Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 11, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 097 ~ 1 of 76

1- Upcoming Events
2- 1440 News Headlines
3- Help Wanted Ad
4- Threshing Show Ad
5- Groton hands Roncalli first loss in reverse sweep
7-Johnson wins Groton Invitational; Tigers place third
9- Lake County Fatal Crash
10- Fjeldheim on GDILIVE.COM
10- Today on GDILIVE.COM
11- SD SearchLight: South Dakota public university enrollment drop includes fewer undergrad and international students
11- SD SearchLight: South Dakota's US House candidates clash over Trump's mail-in voting restrictions
12- SD SearchLight: Trump plan to send $5K to every adult projected to cost $1.2T and 'explode' the deficit
13- SD SearchLight: Suit challenges Trump administration move to allow some ICE presence at polling places
14- SD SearchLight: On the 25th anniversary of 9/11, States Newsroom editor remembers the heroes of Flight 93
17- Weather Pages
22- Daily Devotional
23- Subscription Form
24- Lottery Numbers
25- News from the Associated Press

Community Calendar

Friday, Sept. 11

PATRIOT DAY

Senior Menu: Hot pork sandwich, oven roasted potatoes, California blend, fruit.

School Breakfast: Omelet.

School Lunch: Mac and cheese, green beans.

Football at Clark, 7 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent
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Saturday, Sept. 12

JH Volleyball at Matchbox Tournament, 9 a.m.

Soccer hosts Vermillion (Girls at 1 p.m., Boys at 2:30 p.m.)

Fall Citywide Rummage Sale

Sunday, Sept. 13

Third Grade Basketball practice in the GHS Gym, 4 p.m.

Sunflower Classic Couples Golf Tourney

Carnival of Silver Skates registration, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Warming House

Doggie Day at the Groton Pool, 3 p.m.

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Rally Sunday: Worship/Communion/Milestones, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Women to meet after worship.

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

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

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

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

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.

Remembering 9/11

The American flag is flying at half-staff today as the US recognizes the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

The day remains the deadliest terrorist attack in modern history. In total, 2,977 people were directly killed—2,606 in the World Trade Center, 246 across four hijacked planes, and 125 at the Pentagon in Washington, DC. Tens of thousands more were injured in the aftermath or suffer from long-term illnesses caused by the debris.

The attacks were the catalyst for protracted wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Over 7,000 US military personnel were killed, and another 53,560 were wounded across both missions. Today's anniversary comes five years after the Taliban, which harbored al-Qaida, regained control of Afghanistan following the withdrawal of US and NATO troops in 2021.

Roughly 83% of Americans born before 2001 say they remember exactly where they were or what they were doing when they learned of the attacks. But over a quarter of the US population was born after 9/11.

Record August Heat

August was the joint-hottest month ever recorded globally, tying July 2023, according to data released by the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service.

Combined global air and sea surface temperatures averaged 62.53 degrees Fahrenheit (16.96 degrees Celsius), nearly 3 degrees (1.65 C) above preindustrial levels. That exceeds the 1.5 C warming threshold set by the 2015 Paris climate agreement, though the target refers to long-term averages rather than a single month. Copernicus attributed the heat primarily to greenhouse gas emissions, compounded by a supersized El Niño warming the Pacific. Western Europe and the contiguous US both recorded their hottest summers, and the eight hottest months on record have all occurred since July 2023.

August is typically cooler globally than July—a reversal that has occurred only four other times since 1940.

NFL Kickoff

A rematch of Super Bowl LX and an unprecedented Australian matchup marked the beginning of the 2026-27 NFL season, with 13 games to follow Sunday. This season's first "Monday Night Football" matchup features the Denver Broncos taking on the Kansas City Chiefs.

Defending champion Seattle Seahawks rallied around backup QB Drew Lock to secure a 13-10 comeback win over the New England Patriots on Wednesday despite losing starter Sam Darnold to a hip injury. The Los Angeles Rams and San Francisco 49ers traveled to Melbourne for the NFL's first Aussie appearance yesterday, which drew 100,000 fans. The 49ers won 27-7. Early division rivalry clashes highlight Sunday's schedule, including NFC North foes Minnesota and Green Bay facing off (4:25 pm ET, CBS).

Off the field, a recent study found chronic traumatic encephalopathy affected at least one in four former NFL players who died from 2016 to 2021.

☞ Humankind: Dolly Parton inspires a couple to donate half their roughly $155M lottery prize to charity.

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Jimmy Kimmel will not air his interview with Texas' Democratic Senate candidate James Talarico, accusing the Federal Communications Commission of threatening his show; the White House denies the allegations.

Elena Rybakina defeats Coco Gauff to earn place in US Open final, will face Aryna Sabalenka tomorrow at 4 pm ET; Rybakina ended Sabalenka's 99-week reign as world's No. 1-ranked tennis player this week.

"Oh, Mary!", the Tony Award-winning Broadway and West End comedy created by Cole Escola, will debut on HBO in 2027.

Science & Technology

Anthropic says it has blocked several possible attempts to use its AI models to create biological weapons, as well as six efforts to use AI for conventional weapons design in China, Russia, and Yemen.

Mercury is shrinking up to 30% faster than previously estimated as its hot iron core cools and contracts.

Paleontologists discover well-preserved fossil feathers in dinosaur feces that resemble those of living birds, possibly offering clues to why some birds survived mass extinction 66 million years ago.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close down (S&P 500 -0.6%, Dow -0.6%, Nasdaq -0.7%) as oil prices again top $100 per barrel, pushing 10-year Treasury yield to its highest mark since at least October 2023.

US wholesale prices rose to 5.4% in August, a 0.4% increase from July, producer price index suggests; today's consumer price index report comes ahead of the Federal Reserve's meeting next week.

European Central Bank raises interest rates for the second time this year, bumping deposit facility rate up to 2.5% in response to surging energy costs.

30-year mortgage average rate exceeds 7% for the first time since May 2025.

Politics & World Affairs

Iranian-backed Houthi rebels seize Red Sea port city of Mokha from government forces, signaling a potential return to full-scale civil war after 2022 ceasefire.

Supreme Court again blocks Missouri's newly drawn congressional map favoring Republicans; voters will use 2022 maps, with November ballots different from August primary.

Algeria cuts diplomatic ties with the United Arab Emirates after previously accusing Abu Dhabi of destabilizing actions in Libya, Mali, and Sudan.

EMPLOYMENT

Wanted full or part time help for harvest. Someone who can drive combine, semi or tractor. Housing available. Near Aberdeen call 605-380-4898. (0819.0909pd).

Groton Daily Independent
Friday, Sept. 11, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 097 ~ 4 of 76

JAMES VALLEY EST. 1974 Threshing ANDOVER, SD ASSOCIATION

★ 52nd Annual ★

James Valley Threshing and Tractor Club Show

Heritage Quilt & Craft Show

September 11, 12 & 13, 2026

Andover, South Dakota

Celebrating the history they protected.



HONORING OUR MILITARY VETERANS & FEATURING MILITARY EQUIPMENT

★ ★ ★

FEATURED QUILT TRUNK SHOW

Joy Braun – My Journey

Saturday at 10:00 a.m.





- ★ This year, the James Valley Threshing Association is featuring military equipment and honoring veterans.
- ★ Patriotic and military quilt designs are featured.
- ★ All quilts and designs are welcome.
- ★ Heritage Craft Boutique: feel free to donate fabric and notions.
- ★ Quilt vendor for the weekend: **Farmhouse Quilt Shop** from Hartford, SD.

★ SHOW HIGHLIGHTS ★

DAILY EVENTS (Ail Three Days)



- Historic Main Street Parade at 1:30 p.m.
- Steam engine demonstrations
- Daily threshing and plowing (after the parade)
- Heritage Craft & Quilt Display
- Kids Sandbox & Park
- Antique Toy Shed
- 1924 Cook Car Display
- Food trucks, ice cream & floats
- Sawmill demonstrations and more!

History Community Tradition Together

FRIDAY SPECIAL EVENTS

- 10:30 a.m. – Steam Talk with Kory Anderson
- 8:00 p.m. (ish) – Moonlight Steam Roller Ride around town

★

SATURDAY SPECIAL EVENTS

- 10:00 a.m. – Heritage Craft Quilt Trunk Show
- 10:30 a.m. – Antique Tractor Pull
- 10:30 a.m. – Steam Talk with Kory Anderson
- 11:00 a.m. – Ladies of Steam Instruction

★

SUNDAY SPECIAL EVENTS

- 9:30 a.m. – Church Service on Historic Main Street
- 11:00 a.m. – Kids Tractor Pull

QUILT & CRAFT SCHEDULE

- **Set-up and hanging of quilts:** Thursday, September 10 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Program and trunk show:** Saturday at 10:00 a.m.
- **Take-down:** Sunday at 2:00 p.m.
- **We are grateful for our volunteers!**

★ ★ SPECIAL RECOGNITION ★

Honoring Our Military Veterans

(All branches—past & present)

FREE BUTTON to Military Veterans

For golf cart reservations call Charlene Voss: 605-881-2920

Daily Entrance Fee: $15
Weekend Pass: $40
4-Day Camping Permit: $25

For more information, visit www.jamesvalleythreshers.com

Groton Daily Independent
Friday, Sept. 11, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 097 ~ 5 of 76

Groton hands Roncalli first loss in reverse sweep

Groton Area's volleyball team completed a clean sweep of rival Aberdeen Roncalli Thursday night in Groton, highlighted by a dramatic reverse sweep in the varsity match.

The Tigers dropped the opening two sets before battling back to win three straight for a 3-2 victory over the previously unbeaten Cavaliers. Groton won 23-25, 20-25, 25-23, 25-21 and 15-9.

The win improved Groton Area to 5-4 on the season while handing Aberdeen Roncalli its first loss, dropping the Cavaliers to 5-1.

The opening set was tied six times with two lead changes. After the teams were tied at 14, Roncalli gained the upper hand and built a 19-16 advantage. The Cavaliers reached set point at 24-20 before Groton rallied, but Roncalli held on for the 25-23 win.

Groton appeared to have momentum early in the second set, taking a 13-9 lead, but Roncalli responded with an 11-point run to move in front 20-14. The Cavaliers went on to take the set 25-20 and a 2-0 lead in the match.



Sydney Locke led the back court with 43 digs. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

From there, the Tigers turned the night around.

The third set featured 11 ties as the teams battled nearly point-for-point through the early stages. The lead changed hands six times before Groton put together a four-point run to take a 16-12 advantage.

Roncalli battled back and eventually tied the set at 23, but eighth grader Tori Schuster delivered the set-winning ace serve as the Tigers pulled out a 25-23 victory and stayed alive in the match.

The fourth set was every bit as competitive, with 12 ties and four lead changes. Roncalli led 21-18 and appeared poised to close out the match, but Groton scored the final seven points of the set to storm back for a 25-21 victory and force a deciding fifth set.

Groton carried that momentum into the finale, jumping out to a 4-0 lead. The Cavaliers managed to tie the set at 5 and again at 8 but never took the lead.

The Tigers moved ahead 12-8 and closed out the 15-9 victory, helped by three consecutive ace serves from Tevan Hanson.

Coach Chelsea Hanson said the comeback showed exactly what the Tigers have been working to build throughout the season.

"This is what happens when you train team," Hanson said. "We've been focused on team, playing as one. All 14 girls on our bench have played multiple sets, and we've changed our lineup literally every game that we've played so far."

Hanson said different players were able to step forward whenever someone else was struggling.

"They absolutely stick together," she said. "There were times when all of our players were struggling with something, and then someone else just picked them up. I'm super, super proud of that."

That depth was evident throughout the night as Groton used several different lineups and offensive combinations.

Hanson said one of the biggest strengths of this group has been its ability to remain steady when things are not going well.

"There is a sense of calmness that this group has that I haven't had in a lot of teams I've coached before," she said. "Their ability to ride the storm is really, really good."

Taryn Traphagen led Groton's attack with 19 kills while adding one solo block and five assisted blocks.

"She's unstoppable," Hanson said of Traphagen. "There were so many times that she was hitting three inches over the block. Tonight was her night."

Chesney Weber finished with 16 kills, 32 digs and 25 assists. Tevan Hanson had 12 kills, six ace serves, one solo block, one assisted block and 28 digs.



Elizabeth Cole had the attempted block at the net. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Sydney Locke anchored the back row with 43 digs and also had one kill. Kella Tracy had seven kills and four assisted blocks, while Libby Althoff handed out 13 assists.

Elizabeth Cole added two kills and an assisted block, Abby Fjeldheim had one kill and one assisted block, and Schuster recorded the key ace serve in the third set.

Hanson noted that the Tigers have already faced plenty of adversity this season, including injuries, lineup changes and difficult playing conditions.

"We've had every type of thing go wrong for us," she said. "I'm just so proud that they've continued to trust and continued to trust. They deserved this tonight."

Roncalli was led offensively by Karsyn Davis with 14 kills and a block. Grace Cogley had 12 kills, one block and 12 digs, while Jillian Ellwein recorded 11 kills and 26 digs.

Gabby Thomas had nine kills, one block and an ace serve. Cambry Feickert finished with two aces and 29 digs, Kenzington Basham had two aces and Elyana Roach added two kills.

Hanson credited the Cavaliers for making the Tigers earn the victory. "It was just really good volleyball on both sides," she said. "Hats off to Roncalli for being a good team. We needed a win. We needed a big win. This was one of them."

Groton also won the junior varsity match in straight sets, 28-26 and 25-19.

The Tigers jumped out to a 7-0 lead in the opening set before Roncalli battled back to tie the score at 13. From that point, the set was tied 12 times with four lead changes before Groton finally secured the 28-26 victory.

The second set was tied seven times, with the final tie coming at 12. Groton took control from there and pulled away for the 25-19 win.

Abby Fjeldheim led the Tigers with nine kills and an ace serve. Neely Althoff had five kills and an ace, Brynlee Dunker recorded four kills, and Kinley Sandness and Brooklyn Spanier each had two kills.

Rylee Gilbert had two ace serves, while Makenna Krause had one ace. Tori Schuster added one kill and one ace.

For Roncalli, Felicity Cogley had seven kills and Olivia Dix finished with six kills and one block.

Groton completed the sweep by winning the C match 27-25 and 25-11.

Roncalli controlled much of the opening set and used a six-point run to build an 18-8 advantage. The Tigers steadily chipped away at the deficit before tying the set at 23.

The score was tied again at 24 and 25 before Groton scored the final two points, with Charli Jacobsen delivering the match-changing ace serve to give the Tigers the 27-25 win.

Roncalli scored the first point of the second set, but Groton quickly took control and built an 11-2 lead on its way to a convincing 25-11 victory.

Charli Jacobsen led Groton with eight kills and three ace serves. Maycee Moody had five kills and an ace, while Brynlee Dunker recorded four kills and two aces.

Arianna Dinger had three ace serves, Riley Stoltenberg added three kills, and Sophia Fliehs had two kills and two aces. Mya Moody contributed one kill and one ace.

For Roncalli, Hattie Anderson had four kills, while Harper Kline and Rhylen Roach each recorded three kills.

Groton Daily Independent
Friday, Sept. 11, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 097 ~ 7 of 76



All participated in the home meet Thursday. Pictured in back, left to right, are Coach Joel Guthmiller, Bentley Ehresmann, Rylan Blackwood, Easton Larson, Jace Johnson and Liam Johnson; in front, left to right, are Jack Schuelke, Haden Harder, Hayden Hubbart and Graham Rose. (Courtesy photo Becca Johnson)

Johnson wins Groton Invitational; Tigers place third

Groton Area's Liam Johnson captured medalist honors and the Tigers finished third as a team at the Groton Invitational Golf Meet held Thursday at Olive Grove Golf Course.

Johnson fired a two-over-par 74 on the par-72 course to win the individual championship by two strokes over Sisseton's Luke Nielson, who finished with a 76. Groton teammate Jace Johnson was third with a 79.

Liam Johnson played the front nine at even-par 36 before coming home with a 38. His round included birdies on the par-four fifth hole, the par-five ninth and the par-five 18th.

Jace Johnson carded rounds of 40 and 39 for his seven-over-par 79, giving Groton two of the top three individual finishers.

Bentley Ehersmann was the Tigers' third finisher, placing ninth with an 86. Ehersmann improved by six strokes on the back nine, going from a 46 on the front to a 40 on the back. His closing stretch included a birdie two on the par-three 17th and a birdie four on No. 18.

Haden Harder placed 22nd with a 94, completing Groton's team score of 333. Easton Larson was right behind in 23rd with a 95, while Graham Rose finished 26th with a 99.

Sioux Valley won the team championship with a 326, six strokes ahead of Sisseton at 332. Groton was just one stroke behind Sisseton in third with a 333. Redfield placed fourth at 356, followed by Milbank at 378 and Aberdeen Roncalli at 381.

Sioux Valley's Damion Uecker tied Jace Johnson at 79, followed by Sisseton's Malachi Anderson at 81. Sioux Valley's Isaiah Hemmestad and Parker Top each shot 82, while Landon Hanssen had an 83 to place eighth.

☆	1	Liam Johnson *Groton*	+2	74

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Strokes																					
WHITE - Men Tee / SLOPE®: 116 / Course Rating™: 70.0 / Olive Grove Golf Course																					
Yardage	358	357	507	140	394	335	370	186	475	3122	358	357	507	140	394	335	370	186	475	3122	6244
Par	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	5	36	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	5	36	72
Liam Johnson	4	5	6	3	3	4	4	3	4	36	4	5	5	3	4	5	4	4	4	38	74

☆	3	Jace Johnson *Groton*	+7	79

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Yardage	358	357	507	140	394	335	370	186	475	3122	358	357	507	140	394	335	370	186	475	3122	6244
Par	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	5	36	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	5	36	72
Jace Johnson	4	6	5	4	5	5	4	3	4	40	4	5	5	4	4	5	4	3	5	39	79

☆	9	Bentley Ehersmann *Groton*	+14	86

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Yardage	358	357	507	140	394	335	370	186	475	3122	358	357	507	140	394	335	370	186	475	3122	6244
Par	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	5	36	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	5	36	72
Bentley Ehersmann	4	6	6	4	4	5	6	5	6	46	5	5	5	3	6	6	4	2	4	40	86

☆	22	Haden Harder *Groton*	+22	94

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Yardage	358	357	507	140	394	335	370	186	475	3122	358	357	507	140	394	335	370	186	475	3122	6244
Par	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	5	36	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	5	36	72
Haden Harder	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	4	6	44	7	4	7	5	5	4	6	6	6	50	94

☆	23	Easton Larson *Groton*	+23	95

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Yardage	358	357	507	140	394	335	370	186	475	3122	358	357	507	140	394	335	370	186	475	3122	6244
Par	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	5	36	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	5	36	72
Easton Larson	4	6	5	5	4	5	6	4	11	50	6	7	6	4	5	5	4	3	5	45	95

☆	26	Graham Rose *Groton*	+27	99

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Yardage	358	357	507	140	394	335	370	186	475	3122	358	357	507	140	394	335	370	186	475	3122	6244
Par	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	5	36	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	5	36	72
Graham Rose	5	5	6	5	6	7	5	3	9	51	5	4	6	6	6	5	5	4	7	48	99

Starting Hole Eagle or Better Birdie Par Bogey Double Bogey or Worse

Lake County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle vs. pedestrian fatal crash
Where: 223rd Street and 451st Avenue, 2 miles northeast of Ramona, South Dakota
When: 7:20 p.m., Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Driver 1: 17-year-old male from Nunda, South Dakota, no injuries
Vehicle 1: 2014 GMC Sierra
Seat Belt Used: Yes

Driver 2: 70-year-old male from Astoria, South Dakota, fatal injuries
Vehicle 2: Cub Cadet riding lawnmower
Seat Belt Used: N/A

Lake County, S.D.- An Astoria man died Wednesday in a single vehicle vs. pedestrian crash near Ramona, South Dakota.

Names of the those involved have not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2014 GMC Sierra was traveling westbound on 223rd Street near the 451st Avenue intersection. At the same time, a man was working on a Cub Cadet riding lawnmower on 223rd Street after it became separated from a tailgate mounted carrier. The driver of the GMC struck the lawnmower and the pedestrian. The man sustained fatal injuries. The driver was not injured.

The investigation is ongoing. All information released is preliminary.

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

Groton Daily Independent
Friday, Sept. 11, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 097 ~ 10 of 76



Anna Fjeldheim was the guest commentator for the volleyball match last night on GDILIVE.COM.
(Courtesy photo Sue Fjeldheim)

GT on
Football
Groton Area at Clark
Friday, Sept. 11
7 p.m.
Cyclones
Groton Area Tigers Groton, SD
GDILIVE
YouTube
A production of the
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For more info: GDILIVE.COM
Farmers Union INSURANCE

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Groton Daily Independent
Friday, Sept. 11, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 097 ~ 11 of 76

SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

https://southdakotasearchlight.com

South Dakota public university enrollment drop includes fewer undergrad and international students

BY MAKENZIE HUBER

South Dakota public university enrollment decreased by 294 students this year, according to numbers released Thursday by the state Board of Regents.

Overall enrollment, which includes graduate and undergraduate students, is 35,797. Enrollment dropped at three universities and increased at the three others:

Black Hills State University in Spearfish increased by about 2% to 3,502 students.

Dakota State University in Madison grew by about 3.5% to 3,975 students.

Northern State University in Aberdeen grew by 4% to 3,890 students.

South Dakota Mines in Rapid City decreased by 2% to 2,489 students.

South Dakota State University in Brookings decreased by about 2% to 11,901 students.

University of South Dakota in Vermillion decreased by 3.5% to 10,040 students.

System-wide enrollment peaked at 36,662 in 2017, and no year since then has equaled that mark.

"Enrollment is one measure of the health of our universities, but the larger story is what those students are preparing to do," which is to build the state's workforce and contribute to its communities, South Dakota Board of Regents Executive Director Nathan Lukkes said in a news release.

The numbers could be a sign of the "2025 cliff" feared by higher education officials, attributed to a lower birth rate during the Great Recession of 2007-2009. A 10% decline in high school graduates was expected nationally from 2025 to 2037, Lukkes told lawmakers in 2024.

Undergraduate enrollment systemwide decreased by 401 students this year, to 29,738, including decreases of 377 at South Dakota State University and 175 at the University of South Dakota.

Systemwide international student enrollment decreased by 237. International enrollment also dropped by 76 students last year. The decreases come amid federal immigration policy changes during the Trump administration that have made it more difficult for some foreign students to enter and stay in the country.

Graduate student enrollment systemwide increased by 107 students, and 56 more South Dakota high school graduates are pursuing higher education in the state than last year, according to system data.

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.

South Dakota's US House candidates clash over Trump's mail-in voting restrictions

BY JOSHUA HAIAR

The two candidates for South Dakota's lone U.S. House seat expressed opposing views this week about President Donald Trump's attempt to restrict mail-in voting.

Democratic nominee Nikki Gronli criticized Republican nominee Marty Jackley's support for Trump's actions.

"This proposal flies in the face of our long tradition of running secure, accessible elections, and our local election officials do an excellent job," Gronli said in a news release. "They don't need Marty Jackley helping Washington interfere with the way South Dakotans vote."

Gronli and Jackley, the state's attorney general, are running for the seat being vacated by Republican U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson. He ran unsuccessfullyfor the Republican nomination for governor in the June primary election.

Jackley, along with some other Republican attorneys general, has intervened in litigation to support a Trump executive order that gave rise to a Postal Service rule restricting mail-in voting. Among other things, the rule prohibits the Postal Service from delivering ballots to registered voters whose citizenship has not been verified by a Department of Homeland Security database.

A federal judge has blocked the order as an unconstitutional intrusion into states' management of elections, but the Trump administration is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn that ruling.

In response to South Dakota Searchlight questions about Gronli's criticism, Jackley said in a statement that he is supporting Trump's action to "prevent sending mail-in ballots to individuals who are not citizens or registered to vote."

"I want all eligible Americans to be able to legally vote in American elections," Jackley said, in part. "My opponent's desire to send a ballot to someone not registered to vote opens the door to election fraud."

Advance voting for the Nov. 3 general election begins Sept. 18 in South Dakota, including mail-in voting and walk-in voting at local election offices.

Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked as a multimedia specialist and journalist with South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

Trump plan to send $5K to every adult projected to cost $1.2T and 'explode' the deficit

BY ASHLEY MURRAY

WASHINGTON — A proposal by President Donald Trump to give $5,000 to each American adult if Republicans retain control of the U.S. House and Senate in November would "explode" the national deficit and worsen inflation, according to an analysis issued Thursday by the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

The committee, whose board includes economists, bankers and former elected and administration officials from both political parties, estimates Trump's plan would cost roughly $1.2 trillion.

"This proposal is fiscally dangerous, economically backwards, and fundamentally unserious," Maya MacGuineas, the committee's president, said in a statement. "It's hard to understand how anyone could look at our current fiscal and economic situation and think we need to borrow another $1.2 trillion to send everyone cash."

Trump announced the "Trump dividend" Wednesday night during the latter half of a nearly two-hour keynote speech at the Republican National Committee's first midterm convention.

Trump told attendees at the political gathering in Dallas, Texas, that his "only caveat" is that Americans spend the money in the United States.

"We don't want you going to Canada to spend the money," he said during the livestreamed speech.

Ultimately, Congress would need to appropriate the funds.

Debt, deficits, inflation

MacGuineas pointed out in her statement that the nation's debt "is now as large as our entire economy, deficits are running $2 trillion per year, inflation is about 3.5%, and the 10-year Treasury yield is approaching 5%."

"This half-baked political scheme would make this all worse – exploding the deficit, ginning up inflation, and further driving up the cost of borrowing throughout the economy."

The national debt sits at $40 trillion to date, which breaks down to $117,446 per taxpayer, according to a tracker by the Peter G. Peterson Foundation.

Vice President JD Vance said on Fox News following Trump's speech that the dividend would be funded

by tariff revenue.

"What the president's just saying is … if you keep us in power and allow us to continue to do these things, then you're going to share in some of the benefit of this incredible wealth that we're creating in the United States of America," he said to Fox News host Bret Baier.

But the expected revenue generated by Trump's executive tariffs would only cover one-tenth of the cost of sending $5,000 to each American adult, according to an analysis Thursday from the Tax Foundation.

The organization that identifies itself as pro-economic growth, and generally opposes tax increases, estimates Trump's new tariffs will bring in roughly $124.9 billion in 2027.

"A deficit-financed dividend payment of this scale would signal to markets that the US is not serious about getting its fiscal house in order. It would risk further rises in interest rates, add to inflationary pressures, and worsen the very problems that are trying to be 'solved' by the proposal," said Erica York, a senior economist with the Tax Foundation, in a written statement. The organization opposes Trump's tariff policies.

Tariff promises

This is not Trump's first time promising to send what he describes as dividends to Americans — though none of the payments materialized.

The president said in November 2025 he would send $2,000 to Americans from tariff revenue that he falsely said would reach "trillions" of dollars.

Trump's emergency tariffs were struck down by the Supreme Court in February, and the government is in the process of refunding nearly $170 billion in illegal import taxes.

Trump and then-special government employee and billionaire Elon Musk said in March 2025 they would send $5,000 refund checks to Americans as a result of savings created by the project titled the Department of Government Oversight. The ultrawealthy tech mogul went public with his plan without consultation from Congress, which controls the nation's proverbial purse strings.

In spring of 2020, Trump's name appeared on $1,200 stimulus checks for individuals, $2,400 for married couples, sent out as part of a $2.2 trillion initial COVID-19 relief package approved by Congress.

Ashley Murray covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include domestic policy and appropriations.

Suit challenges Trump administration move to allow some ICE presence at polling places

BY ARIANA FIGUEROA

WASHINGTON — Latino advocacy groups and voting rights organizations Thursday filed a suit in federal court challenging the Trump administration's policy of allowing U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers to enter polling locations in certain circumstances to conduct immigration enforcement during the 2026 midterm elections.

The suit in the District Court for the District of Columbia argues that Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin's recent comments that ICE agents would be at polling locations for the purpose of immigration enforcement violates federal law that prohibits federal "armed men" at election sites.

The statute allows for "troops" or "armed men" at polling locations only if "such force be necessary to repel armed enemies of the United States."

"The specter of armed officers at polling places threatens the freedom of this upcoming election," according to the lawsuit. "It places voters in fear that they will be confronted by armed federal immigration enforcement officers if they choose to cast a ballot."

In a statement to States Newsroom, a DHS spokesperson said that "ICE is not planning operations targeting polling locations."

"ICE conducts intelligence-driven targeted enforcement, and if an active public safety threat endangered a polling location, they may be arrested as a result of that targeted enforcement action," the spokesperson said.

Earlier this month, Mullin said that ICE officers at polling locations would be there "to enforce specific threats."

"The only reason why we would be at polling places, if there is a threat to that polling place or we're serving a warrant on someone that we have been actively tracking down," he said. "ICE's job is immigration (and) custom enforcement. That's their job and so if we're doing something, we're doing that specifically."

The suit asks the federal court to prevent the Trump administration from following that polling place policy and declaring it unlawful, as well as barring "officers from operating or carrying weapons in the vicinity of open polling places, including dropboxes, curbside voting locations, and similar places where votes are taken, collected, received, counted, or certified during early voting periods and on Election Day itself, for any reason other than repelling armed enemies of the United States."

The civil rights groups that joined the suit said the tactic would lead to voter suppression.

"Sending armed ICE officers to polling places is not immigration enforcement — it is voter suppression, plain and simple," UnidosUS President Janet Murguía said in a statement. "All Americans — including Latino voters — have a constitutional right to cast their ballot without fear of interrogation, detention, or family separation."

The suit was filed by the oldest U.S. Latino civil rights organization, League of United Latin American Citizens, or LULAC; the largest Hispanic civil rights organization, UnidosUS; the voter mobilization group Common Cause; and the city and county of Denver, Colorado, which has a large immigrant population and has been targeted by ICE multiple times for immigration enforcement.

"The right to vote, and to do so without fear of intimidation, is fundamental to our democracy and to being an American," Denver Mayor Mike Johnston said in a statement. "Stationing ICE agents near polling places is only meant to scare people and suppress votes. We'll fight tooth and nail to prevent it."

Ariana covers the nation's capital for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include immigration, congressional policy and legal challenges with a focus on how those policies impact the lives of immigrants and migrants coming to the U.S.

On the 25th anniversary of 9/11, States Newsroom editor remembers the heroes of Flight 93

BY SHALINA CHATLANI

On a rural stretch of land in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, an open meadow filled with bright wildflowers, a memorial grove of trees and a giant boulder marks the spot where United Airlines Flight 93 crashed on Sept. 11, 2001.

States Newsroom's Pennsylvania Capital-Star Editor-in-Chief Tim Lambert recently revisited the national memorial on this field — where he happened to own a piece of land that was part of more than three dozen acres that made up the crash site.

"It's always hard to come back here, but it's always a chance to remember the sacrifices made by the passengers and crew of Flight 93 on that day," Lambert said. "I think it's important 25 years later to remember what they did and why they did it. They decided to act on a day that America was under attack."

On that day, al-Qaida terrorists hijacked four commercial planes. They slammed two into the World Trade Center towers in New York City and another into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. The fourth — Flight 93 — crashed in an open clearing near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

The 40 passengers and crew are remembered for sacrificing their lives when they tried to wrest control of the plane from the hijackers and stop them from hitting what was believed to be their intended target: the U.S. Capitol.

Nearly 3,000 people were killed in what is the deadliest terror attack on U.S. soil. Forty-four people, including the four hijackers, died aboard Flight 93.

At the time, Lambert worked as a reporter for a public radio station in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

"It was around 4:30 in the afternoon — among the chaos of the newsroom — and I looked up at this

TV that was on a cabinet, and the reporter from one of the national outlets was standing at the corner of the Lambertsville (and) Shanksville Road," Lambert recalled. "And it was at that moment, I stopped and thought, 'Wait, we still own land near Shanksville, and it's awfully close to that intersection.'"

The next morning, Lambert said, he listened to a voice message on his home answering machine from his dad, who recognized the crash site on television, realizing that it was their family property.

Lambert was in a unique situation. While reporters across the nation and around the world were covering the tragic event, he was the only journalist who had access to the Flight 93 crash site. He realized he had a huge responsibility.

"I was well aware that history was at the door, and I wanted to do things the right way," he said.

Lambert not only reported on the crash, but also assisted first responders and met with the families of the passengers and crew. He remembered what the land looked like that day. The plane had plowed into the ground at a high rate of speed, with the aircraft disintegrating into tiny bits and pieces, leaving a large crater.

Although the majority of the plane shattered and few bodies were recovered, authorities were able to identify the passengers and crew. More than 1,500 response members under the direction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation recovered fragments of the plane: twisted pieces of metal, tires, seat frames, luggage, clothing — most of which were no larger than a notebook.

The field was essentially a cemetery, and family members wanted to protect it. Only family members and some park rangers can visit the actual crash site. But the public can walk along the tall concrete walls of the nearby memorial, etched with the names of people who perished in the crash. Visitors can also go to a museum and walk through parts of the field to an overlook to view the crash site.

Through the years, Lambert has visited the site to pay his respects.

"It's been a while since I've been here, so it's almost like a little homecoming to visit with old friends, even if it's just looking out on the field and remembering those who gave their lives that day," he said.

The museum features photos of family members of passengers and crew, with details about their lives and memorabilia, including photographs, jewelry and uniforms. For example, the husband of flight attendant Lorraine Bay donated her United Airlines ID and one of her uniforms, along with a wine bottle corkscrew she used for in-flight service.

"You know, with these exhibits, I want to take something that's very large and abstract and offer different avenues for different people to come in and relate to it," said Betsy Keene, curator for the National Parks for Western Pennsylvania, which includes the Flight 93 National Memorial.

"Families say they want their loved one to be remembered as an individual person, as more than just this one day."

She said there are about 9,300 objects collected from the crash site and from families that are cataloged at the memorial, including 800 pieces of the aircraft curated over the years.

"We want to have these objects to help people relate and to pull them into the story and to help them understand who these people were, what happened here, and what it meant to the world at the time," Keene said.

Memorial Superintendent Stephen Clark said more than 400,000 visitors annually come to the park, owned and operated by the federal government and managed by the National Park Service.

"I think that this memorial, albeit 25 years, it's still a glimpse. It's still a blink of an eye in our nation's history," Clark said. "But I still think that even as the years roll on, this story will continue to be told."

Through the years, Lambert said he's had many chances to meet families whose loved ones died that day. As the 25th anniversary approaches, he said he plans to reflect on their stories.

"The memorial is beautiful. The memorial is very fitting. It's a great tribute, and it's a respectful tribute to the passengers and crew of Flight 93. But for me, I think about watching the land heal over the 25-year period," Lambert said.

"To watch them sort of heal as the site heals through nature, and watch that sort of in tandem, is something that I will always think about anytime I look over that field."

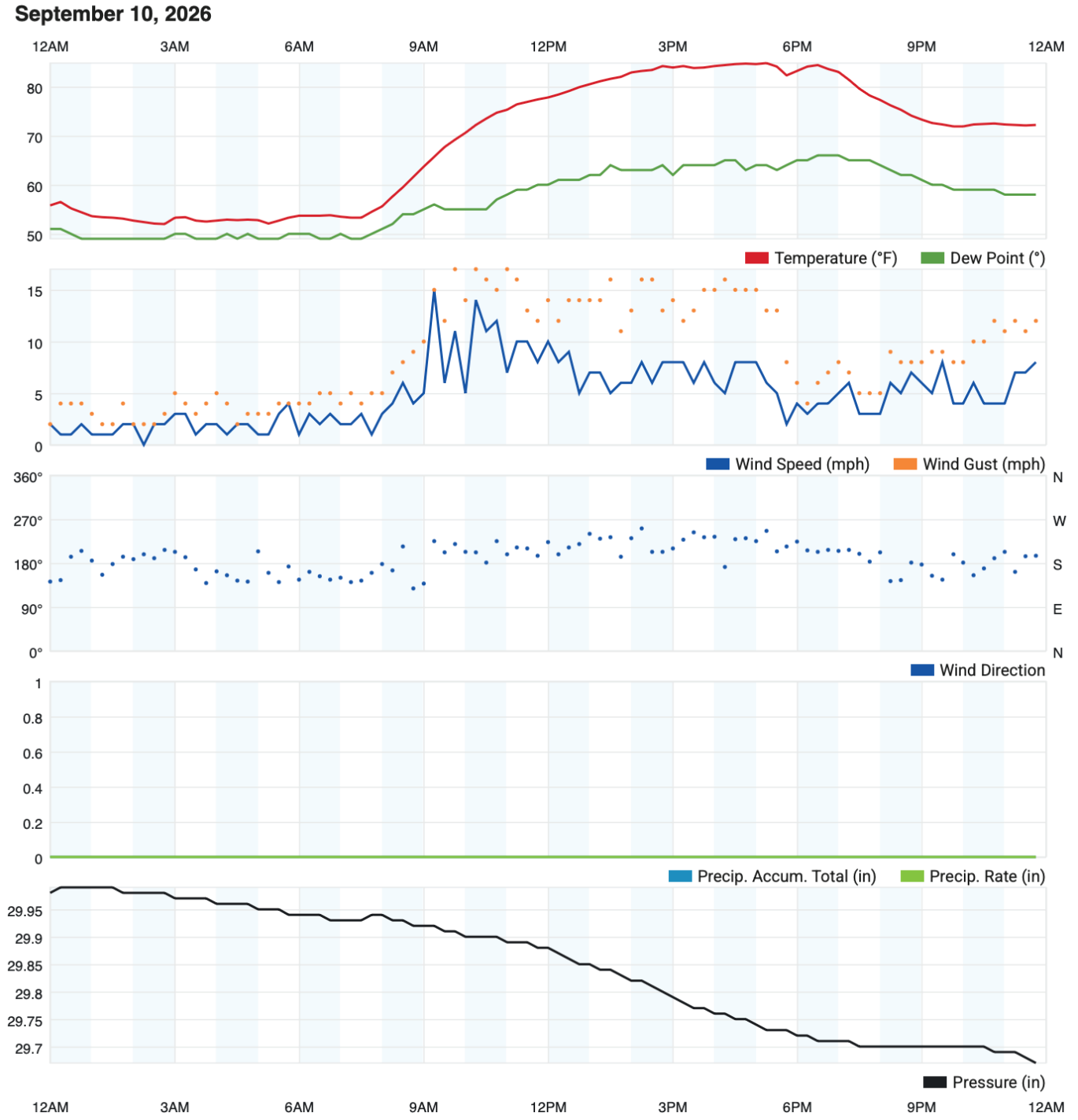
Pennsylvania Capital-Star reporter Peter Hall contributed to this report. Stateline reporter Shalina Chatlani can be reached at schatlani@stateline.org.

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.

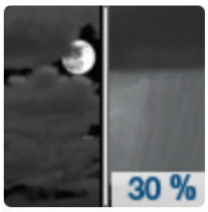
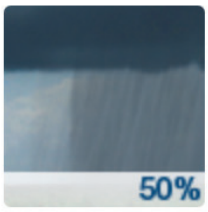
Shalina Chatlani covers health care and environmental justice for Stateline.

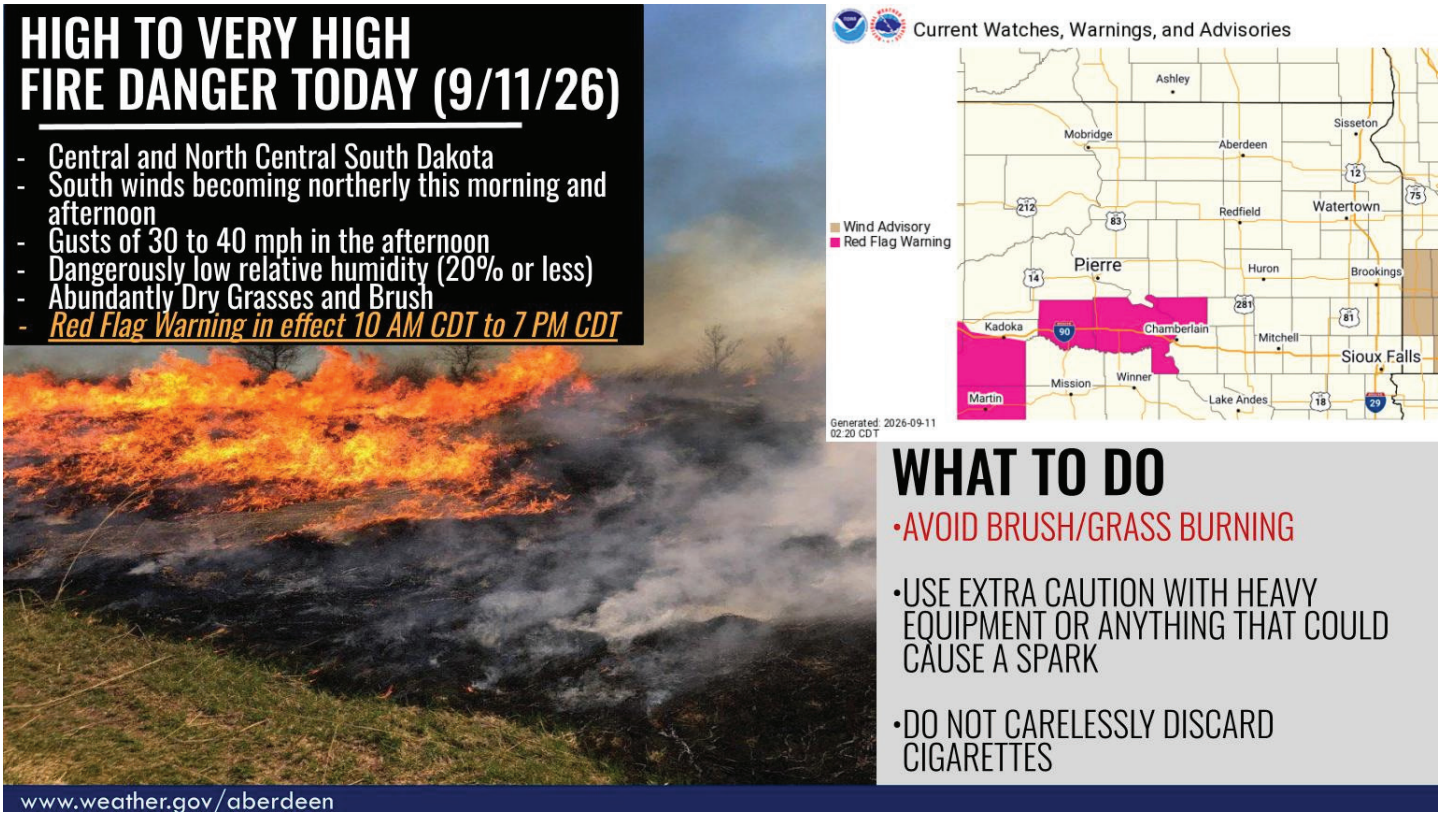
Groton Daily Independent
Friday, Sept. 11, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 097 ~ 17 of 76

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



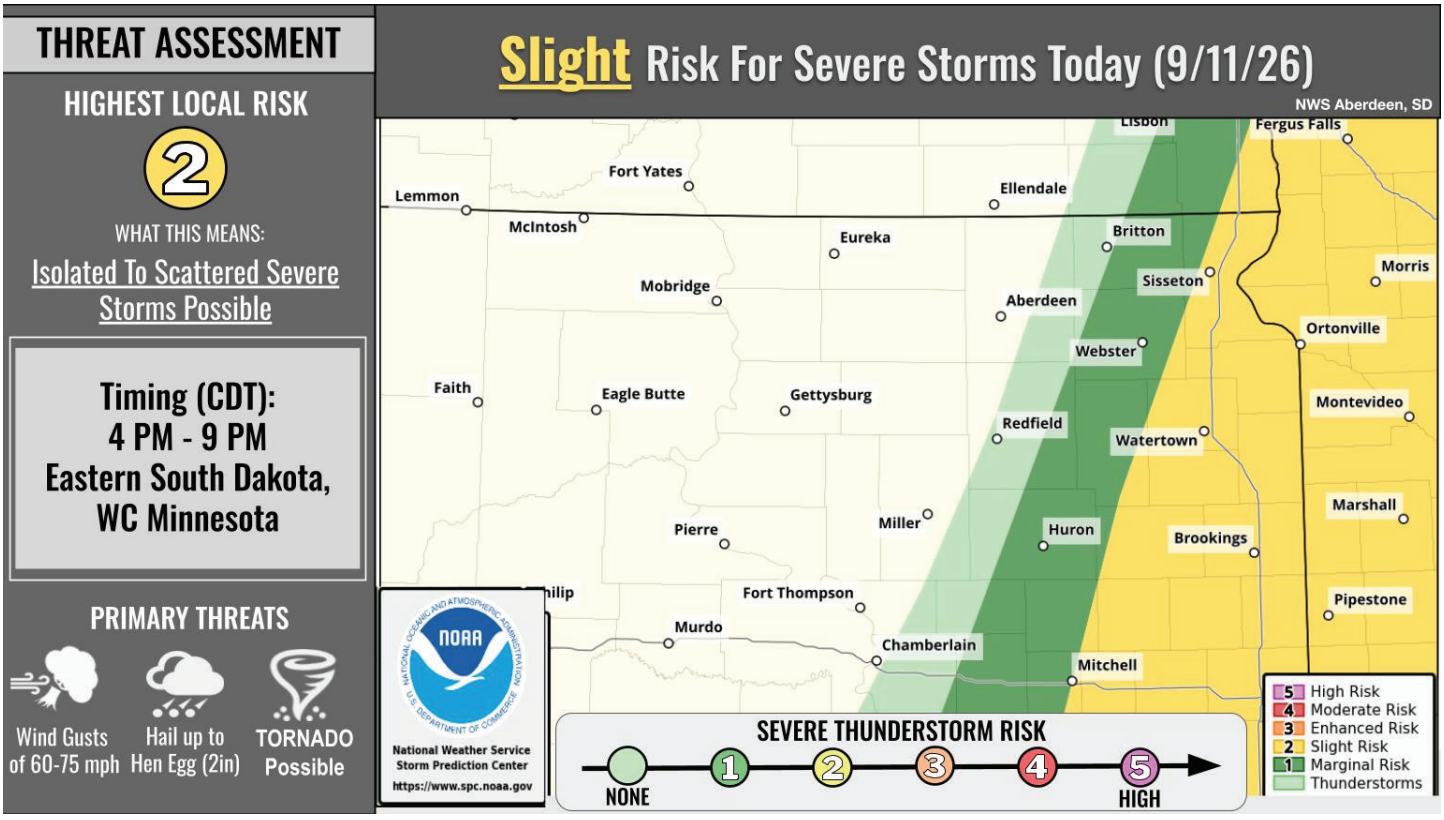
Groton Daily Independent
Friday, Sept. 11, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 097 ~ 18 of 76

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
				
High: 86 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 68 °F	Low: 46 °F	High: 61 °F
Decreasing Clouds	Partly Cloudy and Breezy then Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy then Chance Showers	Chance Showers

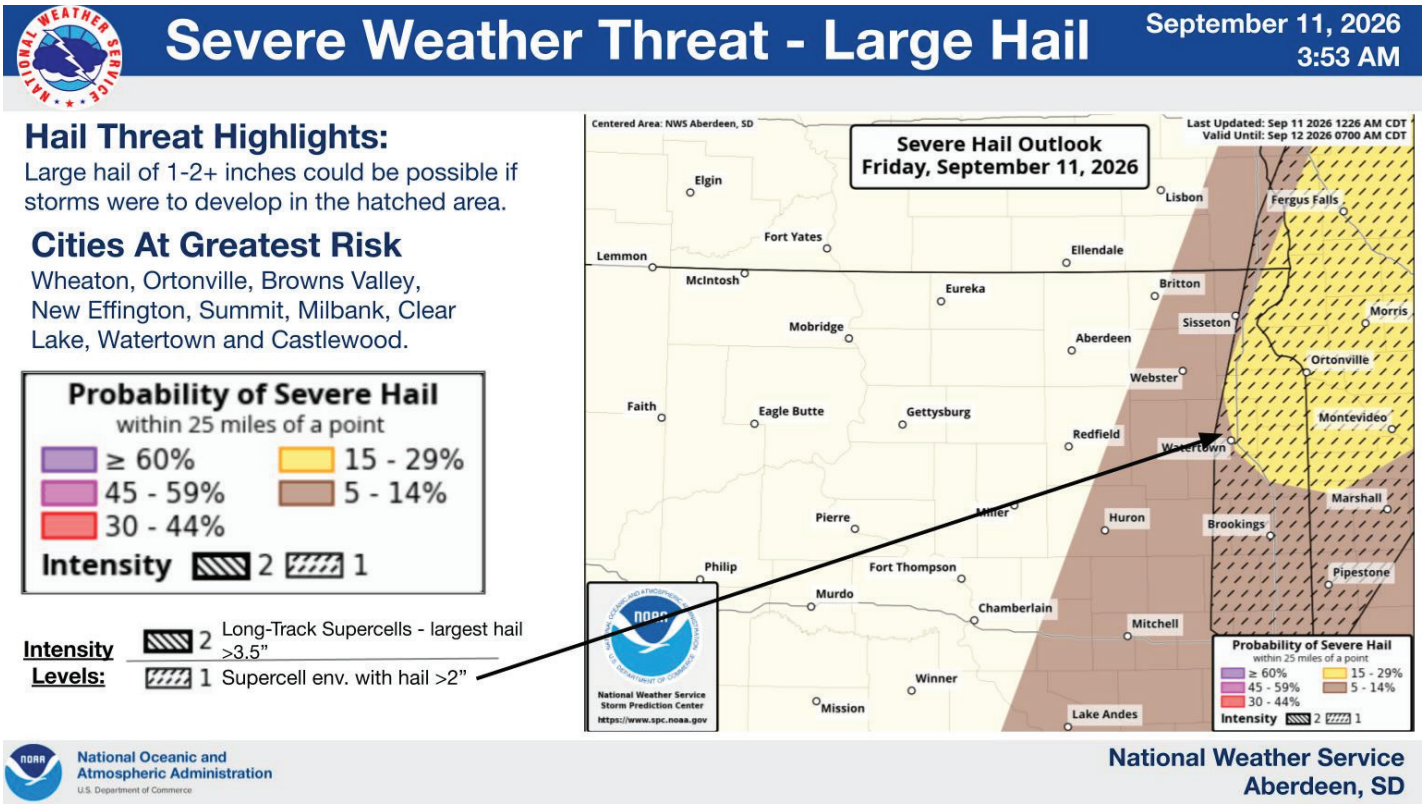


Over north central South Dakota, winds this morning will become northwest, with gusts increasing to around 35-40 mph. Similar conditions will develop across central and south central South Dakota this afternoon. The winds, along with dry fuels and low afternoon relative humidity, will increase the Grassland Fire Danger index to high to very high. A Red Flag Warning is in effect for Jones, Lyman and Buffalo counties until 7 PM CDT this evening. Avoid outdoor burning and report any fires to local authorities.

Groton Daily Independent
Friday, Sept. 11, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 097 ~ 19 of 76



There is a Slight risk (level 2 out of 5) for severe storms over eastern SD into west central MN. Main hazards will be 1-2+ inch hail and 60-70 mph thunderstorm wind gusts. Tornadoes cannot be ruled out either. Peak timing for storms looks to be 4 to 9 PM CDT.



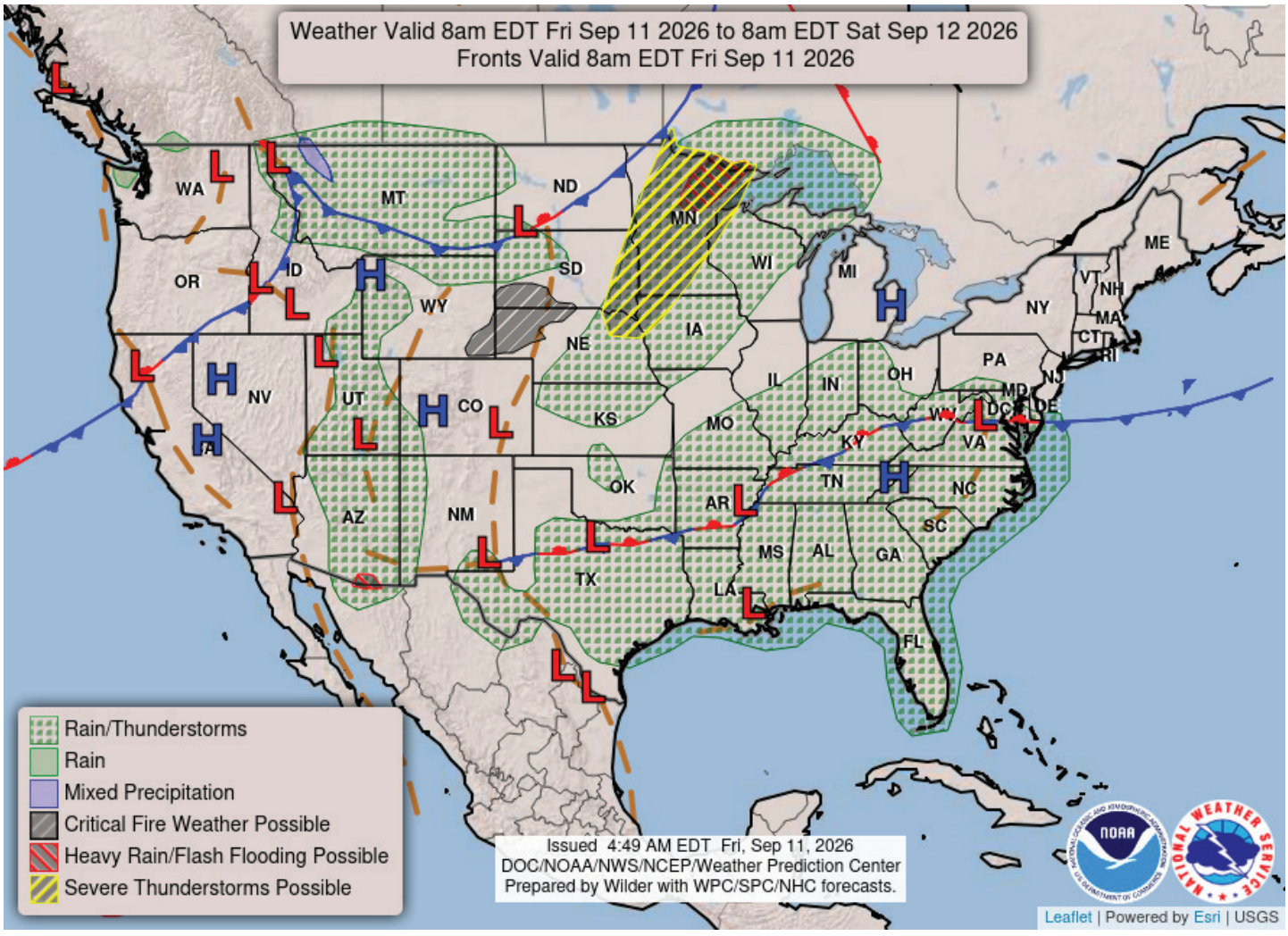
Groton Daily Independent
Friday, Sept. 11, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 097 ~ 20 of 76

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 85 °F at 5:22 PM
Low Temp: 52 °F at 2:39 AM
Wind: 20 mph at 3:51 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 100 in 1927
Record Low: 28 in 1940
Average High: 77
Average Low: 49
Average Precip in Sept.: 0.75
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 17.09
Precip Year to Date: 20.06
Sunset Tonight: 7:52 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:07 am



Groton Daily Independent
Friday, Sept. 11, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 097 ~ 21 of 76

Today in Weather History

1949 — An early snowstorm brought 7.5 inches to Helena MT. In Maine, a storm drenched New Brunswick with 8.05 inches of rain in 24 hours, a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1900: The remnants of the Great Galveston Hurricane were located over central Iowa on this day. Eastern Nebraska, northwest Iowa, and southern Minnesota show four-plus inches of rain from this storm.

1961 — Very large and slow moving Hurricane Carla made landfall near Port Lavaca TX. Carla battered the central Texas coast with wind gusts to 175 mph, and up to 16 inches of rain, and spawned a vicious tornado which swept across Galveston Island killing eight persons. The hurricane claimed 45 lives, and caused 300 million dollars damage. The remnants of Carla produced heavy rain in the Lower Missouri Valley and southern sections of the Upper Great Lakes Region. (David Ludlum) (Storm Data)

1976 — Up to five inches of rain brought walls of water and millions of tons of debris into Bullhead City AZ via washes from elevations above 3000 feet. Flooding caused more than three million dollars damage. Chasms up to forty feet deep were cut across some roads. (The Weather Channel)

1986 — Thunderstorms caused flash flooding and subsequent river flooding in central Lower Michigan. Up to 14 inches of rain fell in a 72 hour period, and flooding caused 400 million dollars damage. (Storm Data)

1987 — Late afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in Texas, and spawned three tornadoes. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 70 mph at Goodnight TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 — Snow blanketed parts of the Central Rocky Mountain Region and the Central Plateau, with ten inches reported at Mount Evans in Colorado. Smoke from forest fires in the northwestern U.S. reached Pennsylvania and New York State. Hurricane Gilbert, moving westward over the Carribean, was packing winds of 100 mph by the end of the day. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 — Nine cities in the north central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Havre MT with a reading of 23 degrees. Livingston MT and West Yellowstone MT tied for honors as the cold spot in the nation with morning lows of 17 degrees. Thunderstorms produced hail over the Sierra Nevada Range of California, with two inches reported on the ground near Donner Summit. The hail made roads very slick, resulting in a twenty car accident. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1992: Hurricane Iniki struck the island of Kaua'i with winds of 145 mph and a central pressure of 27.91 inches of mercury, making it a Category 4 hurricane. Iniki is the strongest hurricane to strike Hawaii Islands in recent history.

2011: Hurricane Erin was off the coast of New Jersey and New York on this day.

Groton Daily Independent
Friday, Sept. 11, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 097 ~ 22 of 76

InTouch Ministries

Daily Devotion

Freedom in Christ

Confession is the door that leads to experiencing God's grace, healing, and freedom.

Colossians 3:5-10: 5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.
6 For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience,
7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.
8 But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.
9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices,
10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him--

We all sin, but the heavenly Father is faithful to restore fellowship with His beloved children. He does this by breaking down walls that were built up through our disobedience. The first step toward that restoration is our honest confession—in other words, instead of remaining in denial about the sin that has a hold on us, we name it. Otherwise, denial blocks the healing and freedom God offers.

But sin rarely exists in a vacuum. The reasons behind wrong behavior are often deeply emotional. Feelings like insecurity, inadequacy, or a lack of self-worth can drive us to search for ways to satisfy or escape the pain. What results is often some form of unhealthy behavior that compounds the struggle.

God cares about every dimension of that struggle—spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical. Confession opens the door to His healing work, and He meets us through every means of grace available, including His Word, His people, and the wisdom He gives to those who help us heal.

As Paul reminds us, "It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1). That freedom is real, and it will touch every part of our life.

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

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Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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Groton Daily Independent
Friday, Sept. 11, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 097 ~ 24 of 76

WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.10.26

7 16 43 50 58 **1**

TOP PRIZE:
$1,000,000/year

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 56 Mins 25 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.08.26

17 30 43 58 66 **20**

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
$209,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 41 Mins 25 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.09.26

3 4 44 47 49 **4**

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
$4,160,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 56 Mins 25 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.09.26

3 12 14 15 17

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
$52,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 11 Mins 25 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.09.26

32 33 58 62 69 **18**

TOP PRIZE:
$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 40 Mins 25 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.09.26

9 40 42 55 65 **23**

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
$232,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 40 Mins 25 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

Groton Daily Independent
Friday, Sept. 11, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 097 ~ 25 of 76

News from the AP Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Aberdeen Christian def. North Central, 25-17, 25-14, 25-15
Avon def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-15, 25-8, 19-25, 25-19
Bennett County def. Edgemont, 25-7, 25-15, 25-14
Bison def. Dupree, 25-17, 25-19, 25-20
Bridgewater-Emery def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-11, 25-11, 25-16
Canton def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 19-25, 25-22, 25-23, 27-25
Castlewood def. Iroquois-Lake Preston, 25-15, 25-19, 25-12
Chamberlain def. Crow Creek Tribal School, 25-18, 25-7, 25-14
Clark-Willow Lake def. Webster, 25-23, 25-21, 25-10
Colman-Egan def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-12, 25-18, 20-25, 25-13
Dell Rapids St Mary's def. Canistota, 25-10, 25-17, 25-4
Deubrook def. Great Plains Lutheran, 18-25, 25-13, 25-11, 14-25, 15-8
Deuel def. Britton-Hecla, 19-25, 25-15, 21-25, 25-21, 16-14
Estelline-Hendricks def. Arlington, 25-19, 25-23, 28-26
Ethan def. Menno, 25-16, 25-19, 25-16
Faulkton def. Gettysburg, 25-13, 26-24, 25-10
Gayville-Volin High School def. Freeman, 25-12, 25-20, 25-11
Groton def. Aberdeen Roncalli, 23-25, 20-25, 25-23, 25-21, 15-9
Hamlin def. Milbank, 25-15, 25-13, 25-11
Harrisburg def. Dell Rapids, 25-19, 25-14, 25-27, 25-16
Highmore-Harrold def. Herried-Selby, 25-23, 26-24, 14-25, 25-23
Hills-Beaver Creek, Minn. def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-19, 25-20, 25-19
Hot Springs def. Custer, 25-10, 29-27, 25-27, 25-12
Ipswich def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-18, 25-22, 25-22
Kadoka def. Wall, 27-25, 25-14, 25-14
Langford def. Florence-Henry, 26-24, 24-26, 27-17, 27-17
Lemmon High School def. McIntosh High School, 25-15, 25-10, 25-12
Lennox def. Madison, 25-17, 25-13, 25-14
Leola-Frederick High School def. Tiospa Zina, 25-17, 25-16, 25-15
Lyman def. New Underwood, 25-19, 25-19, 18-25, 25-18
Miller def. Burke, 25-18, 25-22, 25-14
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Hanson, 25-20, 25-13, 25-15
Parkston def. Sanborn Central-Woonsocket, 25-22, 25-23, 25-11
Philip def. Stanley County, 25-20, 25-16, 25-17
Rapid City Christian def. Alliance, Neb., 25-15, 25-22, 25-14
Redfield def. Sisseton, 25-17, 25-22, 25-23
Scotland def. Mitchell Christian, 25-21, 25-15, 25-18
Sioux Falls Jefferson def. Yankton, 18-25, 25-19, 25-22, 25-21
Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Huron, 25-5, 25-15, 25-14
Sioux Falls Lutheran def. Oldham-Ramona-Rutland
Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Tea, 25-18, 25-18, 25-11
Sioux Falls Washington def. Mitchell, 25-15, 23-25, 15-25, 25-18, 15-11
Sioux Valley def. Beresford, 25-15, 25-13, 25-12
Takini def. Oelrichs, 25-12, 25-18, 25-16
Tri-Valley def. Vermillion, 25-15, 25-19, 25-12

Tripp-Delmont-Armour def. Kimball-White Lake, 25-22, 19-25, 23-25, 25-14, 25-8
Wagner def. Gregory, 25-13, 25-16, 25-14
Warner def. Northwestern, 25-21, 23-25, 25-14, 25-19
Waverly-South Shore def. Waubay/Summit, 25-22, 25-20, 8-25, 25-21
Wessington Springs def. Howard, 25-17, 25-18, 25-17
Winner def. Sully Buttes, 25-10, 25-16, 25-20
Wolsey-Wessington def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 27-29, 25-15, 25-13, 25-23
BEC Tourney=
Chester def. Flandreau, 25-16, 25-9, 25-14
Chester def. McCook Central-Montrose, 25-10, 25-19, 25-21
Garretson def. Flandreau, 25-21, 25-19, 32-34, 25-20
McCook Central-Montrose def. Garretson, 25-19, 25-11, 25-17

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

PREP FOOTBALL

Marty 60, Crazy Horse 6
Todd County 28, Winnebago, Neb. 26

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

Polasek's rise through the ranks to Mountain West rookie North Dakota St. was launched by hard labor

By DAVE CAMPBELL AP Sports Writer

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — The effort and energy Tim Polasek has poured into North Dakota State's football program on the climb to the FBS can be easily sourced back to his rural roots.

As a small-college quarterback on summer and winter breaks, and later to supplement a meager income as he launched a career in coaching, Polasek worked grueling jobs as a logger in the woods of central Wisconsin and on the overnight shift at a steel mill near his tiny hometown of Iola.

Appreciation for the unglamourous work as a small-college assistant sure comes quick with that background.

"I learned a lot there: That could be you if you don't graduate college and pursue something," said Polasek, who is 28-3 with the Bison since becoming head coach in 2024. "Seeing those tough jobs and other people having to execute that every day really always makes it an honor and a privilege to be the leader of this program."

Having handily beaten Jacksonville State and Fordham in their first two games, the Bison will face one of their biggest tests as a first-year FBS team on Saturday night: Their Mountain West Conference opener at Air Force.

Though five of the strongest programs — Boise State, Colorado State, Fresno State, San Diego State and Utah State — departed this year to restore the Pac-12, the Mountain West restocked with UTEP and North Dakota State and Northern Illinois as football-only members to join holdovers Air Force, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, San Jose State, UNLV and Wyoming.

There's enough relative proximity to the league's geographic footprint and like-minded public institutions for NDSU to see a long-term home that now offers the chance — albeit an annual long shot — to make the College Football Playoff. The Bison won 10 national championships over two decades in the FCS after collecting eight national titles at lower levels.

"We weren't going to go just to go," athletic director Matt Larsen said. "It really had to be the right fit."

Polasek's recent experience in the Mountain West is a bonus for the Bison

Polasek was offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Wyoming from 2021-23 under head coach Craig Bohl, his former boss at NDSU. Having spent four seasons as the offensive line coach at Iowa before that, Polasek took the job at Wyoming with an eye toward becoming a head coach himself.

"It was really critical for me to go to Iowa and Wyoming and not be one of the top two or three teams picked in the preseason every year and learn those hard lessons," said Polasek, who turned 47 last month. "There was always chatter that NDSU would fit in the Mountain West."

After becoming the all-time leading passer at Concordia University, an NCAA Division III school near Milwaukee, Polasek spent three years on staff at Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Then he got his first big break with a graduate assistant job under Bohl at North Dakota State, which was two seasons into a jump from Division II to the FCS.

He was put in charge of the running backs a year later, added tight ends to his responsibilities after three more seasons, and returned from a one-year stint at Northern Illinois in 2014 as NDSU's offensive coordinator and running backs coach under head coach Chris Klieman.

Then Polasek got a taste of Big Ten play at Iowa, learning the value of "being brilliant at the basics" under longtime head coach Kirk Ferentz before the jump to Wyoming.

"The second thing I learned from Coach Ferentz is if you treat people right you can cultivate an environment where it's fun to show up to work," Polasek said last month in his office at the Fargodome. "No matter if the portal or NIL and all this stuff exists or not, hey, let's treat each other with respect. Everybody in the building should be able to dance to the music the way they want to dance to it."

The upperclassmen on NDSU's roster were recruited by the previous staff under Matt Entz, who's now the head coach at Fresno State. Polasek's enthusiasm for and experience with the program was immediately palpable to those players.

"He's just hard-nosed and he loves football and he knows the game and he's a people person," said third-year wide receiver and kick returner Jackson Williams. "He's going to take care of us, but at the same time he's going to push us to our limits."

Oil prices fall to $104 and world shares are mixed following Wall Street losses

By CHAN HO-HIM AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — World shares were mixed Friday following Wall Street losses, while oil prices fell with Brent crude trading at around $104 a barrel after hitting its highest level since May.

U.S. futures edged higher.

In early European trading, Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.5% to 10,656.44 after official data showed that Britain's economy in July grew faster than what economists had expected. Germany's DAX gained 0.6% to 25,514.37, while France's CAC 40 climbed 0.6% to 8,161.31.

Markets most declined in Asia. Japan's Nikkei 225 dropped 1.9% to 64,011.34. Shares of multinational investment holding firm SoftBank Group, an investor of OpenAI, fell almost 4%.

South Korea's Kospi lost 1.8% to 6,909.91. Samsung Electronics slid 3.5%, while memory chipmaker SK Hynix declined 2.2%.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng dipped 0.6% to 24,805.63. The Shanghai Composite index was down 1.2% to 3,888.11. Shares of Chinese AI chipmaker Enflame surged 179% in its trading debut in Shanghai.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 fell 0.9% to 8,741.20.

Taiwan's Taiex lost 1.6%, while India's Sensex edged up less than 0.1%.

Oil prices fell Friday after climbing earlier, as tensions between the U.S. and Iran intensified. Brent crude, the international standard, was 3.3% lower at $104.09 per barrel after earlier rising above $108. It was approximately $72 a barrel in late February, before the start of the war.

Benchmark U.S. crude was down 2.8% to below $100 per barrel, trading at $99.63.

That comes as U.S. diesel prices on Friday soared past $6 gallon on average and set another record.

Oil flowing through the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway critical for global oil transport, remained

"well below pre-war levels," wrote ING commodities strategists Warren Patterson and Ewa Manthey in a commentary Friday. That's "underscoring how fragile the situation has become," they said.

Even if oil prices retreat as tensions ease, they are likely to remain at elevated levels for the rest of the year, adding to inflation uncertainties, said Yu Song, chief China economist at UBS Securities in a commentary.

On Thursday, Wall Street's benchmark S&P 500 dropped 0.6% in its fourth straight loss. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 0.6%, and the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite fell 0.7%.

Investors are also monitoring the U.S.'s consumer price index data for August set to be released Friday ahead of the Federal Reserve's meeting next week.

Also on Thursday, the U.S. producer price index report for August was up 5.4% year-on-year, accelerating from July's 4.8%.

The bond market has been volatile with U.S. Treasury yields well above pre-war levels, fueled by higher energy prices and inflationary pressures as well as rising U.S. government debt.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury was at around 4.94% early Friday, up from 4.83% on Wednesday.

In other dealings, the U.S. dollar fell to 154.11 Japanese yen from 154.42 yen. The euro was trading at $1.1596, down from $1.1612.

US marks 25 years since the Sept. 11 attacks

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans are commemorating the 25th anniversary of 9/11, remembering the shock, the dead and the sweeping consequences of the al-Qaida attacks on symbols of U.S. might and prosperity.

Friday's milestone anniversary will bring memorial rituals — wreath-laying, flag-flying, moments of silence, vigils and readings of victims' names — and volunteer projects in tribute to a day that about half of U.S. adults remember as the most historic event of their lifetime, according to a new poll.

For others it's an occasion for private reflection — or, in many schools, education — about the attack that unfolded in a single morning but left nearly 3,000 dead and a decades-long trail of aftermath, from personal grief to far-flung wars.

Police Officer Casey Kloepfer plans to spend time Friday at the Brooklyn station house where his father, Officer Ronald Kloepfer, reported to work that day before being called to the World Trade Center. He didn't make it home.

Casey Kloepfer was only 4, but he grew up hearing about his father's affinity for helping people and for a job that enabled him to do so. He became an officer this past June.

"It's big footsteps to fill, but it's definitely something that I take very seriously and want to continue to honor him and be the best police officer I can," he said by phone this week. The 29-year-old wears his father's badge number and even has joined the New York Police Department lacrosse team, which his dad founded.

Trump to attend Pentagon observance

On Sept. 11, 2001, al-Qaida extremists hijacked four commercial jets and crashed them into New York's World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

The impacts brought down the World Trade Center's twin towers — icons of U.S. economic power, and among the tallest buildings on Earth — and blew a hole in the Pentagon, the U.S. military's fortresslike headquarters near Washington. The fourth plane also was headed for the nation's capital, officials concluded, but the aircraft went down in Pennsylvania after passengers and crew members stormed the cockpit and fought the hijackers.

"In the course of history, there are a few moments that divide time into, really, what came before" and after, President Donald Trumpsaid at a 9/11 remembrance in Washington this week. The Republican, who was in his native New York on Sept. 11 and has often recounted his memories, plans to attend the Pentagon's anniversary ceremony Friday.

Vice President JD Vance is expected at the observance at the National Sept. 11 Memorial in New York,

while other administration officials are headed to the Flight 93 National Memorial in Pennsylvania.

Planned remembrances extend far beyond the attack sites, from beams of light projecting from New Hampshire's Mount Washington to a stair climb at Mississippi State University's football stadium to a ceremony at Honolulu's 9/11 memorial.

At ground zero, a new tribute to those who fell ill

Traditionally, there are no political speeches at the New York commemoration, where relatives read all the victims' names, punctuated with moments of silence at key points in the attack timeline. For the first time, this year's ceremony will add a silent moment to honor people who were exposed to the clouds of toxic dust released by the twin towers' fiery collapse and have since died of cancer and other illnesses. Questions remain about how many people developed health problems linked to the dust.

It's a reminder of how the attacks' long shadow has reached into many corners of life in the U.S. and beyond.

The U.S.-led global war on terrorism included invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan — the latter Washington's longest war — and detentions and harsh interrogation of terror suspects in an international network of secret CIA prisons. The U.S. military found and killed al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden in Pakistan in 2011, but accused 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed still awaits a trial 23 years after his capture.

The attacks changed U.S. air travel, prompted new federal surveillance and intelligence-gathering powers and banking regulations, and generated ongoing debate over the balance between security and freedom. The Department of Homeland Security, many state anti-terrorism laws and billions of dollars in state and local counterterrorism funding all are post-9/11 creations.

So, too, is the culture of individual vigilance summed up by the slogan " if you see something, say something."

Unity, mistrust and scrutiny of New York's mayor

Sept. 11 generated a wave of patriotism that propelled some Americans to join the military, fire departments, police forces or other public agencies. But amid the national unity that many remember, the attacks also fanned mistrust, prejudice and hate crimes directed at Muslims.

In the quarter-century since, Muslim Americans have played a growing role in public life from statehouses to Congress to New York City Hall, where Zohran Mamdani is the city's first Muslim mayor. Yet he is facing some criticism for planning to attend the anniversary ceremony at ground zero, something his predecessors have done for years.

Some complaints came from Republican ex-Gov. George Pataki and 9/11 victims' relatives, who cited among other things past remarks that some of Mamdani's political associates have made about the attacks. Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani, a Republican, also inveighed against Mamdani attending.

Mamdani, a Democrat, responded this week that he loves the city and country and wants the anniversary to focus on victims' families, first responders and New Yorkers who helped one another after the attacks, which he called a "horrific act of terror." The 34-year-old mayor was an elementary school student in New York on 9/11.

Sept. 11 isn't a federal holiday, but Congress has designated it both Patriot Day and a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

"One appropriate way to remember is by serving," says Jay Winuk, who lost his brother Glenn Winuk and then co-founded the volunteer organization 9/11 Day with friend David Paine. The group helps people find meal-packing and other volunteer opportunities and this year arranged for dozens of Times Square billboards to pause their advertising at 9:11 a.m. Friday.

Instead, they will simply display the time.

Philippine firefighters enter charred ferry as rescuers search for 84 missing

BY AARON FAVILA, JOEAL CALUPITAN and TERESA CEROJANO Associated Press

CORON, Philippines (AP) — Firefighters entered a charred ferry in Philippine waters on Friday after a fire two nights earlier left five people dead and 84 missing and produced heat and smoke that prevented search and rescue efforts onboard.

Images released by the coast guard around midday showed three smaller boats near the MV June Aster, which appeared to have stopped emitting smoke as personnel walked on the outer portion of the ship.

Coast guard communications officer Joy Dianne Gumatay said Friday they had not received updates from the firefighting team about what was found inside, including whether there were additional fatalities.

The ferry sailed from the capital, Manila, on Wednesday evening and was around 7.4 kilometers (4.5 miles) off the village of Turda near its destination of Coron in Palawan province when the fire was reported.

Rescuers struggled to get inside the burning, smoking vessel Thursday to search for passengers who may been trapped. The efforts were halted overnight.

The cause of the fire has not been determined.

The coast guard and other vessels have rescued 43 people, some plucked from the dark waters as the ferry burned.

"The fire quickly spread. That's when I dropped to the ground and my back was burned," survivor Arnulfo Nokki Villanueva said in a video broadcast by News5, adding that he jumped from a window. "I wanted to get a life jacket but failed to get one because people were stepping on me. People were in panic."

The coast guard, other government agencies, private volunteers and fishermen searched the nearby waters and coastal patrols checked for people who may have drifted to shore but no new survivors or fatalities were found.

According to the manifest, 134 people were onboard, 117 of them passengers and 17 crew. The 53-meter (174-foot) vessel had a capacity to carry 306 passengers and 27 crew.

Two passengers listed in the manifest reported to authorities that they failed to board, bringing the number of missing to 84, the coast guard said.

Two of the survivors were tourists from Chile, according to Rachel Conserman, a staffer of the ship's owner Atienza Interisland Ferries Inc. They are recovering from injuries in a hospital in Coron, she said, adding that there no other foreigners known to have been on the ship.

The shipping company said in a statement it was assisting those who were on board and their families while coordinating with the coast guard and maritime officials to locate the missing passengers and determine the cause.

Coron is a popular tourist destination known for clear blue waters, limestone cliffs and rock formations.

Ferries are frequently used for transport in the Philippine archipelago. Sea accidents are not uncommon due to storms, badly maintained vessels, overcrowding and spotty enforcement of safety regulations, especially in remote provinces.

The US has made progress in reopening the Strait of Hormuz, but the Iran war is far from over

By JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

In recent weeks, the United States has succeeded in loosening Iran's grip over the Strait of Hormuz while virtually shutting down Iran's own oil exports, accelerating its economic free fall.

But the war launched by the U.S. and Israel in February — intended to last a few weeks — is still far from over, and the stalemate is costly for both sides. An agreement reached in June quickly crumbled, with no sign of diplomatic progress since then. Low-level fighting persists, and the U.S. does not seem to have an exit strategy.

The mounting economic pressure on Iran has yet to stoke an uprising, and if its leaders are backed into

a corner, they may opt for military escalation rather than capitulation. Their Houthi allies in Yemen have meanwhile stepped up attacks on Saudi Arabia, helping to push oil prices back up.

The price of a barrel of Brent crude, the international benchmark, surged above $100 this week, and diesel — heavily used in transport and farming — hit a record, potentially stoking inflation. U.S. President Donald Trump has acknowledged that gas prices are likely to stay high through the midterm congressional elections.

"Unfortunately, the U.S. is not winning in the war with Iran despite its limited success in loosening Iran's grip over the strait and the devastating impact on Iran's economy," said Mona Yacoubian, a Middle East expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

"Iran shows no sign of backing down, and instead has demonstrated a willingness to not only fight back, but escalate wherever it can. The war is likely to be protracted with no clear victor."

Iran loses leverage as oil moves through the Strait of Hormuz

Iran effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz — through which a fifth of the world's traded oil and gas transits in peacetime — in the opening days of the war, using the worldwide economic shock as leverage. Meanwhile, it continued to export its own oil, mainly to China.

But in recent weeks, the balance has reversed. A U.S. blockade has virtually halted Iran's exports, while the American military has facilitated greater exports by Gulf countries, according to figures compiled by Homayoun Falakshahi, an oil expert at Kpler, a global trade monitor.

He found that Iran's oil exports had dropped from 1.85 million barrels a day last spring to around 255,000 in August. Exports of non-Iranian oil rose from 300,000 barrels a day at the height of the war to 8.4 million in September, and exports through alternative routes took that number to 10.8 million.

U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright boasted of similar figures on Sunday, saying "we're probably two-thirds or more of preconflict flows." Non-Iranian exports were at around 14 million barrels a day before the war, according to Falakshahi.

But the increased flow depends on a major U.S. deployment in the strait that has strained the military's resources. The unpopular war has already cost U.S. taxpayers more than $37.5 billion and left 18 U.S. service members dead, and is expected to weigh on Republicans in November's election.

Tehran could escalate in other ways

The tightened blockade and new U.S. sanctions are already taking a heavy toll on Iran's economy, driving up prices and causing even longer lines outside gas stations.

But so far, it's shown no sign of pushing the country's increasingly hard-line leaders to make concessions on the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's disputed nuclear program or its support for armed groups in the region.

"Washington's main problem is that it still lacks a theory of victory: More ships are getting through, and Iran is hurting, yet none of that has produced a political outcome," said Ali Vaez, an Iran expert at the International Crisis Group think tank.

Iran has continued to attack ships in the strait, drawing limited U.S. strikes on its coastal areas and then responding with missile attacks on Arab countries hosting U.S. forces. Trump recently dismissed the conflict as "small potatoes."

But with the U.S. supply of sophisticated interceptors showing strain, Iran could be tempted to escalate its attacks — or respond through regional proxies.

The Iran-backed Houthis launched a wave of attacks on Saudi oil facilities this week as part of a conflict that goes back more than a decade but has heated up in recent weeks. The Houthis are also attacking Saudi shipping, threatening its oil exports and a crucial trade route through the Bab el-Mandeb chokepoint leading to the Red Sea and the Suez Canal.

The Houthis have damaged Saudi Arabia's Jizan refinery, a large supplier of diesel and jet fuel to Europe, Falakshahi said. The volume of Saudi oil passing through the Bab el-Mandeb bound for Asia has plunged from around 3.4 million barrels a day in June to just 128,000 in August, according to Kpler's figures, though it has recovered slightly to some 700,000 barrels per day in September.

"Tehran has repeatedly signaled that it will respond to growing U.S. pressure by moving up the escala-

tion ladder, not by backing down," Danny Citrinowicz, a senior researcher at Israel's Institute for National Security Studies and a former Israeli intelligence officer focused on Iran, wrote on X.

"Iran will not simply accept an indefinite maritime blockade, nor will it allow Washington to impose mounting economic costs without imposing costs of its own," he wrote.

As Trump squeezes the International Criminal Court, more countries are leaving

By MOLLY QUELL Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — As the United States ratchets up the pressure on the International Criminal Court, sanctioning two more high-ranking staff members in recent weeks, a small but growing number of the global tribunal's member states have announced they will quit the institution.

The recent departure of Venezuela and Chad brings the number of countries to pull out of the court in the past year to five, joining Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. The surge in withdrawals comes as the ICC faces hostility from Washington and a leadership crisis after ousting its own chief prosecutor.

"Five countries so far have announced plans to withdraw from the Rome Statute, and we welcome more announcements in the future," a spokesperson for the U.S. State Department told The Associated Press.

The Rome Statute established the ICC in 2002 as the court of last resort to prosecute individuals responsible for the world's most heinous atrocities: war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and the crime of aggression. Based in The Hague, it takes on cases when nations are unable or unwilling to prosecute crimes on their own territory.

"The ICC regrets any decision to depart from the collective effort to end impunity for the most serious international crimes," the court's spokesperson Oriane Maillet told the AP.

America is piling on the pressure

In July, Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced that the U.S. was launching a "sweeping campaign to dismantle the threat posed by the International Criminal Court to U.S. sovereignty."

Rubio said he will pressure the court's 125 member states to withdraw from the institution, sanction organizations that work with the court and ban staff from traveling to the United States. Trump's administration already has sanctioned a dozen ICC staff in retaliation for warrants the court has issued for top Israeli officials over the war in Gaza and investigations into U.S. personnel in Afghanistan.

The Central African country of Chad specifically cited the United States in its decision to withdraw. Its Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Sabre Fadoul said in a statement that in a phone call with a U.S. official on July 23, "the American side expressed its concerns regarding the functioning of this institution and requested that Chad reconsider" its membership.

Four days later, Chad said it would leave the ICC.

Iva Vukušić, a researcher at Utrecht University, told the AP that the U.S. campaign will lay bare just how committed countries are to the court. "Are they willing to defend it if it costs them something real?" she said.

The State Department told AP the U.S. would call upon nations that "enjoy the benefits of the U.S. security umbrella" to reject the ICC.

Some countries claim the court engages in selective justice

It's not just pressure from Trump that is sending ICC members toward the exit door.

The ruling military juntas in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger blamed selective justice. The ICC has become an "instrument of neocolonial repression in the hands of imperialism," the trio said when they announced their departures last year.

A coup ousted Niger's democratically elected government in 2023. Since then, a military junta has abandoned longtime partners and has formed new alliances instead, including with Russia, where President Vladimir Putin faces an ICC arrest warrant linked to the war in Ukraine. Mali and Burkina Faso have undergone similar transformations.

"These countries are ruled by authoritarian leaders who want to avoid accountability for the harms they are inflicting on their own people," Mel O'Brien, an associate professor of international law at the University

of Western Australia, told the AP.

Burundi similarly accused the court of focusing too much on conflicts in Africa when, in 2017, it became the first country to leave the ICC. The court had opened an investigation into the East African nation earlier that year.

Most of the court's initial investigations were into African countries, though most requested the involvement of the ICC.

South Africa and Gambia also announced in 2017 that they would leave but later changed course.

A change of government can also bring a country back into the fold. Hungary announced it would quit the court in 2025 but following the election of a new government, the country's parliament voted to stay.

Past crimes still fall under the court's jurisdiction

The court also had an active investigation in the Philippines when then-President Rodrigo Duterte said his country would leave the ICC. In 2019 the Southeast Asian country became the second country to leave but as withdrawal from the court is not retroactive, the investigation continued.

Duterte is now in ICC detention in the Netherlands awaiting trial on charges of crimes against humanity for deadly anti-drug crackdowns he allegedly oversaw while in office. Opening statements are set for November.

An investigation into possible crimes committed by Venezuelan security forces under former Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro will continue despite the country's announcement last month that it will also leave the ICC.

In a statement, the country's Foreign Minister Félix Plasencia said the court had been "instrumentalized to deepen inequalities among peoples and disregard their right to self-determination and sovereignty."

Venezuela is currently in the middle of U.S.-backed talks between the ruling party and the opposition following Maduro's capture in January by U.S. forces.

The court has also welcomed new members

Ukraine is the court's most recent addition. The country joined in 2025 and previously had signed an agreement to give the court jurisdiction over crimes on its territory, following the outbreak of hostilities with Russia in 2014.

Joining the court was "Ukraine's way of saying that accountability for the gravest crimes cannot be optional, and that we intend to help build that system of justice," the country's ambassador to the Netherlands, Andriy Kostin, told AP.

Houthis seize strategic Red Sea port in Yemen, and other Mideast developments

By The Associated Press undefined

Iranian-backed Houthi rebels seized Yemen's strategic Red Sea port city of Mokha, according to Houthi and Yemeni officials, bringing the rebels closer to controlling a critical waterway to the Red Sea.

Separately, an Israeli strike killed at least four people in northern Gaza, including two children, hospital officials said Thursday. The Israeli military said the attack killed a militant.

Here's a look at the latest news in the Middle East. Full coverage can be found here.

Yemen's Houthi rebels take key port city, officials say

The Iran-backed Houthi rebel group on Thursday took over Yemen's port city of Mokha, Houthi and Yemeni officials said.

Mokha is about 80 kilometers (50 miles) from the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a strategic waterway between the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden through which about 12% of the world's oil and other goods are shipped.

The Bab el-Mandeb has become even more important for global energy supplies since shipping through the nearby Strait of Hormuz was disrupted by Iran after it was attacked by the United States and Israel in February.

The Houthis' takeover of Mokha was confirmed to The Associated Press by Ahmed Baash, a commander

with the National Resistance Forces allied with Yemen's government, and Hazam al-Assad, a member of the Houthis' political bureau.

Hans Grundberg, the United Nations envoy to Yemen, warned that the nation now faces the "harsh reality" of a return to war. Grundberg told an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council Thursday afternoon that the international community must address this "new and more dangerous phase – one whose consequences, if left unchecked, will not stay within Yemen's borders."

Neighboring Saudi Arabia said it would take all measures necessary to deter Houthi attacks. Saudi Ambassador Abdulaziz Alwasil told the U.N. Security Council that the kingdom reaffirms its right to protect its "territorial integrity in accordance with the (U.N.) Charter and international law."

2 children are killed in a Gaza strike

Two children were among the dead after Israel carried out a new strike in the northern Gaza community of Beit Lahiya, according to Shifa Hospital, where the bodies were taken.

The strike killed a husband and wife, alongside their two daughters, aged 8 and 12.

"There is nothing that can justify Israel attacking this home," said Zuheir al-Heisami, a neighbor of the family, at the hospital. He said the strike happened at around 2 a.m. "These were two children and their parents that were killed while they were asleep."

The Israeli military in a statement said the strike in Beit Lahiya "eliminated" a militant who had taken part in attacks against its forces. It did not give details.

Israel's military in the past has said it carries out strikes in response to threats against its forces under the fragile ceasefire that has been in place since October.

Trump says Iran war will not continue for the rest of his term

President Donald Trump was asked by a reporter as he prepared to leave Texas late Thursday night if the if the Iran war would go on for the rest of his time in office, which ends in early 2029.

"No. No," Trump said in response.

He predicted that the war would likely end very shortly after this November's elections in the U.S.

Clash at UN Security Council over Iran's nuclear program

Nearly a year after the U.N. Security Council reimposed sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program, the U.S., the U.K. and their council allies called on Tehran to implement the tough measures and allow inspectors into all its facilities.

But Russia and China reiterated their claim that reimposing sanctions against Iran was illegal. Russia vowed to oppose any actions to legitimize the "snapback" of sanctions.

The meeting Thursday followed a decision by the U.N. nuclear agency's board to report Iran to the Security Council for the first time in 20 years, citing its failure to explain uranium traces inspectors found at undeclared sites.

British U.N. Ambassador Sarah MacIntosh said the International Atomic Energy Agency's latest report needs addressing with "utmost urgency." Russian U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia called the report "politicized."

Iran says it is not pursuing nuclear weapons and its program is entirely peaceful.

Algeria says it's ending diplomatic ties with the UAE

Algeria's government announced on Thursday that it's severing diplomatic ties with the United Arab Emirates.

An Algerian Foreign Ministry statement read on state television gave no specific reason for the decision, but cited alleged "provocative and hostile actions" by the Gulf Arab state and "regrettable and unjustified behavior."

The UAE's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that it hoped Algeria's decision ends up being temporary, and that ultimately their "fraternal ties" will be preserved.

UN letter accuses Israel of constant violations in Lebanon

Lebanon's mission to the United Nations has accused Israel of committing nearly 2,000 "land, air and sea violations" of Lebanon's sovereignty during the month of July, according to a letter to the U.N.

The letter, published Thursday on the U.N. website, did not give details of the alleged violations. The

Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Israel occupies a large swath of southern Lebanon it seized during a ground invasion after Hezbollah militants began firing rockets across the border into Israel in March.

Lebanon and Israel reached an agreement in June that calls for Israel to withdraw from occupied areas in exchange for Hezbollah's disarmament. Implementation has largely stalled, with Israel continuing airstrikes as it accuses Hezbollah of attacking its forces.

Israel threatens strikes on Iran's energy facilities if attacked

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz warned Iran of a "powerful response" if Israel is attacked, saying it would "inflict severe damage on Iran of a kind it has not yet suffered, including on its central energy facilities."

Katz's video statement came after Iran launched missiles at U.S. targets earlier this week in Jordan, Israel's eastern neighbor, in response to U.S. strikes on Iranian oil tankers.

Body camera video offers a rare look inside an immigration raid at a NY factory

By VALERIE GONZALEZ and MARK VANCLEAVE Associated Press

The sprawling snack-food factory in upstate New York appeared to be closed when a small army of immigration officers arrived after 9 a.m. Following a brief discussion of whether to force their way inside, a manager opened the front door.

Over the next several hours, body cameras were running as federal authorities from several agencies made 57 arrests, debated which files to seize and when to release employees who were U.S. citizens. They also searched for anyone in hiding.

The footage from September 2025 shows the raid at the Nutrition Bar Confectioners plant in Cato, New York, a town of 2,500 people east of Syracuse, and offers a rare glimpse inside a workplace immigration sweep. The Associated Press analyzed the video, which was part of a lawsuit filed Thursday that accuses authorities of overstepping their search warrants.

The officers ordered a manager to announce their presence over loudspeakers while they entered the building and caught employees on the production line, in the warehouse and a few in the bathroom. Officers covered all exits while others swept the interior, including homing in on locked doors.

Male officers encountered a locked bathroom and began shouting instructions in broken Spanish at female employees through the door, demanding that they come out. After about 10 seconds, officers broke through the door.

One woman was outside of a stall and another in the stall. A male officer peered through a locked stall door, and his body cam video revealed a woman sitting on the toilet.

"Miss, pull up your pants. Come out of the bathroom," he told her.

"You have to wait. I can't come out like this, naked!" she replied.

Investigators interviewed the general manager and said they were looking into hiring practices and potential fraudulent documents. Inside and outside the building, officers checked every office, storage room and hallway for anyone who was hiding.

Employees were lined up and separated into groups of U.S. citizens and potential noncitizens. Officers asked for their immigration status, requested documents and posed questions about their entry into the U.S. Some employees were pregnant.

Some were parents and expressed concern for their children at home. Others said they would not answer questions without first speaking to their attorneys, and officers told them they would be arrested.

One employee refused to answer questions. "Will you let me talk to my attorney?" she asked the officer. He raised his voice and continued asking about her immigration status.

U.S. citizens were asked for personal information, including their phone numbers and addresses before they were allowed to leave.

A Border Patrol agent who spoke to another official wearing a camera used disparaging language about children from other countries when recounting his experience working at a South Texas immigrant detention center. He said President Joe Biden's administration allowed millions of people to enter the United States from countries where children are treated "differently" than they are by American parents.

"In other countries, kids are more of a commodity or it's more of like, I'm going to put it in those terms. It's more like an animal, right? It's not prized the way that we do it," he said.

"There's countries like Brazil and other places where they're literal street rats at a very young age who commit crimes, and then they come here. I don't know if you have kids, but they'll eat our kids for breakfast."

Homeland Security did not immediately respond Thursday to a request for comment on the video footage or the lawsuit.

Not all officers wore body cameras, but those who did often indicated to other officers that they were recording before they initiated a conversation.

ICE's Homeland Security Investigations unit is responsible for workplace raids, which have been relatively few and low-key compared to ICE's removal unit, which arrests people in the street, at homes and in public and also manages detention centers. The Trump administration's largest workplace raid was last year at a Hyundai electric vehicle plant in Georgia. It resulted in nearly 500 arrests and fueled diplomatic tension with South Korea.

The lawsuit against Homeland Security claims federal officers exceeded the authority of their warrants and violated workers' constitutional rights against unlawful search and seizure.

"There were no arrest warrants," said Perry Grossman, a supervising attorney at the New York Civil Liberties Union, which filed the lawsuit with the Worker Justice Center of New York.

"There was no suspicion that individual workers had committed crimes. And they seized easily 100 people for nonconsensual questioning. They arrested 57. Out of those 57 people, criminal charges were brought against only five. And the most serious charge was unlawful reentry."

Grossman said one employee got her charges dismissed after contending in a lawsuit that her Fourth Amendment rights were violated. He said he was not aware of any charges or indictments against the employers.

Officers detained about 60 people and deported some employees, including two plaintiffs who are part of Thursday's lawsuit. One plaintiff has since been allowed to reenter the country. Attorneys for the second deported plaintiff are seeking his return.

Law enforcement agencies have come under criticism for not using body cameras and for refusing to release footage when they do. ICE, in particular, has been scrutinized after a $75 billion infusion from Congress and an expanding street presence that has led to three fatal shootings this year.

ICE's own rules on releasing video are unclear. Its policy calls for expedited release of footage after a serious injury or death in custody when doing so is determined to be in the " best interests of the agency."

The Trump administration has repeatedly promised to equip ICE field agents with body cameras, as required by Congress. Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin said last week that the agency was "on track" to do so by the end of September.

Trump to commemorate 25th anniversary of 9/11 attacks at the Pentagon

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is set to observe Friday's 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks by attending a ceremony at the Pentagon commemorating the lives lost when al-Qaida militants hijacked planes and killed nearly 3,000 people in three locations, upending American foreign policy and national security.

It's the second year in a row for Trump to mark the day at the Pentagon. The president, who is originally from New York, last attended the ground zero ceremony there in 2024.

Vice President JD Vance is set to attend the New York observance alongside former presidents, while

other administration officials will go to the ceremony in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Vance had planned to be in New York for the anniversary last year but instead flew to Salt Lake City to be with the family of Charlie Kirk after the conservative activist was assassinated.

During last year's commemoration at the Pentagon, Trump delivered remarks recounting moments from the day of the attacks, including snippets of conversations from passengers who were aboard the hijacked airplanes.

At a Tuesday event at the Ellipse just outside the White House, Trump vowed to "never forget" victims, noting that the Sept. 11 attacks were one of few moments in history that "divide time into really what came before" and after.

That event, spearheaded by the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, showcased a massive, 21-foot, nearly 17,000-pound steel beam recovered from the South Tower of the World Trade Center in New York. Traveling for months across the country as part of the Steel Across America tour, the beam was to be in New York for a procession Friday retracing the steps of fallen New York City firefighter Stephen Siller.

On Wednesday, Trump issued a proclamation that marked Friday as "Patriot Day 2026," recounting the chronology of the 2001 day on which "the peace of our Nation was shattered" and calling his administration "unwavering in its commitment to ensure that our Nation is defended by the strongest and most lethal military the world has ever known."

The Republican midterms convention on Thursday night marked the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks with families onstage in Dallas and firefighters in uniform as the song "Ave Maria" was played. The names of the victims appeared on a screen and a bell was rung to commemorate the loss of firefighters.

Analysis: Trump's solution to Republicans' midterm troubles is more Trump

By STEVEN SLOAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — During his first address to a Republican convention in 2016, Donald Trump had an audacious message to a nation yearning for change: "I alone can fix it."

A decade later and nearing the midpoint of his final term, Trump is still pitching himself as America's essential repairman. It's a strategy that's helped him overcome daunting odds before but now guarantees this year's midterms will be a referendum on his unpopular presidency. And it previews how difficult it will be for his party to prepare for a future without him as he shows little interest in ceding the stage.

On Thursday, the final night of Republicans' unusual midterm convention, Trump said he would speak for just a few minutes. Instead he held court for a half hour, repeating many of the points he made in a nearly two-hour speech the previous night, then lingered as balloons dropped from the ceiling and his favorite opera singer serenaded the crowd.

"You've got to do me a favor," he implored at one point. "You've got to get out and vote, and you're going to pretend I'm on the ballot. Because in a way, I'm on the ballot."

That reflects Trump's central challenge heading into the final stretch of the midterms. No one since Ronald Reagan has galvanized Republicans — and helped attract a broader range of voters to the party — quite like Trump. But that success only happens when Trump himself is on the ballot. He has repeatedly struggled to translate his personal popularity to success in competitive races when his election is not on the line.

During Trump's first midterms in 2018, Republicans lost 40 seats in the U.S. House. When he was off the ballot again in 2022, some of his marquee picks, such as Doug Mastriano for governor in Pennsylvania, lost their races.

It's a vulnerability Trump is well aware of.

"There's no reason for it," he said of the historic headwinds a president's party faces in the midterms. "It's something deep down and psychological."

Republicans break out their classic moves against Democrats

Trump is betting that Republicans can maintain their grip on power by returning to a handful of now

familiar moves ranging from depicting political opponents in catastrophic terms to leaning in on culture war issues involving transgender people. A pledge to send every American adult $5,000 if Republicans retain control of the House and Senate faces numerous political and financial hurdles but still garnered headlines at a time when it's tough to capture voter attention.

He's also highlighting what is, in his telling, the most successful opening stretch of any presidential term as he tamed immigration, saved the country from a nuclear-armed Iran and presided over economic success. All the while, he spruced up Washington and added a ballroom to the White House that, much to his chagrin, he'll only be able to enjoy for a few months before his term ends.

That grandiose pitchman style, honed for years as a New York tabloid staple and reality television star, has propelled him through a cascade of crises, including two impeachments, several federal indictments and a criminal conviction. It's helped him connect with voters drawn to his confidence and bend reality to his vision.

But a protracted war, economic anxiety and accusations of corruption and personal enrichment are testing Trump's strategy. Just a third of U.S. adults approve of how he is handling the presidency, according to a July poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. That's down slightly from 37% in June and well below the 42% who approved of his work when he took office.

Majorities also disapprove of his handling of the economy and immigration, issues that were central to Trump's election in 2024.

A Quinnipiac University poll released Thursday found 46% of registered voters said the Democratic Party was more in touch with the concerns of most people in the U.S., compared with 35% who said the same for the Republican Party.

The party begins looking toward 2028

Trump is working against a sobering reality that most presidents encounter around the sixth year of their time in the White House. Voters become restive for change and ambitious politicians begin gaming out ways to launch campaigns of their own.

Presidents can sometimes find themselves sidelined in these final years. During the 2000 and 2008 campaigns, Al Gore and John McCain campaigned sparingly with the presidents they were aiming to succeed, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

Trump is already fighting that fate. He's pledged to campaign in the coming weeks for Republicans in competitive races, something many candidates might not welcome as they seek to distance themselves from Trump.

And as the early contours of the next presidential campaign take shape, loyalty to Trump is again proving key. Vice President JD Vance, a potential 2028 candidate, hailed him on Thursday as the "toughest S.O.B. in American politics," earning a roar of applause from the Republican faithful.

That admiration for Trump could prove an asset in a Republican primary, where supporters of the president will wield significant influence. But it could leave the party's ultimate nominee in a difficult position in a general election, especially if Trump's popularity doesn't rebound.

After all, presidential politics can take unexpected turns.

Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, a potential White House candidate who pointedly refused to endorse Trump at the 2016 convention, praised him Thursday. Commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, he noted the twists of history.

"In 2001, it would have been hard to imagine where we are today," he said. "Who could have predicted that the extraordinary Donald Trump would be president?"

Groton Daily Independent
Friday, Sept. 11, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 097 ~ 39 of 76

Trump and Vance team up at GOP convention as party faces midterm risks, and eyes what's next

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — President Donald Trump and his Vice President JD Vance teamed up Thursday to close out the second and final night of the Republicans' midterm convention in Dallas, imploring voters to stick together to save their party's majorities in Congress.

Republicans know they are up against history, which traditionally rebuffs the party in power during midterms, but they're relying on Trump's personal appeal to voters. Vance, with a primetime speaking slot right before the president, was widely watched as a potential heir to the "Make America Great Again" movement.

Trump organized the convention hoping to rally voters who turn out for him, but not for other candidates.

"You got to do me the biggest favor you've ever done," Trump told the crowd. "You've got to do this for me."

At one point he led the crowd in a repeat-after-me pledge to swear to vote on Nov. 3.

Vance delivered searing criticism of Democrats, calling them "the party of hatred." And even though Republicans have faced their own rifts over Trump's war in Iran and other issues, he urged them to remain united for the midterms.

"Don't give the country over to a bunch of crazy people because you happen to disagree with us on a policy issue here or there," he said.

Republicans work to avoid midterm losses in November

Republicans face a potential reckoning this fall. They are struggling to bolster enthusiasm for congressional candidates and laboring to overcome voters' concerns about the economy and the war with Iran. While many Republicans skipped the confab at American Airlines Center, others still see solidarity with Trump as their best shot at winning, despite the president's low approval rating.

Republicans spent two consecutive nights denouncing Democrats as extremists, and Trump capped Wednesday by making the outlandish promise of $5,000 to each American adult if his party wins in November. Such a proposal could cost more than $1 trillion and was roundly panned — even by some Republicans.

As the convention ended, Cheryl McClure of Mansfield, Texas, said she hopes her party's fortunes improve.

"People are talking about what's happening at the grocery store, and are understandably still afraid, but things are getting better, and it's our job to spread the word," she said. "The emotion coming out is good to drive us forward into November."

House Democrats blasted the Republicans' convention as an opulent spectacle for an out-of-touch president.

"Donald Trump does not care about the average American family or about affordability," said Rep. Robert Garcia, D-Calif.

Protesters chanting "say it loud, say it clear, Donald Trump's not welcome here" marched down streets, but were stopped by police from getting too close to the site.

Republicans are showcasing accomplishments and eyeing 2028

Vance's keynote offered hints about his political aspirations, as he spoke about his own family, his wife, Usha, who recently gave birth to their fourth child, and his vision for the country. He has not yet said if he will run in 2028.

When a protester with a Mexican flag interrupted his speech, Vance won an extended roar of approval with his sharp response.

"Well, my friend, if you love Mexico so much, get your a— over there. I'll buy you a plane ticket," he said.

"We got to send a message this November," Vance said. "This country was handed down to us by our parents and their parents before them. We received this national birthright, and we are going to fight for it by electing Republicans this November."

The vice president, who also serves as the Republican National Committee's finance chair, raised $2 million for the party earlier Thursday at a fundraiser in Dallas, according to a person familiar with the event

who was not authorized to discuss it publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump is also deploying his cash in key midterm races. No Going Back PAC Inc., which, according to a person with knowledge of the situation, is connected to Trump's MAGA Inc., has reserved more than $68 million for advertising. The person was not authorized to speak publicly about the funding arrangement.

Coming on the eve of the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the evening solemnly marked that moment. It also produced a video tribute to Charlie Kirk, who co-founded the conservative group Turning Point USA. He was assassinated one year ago.

"His voice has only grown louder," said Lucas Miles, a pastor and vice president at Turning Point. The president's son, Donald Trump Jr., drew chants of "USA!" as he honored Kirk and criticized Democrats.

At one point, Rep. Mike Lawler, who is fighting to win reelection in New York, appeared onstage with the family of Sheridan Gorman who was fatally shot in Chicago and officials have charged a man they say was illegally in the country. They presented a bench in her honor as a place where lawmakers can sit to discuss issues.

In a lighter moment, Marty O'Donnell, a composer who is challenging a House Democrat in Nevada, got the crowd to sing along to the earworm jingle he wrote for Flintstones vitamins.

Trump hopes the convention will help Republicans buck historical trends

The night's themes delved into what House Speaker Mike Johnson calls the "Contrast for America," as Republicans showcased what they call their "Big Beautiful Bill" of tax breaks and spending cuts and warned of a bleak future if Democrats take control.

The campaign slogan is a throwback to another Republican leader, Newt Gingrich, who offered a Contract with America. This time, rather than presenting a detailed list of priorities, Republicans are quick to portray all Democrats as in line with their most liberal candidates, some backed by the Democratic Socialists of America, and focused on investigating the Trump administration.

"It truly is a contrast between common sense and crazy," Johnson said. "We cannot and we will not allow them to take the majority in Congress."

With the Republican majorities in the House and Senate both at risk this fall, the president's agenda for his final two years in office is also at stake. The margins in Congress are expected to be narrow, with a few seats in a shrunken map of competitive races determining the outcome.

Presidents past have acknowledged their midterm losses — Barack Obama called his 2010 setbacks a "shellacking," George W. Bush labeled his a "thumping."

But Trump often refuses to accept defeat, including his false claims that he, rather than Joe Biden, won the 2020 election. One of the many people he pardoned for their actions in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, former Oath Keepers leader Stewart Rhodes, appeared at the convention.

The night closed with a slow-motion balloon drop that typically falls on a presidential nominee at party conventions, and Trump lingered onstage to enjoy operatic singing from his favorite tenor.

Inflation report lands amid spiking oil prices, rising interest rates and Fed on fence

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Friday's inflation report is shaping up to be among the most consequential in years.

Oil and gas prices have spiked again on the back of renewed combat in the Middle East. The Federal Reserve is considering whether to lift its short-term interest rate next week, with some officials saying Friday's report could swing them either way. And longer-term interest rates jumped Thursday, partly because of fears of higher inflation, pushing mortgage borrowing costs higher.

The Trump administration is seeking to counter voter concerns about high prices and rising interest rates as the midterm elections approach. President Donald Trump on Wednesday promised $5,000 payments to every American adult if the GOP keeps a majority in Congress, a move that would require congressional approval and could stoke inflation. And Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has stepped up buybacks of Treasury bonds in an effort to keep longer-term interest rates lower. Yet on Thursday the yield on the

10-year Treasury reached a nearly three-year high.

What's coming Friday

On Friday, the government is expected to report that headline inflation ticked down last month, to 3.3% from 3.4%, according to data provider FactSet, though that is still above the Fed's 2% target. And higher gas prices will likely push inflation back up next month when September's data is released.

On a monthly basis, prices are forecast to have risen 0.4% from July to August, a pace that if it continues would keep inflation far above 2%.

Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, core prices are projected to have risen by just 0.2% from July to August and 2.4% last month from a year earlier. The year-over-year figure would be down slightly from 2.5% in July.

Yet the cooling in core prices may not sway the Fed or console many consumers. Renewed fighting in the Middle East has pushed up energy costs, with the nationwide average cost of a gallon of gas on Thursday jumping 7% from a month ago to $4.28. Gas prices on Labor Day were at a record high for that date, and diesel fuel prices have reached all-time highs.

Inflation as one-time shock, or something more

Many economists and Federal Reserve officials have long considered higher gas prices one of several "one-time" shocks that are lifting inflation, along with tariffs and surging investment in AI data centers. For months, the hope has been as that as the war against Iran wound down, and the effects of tariffs faded, inflation would grind lower.

Yet there are few signs of the Iran war cooling, and even Trump has said gas prices won't retreat until after the midterm elections in November. And while Trump's trade fight with Canada will impact a small number of imports, it is a reminder that tariffs remain a threat that could push up other costs.

"This is not one and done," said Kathy Bostjancic, chief economist at Nationwide. "It's unclear when tensions in the Middle East are going to settle down. ... This seems like it could be a prolonged disruption."

While core prices are rising more slowly than overall prices, more expensive oil and gas could spread through more of the economy. Pricier jet fuel will likely push up air fares, and more expensive diesel will raise shipping costs, which could make groceries and other goods shipped by truck more expensive. On Thursday, a wholesale price report showed a jump in chemical prices, likely a result of more expensive oil.

What will the Federal Reserve do?

Federal Reserve policymakers are split on whether to hike at a meeting next week, so much so that differences of a few hundredths of a percentage point in Friday's inflation report could determine whether the central bank boosts its benchmark interest rate or leaves it unchanged. The Fed, which is tasked with keeping inflation in check, typically lifts borrowing costs to slow spending and limit price increases.

Investors and analysts differ over whether the Fed will hike rates at their Sept. 15-16 meeting. Chair Kevin Warsh suggested he was leaning toward a rate hike in a high-profile speech two weeks ago, but he did not commit to doing so at a specific time.

And last Thursday, Fed governor Christopher Waller, echoing some other Fed officials, suggested that if Friday's inflation report shows price increases cooling, then he would support keeping rates where they are. Waller is one of the 12 officials who vote on each Fed rate decision.

Waller's heavy emphasis on August's figures have raised the stakes for Friday's report. If the monthly core figure rounds up to 0.3%, some Wall Street analysts expect the Fed would then hike rates. But if it rounded down to 0.2% or lower, then a hold could be more likely. If it is somewhere in between, it's not clear what the Fed may do. One analyst called such considerations "ludicrous precision."

For his part, Warsh doesn't want to tip his hand about his next moves, which some economists say will make this kind of uncertainty more common before Fed meetings.

Groton Daily Independent
Friday, Sept. 11, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 097 ~ 42 of 76

Anthropic says it blocked misuse of its AI that could have supported biological weapons

By BARBARA ORTUTAY AP Technology Writer

Anthropic said Thursday it has blocked efforts by bad actors to use its artificial intelligence models for malicious activity such as cyberattacks, surveillance, and research that could have led to biological weapons.

As AI models grow more powerful, elaborate cyberattacks no longer require sophisticated skills and even lone individuals can create threats that would not have been possible even a year ago, Anthropic said. The company said it has added stronger safeguards in its latest models to restrict biological research that could also be used to make weapons.

"The cases we share here aren't typical misuse, but rather examples of the most notable and novel threat activity we've identified to date," Anthropic said in its third report since March 2025 describing AI misuse. The report includes snippets of the malicious code and AI prompts Anthropic said it found and it urged governments and AI competitors to identify and prevent similar abuse.

"We're publishing this work because we believe we have a responsibility to disclose malicious misuse of our services. As models become increasingly capable, their risks will increase, unless AI developers and society's defenders act to make them safer," the company said.

The lengthy report by the AI startup, which is planning an initial public offering this fall, was published two days after one of its researchers announced he's resigning over concerns that Anthropic and its competitors are not acting responsibly in AI development. He echoed concerns raised inside and outside of the industry about the technology's potential to elude human control.

Claude was asked to support making a virus more harmful

Between December 2025 and August 2026, researchers at Anthropic found misuse by actors ranging from spyware vendors and "politically motivated individuals" to state-sponsored groups spreading propaganda.

Among the findings in the company's report are unnamed actors attempting to use its models for research that could have led to biological weapons. In one instance, Anthropic said its systems blocked a request for Claude's assistance in authoring a grant application for scientific funding.

"The work discussed in the application involved gain-of-function research (that is, research that genetically alters an organism to create a new or enhanced biological property) on the chikungunya virus. This gain of function research was aimed at the virus' transmissibility and immune evasion properties," the report said.

Chikungunya is a mosquito-borne virus that causes debilitating symptoms such as severe pain and fever. The request involved a grant proposal for research seeking to enhance mutations to make the virus progressively more harmful. While such research could "certainly" be used to develop better vaccines and treatments, Anthropic said, "it could also be used to make the pathogen more dangerous."

Anthropic says it can't claim its models do no harm

None of the cases Anthropic included in its report were found to be using its newer, more powerful Claude Fable or Mythos-class models, with the exception of one illicit distillation case that Anthropic described as "an industrial-scale, covert campaign to extract a model's capabilities and replicate them in another model without authorization."

Anthropic said its older models, such as Claude Opus 4 and Claude Sonnet 4.5, from 2025, "were well below the threshold where they could meaningfully assist a sophisticated user in carrying out dangerous biological research."

"As a result, safeguards on these models were less stringent, directed mostly at preventing access to content that might uplift novices in recreating known bioweapons," the report said. "But for today's models — which are capable of assisting in a range of complex scientific research tasks — the evidence is no longer certain, and we cannot make that same assurance."

Because of this, Anthropic has applied "stronger safeguards that restrict access to a wide range of dual-use biological research queries" in its more recent models, such as Claude Fable 5, the report said.

As companies introduce increasingly powerful AI models, experts have called on governments to regulate the technology, rather than relying on the industry to police itself.

John Thickstun, an assistant professor of computer science at Cornell University, said it is an uncomfortable position for companies like Anthropic and OpenAI to be in when they are expected to determine what is safe vs. unsafe behavior and make "value judgments at societal scale without any kind of democratic or deliberative oversight."

Report follows a researcher's dire warning

Anthropic also found groups that created hundreds of social media accounts that look like they belong to ordinary people and then posted material amplifying the same political view over the course of a week. The company outlined nine such cases it found, originating in Russia, Iran, Turkey and across the Persian Gulf, South Asia, Africa and Europe.

While social media companies can detect influence operations on their platforms once posts are circulating, "we may see it on Claude while the operation is still being built."

Anthropic released this report after one of its researchers, Jacob Coxon, announced he's resigning amid fears the company and its chief rival OpenAI "are racing straight to self-improving superintelligence and gambling with our lives." Coxon's post warned that some of his colleagues now believe AI could threaten human life by the end of the decade.

But Anthropic said it has blocked each of the malicious activities it identified, used the experience to strengthen safeguards and shared information with government authorities and industry partners.

"We hope that the findings in this report will help other developers recognize similar patterns on their own platforms, give governments and civil society a clearer view of how emerging threats take shape, and strengthen collective defenses," Anthropic said.

Trump wants to send Americans money. Congress and economists don't seem thrilled with the idea

By BILL BARROW, LISA MASCARO and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump's pitch to send Americans $5,000 checks should Republicans prevail in the November midterms is drawing scorn from some members of Congress — the very people who have constitutional authority over federal spending.

Economists and other political observers are voicing concerns about the potential effects on inflation and the national balance sheet. Taken together, it's a swift reaction that makes clear that Trump's dubious election-year gambit is likely little more than another grand promise from a politician with a long history of them.

"Donald Trump is a known liar. This is the biggest liar to ever serve in government. Period," said Rep. Robert Garcia, a California Democrat who was in Dallas on Thursday as part of his party's effort to counter Republicans' midterm convention. "The dividend is not happening."

Trump previously pledged to use savings from the Department of Government Efficiency and revenue from tariffs on foreign imports to distribute payments of $2,000 or more, but none of that came to pass.

His latest idea comes as the U.S. economy is reckoning with persistent inflation and rising interest rates, two forces that have politically undermined Republicans after previously helping them reclaim power from Democrats. Trump claimed the payments would be possible because of the economy's strength, yet consumer sentiment is weak as gasoline prices are increasing because of the war with Iran and wages are struggling to keep pace with inflation.

Trump told CBS News Texas in an interview that he doesn't believe Congress would need to approve his planned payments, though he did not specify how he could spend more than $1 trillion without Congress.

"Well, we think not," Trump said about congressional approval. "I think they will do it if we needed it. But we think not."

Later, when pressed by a reporter at the airport before he left Dallas, Trump denied the $5,000 was meant to turn out the vote even though he originally said the money would be distributed "if the Republicans win." Instead, he described the payments as a "reward" for citizens who endured Joe Biden's presidency.

"It's almost a reward for the people having to put up with Biden's policy," he said.

Trump's idea is mocked by critics

A few of Trump's allies embraced the idea, including Ohio Sen. Bernie Moreno, who said he would prepare legislation for the payments. Michigan Rep. Tim Walberg, the Republican chairman of the House Education and Workforce Committee, said "it was the first I heard of it last night" but called it good economic policy.

"If it can be done, the American taxpayer deserves the benefit of having more in their pocket than the government," Walberg said ahead of a brief session in the Capitol on Thursday.

But critics accused him of trying to buy votes at a time when Republicans are trying to maintain slim majorities in Congress.

"I don't know about you all, but frankly I'm insulted by the notion that my vote this November could be bought for 5k," Rep. Thomas Massie, a Kentucky Republican who is one of Trump's least favorite lawmakers, wrote on social media. "Not to mention the inflation this would cause."

Rep. Ted Lieu, vice chairman of the House Democratic caucus, outright mocked the president.

"If Democrats flip the House and Senate everyone will get a $10,000 dividend, and a pony, and free ice cream for life," he posted on social media. "(Folks can also choose free yogurt for life, because we're Democrats after all)."

The president's proposal, unveiled in his nearly two-hour speech Wednesday night in Dallas, would carry a price tag exceeding $1.3 trillion if Congress were to authorize $5,000 payments to the nation's 270 million adults.

The Treasury already is running a current annual deficit approaching $1.8 trillion, and the total national debt topped $40 trillion this year. According to Treasury Department data, that interest expense for fiscal year 2026 will come to about $1.27 trillion, similar to the projected cost of Trump's idea.

The price tag prompts concerns about debt and inflation

Economists raised concerns about inflationary effects from such a large infusion of cash into the economy.

Michael Strain, director of economic policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute, a center-right think tank, said Trump would be repeating the same policy mistake as his predecessor, Democrat Joe Biden.

As part of his 2021 pandemic relief package, Biden provided $1,400 payments to most Americans, which Strain had warned at the time would spark inflation.

"But Mr. Trump's proposal would be worse than the Biden stimulus in the sense that in 2026 the economy already has an inflation problem," Strain said, while Biden's policy was intended to shore up an economy disrupted by COVID-19.

"Trump would be pouring gasoline on lit inflationary embers and hoping it wouldn't ignite," Strain said.

At the center-left Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, senior policy director Marc Goldwein agreed with the comparison to Biden's policy and emphasized the potential impact on the deficit.

"The idea that we've had fiscal success is backwards and bordering on laughable," he said. "We don't have surpluses to give away."

The financial markets appeared to be unimpressed by Trump's promise. Interest rates on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note climbed above 4.9% in Thursday afternoon trading, meaning that the cost of mortgages and auto loans will likely rise in ways that hurt the middle class.

Trump allies are faced with their own arguments

Many Republicans, including from Trump's inner circle, are in a difficult spot after they've spent years blasting Biden and other Democrats for their spending.

As recently as last week, Vice President JD Vance and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent blamed Trump's predecessor when asked about current price levels and consumer concern.

In the White House briefing room, Vance said at once that he was not interested in assigning blame while in the same answer noting "how endemic inflation became during the Biden administration."

Bessent told CNBC that Biden and his allies "torched the American people" with their approach. "Almost 50 percent of the great inflation came from the out-of-control spending that went on then," he argued.

Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders, one of Trump's press secretaries during his first presidency, ran into the same conundrum Thursday — after the president's speech — when she shared on social media

her appearance on Fox Business Channel.

"You do not build a strong economy by giving things away," Sanders said.

"At the end of the day, though, somebody has to pick up the check," she continued, "and it's the taxpayers that will ultimately pay the price."

Goldwein said ultimately that political and constitutional realities could spare the president.

"You never want to say it's impossible," he said. "But within the confines of the law, at least the law as everybody understands it, the president does not have legal authority to send people $5,000 per adult, and he needs Congress to pass a law."

Vance? Rubio? DeSantis? Cruz? Republicans at Dallas convention ponder options for post-Trump leader

By THOMAS BEAUMONT, JILL COLVIN and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — As Vice President JD Vance addressed the crowd at the Republican midterm convention, he was interrupted by a fan who shouted "JD 48!" Others joined in, and Vance paused with a smile before cutting them off.

"We gotta take care of business this November and then we'll worry about what comes next," he said.

Vance was front and center Thursday night as he and President Donald Trump urged Republicans to turn out for fall elections that will signal the looming end of Trump's time in the White House and the beginning of the race to succeed him.

"Vance was awesome," said Phil Torrison, a longtime Trump supporter from Omaha, Nebraska. "I think tonight he probably won the 2028 nomination."

The vice president's speech solidified his status as a potential frontrunner, and Trump talked him up afterwards as a "very talented guy" who "did a very good job."

However, his place as Trump's heir was hardly a given in the hallways of the American Airlines Center in steamy Dallas this week. In interviews with nearly two dozen attendees, there was no clear consensus yet on a favored 2028 candidate. While Vance received plenty of mentions, a long list of others — including Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis — were on wish lists as well. And most said they weren't ready to commit.

The uncertainty mirrors the wide-open field on the Democratic side, which is embroiled in its own soul searching, and it underscores the early date, since no candidates have even officially said they're running. It also reflects how completely the party has come to revolve around Trump in the decade since he seized control, making it difficult for some Republicans to consider a future without him at the helm.

Rochelle Brooks shook her head at the prospect of voicing her preference for a 2028 nominee so soon. But when pressed, she offered up Trump's top rival for the 2024 nomination.

"If I had to name somebody at this moment, if I was forced, I would say it's the governor of Florida, Ron DeSantis," said the Dallas IT manager. "What he's done in Florida is a roadmap for what we need to do in America."

Others were more certain.

Peggy Stanton could hardly get Rubio's name out of her mouth fast enough when asked who she would like to see atop the Republicans' 2028 ticket. Even though the Houston retiree didn't support his 2016 campaign for president, Stanton said she always believed Rubio would be president some day.

"He's so knowledgeable. He totally understands international threats, the threats of communism," she said. "Every single issue I hear him speak on, he gets it. He has charisma. I just feel like he would be a great president."

Many Republicans are torn between Vance and Rubio

For others, a decision will depend on the person Trump ultimately chooses to endorse, if he ends up doing so.

Norma Alruosan, a payroll tax analyst who lives in the Dallas suburb of Coppell, is currently torn between Vance and Rubio. She said she "loves Vance" and "can relate to him" because of their similar backgrounds,

but she also loves what she dubbed Rubio's "Latino tongue," meaning his willingness to speak his mind.

"That's going to be hard," she said. Her decision will likely depend, she said, on whom Trump endorses.

Others said it was far too early to be asking.

Stephanie Donofry rolled her eyes at a decision still two years off, but said she was also torn between Vance and Rubio.

"They are both proven. They are both capable," the mother from politically pivotal Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, said. "I couldn't tell you which one I prefer more."

Donofry was among the roughly 450 delegates from battleground states Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, along with his home state of Ohio, whom Vance addressed privately at a Thursday morning breakfast.

Attendees said Vance was met with chants of "48, 48, 48," a reference to the number of the next president of the United States, as well as "JD, JD, JD."

Vance is seen as a natural choice, but not the only one

Vance, who is widely expected to seek the 2028 Republican presidential nomination, gave no hint of his plans. But he didn't have to, Wisconsin Republican Party Chairman Brian Schimming said.

"He's so savvy. He's just a savvy guy," said Schimming, noting that Vance had been to Wisconsin, where Trump won by less than a single percentage point in 2024, three times this year and is expected back before Nov. 3.

Bill Schneider of Frisco, Texas, who works in finance and was attending the convention with his wife, said he would like to see a joint ticket with Vance and Rubio in 2028, with Vance at the top.

Schneider said he likes the secretary of state a lot, but thinks Vance is a fitting choice because of his current office and because he'd continue Trump's policies.

"He's kind of like spending a little bit more time with Trump, kind of see the inner workings, how he is," Schneider said. "And I think he also has a very similar personality to Trump in terms of very direct. I think he's very sharp-witted."

His wife, Tani Schneider, a homemaker who immigrated from Brazil almost 30 years ago, said her choice is Texas Sen. Ted Cruz because he's Cuban American.

That gives him insight, she said, into the way left-wing governments have transformed Latin American countries and shifted toward socialism, which she sees as a worrisome possibility in the U.S.

"I don't like how I see the changes here. I came here to have a better life," she said.

There are plenty of dark horse candidates

Still, there were other surprising names in the mix.

Kimberly Moyers, 42, the national vet force director for Veterans for America First, said her pick to lead the party is Kentucky Rep. Thomas Massie, who lost his primary to a Trump-backed challenger.

Self-described "political junkies" Dina and Kevin Myers, 54, from nearby Grand Prairie, have their hearts set on Texas Republican Rep. Brandon Gill, who is 32 and will be younger than the constitutional minimum of 35 to run for president in 2028.

"I want it cleaned out. On both sides. I want fresh. And I like young," said Dina Myers, an independent. "We've had a rough 10 years and I think we just clean everybody out and start fresh."

But Anthony Johnston, 33, an accountant from Delaware who drove 29 hours with his father to be at the convention, believes Vance is Trump's natural successor.

"I think Vance is being groomed for that position. I mean, that's why he picked him for VP," he said. "He's different than Trump. No one's Trump. But I like him a lot."

His father said he hasn't made up his mind, but was excited about the potential choices.

"We've got a deep bench," said Bruce Johnston, 62. "You got Vance, Rubio, the governor of Florida … DeSantis. I mean you've got a lot of good candidates. I'd pick any of those for the primary. And we'll get a good one."

Groton Daily Independent
Friday, Sept. 11, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 097 ~ 47 of 76

Under Trump, census eyes sweeping plan to omit immigrants, race data

By TERRY TANG Associated Press

The Trump administration is proposing a dramatic overhaul of the once-a-decade U.S. Census head count that could leave out millions of immigrants based on status and key racial and ethnic data, jeopardizing the allocation of resources and the country's voting map.

The potential changes, announced Wednesday, would exclude undocumented immigrants, asylum seekers and anyone without permanent status. Certain demographic questions from the traditional questionnaire would also be eliminated.

It echoes Trump's previous idea to add a citizenship question to the 2030 census.

The U.S. Census Bureau, in a post on the Federal Register website, argued "illegal aliens (among others) should not be included in the apportionment count, as they are not true inhabitants, members of the body politic, or persons with a 'usual residence' in the United States due to their lack of a sufficient tie and allegiance to the United States."

The census also "should be colorblind and should not be distorted in any way by questions about immaterial personal characteristics, such as race," the agency said. It also is considering nixing questions related to people who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community.

These changes would harm the quality of the data, said Beth Jarosz, a data researcher and vice president of the Association of Public Data Users. She called the proposals "unprecedented."

"Not counting all of the people who reside here is actually where the real threat is," Jarosz said. "If you think about all of the ways that census data are used."

Census figures are traditionally used for an "apportionment count" to determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. That count also determines the number of votes in the Electoral College.

"You can imagine if we have undercounts or if we have people counted in the wrong place," Jarosz said. "Then their political power or their political representation gets diluted."

Immigrants of every status have historically been counted

Historically, the decennial census has not sought to conduct a full count of people by citizenship status, she added. It may come up in the Census' periodic American Community Survey.

Getting an accurate count of immigrants of various statuses is useful when assigning resources for public health emergencies or natural or human-made disasters.

"If you don't have a count of everyone who's there, you're not going to have the resources you need," Jarosz said. "And that puts everybody at risk."

Why race and ethnicity census data matters

Race-related questions have been on the once-a-decade census since 1790. Starting in 2000, the U.S. census began allowing people to identify by more than one race. A 2015 Pew Research Center study found that multiracial people in the U.S. were growing at a rate three times faster than the general population. By 2020, 33.8 million people in the U.S. identified as being more than one race, according to the census.

Race and ethnicity data is essential for researchers who gauge discrimination, crime rates and wealth gaps in communities of color.

Manjusha Kulkarni is co-founder of Stop AAPI Hate and executive director of AAPI Equity Alliance, two advocacy groups that rely on census counts of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The proposed changes would have tremendous impact on the populations they serve, she said.

"It also seeks to exclude important demographic data from millions that enables lawmakers, health care providers, public safety officials and community advocates — really anyone who cares about the health, safety and well-being of all Americans — from having the necessary data to keep us safe and healthy," Kulkarni said via text message.

Dropping race and ethnicity data as well as some immigrants sends a message that these communities don't matter, she added.

Collecting data for the 2030 Census with all these missing elements would be detrimental, Jarosz said.

"These changes are like trying to land an airplane when you are in thick fog and someone has thrown paint across the front window and your instruments are also not working," she said.

Prosecutor brought in to lead investigation of Trump foes tells AP that he has resigned his position

By ERIC TUCKER and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An ally of President Donald Trump said Thursday that he has resigned from his post leading a Justice Department investigation into whether former law enforcement and intelligence officials conspired against the Republican president.

The departure of Joe diGenova injects instant tumult into an investigation targeting former government officials who have scrutinized Trump over the last decade, including in connection with Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election and his retention of classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida.

"I did in fact resign," diGenova told The Associated Press, calling it an "honor and a privilege" to serve Trump and the Justice Department.

Though diGenova declined to comment to the AP on the circumstances of his resignation, a person familiar with the matter who insisted on anonymity to discuss a personnel decision said the departure came amid mounting frustration from the Justice Department and White House over the pace and management of the probe.

In an interview later with The New York Post, diGenova responded to criticism of his management of the investigation by saying, "If you want indictments where there's no evidence, you have an ethical problem."

When reached again by the AP, diGenova said the comments were taken out of context, adding: "There's plenty of evidence in all of these cases to prove the theories of prosecution. It just takes time to get there, and some people want to get there a little faster than others — and you can't do that."

The investigation has always been something of a tall order, aiming to present separate and unrelated inquiries of the president as part an anti-Trump conspiracy by law enforcement and intelligence professionals. Though promoted by the White House, and seized on by Trump supporters looking for accountability against what they see as "deep state" intelligence community actors, the conspiracy investigation has proceeded in fits and starts since its inception a year ago.

The 81-year-old diGenova served as the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia during the Reagan administration and for years has been a prominent Trump ally, including backing his efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss and publicly and repeatedly claiming that the president was the victim of an intelligence community conspiracy.

He was brought back to the Justice Department in April and given the reins of the loosely defined investigation.

Five months later, no charges have been brought and it remains unclear whether any will be, or what information has been gathered to support any basis for the idea of a plot against Trump by the government officials who investigated him.

Investigators have sought interviews related to the 2022 FBI search that recovered classified documents from Mar-a-Lago and have also focused intensely on one of Trump's chief grievances: a U.S. intelligence community assessment that Russia interfered on his behalf in the 2016 presidential election. The assessment has long infuriated the president, along with a Justice Department special counsel investigation into Russian election interference that shadowed him during his first term.

That special counsel investigation identified widespread Russian interference in the election but did not find evidence to prove a criminal conspiracy between Moscow and the Trump campaign. Multiple other government inquiries, including by the Justice Department inspector general, have identified significant errors and omissions in the FBI's handling of the Trump-Russia probe but did not find evidence of criminal conduct by senior law enforcement officials.

The yearlong conspiracy investigation has hit stumbles before. Last April, a lead national security prosecutor in the investigation of former CIA Director John Brennan was replaced on the team after raising questions about the strength of the case. Days later, diGenova was sworn in.

Brennan has been investigated on allegations that he lied to Congress about the creation of the intelligence community assessment, which he and his lawyers have vigorously denied. In July, he sued the Justice Department for a court order requiring the preservation of all records from the investigation, forecasting plans to challenge any potential indictment of him on vindictive prosecution grounds.

Trump administration silence has 200,000 Salvadoran immigrants hoping they're protected

By GISELA SALOMON and TIM SULLIVAN Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — A deadline for the Trump administration to decide whether about 200,000 immigrants from El Salvador can remain protected from deportation has passed without any public announcement, raising hopes among many for another six-month extension while also sowing confusion.

The Department of Homeland Security has been quiet about its plans, leaving attorneys and advocates scrambling to decipher what might happen next to Salvadorans who have been raising families in the U.S. for decades.

On Thursday, Homeland Security issued a statement saying the department would make an announcement "at an appropriate time" and that Temporary Protected Status for El Salvador would stay in effect until then. The department issued the same statement Wednesday.

"Let's be clear: this is not an official extension or decision by DHS as to the fate of TPS for El Salvador," Ben Johnson, who directs the American Immigration Lawyers Association, posted Wednesday on social media. The Trump administration is leaving TPS holders, their families and their employers in limbo, he said.

Some attorneys are cautioning that the administration could eliminate the protections without making a public statement, or announce a decision at any time.

Living in limbo after all these years

The absence of an announcement has raised hopes that Salvadoran immigrants might be spared the fates of hundreds of thousands of immigrants from other countries whose protected status has ended during President Donald Trump's second term. But the lack of clarity is also harrowing.

"Facing this uncertainty is frustrating and painful," said Doris Landaverde, who was 21 when she crossed the U.S. border illegally in December 2000, seeking better job opportunities. A few months later, she obtained TPS status and has worked legally ever since, mostly cleaning at Harvard University, she said.

Now a 47-year-old single mother, Ladaverde said she and her two U.S.-born daughters all consider this country home. The housing and health care of these American citizens depends on her income, and without TPS she could lose her job, she said.

"We have lived here legally for decades, and that is hard to erase," she said. "I feel angry; we have done everything we were told to do legally."

Will Trump make an exception for his ally?

El Salvador, once one of the most violent places in the world due to organized crime, has become one of the safest countries in the Americas since Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele cracked down on gang members in 2022.

While rights activists accuse Bukele's government of widespread abuses, the country is notably safer than many other countries whose people have recently lost TPS protections.

Haiti is perhaps the clearest example, with U.S. deportation flights unable to land in Port-au-Prince because the capital city is largely controlled by gangs. More than half the population is estimated to need humanitarian assistance because of surging gang violence amid deepening poverty and hunger.

As a result, U.S. deportation flights land in the northern city of Cap-Haitien. The U.S. sent its fourth straight weekly deportation flight to Haiti on Thursday, according to Human Rights First's ICE Flight Monitor.

But Trump has a far different relationship with Haiti's deeply troubled leadership than he has with Bukele.

Bukele has supported Trump's deportation campaign and his government was among the first to receive deportees, holding them in a mega prison known as CECOT. But mass deportations of his citizens could shock El Salvador's economy. Salvadorans in the U.S. sent home $9.9 billion in remittances last year, representing 24% of El Salvador's gross domestic product, its central bank said.

Trump and Bukele have met twice in Washington since last April. In 2019, during the first Trump administration, Bukele asked Trump to extend TPS. Bukele has not said publicly if he has requested another extension.

More than 1 million people now subject to deportation

In Trump's second term, Homeland Security has ended TPS for more than 1 million people from more than a dozen countries, including Venezuela, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Afghanistan and Syria. In addition to the Salvadorans, about 103,000 people, from Ukraine, Sudan and Lebanon, remain protected from deportation under TPS.

The Trump administration notched a major victory when the Supreme Court ruled in June that it acted within its authority by ending TPS for about 350,000 Haitians and 6,000 Syrians.

Tom Homan, Trump's "border czar" who has advocated for ending TPS, said Tuesday that the El Salvador decision rests with Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin.

"If it expires, it's up to the secretary," Homan said. "Temporary protected status means temporary. Let's face it, El Salvador is a much safer country than it's ever been now with a new president up there."

Congress created temporary protections in 1990

TPS was created by Congress in 1990 to prevent deportations to countries suffering from natural disasters or civil strife.

TPS allows people already in the country to remain, with work permits, for renewable periods if the homeland security secretary determines conditions are unsafe for their return. Federal rules say the status is automatically extended for six months if the secretary doesn't make that determination at least 60 days before the designation expires. It is not clear, however, whether the determination has been made for El Salvador.

TPS was granted to El Salvador following two devastating 2001 earthquakes that left hundreds of thousands of people homeless. Just before leaving office, President Joe Biden extended it for El Salvador for 18 months, expiring Sept. 9, 2026.

Missouri is poised to revert to former congressional districts after court rejects Trump-backed map

By DAVID A. LIEB and LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Missouri is poised to hold its November election with congressional districts passed after the last census, after the U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday again rejected a new map backed by President Donald Trump that Republicans hoped could help them win an additional seat in the pivotal midterms.

The Supreme Court's decision marked a defining moment in a pitched legal battle that has lasted nearly a year and caused confusion for voters. Citing the court's latest action, Missouri's chief election official directed local authorities to use U.S. House districts passed in 2022, as the state's highest court had ordered.

Trump wanted courts to allow the use of his preferred map, which lawmakers approved last year at his urging.

The decision means Missouri could run the November general election with different U.S. House districts than were used in the August primary — an extremely rare situation that could switch the candidate choices for more than a million potential voters, or nearly 1 in 4 voters statewide, according to an Associated Press estimate.

No Supreme Court justices publicly dissented from the brief order. It did not detail the court's legal reasoning, as is typical in emergency appeals.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the U.S. Supreme Court

decision.

Missouri's highest court scrutinizes secretary of state's actions

Earlier Thursday, Missouri's top court convened a hearing on whether to hold Republican Secretary of State Denny Hoskins in contempt for not following its orders to use the districts passed after the last census. Hoskins had instead told local election authorities to use the new Trump-backed map, pointing to a competing order from a federal judge on Tuesday that forbade him from using anything other than the new districts.

Missouri Supreme Court judges, while questioning a state attorney representing Hoskins, repeatedly pressed for Hoskins to send out guidance Thursday to use the 2022 version of the congressional districts.

"We're in a precarious situation," Chief Justice W. Brent Powell said.

Hoskins later released a statement acknowledging the U.S. Supreme Court decision, saying "my Office is directing local election authorities to use the 2022 congressional map."

The court then reconvened, finding Hoskins in contempt for violating its order not to use the Trump-backed map but then quickly declaring that he had corrected the problem with his latest order to use the 2022 map. The court imposed no consequences on Hoskins.

Missouri voters could face significantly different districts

Outside the court, progressive activist Keith Rose stood in the rain protesting Hoskins' legal maneuverings to try to use the Trump-backed map. Rose, who helped gather petition signatures to put the new map to a statewide vote, said he hopes the U.S. Supreme Court's decision Thursday ends the uncertainty.

"We need some finality. We need to focus on the real issues that Missourians care about," Rose said.

Candidates who won Missouri's August primary already have been certified for the November ballot according to the number of the district they won. But those districts could substantially change shape.

The 5th Congressional District encompasses only the Kansas City area under the 2022 map that Republican lawmakers passed after the last census. Under the revised map backed by Trump, portions are shed to neighboring districts and the remainder is stretched into rural Republican areas. About 59% of the potential voters are new to the district under that version, according to an AP estimate.

Some other states that have switched congressional districts after their primaries have redone their primary votes. Alabama held a new primary in August under revised districts when the U.S. Supreme Court allowed a change to occur after voting in the original May primary.

In Missouri's case, however, no court has suggested redoing the primary.

The redistricting battle began over a year ago

Missouri's battle over its congressional districts has spanned more than a year and spawned confusion over which districts will be in place for voters.

It was the second Republican-led state, after Texas, to enact new districts after Trump urged Republicans last year to redraw House districts to their advantage ahead of the midterm elections.

The revised districts target a Kansas City-based seat held by Democratic Rep. Emanuel Cleaver of Kansas City, aiming to help Republicans win seven of the state's eight House seats in the midterm elections.

Redistricting opponents collected hundreds of thousands of petition signatures seeking to force a statewide vote on the new districts. They submitted the signatures in December. But Hoskins waited until August — on the same day as Missouri's primary — to reject the petition. Hoskins asserted that a referendum petition could not be used for congressional redistricting.

The delay allowed Missouri to use the new districts in its August primary. Cleaver was unopposed for the Democratic nomination. State Sen. Rick Brattin won the Republican primary for the right to challenge Cleaver. Brattin was among those suing in federal court to try to prevent the state from reverting to the prior districts.

Republican U.S. Rep. Bob Onder, who was also among those suing, said Thursday: "This isn't over." He noted that the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will hear arguments on the merits of his case.

Republican state officials have argued that it would violate voters' federal rights to switch districts before the general election.

But the Missouri Supreme Court last week ordered Hoskins to put the redistricting referendum on the November ballot, which he did. It also ruled that the new districts never became law and instead were suspended retroactively to the December petition submission. The court barred Hoskins from using the new map and said the old map — passed by Republican lawmakers in 2022 after the last census — must be used in the November election.

The state then appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court to block the state court decision. Justice Brett Kavanaugh rejected the request.

The group People Not Politicians Missouri, which sponsored the redistricting referendum, applauded the Supreme Court decisions that left the state court ruling in place.

"The law is the law, the Missouri constitution is clear as was the Missouri Supreme Court," said Executive Director Richard von Glahn. "The courts have settled this, now it's up to Missouri voters to finish the job and vote NO on Proposition A."

In Florida's 15th execution this year, man put to death for killing linked to 'Hog Trail Murders'

By DAVID FISCHER Associated Press

STARKE, Fla. (AP) — A Florida man convicted in one of a series of suspected killings that became known as the "Hog Trail Murders" in the 1990s was put to death Thursday, becoming the state's 15th person executed this year.

Daniel Owen Conahan Jr., 72, was pronounced dead at 6:12 p.m. after receiving a three-drug lethal injection at Florida State Prison near Starke. He had been sentenced to die for the 1996 kidnapping and strangling of Richard Allen Montgomery, whose mutilated body was found in a wooded southwest Florida area where authorities found the remains of at least six people over a three-year span.

Conahan was already strapped to a gurney with an IV in his arm when the curtain to the death chamber went up at 6 p.m. A spiritual adviser was at his feet and prayed throughout the process.

The team warden asked Conahan if he had any final statement, and Conahan replied, "No sir." The deadly drug cocktail began to flow at 6:01 p.m. Conahan began to pant and then twitch briefly before going still. Several minutes later, the warden shook Conahan and shouted his name but there was no response.

A medic entered the death chamber at 6:11 p.m. to check for vitals, and Conahan was declared dead a minute later.

Conahan died in the nation's busiest death chamber. Florida has carried out more than half the 25 total executions in the U.S. so far this year under Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, who leaves office in January.

Conahan was identified by authorities as a person of interest in the other deaths, but he was never charged. He argued the evidence against him in Montgomery's death was circumstantial.

Multiple bodies found in popular hunting area

Conahan was arrested in July 1996 after local and state law enforcement officials spent more than two years investigating a series of homicides in which mutilated and decomposing bodies were discovered in a wooded area of Charlotte County, north of Fort Myers.

As the number of bodies increased, so did media coverage. The deaths eventually were dubbed the "Hog Trail Murders" because of the swampy, wooded locations where the bodies were found. The case has been featured many times over the past three decades on true-crime television shows, YouTube channels and podcasts.

Hunters found the first body in February 1994, and at least five more were discovered over the next three years. While most of the remains were severely decomposed, investigators believed Montgomery was found within 24 hours of his death. Investigators eventually determined the killer was targeting homeless men.

Investigators found similarities in cases

Detectives started looking into Conahan in 1996 after a man in prison for stealing Conahan's car claimed Conahan had lured him to a remote area and offered to pay him to pose for nude photos. The man said he drove off in the car after seeing a knife.

Later, detectives learned about a case with similarities in Fort Myers, in which a victim claimed a man who offered cash for nude photos had tied him to a tree and attempted to strangle him. Conahan was arrested and charged with attempted murder, and several months later was also charged in Montgomery's death.

Conahan waived his right to a jury trial and was convicted by a judge of murder and kidnapping in August 1999.

Conahan was never charged with any other homicides, but a sheriff's office report about the investigation concluded that all of the victims discovered within a 10-mile (16-kilometer) radius were likely killed by the same person.

In 2007, a land survey crew discovered eight bodies in Fort Myers. The four victims identified by authorities were homeless, and officials said they all suffered similar injuries to the Charlotte County victims. Investigators at the time publicly identified Conahan as a person of interest, but he was never charged.

One relative of a Hog Trail victim says her family would celebrate Conahan's death

According to corrections officials, 11 victim family members attended Thursday's execution, but the officials wouldn't say if they were relatives of Montgomery or of Conahan's other suspected victims.

Joan Rodemann, the sister of a Hog Trail victim named William Melaragno, released a written statement saying that her family would celebrate Conahan's death.

"Finally, the gates of HELL will open and you can join the other soulless spawns of the devil. Sadly, you won't feel the pain or fear you horrifically brought onto your victims," Rodemann said. "Our prayers are for the victims and their families."

Florida leads the way in executions

A total of 47 people were executed in the U.S. in 2025. Florida led the way with 19 lethal injections, a state record since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976.

In July, Florida executed two prisoners in one day, the first state in nearly a decade to do so. Another Florida execution is planned shortly, that of Curtis Wilkie Beasley, 77, on Sept. 29. Beasley was convicted of beating a woman to death with a hammer and stealing her car in 1995.

All Florida executions are by injection of a sedative, a paralytic and a drug that stops the heart, according to the Department of Corrections.

Trump list of US-designated 'foreign terrorist organizations' in Latin America grows to 21

By MARÍA VERZA Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The Trump administration has designated 21 Latin American and Caribbean criminal groups as "foreign terrorist organizations," with the latest an Ecuadorian group added to the list on Wednesday.

The announcement came during the U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to Colombia, Ecuador and Peru where he is focused the U.S. strategy to combat drug trafficking in Latin America.

The label was once reserved for groups like the Islamic State group or al-Qaida that use violence for political ends — not for money-focused crime rings. But Trump's aim was to increase pressure on the groups and anyone who the U.S. sees as aiding them.

The strategy rolled out in February 2025 and served as a pretext for the capture of Venezuelan Nicolás Maduro, and for dozens of attacks on alleged "narcoterrorist" boats, resulting in more than 200 deaths. It also led Latin American countries such as Guatemala and Argentina to take similar actions against certain groups and states like Ecuador to launch joint operations on Ecuadorian soil.

Mexico, with eight groups on the list, has the most of any country. Its government is under extreme pressure from the U.S. to avoid Trump unilateral actions, especially since the indictments of high-ranking officials in Sinaloa state.

But Trump's approach has also revealed contradictions. Former Honduras President Juan Orlando Hernández, sentenced to 45 years for drug trafficking and accused during the trial to protect the Sinaloa Cartel, was pardoned by Trump last year and has returned to his country.

Here's a look at the 21 Latin American and Caribbean criminal groups labeled as foreign terrorist organizations:

MEXICO

1. The main targets: Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation cartels

The Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, named for the states that are their strongholds in northwestern Mexico, are multinational criminal groups and the largest fentanyl traffickers into the U.S.

The Sinaloa Cartel is Mexico's oldest criminal organization dating back to the 1970s. It is a criminal conglomerate that moves all sorts of drugs across continents using boats, planes, migrants and cross-border tunnels.

A former security chief was convicted of helping them. It controls the western portion of the U.S.-Mexico border although the arrest of Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada set off internal jockeying for power and weakened the group.

The Jalisco New Generation Cartel, established in the early 2010s, is a hyperviolent group that has attacked Mexican authorities, using explosive-dropping drones and improvised explosive devices. It attempted a spectacular assassination of the then-Mexico City police chief — now Mexico's security secretary — in the heart of the capital.

The DEA says the group now distributes tons of cocaine, methamphetamine and fentanyl in all 50 U.S. states. Jalisco Cartel has remained powerful following the killing of its leader Nemesio Oseguera, "El Mencho" in February and ongoing captures.

2. Control of the Texas border: Gulf Cartel, Northeast Cartel and Juarez Cartel

The Gulf Cartel and the Northeast Cartel operate along the eastern end moving drugs, immigrants, guns and money in what is the most direct route to the U.S. from Central and South America.

Gulf Cartel's former leader, Osiel Cárdenas Guillén (now imprisoned in Mexico after serving a sentence in the U.S.), recruited members of Mexico's military in the late 1990s to form a fearsome element known as the Zetas that eventually split and became their own drug trafficking organization. The Northeast Cartel is a remnant of the Zetas and their base is Nuevo Laredo, the busiest commercial port on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Juarez Cartel has controlled for decades a key crossing point in the central part of the Mexico-U. S. border: Ciudad Juárez, across from El Paso, Texas. Both its founder, Amado Carrillo Fuentes and the brothers and sons who succeeded him, turned the trafficking of tons of drugs into a multimillion-dollar business. Despite the arrests of many of its leaders, the cartel and its allied gangs maintained control of a vast infrastructure for smuggling illegal shipments into the U.S.

3. Local cartels in a key western state: La Familia, Carteles Unidos and Viagras

These local organized crime groups operating in the west-central Mexican state of Michoacan produce synthetic drugs and have consolidated their regional control of the territory through extortion and shifting names, loyalties and alliances.

La Familia Michoacana , now renamed "Nueva Familia Michoacana" is the oldest. The other two, former allies, emerged following the 2013–2014 armed uprising led by farmers who succeeded in driving out many of the old cartels, only to see them replaced by new ones.

Their extortion affects all economic sectors, including a key Mexican export to the U.S.: avocados.

CENTRAL AMERICA

4. Barrio 18 and Mara Salvatrucha

Barrio 18 and Mara Salvatrucha, also known as MS-13, are both largely based in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. They originated in Los Angeles as a street gangs created by Salvadoran immigrants. When many of their members were deported from the U.S. to El Salvador, the gangs expanded and gained power across Central America, where they continue to terrorize communities.

In recent years, both groups has been dealt a powerful blow by El Salvador President Nayib Bukele, who has waged war on the country's gangs, imprisoning more than 80,000 people for alleged gang ties. Last October, Guatemala also designed both gangs as terrorists and toughened laws against them.

COLOMBIA

5. Clan del Golfo

With an estimated 9,000 fighters, Clan del Golfo is one of Colombia's most powerful armed groups. Also known by its Spanish acronym AGC, the group evolved from right-wing paramilitary squads that fought Marxist guerrillas in Colombia in the 1990s and 2000s.

According to a report of the Human Rights Defender's Office, AGC is present in about a third of Colombia's 1,103 municipalities, where it extorts local businesses.

Clan del Golfo was involved in peace talks with Colombia's government last year, but those talks dissolved with the election of Abelardo de la Espriella as president.

VENEZUELA

6. Tren de Aragua

This organized crime group emerged from a prison in central Venezuela more than a decade ago. In recent years, it has spread from Chile to the U.S., capitalizing on the exodus of some 8 million Venezuelans escaping their country's political and economic crises.

While its origins are in drug trafficking, its main businesses are migrant smuggling, human trafficking, sexual exploitation and forced labor. It's known for extreme violence — decapitations and burying victims alive..

7. Cartel de los Soles

The entity that the U.S. government alleges was led by Maduro, is not a cartel per se but was designated as such less that six weeks before Maduro was captured in January.

Venezuelans began using the term Cartel de los Soles in the 1990s to refer to high-ranking military officers who had grown rich from drug-running. As corruption expanded under the late President Hugo Chávez and then under Maduro, its use loosely expanded to police and government officials as well as activities like illegal mining and fuel trafficking. The "suns" in the name refer to the epaulettes affixed to the uniforms of high-ranking military officers. The umbrella term was elevated to a Maduro-led drug-trafficking organization in 2020 when the U.S. announced the indictment of Venezuela's leader.

ECUADOR

8. Los Lobos, Los Choneros, The Chone Killers and Los Tiguerones

Los Lobos, Los Choneros, The Chone Killers and Los Tiguerones are gangs blamed for much of the violence that began during the COVID-19 pandemic. All are involved in contract killings, extortion operations and the movement and sale of drugs.

Los Tiguerones is an armed group that was formed in Guayaquil in 2019 as the armed wing of Los Choneros, the criminal organization that serves as the parent group for most of Ecuador's criminal gangs.

Authorities have blamed them for the increased violence in the country as they fight over drug-trafficking routes to the Pacific and control of territory, including within prisons, where hundreds of inmates have been killed since 2021.

All of them are among 22 criminal gangs designated as "terrorists" by Ecuador in 2024.

BRAZIL

9. Commando Vermelho and Primeiro Comando da Capital

Commando Vermelho and Primeiro Comando da Capital are two of the most violent criminal organizations in Brazil. They work with some 50 smaller gangs all over the country.

Together, they command thousands of members and have orchestrated brutal attacks against Brazilian police officers, public officials, and civilians. Their influence and illicit networks extend far beyond Brazil's borders.

HAITI

10. Viv Ansanm and Gran Grif gangs

The two Haitian groups are mainly linked to arms trafficking, kidnapping, murdering, extortion and, to a lesser extent, to drug trafficking.

The Viv Ansanm coalition is best known for launching a series of attacks starting in February 2024 that shuttered Haiti's main international airport, freed hundreds of inmates from the country's two biggest prisons and eventually forced former Prime Minister Ariel Henry to resign. It controls at least 85% of the

capital, which forces nonprofits and other groups to negotiate with gangs so they can gain access to communities to provide food, water and other critical supplies.

In October, the gang was blamed for killing more than 70 people in Pont-Sondé.

Lindsay Clancy's lawyer asks the judge to spare her a second trial for killing her children

By LEAH WILLINGHAM and MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Lindsay Clancy shouldn't be tried a second time for killing her three young children because prosecutors don't have enough evidence, her lawyer told a judge Thursday, saying the court should decide she's not guilty by reason of insanity.

Eleven of 12 jurors were ready to clear Clancy of criminal responsibility last Friday, but their deadlock forced the judge to declare a mistrial, leaving the case unresolved.

Attorney Kevin Reddington's motion asked the same judge to acquit Clancy, which would prevent a second trial. Prosecutors have yet to say whether they'll seek to put the 36-year-old former labor and delivery nurse on trial again, and Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy Cruz did not respond to a phone message Thursday seeking comment.

Neither side disputed that Clancy strangled 5-year-old Cora, 3-year-old Dawson and 8-month-old Callan Clancy in the family's home in 2023 before trying to end her own life. But her attorney said she was a loving mother in the grip of a rare condition called postpartum psychosis, while prosecutors argued she knew what she was doing.

The trial generated intense interest for weeks, drawing attention to maternal mental health after childbirth.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This story includes discussion of suicide. If you or someone you know needs help, the national suicide and crisis lifeline in the U.S. is available by calling or texting 988.

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Under Massachusetts law, prosecutors had to prove either that Clancy did not have a mental disease or defect or that, despite having one, she retained the substantial capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of her actions or conform her conduct to the law.

Reddington argued in Thursday's court filing that prosecutors proved neither, and asked Judge William Sullivan to consider the motion at a court conference scheduled for Sept. 29.

The defense attorney said none of the psychiatric experts, either called by the prosecution or defense, disputed that Clancy was suffering from a mental illness. "The testimony bears on which illness she had, not on whether she had one," he wrote.

Prosecutors pointed to Clancy's actions in the weeks, days and hours leading up to the killings — driving, planning a child's birthday party, bringing her daughter to a doctor's appointment — and her ability to perform other everyday tasks as evidence she was of sound mind when the killings took place.

"Competence at routine tasks," Reddington argued Thursday, "during a crisis which every witness agreed was acute, is not proof of criminal responsibility beyond a reasonable doubt."

The judge acknowledged during jury deliberations that the trial had been emotionally and physically exhausting for everyone. Much of the testimony was excruciating to hear, from the heartbreaking 911 call made by the children's father who found their bodies, to the descriptions of how they died.

Clancy was brought to tears several times. At one point, the judge called a short break as Clancy's loud sobs filled the courtroom while the children's autopsy photos were shown. She remains paralyzed from the waist down after jumping from the home's second story, and is expected to stay at a psychiatric hospital until her case is resolved.

Groton Daily Independent
Friday, Sept. 11, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 097 ~ 57 of 76

Oil prices leap to their highest since May and drag Wall Street lower

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil prices keep climbing as the war with Iran keeps clogging the global flow of crude, and they leaped Thursday to their highest levels since before the summer. That worsened worries about inflation and cranked up pressure within the bond market, helping to send stocks lower again on Wall Street.

The S&P 500 fell 0.6% for a fourth straight loss, its longest such streak since June, though it's not far from its all-time high set last month. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 316 points, or 0.6%, and the Nasdaq composite sank 0.7%.

Stocks sank under the weight of rising oil prices. Brent crude, the international standard, climbed another 6.3% and briefly topped $108 per barrel for the first time since May before settling at $107.63.

It's jumped from less than $72 in early July as hopes fade that the war with Iran will allow oil to flow freely again from the Middle East anytime soon. President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that oil prices likely won't come down until after the U.S. midterm elections in November.

The jump has vaulted the price for a gallon of regular gasoline to an average of nearly $4.28 across the United States, according to AAA. That's up nearly 34% from a year earlier and is not only costing people more at the pump but also through higher prices for all kinds of products that move by truck to store shelves.

A report on Thursday said inflation at the U.S. wholesale level accelerated to 5.4% last month from 4.8% in July, and retailers could eventually pass such increases in prices onto shoppers. A report is coming on Friday that will show how much inflation U.S. consumers are feeling.

The typical move to rein in high inflation is for the Federal Reserve to raise its main interest rate, the federal funds rate. Such a move then filters out through the rest of the bond market, makes it more expensive for U.S. households and businesses to borrow money, slows the overall economy and undercuts prices for investments. That hopefully would remove some of inflation's fuel.

A report on Thursday suggested the U.S. job market may remain solid, with fewer workers applying for unemployment benefits last week. That could give the Fed more confidence that the economy could withstand higher interest rates.

Following Thursday's reports, traders see a roughly 73% chance the Fed will raise the federal funds rate at its meeting next week. That's up from the 61% probability seen the day before, according to data from CME Group. That's also despite Trump's consistent lobbying for interest rates to go lower rather than higher.

The Fed's counterpart in Europe, the European Central Bank, raised its own interest rates on Thursday in hopes of getting inflation in check. It cited "the conflict in the Middle East" and how it "continues to generate inflation pressures."

It all pushed the yield on the 10-year Treasury up to 4.95% from 4.83% late Wednesday, which is a significant move for the bond market.

It's up from just 3.97% before the war with Iran began and is back to where it was in the autumn of 2023. That was after the Fed cranked the federal funds rate higher to get super-high inflation coming out of the COVID pandemic under better control.

Higher yields mean investors can make more money putting their money into bonds, which can in turn make investors less willing to pay high prices for stocks and other investments that are riskier than bonds.

Some investors see a 5% yield on the 10-year Treasury as the next potential flashpoint. But strategists at Bank of America's Research Investment Committee suggest 7% may be the more important threshold, pointing to peaks for expensive stocks around that point in the past.

In the meantime, the rising 10-year Treasury yield is making mortgages more expensive and hurting the housing industry. One report on Thursday said the average long-term U.S. mortgage rate hit its highest level in over 14 months, while a second one said sales of previously occupied U.S. homes fell in August to their slowest pace in more than a year.

That helped sent stocks of homebuilders lower, including drops of 3.5% for Lennar and 2.4% for D.R.

Horton.

Elsewhere on Wall Street, Macy's fell 4.7% even though the retailer reported stronger profit and revenue for the latest quarter than analysts expected. While raising its forecast for earnings this fiscal year, it warned that "there are macroeconomic and geopolitical factors that could influence" how much its customers feel comfortable spending.

Macy's said it received $116 million in tariff refunds from the government — $98 million during the quarter and another $18 million after the quarter ended. Macy's CEO Tony Spring told The Associated Press Thursday that it's using some of the proceeds to lower prices on certain items like furniture and other big-ticket purchases.

All told, the S&P 500 fell 44.66 points to 7,591.70. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 316.56 to 52,064.10, and the Nasdaq composite sank 171.62 to 26,081.72.

In stock markets abroad, indexes slipped across much of Europe and Asia. Hong Kong's Hang Seng dropped 1.3% for one of the world's biggest moves.

Associated Press journalists who witnessed Sept. 11 remember what they saw, 25 years later

By JOSEPH FREDERICK, DAVID R. MARTIN and LEAH WILLINGHAM Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Karen Matthews was getting her 3-year-old daughter ready for preschool in her Manhattan apartment on Sept. 11, 2001, when she heard a loud boom, unlike anything she'd ever heard before.

Holding her child, she went outside. Around her, people stared up at a gash in the north tower of the World Trade Center, smoke billowing from the building just blocks from her home.

"What did you see? What did you see?" people were asking one another. Matthews, an Associated Press reporter, began asking the same question, fumbling to get out her notebook and record what people had witnessed, all with her daughter still in her arms.

Matthews had planned to drop her daughter at school before working later to cover New York's primary election. Instead, she and other AP journalists found themselves documenting the Sept. 11 attacks as they lived through them.

Twenty-five years later, they remember what they saw.

At first, no one knew what was happening

On her way outside, Matthews passed a woman in her building's lobby with tears streaming down her face. Some people assumed a small plane had accidentally struck the tower.

Then she saw a "big fireball" erupt from the south tower as a second hijacked jet struck.

"'I want to go to school, I want to go to school,'" her daughter started crying.

"That's when we all knew that we were under attack," Matthews said.

Matthews started toward the preschool anyway, until she saw teachers grabbing children and running north, many of them crying. She took her daughter upstairs, intent on getting her to a safe place, and put on Barney.

Then she heard two more impossibly loud roars — one tower collapsing, then the other. Nearly 3,000 people died in the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon, and on the four jets hijacked by al-Qaida militants.

Twenty-five years later, Matthews, now retired, still divides her life into before Sept. 11 and after.

"I'm not a really fearful person," she said. "But you lose a sense of security when something like that happens."

"I do think it helped to be part of telling the story of what happened," Matthews said.

The camera becomes a wall

Lower Manhattan's streets were filled with smoke and debris when Richard Drew got off the subway at Chambers Street and saw the burning twin towers.

His assignment that day had originally been to cover the opening day of Fashion Week — a whirlwind of glamour, models and runway shows.

He began taking pictures. Gray ash and soot covered his clothes, face and cameras.

An emergency medical worker pointed up and said, "Look at that." People were plummeting from the burning towers.

"I don't know whether they were jumping or they got forced out by the fire," Drew said.

Drew photographed them. One image became known as "The Falling Man." It shows a lone man falling headfirst, his body nearly aligned with the vertical lines of the towers. The photograph appeared in some newspapers the next day, but was rejected by other publications that worried readers would find it too upsetting.

Drew still thinks about the photograph — and the unidentified man in it — at least once a week.

"When I'm in a situation like September 11th, I go into professional photographer mode and I concentrate on whatever's happening in front of me," said Drew, who also photographed the 1968 assassination of Robert F. Kennedy.

He said his wife calls his camera a wall — a filter between the photographer and the reality they're capturing.

"I guess I'm in denial about whether those things really affected me," he said.

The wheelchairs stayed empty

Dust from the pulverized towers was falling "like a snowstorm" when AP reporter Larry Neumeister made it to a hospital near ground zero that afternoon.

Doctors and nurses gathered outside. Lines of wheelchairs and gurneys waited at the entrance. Staff were preparing for a constant stream of injured survivors — potentially thousands, Neumeister said.

Then the hours passed.

"It became clear nobody else was being brought in," Neumeister said.

Around midnight, Neumeister walked by the World Trade Center site. A doctor told him: "You either walked away from the site or ran away from the World Trade Center buildings when they fell, or you were gone. There was no in-between."

He knew his father's voice

AP journalist Jeremy Brown, then 26, was filming near the World Trade Center when he heard a deep rumble. A firefighter ran toward him, yelling: "Grab your camera, follow me."

Brown followed him into the loading dock of 7 World Trade Center as a huge wave of debris approached. They sheltered in a room as the building went dark.

"You could feel the heat from the debris. You could smell it," Brown said.

When the rumbling stopped, they felt their way through the darkness until they found an emergency exit. Brown pulled his T-shirt over his face and began filming.

"Jeremy!" he suddenly heard someone shout. It was his father, who worked nearby.

"It was just incredible. It was like winning the lottery," Brown said.

With no cell service, Brown's mother didn't know whether either had survived. Father and son stayed together that day, his father carrying Brown's camera bag with extra tapes and batteries.

"As a cameraman that day, I was looking through my viewfinder, and everything was black and white, and I knew I was recording history," Brown said. "But every time I looked up as a human I could see the devastation, the hurt, and I knew that the world was never going to be the same."

Her training took over

Sept. 11 was supposed to be Amy Sancetta's day off.

The Ohio-based retired AP photographer had stayed in New York after covering the U.S. Open tennis when her editor called: A small plane had hit one of the towers. She needed to go downtown.

Sancetta realized she didn't know where the twin towers were. She got into a cab and told the driver to get her as close as he could.

About a block and a half away, Sancetta was photographing the south tower when it began to collapse.

"The weirdest thing that went through my head at the time was, it was kind of muscle memory, like shooting a basketball game," she said.

When the cloud of debris came toward her, Sancetta ran into a parking garage. In a stairwell, she found a woman crying who had escaped from the towers and wanted to call her son. Sancetta hugged her and reached for her flip phone. Her hand was shaking. There was no signal. Sancetta took the son's number and promised to call him.

When she emerged onto the street, everything was white, "like covered with snow, but not snow." The screaming and pounding footsteps had given way to crying and whimpering. Loose-leaf office paper floated through the sky "like birds."

"I wish I'd shot that," Sancetta said. "I didn't, but I can see it — I see it right now."

Twenty-five years later, Sancetta held up a newspaper from Sept. 12 showing the burning towers she had photographed.

"NIGHTMARE," the headline read.

Outside her windows now are woods. But she can still remember the sound of the tower collapsing — "just unearthly."

"As a journalist, I'm glad I was there," Sancetta said. "But as a human being, I wish I'd gone home on Monday."

Former hockey players at University of Michigan sue, say they were sexually abused decades ago

By ED WHITE Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — More than a dozen former hockey players are suing the University of Michigan, alleging their coach and other staff were aware of sexual hazing that included the forced shaving of their genitals and other abuse by teammates decades ago.

"The abuse was ritualized, meticulously planned, and sadistic. ... Enduring sexual abuse was required to be a member of the Michigan Men's Ice Hockey team," attorney Michael Pitt said in a sex discrimination lawsuit filed Wednesday in federal court in Detroit.

The plaintiffs are 16 men who played at Michigan between 1984 and 2001. The lawsuit apparently grew out of conversations among several former teammates in 2024.

The university said the allegations are "disturbing," but denies responsibility.

"To the extent any former student athlete engaged in hazing or other misconduct, they were violating university policy," spokesperson Paul Corliss said in a written statement.

"The university first adopted an official anti-hazing policy in 1982. It was one of the first universities in the country to do so, and it has earned its standing as a leader in this area," he said.

The 72-page document describes players being forced to consume excessive amounts of alcohol and eat live fish. A common allegation: They were forced to have hair around their genitals shaved by teammates. A player identified as John Doe 7 said he was taunted with a blowtorch while on a table.

The lawsuit says Red Berenson, who was coach from 1984 to 2017, was aware of the abuse and did not intervene.

John Doe 3 said he told Berenson that he didn't want to participate in the hazing. The coach coerced him by telling him to be a "Michigan Man" and a "good teammate," according to the lawsuit.

Berenson, 86, declined to comment when reached by The Associated Press. He told MLive.com there was a "certain element of initiation" by the team's seniors, but no one had complained to him.

"Were there some mishaps? Were there some bad experiences? Possibly, but it wasn't a matter of direction or encouragement from the coaching staff or from the administration," Berenson, a former NHL player, said.

"When they say sexual, I'm guessing they're stretching this," he said.

Berenson announced the end of "freshman hazing" in 2012, mostly referring to first-year players being forced to carry equipment and eat team meals last. He made no mention of physical abuse but acknowledged "captains that got too carried away," according to news reports at the time.

The university could argue that the hockey players waited too long to file a lawsuit, a position it took in

2020 when former athletes sued over sexual misconduct committed decades earlier by a campus sports doctor. The university ultimately agreed to pay $490 million to settle claims by more than 1,000 people.

Fire in eastern Congo kills at least 26 students at 2 schools

By JANVIER BARHAHIGA Associated Press

BUKAVU, Congo (AP) — A fire swept through two adjacent schools Thursday in the city of Bukavu in eastern Congo, killing at least 26 students and injuring dozens, the provincial government said.

The South Kivu provincial government said in a press release that 19 girls and seven boys were killed, adding that the death toll could rise.

The spokesperson for rebel M23 group that controls the city, Lawrence Kanyuka, said earlier that 24 students were killed and 29 people were being treated at local medical facilities.

The fire started at a house before spreading to the two adjoining schools, local neighborhood administrator Moïse Lubala told The Associated Press.

He said several students were trapped inside Furaha secondary school and some suffocated.

A mix of boys and girls of different ages, students at Furaha and at Ujamaa primary school, were brought to the Nyamulagira BDOM health center in their school uniforms, nurse Ciza Jean-Baptiste told the AP.

Medical staff were struggling to keep track of the exact number of injured because there were so many, he said.

"The exit was too narrow, so some students began jumping through windows while others rushed toward the door. As everyone tried to force their way out, students were pushed over and trampled on," said Lubala.

The cause of the fire is not known, but the neighborhood where the fire started is densely populated and most houses are made out of wood, according to Lubala.

Congo's government struggles to exert control over the east of the country. M23 rebels, backed by Rwanda, took control of Bukavu in February 2025. More than 100 armed groups are vying for control of eastern Congo's trillions of dollars in mineral wealth that's critical for much of the world's technology.

Health services are under severe strain as the region grapples with the deadliest Ebola outbreak in history that has killed more than 3,300 people, with more than 6,800 confirmed cases recorded.

Kimmel says interview with James Talarico won't air on TV under pressure from the FCC

By JESSE BEDAYN Associated Press

Late-night host Jimmy Kimmel said the agency that regulates television "threatened" the show and that an interview with James Talarico, the Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate in Texas, will not air on television but on YouTube — thus bypassing any control or regulation by the Federal Communications Commission.

It's not the first time a TV show has moved an interview with Talarico to YouTube. The candidate's appearance on Stephen Colbert's show in February was moved online over network fears that it would violate regulatory guidance from the Federal Communications Commission on giving equal time to political candidates.

Talarico is in a tight race against Republican, Ken Paxton, the Texas attorney general, and has given Democrats hope of winning statewide in the otherwise GOP-dominated Lone Star State.

"For the whole 20+ years of our show, in fact, I've been interviewing Americans who are running for office with no problem," said Kimmel on his Wednesday night show, the titular "Jimmy Kimmel Live."

"Something has changed," he continued, suggesting that Trump's presidency was that something. "His FCC has threatened me, threatened our show, threatened our network, ABC, our affiliates our local stations, based on simple traditional editorial decisions, guest bookings it would seem they don't like."

The FCC did not immediately respond to a request for comment. But Anna Gomez, the Commission's sole Democrat, said in a Thursday statement on social media that Kimmel's decision to keep the interview off-air "shows just how far this Administration's campaign of censorship and control has gone."

Gomez condemned the latest "intimidation" from her agency — and added that she hopes "courts will soon make clear that the FCC has no place dictating editorial choices or what viewers are allowed to see."

In August, in a further escalation of its battle with the Trump administration, Disney-owned ABC sued the FCC on First Amendment grounds, saying the agency's demand for early review of its broadcast licenses — years before they were set to expire — posed an "existential threat" to the network.

The FCC had ordered the review months earlier, citing the network's diversity and inclusion practices as a reason, but the development came shortly after a joke by Kimmel — a long-outspoken Trump critic — had infuriated the president. In April, Trump and first lady Melania Trump called for ABC to fire Kimmel over a joke where the late-night comic described the first lady as having "the glow of an expectant widow."

Kimmel didn't elaborate further Wednesday on what grounds the FCC cited when the agency, as he put it, threatened the show over the Talarico interview. In the past, including with Talarico on Stephen Colbert's show, the contention has been over a requirement that broadcast stations give equal time to political candidates when they appear on-air.

The rule traditionally hasn't been applied to talk shows. But the Trump administration, through the FCC, announced in January that late-night and daytime hosts had to follow it.

Across the US, high school sports provide a sense of community — and, for some, a way out

By WILL GRAVES AP National Writer

The phone calls started coming long before the lights at "The Pit" flickered on for the first time this fall.

"When will the senior citizen passes be available?" Aliquippa High athletic director Jennifer Damico's office heard more than once as the latest season of Quips football inched forward.

At the school about 30 minutes northwest of downtown Pittsburgh, the passes have been a longstanding tradition — a way for the community's past to connect with its present.

A lot has changed in the century-plus since Aliquippa first opened its doors. The Aliquippa Works steel mill, which employed well over 10,000 workers at its height before the industry collapsed, is long gone. Many storefronts in the heart of the borough's business district sit empty.

One of the few constants through the years has been those precious hours every week during the fall when the Quips storm out of the locker room.

"We might be going to different churches on Sunday at 11," says coach Mike Warfield, an Alquippa alum and retired state trooper who believes the program saved his life twice. "But on Fridays at 7, we're together."

Amid an ever-changing landscape, when a constant distraction sits in the palm of your hand, and the culture wars seem specifically designed to divide, those Friday nights and everything they represent endure.

"It may be overstated, but I think it's kind of an American institution," says Bruce Howard, director of publications and communications at the National Federation of State High School Associations director of publications and communications. "If you played on a sports team in school, you're still talking about it. You still remember it."

In a country in which nearly a third of the population tunes in to the Super Bowl, the confluence between sports and community may be felt most acutely in far smaller venues.

A tradition that is thriving across the board

A century-plus ago, organized sports at the local level were a mishmash. There were no real age limits or parameters. Around the dawn of the 20th century, state athletic associations began to pop up in the Midwest, hoping to establish a little order amid the chaos. The model they created provided the framework for what has become an intrinsic part of the high school experience.

Today, even with competition from youth travel leagues, prep sports are thriving. The NFHS's annual survey for the 2025-26 academic year estimated there were over 8.4 million participants in high school sports, a 25% jump since the 20th century became the 21st.

The expansion of opportunities — particularly on the girls' side with flag football and wrestling — has helped. It also looks good on a college resume.

Yet the roots, particularly for the 1.1 million high school football players and what they have come to represent, run far deeper than that.

The bond between players, school and community can be timeless

Rich Boronyak grew up in Crafton, Pennsylvania, 60 years ago. A three-sport star at long-since-closed Crafton High, he remembers the parade the town threw after a football championship. The faces that lined those streets are still so fresh in his mind.

"Everybody knew everybody," he said from the stands at "The Pit" while waiting for his grandson, who plays football for Mars Area High, to take on the Quips.

It remains that way in countless places across the nation, though perhaps few where the pressure and the privilege of playing are more intertwined than Aliquippa.

It's not just the record 21 regional championships, the five state titles, and the notable alumni like Pro Football Hall of Famers Mike Ditka, Ty Law and Darrelle Revis. It's all of it.

Senior running back Akiva Woods says "there's a huge standard to stay up to."

Reminders dot the stands at home games, where the alums reminisce and keep tabs on the latest members of what all involved universally describe as a family.

Things have changed since Paul Royba graduated in 1984. Back then, there was no pregame hype video. No cameras capturing every moment. Gone are the miserable grass field and the locker room where hot water was more myth than fact.

And still, part of the appeal remains eternal.

"The mentality and the spirit has stayed the same," says Royba, now 60 and recently retired after 34 years in the corporate world.

That spirit is described on Quips T-shirts: "Aliquippa against the world." The school of around 320 students does its best to silence the outside noise that their hometown is poor, small and dangerous.

"Athletics is what I believe has kept this place going," Damico says. "There's been good economic times and bad, but the athletics is always the constant, always the positive story that is coming out of here."

Things are hardly perfect, but they're hardly perfect anywhere.

America's harsh realities in 2026 have a way of showing up. About an hour east of the Quips and the Mars Planets game, longtime rivals Gateway and Penn Hills played in front of a mostly empty stadium after school officials learned of a "potential threat."

For some, the lights provide the launching pad for the American dream

For Woods, his goals lie beyond Aliquippa. He's already received scholarship offers from nearby Division II schools, and he's hoping a standout senior year turns even more heads.

It's working out that way for Lester Longmire. A year ago, he was a senior linebacker and one of the leaders of the defense. Now he's a special teamer and freshman sports management major at Slippery Rock University, about an hour north.

Standing on the sideline as the Quips struggled in the first half against Mars, Longmire talks about the urge to get away, even though it means leaving his support system and everyone he cares about.

"I do miss football. I miss the community and all that," he says. "But I want to start a new life, so I plan on staying out of here."

Just not quite yet. Eager to encourage his former teammates, Longmire wades into the sea of red-and-black jerseys.

As he walks away, the safety and the promise of the Friday night lights and all they have meant and all they will mean cradle him once more.

US wholesale prices rise in latest sign of stubborn inflation as oil prices continue to climb

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Wholesale inflation picked up last month after cooling earlier this summer as higher oil and gas prices stemming from the Iran war keep costs elevated.

The Labor Department's producer price index — which captures inflation before it reaches consumers — rose 5.4% in August from a year ago, up from 4.8% in July, the government said Thursday. Annual wholesale inflation peaked this year at 5.9% in May after the Iran conflict raised energy costs. On a monthly basis, wholesale prices increased 0.4% from July to August, after a 0.1% increase the previous month.

Inflation has shown some signs of easing in recent months but is still high, frustrating consumers who are struggling with more expensive gas, groceries, clothing and other essentials. U.S. oil prices topped $100 a barrel Thursday on renewed fighting in the Middle East, while President Donald Trump has intensified a trade war with Canada, a sign tariffs still could push up costs. Rising prices pose a political problem for the Trump administration and Republicans running in the midterm elections.

In a striking acknowledgment Wednesday, Trump said that oil prices likely won't come down until after U.S. midterm elections, but added that prices will fall immediately after Nov. 3.

"Right after the election, oil prices are going to be tumbling downward," Trump said. "I think it's going to take a little bit longer than the midterm."

The cost for a regular gallon of gasoline has soared 44% since the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran in late February, according to data from the AAA. Diesel, which is used in manufacturing, shipping and transportation, and can have an outsized role in producer and consumer prices, has rocketed 59% higher in that same time frame.

Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, core prices rose 0.2% from July to August, the same as the previous month. Compared with a year ago, core prices rose 4.6%, up from 4.2% in July.

Energy prices were a big driver of last month's increase as fighting in the Middle East flared. The wholesale price of diesel soared 24.1% just from July to August. It has risen nearly 78% from a year earlier. Diesel fuel is used in large cargo trucks for shipping goods all over the country, and could make groceries, clothes and other items more expensive. Shipping prices rose 2.3% just last month.

Other items that jumped in price include airfares, hospital care, and electronic components, which have been lifted by rampant spending on AI data centers. Food prices ticked up just 0.1% last month, a potential signal that grocery costs could cool. Electric utility prices declined, too.

Thursday's figures will come under particularly close scrutiny because they could help determine whether the Federal Reserve raises its short-term interest rate at a policy meeting next week. Data from the producer price index helps calculate the Fed's preferred inflation measure, which will be released Sept. 30.

Airfares, hospital care and physician services all grew more expensive last month, with airfares jumping 4.2%. Those measures are all included in the Fed's preferred gauge and their increases could make a rate hike more likely.

With wholesale inflation "still looking relatively hot, the Fed seems likely to hike this year even if it doesn't pull the trigger this month," wrote Stephen Brown, chief North America economist for Capital Economics.

Even more important is Friday's consumer price index report, the government's highest-profile inflation release. Figures from that report are also used to compile the Fed's preferred measure of costs. Economists believe that report could show core prices cooled in August. Some Fed officials have said that if Friday's CPI is high, they would lean toward a rate hike at the central bank's meeting next week. But if it comes in relatively low — as it did in June and July — they would support keeping rates on hold.

The Fed's main goals are supporting maximum employment and combating inflation by keeping prices stable. It raises borrowing costs to cool spending and slow inflation.

Fed chair Kevin Warsh said in a high-profile speech late last month that the central bank needs to be "confident that underlying inflation is moving" to its 2% objective. "Otherwise, we have work to do," comments that have led many economists to expect a rate hike next week.

Yet last Thursday, Fed governor Christopher Waller, echoing some other Fed officials, suggested that if Friday's inflation report shows price increases cooling, then he would support keeping rates where they are. Waller is one of the 12 officials who vote on each Fed rate decision.

Another key concern for the Fed is whether inflation is driven mostly by one-time factors such as more expensive oil and gas, or if higher prices are spreading more broadly through the economy. Warsh noted in his remarks two weeks ago that more than half the 199 categories of goods and services the government

tracks have recorded price increases of at least 3% compared with a year ago, an unusually high number.

Ella Langley leads Country Music Association Awards nods, with mentor Miranda Lambert close behind

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Ella Langley, riding the wave of her crossover megahit "Choosin' Texas," led Thursday's nominations for the 2026 Country Music Association Awards with nine nods, followed by her mentor Miranda Lambert with six.

Also among top nominees: Kacey Musgraves and Ben West with five nominations each, Cody Johnson, Chris Stapleton and Stephen Wilson Jr. with four nominations each, and Dave Clauss, Luke Combs and Lainey Wilson with three nominations each.

Joining Langley in competing for the night's highest honor — CMA entertainer of the year — will be Johnson, Stapleton, Combs and Wilson, who is aiming for a repeat.

Langley's "Be Her" and "Choosin' Texas" both nabbed nominations for single of the year, along with Taylor Swift's "I Knew It, I Knew You" from the movie "Toy Story 5," Wilson's "Somewhere Over Laredo" and Johnson's "The Fall." Producer-writer Jack Antonoff got his first nomination in the single of the year category as producer of Swift's song.

In February, Langley became the only woman to simultaneously hit No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100, Hot Country Songs and Country Airplay charts, all thanks to "Choosin' Texas," co-written with Lambert. Langley also won all seven of her nominations at the 2026 ACM Awards.

Nominated for album of the year are Langley's "Dandelion," Zach Top's "Ain't In It For My Health," Musgraves' "Middle of Nowhere," Parker McCollum's self-titled album and Combs' "The Way I Am." Song of the year nominees are "Be Her," "Beautiful Things," "Choosin' Texas," "Dry Spell" and "Gary."

Lambert, whose 14 CMA awards are more than any other woman, co-produced Langley's "Dandelion" album and co-wrote "Choosin' Texas." Langley will appear on Lambert's upcoming album "Crisco," featured on the opening song "Snakeskin Boots."

Lambert said Thursday in an interview that although she has earned a haul of CMAs over the years, this year is special because of the work she did on "Dandelion."

"This time's a little different because I get to be nominated as a producer, which has never happened before. So I'm really excited about that," she said.

Last year, Wilson, who hosted and performed at the CMAs, took home the entertainer of the year award, as well as album of the year. Male vocalist of the year went to Johnson, and Brooks & Dunn won vocal duo of the year. Wilson will return as host this year.

The vocal group of the year category this year includes Lady A, Little Big Town, Midland, Old Dominion and The Red Clay Strays. New artist of the year candidates are Avery Anna, Carter Faith, Emily Ann Roberts, Tucker Wetmore and Wilson.

Female vocalist of the year nominations pit Lambert and Langley against Megan Moroney, Musgraves and Wilson. (Lambert has now passed Reba McEntire with the most female vocalist of the year nominations all-time with 19.) The male counterpart has Combs, Johnson, Stapleton, Top and Wilson.

The prizes are nominated and voted on by more than 7,000 members of the Country Music Association, which includes music executives, artists, publicists, songwriters and other industry professionals. The 60th annual CMA Awards will be broadcast live from Nashville's Bridgestone Arena on Nov. 18 on ABC and Disney+, and the next day on Hulu.

South Korea trying to learn if Kim Jong Un has a son but daughter's status as heir appears solid

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's National Intelligence Service said it is trying to determine if North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has an older son while reaffirming its assessment that his daughter is

the likely heir to the nation's leadership.

The spy agency's statement on Thursday was likely a response to a recent media report that South Korean intelligence authorities have determined Kim has no son with his wife, Ri Sol Ju. The NIS said that even if a son exists, he is not in a position to become the successor to Kim, who took the reins of North Korea's government after the 2011 death of his father.

Kim's daughter, who is reportedly named Kim Ju Ae and around 13, is likely in line to take over leadership of North Korea from her father, the agency has previously said.

The NIS said it was still attempting to verify whether Kim's daughter has an elder brother, but under the current circumstances he cannot be his father's heir even if he exists. The agency said Kim Jong Un also has a younger child whose gender has not been confirmed.

The statement Thursday didn't elaborate on the NIS assessment about Kim Ju Ae's solid political status. But it previously cited a comprehensive analysis of her public activities and state protocols provided to her.

Since late 2022, Kim's daughter has accompanied him to numerous high-profile events including missile launches and big military parades. State media said she is her father's "most beloved" or "respected" child and churned out footage and photos proving their closeness and her rising political standing.

The report of her name is based on an account by former NBA star Dennis Rodman, who recalled holding Kim Jong Un's baby daughter during a 2013 trip to Pyongyang, the North Korean capital.

In 2023, a South Korean lawmaker said the NIS informed a legislative committee that Kim Ju Ae had an older brother. But the agency reportedly clarified it was still trying to verify reports that the North Korean leader had a son.

Whether she has an older brother is a key issue in outside discussions about North Korea's potential succession plans because of its deep-rooted system of patriarchy and male-dominated power. Since its establishment in 1948, all three of North Korea's leaders have been male members of the Kim family. Kim Jong Un was preceded by his father, Kim Jong Il, and grandfather, Kim Il Sung.

Some experts doubt whether elderly top North Korean officials would accept command by a female. They also note Kim Ju Ae's rise to power could eventually mean the end of her family's rule if she marries a man from a different family and hands power to their child.

Other experts say Kim Jong Un, 42, is still too young to designate his heir, a move that could diminish his absolute power.

The push to remove lead pipes is on. Thousands of water systems still don't know where theirs are

BY M.K. WILDEMAN Associated Press

Kathryn Pilgrim knew the century-old Victorian she bought in Dunkirk, New York, came with old plumbing. She replaced pipes she suspected of containing lead and later installed a kitchen filter designed to remove heavy metals.

But six years after buying the house, she still can't be sure that her tap water is lead-free because she doesn't know what material was used for the pipe that runs under her front yard and connects to the city water supply. Dunkirk is nearly two years behind schedule on an inventory that would give Pilgrim and other residents that information.

Dunkirk, which supplies water to about 5,000 homes and businesses, is one of more than 1,300 public water systems cited by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for failing to meet an October 2024 deadline to hand in an inventory of the water lines that could be leaching the heavy metal into Americans' drinking water, an Associated Press analysis of the agency's enforcement data shows.

Roughly 6,300 water systems serving 3.8 million Americans have still not submitted a required list of how many lead service lines remain in use.

Those inventories are critical for cities to replace all lead pipes by an upcoming 10-year deadline. Failing to document the lines also means residents won't know if their homes have a potential source of lead exposure.

Pilgrim, a special education teacher who has fostered teenagers, had been educated on the dangers of lead, especially in paint. The colon cancer survivor's concerns extended to her drinking water.

"I just thought there was some stuff in the water that might not be great," she said.

Officials with the city of Dunkirk did not respond to requests for comment.

Lead pipes are abundant across New York and many communities around the country with older infrastructure. The city of Buffalo's data shows 45% of its service lines — which connect homes and businesses to the water supply — are made of lead, the third-highest rate of any major city. The city of Fredonia, which neighbors Dunkirk, reported 28%.

Lead is a priority under Trump administration

Lead is a neurotoxin that can stunt children's development, lower IQ scores and increase blood pressure in adults. Roughly 4 million homes and businesses are still connected to water utilities via lead pipes, according to the EPA's latest estimate.

How much lead is entering the building depends on factors like the water chemistry and the pipe's condition, but lead service lines remain the most significant source of the heavy metal, according to the EPA.

The EPA has touted its work on lead lines as a key environmental win. About three-quarters of the drinking water enforcement orders issued by the EPA since President Donald Trump's return to office were related to missing inventories.

Most water systems with missing inventories are small — 84% provide drinking water to fewer than 500 people, the AP analysis shows. Many are small housing developments, mobile home parks or schools.

The EPA said it turned to enforcement only after efforts to help water systems comply were unsuccessful. Utilities need the inventories to prepare for a 2027 deadline requiring most drinking water providers to replace their lead lines within 10 years, the agency said. The Trump administration has also defended that aggressive deadline, enacted under Biden, in court.

Rob Hayes, a senior director with Environmental Advocates of New York, said it is a rare environmental regulation the Trump administration has not sought to scrap.

"It speaks to the universal popularity of getting lead out of drinking water," he said.

Inventories are not easy

About 3,500 water systems reported they don't know what their service lines are made of. One in five service lines nationwide were reported as having unknown materials.

Many utilities are racing to identify unknown pipes by next year, when they must begin replacing them.

In Chicago, home to the most lead lines of any city in the country, crews are working block-by-block, digging up the pipes that branch off from the utility's main line. The city still doesn't know the material of close to one in 10 service lines. So in those cases, crews may have to excavate them to check the material, said Patrick Schwer, the city's water quality director.

"We are digging through every single piece of information that we have associated with every single service line trying to find any indications of the material," he said. "We're scouring millions of work orders, trying to pull at little threads of information."

Lead pipes for public water date as far back as the late 1800s and were prevalent all the way to the 1950s. Lead was a preferred material at the time because it was resistant to corrosion, and as a result, the original lines remain in use decades later.

Chicago advises residents with unknown lines to assume they are made of lead if their building predates 1986, when it was banned under the U.S. Safe Drinking Water Act.

Records of the installations were often lost, incomplete or illegible. Lapses in recordkeeping have made it difficult for some utilities to complete their inventories, said Joshua Klainberg, senior vice president with the New York League of Conservation Voters.

Still, Klainberg said, leaving residents in the dark about whether they should take precautions by not submitting an inventory at all is "unforgivable." Even an incomplete inventory can alert people they may have a lead service line, allowing them to take precautions such as running the tap, using filters — the highest-quality of which can remove most lead — and cooking only with cold water, he said.

Limited funds for replacements

For utilities, not knowing what is in the ground will carry an even stiffer consequence beginning in 2027. Starting then, they are required to replace 10% of lead water pipes each year, usually with copper or plastic pipes. But lines made of unidentified materials will be included in that target, said Erica Galante-Johnson, a lead policy analyst with the Environmental Policy Innovation Center.

"The more unknowns, the more lines a system needs to replace every year," Galante-Johnson said.

And each replacement is expensive, usually costing between $8,000 and $15,000, according to EPIC.

In Chicago's case, "the city is actively going after every single dollar that we can," from the federal and state governments, Schwer said. The city still needs to replace about 393,000 lead service lines.

Most funding for identifying and replacing lead pipes comes from the 2021 bipartisan infrastructure law, with states distributing it. This is the final year of dedicated federal funding for lead projects, though previously allocated money will continue flowing to communities.

Water systems without an inventory will fall even further behind as national efforts shift toward replacements, Hayes said.

"If they can't even get an inventory together, how the heck are they going to get the resources and the manpower and the kind of coordination between governments together to actually get workers out on the street and dig these pipes out of the ground?" he said.

Across the US, 'Friday night lights' provide a sense of community — and, for some, a way out

By WILL GRAVES AP National Writer

ALIQUIPPA, Pa. (AP) — The phone calls, all asking the same question, started coming long before the lights at "The Pit" flickered on for the first time this fall.

"When will the senior citizen passes be available?" Aliquippa High athletic director Jennifer Damico's office heard more than once as the countdown to the latest season of Quips football inched forward.

At the school perched atop a hill about 30 minutes northwest of downtown Pittsburgh, the passes have been a longstanding tradition — a way for the community's past to connect with its present.

A lot has changed in the century-plus since Aliquippa first opened its doors. Not all of it for the better.

The Aliquippa Works steel mill, which ran for miles along the nearby Ohio River and employed well over 10,000 workers at its height before the industry collapsed, is long gone. While the lampposts along Franklin Street in the heart of the borough's business district carry banners honoring "Hometown Heroes" who served in the armed forces, many storefronts behind them sit empty.

One of the few constants through the years has been those precious hours every week during the fall, when Chief Mark Swan trots onto the field atop War Eagle with a flaming spear in hand, the Quips storm out of the locker room named after legends, and the daily challenges of the outside world slip away.

"We might be going to different churches on Sunday at 11," says coach Mike Warfield, an Alquippa alum and retired state trooper who believes the program saved his life twice. "But on Fridays at 7, we're together."

Amid an ever-changing landscape, when a constant distraction sits in the palm of your hand, and the culture wars seem specifically designed to divide far more than they're designed to unite, those Friday nights and everything they represent endure.

Not just in Aliquippa, but Alaska and Alabama and everywhere in between. And not just on the football field, but the basketball courts, the baseball and softball diamonds and all the rest.

"It may be overstated, but I think it's kind of an American institution," says Bruce Howard, director of publications and communications at the National Federation of State High School Associations director of publications and communications. "I think it's something that 30, 40, 50 years from now, if you played on a sports team in school, you're still talking about it. You still remember it."

In a country in which nearly a third of the population tunes in to the Super Bowl, the confluence between sports and community may be felt most acutely in far smaller venues that carry far bigger personal stakes.

The tradition is thriving across the board

A century-plus ago, organized sports at the local level were a mishmash. There were no real age limits

or parameters of any kind. Stumble into what passed for a football game at the time, and it wasn't unusual to see adults, college students, and high schoolers all out there together, safety and any semblance of fair play be damned.

Around the dawn of the 20th century, state athletic associations began to pop up in the Midwest, hoping to establish a little order amid the chaos. The model they created — including sponsoring championships and dividing member schools into classifications based on student population — provided the framework for what has become an intrinsic part of the high school experience.

Fast-forward 100-plus years. Even amid increased competition from youth travel leagues, prep sports are thriving. The NFHS's annual survey for the 2025-26 academic year estimated there were over 8.4 million participants in high school sports, a 25% jump since the 20th century became the 21st.

The expansion of opportunities — particularly on the girls' side, where flag football and wrestling are fueling significant growth — has helped. It doesn't hurt that many universities view an athletic background, regardless of ability or results, as a plus on a college resume.

Yet the roots, particularly for the 1.1 million high school football players and what they have come to represent, run far deeper than that.

For many families, the intangibles learned playing sports — the reliance on teamwork, the ability to deal with adversity and the simple act of putting their phone down to interact with their peers — are an invaluable teaching tool that can be difficult to replicate elsewhere.

A recent AP-Ipsos survey revealed that about half of parents with K-12 school-aged children say their kids play a structured sport. And in an era where pay-to-play "travel" teams are becoming commonplace despite the soaring costs, high school sports offer a typically cheaper and in some ways, more meaningful alternative.

Pittsburgh Pirates pitching ace Paul Skenes grew up in Southern California playing both high school and travel ball. Both set the foundation for him to become a No. 1 draft pick and the 2025 National League Cy Young winner. Yet asked which group of teammates he stays in touch with most, he pointed out he visits his high school buddies whenever he heads back home.

"Being able to have relationships and be a normal person, that's important," he says. "So it is like a social development thing. Being on a team is really important. Having friends and understanding each other, it's really important."

It's that profound sense of connection that serves as the through-line from the classroom to the community.

The bond between players, school and community can be timeless

Rich Boronyak grew up in Crafton, Pennsylvania, 60 years ago. A three-sport star at long-since-closed Crafton High, he remembers the parade the town threw after the football team won a championship during his senior year. What strikes him even now is how many of the faces that lined those streets remain so fresh in his mind.

"Everybody knew everybody," he said from the stands at "The Pit" while waiting for his grandson, who plays football for Mars Area High, to take on the Quips.

It remains that way in countless places across the nation, though perhaps few where the pressure and the privilege of playing are more intertwined than Aliquippa.

It's not just the record 21 regional championships, which have become so expected the Quips no longer receive rings for accomplishing it, the five state titles, and the list of notable alumni like Pro Football Hall of Famers Mike Ditka, Ty Law and Darrelle Revis. It's all of it.

Senior running back Akiva Woods' education in it came at a young age. Scan pictures of the 2018 team that won it all, and you'll find then 9-year-old Woods in the background, soaking it all in. "There's a huge standard to stay up to," he says.

Reminders dot the stands at any given home game, where the alums who have been where Woods is trying to go reminisce and keep tabs on the latest members of what all involve universally describe as a family.

Yes, things have changed since Paul Royba graduated in 1984. Back then, there was no pregame hype video. No cameras capturing every moment of glory and shared almost instantaneously on social media. Gone are the miserable grass field and the locker room where hot water was more myth than fact.

And still, part of the appeal remains eternal.

"The field is different, but the mentality and the spirit has stayed the same," says Royba, now 60 and recently retired after 34 years in the corporate world.

That spirit is described on T-shirts found both inside the Quips locker room and scattered throughout the stands: "Aliquippa against the world." Those who have grown up there are well aware of the stereotype ascribed to them. That Aliquippa is poor. That it is dangerous. The school of around 320 students does its best to remind themselves it's all outside noise and that in some way, their success both on the field and in the classroom speaks louder than any words typed by strangers online.

Yes, the last 40-plus years since Aliquippa Works began shutting down have taken a toll, including the creation of a highly transient community in which nearly a third of the student enrollment transfers in and out during a given year based on a wide array of family circumstances. What the Quips do when the stands are packed is one way to combat a narrative they hope one day will finally go silent.

"Athletics is what I believe has kept this place going," Damico says. "You can see the absence of the steel industry really took a hit on this area. … There's been good economic times and bad, but the athletics is always the constant, always the positive story that is coming out of here."

Things are hardly perfect, but they're hardly perfect anywhere.

America's harsh realities in 2026 have a way of creeping in eventually. About an hour east of the Quips and the Mars Planets game, longtime rivals Gateway and Penn Hills renewed their rivalry after a lengthy hiatus. But they played in front of a mostly empty stadium after school officials learned of a "potential threat."

For some, the lights provide the launching pad for the American dream

For Woods, his goals lie beyond Aliquippa. He's already received scholarship offers from nearby Division II schools, and he's hoping a standout senior year turns even more heads before Signing Day in December.

While both Damico and head coach Warfield pointed to Aliquippa's shifting academic profile, with multiple students from the Class of 2026 putting together Ivy League-worthy applications, sports remain for many the most direct path to college — and perhaps, a new life elsewhere.

It's that way for Lester Longmire. A year ago, he was a senior linebacker and one of the leaders of the defense. Now he's a special teamer and freshman sports management major at Slippery Rock University, about an hour north.

Standing on the sideline as the Quips struggled in the first half against Mars, Longmire talks about the urge to get away, even though it means leaving his support system and everyone he cares about.

"I do miss football. I miss the community and all that," he says. "But I want to start a new life, so I plan on staying out of here."

Just not quite yet. Even as he speaks, Longmire's jaw tenses after the defense gives up a big play that eventually will become an afterthought in a 42-27 win. A moment later, eager to "coach up" his former teammates, Longmire wades into the sea of red-and-black jerseys.

As he walks away, the safety and the promise of the Friday night lights and all they have meant and all they will mean — from Longmire and the senior citizens in the stands who waited months for their passes to the Little Quips serving as ball boys who one day dream of being on the field themselves, and all the rest — cradle him once more.

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Republicans showcase their 'big beautiful bill' to voters, but the law's impact has been mixed

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Working to keep the majority in Congress, Republicans at the midterm convention in Dallas are showcasing their chief legislative accomplishment — the sweeping package of tax breaks, social service cuts and immigration enforcement that President Donald Trump signed into law.

A year on, what's known as the One Big Beautiful Bill — or, the "Big Ugly Bill," as Democrats call it — has produced mixed results. Millions of people have received enhanced tax breaks, while millions are also losing access to federal food aid and health care. More immigrants are being arrested, many deported, some dying during the process.

House Speaker Mike Johnson calls it the kind of "common sense" governing that Republicans plan to do more of, if voters return them to power.

"Shamefully, not one Democrat voted for it," Rep. Derrick Van Orden, R-Wis., said Wednesday during the convention's opening night.

Here's a look at what the big bill has accomplished, over the objections of Democrats.

Tax breaks for millions

Millions of taxpayers enjoyed tax benefits this year they might not even realize they received — the continuation of policies from Trump's first term, in 2017, that were set to expire at the end of 2025 if Congress had failed to act.

The legislation extended those Trump tax breaks and added new ones, including no taxes on tips, overtime pay and certain auto loan interest payments. There's a larger standard deduction, a bigger child tax credit and an extra deduction for many seniors, as well as new Trump accounts for children.

"Let me hear you if you're benefiting from those tax cuts President Trump fought for," Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., said at the convention.

Cheers rippled through the audience.

All told, some 7.5 million filers claimed no tax on tipped income, 29 million people claimed no tax on overtime and 35 million took the enhanced senior deduction, the Treasury Department said. Nearly 40 million families claimed the bigger child tax credit.

But the flow of the tax breaks has been uneven, with larger gains at the upper incomes.

Garrett Watson, vice president of federal tax policy at the nonpartisan Tax Foundation, said people may not feel the tax cuts, which averaged $2,300, "because it's just continuing what was already the case."

Actual refunds were up by about $350 on average, the foundation said, about an 11% increase.

"It was avoiding a tax hike," he said, which is different from "here's additional relief."

Those gains have been largely offset by costs from Trump's tariffs and other policies, he said.

Cuts to SNAP food aid and healthcare

A centerpiece of the bill brought substantive changes to the nation's federal food assistance and healthcare programs, with stricter new work requirements for many people who receive aid.

The shifts are set to chisel more than $1 trillion from the programs as fewer people are enrolled, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

So far, 4 million fewer people are receiving food aid through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP, according to federal data compiled by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a think tank in Washington.

SNAP participation rates have dropped in every state, and more than 800,000 children are no longer receiving the aid in at least 13 states with publicly accessible data, according to the think tank.

While SNAP has always required certain people to work as part of receiving the aid, the Republicans extended the requirement to more people, including older Americans through age 64 who are able-bodied and without young children.

The Medicaid health program has not had such a work requirement, and will soon face one as part of the big bill.

While a few states have begun imposing the Medicaid work requirement this year, most will launch in 2027. The CBO has estimated more than 7 million people will be without health insurance from the Medicaid changes. The bill adds a $50 billion fund to help rural hospitals handle the cuts.

Republicans said their goal has been to root out what they call waste, fraud and abuse in the food aid and healthcare programs and get people back to work. Recipients are required to work, do community service or enroll in education programs for 80 hours a month.

Advocates for the programs say many of those who can work already do, relying on the aid to help make ends meet.

All told, the tax breaks and program cuts add up to fewer resources for poorer people — and more for those in the upper incomes.

"Resources will decrease for households toward the bottom of the income distribution," the budget office said, "whereas resources will increase for households in the middle and toward the top of the income distribution."

There's more money for the Pentagon and deportations

The package provided some $350 billion for the Defense and Homeland Security departments, supercharging agency budgets.

The Pentagon's $150 billion boost is funding a range of projects, though Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth returned to Capitol Hill this summer seeking additional money to help pay for the war against Iran.

Homeland Security was given some $175 billion in the big bill, largely to support Trump's immigration enforcement and deportation agenda.

Immigration arrests surged to a high of nearly 50,000 in July, as Homeland Security redoubled its efforts following a slowdown in the aftermath of the deaths of two Americans, Renee Good and Alex Pretti, who were killed by law enforcement while protesting the federal enforcement actions in Minneapolis.

Then in August, Homeland Security said it set another record, nearly 51,000 immigration arrests.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement has been on a hiring spree, while state and local police departments are also tapping additional funds to partner with ICE.

Deficits rise and debt hits a milestone

The big bill is expected to increase the nation's deficit by $3.4 trillion over the decade, according to a CBO analysis.

Tax revenues are projected to fall by $4.5 trillion, thanks to the tax breaks, offset partly by a $1.1 trillion reduction in spending, largely to the food and healthcare programs.

The nation's annual deficits are hovering at nearly $2 trillion, and the accumulated U.S. debt now stands at $40 trillion, a milestone.

Trump, hoping to salvage midterms, makes a dubious pledge to give every US adult $5,000 if GOP wins

By JONATHAN J. COOPER Associated Press

President Donald Trump pledged Wednesday to send every American adult $5,000 if Republicans retain control of the House and Senate in the midterm elections, an extraordinary gambit to reverse his party's sagging fortunes in November.

The dubious promise would most likely cost more than $1 trillion and require congressional approval, and would further exacerbate the country's nearly $1.8 trillion annual budget deficit and concerns about inflation.

"If the Republicans win, you win with us and you get $5,000," Trump said during the GOP's midterm convention in Dallas. "It will be called the Trump Dividend."

He likened the payments to a corporation's distributions to shareholders, citing "our tremendous strength and success economically."

Within an hour, Vice President JD Vance appeared to try to walk back Trump's proposal — at least in

part — by suggesting the dividend payments would not go to the wealthy. Vance suggested it could be paid for by U.S. tariff revenues, though the suggested payment dwarfs what the U.S. has taken in through the protectionist measures.

The White House did not respond to a message seeking details.

Congress would need to approve or otherwise acquiesce to the payment. The sum would far exceed U.S. tariff revenues even before the Supreme Court tossed much of the president's tariff program last year.

The national debt last month topped $40 trillion for the first time.

Trump has frequently lamented that, during the modern era, the president's party almost always loses seats in Congress during the midterms, and he has looked for unorthodox ways to defy the trend, including this week's convention.

"We're going to change that," Trump said. "There's no reason for it."

Marc Goldwein, the senior policy director at the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a think tank in Washington, said Trump has no authority to send money to Americans without approval from Congress.

Goldwein added that dividends are something that companies pay when there's a surplus, but the U.S. is running $2 trillion annual deficits and has $40 trillion in debt.

"The idea that we've had fiscal success is backwards and bordering on laughable," he said. "We don't have surpluses to give away."

The move was reminiscent of billionaire Elon Musk's efforts to buy votes in last year's Wisconsin state Supreme Court race, where he handed out million-dollar checks to voters to try to boost a candidate who ultimately lost.

Trump has discussed the possibility before but has never tied it to his party's electoral fortunes. Earlier this year, he proposed a $2,000 dividend and said he didn't think he needed approval from Congress.

Last year, Trump gave members of the military a $1,776 check that he called a "warrior dividend."

"I will get a bill ready so that we can get the Trump Dividend passed immediately after the November 3rd election," Republican Sen. Bernie Moreno of Ohio wrote on X late Wednesday. "Because Republicans (and America) will win!"

A $5,000 check would give each American more money than they received in direct government payments from COVID-19 relief measures during Trump's first term.

Trump's proposal would be legal because the payment would go to everyone regardless of how they voted, or whether they voted at all, said New Mexico-based attorney John Day.

"This is a campaign promise," Day said. "It's not a payment to individuals to try to get them to vote in a particular way."

Republicans are on defense as they look to defend their narrow House majority against strong headwinds. Trump is unpopular, and Americans overwhelmingly oppose the war in Iran. Even the Senate, which Republicans once were well-positioned to keep, is up for grabs.

Seahawks pick off Drake Maye 3 times to beat Patriots 13-10 in Super Bowl rematch

By JOSH DUBOW AP Pro Football Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — Sam Darnold left the game injured, the offense was stagnant and sloppy mistakes put Seattle in a hole through three quarters.

Then the Dark Side defense took over, Drew Lock made a few big plays and the Seahawks capped a Super Bowl banner-raising night with another win against the New England Patriots.

Lock led two late scoring drives and the Seahawks intercepted Drake Maye three times in the fourth quarter to overcome an early injury to Darnold and beat the Patriots 13-10 on Wednesday night in a Super Bowl rematch.

"I want to give our team a lot of credit because you know things weren't really going where we wanted," coach Mike Macdonald said. "We didn't panic. We still liked our plan. We didn't need to change what we

were doing or anything like that. We just we wanted to stick to what we were doing, and the guys were just really excited to go back out there and play."

The Seahawks were held to just a field goal through three quarters as Lock and the offense struggled to move the ball after Darnold injured his hip on the opening drive. Macdonald said initial tests showed Darnold didn't break a bone, calling the news "positive."

But the costly interceptions by Maye — last season's MVP runner-up — turned the tide and made sure that the banner-raising night would end in happy fashion for the boisterous home crowd.

"We knew coming in it was going to be a four-quarter game and that's who we are," receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba said. "We knew it's going to be a dogfight and we love it. Whatever it looks like in the first half, second quarter, like we're going to make it right. We're going to keep fighting until the clock hits triple zero. So I was just happy to see that and to see that continue going forward this year."

Maye overcame the first two picks to drive the Patriots into position to tie or take the lead in the final minute. But Josh Jobe made a toe-tapping interception in the end zone to seal the win.

"I was trying to get rid of it, and I realized Mack was back there in the back and I didn't put enough on it to get it out," Maye said. "It was unacceptable."

Seattle trailed 10-0 but got a field goal in the third quarter and tied the game when Lock connected with Smith-Njigba on a 45-yard pass on fourth-and-1 following an interception by Nehemiah Pritchett.

Julian Love intercepted Maye on the next drive and the Seahawks took a 13-10 lead on a 26-yard field goal by Jason Myers. That set the stage for the defensive stand on the final drive.

The game started following a ceremony that featured the Super Bowl banner being raised and highlights being played on the video board. This was the third Super Bowl rematch in Week 1, with it last happening in 2016 when Denver celebrated its title with a win over Carolina.

The excitement turned to worry quickly as Darnold came up limping following a third-down sack by Dre'Mont Jones on the first drive. Darnold went immediately to the sideline medical tent and then back to the locker room before the next drive.

Lock, who threw just three passes last season, entered the game. Seattle's offense was stagnant until the fourth quarter, but Lock made enough plays late to provide a signature moment of a career that has had few highlights since he was drafted in the second round by Denver in 2019. He won just eight starts in three seasons with the Broncos before coming to Seattle in the Russell Wilson trade. He left to be a backup for the New York Giants before returning to Seattle last season.

"It was a blast," Lock said. "So proud of everyone around me tonight on the offensive side of the ball. I can't say enough about the defense turning over the ball."

The Patriots didn't fare much better on offense but got the only score of the first half after Jobe interfered with offseason acquisition A.J. Brown on a deep flea-flicker pass and Maye found rookie Eli Raridon for a 2-yard score on the next play to make it 7-0.

A penalty helped set up the second Patriots score as well. Chazz Surratt was flagged for roughing the punter on the opening drive of the second half, setting up Andy Borregales' 50-yard field goal.

Injuries

Patriots: Brown left the game with an injured right ankle in the third quarter and didn't return.

Seahawks: S Nick Emmanwori (ankle) was ruled inactive before the game.

Up next

Patriots: Host Pittsburgh on Sept. 20.

Seahawks: Visit Arizona on Sept. 20.

Groton Daily Independent
Friday, Sept. 11, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 097 ~ 75 of 76

Hong Kong court convicts Wall Street Journal publisher of deterring reporter from taking union role

By KANIS LEUNG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — A Hong Kong court on Thursday found the publisher of The Wall Street Journal guilty of trying to prevent one of its reporters from taking a leadership role in a local press union, but acquitted the company of a charge that it fired her because of her union activities.

Former WSJ reporter Selina Cheng, also chairperson of the trade union Hong Kong Journalists Association, launched a private prosecution against Dow Jones Publishing Co. (Asia) Inc. after losing her job in July 2024.

The case has raised concerns about media freedom in the Chinese territory. Cheng and the journalists association are advocates of press freedom but have been operating under pressure since the government cracked down on pro-democracy media and political dissent. The government has been critical of the union.

Cheng earlier said that her supervisor told her that her participation in the union election was problematic and that the supervisor needed to discuss the issue with WSJ's management in New York and Dow Jones' in-house lawyers. Cheng said that she was told that her union role would be incompatible with her employment.

Dow Jones said that it respectfully disagrees with the ruling and is evaluating its next step. It said the Journal has a "long and proud history" as an employer in Hong Kong.

"Throughout that time, we have remained deeply respectful of its labor laws and supportive of our employees' rights, while publishing excellent, impartial journalism about the region," it said.

A partial win for Cheng

In convicting the company, Principal Magistrate David Cheung pointed to the firm's requirement for its approval before Cheng ran for election for the union's leadership role. Cheung said that the election didn't take place within the journalist's working hours.

But he said that the defense has raised sufficient reasonable doubt for the second charge over her dismissal. The defense previously tried to convince the court that Cheng was terminated because of redundancy.

Dow Jones pleaded not guilty last year to two charges under the city's Employment Ordinance, each carrying a maximum fine of 100,000 Hong Kong dollars (about $12,750). The first charge alleges the company had prevented or deterred Cheng from exercising union participation rights. The second alleges the company terminated her employment for exercising those rights.

During the trial, the defense argued the prosecution hadn't sufficiently proved that the firm's management instructed Cheng's supervisor. It also accused Cheng of abusing the criminal process in a previous hearing.

But the magistrate didn't find that Cheng's private prosecution was motivated by any improper purpose.

Sentencing is expected to be handed down at a later date.

Cheng told reporters that the magistrate was fair to both parties. She said that the case has brought awareness of union suppression in Hong Kong and that she hoped employers will understand they have no right to have their employees consult with them before their workers join a union.

Cheng said that reporters' rights as employees are important to media freedom.

"The right for us to work without worry, without stress, without risk is the foundation of Hong Kong's press freedom, more than anything else," she said.

She said that she would have to discuss with her legal team whether to appeal the WSJ's acquittal on the dismissal charge.

Hong Kong's media environment has faltered

Cheng's termination in 2024 alarmed many journalists, especially given that foreign outlets have traditionally faced less pressure than local news outlets in Hong Kong.

After Beijing imposed a national security law in 2020, two local news outlets known for critical coverage of the government, Apple Daily and Stand News, were forced to shut down following the arrest of their senior management.

Jimmy Lai, founder of Apple Daily, was sentenced to 20 years in prison in February. His staffers received prison terms ranging from six years and nine months, to 10 years.

Hong Kong, a former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997, ranked 140th out of 180 countries and territories in Reporters Without Borders' latest World Press Freedom Index, down from 18th out of 139 regions in 2002, the highest ranking the city had held. In 2020, the city ranked 80th.

Today in History: September 11, al-Qaida attacks the United States

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Friday, Sept. 11, the 254th day of 2026. There are 111 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 11, 2001, nearly 3,000 people were killed as 19 al-Qaida hijackers seized control of four jetliners, sending two of the planes into New York's World Trade Center, one into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, and the fourth into a field in western Pennsylvania. It remains the deadliest terror attack in history.

Also on this date:

In 1789, Alexander Hamilton was appointed the first U.S. Secretary of the Treasury.

In 1814, an American fleet scored a decisive victory over the British in the Battle of Lake Champlain in the War of 1812.

In 1936, Boulder Dam — later renamed the Hoover Dam — began operation as President Franklin D. Roosevelt pressed a button in Washington to signal the startup of the dam's first hydroelectric generator.

In 1941, groundbreaking took place for the Pentagon.

In 1954, the Miss America pageant made its network TV debut on ABC.

In 1973, Chilean President Salvador Allende (ah-YEN'-day) died during a violent military coup led by General Augusto Pinochet.

In 1985, Pete Rose of the Cincinnati Reds broke Ty Cobb's MLB career hits record with his 4,192nd hit.

In 2008, presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama put aside politics as they visited ground zero together on the anniversary of 9/11 to honor its victims.

In 2012, a mob armed with guns and grenades launched a nightlong attack on a U.S. diplomatic outpost and a CIA annex in Benghazi, Libya, killing U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans.

In 2023, over 4,000 people died and thousands more were missing after heavy rain from Mediterranean Storm Daniel caused two dams to collapse, flooding the city of Derna, Libya.

Today's Birthdays: Composer Arvo Pärt is 91. Film director Brian De Palma is 86. Singer-actor-dancer Lola Falana is 84. Musician Mickey Hart is 83. Guitarist Leo Kottke is 81. Actor Amy Madigan is 76. Rock musician Tommy Shaw (Styx) is 73. Actor Scott Patterson is 68. Actor/director Roxann Dawson is 68. Actor John Hawkes is 67. Actor Virginia Madsen is 65. Musician-composer Moby is 61. Singer Harry Connick Jr. is 59. Actor Taraji (tuh-RAH'-jee) P. Henson is 56. Rapper Ludacris is 49. Football Hall of Famer Ed Reed is 48. Country singer Charles Kelley (Lady A) is 45. Actor Elizabeth Henstridge is 39. Actor Tyler Hoechlin (HEK'-lihn) is 39. NFL wide receiver Zay Flowers is 26.