as newspapers release excerpts of Giuffre's posthumous memoir, which will be published on Tuesday. Giuffre died by suicide in April at the age of 41.

Andrew in 2022 reached an out-of-court settlement with Giuffre after she filed a civil suit against him in New York. While he didn't admit wrongdoing, Andrew did acknowledge Giuffre's suffering as a victim of sex trafficking.

Front-page fodder for wrong reasons

The prince has been the subject of tabloid stories stretching back to at least 2007, when he sold his house near Windsor Castle for 20% over the 15 million pound asking price. The buyer was reported to be Timur Kulibayev, son-in-law of Nursultan Nazarbayev, then-president of Kazakhstan, raising concerns that the deal was an attempt to buy influence in Britain.

Last year, a court case revealed Andrew's relationship with a businessman and suspected Chinese spy who was barred from the United Kingdom as a threat to national security. Authorities were concerned that the man could have misused his influence over Andrew, according to court documents.

While the palace said Andrew had decided to give up his royal titles, royal commentator Jennie Bond said the king and Prince William exerted "enormous pressure" on him.

"We could say he has fallen on his sword, but I think he's been pushed onto it," Bond told the BBC. "I don't think this is a decision that Andrew, quite an arrogant man — very, very fond of his status — would have willingly made without a lot of pressure."

Insulating the monarchy at a delicate time

While the cumulative weight of Andrew's scandals demanded a response from the royal family, this week's revelations came at a particularly sensitive moment for the king as he prepares for a state visit to the Vatican, where he is expected to pray beside Pope Leo XIV.

The visit is very important to Charles, who has made the bridging of faiths an important part of his "mantra," said George Gross, an expert on theology and the monarchy at King's College, London.

"I think this was the speediest, really the quickest way of lowering his status even more without having to go to Parliament," Gross said. "Even if Parliament would have approved, it takes time."

Charles may also have been motivated by a desire to protect the work of Queen Camilla, who has made combating domestic violence one of her signature issues, and the Duchess of Edinburgh, who has sought to combat sexual violence in war zones such as Congo.

The king will hope that this move finally draws a line between Andrew and the rest of the royal family, Prescott said.

"If there are allegations, or further stuff comes out, it will all be on Prince Andrew," he said. "They've severed the connection between Prince Andrew and the monarchy as an institution."

## **Israel identifies the remains of one more hostage while 9 Palestinians are killed in Gaza City**

By SAM MEDNICK and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israel says the remains of another hostage that Hamas handed over the day before have been identified as Eliyahu Margalit, as the Palestinian militant group looks for more bodies under the rubble in the Gaza Strip and urges more aid to be allowed into the embattled enclave.

Israel's Prime Minister's Office said Saturday Margalit's body was identified after testing by the National Center for Forensic Medicine and his family has been notified. The 76-year-old was abducted on Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas attacked Israel, from the horse stables where he worked in Kibbutz Nir Oz.

Margalit is the 10th returned hostage body since the ceasefire went into effect over a week ago. Hamas handed over an 11th body this week, but it wasn't that of a hostage. The effort to find the remains fol-

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 37 of 62**

lowed a warning from U.S. President Donald Trump that he would green-light Israel to resume the war if Hamas doesn't live up to its end of the deal and return all hostages' bodies, totaling 28.

In a statement Saturday, the hostage forum, which supports the families of those abducted, said Margalit's return brings a measure of solace to his family, but that they won't rest until the remaining 18 hostages come home. The forum says it will continue holding weekly rallies until all remains are returned.

The handover of hostages' remains, called for under the ceasefire agreement, has been among the key sticking points — along with aid deliveries, the opening of border crossings into Gaza and hopes for reconstruction — in a process backed by much of the international community to help end two years of devastating war in Gaza.

Hamas has said it is committed to the terms of the ceasefire deal, including the handover of bodies. However, the retrieval of bodies is hampered by the scope of the devastation and the presence of dangerous, unexploded ordnance. The group has also told mediators that some bodies are in areas controlled by Israeli troops.

Margalit's body was found after two bulldozers plowed up pits in the earth in the city of Khan Younis.

Nine Palestinians killed by Israeli fire

Meanwhile, Hamas is accusing Israel of continuing its attacks and violating the ceasefire.

On Friday the Civil Defense, a first responders' agency operating under the Hamas-run Interior Ministry, said nine people were killed, including women and children, when their vehicle was hit by Israeli fire in Gaza City. The Civil Defense said the car crossed into an Israeli controlled area in eastern Gaza.

As part of the first phase of the ceasefire, Israel still maintains control of about half of Gaza.

The Civil Defense said that Israel could have warned the people in a manner that wasn't lethal. The group recovered the bodies on Saturday with coordination from the U.N., it said.

Israel's army said it saw a "suspicious vehicle" crossing the yellow line and approaching the army's troops. It said it fired warning shots but the vehicle continued to approach in a manner that posed an "imminent threat." It said it acted in accordance with the ceasefire.

Demands for aid

Hamas is also urging mediators to increase the flow of aid into Gaza, expedite the opening of the Rafah border crossing with Egypt and start reconstruction of the battered territory.

The flow of aid remains constrained because of continued closures of crossings and restrictions on aid groups.

United Nations data on Friday showed 339 trucks have been offloaded for distribution in Gaza since the ceasefire began a week ago. Under the agreement, some 600 humanitarian aid trucks would be allowed to enter each day.

COGAT, the Israeli defense body overseeing aid in Gaza, reported 950 trucks — including commercial trucks and bilateral deliveries — crossing on Thursday and 716 on Wednesday, the U.N. said

Gaza's more than 2 million people are hoping the ceasefire will bring relief from the humanitarian disaster caused by Israel's offensive. Throughout the war, Israel restricted aid entry to Gaza — sometimes halting it altogether.

Famine was declared in Gaza City, and the U.N. says it has verified more than 400 people who died of malnutrition-related causes, including more than 100 children.

Israel says it let in enough food, accusing Hamas of stealing much of it. The U.N. and other aid agencies deny the claim.

Israel's campaign in Gaza has killed nearly 68,000 Palestinians, according to the Health Ministry, which is part of the Hamas-run government in the territory. Its figures are seen as a reliable estimate of wartime deaths by U.N. agencies and many independent experts. Israel has disputed them without providing its own toll.

Thousands more people are missing, according to the Red Cross.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 38 of 62

## **The champion Dodgers are dominating October again. There's much more behind their success than money**

By GREG BEACHAM AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — During the Los Angeles Dodgers' October rampage to the NL pennant, the defending World Series champions have actually been the dark eminence that many baseball people have long feared they would become.

The Dodgers are 9-1 in the postseason — and they've looked like a juggernaut while doing it, with near-flawless starting pitching and a deep, resilient lineup producing key hits and electrifying highlights. They swept the Milwaukee Brewers out of the NL Championship Series with a 5-1 victory Friday night featuring an iconic three-homer, 10-strikeout performance by Shohei Ohtani, their \$700 million superstar.

The Dodgers beat the Yankees to win it all last year, and they're headed back to the World Series on Friday with a chance to become MLB's first repeat champions in a quarter-century. They're in the Fall Classic for the fifth time in nine seasons during a streak of 13 consecutive postseason appearances.

But naysayers have claimed for years that it's bad for baseball if one team ever becomes this successful. The Dodgers' ravenous spending of their extensive resources could irretrievably fracture the majors' competitive balance, and they could even hurt the Dodgers by providing fuel for some owners' desire for a salary cap in the next labor negotiations.

The players and coaches in Dodger Blue — and the more than 4 million fans who have packed Dodger Stadium all season long — had absolutely no interest in worrying about what their success means to other people while they celebrated another unforgettable night.

Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said it best when he took the microphone on the field stage after his team steamrolled the 97-win Brewers.

"I'll tell you, before this season started, they said the Dodgers are ruining baseball," Roberts shouted. "Let's get four more wins and really ruin baseball!"

The Chavez Ravine crowd roared in appreciation of a team that repeatedly has made the most of its advantages — for the past two years in particular.

The Dodgers will spend about \$509.5 million on players this season, with their \$341.5 million payroll plus \$168 million in projected luxury tax. That dwarfs the expenditures of their prospective World Series foes from Seattle (a \$167.2 million payroll) and Toronto (a \$252.7 million payroll and a projected \$13.4 million in tax).

But why are the Dodgers enjoying this success instead of the Mets, the Yankees, the Phillies and other teams who can spend roughly on the Dodgers' level?

At this point, it's clearly because Los Angeles has a strong top-to-bottom organization, starting with player development and scouting. Baseball boss Andrew Friedman makes the sport's most judicious choices among the free-agent prizes and veteran trade targets — and when he gets it wrong, his mistakes don't sting as much because of his roster's overall depth.

"It's just a very talented group, but it's (also) a very focused and very hungry group," said Roberts, the first manager in several decades to win five pennants in his first 10 seasons with a club. "So I think that when you get those components, it's tough to beat. And we mind the little things. We're hungry. We don't really care what happened before."

Ohtani, Mookie Betts, Freddie Freeman, Teoscar Hernández, Tommy Edman, Max Muncy, Blake Snell and Tyler Glasnow all started their major league careers elsewhere, but the Dodgers identified them and gave them what their previous clubs wouldn't or couldn't.

Yoshinobu Yamamoto and Roki Sasaki chose the Dodgers out of Japan over the past two winters precisely because of the culture and the opportunity created by the club's previous successes.

Snell faced the Dodgers with Tampa Bay in the 2020 World Series, and he emerged from the loss with admiration for the club. He seized the chance to join LA as a free agent last winter.

"This is why I came here," said Snell, who has thrown 21 innings of two-run ball with 28 strikeouts in three majestic playoff starts. "Now we're in the World Series, so I can't wait to prove myself what I can



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 39 of 62

do there.”

Not even a profoundly leaky bullpen — stocked with high-priced additions like Blake Treinen and Tanner Scott who simply have not performed — has stopped the Dodgers from romping through the postseason, outscoring their opponents by a combined 46-28.

And it doesn't fit the naysaying narrative to remember that Los Angeles only rounded into dominant form quite late in a tumultuous regular season.

The Dodgers won 93 games and the NL West title, but they finished with only the ninth-best winning percentage during their 13 straight playoff seasons — tied for the second-longest streak of postseason appearances in MLB history.

Los Angeles didn't run away with its division, trailing San Diego as late as Aug. 23 and only beating the Padres by three games. Thanks to a prolonged midseason stretch of mediocre play, the Dodgers finished third overall in the NL and had to play a wild-card series for the first time since 2021.

But that might have been a good thing: The Dodgers struggled with rust in recent October division series after sitting out for a week, but they've been locked in since their postseason opener Sept. 30, a mere 48 hours after the regular season ended.

After Los Angeles thumped Cincinnati with 18 runs in two Wild Card games, the Dodgers handled NL East champ Philadelphia with impressive ease in four games, winning twice on the road and rebounding from a tough Game 3 loss to survive a crazy 11-inning finale.

The Dodgers then overwhelmed the Brewers, who had the NL's best record in the regular season and made the postseason for the seventh time in eight seasons with fans clamoring for their franchise's first World Series appearance. The Dodgers' playoff savvy and top-end talent were too much, even before Ohtani turned in a superhuman Game 4.

The star-studded Dodgers are not a jaded bunch, however. They jumped and cheered wildly in the dugout along with their fans when each of Ohtani's three homers soared over the outfield fence, feeling just as much giddy disbelief as the paying customers.

The Dodgers might be an industry-altering juggernaut, but that industry is still a kids' game.

“That was special,” said Freeman, last year's World Series MVP. “We've just been playing really good baseball for a while now, and the inevitable kind of happened today.”

## Afghan and Pakistani delegations in Doha for crisis talks

By RIAZAT BUTT Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghan and Pakistani delegations arrived in the Qatari capital, Doha, on Saturday, hoping to defuse the deadliest crisis between them in several years after more than a week of fighting killed dozens of people and injured hundreds on both sides.

Both governments have sent their defense ministers to lead the talks, which, Pakistan said, would focus on “immediate measures to end cross-border terrorism emanating from Afghanistan and restore peace and stability along the border.”

Each country says it is responding to aggression from the other. Afghanistan denies harboring militants who carry out attacks in border areas.

Regional powers, including Saudi Arabia and Qatar, have called for calm, as the violence threatened to further destabilize a region where groups including the Islamic State group and al-Qaida are trying to resurface.

A 48-hour ceasefire intended to pause hostilities expired Friday evening. Hours later, Pakistan struck across the border.

Pakistani security officials confirmed to The Associated Press that there were strikes on two districts in Afghanistan's eastern Paktika province.

The targets were hideouts of the militant Hafiz Gul Bahadur group, according to the officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media. One said the operation was a direct response to the suicide bombing of a security forces compound in Mir Ali, in Pakistan's Khyber

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 40 of 62**

Pakhtunkhwa province a day earlier.

The Pakistani Air Force raids killed dozens of armed fighters and there were no civilian deaths, they said. But Afghan officials said the aerial assaults killed at least 10 civilians, including women, children and local cricketers. The attacks prompted the national cricket board to boycott an upcoming series in Pakistan.

On Saturday, several thousand people attended funeral prayers in Paktika. They sat in the open air as loudspeakers broadcast sermons and condemnation.

Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban government's chief spokesman, in a statement, criticized the "repeated crimes of Pakistani forces and the violation of Afghanistan's sovereignty."

Such acts were deemed provocative and viewed as "deliberate attempts" to prolong the conflict, he added.

The two countries share a 2,611-kilometer (1,622-mile) border known as the Durand Line, but Afghanistan has never recognized it.

Pakistan is grappling with surging militancy, especially in areas bordering Afghanistan. It also accuses its nuclear-armed neighbor and rival India of backing armed groups, without providing any evidence.

Pakistan's army chief, Asim Munir, urged Afghans to choose "mutual security over perpetual violence and progress over hardline obscurantism."

"The Taliban must rein in the proxies who have sanctuaries in Afghanistan," he told an audience on Saturday at the Pakistan Military Academy in Kakul, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## **Third-floor balcony in Cincinnati collapses, sending 10 people to the hospital**

CINCINNATI (AP) — A balcony on the third floor of a building near the University of Cincinnati collapsed Friday evening, sending 10 people to the hospital, including one person in critical condition, according to officials.

Five of the people had serious injuries, while four had minor injuries, Cincinnati Police Department Capt. Stephen Bower said during a news conference. He described the building as a place where a lot of students live.

"They had a big exam today and they were celebrating," he said.

Officials are investigating the collapse, Frank McKinley, Cincinnati fire chief, told WKRC-TV.

It was not immediately clear the number of people on the balcony when it collapsed.

In photos and video posted online, a balcony can be seen on the ground as fire and police officials work nearby.

## **Trump commutes sentence of former US Rep. George Santos in federal fraud case**

By PHILIP MARCELO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump said Friday he had commuted the sentence of former U.S. Rep. George Santos, who was slated to serve more than seven years in federal prison after pleading guilty to fraud and identity theft charges.

Joseph Murray, one of Santos' lawyers, told The Associated Press late Friday that the former lawmaker was released from the Federal Correctional Institution in Fairton, New Jersey, around 11 p.m., and was greeted outside the facility by his family.

The New York Republican was sentenced in April after admitting last year to deceiving donors and stealing the identities of 11 people — including his own family members — to make donations to his campaign.

He reported to FCI Fairton on July 25 and was housed in a minimum security prison camp with fewer than 50 other inmates.

"George Santos was somewhat of a 'rogue,' but there are many rogues throughout our Country that aren't forced to serve seven years in prison," Trump posted on his social media platform. He said he had "just signed a Commutation, releasing George Santos from prison, IMMEDIATELY."

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 41 of 62**

"Good luck George, have a great life!" Trump said.

Santos' account on X, which has been active throughout his roughly 84 days in prison, reposted a screenshot of Trump's Truth Social post Friday.

During his time behind bars, Santos has been writing regular dispatches in a local newspaper on Long Island, in which he mainly complained about the prison conditions.

In his latest letter, though, he pleaded to Trump directly, citing his fealty to the president's agenda and to the Republican Party.

"Sir, I appeal to your sense of justice and humanity — the same qualities that have inspired millions of Americans to believe in you," he wrote in The South Shore Press on Oct. 13. "I humbly ask that you consider the unusual pain and hardship of this environment and allow me the opportunity to return to my family, my friends, and my community."

Santos' commutation is Trump's latest high-profile act of clemency for former Republican politicians since retaking the White House in January.

In late May, he pardoned former U.S. Rep. Michael Grimm, a New York Republican who in 2014 pleaded guilty to underreporting wages and revenue at a restaurant he ran in Manhattan. He also pardoned former Connecticut Gov. John Rowland, whose promising political career was upended by a corruption scandal and two federal prison stints.

But in granting clemency to Santos, Trump was rewarding a figure who has drawn scorn from within his own party.

After becoming the first openly gay Republican elected to Congress in 2022, Santos served less than a year after it was revealed that he had fabricated much of his life story.

On the campaign trail, Santos had claimed he was a successful business consultant with Wall Street cred and a sizable real estate portfolio. But when his resume came under scrutiny, Santos eventually admitted he had never graduated from Baruch College — or been a standout player on the Manhattan college's volleyball team, as he had claimed. He had never worked at Citigroup and Goldman Sachs.

He wasn't even Jewish. Santos insisted he meant he was "Jew-ish" because his mother's family had a Jewish background, even though he was raised Catholic.

In truth, the then-34-year-old was struggling financially and even faced eviction.

Santos was charged in 2023 with stealing from donors and his campaign, fraudulently collecting unemployment benefits and lying to Congress about his wealth.

Within months, he was expelled from the U.S. House of Representatives -- with 105 Republicans joining with Democrats to make Santos just the sixth member in the chamber's history to be ousted by colleagues..

Santos pleaded guilty as he was set to stand trial.

Still, a prominent former House colleague, U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, urged the White House to commute Santos' sentence, saying in a letter sent just days into his prison bid that the punishment was "a grave injustice" and a product of judicial overreach.

Greene was among those who cheered the announcement Friday. But U.S. Rep. Nick LaLota, a Republican who represents part of Long Island and has been highly critical of Santos, said in a post on social media that Santos "didn't merely lie" and his crimes "warrant more than a three-month sentence."

"He should devote the rest of his life to demonstrating remorse and making restitution to those he wronged," LaLota said.

Santos' clemency appears to clear not just his prison term, but also any "further fines, restitution, probation, supervised release, or other conditions," according to a copy of Trump's order posted on X by Ed Martin, the Justice Department's pardon attorney.

As part of his guilty plea, Santos had agreed to pay restitution of \$373,750 and forfeiture of \$205,003.

In explaining his reason for granting Santos clemency, Trump said the lies Santos told about himself were no worse than misleading statements U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal -- a Democrat and frequent critic of the administration -- had made about his military record.

Blumenthal apologized 15 years ago for implying that he served in Vietnam, when he was stateside in

the Marine Reserve during the war.

"This is far worse than what George Santos did, and at least Santos had the Courage, Conviction, and Intelligence to ALWAYS VOTE REPUBLICAN!" Trump wrote.

The president himself was convicted in a New York court last year in a case involving hush money payments. He derided the case as part of a politically motivated witch hunt.

## **After Zelenskyy meeting, Trump calls on Ukraine and Russia to 'stop where they are' and end the war**

By AAMER MADHANI, SEUNG MIN KIM, MICHELLE L. PRICE and CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press  
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Friday called on Kyiv and Moscow to "stop where they are" and end their brutal war following a lengthy White House meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Trump's frustration with the conflict has surfaced repeatedly in the nine months since he returned to office, but with his latest comments he edged back in the direction of pressing Ukraine to give up on retaking land it has lost to Russia.

"Enough blood has been shed, with property lines being defined by War and Guts," Trump said in a Truth Social post not long after hosting Zelenskyy and his team for more than two hours of talks. "They should stop where they are. Let both claim Victory, let History decide!"

Later, soon after arriving in Florida, where he's spending the weekend, Trump urged both sides to "stop the war immediately" and implied that Moscow keep territory it's taken from Kyiv.

"You go by the battle line wherever it is — otherwise it's too complicated," Trump told reporters. "You stop at the battle line and both sides should go home, go to their families, stop the killing, and that should be it."

The comments amounted to another shift in position on the war by Trump. In recent weeks, he had shown growing impatience with Russian President Vladimir Putin and expressed greater openness to helping Ukraine win the war.

After meeting with Zelenskyy in New York on the sidelines of the annual U.N. General Assembly last month, Trump even said he believed the Ukrainians could win back all the the territory they had lost to Russia since Putin launched the February 2022 invasion. That was a dramatic shift for Trump, who had previously insisted that Kyiv would have to concede land lost to Russia to end the war.

Zelenskyy after Friday's meeting said it was time for a ceasefire and negotiations. He sidestepped directly answering a question about Trump nudging Ukraine to give up land.

"The president is right we have to stop where we are, and then to speak," Zelenskyy said when asked by reporters about Trump's social media post, which he hadn't seen.

Another change in tone

Trump's tone on the war shifted after he held a lengthy phone call with Putin on Thursday and announced that he planned to meet with the Russian leader in Budapest, Hungary, in the coming weeks.

The president also signaled to Zelenskyy on Friday that he's leaning against selling him long-range Tomahawk missiles, weaponry that the Ukrainians believe could be a game changer in helping prod Putin to the negotiating table.

Zelenskyy at the start of the White House talks said he had a "proposition" in which Ukraine could provide the United States with its advanced drones, while Washington would sell Kyiv the Tomahawk cruise missiles.

But Trump said he was hesitant to tap into the U.S. supply, a turnabout after days of suggesting he was seriously weighing sending the missiles to help Ukraine beat back Russia's invasion.

"I have an obligation also to make sure that we're completely stocked up as a country, because you never know what's going to happen in war and peace," Trump said. "We'd much rather have them not need Tomahawks. We'd much rather have the war be over to be honest."

In an interview with Kristen Welker of NBC's "Meet the Press," Zelenskyy suggested the door was not closed.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 43 of 62

"It's good that President Trump didn't say 'no,' but for today, didn't say 'yes,'" he said.

Zelenskyy also said "we need Tomahawks" because "it's very difficult just to operate only with Ukrainian drones."

Trump's latest rhetoric on Tomahawks was certainly disappointing to the Ukrainians. In recent days, Trump had shown an openness to selling Ukraine the Tomahawks, even as Putin warned that such a move would further strain the U.S.-Russian relationship.

Why Tomahawks?

But following Thursday's call with Putin, Trump began downplaying the prospects of Ukraine getting the missiles, which have a range of about 995 miles (1,600 kilometers.)

Zelenskyy had been seeking the Tomahawks, which would allow Ukrainian forces to strike deep into Russian territory and target key military sites, energy facilities and critical infrastructure. Zelenskyy has argued that the potential for such strikes would help compel Putin to take Trump's calls for direct negotiations to end the war more seriously.

Putin warned Trump during the call that supplying Kyiv with the Tomahawks "won't change the situation on the battlefield, but would cause substantial damage to the relationship between our countries," according to Yuri Ushakov, Putin's foreign policy adviser.

It was the fifth face-to-face meeting for Trump and Zelenskyy since the Republican returned to office in January,

The president said Friday it was "to be determined" if Zelenskyy would be involved in the upcoming talks in Hungary — suggesting a "double meeting" with the warring countries' leaders was likely the most workable option for productive negotiations.

"These two leaders do not like each other, and we want to make it comfortable for everybody," Trump added.

But Zelenskyy told reporters that the animus toward Putin "is not about feelings."

"They attacked us, so they are an enemy for us. They don't intend to stop," Zelenskyy added. "So they are an enemy. It is not about someone just hating someone else. Although, undoubtedly, we hate the enemy. Undoubtedly."

Trump, going back to his 2024 campaign, insisted he would quickly end the war, but his peace efforts appeared to stall following a diplomatic blitz in August, when he held a summit with Putin in Alaska and a White House meeting with Zelenskyy and European allies.

Trump emerged from those meetings certain he was on track to arranging direct talks between Zelenskyy and Putin. But the Russian leader hasn't shown any interest in meeting with Zelenskyy and Moscow has only intensified its bombardment of Ukraine.

Asked Friday if he was concerned that Putin was stringing him along, Trump acknowledged it was a possibility but said he was confident he could handle the Russian leader.

"I've been played all my life by the best of them, and I came out really well," Trump said. He added, "I think I'm pretty good at this stuff."

## Alaska storm damage so bad many evacuees won't go home for at least 18 months, governor says

By MARK THIESSEN and GENE JOHNSON Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Damage to remote Alaska villages hammered by flooding last weekend is so extreme that many of the more than 2,000 people displaced won't be able to return to their homes for at least 18 months, Gov. Mike Dunleavy said in a request to the White House for a major disaster declaration.

In one of the hardest hit villages, Kipnuk, an initial assessment showed that 121 homes — or 90% of the total — have been destroyed, Dunleavy wrote. In Kwigillingok, where three dozen homes floated away, slightly more than one-third of the residences are uninhabitable.

The remnants of Typhoon Halong struck the area with the ferocity of a Category 2 hurricane, Dunleavy

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 44 of 62**

said, sending a surge of high surf into the low-lying region. One person was killed, two remain missing, and rescue crews plucked dozens of people from their homes as they floated away.

Officials have been scrambling to airlift people from the inundated Alaska Native villages. More than 2,000 people across the region have taken shelter — in schools in their villages, in larger communities in southwest Alaska or have been evacuated by military planes to Anchorage, the state's largest city.

Anchorage leaders said Friday they expect as many as 1,600 evacuees to arrive. So far about 575 have been airlifted to the city by the Alaska National Guard, and have been staying at a sports arena or a convention center. Additional flights were expected Friday and Saturday.

Officials are working on figuring out how to move people out of shelters and into short-term accommodations, such as hotels, and then longer-term housing.

"Due to the time, space, distance, geography, and weather in the affected areas, it is likely that many survivors will be unable to return to their communities this winter," Dunleavy said. "Agencies are prioritizing rapid repairs ... but it is likely that some damaged communities will not be viable to support winter occupancy, in America's harshest climate in the U.S. Arctic."

The federal government already has been assisting with search and rescue, damage assessments, environmental response and evacuation support. A major disaster declaration by President Donald Trump could provide federal assistance programs for individuals and public infrastructure, including money for emergency and permanent work.

The three members of Alaska's congressional delegation on Friday sent a letter to Trump, urging swift approval.

The storm surge pummeled a sparsely populated region off the state's main road system where communities are reachable only by air or water this time of year. The villages typically have just a few hundred residents, who hunt and fish for much of their food, and relocating to the state's major cities will bring a vastly different lifestyle.

Alexie Stone, of Kipnuk, arrived in Anchorage in a military jet with his brothers, children and mom, after his home was struck by the flooding. They've been staying at the Alaska Airlines Center at the University of Alaska, where the Red Cross provided evacuees with cots, blankets and hygiene supplies.

At least for the foreseeable future, he thinks he might try to find a job at a grocery store; he used to work in one in Bethel.

"It's going to be, try to look for a place and find a job," Stone said Friday. "We're starting a new life here in Anchorage."

Anchorage officials and business leaders said Friday they were eager to help the evacuees.

"Our neighbors in western Alaska have experienced tremendous loss, devastation and grief," Mayor Suzanne LaFrance said at a meeting of the Anchorage Assembly. "We will do everything we can here in Anchorage to welcome our neighbors and help them through these difficult times."

State Rep. Nellie Unangiq Jimmie, of Toksook Bay, on an island northwest of Kipnuk, described for the assembly how she rode out the storm's 100 mph (161 kmh) winds with her daughter and niece.

"We had no choice but to sit in our home and wait to see if our house is going to come off the foundation or if debris is going to bust open our windows," she said.

It didn't, but others weren't as fortunate. She thanked Anchorage for welcoming the evacuees.

"You are showing my people, my relatives, my constituents, even if they are far from home, this is still Alaska land and they're amongst families," Jimmie said.

## **With no takers yet, White House meets with colleges still weighing an agreement with Trump**

By COLLIN BINKLEY and JONATHAN MATTISE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The five universities that were still weighing President Donald Trump's higher-education compact were asked to join a White House call Friday to discuss the proposed deal. By late Friday afternoon, one of the schools — the University of Virginia — had already declined to sign the agreement.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 45 of 62**

The meeting with university presidents, first reported by The Associated Press, was an “important step toward defining a shared vision,” Education Secretary Linda McMahon said in a post on X. She called for “renewed commitment to the time-honored principles that helped make American universities great” and said she looked forward to more dialogue.

The White House has faced a flurry of rejections after inviting nine universities to become “initial signatories” of the so-called compact, which asked colleges to make commitments aligned with Trump’s political priorities in exchange for favorable access to research funding. It was the latest effort by Trump’s administration to bring to heel prestigious universities that conservatives describe as hotbeds of liberalism.

The White House asked university leaders to provide initial feedback on the compact by Oct. 20, yet as the deadline approaches, none has signed on to the document. Those that have not yet announced a decision are Dartmouth College, the University of Arizona, the University of Texas and Vanderbilt University. They did not immediately respond to questions about Friday’s call. Leaders of the University of Texas system previously said they were honored to be included, but other universities still weighing the deal have not indicated how they’re leaning.

After the meeting, McMahon took a collaborative tone, speaking of ongoing discussions with universities and referencing continued federal funding.

“American universities power our economy, drive innovation, and prepare young people for rewarding careers and fulfilling lives,” she said in the social media post. “With continued federal investment and strong institutional leadership, the higher education sector can do more to enhance American leadership in the world and build tomorrow’s workforce.”

No takers so far

Nevertheless, the University of Virginia on Friday became the fifth university to decline to participate in Trump’s compact. Providing federal money based on anything but merit would undermine the integrity of research and further erode public confidence in higher education, the university’s interim president said in a letter to McMahon and White House officials.

“We look forward to working together to develop alternative, lasting approaches to improving higher education,” Paul Mahoney wrote.

It’s unclear exactly what universities have to gain by agreeing to the deal — or what they stand to lose if they don’t. In a letter sent alongside the compact, Trump officials said it provided “multiple positive benefits,” including favorable access to federal funding. In exchange, colleges were asked to adopt 10 pages of commitments aligned with Trump’s views.

The administration asked for commitments to eliminate race and sex from admissions decisions, to accept the government’s strict binary definition of “man” and “woman,” to promote conservative views on campus and to ensure “institutional neutrality” on current events, among other provisions.

“Institutions of higher education are free to develop models and values other than those below, if the institution elects to forego federal benefits,” the compact said.

The issue weighed on some students at Vanderbilt on Friday, with some worrying the university might sign the agreement even after student and faculty groups condemned it.

“My major concern is just that this is like a first hook,” Marjolein Mues, a postdoctoral researcher in language development in the brain, said in an interview at the Nashville campus. “And once universities agree to this, the terms will change, and more and more will be asked of universities, and that maybe the government will start to interfere more with the types of research being done here.”

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology was the first to decline the deal last week, saying it would limit free speech and campus independence. Similar concerns were cited in rejections from Brown University, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Southern California.

A push to change academia

The compact — which aims to reshape higher education through negotiation rather than legislation — has stirred a wave of pushback from academia and beyond. It has been protested by students, been condemned by faculty and drawn the ire of Democrats at all levels. Gov. Gavin Newsom in California and

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 46 of 62**

Democrats in Virginia have threatened to cut state funding to any university that signs on.

In a joint statement Friday, more than 30 higher education organizations urged the administration to withdraw the compact. Led by the American Council on Education, an association of research universities, the coalition said the agreement would give the government unprecedented control over colleges' academics and hinder free speech.

"The compact is a step in the wrong direction," the statement said.

Many of the terms align with recent deals the White House struck with Brown and Columbia universities to close investigations into alleged discrimination and to restore research funding. But while those agreements included terms affirming the campuses' academic freedom, the compact offers no such protection — one of the roadblocks cited in Brown's rejection.

In Trump's ongoing quest to win obedience from powerful universities, his top target has been Harvard, the first university to openly defy a set of wide-ranging demands from the government. The White House went on to slash billions of dollars in research funding at Harvard, cancel its federal contracts and attempt to block the Ivy League school from enrolling foreign students.

A federal judge in Boston reversed the funding cuts last month, calling them an unconstitutional overreach.

Several other prestigious universities have also had their funding cut amid investigations into alleged antisemitism.

White House officials described the offer as a proactive approach to shape policy at U.S. campuses even as the administration continues its enforcement efforts.

Trump on Sunday said colleges that sign on will help bring about "the Golden Age of Academic Excellence in Higher Education." Speaking on his Truth Social platform, he said it would reform universities that are "now corrupting our Youth and Society with WOKE, SOCIALIST, and ANTI-AMERICAN Ideology."

## **Israel received coffin of missing hostage handed over to Red Cross, prime minister's office says**

By WAFAA SHURAFU Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel received the remains of another hostage from Gaza on Friday, the prime minister's office said, a handover from Hamas as the militant group worked to shore up a ceasefire by using bulldozers in a search for bodies under the rubble in the war-scarred enclave.

The Israeli military and security forces received the coffin from the International Committee of the Red Cross inside the Gaza Strip, and it was to be sent to the Ministry of Health's National Center for Forensic Medicine in Israel.

Israeli authorities said the family of the deceased would be notified first after a formal identification process.

The handover came after Hamas' military wing, known as the Qassam Brigades, said the remains were that of an "occupation prisoner," suggesting that they belonged to an Israeli rather than one of the hostages of several other nationalities also taken in Gaza.

The handover of hostages remains, called for under the ceasefire agreement, has been among the key sticking points — along with aid deliveries, the opening of border crossings into Gaza and hopes for reconstruction — in a process backed by much of the international community to help end two years of devastating war in Gaza.

A warning from Trump

Hamas has said it is committed to the terms of the ceasefire deal, including the handover of bodies. This week, Hamas has handed over to Israel the remains of nine hostages, along with a 10th body that Israel said wasn't that of a hostage.

The effort to find bodies followed a warning from U.S. President Donald Trump that he would green-light Israel to resume the war if Hamas doesn't live up to its end of the deal and return all hostages' bodies, totaling 28.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 47 of 62**

The Israeli military and Shin Bet security service, which received the remains, insisted that " Hamas is required to uphold the agreement and take the necessary steps to return all the deceased hostages."

Hamas has said some hostages' remains were in tunnels or buildings that were destroyed by Israel, and insisted heavy machinery is required to dig through rubble to retrieve them. The group blamed Israel for the delay, saying it had not allowed any new bulldozers into Gaza.

Most heavy equipment in the territory was destroyed during the war triggered by the Oct. 7, 2023 attacks in Israel, leaving only a limited amount as Palestinians try to clear massive amounts of rubble across Gaza.

On Friday, two bulldozers plowed up pits in the earth as Hamas searched for hostages' remains in Hamad City, a complex of apartment towers in the city of Khan Younis. Israeli forces repeatedly bombarded the towers during the war, toppling some, and troops conducted a weeklong raid there in March 2024, fighting militants.

While much focus has been on the handover of hostages' remains, Hamas has urged mediators to increase the flow of aid into Gaza, expedite the opening of the Rafah border crossing with Egypt and start reconstruction.

It also said work should "start immediately" to set up a committee of Palestinian independents who will run Gaza and called for Israeli troops to continue pulling back from agreed-upon areas.

The ceasefire plan introduced by Trump had called for all hostages — living and dead — to be handed over by a deadline that expired Monday. But under the deal, if that didn't happen, Hamas was to share information about deceased hostages and try to hand them over as soon as possible.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that Israel "will not compromise" and demanded that Hamas fulfill the requirements laid out in the ceasefire deal about the return of hostages' bodies.

## Obstacles to retrieving bodies

Hamas has assured the U.S. through intermediaries that it's working to return dead hostages. The retrieval of bodies is hampered by the scope of the devastation and the presence of dangerous, unexploded ordnance. The militant group has also told mediators that some bodies are in areas controlled by Israeli troops.

Hamas released all 20 living Israeli hostages on Monday. In exchange, Israel freed around 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees.

In Israel, the Hostage and Missing Families Forum — which groups many families of hostages — said they will continue holding weekly rallies until all remains are returned.

Israel has also returned to Gaza the bodies of 90 Palestinians for burial. Israel is expected to turn over more bodies, though officials have not said how many are in its custody or how many will be returned.

A Palestinian forensics team examining the remains said some of the bodies showed signs of mistreatment.

Israel's campaign in Gaza has killed nearly 68,000 Palestinians, according to the Health Ministry, which is part of the Hamas-run government in the territory. Thousands more people are missing, according to the Red Cross.

## France says international force for Gaza is in the pipeline

France said it's working with Britain and the U.S. to propose a U.N. resolution in coming days that would provide a framework for an international force for Gaza.

French Foreign Ministry spokesperson Pascal Confavreux said Thursday that Arab countries want a U.N. mandate for the force.

Arab countries are expected to be among those contributing troops to the force, which will oversee Egyptian-trained Palestinian police.

## New insights into U.S. response to Israel's strike in Qatar

Also on Friday, new details emerged about the Trump administration's initial surprise about -- and subsequent response to -- an Israeli strike last month on the headquarters of Hamas' political leadership in Qatar. The attack came just as its top figures gathered to consider a U.S. proposal for a ceasefire in Gaza.

In excerpts of an interview with CBS program 60 Minutes to be aired in full on Sunday, Trump's Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff said he and Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law, felt "a little bit betrayed" by Israel's attack.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 48 of 62**

Kushner said he thought Trump “felt like the Israelis were getting a little bit out of control in what they were doing, and that it was time to, it was time to be very strong and stop them from doing things that he felt were not in their long-term interests.”

Weeks later, hosting Netanyahu at the White House, the president announced the initial contours of the planned ceasefire agreement.

Wait for a large infusion of aid into Gaza goes on

Meanwhile, in Gaza, the flow of aid remains constrained because of continued closures of crossings and restrictions on aid groups.

United Nations data on Friday showed 339 trucks have been offloaded for distribution in Gaza since the ceasefire began a week ago. Under the agreement, some 600 humanitarian aid trucks would be allowed to enter each day.

COGAT, the Israeli defense body overseeing aid in Gaza, reported 950 trucks — including commercial trucks and bilateral deliveries — crossing on Thursday and 716 on Wednesday, the U.N. said

Tom Fletcher, the U.N. humanitarian aid chief, visited a World Food Program bakery in Deir al-Balah on Friday, and said in a social media post that U.N. humanitarian teams were executing a 60-day plan to massively ramp up aid. He warned that the “challenges ahead are immense,” and urged the opening of more crossings to allow more aid in

Since last Saturday, WFP has sent more than 280 trucks, weighing some 3,000 metric tons, into Gaza to support bakeries, nutrition programs and general food distributions, the U.N. food aid agency said.

Nahed Sheheiber, the head of Gaza’s private truckers’ union, which organizes pickups of aid after Israeli inspection, says improved security in Gaza has helped prevent looting or gangs intercepting aid convoys — even if there has been no significant increase of supplies arriving since the ceasefire. He said only 70 trucks went in Thursday.

Gaza’s more than 2 million people are hoping the ceasefire will bring relief from the humanitarian disaster caused by Israel’s campaign. Throughout the war, Israel restricted aid entry to Gaza — sometimes halting it altogether.

Famine was declared in Gaza City, and the U.N. says it has verified more than 400 people who died of malnutrition-related causes, including more than 100 children.

Israel says it let in enough food, accusing Hamas of stealing much of it. The U.N. and other aid agencies deny the claim.

## **Prince Andrew gives up his Duke of York title as Epstein allegations refuse to fade**

By JILL LAWLESS and PAN PYLAS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Prince Andrew said Friday he is giving up his royal title of the Duke of York and other honors after his friendship with sex offender Jeffrey Epstein returned to the headlines.

Andrew, younger brother of King Charles III, said in a statement released by Buckingham Palace that “the continued accusations about me distract from the work of His Majesty and the royal family.”

“With His Majesty’s agreement, we feel I must now go a step further. I will therefore no longer use my title or the honours which have been conferred upon me,” Andrew said in his statement Friday. “As I have said previously, I vigorously deny the accusations against me.”

Epstein-related allegations

It’s the latest fall from grace for the 65-year-old prince, who had already stepped down from public life in 2019 over his links to Epstein despite his denials of any wrongdoing.

News that he will be ditching his title came in the wake of the release of excerpts of an upcoming posthumous memoir from Virginia Roberts Giuffre, who has alleged she was trafficked by Epstein and had sex with Andrew when she was 17. The memoir is due to be published on Tuesday.

Giuffre died by suicide in April at the age of 41. In the memoir, she details alleged encounters with Prince Andrew, who she sued in 2021. Andrew denied her claims and said he didn’t recall having met her.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 49 of 62

## Interview misstep

Andrew, once second in line to the British throne, has long been a source of tabloid fodder because of his links to Epstein, other questionable characters and money woes.

His attempt to refute Giuffre's allegations backfired during a November 2019 BBC interview. Viewers saw a prince who proffered curious rebuttals — such as disputing Giuffre's recollection of sweaty dancing by saying he was medically incapable of perspiring — and showed no empathy for the women who said Epstein abused them.

Within days of the interview, Andrew stepped down from his royal duties. Giuffre sued him and the case was settled in 2022 for an undisclosed sum. A statement filed in court said that the prince acknowledged Epstein was a sex trafficker and Giuffre was "an established victim of abuse."

## Family repercussions

As well as no longer using the title of the Duke of York, a long-established title that was gifted to him by his mother Queen Elizabeth II at his wedding to Sarah Ferguson in 1986, Andrew will also give up other titles: Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order and Royal Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter. He will remain a prince, which he has been entitled to since birth.

Andrew's ex-wife, Sarah Ferguson will also no longer use the title of Duchess of York. Their children, Beatrice and Eugenie, will remain princesses.

Andrew's chaotic marriage to Ferguson, widely known as Fergie, lasted a decade though the two remain close, living together at a 30-room mansion near Windsor Castle.

Ferguson, herself, has also been embroiled in Epstein-related allegations. Last month, a number of charities severed ties with her after British newspapers published an email that she reportedly wrote to Epstein, describing him as a "supreme friend."

## Once the golden boy

Andrew had been the poster boy of the royal family for many years, and his romantic links to a number of models and starlets during his youth were widely chronicled in the British press.

His star status within the royal family was at its peak after he flew in multiple missions as a helicopter pilot in the Royal Navy during the 1982 Falklands War when British forces sailed to the south Atlantic to eject the Argentine military that had invaded the U.K. overseas territories.

## Questions over financing

Andrew has long been criticized for his opulent, globe-trotting lifestyle.

When he stopped being a working royal, Andrew lost his primary source of income. Questions have been raised since how he has funded his lifestyle, including the running of his Royal Lodge home.

Earlier this year, court documents showed that his damaged reputation and need for money led him to become entangled with a suspected Chinese spy, businessman Tengbo Yang, who was barred from the U.K. in 2023.

Dominic Hampshire, a former senior aide to Andrew, told a special immigration appeals commission how he had arranged meetings between the prince and Yang in an effort to drum up some cash.

While Andrew has said he never discussed anything sensitive with the suspected spy and that he ceased contact with him as soon as concerns were raised, he retreated from view after the news emerged last December.

## US has seized survivors after strike on suspected drug-carrying vessel in Caribbean, AP sources say

By KONSTANTIN TOROPIN and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States took survivors into custody after the military struck a suspected drug-carrying vessel in the Caribbean, a defense official and another person familiar with the matter said Friday.

It is the first known attack that anyone has escaped alive since President Donald Trump began launching deadly strikes in the waters off Venezuela last month and raises questions about how the U.S. will treat

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 50 of 62**

the survivors.

Trump later confirmed the attack during an event at the White House. "We attacked a submarine, and that was a drug-carrying submarine built specifically for the transportation of massive amounts of drugs" he said.

Secretary of State Rubio did not dispute that there were survivors, but he repeatedly said details would be forthcoming.

The strike Thursday, at least the sixth since early September, brought the death toll from the Trump administration's military action against vessels in the region to at least 28.

It is the first to result in survivors who were picked up by the U.S. military. It was not immediately clear what would be done with the survivors, who the defense official said were being held on a U.S. Navy vessel.

The official and other person confirmed the strike and the seizing of survivors on the condition of anonymity because the attack had not yet been publicly acknowledged by Trump's administration.

Trump has justified the strikes by asserting that the United States is engaged in an "armed conflict" with drug cartels, relying on the same legal authority used by the Bush administration when it declared a war on terror after the Sept. 11 attacks. That includes the ability to capture and detain combatants and to use lethal force to take out their leadership.

Some legal experts have questioned the legality of the approach. The president's use of overwhelming military force to combat the cartels, along with his authorization of covert action inside Venezuela, possibly to oust President Nicolás Maduro, stretches the bounds of international law, legal scholars said this week.

Trump on Friday appeared to confirm reports that Maduro has offered a stake in Venezuela's oil and other mineral wealth in recent months to try to stave off mounting pressure from the United States. The New York Times last week first reported about the effort by the Maduro government.

Venezuelan government officials have also floated a plan in which Maduro would eventually leave office, according to a former Trump administration official. That plan was also rejected by the White House, the AP reported.

"He's offered everything," Trump said in an exchange with reporters at the start of his meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. "You know why? Because he doesn't want to f--- around with the United States."

For the survivors of Thursday's strike, the saga is hardly over. They now face an unclear future and legal landscape, including questions about whether they are now considered to be prisoners of war or defendants in a criminal case.

Reuters was first to report news of the strike late Thursday.

The strikes in the Caribbean have caused unease among both Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill, with some Republicans saying they have not received sufficient information on how the strikes are being conducted. A classified briefing for senators on the Senate Armed Services Committee earlier this month did not include representatives from intelligence agencies or the military command structure for South and Central America.

However, most Senate Republicans stood behind the administration last week when a vote on a War Powers Resolution was brought up, which would have required the administration to gain approval from Congress before conducting more strikes.

Their willingness to back the administration will be tested again. Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia, along with Sens. Adam Schiff, a California Democrat, and Rand Paul, a Kentucky Republican, is bringing another resolution that would prevent Trump from outright attacking Venezuela without congressional authorization.



## **Bolton pleads not guilty in Justice Department case accusing him of sharing government secrets**

By ERIC TUCKER and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

GREENBELT, Md. (AP) — John Bolton pleaded not guilty Friday to charges accusing the former Trump national security adviser turned critic of emailing classified information to family members and keeping top secret documents at his Maryland home.

Bolton was ordered released from custody after making his appearance before a judge in the third Justice Department case brought in recent weeks against an adversary of President Donald Trump.

The case accusing Bolton of putting the country's national security at risk is unfolding against the backdrop of growing concerns that the Trump administration is using the law enforcement powers of the Justice Department to pursue his political foes. Bolton has signaled he will argue he is being targeted because of his criticism of the president, describing the charges as part of a Trump "effort to intimidate his opponents."

The investigation into Bolton, however, was already well underway by the time Trump took office a second time this past January and appears to have followed a more conventional path toward indictment than other recent cases against perceived Trump foes, who were charged by the president's hand-picked U.S. attorney in Virginia over the concerns of career prosecutors.

Bolton is accused of sharing with his wife and daughter more than 1,000 pages of notes that included sensitive information he had gleaned from meetings with other U.S. government officials and foreign leaders or from intelligence briefings. Authorities say some of the information was exposed when operatives believed to be linked to the Iranian government hacked Bolton's email account he used to send diary-like notes about his activities to his relatives.

The Justice Department also alleges Bolton stored at his home highly classified intelligence about a foreign adversary's plans to attack U.S. forces overseas, covert action taken by the U.S. government and other state secrets.

"There is one tier of justice for all Americans," Attorney General Pam Bondi said in a statement Thursday. "Anyone who abuses a position of power and jeopardizes our national security will be held accountable. No one is above the law."

Bolton, 76, is a longtime fixture in Republican foreign policy circles who became known for his hawkish views on American power and who served for more than a year in Trump's first administration before being fired in 2019. He later published a book highly critical of Trump.

The indictment is significantly more detailed in its allegations than earlier cases against former FBI Director James Comey and New York Attorney General Letitia James. Unlike in those cases filed by a hastily appointed U.S. attorney, Bolton's indictment was signed by career national security prosecutors.

Case centers on top secret national security information

Bolton suggested the criminal case was an outgrowth of an unsuccessful Justice Department effort after he left government to block the publication of his 2020 book "The Room Where It Happened," which portrayed Trump as grossly misinformed about foreign policy.

Bolton's lawyers have said he moved forward with the book after a White House National Security Council official, with whom Bolton had worked for months, said the manuscript no longer had classified information.

Authorities say Bolton took meticulous notes about his meetings and briefings as national security adviser and then used a personal email account and messaging platform to share information classified as high as top secret with his family members. After sending one document, Bolton wrote in a message to his relatives, "None of which we talk about!!!" In response, one of his relatives wrote, "Shhhhhh," prosecutors said.

The two family members were not identified in court papers, but a person familiar with the case, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss nonpublic details, identified them as Bolton's wife and daughter.

A Bolton representative told the FBI in July 2021 that his email account had been hacked by operatives believed to be linked to the Iranian government but did not reveal he had shared classified information through the account or that the hackers now had possession of government secrets, according to the indictment.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 52 of 62**

Bolton's attorney, Abbe Lowell, said in a statement that the "underlying facts in this case were investigated and resolved years ago."

He said the charges stem from portions of Bolton's personal diaries over his 45-year career in government and included unclassified information that was shared only with his immediate family and was known to the FBI as far back as 2021.

"Like many public officials throughout history," Lowell said, "Bolton kept diaries — that is not a crime." He said Bolton "did not unlawfully share or store any information."

Justice Department has long history of classified documents cases

The Justice Department has a long history of investigations into the mishandling of classified information, including by public officials. The outcomes of those investigations have turned in part on whether officials developed evidence of willful mishandling or other crimes such as obstruction.

Trump, for instance, was charged not only with hoarding classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate but also with obstructing government efforts to get them back. Special counsel Jack Smith dropped the case after Trump was elected last November, citing Justice Department policy against prosecuting sitting presidents.

Prosecutors in a separate investigation found evidence that President Joe Biden had willfully retained and shared classified information when he a private citizen but opted against charges in part because they thought Biden might come across to a jury as "sympathetic, well-meaning, elderly man with a poor memory."

Another high-profile investigation concerned 2016 Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, who was spared charges after then-FBI Director James Comey said investigators did not determine that she intended to break the law when she sent emails containing classified information on a private email server while serving as Secretary of State.

One investigation that may carry parallels to the Bolton case is the prosecution of former CIA Director David Petraeus, who in 2015 admitted to sharing classified information with his biographer while she was working on the book. He was sentenced to probation following a plea agreement with the Justice Department.

## **Wall Street rises to finish its best week in 2 months after bank stocks stabilize**

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street cruised to the finish of a winning week on Friday after banks recovered some of their sharp losses from the day before.

The S&P 500 rose 0.5%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 238 points, or 0.5%, and the Nasdaq composite climbed 0.5%.

The gains capped the best week for the S&P 500 since early August, but it was a roller-coaster ride. Indexes careened through several jarring swings as worries built about the financial health of small and midsized banks, as well as the souring trade relationship between the United States and China.

Some of the nervousness around U.S.-China trade tensions eased on Friday after President Donald Trump said that very high tariffs he threatened to put on Chinese imports are not sustainable.

Trump also told Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures" that he would meet with China's leader, Xi Jinping, at an upcoming conference in South Korea. That's counter to an earlier, angry posting he made on social media, where he said there seemed to be "no reason" for such a meeting.

Bank stocks, meanwhile, stabilized on Friday after several reported stronger profit for the latest quarter than analysts expected, including Truist Financial, Fifth Third Bancorp and Huntington Bancshares. That helped steady the group, a day after tumbling on worries about potentially bad loans.

The two banks at the center of Thursday's action also rose to trim some of their sharp losses.

Zions Bancorp., which is charging off \$50 million of loans where it found "apparent misrepresentations

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 53 of 62**

and contractual defaults" by the borrowers, climbed 5.8% following its 13.1% loss.

Western Alliance Bancorp, which is suing a borrower due to allegations of fraud, rose 3.1% after its 10.8% fall on Thursday.

Scrutiny is rising on the quality of loans that banks and other lenders have broadly made following last month's Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection filing of First Brands Group, a supplier of aftermarket auto parts.

One of the financial firms that could feel pain because of First Brands' bankruptcy, Jefferies Financial Group, rose 5.9% Friday. It had come into the day with a loss of roughly 30% since mid-September.

The question is whether the lenders' problems are just a collection of one-offs or a signal of something larger threatening the industry. Uncertainty is high following a long stretch where many borrowers were able to stay in business, even with the weight of higher interest rates. And with prices soaring to records for all kinds of investments, the appetite for risk may have gotten too high.

JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon addressed the issue on an earnings conference call with analysts earlier this week.

"When you see one cockroach, there are probably more," Dimon said. "Everyone should be forewarned on this one."

"But banks make loan loss provisions and typically have plenty of capital to keep the cockroaches from causing structural damage," said Brian Jacobsen, chief economist at Annex Wealth Management. "Based on earnings and data so far, it looks like this isn't an infestation" and that the potential canary in the coal mine "is probably passed out and not dead."

All told, the S&P 500 rose 34.94 points to 6,664.01. The Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 238.37 to 46,190.61, and the Nasdaq composite gained 117.44 to 22,679.97.

In the bond market, Treasury yields steadied following their sharp slides from Thursday, which came as investors rushed into investments seen as safer.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury edged up to 4.00% from 3.99% late Thursday.

Gold also pulled back from its latest record as more calm seeped through the market.

The price for an ounce fell 2.1% to \$4,213.30, but it's still up roughly 60% for the year so far. Besides worries about tariffs, gold's price has also surged on expectations for coming cuts to interest rates by the Federal Reserve and concerns about the massive amounts of debt that the U.S. and other governments worldwide are building.

In stock markets abroad, indexes dropped across much of Europe and Asia after Wall Street's weakness from Thursday moved westward.

Germany's DAX lost 1.8%, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng sank 2.5% for two of the world's bigger moves.

## **How Trump's approval shifted after the ceasefire in Gaza, according to a new AP-NORC poll**

By STEVE PEOPLES and LINLEY SANDERS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — More U.S. adults support President Donald Trump's handling of the conflict in Israel after he brokered a ceasefire deal in Gaza, a new AP-NORC poll finds — but his approval ratings on domestic issues remain weak.

The survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research reveals that Trump's apparent success on the world stage has not yet improved his overall standing at home. In interviews, even some of his voters said he needs to do more to address issues such as the economy, health care and immigration.

"It's kind of cool he's bringing peace, but I'm like, 'You kind of need to worry about your American people instead of bringing peace to the world first,'" said Justin Sanders, a 31-year-old Republican from Birmingham, Alabama, who voted twice for Trump.

"We need the inflation to go down," added Sanders, who works as a driver for DoorDash. "I'm tired of sitting here struggling going day by day trying to figure out if I'm going to eat or not."

The poll was conducted Oct. 9-13, before the hostages and prisoners were freed in Israel, but after the

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 54 of 62**

ceasefire deal was announced. The tenuous ceasefire in Gaza has held this week even as major questions remain about the U.S. plan for the region and whether the peace can be sustained.

At the same time, Trump faces major hurdles at home with a U.S. government shutdown now in its third week, prices remaining too high for many Americans and millions more impacted by health care cuts and hospital closures.

In the new poll, about 4 in 10 U.S. adults approve of the way Trump is handling his job as president overall, unchanged from September.

Trump's approval on Israeli-Palestinian conflict rises

About half of U.S. adults, 47%, approve of how Trump is handling the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians. That's an increase from 37% in September, and it's driven primarily by Democrats viewing Trump more positively on this issue.

Jack Bornstein, of Alpharetta, Georgia, a 61-year-old independent who typically votes for Democrats, said he was pleased the Israeli hostages were released as part of the deal Trump helped negotiate.

"I give him credit for that. That's probably the only thing I can say is positive for him," Bornstein said, pointing to concerns about rising grocery prices, health care and Trump's character.

However, separate AP-NORC polling from July indicates that Americans are much more likely to say domestic issues — such as the economy, health care, taxes, government spending and immigration — are "extremely" or "very" important to them as compared with the situation in the Middle East.

In the July poll, only about 4 in 10 said the Middle East was at least "very" important to them personally, compared with about 9 in 10 who said that about the economy.

Most disapprove of Trump's handling of economy, immigration, health care

On domestic issues, Americans don't believe that Trump is doing particularly well — even on immigration, a signature issue for the Republican president.

About 4 in 10 U.S. adults approve of the way Trump is handling immigration, which is in line with his September measure, but down slightly from the beginning of his second term.

On the economy, the chief concern for many, only about one-third of U.S. adults approve of Trump's performance. The figure has stayed steady throughout his second term.

One of Trump's weakest issues is health care, a topic that's taken center stage during the ongoing government shutdown.

About 3 in 10 U.S. adults approve of Trump's leadership on health care, in line with September. Almost all Democrats disapprove of his work on health care, but so do about 8 in 10 independents and about one-third of Republicans.

Alison Weaver, a 62-year-old independent from Roanoke, Virginia, said Trump's second term has been "a debacle."

She criticized his "gestapo tactics" on immigration and laughed out loud when asked about his performance on health care.

"It's horrifying," Weaver said.

Most say the country is going in the wrong direction

Trump's domestic challenges come on the eve of a new election season in which voters in New Jersey and Virginia will elect new governors next month, while several other states will host municipal elections.

Trump's weak numbers could create problems for Republican candidates who have been wary of distancing themselves from the GOP president. The new poll might also raise concerns for incumbents in either party, since about 7 in 10 U.S. adults say things in this country are heading in the wrong direction.

That's down slightly from September, shortly after conservative activist Charlie Kirk's assassination, when about three-quarters of Americans said the country was going in the wrong direction. Republicans are less likely to say the country is headed in the wrong direction than they were last month, returning closer to levels before Kirk's assassination. Democrats and independents have not changed significantly.

Dean Grace, a 73-year-old Democrat from Duluth, Minnesota, said he has very few positive things to say about Trump.



"I will give him some credit for the ceasefire, although claiming peace in the Middle East is a stretch," he said. "My issues are that, as a Christian, I find nothing to agree with my president about morally."

## US blocks a global fee on shipping emissions as international meeting ends without new regulations

By SIBI ARASU and JENNIFER McDERMOTT Associated Press

With trade threats from President Donald Trump, the U.S. derailed the world's first global carbon fee on shipping as an international maritime meeting adjourned Friday without adopting regulations.

Earlier this year, amid much fanfare, the world's largest maritime nations agreed on the regulations, which would impose a fee on carbon pollution to clean up shipping. The next step of the process — adopting the regulations — during the International Maritime Organization meeting in London this week was widely expected to be a formality.

Instead, after much pressure from Trump, along with Saudi Arabia and a handful of other countries, delegates decided to postpone the decision by a year and adjourn. In the interim, nations will continue to negotiate and work toward consensus.

The development underscored how the influence of Trump, who recently called climate change a "con job," extends globally to policies aimed at combating climate change.

"Faced with pressure, too many governments chose political compromise over climate justice, and in doing so, abandoned the countries bearing the brunt of the climate crisis," said Emma Fenton, senior director for climate diplomacy at a U.K.-based climate change nonprofit, Opportunity Green.

The Trump administration was quick to celebrate

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio hailed the development as "another huge win" for Trump.

"Thanks to his leadership, the United States prevented a massive U.N. tax hike on American consumers that would have funded progressive climate pet projects," Rubio wrote on X. "Our country will continue to lead the way and put America FIRST."

Trump had urged countries to vote "No," posting on his social media platform Truth Social on Thursday that "the United States will not stand for this global green new scam tax on shipping." The U.S. had threatened to retaliate with tariffs, visa restrictions and port levies if nations supported it.

After vowing to fight any global tax on shipping emissions, Saudi Arabia called for a vote to adjourn the meeting for a year. More than half the countries agreed.

Arsenio Dominguez, secretary-general of the IMO, the United Nations agency that regulates international shipping, said in a post-meeting news conference that "geopolitics in the world right now makes it more difficult for us to make progress in certain topics."

Nations falter in their efforts to save the planet

The decision, or lack thereof, in London is similar to what happened this summer with a major treaty to end growing plastic pollution around the world. The negotiations fell apart, with the United States and Saudi Arabia opposing any limit on plastic production.

The world's biggest climate summit, COP30, is in November in Belem, Brazil. Ralph Regenvanu, minister for climate change for the Pacific Island nation of Vanuatu, said the road to Belem and beyond is now more difficult.

"The IMO's failure to adopt the framework this week marks a failure of this United Nations agency to act decisively on climate change," Regenvanu said. "But we know that we have international law on our side and will continue to fight for our people and the planet."

Shipping emissions grow

Large ships last about 25 years, so the industry would need to make changes and investments now to slash its emissions. Most ships today run on heavy fuel oil that releases carbon dioxide and other pollutants as it's burned. The International Chamber of Shipping, which represents over 80% of the world's merchant fleet, advocated for the adoption of the regulations.

Thomas Kazakos, the chamber's secretary-general, said they are disappointed because the industry

needs clarity to be able to make the investments needed to decarbonize the maritime sector.

Shipping emissions have grown over the past decade to about 3% of the global total as trade has grown and vessels use immense amounts of fossil fuels to transport cargo over long distances.

The regulations, or "Net-Zero Framework," would set a marine fuel standard that decreases, over time, the amount of greenhouse gas emissions allowed from using shipping fuels. The regulations also would establish a pricing system that would impose fees for every ton of greenhouse gases emitted by ships above allowable limits, in what is effectively the first global tax on greenhouse gas emissions.

"The delay leaves the shipping sector drifting in uncertainty. But this week has also shown that there is a clear desire to clean up the shipping industry, even in the face of U.S. bullying," said Alison Shaw, IMO Manager at Transport & Environment, a Brussels-based environmental nongovernmental organization.

The IMO set a target for the sector to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by about 2050, and has committed to ensuring that fuels with zero or near-zero emissions are used more widely.

"What matters now is that countries rise up and come back to the IMO with a louder and more confident yes vote that cannot be silenced," said Anaïs Rios, shipping policy officer for Seas At Risk. "The planet and the future of shipping does not have time to waste."

## Democrats say Trump needs to be involved in shutdown talks. He's shown little interest in doing so

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI and SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is showing little urgency to broker a compromise that would end the government shutdown, even as Democrats insist no breakthrough is possible without his direct involvement.

Three weeks in, Congress is at a standstill. The House hasn't been in session for a month, and senators left Washington on Thursday frustrated by the lack of progress. Republican leaders are refusing to negotiate until a short-term funding bill to reopen the government is passed, while Democrats say they won't agree without guarantees on extending health insurance subsidies.

For now, Trump appears content to stay on the sidelines.

He spent the week celebrating an Israel-Hamas ceasefire deal he led, hosted a remembrance event for conservative activist Charlie Kirk and refocused attention on the Russia-Ukraine war. Meanwhile, his administration has been managing the shutdown in unconventional ways, continuing to pay the troops while laying off other federal employees.

Asked Thursday whether he was willing to deploy his dealmaking background on the shutdown, Trump seemed uninterested.

"Well, look, I mean, all we want to do is just extend. We don't want anything, we just want to extend, live with the deal they had," he said in an exchange with reporters in the Oval Office. Later Thursday, he criticized Democratic health care demands as "crazy," adding, "We're just not going to do it."

Spokesperson Karoline Leavitt told Fox News that Democrats must first vote to reopen the government, "then we can have serious conversations about health care."

Senate Majority Leader John Thune echoed that approach before leaving for the weekend, saying Trump is "ready to weigh in and sit down with the Democrats or whomever, once the government opens up."

Thune said he'd also be willing to talk, but only after the shutdown ends.

"I am willing to sit down with Democrats," Thune posted on social media Friday.

"But there's one condition: End the Schumer Shutdown. I will not negotiate under hostage conditions, nor will I pay a ransom," he added.

Frustration is beginning to surface among rank-and-file Republicans, with bipartisan conversations breaking out on the Senate floor as members look for ways to move things forward. Still, even those Republicans admit little happens in Congress without Trump's direction.

Leaving the Capitol on Thursday, GOP Sen. Lisa Murkowski said, "We're not making much headway this week." For things to progress, Murkowski acknowledged Trump may need to get more involved: "I think

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 57 of 62**

he's an important part of it."

"I think there are some folks in his administration that are kind of liking the fact that Congress really has no role right now," she added. "I don't like that. I don't like that at all."

Trump has not been slowed by the shutdown

While Congress has been paralyzed by the shutdown, Trump has moved rapidly to enact his vision of the federal government.

He has called budget chief Russ Vought the "grim reaper," and Vought has taken the opportunity to withhold billions of dollars for infrastructure projects and lay off thousands of federal workers, signaling that workforce reductions could become even more drastic.

At the same time, the administration has acted unilaterally to fund Trump's priorities, including paying the military this week, easing pressure on what could have been one of the main deadlines to end the shutdown.

Some of these moves, particularly the layoffs and funding shifts, have been criticized as illegal and are facing court challenges. A federal judge on Wednesday temporarily blocked the administration from firing workers during the shutdown, ruling that the cuts appeared politically motivated and were carried out without sufficient justification.

And with Congress focused on the funding fight, lawmakers have had little time to debate other issues.

In the House, Johnson has said the House won't return until Democrats approve the funding bill and has refused to swear in Rep.-elect Adelita Grijalva. Democrats say the move is to prevent her from becoming the 218th signature on a discharge petition aimed at forcing a vote on releasing documents related to the sex trafficking investigation into Jeffrey Epstein.

So far, the shutdown has shown little impact on public opinion.

An AP-NORC poll released Thursday found that 3 in 10 U.S. adults have a "somewhat" or "very" favorable view of the Democratic Party, similar to an AP-NORC poll from September. Four in 10 have a "somewhat" or "very" favorable view of the Republican Party, largely unchanged from last month.

Democrats want Trump at the table. Republicans would rather he stay out

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries have said Republicans have shown little seriousness in negotiating an end to the shutdown.

"Leader Thune has not come to me with any proposal at this point," Schumer said Thursday.

Frustrated with congressional leaders, Democrats are increasingly looking to Trump.

At a CNN town hall Wednesday night featuring Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Sen. Bernie Sanders, both repeatedly called for the president's involvement when asked why negotiations had stalled.

"President Trump is not talking. That is the problem," Sanders said.

Ocasio-Cortez added that Trump should more regularly "be having congressional leaders in the White House."

Democrats' focus on Trump reflects both his leadership style — which allows little to happen in Congress without his approval — and the reality that any funding bill needs the president's signature to become law.

This time, however, Republican leaders who control the House and Senate are resisting any push for Trump to intervene.

"You can't negotiate when somebody's got a hostage," said South Dakota Sen. Mike Rounds, who added that Trump getting involved would allow Democrats to try the same tactic in future legislative fights.

Trump has largely followed that guidance. After previously saying he would be open to negotiating with Democrats on health insurance subsidies, he walked it back after Republican leaders suggested he misspoke.

And that's unlikely to change for now. Trump has no plans to personally intervene to broker a deal with Democrats, according to a senior White House official granted anonymity to discuss private conversations. The official added that the only stopgap funding bill that Democrats can expect is the one already on the table.

"The President is happy to have a conversation about health care policy, but he will not do so while the Democrats are holding the American people hostage," White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson said

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 58 of 62

Thursday.

A product of the Congress Trump has molded

In his second term, Trump has taken a top-down approach, leaving little in Congress to move without his approval.

"What's obvious to me is that Mike Johnson and John Thune don't do much without Donald Trump telling them what to do," said Democratic Sen. Mark Kelly of Arizona.

His hold is particularly strong in the GOP-led House, where Speaker Mike Johnson effectively owes his job to Trump, and relies on his influence to power through difficult legislative fights.

When Republicans have withheld votes on Trump's priorities in Congress, he's called them on the phone or summoned them to his office to directly sway them. When that doesn't work, he has vowed to unseat them in the next election. It's led many Democrats to believe the only path to an agreement runs through the White House and not through the speaker's office.

Democrats also want assurances from the White House that they won't backtrack on an agreement. The White House earlier this year cut out the legislative branch entirely with a \$4.9 billion cut to foreign aid in August through a legally dubious process known as a "pocket rescission." And before he even took office late last year, Trump and ally Elon Musk blew up a bipartisan funding agreement that both parties had negotiated.

"I think we need to see ink on paper. I think we need to see legislation. I think we need to see votes," said Ocasio-Cortez. "I don't accept pinky promises. That's not the business that I'm in."

Both parties also see little reason to fold under public pressure, believing they are winning the messaging battle.

"Everybody thinks they're winning," Murkowski said. "Nobody is winning when everybody's losing. And that's what's happening right now. The American public is losing."

## Gold prices topped \$4,300 this week. What's driving the surge?

By WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As economic uncertainty deepens, the rush for gold continues — with prices for the precious metal topping \$4,300 for the first time this week.

The going price for New York spot closed at a record \$4,326 per troy ounce on Thursday. Futures also traded as high at more than \$4,344 per troy ounce Thursday, before falling below the \$4,300 mark Friday morning. Still, gold is up 6.7% over the last week, marking one of its best weeks to date.

Gold sales can rise sharply when anxious investors seek a "safe haven" for their money. For the U.S., the latest gains arrive amid the now weekslong government shutdown and ongoing trade wars abroad — with President Donald Trump most recently threatening to place much higher tariffs on China, before appearing to walk back those potential new levies as unsustainable. Still, his barrage of other import taxes has already strained economies worldwide. Meanwhile, the prospect of lower interest rates is also making gold a more attractive investment.

How much have gold prices climbed this year? What about silver?

Gold futures are up nearly 60% since the start of 2025 — trading at about \$4,268 per troy ounce, the standard for measuring precious metals, as of around 11:45 a.m. Friday. That's up from around \$2,670 at the beginning of January.

Silver has seen an even bigger percentage jump year to date. Silver futures are up about 70%, trading at over \$50 per troy ounce Friday morning.

Why are prices going up?

A lot of it boils down to uncertainty. Interest in buying metals like gold typically spikes when investors become anxious.

Much of this year's economic turmoil has spanned from Trump's trade wars. Since the start of 2025, steep new tariffs the president has imposed on goods coming into the U.S. from around the world have strained businesses and consumers alike — pushing costs higher and helping to weaken the job market.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 59 of 62**

As a result, hiring has plunged while inflation has inched back up. And more and more consumers are expressing pessimism about the road ahead.

The U.S. government shutdown adds to those anxieties. Key economic data has been delayed — and scores of federal employees are already feeling the effects of furloughs and working without pay as long as the shutdown lasts, which has no immediate end in sight. The Trump administration also moved to use the shutdown to conduct mass firings, although a judge temporarily blocked such action.

Separately, analysts have pointed to continued weakness of the U.S. dollar and renewed rate cuts from the Federal Reserve. Last month, the Fed cut its key interest rate by a quarter-point — and projected it would do so twice more this year.

Investments in gold have also been driven by other factors over time. Over recent years, there's been strong gold demand from central banks around the world — particularly amid heightened geopolitical tensions, such as the ongoing wars in Gaza and Ukraine.

And on Wall Street this week, several regional banks saw sharp losses amid scrutiny over quality of loans, although recovery seemed to be steadying the market on Friday. Meanwhile, investors appeared to be distancing themselves from riskier assets like cryptocurrency — with bitcoin, for example, down 2.67%.

What about jewelry?

Many jewelry merchants and dealers have increasingly reported surges in customers looking to check the value of gold they own — sometimes opting to melt or sell family heirlooms to cash in on the precious metal's rising price.

At the same time, those in the market for gold jewelry may be feeling "sticker shock" if they can't afford certain products anymore — particularly if it's something impacted by both rising material costs and tariffs.

Larger retailers like Pandora and Signet have acknowledged these headwinds in recent earnings calls. Is gold worth the investment?

Advocates of investing in gold call it a safe haven — arguing that the commodity can serve to diversify and balance your investment portfolio, as well as mitigate possible risks down the road as a hedge against rising inflation. Some also take comfort in buying something tangible that has the potential to increase in value over time.

Still, experts caution against putting all your eggs in one basket. And not everyone agrees gold is a good investment. Critics say gold isn't always the inflation hedge many claim — and that there are more efficient ways to protect against potential loss of capital, such as derivative-based investments.

The Commodity Futures Trade Commission has also previously warned people to be wary of investing in gold. Precious metals can be highly volatile, and prices rise as demand goes up — meaning "when economic anxiety or instability is high, the people who typically profit from precious metals are the sellers," the commission noted.

Gold demand escalates mercury poisoning warnings

The frenzy for gold has also resulted in health and environmental consequences — with officials pointing to rising demand for mercury, a toxic metal that is key in illegal gold mining worldwide.

Mercury is widely used to separate gold during artisanal or small-scale mining. But it pollutes water, accumulates in fish, makes its way into food and builds up in people's bodies, leading to neurological and developmental harm. Even small-scale exposure can carry serious risks — putting in danger workers who rely on the industry, as well as residents in affected areas more broadly.

The Associated Press has reported about the effects of mercury poisoning tied to gold mining in countries like Senegal, Mexico and Peru, among other parts of the world.

## An army colonel who led a lightning-fast coup takes over as Madagascar's president

By GERALD IMRAY and NQOBILE NTSHANGASE Associated Press

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar (AP) — An army colonel who seized power in a military coup was sworn in as Madagascar's new leader Friday in a lightning-fast power grab that ousted the president and sent him fleeing the country and into hiding.

Col. Michael Randrianirina, the commander of an elite army unit, took the oath of office to become the new president at a ceremony in the main chamber of the nation's High Constitutional Court, in front of its nine red-robed judges.

His ascent to the presidency came just three days after he announced that the armed forces were taking power in the Indian Ocean island of around 30 million people off Africa's east coast.

### Call for unity

The nation had been rocked by three weeks of youth-led anti-government protests that started with frustration over chronic water and electricity outages but snowballed into anger with the leadership of President Andry Rajoelina. At least 22 people were killed in the protests after an initial crackdown by security forces, the United Nations said.

"Today marks a turning point for our nation, for the Madagascan people themselves are thirsting for profound change in the way our country is governed," Randrianirina said in a speech from a podium next to a red, green and white Madagascan flag. He called for peace and unity and promised to "break away from the harmful practices of the past."

The U.N. has condemned the military takeover as an unconstitutional change of government but there has been little significant reaction from other countries, including Madagascar's former colonial ruler, France. The takeover led to Madagascar being suspended from the African Union.

Madagascar is widely known as the world's largest vanilla provider and the home of the stripy-tailed primates called lemurs, but it also has a tumultuous history of political instability.

The country has seen several coups and attempted coups since gaining independence in 1960, including the one that first brought Rajoelina to power as a transitional president in 2009. Despite championing the hopes of the youth, Rajoelina has been criticized for doing little to improve the lives of Madagascans, with around 75% of the population living in poverty, according to the World Bank.

### Ousted president is in hiding

Rajoelina's whereabouts are unknown after he left the country claiming his life was in danger following the rebellion. He reportedly escaped on a French military plane. In his absence, Rajoelina was impeached in a vote in parliament on Tuesday, right before the colonel announced the military was taking power.

"The previous president failed to listen to the youth — and this is the result," said Emmanuel Rabemanantsoa, a young Madagascan who had taken part in the Gen Z-led protests.

Randrianirina, who is believed to be 50 or 51 years old, swapped his military camouflage for a dark suit and blue tie for the swearing-in ceremony, which was attended by military officers, civilian officials and foreign diplomats. Military guards of honor on either side of the room drew ceremonial swords to mark the moment, and a line of soldiers blew trumpets.

The colonel, who emerged from relative obscurity to lead the rebellion by his CAPSAT military unit less than a week ago, was briefly imprisoned two years ago for an attempted mutiny. He said he spent most of the three months he was detained in late 2023 and early 2024 at a military hospital.

### Up to 2 years of military rule

Randrianirina has said Madagascar will be run by a military council with him as president for between 18 months and two years before any new elections, meaning the young people who inspired the uprising may have a long wait before they are able to choose a leader. Analysts question if the youth uprising was pounced on by the military to seize power.

The protests have echoed other Gen Z-led uprisings in Nepal, Sri Lanka and elsewhere. Young Madagascans first took to the streets last month to rail against water and power outages, but have raised other

issues, including the cost of living, the lack of opportunities and alleged corruption and nepotism by the elite.

Randrianirina seized on the momentum last weekend when he and his soldiers joined the anti-government protests that called for the president and government ministers to step down. There was a brief clash between his soldiers and gendarmerie security forces still loyal to Rajoelina, during which one CAPSAT soldier was killed, the colonel said.

But there has been no major violence and Randrianirina's troops have been cheered while riding through the streets of the capital, Antananarivo, in armored vehicles and their takeover celebrated by Madagascans.

Randrianirina said in an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday that the military takeover was a move to "take responsibility as citizens and patriots" to save "a dying country."

Coup condemned

Rajoelina's office has said a move earlier this week by the High Constitutional Court to invite Randrianirina to become the new president was flawed and claimed that some of the court's judges had been threatened to sign off on an illegal coup.

On Thursday, U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres condemned the unconstitutional change of government and called "for the return to constitutional order and the rule of law," his spokesperson, Stéphane Dujarric, said. The African Union said it "totally rejects" the takeover.

The European Union called for the restoring of "democratic values" in Madagascar through a national dialogue, a spokesperson said.

## **Hannibal Gadhafi, son of late Libyan leader, ordered released in Lebanon if he pays \$11 million bail**

By BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A Lebanese judge on Friday ordered the release of the son of Libya's late leader Moammar Gadhafi on condition that he pay \$11 million bail.

Hannibal Gadhafi has been imprisoned in Lebanon for a decade without being charged.

The expected release comes after his lawyers have said that he had been ill in his cell at police headquarters in Beirut. Libya in 2023 formally requested his release, citing his deteriorating health after he went on hunger strike to protest his detention without trial.

On Friday, judicial officials said he was taken to the Justice Palace in Beirut, where Judge Zaher Hamadeh questioned him and later ordered his release once the money is paid. Another condition for his release, however, is that he be banned from traveling outside Lebanon for two months.

After the session was over, Gadhafi was taken back to the cell.

Judicial officials in Beirut said Gadhafi's defense team has filed a case against the Lebanese state in Geneva over holding him without trial, adding that the case is expected to be discussed in Switzerland next month.

One of Gadhafi's lawyers, Charbel Milad al-Khoury, told The Associated Press that Gadhafi does not have the money and does not have access to accounts in order to pay the bail. Al-Khoury added that Hannibal Gadhafi's defense team plan to lodge an appeal on Monday over the \$11 million bail and ask that it be abolished.

"This decision is almost impossible to be met," al-Khoury said about the bail. "Hannibal has been held for 10 years and it is not logical to release him for \$11 million bail."

Gadhafi has been detained in Lebanon since 2015 after he was abducted by Lebanese militants demanding information on the whereabouts of a prominent Lebanese Shiite cleric. Lebanese police later announced it had picked up Gadhafi from the city of Baalbek, in northeastern Lebanon, where he was being held. He has since been held in a Beirut jail.

Gadhafi had been living in exile in Syria with his Lebanese wife, Aline Skaf, and children until he was abducted and brought to Lebanon.

He has faced questioning over the past years over the 1978 disappearance of Shiite cleric, Moussa al-Sadr, during a visit to Libya.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 136 ~ 62 of 62**

The case has been a long-standing sore point in Lebanon. The cleric's family believes he may still be alive in a Libyan prison, though most Lebanese presume he is dead. He would be 96 years old.

Al-Sadr was the founder of a Shiite political and military group that took part in the long Lebanese civil war that began in 1975, largely pitting Muslims against Christians.

Asked on Friday, about al-Sadr, Gadhafi responded "I Don't know" and "I don't remember," according to four judicial officials who attended the session. They spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Moammar Gadhafi was killed by opposition fighters during Libya's 2011 uprising-turned-civil war, ending his four-decade rule of the North African country.

Hannibal Gadhafi, who was born nearly three years before al-Sadr disappeared, fled to Algeria after his father was toppled and Tripoli fell to opposition fighters, along with his mother and several other relatives. He later moved to Syria where he was given political asylum and stayed there until he was abducted.

Moammar Gadhafi had eight children from two marriages. Most of them had significant roles in his government. His son Muatassim was killed at the same time as Gadhafi Snr was captured and slain. Two other sons, Seif al-Arab and Khamis, were killed in the uprising.

Seif al-Islam, the one-time heir apparent to his father, has been in Libya since his release from detention there in 2017. Gadhafi's son Mohammed and daughter Aisha live in Oman. Al-Saadi, a former soccer player, was released from prison in Libya in 2021 after being jailed following repatriation from Niger in 2014, and is believed to be living in Turkey.

## **Today in History: October 17** **Loma Prieta earthquake strikes California**

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Friday, Oct. 17, the 290th day of 2025. There are 75 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 17, 1989, a magnitude-6.9 earthquake struck northern California, killing 63 people and causing up to \$10 billion worth of damage.

Also on this date:

In 1777, British forces under Gen. John Burgoyne surrendered to American troops in Saratoga, New York, in a turning point of the Revolutionary War.

In 1931, mobster Al Capone was convicted in Chicago of income tax evasion; he would be sentenced to 11 years in prison, fined \$50,000 and ordered to pay back taxes. Capone was released in 1939.

In 1933, Albert Einstein arrived in the United States as a refugee from Nazi Germany.

In 1967, Puyi, the last emperor of China, died in Beijing at age 61.

In 1979, Mother Teresa of India was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1989, Game 3 of the World Series was canceled as the Loma Prieta earthquake struck Northern California just 30 minutes before the game was scheduled to begin at Candlestick Park in San Francisco; the game would eventually be played 10 days later.

In 2024, Israel announced its forces in Gaza killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, a chief architect of 2023's Hamas-led attack on southern Israel in which militants abducted 251 people and killed some 1,200 others, prompting Israel's retaliatory war that has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians in the small coastal strip.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Gary Puckett is 83. Actor-musician Michael McKean is 78. Astronaut Mae Jemison is 69. Country singer Alan Jackson is 67. Film director Rob Marshall is 65. Animator-filmmaker Mike Judge is 63. Reggae singer Ziggy Marley is 57. Actor Wood Harris is 56. Musician Wyckle Jean is 56. Golf Hall of Famer Ernie Els is 56. Singer Chris Kirkpatrick ('N Sync) is 54. Rapper Eminem is 53. Actor Matthew Macfadyen is 51. Actor Felicity Jones is 42. Singer-songwriter Nikki Lane is 42.