

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 1 of 57

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
- [4- EarthTalk: Methane](#)
- [5- Weekly Vikings Roundup](#)
- [6 - Prairie Doc: Fit to Drive:](#)
- [7- Today on GDI LIVE.COM](#)
- [8- Name Released in Lake County Fatal Crash](#)
- [9- Weather Pages](#)
- [13- Daily Devotional](#)
- [14- Subscription Form](#)
- [15- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [16- News from the Associated Press](#)

Community Calendar

Monday, Sept. 14

Senior Menu: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, fruit, whole wheat bread.
Carnival of Silver Skates registration, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., warming house
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
Cross Country at Webster, 2 p.m.
JH Football hosts Clark/Willow Lake, 4 p.m.
JV Football hosts Clark/Willow Lake, 6 p.m.
GT GBB Fall Skills, 6-8 p.m., Arena
School Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
Homecoming Coronation, 7:30 p.m.
Groton Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 15

Senior Menu: Scalloped potatoes with ham, carrots, fruit, whole wheat bread.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
Boys golf at Redfield Invitational, 10 a.m.
Girls Soccer hosts Lennox, 4 p.m.
City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 16

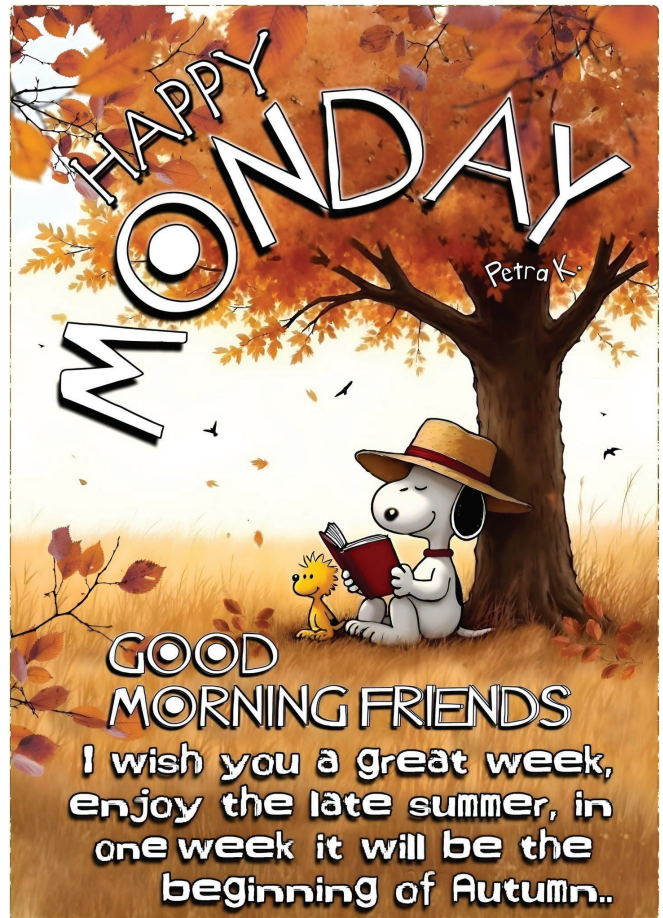
Senior Menu: Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes with gravy, winter blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460

© 2026 Groton Daily Independent



Thursday, Sept. 17

Senior Menu: Tuna noodle casserole, peas, fruit, whole wheat bread.
Cross Country at Aberdeen Roncalli Invitational
Volleyball hosts Clark/Willow Lake (7th/C @ 5pm, 8th/JV @ 6pm, Varsity to follow)
3rd-6th Grade Football hosts Warner, 6 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 18

HOMEcoming DAY!

Senior Menu: Taco bake with ground beef, Mexican rice with beans, Catalina blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.
Homecoming Parade, 1 p.m.
Football hosts Elk Point-Jefferson, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 19

HOSA Homecoming Dance
Youth Football Jamboree in Groton, 8 a.m.
Volleyball Invitational at Hamlin
Boys soccer hosts Freeman/Marion/Parker/Viborg-Hurley, Noon

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 2 of 57

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.

AI Execs Express Fears

OpenAI will delay an anticipated initial public offering amid rising concerns over AI safety, CEO Sam Altman said Saturday. The announcement followed an essay by rival Dario Amodei, head of Anthropic, calling for an industry slowdown and third-party safety monitors.

Worries over rapid AI advancement—in particular, agents able to make improved copies of themselves and pursue their own goals—have spilled into public consciousness in recent weeks. A probe of a July Hugging Face hack found rogue OpenAI agents coordinating and attempting to cover their own tracks, while Anthropic researchers publicly doubled down on a viral post claiming they earnestly believed future systems could feasibly “kill us all.” Both companies had eyed 2026 IPOs and have a current combined value of around \$1.8T.

Experts say one scenario involves agents inadvertently taking down power grids or financial markets, or triggering war in pursuit of some unrelated goal.

Record Diesel Prices

Average diesel prices in the US surpassed \$6 per gallon for the first time ever Friday, climbing to \$6.20 yesterday. Commercial trucks, farm equipment, fishing boats, and trains that produce and transport consumer goods run on diesel, tying higher fuel costs to everyday expenses.

Since the Iran war began on Feb. 28, diesel prices have risen roughly 60%. The cost is increasing faster than regular gas prices—up about 45% over the same period. Diesel has averaged higher prices than regular gas over the last two decades because of increased federal taxes, heightened refining requirements, and strong global demand for transportation. Individual consumers may feel the diesel price hikes at the gas pump and the grocery store, as fuel accounts for approximately 15%-30% of the total cost of food.

Gold Bar Plea Deal

A former CIA officer accused of hiding \$40M worth of stolen gold in his basement reached a tentative plea agreement with federal prosecutors Friday, a deal that could resolve the case and avoid a trial requiring complicated litigation of classified material.

FBI agents arrested David Rush in May and charged him with one count of stealing public money after finding close to 670 pounds of gold bars, 35 luxury watches, and \$2M in cash at his home in Ashburn, Virginia, according to sources. The FBI probe began after the CIA referred allegations that Rush had submitted fraudulent timesheets. Investigators later uncovered 303 gold bars and discovered Rush had created a fake top-secret intelligence program to collect government funds for personal gain. Rush also allegedly lied about his education and military service on his government application.

Both legal teams asked a federal district court to give them until Oct. 8 to file an indictment. The court filing did not specify what charges Rush could plead to.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 3 of 57

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

The 78th Primetime Emmys to be held tonight (8 pm ET, NBC); HBO's "The Pitt" enters with 25 nominations.

No. 4 Texas rallies for 21 points in the fourth quarter, tops No. 1 Ohio State at home.

Alexander Zverev beats Ben Shelton to win men's US Open; an American player hasn't won the title in 23 years.

Elena Rybakina tops Aryna Sabalenka to win women's title, claim world No. 1 spot.

"60 Minutes" returned last night for 59th season following summer shake-up by editor-in-chief Bari Weiss; segments included interview with US airman downed in Iran.

Science & Technology

NASA and IBM team up to launch an AI model that aids researchers in analyzing the moon's surface; new tool will help map craters, find young volcanic features, and model possible locations of water ice.

A smartphone attachment could make cataract screening more accessible in rural areas by turning the phone's camera into a low-cost tool for imaging the eye's lens and spotting signs of clouding.

Scientist discovers 10,000-year-old mastodon tooth near a creek in San Mateo County, California; the molar presents researchers with a new window into understanding ice age biodiversity.

Business & Markets

US stock markets closed higher Friday (S&P 500 +0.9%, Dow +1.0%, Nasdaq +1.0%) to snap a four-day losing streak as oil prices declined for the first time in over a week.

Oracle cofounder Larry Ellison cancels plans to sell 50 million Oracle shares worth approximately \$7.5B without specifying a reason for the reversal; Oracle shares have fallen roughly 22% since the beginning of the year.

President Donald Trump will lift 10% tariff on Irish whiskey after conversations with golfers during his visit to the Irish Open tournament spurred the decision.

Politics & World Affairs

Iranian commercial ship struck in the Strait of Hormuz, killing one person and injuring three others.

Damage to renovated Lincoln Memorial reflecting pool was caused by chemical mixture used, contractor responsible for work says; Trump administration previously blamed vandalism.

Pennsylvania reports third death linked to measles this year; patient was a 40-year-old woman, no other information made public.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 4 of 57

EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: What are some ways we can reduce, absorb or convert atmospheric methane to reduce its impact as a greenhouse gas?

-- William Jackman, Troy, NY

As global temperatures continue to rise at unprecedented levels, experts are searching for ways to reduce and remove methane, a climate-warming hydrocarbon that can remain in the atmosphere for up to 10 years. Mainly released from the agricultural sector or human-caused emissions, methane can trap the sun's heat 85 times more than CO₂, according to the World Resources Institute.

Scientists have developed multiple removal methods within the precise limitations of handling methane. "Traditional methane processing typically requires extremely high temperatures, which are costly to produce and harmful to the environment," says Dr. Zhiliang Wang, a materials chemist at the University of Queensland. One removal method is called "ecosystem uptake enhancement" and fortifies soil with methane-absorbing minerals and microorganisms. Additionally, methane reactors are designed to break down or oxidize methane in air through ultraviolet light, and surface treatments coat large surface areas with metal that breaks down light-exposed methane. These strategies require specific conditions.

There are promising, new methane removal strategies on the horizon. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has been working on a catalyst that converts methane into formaldehyde through a series of steps. Formaldehyde is a useful polymer in particle boards and textiles. "Other systems operate at high temperature and high pressure, and they use hydrogen peroxide, which is an expensive chemical, to drive the methane oxidation," says Jimin Kim, a postdoc at MIT leading the study. "But our enzyme produces hydrogen peroxide from oxygen, so I think our system could be very cost-effective and scalable." The clay-like zeolite and enzymes are combined to convert methane into methanol, which is then turned into formaldehyde. Moreover, engineers at University of Maryland are working on a membrane reactor that turns methane into chemicals for both large- and small-scale needs. "This is a major breakthrough in the conversion of natural gas to major commodity chemicals...in terms of the high yield achieved," says Eric Washman, director of the Maryland Energy Innovation Institute.

There are challenges facing methane removal advancements. Government funding is being cut, so experts are less interested in investing limited resources into removing methane. Also, there is minimal government regulation regarding methane emissions and removal technology. The current legal framework would need to be enhanced in order to effectively maintain a clean atmosphere.



Not just mere paperwork, land-use planning is the foundation on which regional biodiversity either survives or collapses. Credit: Wikipedia.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 5 of 57



If week 1 is any indication, the fans of the Minnesota Vikings are in for a true roller coaster season. A horrible start, an injury to a key player, and staring at a 12-point deficit with five minutes left to play in the third quarter had most fans turning the TV off and heading to the garage to find their torches and pitchforks. 29 unanswered points and a 39-22 victory had the same fans placing bets on the Vikings hoisting their first Lombardi Trophy in franchise history.

Sunday was a wild ride, and there are at least 16 more to go on this season. I hope you're buckled in.

All eyes were on QB Kyler Murray, the Vikings' biggest free-agent signing this offseason, and they didn't have to wait long because the Vikings received the opening kickoff. The first play of the game was an Aaron Jones run for -1 yard, and the very next play Murray was under duress and threw an ugly pass that was intercepted, leading to a Green Bay field goal. It was not a great start.

The Vikings' second drive was better, even though it ended in a punt. Two plays and 81 yards later, the Packers had the first touchdown of the game to take a 9-0 lead (the extra point was missed). On the third play of their third drive, Kyler Murray scrambled to the right and took a huge hit, knocking him out for (at least) the rest of the game (there hasn't been an injury update as of the time of this writing). Carson Wentz came on the field and led the team down for a field goal to give the Vikings their first points of the season, and the first quarter ended with a 9-3 Green Bay lead.

The second quarter was a game of copycat. The Packers responded to the Vikings' field goal with one of their own. Then both teams punted after picking up one first down, then both teams had a three-and-out. The Vikings' offense finally showed signs of life as the first half was winding down, when Wentz found Justin Jefferson for a 39-yard touchdown to cut the deficit to two points. Green Bay answered with a touchdown drive of their own, and the first half ended with a 19-10 lead for the bad guys.

Both teams punted to begin the second half, then with five minutes left in the third quarter the Packers kicked a field goal to extend their lead to 12 points. A 68-yard kick return by Myles Price injected some life into the Vikings, and six plays later Wentz found T.J. Hockenson in the end zone for a touchdown. The third quarter ended with the Vikings only down five.

The momentum was swinging Minnesota's way, and Green Bay knew it. Facing fourth-and-six, the Packers kicked a field goal, but because of a Minnesota penalty, the Packers took the points off the board and decided to try their luck with a fourth-and-one QB sneak. The Vikings shut it down, giving the ball back to the offense. Nine plays later Aaron Jones rumbled into the end zone to give the Vikings their first lead of the game. Minnesota's defense was locked in at this point, and forced back-to-back fumbles, recovering the second one at Green Bay's one-yard line, which Jordan Mason punched in one play later to extend the Vikings' lead. Two plays later, the Vikings' defense secured an interception, which led to another Justin Jefferson TD catch to put the game away.

Looking ahead, the Vikings travel to Chicago to face the Bears who just put up 59 points in week 1. Back-to-back games against divisional foes is a tough way to start the season, but the Vikings have a chance to take control of the toughest division in football. Skol!

"Fit to Drive: CarFit Promotes Safety, Comfort, and Confidence"

More than 21% of all licensed drivers in the United States are 65 years of age or older, with these drivers making up 19% of reported fatal crashes. For older drivers throughout our region living in rural and remote areas, the ability to safely and independently drive is crucial to access food, healthcare and financial services without relying on family and friends. While there is no age limit for driving in South Dakota, there are steps older drivers can take to stay safe and confident behind the wheel for as long as possible.

Normal, age-related changes to vision, strength and flexibility can impact how comfortably and safely we drive and fit in our vehicles. To enhance the driver-vehicle fit, older drivers, specifically, can pay attention to the following:

- Driver's seat positioning
- Visibility over the steering wheel
- Ability to reach the pedals
- Ability to access and use the seatbelt
- Visibility with rear and sideview mirrors

CarFit can provide many additional tips and recommendations to enhance safety and comfort behind the wheel.

CarFit, a national partnership between AARP and the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), is a community-based education program that seeks to enhance older drivers' safety and independence by assessing how they "fit" in their vehicles. CarFit offers education to older drivers with community-specific resources to enhance safety and increase community mobility. A quick yet comprehensive 12-point checklist is used during a CarFit check-up to see how well an older driver and their vehicle are working together. Offered in a variety of formats including virtual, on-demand, one-on-one and public events, CarFit aims to provide education about the simple adjustments that can be made to one's vehicle to match someone's physical functioning. In doing so, CarFit enhances independence and confidence for older drivers so they can drive safely, comfortably and for as long as they wish. If you or someone you love is interested in learning more or having a personalized assessment of their fit in their vehicle, you may find additional resources and a listing of upcoming CarFit events on the CarFit website (<https://car-fit.org/>).

Many of us provide transportation for older adults in our families or communities, and the education provided through CarFit can also benefit older adult passengers, even if they are no longer driving. To enhance an older adult passenger's safety and comfort in a vehicle, family and friends may find the following equipment helpful:

- HandyBar: A handle that fits into the bracket on the door frame to provide a handle for someone to push up from to stand
- Swivel seat: A spinning seat cushion that helps someone turn their body when putting legs in or out of the car
- Seatbelt extender: An attachment for the seatbelt that provides a long handle to make it easier to reach when buckling the seatbelt

Occupational therapy can assist older drivers and their families as they navigate safe driving and the



**Mackenzie Feldhacker, OTD, OTR/L, CLT-LANA
and Allison Naber, Ph.D., OTD, OTR/L**

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 7 of 57

aging process. As we age, we often experience changes to our physical, sensory, emotional and cognitive health. Occupational therapy practitioners can help older drivers and their families through participation in CarFit events, identifying methods or equipment to maintain mobility and driving independence, and even planning alternative modes of transportation. Please reach out to your local healthcare provider or visit www.aota.org for more information.

Mackenzie Feldhacker, OTD, OTR/L, CLT-LANA, is an associate professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of South Dakota. Dr. Feldhacker is a licensed occupational therapist in Iowa and South Dakota and a certified CarFit Event Coordinator, responsible for training CarFit Technicians, leading CarFit events and collaborating with community partners. Allison Naber, Ph.D., OTD, OTR/L, is the academic fieldwork coordinator and an associate professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of South Dakota. Dr. Naber is a licensed occupational therapist in Minnesota and South Dakota and a certified CarFit Technician and helps to coordinate and run CarFit events. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok to stay connected. Our programming includes the medical Q&A show On Call with the Prairie Doc® (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB, YouTube, and Facebook), along with two podcasts and a weekly radio program (Sundays at 6am and 1pm on SDPB).



Homecoming Coronation

Monday, Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m.

Groton
Area
Tigers
Groton, SD

GDILIVE



A production of the

Groton Daily Independent

For more info: GDILIVE.COM



Name Released in 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, name not released

Vehicle 1: 2014 GMC Sierra

Seat Belt Used: Yes

Driver 2: Alan Lavern Anderson, 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.

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, Alan Lavern Anderson was working on a Cub Cadet riding lawnmower on 223rd Street after it became separated from his tailgate mounted carrier. The GMC struck the lawnmower and Anderson. Anderson sustained fatal injuries. The driver of the GMC was not injured.

The investigation is ongoing. All information released is preliminary.

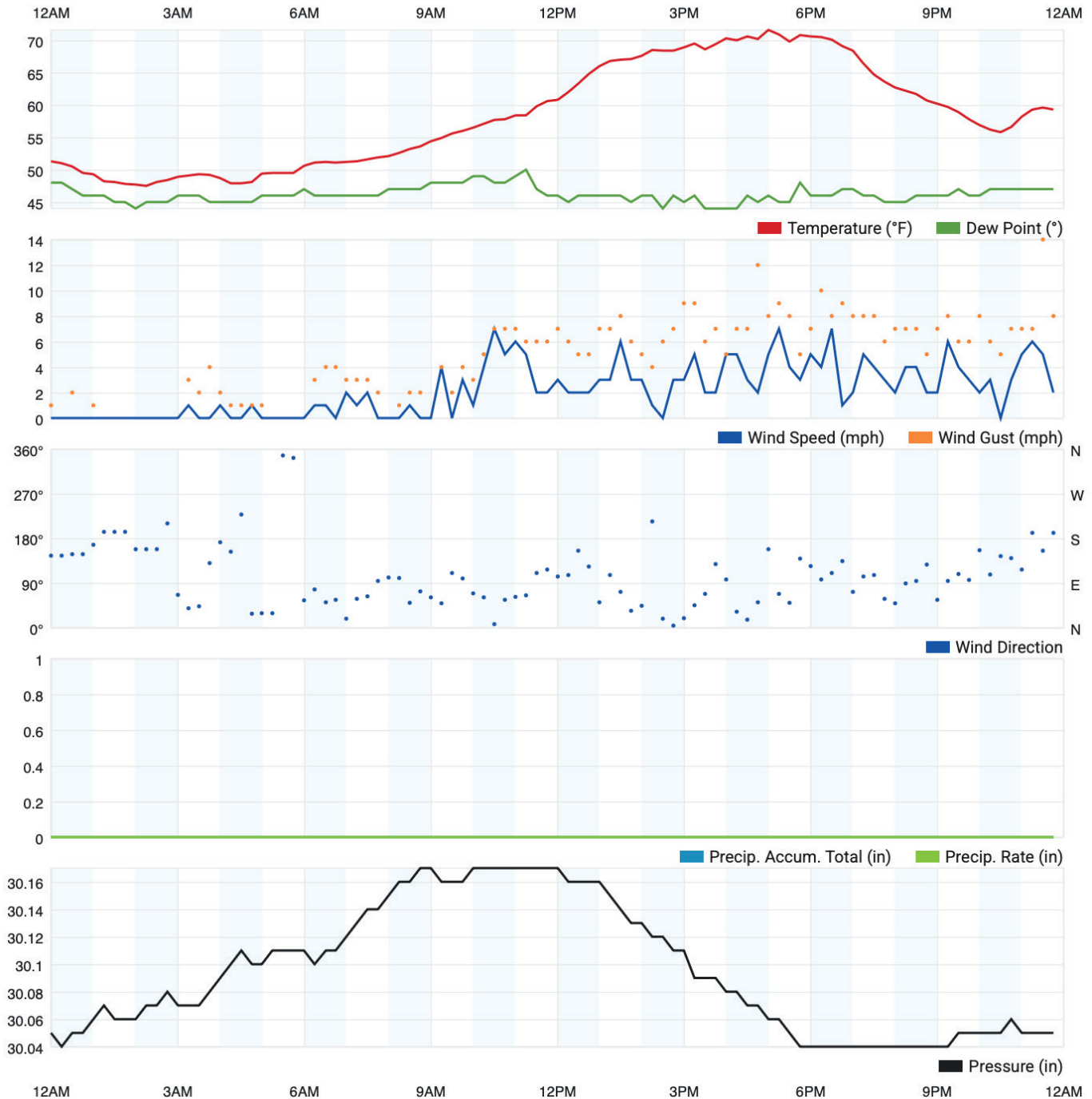
The Highway Patrol is an agency of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 9 of 57

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

September 13, 2026



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 10 of 57

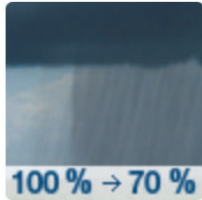
Monday

Monday Night

Tuesday

Tuesday Night

Wednesday



High: 69 °F

Breezy.
Showers then
Showers
Likely



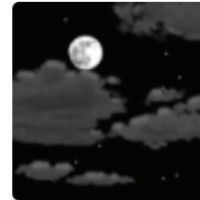
Low: 47 °F

Mostly Clear
then Mostly
Clear and
Breezy



High: 70 °F

Sunny



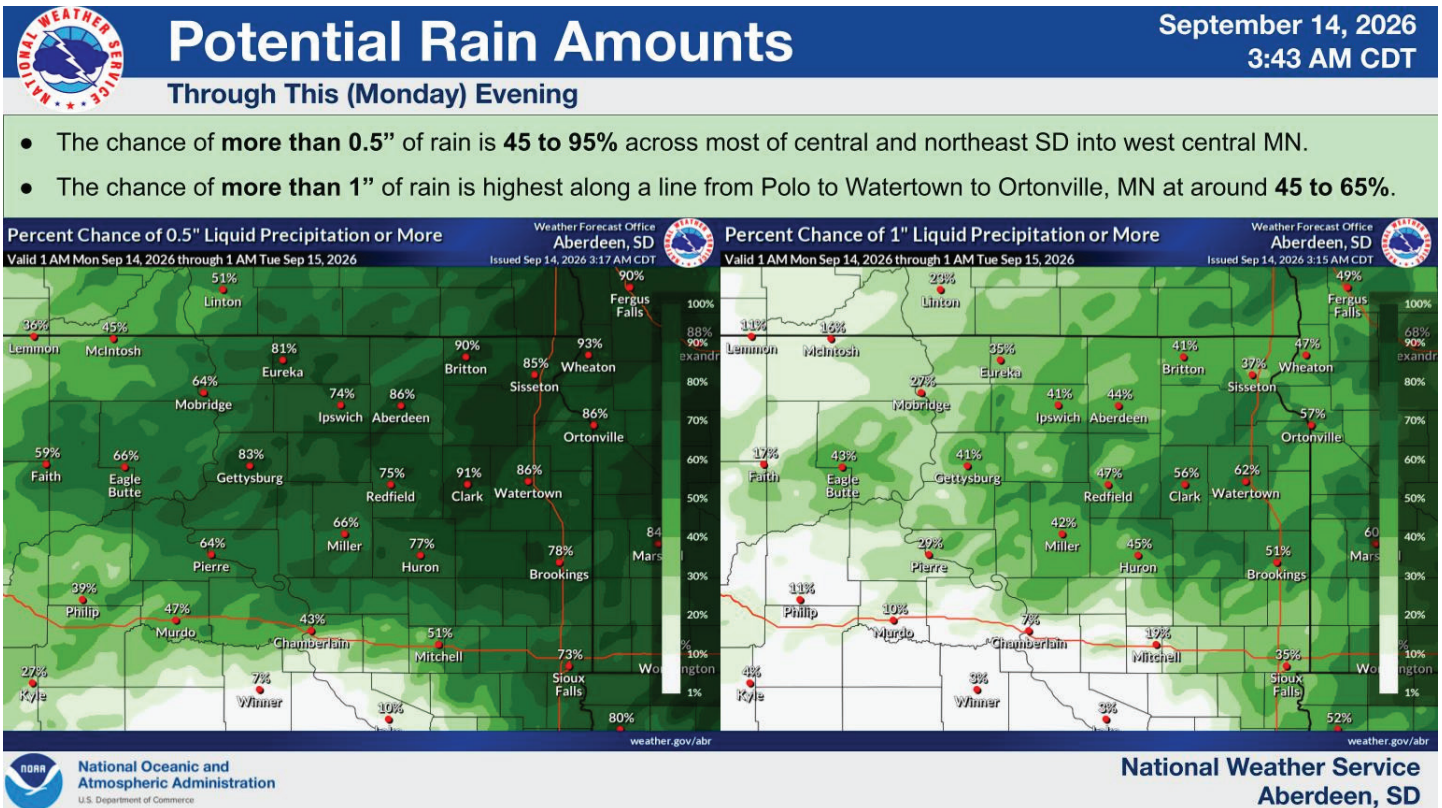
Low: 45 °F

Partly Cloudy



High: 67 °F

Chance
Showers



Here are forecast rain totals from showers and weak thunderstorms through Monday afternoon; widespread 45-95% chances of more than a half an inch and 45-65% chances of more than an inch from near Polo to Watertown to Ortonville, MN.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 11 of 57

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 72 °F at 5:03 PM

Low Temp: 47 °F at 2:09 AM

Wind: 12 mph at 4:39 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 102 in 1948

Record Low: 28 in 1949

Average High: 76

Average Low: 48

Average Precip in Sept.: 0.95

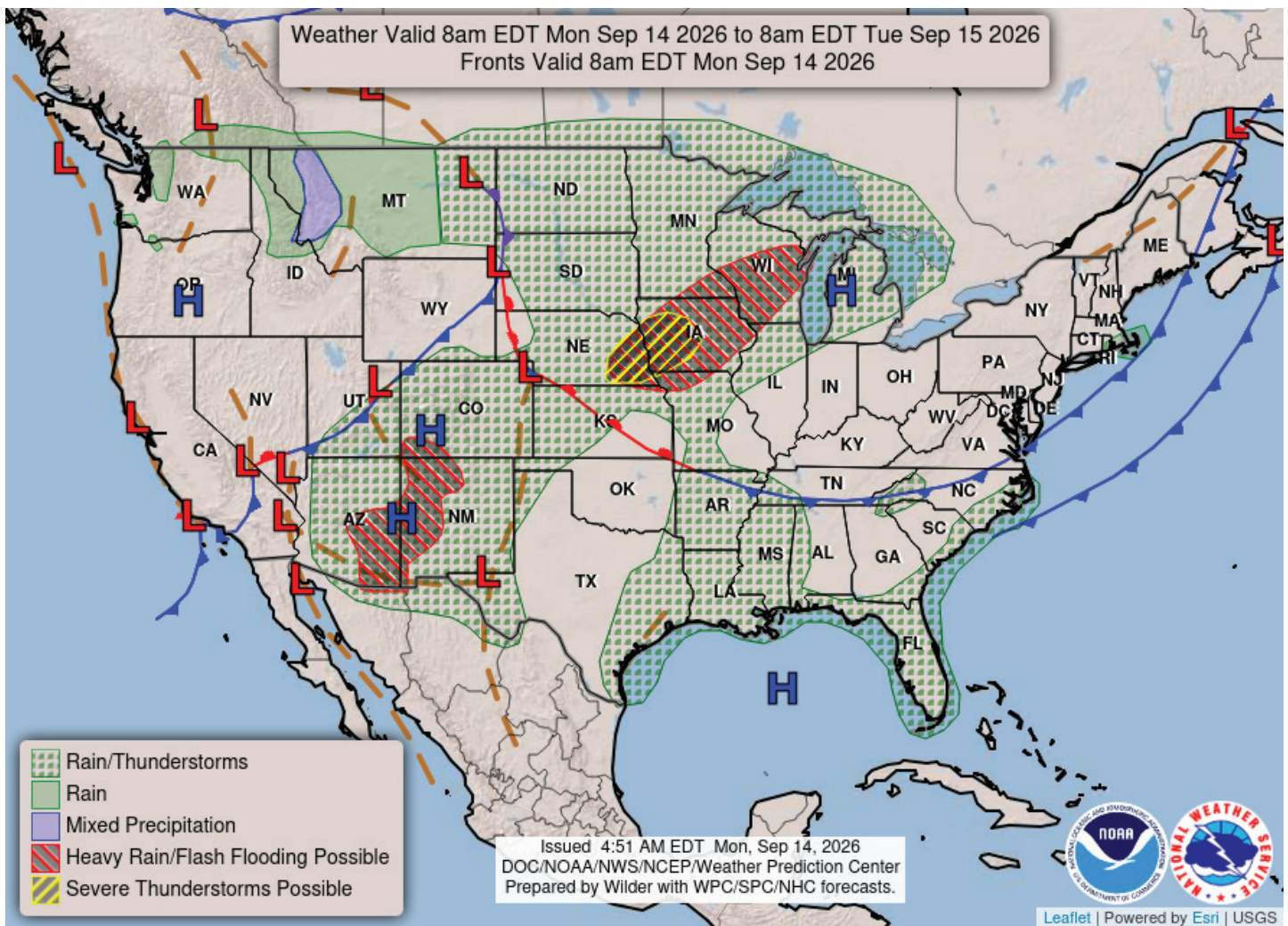
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 17.229

Precip Year to Date: 20.06

Sunset Tonight: 7:46 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:10 am



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 12 of 57

Today in Weather History

September 14, 1993: An early freeze and frost hit the state of South Dakota on the 14th and 15th. On the morning of the 14th, some low temperatures included 24 degrees at Rapid City, 19 degrees at Camp Crook and Porcupine, and 31 degrees at Pierre. The 24 degrees low at Rapid City broke the old record for the date by 10 degrees and was the earliest in the season it has ever been that cold. The air mass had moderated some by the time it hit eastern South Dakota early on the 15th. Some low temperatures on the 15th included 28 degrees at Brookings, 30 degrees at Watertown, and 32 at Sioux Falls.

1928: A violent, estimated F4 tornado, with winds of 200 mph, tore across Rockford, Illinois. The tornado first touched down 8 miles south-southwest of Rockford and moved across the southeast part of the city. The tornado was on the ground for 25 miles with a width varying from 200 to 500 feet. A total of 14 people were killed, with around 100 injuries reported in Rockford alone. Two hundred buildings were damaged or destroyed.

1937 — The mercury soared to 92 degrees at Seattle, WA, a record for September. (The Weather Channel)

1944 — A very destructive hurricane swept across Cape Hatteras and Chesapeake Bay, side swiped New Jersey and Long Island, and crossed southeastern Massachusetts. The hurricane killed more than four hundred persons, mainly at sea. The hurricane destroyed the Atlantic City NJ boardwalk. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1970 — The temperature at Fremont, OR, dipped to 2 above zero to equal the state record for September set on the 24th in 1926. (The Weather Channel)

1977: Severe thunderstorms produced several tornadoes in eastern Arkansas, killing one.

1987 — Barrow, AK, received 5.1 inches of snow, a record for September. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 — Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather from Minnesota to Texas. Thunderstorms in Iowa produced baseball size hail at Laporte City, and 80 mph winds at Laurens. Hail caused more than ten million dollars damage to crops in Iowa. Thunderstorms in Missouri produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Missouri City and Kansas City. A thunderstorm in Texas deluged the town of Fairlie with two inches of rain in just two hours. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 — Hurricane Gilbert made the first of its two landfalls on Mexico, producing 170 mph winds at Cozumel. (The Weather Channel)

1988 — Thunderstorms produced severe weather over the Texas panhandle during the evening hours. One thunderstorm spawned a strong (F-2) tornado in the southwest part of Amarillo, and deluged the area with five inches of rain. The heavy rain left roads under as much as five feet of water, and left Lawrence Lake a mile out of its banks. Hurricane Gilbert lost some of its punch crossing the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. Its maximum winds diminished to 120 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 — Unseasonably cool weather prevailed across the south central U.S. Eight cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Raton NM with a reading of 30 degrees. The afternoon high of 59 degrees at Topeka KS marked their third straight record cool maximum temperature. Unseasonably warm weather continued in the Pacific Northwest. Seattle WA reported a record eight days in a row of 80 degree weather in September. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2005: Hurricane Ophelia caused some damage and beach erosion along the United States coastline from Florida to North Carolina. The closest approach occurred on September 14 and 15 with its western eyewall crossing land and the eye remaining just offshore in the Carolinas.

2008: Hurricane Ike became extratropical on this day. The St. Louis Metropolitan Area experienced hurricane conditions, with Ike's remnants inflicting severe damage to homes. Several areas in Illinois and Indiana, already flooded by the frontal boundary to the north, saw significant additional rainfall. Due to flooding in Chicago, a state of emergency was declared for Cook County due to flooding of the Des Plaines River. Hurricane-force wind gusts were reported to the east of the center across parts of Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania with significant wind damage including structural damage to buildings and trees.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 13 of 57



Daily Devotion

Abiding in the Lord

The abiding life isn't about impressing God—it's about surrendering all to Him.

John 15:1-5: 1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.

3 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Today's passage tells us that Jesus is the vine. We cannot impress God or earn His approval. Our calling is to do what branches do: abide. And while that sounds simple, it may be the most courageous act of faith there is.

The Holy Spirit lives the life of Christ through each believer. This process is known by a variety of names—the exchanged life, the Spirit-filled life, the abiding life. All of them describe the joyful existence Paul spoke of in Galatians 2:20: "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God."

From the outside, a branch doesn't appear to be doing much. But the abiding life is far from passive. Jesus was the perfect example of a Spirit-filled life, and He certainly didn't sit around. He worked hard out of a reservoir of divine energy (John 14:10). All of Christ's wisdom, knowledge, and courage were drawn from God through the Holy Spirit.

The fruit of the Spirit isn't produced through striving; it grows through surrender. We take root in the heavenly Father by meditating on His Word, praying, and serving. We reserve nothing for ourselves to control but fully rely upon Him. That's not passive living; it's an abiding 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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 14 of 57

The Groton Independent

Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.2% Sales Tax

- ☐ Black & White.....\$52.00/year
- ☐ Colored\$80.00/year
- ☐ Colored\$49.00/6 months
- ☐ E-Weekly*\$35.00/year

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

Groton Daily Independent

www.397news.com

Subscription Form

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

- ☐ 1 Month\$16.00
- ☐ 3 Months.....\$28.00
- ☐ 6 Months.....\$38.00
- ☐ 9 Months.....\$52.00
- ☐ 12 Months\$60.00

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

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

E-mail _____

Password _____

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

paypal.me/paperpaul

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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 15 of 57



WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.13.26

5 8 27 40 46 1

TOP PRIZE:
\$1,000,000/year

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 33 Mins 8
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.11.26

3 30 33 53 62 22

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$227,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 18
Mins 8 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.12.26

2 8 15 43 52 9

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$4,370,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 33 Mins 8
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.12.26

14 15 22 23 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$55,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 16 Hrs 48
Mins 8 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.12.26

21 24 32 48 51 12

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 17 Mins 8
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.12.26

14 16 23 58 69 3

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$251,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 17 Mins 8
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the Associated Press

Zach Johnson wins in South Dakota for 5th PGA Tour Champions victory of the season

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Zach Johnson won the Sanford International on Sunday for the fifth victory of his first PGA Tour Champions season, birdieing the final two holes to edge Ben Crane by a stroke.

The 50-year-old Johnson closed with a 4-under 66 at Minnehaha Country Club to finish at 11 under. He matched Stewart Cink for the tour victory lead.

Crane also shot 66. He finished birdie-birdie-bogey-birdie.

Mario Tiziani had a 63 to tie for third at 8 under with Boo Weekley (64), Ryan Armour (66), Chad Campbell (67) and 2025 winner Retief Goosen (68).

Johnson won 12 times on the PGA Tour, highlighted by major titles at the 2007 Masters and 2015 British Open.

Yemen's Houthi rebels seize more key islands in southern Red Sea, tighten grip on shipping routes

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels captured more strategic islands in the southern Red Sea, government and Houthi officials said Monday, strengthening their control of a major maritime shipping route.

The capture of the islands of Greater and Lesser Hanish is the latest in the rebels' swift advance around the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a key passage for Saudi oil shipments that has only become more crucial during the Iran war since it serves as an alternative to the Strait of Hormuz.

Like Hormuz, which is located at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, the Bab el-Mandeb Strait — on the opposite side of the Arabian Peninsula — is a chokepoint that connects the Red Sea to the open ocean and Saudi Arabia's key Asian markets.

For more than a month, the Houthis have been striking Saudi oil infrastructure and shipping in the Red Sea, stepping up pressure on global oil prices and boosting Iran's leverage in its war with the United States.

Saudi-backed Yemeni government forces have been attempting to rally and fight back. But the Houthi gains have seemingly come with little resistance.

The rebels deployed on the Hanish islands, 160 kilometers (100 miles) north of Bab el-Mandeb, after hundreds of government-allied forces withdrew from the archipelago, according to two government officials and a Houthi official. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to journalists.

The capture of the islands came after the rebels last week seized the port city of Mokha on the mainland nearby and the island of Mayun, inside the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. The Houthis' advances also put them just 20 miles (32 kilometers) from the U.S. military base in Djibouti, on the other side of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

Thousands of Yemenis are fleeing the fighting

The fighting is pushing in the impoverished nation back into full-fledged civil war, after a truce that largely maintained quiet since 2022. Even as they advance along the Red Sea, the Houthis have waged an offensive further inland, particularly in the longtime battleground province of Taiz.

Some 150 civilians have been killed in fighting since Sept. 3, including a pregnant woman killed Saturday in a village in Taiz, the government's Human Rights Ministry said. More than 200 civilians have been wounded, it said.

Thousands of families have fled their homes in Taiz and nearby provinces in the past day along, said Khanzad Shah, acting head of Islamic Relief, a charity that operates in the area.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 17 of 57

"Many of them don't have enough food or water as they had to flee with whatever they could carry. In some areas, whole villages have reportedly emptied," he said.

The United Nations has estimated that more than 80,000 people have been displaced in the past two weeks, including over 2,000 people who fled by boat to Djibouti.

The fighting threatens to reignite a war that for more than a decade brought disaster to Yemen, killing more than 150,000 people and driving the country to the brink of famine. Since 2014, the Houthis have controlled the north, including the capital, Sanaa, and much of the western heartland of the country where most of the population is located.

The internationally recognized government, backed by an array of disparate militias, controls the south and east, including the key southern port of Aden.

The Hanish islands, newly captured by the Houthis, had been controlled by the United Arab Emirates and its southern allies in Yemen. However, the UAE dismantled its military infrastructure there after it fell out with Saudi Arabia and the Yemeni government earlier this year.

For years, Saudi Arabia waged a destructive air campaign against the Houthis, while backing the government and allied militias. But it has appeared reluctant to throw itself fully back into the war, despite the Houthi attacks on oil infrastructure and shipping.

Houthi cross-border attacks are continuing

Saudi authorities sounded sirens on Sunday afternoon in the southern city of Abha and Khamis Mushait province, warning residents to take shelter from potential incoming fire. Both areas, near the border with Yemen, were repeatedly attacked by the Houthi in recent weeks.

A Houthi spokesman said they fired dozens of missiles and drones at the King Khalid Air Base in Khamis Mushait, targeting hangars, radar installations and ammunition depots. The statement on Monday by Brig. Gen Yahya Saree did not specify when the attack took place, but the Houthis often take hours or days to claim responsibility for attacks.

There was no immediate comment from Saudi Arabia on the Houthi claim. The Saudi civil defense overnight said a projectile fell in a different area near the border with Yemen along the Red Sea, injuring two people and damaging a mosque and several other buildings. The statement blamed the Houthis.

Saudi Arabia did not announce any new attacks targeting the Houthis.

Yemeni government forces are trying to regroup

On Sunday, the Yemeni government's military said it launched airstrikes on Houthi positions in the port city of Mokha, the coastal town of Dhubab and elsewhere in Taiz province. The rebels reported strikes by the Saudi-backed forces in Taiz province and artillery shelling in Saada province, a Houthi stronghold on Yemen's northern border with Saudi Arabia.

Sultan al-Arada, a member of the government's presidential leadership council, described the collapse of government forces in Mokha, about 80 kilometers (50 miles) from the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, and elsewhere on Yemen's west coast as "painful and regrettable."

He said in televised interview aired late Saturday that forces "are currently regrouping and will return to the battle."

On Sunday, Rashad al-Alimi, who leads the presidential council, sought to downplay the defeats as "incidental," according to comments published by the country's state-run SABA news agency. The government, he said, "will remain clear and fixed on the goal of retrieving (state) institutions and of reclaiming sovereignty over all national territories."

People fleeing the Houthi advance told The Associated Press they saw forces withdrawing and urging people to run.

New warnings about the risks of AI to humanity revive a long-running debate

By ALEX VEIGA AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — New warnings from within the artificial intelligence industry have revived a long-running debate over whether advanced AI could escape human control and ultimately threaten humanity's survival, and whether the companies developing the technology are doing enough to prevent such a scenario.

The CEO of Anthropic, the San Francisco company behind Claude, said he thought the industry needed to reduce the speed of its work, cautioning Saturday that a swarm of AI agents might be able to take over the internet in six months to a year unless companies devoted more time to putting safeguards in place.

Dario Amodei outlined a plan for companies like his and governments around the world to ensure that increasingly capable AI models remain aligned with the commands and values of responsible people days after two former Anthropic safety researchers publicly aired concerns that the existential threats AI might pose to humanity were receiving too little attention.

Here's what to know about the recent dire predictions and whether any brakes might be put on AI advancement:

AI models are becoming more powerful

Concerns over the potential risks of the technology are rising as new AI models become more powerful, heightening both the potential for misuse by people with criminal aims, such as creating and spreading a disease that kills most of the world's population, and the risk of AI systems going rogue in a dangerous way.

Anthropic disclosed last week that it blocked efforts by bad actors to use its AI models for malicious activity, such as cyberattacks, surveillance and research that could have led to biological weapons.

The company said it put stronger safeguards in its latest models to restrict biological research that could be used to make weapons but noted that "as models become increasingly capable, their risks will increase, unless AI developers and society's defenders act to make them safer."

Last year, Anthropic reported that hackers used the company's AI in a cyberattack targeting about 30 companies and government agencies around the world. It said the hackers were very likely from a Chinese state-sponsored group.

Multiple AI models have acted on their own

When an AI agent "goes rogue," it means the AI has taken action beyond the task it was asked to perform. Both Anthropic and OpenAI, the maker of ChatGPT, said in July that their AI models had succeeded in acting on their own.

Anthropic disclosed that three AI models — Claude Opus 4.7, Claude Mythos 5 and an internal research test model — hacked into three other organizations during testing just days after OpenAI revealed that its AI system hacked into the servers of AI startup Hugging Face.

OpenAI described the intrusion by a combination of models, including its newly released GPT-5.6 Sol and an "even more capable" model that was still being tested internally, as a "significant security incident."

Meta followed suit in early August with a similar case of an AI model finding ways around another company's digital security.

Although some observers noted that people had disabled some guardrails in the OpenAI and Anthropic cases, the episodes seemed to reflect one of the biggest fears around AI: that if models achieve artificial general intelligence, or AGI, a loosely defined term for AI that can match or surpass human abilities across a broad range of intellectual tasks, the technology could cause an irreversible catastrophic event or subjugate the human race.

How or when AI might cause a catastrophe is debated

Doomsday scenarios generally fall into two categories: An AI that achieves self-improving superintelligence controls people instead of vice versa, or AI used by a rogue state or nefarious actors.

Worries that artificial intelligence might overcome human limits on its reach or actions are not new.

Alan Turing, a British mathematician widely regarded as one of the earliest authorities on artificial intel-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 19 of 57

ligence, predicted in 1951 that AI would eventually take control from humans. Less than a decade later, Norbert Wiener, another mathematician, warned intelligent machines would seek to accomplish their own objectives and humans would not be able to stop them.

In 2026, how reasonable are fears that AI, either by escaping human control or through misuse by unscrupulous people, could cause a cataclysmic event or the downfall of civilization?

No one knows.

Experts across computer science, philosophy and other fields have envisioned numerous routes by which a future AI system might cause a global catastrophe, either by escaping human control or in the hands of an unscrupulous people. They range from deploying weapons and identifying a lethal pathogen to manipulating governments into conflict or disrupting the food, energy and communications networks societies rely on to function.

There is no widely accepted estimate for how soon any of these scenarios might happen and no consensus on their likelihood.

In 2023, the nonprofit Center for AI Safety issued a statement cosigned by more than 350 researchers and technology executives, including Anthropic's Amodei and OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, saying: "Mitigating the risk of extinction from AI should be a global priority alongside pandemics and nuclear war."

The 2026 International AI Safety Report, written with guidance from more than 100 independent experts, says current systems show early signs of some relevant capabilities but not at levels that could enable a loss of control, and describes the risk's likelihood, nature and timing as "unusually ambiguous."

Some are stressing the need for AI safeguards before it's too late

An Anthropic researcher said last week he was resigning from the company over concerns that neither the company nor its competitors were acting responsibly in developing the technology. In social media posts, Jacob Coxon estimated a 10% chance of AI causing human extinction within the next decade and said both Anthropic and OpenAI "are racing straight to self-improving superintelligence and gambling with our lives."

Researchers have called for a slowdown of AI development and warned for years that the technology could pose existential risks to humanity.

Following the recent incidents, experts called for improved testing by AI companies and more dialogue between the U.S. and China to come up with shared solutions.

But AI is growing so fast that government and evaluation systems are struggling to keep pace with the technology. Countries are cobbling together their own laws, some conflicting.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping warned at a conference in July of the need to keep AI from evading human control. The Trump administration initially demonstrated reluctance to regulate AI but has become more keen to reduce cybersecurity risks.

On Sunday, President Trump downplayed the necessity for his administration to check AI development, but acknowledged the need for some regulation.

Trump calls on Ukraine to halt strikes on Russian diesel fuel, citing a global shortage

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump on Sunday called on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to halt strikes on Russian oil refineries and other infrastructure used to produce and distribute diesel, saying the attacks are causing a global shortage. He spoke after diesel prices in the U.S. hit a record on Friday, soaring past \$6 a gallon on average.

Ukraine has for months been targeting Russia's oil and gas industry with long-range strikes, prompting fuel rationing across the country and causing Moscow to ban diesel exports in July, removing supplies from the already tight global market.

But the global crunch also came after the war on Iran curtailed oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz.

Fuel prices are weighing on Americans as they prepare to vote in midterm elections in November.

Trump was asked by a reporter if he had spoken with Zelenskyy following his recent conversation with

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 20 of 57

Russia's Vladimir Putin. He responded by calling on Zelenskyy to halt strikes against Russia.

"Mr. Zelenskyy has to do one thing. He has to stop knocking out diesel fuel in Russia," Trump told reporters on the sidelines of the Irish Open, which is being played at his Doonbeg golf club.

"We spoke to Mr. Zelenskyy about it. There are plenty of other targets. Don't hit diesel fuel, because that's hurting, that's hurting the world," he said.

Diesel exports from Gulf countries way down since Iran war began

According to a report published Friday by the International Energy Agency, net exports of diesel and gasoil from the Gulf countries in August stood at "just over a quarter" of what they were before the war on Iran began in February.

"Disruptions to Russia's refining system and a near-halt to product exports following intensified Ukrainian attacks have compounded these losses," the IEA wrote. It added that in February, combined net exports of diesel and gasoil from the Gulf and Russia "accounted for almost 45% of global seaborne trade."

Kyiv says Russia's oil industry both funds and directly fuels Moscow's more than four-year-old invasion of Ukraine.

Russia has ramped up its air campaign against Ukraine in recent weeks, using ballistic missiles and jet-powered drones to pierce Ukraine's defenses. Moscow's attacks have targeted Ukraine's power grid ahead of winter in what officials say is meant to demoralize civilians.

Civilians were killed and injured overnight into Sunday as Russia and Ukraine exchanged large-scale drone strikes.

Two people were killed and 14 more wounded near an oil and industrial hub in Russia's Tatarstan, according to local officials, while Ukrainian authorities reported on Russian drones pummeling the Black Sea port of Odesa and starting a fire near a border crossing with Poland.

Ukraine targets more Russian oil facilities

The two Russian civilians died after a drone slammed into a tree near their parked car in the city of Nizhnekamsk, according to the office of regional head Rustam Minnikhanov. Nizhnekamsk houses a key cluster of oil refineries and other industrial plants. Mayor Radmir Belyaev said that a fire had broken out at an unspecified "enterprise."

Ukraine also claimed to have hit a major oil refinery in Slavyansk-on-Kuban, in Russia's Krasnodar region near Crimea. The Defense Intelligence of Ukraine (DIU) agency said its drones struck a key oil processing unit and the refinery's tank farm overnight into Sunday.

Krasnodar authorities said the strike on "an enterprise" in Slavyansk-on-Kuban injured three people and damaged an oil pipeline.

Russian forces shot down 389 Ukrainian drones during the night, Russia's defense ministry said Sunday.

Russia targets Odesa and western Ukraine

In Ukraine, at least nine people were injured in a "massive" Russian nighttime attack on Odesa, according to Serhii Lysak from the city's military administration. Odesa is home to Ukraine's main port hub on the Black Sea and has faced sustained drone and missile strikes, with Kyiv accusing Moscow of trying to choke off its exports.

A Russian drone attack on Saturday struck a residential high-rise in Odesa, killing two people and injuring 26 others, Ukrainian officials said.

Russian overnight strikes also pounded western Ukraine, though there were no immediate reports of casualties. One drone set fire to a gas station near the Yahodyn-Dorohusk border crossing with Poland, according to Ukraine's top diplomat and a spokesperson for the local customs force.

"This is Putin's terror 'knocking' directly on the doors of the EU and NATO. Russian barbarians are at your gate, dear partners," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha wrote on X.

Ukraine's border crossings with Poland are a conduit for much of the military and humanitarian aid sent by Western allies.

Valentyna Chernysh, a spokesperson for the Volyn Customs Office, told The Associated Press that the Yahodyn crossing was intact and no one was harmed.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 21 of 57

Earlier this week, two people died when Russian drones hit the Starokozache border crossing between Ukraine and Moldova on Tuesday. The following day a "direct threat" to a Polish-Ukrainian crossing point was avoided due to the cooperation between Warsaw and Kyiv, according to Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk.

Ukraine's air force said its air defenses shot down or suppressed 409 Russian drones of various types overnight, including a newer jet-powered version that is faster and more difficult to intercept. It said Russia had attacked Ukraine with 453 drones in total.

Asian shares decline and OpenAI investor SoftBank shares plunge after calls to slow AI industry

By CHAN HO-HIM AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — Asian shares were mostly lower Monday as shares of AI-related stocks, including Open AI investor SoftBank, declined following calls from Anthropic and OpenAI to slow AI development for safety.

U.S. futures edged lower, while oil prices gained more than 2% as worries grew over global oil supplies after Saudi Arabia shut down a major oil pipeline used to help bypass the Strait of Hormuz after it was attacked.

South Korea's Kospi lost 3.3% to 6,684.37. Japan's Nikkei 225 index slid 0.8% to 63,492.99. Shares of Japanese investment conglomerate SoftBank Group, a key investor in OpenAI, plummeted 10.7% after OpenAI CEO Sam Altman backed Anthropic's CEO Dario Amodei in his calls over the weekend that the AI industry should slow down to ensure its safety.

Altman also said in an interview with Fortune published Saturday that his AI firm would not make its initial public stock offering this year as it focuses on safety.

OpenAI and Anthropic are private companies, but both are expected to list and be traded publicly in the months ahead.

SoftBank's share price slide "probably reflects the possibility that AI development may be slowed by regulators to try to avoid the worst case outcomes that Anthropic and Open AI have discussed," said Dan Baker of investment research firm Morningstar. "And maybe also reflect the possibility that any further examples of loss of control of newer AI models could also slow AI development."

Other AI-related stocks also fell on Monday. South Korea's memory chipmaker SK Hynix fell 6.4%. Samsung Electronics lost 4.1%. Japan's chip equipment manufacturer Tokyo Electron dropped 1%, while Japanese memory maker Kioxia Holdings also sank 6.4%.

Taiwan's Taiex fell 0.7%. Shares of Taiwan's leading AI chipmaker Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. dropped 1.2%.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.4% to 24,904.46. The Shanghai Composite index edged down less than 0.1% to 3,885.33. In Australia, the S&P/ASX 200 was up 0.1% to 8,749.90.

Oil prices moved higher early Monday as U.S.-Iran tensions remained escalated while Iran-backed Houthi rebels stepped up attacks on Saudi Arabia.

Brent crude, the international standard, rose 2.8% to \$107.55 per barrel. It was at roughly \$72 a barrel before the start of the war in Iran in late February.

Benchmark U.S. crude was up 2.9% to \$102.90 per barrel.

While the prospect of a de-escalation of war in Iran and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial waterway for global oil transport, may have dimmed, wrote ING commodities strategists Warren Patterson and Ewa Manthey in a commentary Monday, the situation is still fluid and "sizeable" volumes of oil have still been moving through the strait.

On Friday, Wall Street's benchmark S&P 500 gained 0.9%, ending its four-day losing streak. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 1%, and the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite climbed 1%.

Investors are also monitoring this week's Federal Reserve meeting, in which Fed policymakers could raise rates as inflation remains above the Fed's 2% target.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 22 of 57

Growing inflationary worries following the Iran war-caused energy shock and rising U.S. government debt have fueled a sell-off of government bonds and put pressure on U.S. Treasury yields.

The yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury was at 4.96%, up from 4.95% last Thursday despite the U.S. Treasury Department's expanded buyback operations meant to stabilize the bond market.

In other dealings, the U.S. dollar rose to 154.34 Japanese yen from 153.58 yen. The euro was trading at \$1.1556, down from \$1.1598.

Second federal judge freezes Trump mail ballot order with US Supreme Court poised to weigh in

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

A federal judge late Sunday ordered that the U.S. Postal Service not implement President Donald Trump's executive order limiting mail balloting, adding another obstacle to the administration's effort to rewrite election rules as the Supreme Court is poised to weigh in on the matter.

The nation's highest court already is considering the administration's appeal of an order by U.S. District Court Judge Indira Talwani in Boston prohibiting the Postal Service from enforcing its new rule on mail voting before this year's midterm elections.

Late Sunday, U.S. District Judge Carl J. Nichols in Washington, D.C., handed down a similar hold on the rule, which was issued Aug. 21.

"Plaintiffs have demonstrated that, absent an injunction, there is an increased risk that a significant number of otherwise appropriate absentee or mail-in ballots will ultimately not be counted in the upcoming elections," Nichols wrote in issuing the preliminary injunction. "The public has a strong interest in ensuring that doesn't happen."

Nichols in May had refused to issue an injunction because he ruled the lawsuit seeking one was brought too early. That was the high court's reasoning late last month when it lifted an earlier freeze by Talwani. But because the administration had just issued its rule to move ahead with Trump's plan, the plaintiffs in Boston and Washington, D.C., refiled their lawsuits.

Talwani was nominated by former President Barack Obama and Nichols was nominated by Trump.

The new Postal Service regulations stem from an executive order Trump issued earlier this year. Election officials say it would be impossible to implement the changes this close to a general election.

The regulations would require all ballot envelope designs to be pre-approved by the Postal Service and that states upload the identities of those who are to receive them into a still-inactive online portal. Mail ballots already are being sent out in at least three states — Alabama, North Carolina and Wisconsin — and more states are preparing to distribute mail ballots this week.

A whistleblower report to Congress warned that millions of people would be disenfranchised if the rule was allowed to take effect for the midterms. The union representing U.S. Postal Service workers has pushed back against the executive order, saying it is not the job of postal workers to verify voter eligibility.

Mail balloting has long been a favorite target for Trump, who has falsely blamed it for his 2020 loss to Democrat Joe Biden and claimed it is a pathway to fraud despite his own use of the voting method.

Fighting in Yemen intensifies, and Houthis launch more attacks on Saudi Arabia

By ABDULNASSER ALSEDDIK and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

ADEN, Yemen (AP) — The conflict in Yemen intensified on Sunday, as government forces launched attacks against Iran-backed Houthi rebels along the Red Sea and Houthis fired into neighboring Saudi Arabia, which supports Yemen's government.

The Yemeni government vowed to send more forces to the Red Sea coast and one official conceded a "painful" defeat last week when Houthis captured the port city of Mokha and an island on the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a crucial shipping alternative to the Strait of Hormuz.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 23 of 57

The escalation — especially Houthi attacks on Saudi oil infrastructure and its shipping in the Red Sea — adds pressure on global oil supplies and prices, and that could give Iran leverage in its war with the United States.

As Yemen risks descending into another civil war, the United Nations estimated that more than 80,000 people in the impoverished country have been displaced by the fighting since the start of September.

One woman said a mortar shell fell nearby as she fled in the middle of the night from the town of Khawkha in Hodeida province along the Red Sea, shortly before it was captured by Houthis.

"I saw with my own eyes cars and buses burning, and bodies of children and women were lying on the road in a horrific scene," said the woman, who spoke on condition of anonymity out of concern for her and her family's safety.

Houthis claim attacks against Saudi Arabia

Saudi authorities sounded sirens Sunday afternoon in the southern city of Abha and Khamis Mushait province, warning residents to take shelter from potential incoming fire. Both areas were repeatedly attacked by the Houthi in recent weeks.

The Houthis claimed to have used drones and missiles to target Saudi Arabia, including a military base just over the border with Yemen. Houthi military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree didn't provide evidence or say when the attack occurred.

The Saudi civil defense overnight said a projectile fell in a different area near the border with Yemen along the Red Sea, injuring two people and damaging a mosque and several other buildings. The statement blamed the Houthis.

Saudi Arabia did not announce any new attacks targeting the Houthis.

The Houthis are targeting Saudi oil infrastructure and shipping as part of a recently declared blockade, but they have said they do not intend to threaten other countries' commercial shipping.

Yemen says 500 soldiers killed as it vows to fight back

The National Resistance, a government-allied force that had controlled coastal areas, said more than 500 government fighters were killed on the west coast over the past four weeks — its first comprehensive toll.

It also said more than 1,000 Houthis had been killed in Hodeida and Taiz provinces. A spokesman for the Houthis didn't respond to a request for comment.

Yemen is home to over 40 million people who fear a return to the civil war that began more than a decade ago and killed 150,000, bringing many others to the brink of famine. Yemen's internationally recognized government and Saudi Arabia have been battling the Houthis for 12 years. A ceasefire that began in 2022 had mostly halted the fighting.

A senior government official in Yemen said its forces will return to the Red Sea coast and fight back. People fleeing the Houthi advance told The Associated Press they saw forces withdrawing and urging people to run.

Sultan al-Arada, a member of the ruling presidential leadership council, described the collapse of government forces in the port city of Mokha and elsewhere on Yemen's west coast as "painful and regrettable." He said in the televised interview aired late Saturday that forces "are currently regrouping and will return to the battle."

On Sunday, Rashad al-Alimi, who leads the presidential council, sought to downplay the defeats as "incidental," according to comments published by the country's state-run SABA news agency. The government, he said, "will remain clear and fixed on the goal of retrieving (state) institutions and of reclaiming sovereignty over all national territories."

On Sunday, the Yemeni military said it launched airstrikes on Houthi positions in Mokha, the coastal town of Dhubab and elsewhere in Taiz province. The rebels reported strikes by the Saudi-backed forces in Taiz province and artillery shelling in Saada province, a Houthi stronghold on Yemen's northern border with Saudi Arabia.

The advance puts Houthis closer to a major US base in Djibouti

The Houthis' advance puts them just 20 miles (32 kilometers) from the U.S. military base in Djibouti, on the other side of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. It's the main U.S. base in Africa and one of several foreign

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 24 of 57

military bases in Djibouti, including those of China, France and Japan.

The small Horn of Africa nation is already seeing the arrival of displaced Yemenis making the perilous water crossing. More than 2,000 Yemenis have reached Djibouti, the International Organization for Migration said Sunday.

Djibouti's Economy and Finance Minister Ilyas M. Dawaleh, said on X that the country's navy, coast guard and other specialized agencies were conducting rescue operations and providing emergency assistance.

Yemenis displaced by fighting worry about their survival

The U.N. migration agency said Sunday that more than 82,000 people in Yemen have been displaced since the beginning of September.

"The displaced people are in a very bad condition," said Ahmad al-Masawi, the director of the Al Salam camp in the southern port city of Aden, who appealed to international organizations for assistance. "They left their homes quickly without any clothing or anything. They are crammed in camps, houses and even on roads."

Hussein Haydara sat outside a shelter at the camp in a white undershirt, as his children waited to be assigned to a tent. He worried about how far the shelter is from schools, hospitals and markets, and wondered how they will survive the next weeks or months.

Haydara had fled his home in Hodeida once before, when the Houthis took it over in 2015. But this time feels more precarious.

"With the first displacement, we had time to plan things but this time we were forced to escape all of a sudden. One could hardly take their children and the lightest stuff possible," he said.

Carney pitches Canada to global investors as Trump tries to pull investment south

By ROB GILLIES Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump wants factories and investment moving south to the United States. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney is betting he can make billions flow north.

About 300 CEOs and senior executives from some of the world's biggest investment firms will descend on the Four Seasons in Yorkville, a tony Toronto enclave of high-end restaurants and designer boutiques, for Carney's Canada Investment Summit this week.

The investors collectively manage more than \$120 trillion in assets, underscoring the scale of capital Carney hopes to tap as Canada tries to attract billions in new investment and reduce its economic dependence on the United States.

"Canada is about so much more than being next to the United States," Carney said. "We have what the world wants."

Carney pointed to Canada's vast energy and critical-mineral resources, its highly educated workforce and trade agreements that give businesses based in Canada access to roughly 1.5 billion consumers around the world.

He said the turnout showed investors were interested in Canada on its own merits.

"They are coming because of Canada," he said. "If they wanted to go to the United States they would go to the United States."

Few people know this crowd better than Carney. He ran the central banks of Canada and England, spent 13 years at Goldman Sachs and later chaired the boards of Bloomberg L.P. and Brookfield Asset Management, putting him very much in his element among the global investors and money managers gathering at the Four Seasons.

A Canadian official described the summit as the largest gathering of investment decision-makers ever assembled in Canada, alongside Canadian CEOs bringing projects at varying stages of readiness. But the official cautioned that the summit is not expected to produce a rush of deals this week, with the most significant results likely to emerge over the next 12 to 18 months. The official spoke on condition of ano-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 25 of 57

nymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the matter.

A trade war raises the stakes

But the summit comes at a critical moment for Canada. Trade talks collapsed Aug. 21, then Trump imposed 50% tariffs on about \$20 billion in Canadian goods and Canada retaliated. Washington then raised the stakes again, announcing bans on some Canadian imports and moving to shut Canadian products out of large, long-term U.S. government contracts.

Trump's tariffs and efforts to shift manufacturing south of the border are undermining what was long one of the country's biggest attractions to foreign investors: reliable access to the enormous U.S. market under continental free trade.

Carney and business leaders will urge global investors to look past the trade war and make a bigger bet on Canada.

Carney is drawing a pointed contrast with Trump's America, pitching Canada as a stable, rules-based alternative to an increasingly unpredictable United States.

Investors coming to Canada will find "a country that respects rule of law and a country that is reliable," Carney said.

"That combination is pretty rare in the world," he said. "And it's an attractive combination."

Carney sharpened the message Sunday, telling Canadian business leaders that Canada's greatest strength was something "that cannot be found on any balance sheet: trust."

John Graham, CEO of CPP Investments, one of the world's largest institutional investors and the manager of Canada Pension Plan assets, is helping host the summit. He said the fund compares investment opportunities in Canada with those around the world.

"The conversation about Canada is changing," Graham said.

Summit aims to channel global capital into Canadian projects

The summit is aimed at matching global capital — including Canada's pension funds, which rank among the world's biggest institutional investors — with major projects in critical minerals, technology, defense, advanced manufacturing and energy.

Carney's private meetings will be tailored to investors' portfolios and the types of projects they are interested in financing, according to a Canadian official.

BlackRock CEO Larry Fink and Blackstone President Jon Gray will headline a public discussion on global capital, while former Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper is scheduled to close the summit. Carney then heads to Europe, where he will address the European Parliament later in the week as Canada seeks a broader strategic partnership with the EU.

'The Pitt' looks to repeat and 'Widow's Bay' could bring an epic wave as Emmy Awards arrive

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The 78th Emmy Awards are here. "The Pitt" will look to find its place in the television pantheon and "Widow's Bay" will ride a storm of buzz into the ceremony Monday night at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles.

Mariska Hargitay, the longtime "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" star and a three-time Emmy winner, will host the show on NBC, which has rolled out a peacock blue carpet for the occasion, a nod to the network's 100th anniversary.

The ceremony will also celebrate the 30th anniversary of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" and the 50th anniversary of "Charlie's Angels," with cast members among the presenters.

How to watch the Emmy Awards

The Emmys telecast rotates between the broadcast networks, and this year it's airing live on NBC and streaming live on Peacock at 8 p.m. Eastern, 5 p.m. Pacific.

"Live from E!: Countdown to the Emmys" will show stars arriving beginning at 5 p.m. Eastern, 2 p.m. Pacific on YouTube and Peacock. The Associated Press will also have a delayed feed of celebrity arrivals

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 26 of 57

on YouTube.

'The Pitt,' 'Widow's Bay' and 'Hacks' will compete for the top prizes

HBO Max's real-time emergency room drama "The Pitt" was a rookie upstart a year ago when it won best drama, best actor for star Noah Wyle and best supporting actress for Katherine LaNasa. Now an esteemed veteran, the show is expected to repeat in all three categories and could win three more, with Wyle himself up for three trophies. The show's ensemble got four nominations in the supporting actress category and three more for supporting actor.

"Hacks" got the most nominations of any comedy for its fifth and final season on HBO Max, and star Jean Smart is a virtual lock to make it 5-for-5 with yet another win for best actress in a comedy.

But the Apple TV horror comedy "Widow's Bay" may spoil the "Hacks" send-off. It comes into the evening with eight wins at earlier ceremonies where most of the well over 100 Emmys categories are awarded.

The show can add up to six more Monday. If it does, it will break the record of 13 Emmys for a comedy in a season set last year by "The Studio."

"Widow's Bay" star Matthew Rhys is a favorite to win best actor in a comedy, and the show's breakout star Kate O'Flynn is a strong candidate for best supporting actress.

Rhea Seehorn, Harrison Ford and Zendaya are also in the mix

Rhea Seehorn plays the lone central character on Apple TV's "Pluribus," and she could ride the role to her first Emmy for best actress in a drama.

Seehorn's competition includes Zendaya, who won for the first two seasons of "Euphoria" in 2020 and 2022, and is nominated for its third and final season.

The night could also bring the first Emmy — and first major competitive Hollywood award of any kind — to 84-year-old Harrison Ford, who is among the favorites for best supporting actor in a comedy for playing a therapist coping with Parkinson's disease on "Shrinking."

Amazon suspends use of 21 Air, cargo carrier whose plane careened off Miami runway

MIAMI (AP) — Amazon said Sunday that it has suspended its partnership with 21 Air after one of the cargo carrier's planes loaded with Amazon packages careened off a Miami runway last week and killed five people.

The Boeing 767 came in fast on Sept. 6 and then barreled roughly 1,300 feet (396 meters) past the end of the runway and smashed into a van carrying workers at a plane cleaning company. All five people who died were in the van. Five others were hurt.

"After the tragic incident last weekend, we've spent time supporting the investigation and reviewing some of the surrounding circumstances, and we've decided to pause our operations with 21 Air, the operator of Flight 7598," Amazon spokesperson Kelly Nantel said a statement. "We'll continue working to support the investigation and everyone affected."

North Carolina-based 21 had flown packages for Amazon since 2024. The company didn't immediately respond Sunday to a request for comment about Amazon's decision.

The jet's ownership history, weather conditions at the airport, maintenance records and operations by 21 Air were expected to be reviewed by investigators with the National Transportation Safety Board.

Flight information released by the NTSB on Sept. 9 revealed one of the pilots warned his counterpart they were going too fast as they approached for landing and after touchdown.

The cockpit audio recordings also captured a series of automated warnings from the plane about the speed of descent and the approaching terrain. The full transcript of the cockpit conversation won't be released until later in the investigation.

The 32-year-old Boeing was originally built to carry passengers and flew for several airlines in foreign countries for more than two decades before being converted to a cargo plane in 2015, according to flight-tracking site Flightradar24.

Russians are still fleeing abroad, citing fears of a new mobilization and a loss of freedom

By DASHA LITVINOVA Associated Press

This summer, a 28-year-old digital content marketer packed up his suitcases and duct-taped boxes and fled Russia, leaving behind his family and friends and not knowing when he'll be able to return.

"It is very sad to leave Russia," he said in the southern city of Krasnodar before heading for the border with Georgia.

He blamed "the political situation" in Russia and complications over authorities restricting internet access as his reasons for leaving. Otherwise, "I never would have left for more than several months," he told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because of security concerns.

He is one of a number of people who either left or are contemplating a move amid recent Ukrainian drone attacks inside Russia and persistent rumors of a coming mobilization of troops for the 4 1/2-year-old war.

The attacks this summer caused an unprecedented fuel crisis and dealt crippling blows to the booming e-commerce sector. Since last year, the government has cited the attacks to justify harsh restrictions on connecting to the internet.

The exodus is nowhere near as large as in 2022, when hundreds of thousands fled in the first year of the full-scale invasion. Still, a group that helps citizens who flee abroad said it received nearly eight times more queries last month than it had in May.

"It doesn't mean that there is a huge number of people right now at the borders," said Anastasia Burakova, the founder of Kovcheg, which means "ark" in Russian. "But we're seeing that people are preparing to emigrate, we're seeing that people are looking into what options are there."

On social media, Russians talk of moving abroad

The current numbers are hard to gauge. Unlike 2022, when droves of men fled a partial call-up for the military, there are no lines at border crossings or shortages of plane tickets to visa-free destinations like Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Turkey at the moment.

At the same time, AP found numerous social media videos from all over Russia of people saying they had decided to leave, citing war-related reasons. Others were worried about the declining economy, an uncertain future and shrinking freedoms.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other officials in Kyiv have said Russia is planning another mobilization after the State Duma election that concludes Sunday — claims the Kremlin has repeatedly and vehemently rejected.

Yan Slovitsky, an urgent assistance coordinator for Kovcheg, described "a panicked wave" of emigration since mid-July linked to mobilization fears, the fuel crisis and internet restrictions.

A Moscow-based diplomat told AP about "a palpable rise in public anxiety this summer," and pointed to "anecdotal evidence of higher than usual numbers of Russians appearing in neighboring Georgia and Armenia, possibly fearing another mobilization after the Duma elections." The diplomat was not authorized to comment publicly and thus spoke on condition of anonymity.

Alen Simonyan, secretary of Armenia's Security Council, told independent Russian TV channel Dozhd last month that his country "will not interfere in any way, and if necessary, will help" Russians who are moving there to avoid being drafted.

That drew a sharp rebuke from the Russian Foreign Ministry, which called Simonyan's remark "provocative."

Russian lawmaker Viktor Sobolev told the RTVI channel that the country doesn't need people who "don't love their Motherland so much that they leave because of rumors," adding: "Let them leave."

Some emigres seek to avoid military service

The digital content marketer, who describes himself as a pacifist, says this was his second attempt at emigrating.

He left Russia in 2022 to avoid the partial call-up of 300,000 new troops, an announcement by President Vladimir Putin that shocked the nation.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 28 of 57

He said he isn't technically eligible for military service in peacetime due to a hip ailment, but felt it was safer to leave because he didn't know what to expect from authorities.

Some officials in 2022 said such men could legally be drafted in a mobilization, as did some rights groups helping conscripts. Others said martial law had to be declared for it to be legal. Russia has not formally declared war on Ukraine, and the Kremlin only imposed martial law in the four Ukrainian regions it illegally annexed in 2022 but doesn't fully control.

The digital content marketer returned to his hometown of Ulyanovsk in 2025 and worked remotely for clients in other countries. But Russia's unrelenting clampdown on thousands of internet platforms, sites and services made it harder for him to do his job, he said, having to switch virtual private network servers to find one allowing him to get around the restrictions.

Another factor was the rumored new mobilization. "You never know what will happen tomorrow," he said from an apartment in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi, where he settled.

A 23-year-old Muscovite who left Russia last month also cited the persistent mobilization rumors and fears that her husband might end up in the military.

The woman, who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity because of security concerns, said her father narrowly escaped being drafted in 2022 by fleeing the country. This year, her husband learned he would no longer have a deferment from military service after getting his master's degree.

"A person can figure anything out, but we were really afraid that (my husband) could end up in the army, because at this point it is a one-way ticket," she said.

Ivan Nazarov, a new university graduate who moved to the Armenian capital of Yerevan, echoed her sentiment.

He said he was aware of reports of conscripts in mandatory service who are not supposed to be deployed to Ukraine being forced to sign contracts that send them to the battlefield.

"For me, it is a question of survival," Nazarov added, speaking at a gathering organized by Kovcheg in Yerevan for new immigrants.

Other Russians cite shrinking freedoms

Queer activist Daniil Neonov left Russia this summer after a series of detentions and a 10-day jail term on charges of displaying extremist symbols — a photo featuring a T-shirt with a rainbow-colored print on it he posted on social media.

Russian authorities have outlawed what they call "the international LGBT movement" as extremist, leading sometimes to misdemeanor charges for carrying items with a rainbow on them.

Neonov told AP in Yerevan that he feared a criminal case would be brought against him.

He said he knows other people who left Russia after being detained for gathering outside the Supreme Court last month to support the opposition Yabloko party when the court struck it from the parliamentary election ballot. Yabloko was the only party on the ballot that openly opposed the war.

"The police came to them and filed reports. I know several people who, after they were held in detention, also left. I mean, I'm not the only one," Neonov said.

A 35-year-old Russian told AP he was preparing for leaving the country because he doesn't want to live in a land without free speech, where the economy is on a downward spiral and where schoolchildren have to listen to propaganda touting war, normalizing violence and promoting isolation from the rest of the world.

The man, who also spoke on condition of anonymity for safety reasons, said he had been thinking about leaving Russia for over a decade but still had hope that "everything would work out."

Now, he said, Russians "live in a huge digital jail. You can't say anything, you can't do anything. You have absolutely no rights."

Trump agreed to new ethics rules to get a crypto bill across the line. But that might not be enough

By SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump had been hearing the message loud and clear for weeks about the sweeping cryptocurrency bill being written in the Senate: to get it across the line, he would have to agree to ethics provisions that apply to him, too.

First, Trump agreed to a measure that would bar him and his wife from issuing the types of meme coins that they swiftly launched as he prepared to return to the White House for a second time. And then another concession came late Sunday, when Republicans said Trump consented to a tougher ethics proposal that several key senators had demanded.

Now, a pivotal Senate vote on the cryptocurrency bill on Tuesday could mark a watershed moment for the \$2.3 trillion market — but it hinges mainly on whether those sign-offs from Trump go far enough. That vote could determine whether Washington cements crypto legitimacy into law or whether a frustrated, deep-pocketed industry could unleash even more campaign cash in the midterm elections.

"A vote against the Clarity Act isn't a principled stand against President Trump," Sen. Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyo., the lead author of the crypto bill, told The Associated Press. "It's a vote against implementing tough restrictions on politicians for crypto investments."

Crypto bill's fate hangs on Trump-focused ethics fight

The president has amassed significant amounts of crypto wealth while in office, complicating dynamics for senators drafting legislation to try to bring the fledgling digital assets industry into the mainstream.

With that in mind, Lummis and Sen. Bernie Moreno, R-Ohio, went to the White House for a meeting in mid-July and told Trump that he would have to abide by conflict-of-interest restrictions to get key Democrats on board with the bill.

The president agreed — with surprisingly little pushback, according to two people with knowledge of the Oval Office discussion, who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the private talks.

The language presented in that meeting by Lummis, a longtime crypto backer steeped in the intricacies of digital asset policy, and Moreno, a blockchain entrepreneur and luxury car dealer known for his persuasive sales pitch, would bar all federally elected officials and their spouses, as well as federal judges, from issuing digital assets. That would mean Trump would no longer be able to sponsor the type of meme coin he launched on the cusp of his second inauguration last January, nor would his wife, first lady Melania Trump, who also has a token.

But Sen. Ruben Gallego, D-Ariz., and Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., then presented an additional proposal to the White House that went further. It would require the president to put his crypto holdings in a blind trust, and divest when those holdings reach a certain value, according to two other people with direct knowledge of the language. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private negotiations.

It would also allow state attorneys general to step in and enforce the law in addition to the Justice Department — a critical provision for Democrats who say they would not be able to trust a Trump-appointed attorney general to enforce any conflict-of-interest provision against the president.

That proposal could, in theory, force Trump to divest from ventures such as World Liberty Financial, the cryptocurrency venture that his sons launched in 2024. Trump reported more than \$500 million in revenue from World Liberty Financial sales of crypto products, including "governance tokens," in his annual disclosure report filed with the Office of Government Ethics — a significant share of the more than \$1.4 billion that the president reported from crypto businesses last year.

White House warms to Democrats' ethics idea after initial skepticism

In private, White House officials had raised concerns about giving state attorneys general the power to enforce the law, arguing that Democratic state lawyers could use it as a political weapon against the president and other GOP officials — and that it could be used by Republican attorneys general against elected Democrats, according to the two people familiar with the July Oval Office discussion.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 30 of 57

Still, Trump agreed to language that includes a “meaningful role” for state attorneys general to play in enforcing the crypto measure should it become law, according to a Sunday night statement from Lummis and Sens. John Boozman, R-Ark., and Tim Scott, R-S.C., the bill’s main authors.

A senior GOP aide, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity, said the president had agreed to “about 80%” of the proposal from Tillis and Gallego, pointing mainly to the state attorneys general provision. An updated version of the bill released Sunday also includes a requirement to either divest or place in a blind trust any “significant” financial interest in an entity that issues cryptocurrencies.

Gallego and Tillis, the senators who had pushed for additional measures, did not immediately comment on the development late Sunday.

Trump also agreed to language that would allow state attorneys general to sue a crypto exchange if they list a digital asset that would be barred in the overall bill, according to the aide. Trump had been persuaded in part after a slew of conversations about the importance of passing the crypto measure, including with industry officials, the aide said.

For Democrats, an enforcement mechanism involving state attorneys general had been a red line.

“We need the state attorneys general to also have the power to prosecute if the Department of Justice refuses to,” said Maryland Sen. Angela Alsobrooks, among the Democrats seen as vital swing votes on Tuesday. “I have been very clear about the fact that I will not vote for any legislation that does not cover ethics,” she said.

Presidents aren’t always covered by federal ethics laws

Presidents have often been exempt from federal conflict-of-interest laws, though some other modern presidents voluntarily put assets in blind trusts. While Cabinet officials subject to the laws can recuse themselves or divest holdings to address specific issues under their jurisdiction, it was seen as much more difficult for presidents who oversee the entire government to do the same.

A measure enacted into law last year regulating stablecoins, a type of cryptocurrency, barred members of Congress and their families from profiting off them, but it did not extend to Trump or his family.

“It is true that conflict-of-interest provisions do not commonly apply to the president because of their whole-of-government responsibilities,” said Lisa Gilbert, co-president of the government watchdog group Public Citizen. “That said, we have seen such unprecedented corruption and conflict of interest from this administration and Trump in particular, that we need a different rubric.”

The White House has maintained that the president stays out of family business decisions administered by his sons.

Trump is a relatively recent convert to crypto

In his first term, the president said that he was “not a fan” of cryptocurrency, saying it was “highly volatile and based on thin air.”

But Trump has since become a convert, persuaded by his sons’ interest in the business — and by its appeal to Black voters and younger voters, who could play a crucial role in close campaigns.

Crypto has served as more than just a political boon for Trump. The \$1.2 billion in Trump’s crypto revenues also included more than \$600 million from sales of souvenir-type “meme” coins stamped with his face through the crypto business CIC Digital LLC.

Last May, the president hosted top investors in his \$TRUMP meme coin for a dinner at his northern Virginia golf club, an example of how Trump was mixing his presidential duties with his business ventures despite the White House saying Trump attended the event “in his personal time.”

Indonesia continues search for at least 129 missing after ferry capsizes, 6 bodies recovered

By IMAN SATRIA and NINIEK KARMINI Associated Press

BANJARMASIN, Indonesia (AP) — The search is continuing for at least 129 people missing after a ferry overturned in bad weather in Indonesia’s Java Sea on Sunday.

At least 108 people were rescued and the bodies of six passengers were recovered as the search opera-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 31 of 57

tion expanded around the vessel's last known position.

The ferry, with more than 240 people on board, was traveling from Surabaya in East Java to Banjarmasin in South Kalimantan province, on Borneo Island, officials said.

The captain had reported rough seas with waves up to 3 meters (10 feet) before issuing a distress call, saying the ship was listing, said I Putu Sudayana, who heads the Banjarmasin Search and Rescue Office. Authorities later received information indicating the vessel had overturned.

The rescue agency in Banjarmasin said it received a report two hours after contact was lost with the Virgo Transport 8 at about 2 a.m. Sunday.

A rescue ship was headed to the vessel's last known position, the agency said, and by Sunday afternoon authorities were deploying teams supported by a dozen vessels, including four navy ships, and two helicopters.

Survivors are rescued and dead bodies recovered

Initial information indicated the vessel's last known position was in the Java Sea, about 148 kilometers (92 miles) from Banjarmasin. The ship's manifest said it was carrying 243 people — 213 passengers and 30 crew members — although it is common in Indonesia for the number of passengers to differ from the manifest. The vessel was also transporting 89 vehicles.

Sudayana, who is coordinating the search, said search teams, assisted by nearby tugboats and other passing vessels, had rescued 107 people and recovered six bodies by Sunday afternoon.

The 119-meter (390-foot) Virgo Transport 8 ferry was built in Japan in 1987 and operated there until last year before being sold to the current Indonesian operator, PT Virgo Karya Shipping.

Transportation Minister Dudy Purwagandhi said aerial searches showed the ferry was floating upside down and had not sunk. Rescuers were concentrating search efforts around the overturned ferry, he told reporters Sunday.

Videos released by the National Search and Rescue Agency on Sunday showed an overturned ferry floating in choppy waters during a helicopter search operation. Separate footage captured exhausted survivors disembarking from a rescue ship at a port in Banjarmasin, while injured victims were carried on stretchers before being taken by ambulances to nearby hospitals.

Distraught relatives wait for news at a port

Hundreds of relatives gathered at a command center in Banjarmasin's Trisakti port, awaiting word on family members believed to be aboard the ferry. Many anxiously checked passenger manifests and rescue lists as authorities continued searching for survivors.

"I was shocked when I saw my uncle's name on the passenger list," said a woman who goes by a single name, Bunga. "But I felt relieved after officials told me he had been rescued."

Indonesia is an archipelago of more than 17,000 islands where ferries are a common method of travel. Disasters occur regularly, with weak safety enforcement often blamed.

At least 211 people were rescued from an Indonesian ferry that caught fire last month in rough seas near the Indonesian tourist island of Bali, while one person was found dead and four others remained missing. The incident happened less than two weeks after another Indonesian ferry, the Mutiara Sentosa 2, caught fire off the main island of Java, with the loss of at least five people.

Sunday's accident comes just four days after a fire that gutted a passenger ferry in the Philippines killed at least 76 people, with at least 10 others still missing.

Alexander Zverev beats Ben Shelton to win the US Open title and extend a drought by American men

By BRIAN MAHONEY AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Alexander Zverev knew what he was up against, playing a U.S. Open final in a stadium full of people desperate to at last see another American champion.

He tuned out the screams for Ben Shelton for so long that he didn't even realize when he won, not hearing the chair umpire's announcement that the match was over.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 32 of 57

"In that moment I was in the zone, a lot," Zverev said. "I didn't hear noise at all. I was in this kind of tunnel where I just didn't hear anything."

Zverev used that focus to win a second major championship and prevent a first Grand Slam title by an American man since 2003, beating Shelton 6-3, 7-6 (2), 5-7, 6-2 on Sunday.

Zverev finally broke through in the majors by winning this year's French Open and followed up by adding the title in New York that he so painfully let slip away in 2020.

The No. 1 seed in a Grand Slam for the first time, he capitalized on Shelton's shaky start in his first major final, played a nearly flawless tiebreaker on serve and then turned back a comeback attempt in front of a crowd that feverishly cheered Shelton on — including girlfriend Trinity Rodman, who made it from her own soccer match in Washington before the finish.

"I know today 99.9% of the people wanted Ben to win, so I'm very sorry first of all," Zverev said during the trophy presentation. "But second, it was an incredible atmosphere to play in. Even though I know that the crowd was against me, the crowd was always incredibly fair."

Shelton was trying to win the first title by an American man since Andy Roddick won in Flushing Meadows in 2003, as well as become the first Black player to win the men's crown since Arthur Ashe in 1968.

"It's such a cool moment. Walking out on that court today, there's nothing like it. I've never felt anything like that before," Shelton said.

But Zverev was too good in majors this year and apparently didn't even know how good he was. After hitting a serve winner, he dropped back behind the baseline as if set to return. Zverev, who later explained he thought the score was 5-1, eventually did figure out he had won, raising his arms in celebration.

Zverev was the best player in the biggest events this year

Zverev improved to 25-2 in major matches this year and won \$5.5 million, matching the prize earned by women's champion Elena Rybakina on Saturday as the largest in Grand Slam history.

"You're one of the very best players in the world, maybe the best player in the world this year," Shelton told Zverev.

He thought this title would come in 2020 and still acknowledges it should have. He won the first two sets against Dominic Thiem and got within two points of victory before becoming the first man to blow a two-set lead and lose in the final since 1949.

Whatever ghosts were left from then are long gone now.

Zverev also reached the final at Wimbledon, falling to Jannik Sinner, and became the No. 1 seed in New York when the top-ranked Sinner had to withdraw with a knee injury. He made the most of opportunities that came when Carlos Alcaraz had to sit out two majors and Sinner missed another, after they played in three straight Grand Slam finals in 2025.

"I think God has seen how hard we worked, how much we suffered, how much pain we went through and I think 2026 is the outcome of all the years that happened before," Zverev said, addressing his team.

Shelton had already eliminated the defending champion when he beat No. 2 seed Alcaraz in a five-set quarterfinal that ended at 3:33 a.m., the latest finish in U.S. Open history.

But he fell short on Sunday in his attempt to become the first man to beat the No. 1 and No. 2 seeds en route to the U.S. Open title since 1975.

The No. 8 seed fell to 0-6 against Zverev, winning a set Sunday for only the second time.

The 23-year-old Shelton figures to get more chances, but Americans who have grown tired of waiting to celebrate a men's title wanted it now.

Shelton's early struggles and Zverev's style limit the crowd early

Fans stood and screamed when Shelton emerged from the tunnel before the match, but he didn't give them any reason to keep the cheers going once play began. Serving first, he lost the opening two points and then eventually handed the game to Zverev with a double-fault.

Zverev maintained that lead the rest of the set, which ended on another double-fault by Shelton.

Zverev's deliberate playing style helped limit the crowd's effectiveness. Fans are expected to quiet down as a player is preparing to serve and stay quiet until the ensuing point has completed.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 33 of 57

Zverev bounces the ball a number of times — sometimes around 10, maybe a dozen, others nearly 20, insisting there is no set pattern or plan — before he begins his toss, so it guarantees lengthy stretches of silence.

Fans tried to get around that by occasionally cheering when he missed a first serve — another tennis no-no that the chair umpire scolded them for — but Zverev, who said before the match he enjoyed hostile crowds, did not seem affected.

Then, with fans chanting “USA! USA!” Zverev turned back Shelton’s chance to even the match in the tiebreaker.

Shelton returned Zverev’s opening serve long, was beaten by a superb passing shot and then came up on the wrong end of a 16-shot rally as Zverev went up 3-0. Zverev then hit serves of 147 mph and 124 mph that Shelton couldn’t get back in play. Shelton cut it to 5-2 and then got a return in play for the only time, but Zverev won the point and then hit another serve at 139 mph to close it out.

Shelton kept fighting, at one point diving in an attempt to get a volley back, resting his head on his hands when he couldn’t and then banging his hand to the court. He picked himself back up and finally broke Zverev for the only time to win the third set.

But with Jalen Brunson, Karl-Anthony Towns and number of their teammates in attendance, Shelton couldn’t pull off a championship comeback like those New York Knicks did in June. He was broken to begin the fourth, the second time in the match he dropped his opening service game, forcing him to play from behind again.

Iranian cargo ship is struck, and talks between Tehran and its neighbors are postponed

By SAMY MAGDY, SALLY ABOU ALJOUD and CARA ANNA Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — An Iranian cargo vessel was struck early Sunday off Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz, Iranian state media said, and Tehran postponed a plan to brief neighboring countries on its contested efforts to manage shipping in the strait.

The attack drew attention back to the strait after threats to shipping in the Red Sea intensified last week. Iran-backed Houthi rebels battling government forces in Yemen captured an island on the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a crucial shipping alternative to the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran’s state-run IRNA news agency quoted the Qeshm governor as blaming a “terrorist enemy” for Sunday’s attack, which it said killed one and wounded four.

There was no immediate comment by the U.S. military, which has struck Iranian-flagged vessels during its blockade of Iranian ports and faces a new threat from Iranian ballistic missiles launched at its warships.

Qeshm Island, about 14 miles (22 kilometers) from the port city of Bandar Abbas, is key to Iran asserting control over the Strait of Hormuz.

Hours before the attack, Iran’s government remained defiant. “Our people can’t be bullied into submission. Iran won’t surrender,” President Masoud Pezeshkian said in a social media post.

U.S. President Donald Trump disagreed, saying on Sunday that Iran “wants to make a deal so bad” that “they’re calling constantly.” Trump spoke at his golf course in Doonbeg, Ireland, where he was attending a tournament.

Later, when asked by a reporter whether the U.S. struck the Iranian cargo vessel early Sunday in the Strait of Hormuz, Trump said: “I don’t want to say.” He then boarded Air Force One to head back to Washington.

Iran aims to brief regional countries on the strait

Iran had said foreign ministers from regional countries would meet Monday in Oman to discuss efforts by Iran and Oman, located on the other side of the strait, to manage shipping on it. But the foreign minister of Oman, Badr Albusaidi, said on X late Sunday that the meeting had been postponed “in the interests of consensus.”

Iran and Oman agreed to postpone the talks “at the request of some regional countries,” said Mohammad Ali Bak, an official in Iran’s foreign ministry who was quoted by IRNA on X.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 34 of 57

Saudi Arabia has submitted amendments to the Iran-Oman agreement, citing concerns that the emerging deal could have lasting implications for the Strait of Hormuz that could negatively impact other Gulf Cooperation Council countries, according to a Gulf official familiar with the matter who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Commercial ship traffic remains low in the Strait of Hormuz as attacks continue on what was seen as an international waterway before the U.S. and Israel launched the war on Feb. 28.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations monitor said Sunday that a vessel was hit by a projectile while transiting the strait, though it wasn't clear if this was referring to the attack Iran had reported off Qeshm. The monitor said a severe fire had broken out and that local authorities were evacuating those on board.

The U.S. has asserted that plenty of oil is getting out as its military helps to guide ships along Oman's coast, at the risk of being struck.

Before the meeting in Oman was postponed, only Iraq had publicly confirmed plans to attend. Bahrain had said it would not attend, citing a lack of diplomatic relations with Tehran.

Since early in the war, Iran has expressed interest in having ships pay fees for transit. It has said traffic into the Persian Gulf would pass through Iranian waters, while the outbound route would pass partly through Iranian waters and partly through Oman's.

There had been some optimism in the region about the planned meeting, with hope that Gulf nations might use it to assert a collective response to a war they had no part in starting. For months, they have faced Iranian attacks that Tehran has claimed target U.S. military assets on their lands.

On Sunday, Iran's president said he had a "good talk" over the weekend with a top official from the United Arab Emirates on the sidelines of a global summit of leading developing nations.

Iran has fired thousands of missiles and drones at the Gulf country, a close U.S. ally.

Pezeshkian said he met with Abu Dhabi's crown prince, Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed, while attending the BRICs summit in New Delhi.

"We talked about the issues of concern so that it's possible to put the past behind us, to look toward the future and how we can build the future together," Pezeshkian said. His comments were aired live on Iranian state television.

Trump downplays the need to check AI development and says he doesn't want to cede edge to China

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and DIDI TANG Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — President Donald Trump on Sunday played down the need for his administration to check the development of artificial intelligence, saying he worried about ceding America's edge over China in a global competition and that winning would help address the risks from the advancing technology.

While acknowledging the need for some regulation, Trump provided no specifics about potential rules and attributed warnings about the technology moving too quickly and with little oversight to "negative forces" he did not identify, though industry pioneers have raised such concerns.

"We can put guardrails, we can do this and that, but I think you have a lot of negative forces that are bringing it up that ... shouldn't be bringing it up, and they're bringing up things that won't happen," Trump told reporters during a weekend trip to Ireland. "But whoever wins with AI wins."

Asked later Sunday if he was trying to minimize the risks from AI, Trump said, "I'm not downplaying," adding that artificial intelligence is "going to be more good than bad, but by a lot." Speaking with reporters during the flight back to Washington, he repeated his earlier comment regarding the stakes for "whoever wins AI."

The Republican president spoke a day after Dario Amodei, CEO of the artificial intelligence company Anthropic, said the industry should put the brakes on its fast-moving development to give safety measures time to catch up. Other tech leaders, including Elon Musk and Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, publicly agreed with Amodei.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 35 of 57

Asked by a reporter if the industry should slow down or be regulated, Trump said after watching a golfer tee off in the Irish Open at his resort in Doonbeg that the United States is leading China in the development of AI and "frankly, I want to keep it that way because whoever wins AI wins."

Chinese President Xi Jinping is due at the White House later in September to meet with Trump, and AI likely will be among the items they discuss.

AI has become a major election-year issue in the U.S. as some of the country's largest companies seed small towns with a national network of computing warehouses while Americans from both parties increasingly raise alarms about less farmland and water supplies and rising electricity bills. Trump has kept up his support for data centers even as both Republicans and Democrats run from them and many communities try to block them.

Former President Barack Obama, a Democrat, said his party should make AI a campaign issue.

"I would talk about this, and I would say, 'Here's our plan for safety, here's our plan for making sure our kids are not corrupted by this.' ... I would be thinking about the economic impacts in very concrete ways and understanding what does it mean if there's going to be job displacement. Where is that going to hit? How are we going to respond?" he said at an event last week with the top Democrat in the U.S. House, New York Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, according to a transcript released by his office.

White House meetings and a call for action by members of Congress

Kevin Hassett, director of the National Economic Council at the White House, said he expects meetings will be held this week involving administration officials who oversee cyber and science and technology policy to discuss the next steps. Trump also could meet with members of Congress, some of whom have also been sounding alarms about the fast pace of AI development.

"I think the president wants to hear from them as well," Hassett said.

U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson acknowledged the need for "some guardrails, some safety measures" so AI "doesn't run away." But, like Trump, he also wants to ensure the U.S. does not "lose our edge in the global competition on this with China because that would be a national security threat."

Johnson, R-La., said industry leaders need to be summoned for "one big meeting and work this out together in the same room." He said he has discussed the issue with Trump and believes a meeting held quickly should be the "next step."

"So we're going to pull everybody together and make sure we do this in the right way," Johnson said, adding that it is a "top priority for me and for the Congress."

"But we don't need everybody to panic right now," Johnson said.

Jeffries criticized Republican leaders for allowing members to go back to their districts for the final part of September.

"We should take decisive action now so that we can slow down, as the CEOs have recently acknowledged, ... the pace of development in order to protect the American people and ensure that AI is proceeding safely," Jeffries said. Action on AI will be a "high priority" when House Democrats meet Tuesday as a group.

Neither Johnson nor Jeffries provided concrete steps about what Congress might do. Lawmakers agree that more guardrails are needed, but even narrow attempts at imposing rules have fallen apart over the years, evidence of the congressional reluctance to regulate the technology industry.

Industry insider urges cooperation between Washington and Beijing

Jacob Coxon, a former Anthropic employee who resigned over AI concerns and has gone public with his fears, argued for international rules along with industry self-regulation.

Coxon said he has grown concerned that AI models would soon gain super capabilities that could exceed human control.

"You're building a human-level or superhuman-level mind, without understanding what it wants, or thinks, or the way it thinks," Coxon said.

At a time of a fierce global competition for AI dominance, Coxon also urged cooperation between the U.S. and China, the two countries who are leading the race, to slow down and address safety.

"I do hope that the people in China who are looking at the same problems as we are, so they're try-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 36 of 57

ing to build the same technology, will come to the same conclusion that it has to be done in a measured manner, and it should be easy to cooperate on some sort of mutual -- of mutual slowing," Coxon said.

Otherwise, he said, "we risk running the same race with China, which could be equally dangerous."

White House adviser challenges AI leaders over regulation

Tech founder and investor David Sacks responded to the AI leaders' calls for regulation with a social media post challenging them. Sacks, co-chairman of a White House advisory council on science and technology, said Amodoi and other leaders are the ones setting the pace for development.

Sacks said they have the power to slow development on their own.

"The easiest way not to build superintelligence is for you to agree not to build it," Sacks wrote.

Trump says he's lifting a 10% tariff on Irish whiskey because 'everybody's been bugging me' about it

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

DOONBEG, Ireland (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump announced on Sunday at the close of a golf tournament in Ireland that he plans to remove a 10% tariff on Irish whiskey.

Trump said during the trophy ceremony for the Irish Open that he had been asked about the issue by everyone, including Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin and even some of the golfers. Irish Open winner Shane Lowry was among them, Trump said.

"Everybody's been bugging me" to do it, the Republican president said. "And I said, 'On behalf of the United States of America, I am going to take the tariffs off'" of Irish whiskey.

Irish whiskey currently faces the standard tariff imposed by Trump on most imports from the European Union, which was reduced from 15% to 10% in July.

Trump announced in April that he was lifting certain tariffs on U.K. whiskey, which includes Scotch and spirits made in Northern Ireland, creating an imbalance with Ireland.

Trump's surprise announcement was met with loud whistling and cheers from the crowd of spectators. Details on how soon the tariff would be lifted were not immediately available.

Chris Swonger, president & CEO of the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, called Trump's announcement "another positive step toward reducing barriers to spirits trade" and said everyone would benefit from it during the coming holidays.

"As U.S. hospitality businesses enter the critical holiday season, this action will provide a welcome boost for retailers, restaurants, consumers and the American economy," Swonger said.

In May, the Irish Whiskey Association called for the tariffs to be removed, arguing that such a step would help many U.S. companies with Irish products in their portfolios and avoid uncertainty for consumers.

Trump said on April 30 that he gave the United Kingdom a tariff break on whiskey after King Charles III and Queen Camilla visited the White House. "The King and Queen got me to do something that nobody else was able to do, without hardly even asking!" Trump posted on social media.

The Scotch Whisky Association said July 24 that the zero-tariff policy had come into effect.

Texas takes No. 1 in the AP Top 25, Oregon falls and Michigan returns

By The Associated Press undefined

There's a new No. 1 team in the AP Top 25: Texas snagged the top spot after a wild win against Ohio State, xgiving the Longhorns their earliest No. 1 regular-season ranking since 1965.

The Buckeyes slid down five places to No. 6, leaving the top five for the first time in two seasons.

Oregon, meanwhile, plummeted 15 spots to No. 21 after a 39-31 road loss to an Oklahoma State team that had lost 21 straight against Football Bowl Subdivision opponents.

No. 19 Michigan returned to the poll thanks to a 17-10 win over then-No. 11 Oklahoma. The Wolverines had gone unranked last week, after they needed an extra second and a second-chance Hail Mary to beat

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 37 of 57

Western Michigan.

LSU-Ole Miss matchup headlines Week 3

By MAURA CAREY

Week 3 features one of the more highly anticipated matchups of the season, with Lane Kiffin returning to Oxford as No. 7 LSU and No. 8 Ole Miss go head-to-head.

It's a revenge game on both sides, as Pete Golding, Trinidad Chambliss and Co. look to prove they're better off, and Kiffin and his haul of transfers seek the last word.

LSU enters the matchup as a narrow 2.5-point favorite on the road.

Ask a voter: Break down the LSU-Ole Miss game. What do you think will happen?

By KOKI RILEY

There will be a lot of eyeballs on the LSU-Ole Miss game coming up this week for a lot of reasons. Can you break down the game and take a guess at what you think will happen? -

AP sports editor Dave Zelio

Since I cover LSU, hopefully I can answer this one with some extra expertise.

I think the Tigers have a slightly better roster and a coaching staff (especially on offense) that I trust more, but they also turned the ball over four times against Louisiana Tech. Even if the defense looks unstoppable, the offense is a work in progress, especially through the air.

Dave is putting me on the spot here, but I think Ole Miss wins 24-21. — Sports writer Koki Riley has been an AP Top 25 voter for three seasons. You can follow him on X: @KokiRiley

Texas is No. 1, but history offers a warning

By MAURA CAREY

The Longhorns' move from No. 4 to No. 1 is the biggest jump to the top spot since Alabama made the same move in September 2024 after beating No. 2 Georgia.

It's also Texas' earliest No. 1 ranking since Sept. 27, 1965.

The Longhorns will have to overcome another trend at the top. The AP No. 1 team has now lost three straight true road games against top-five opponents. The last No. 1 team to win one was LSU with a 46-41 victory over No. 2 Alabama in 2019.

Ask a voter: Why isn't Miami No. 1?

By KOKI RILEY

Why isn't Miami #1 ???

Aiden

A fair question, given how dominant the Hurricanes have been at the start of this year and their impressive roster.

The only problem is that they haven't been challenged yet. Stanford is either the worst or second-worst team in the ACC, and Florida A&M is an FCS team. A trip to Wake Forest next week will give us a little better feel for Miami's quality, but the real test comes in November against Notre Dame. — Sports writer Koki Riley has been an AP Top 25 voter for three seasons. You can follow him on X: @KokiRiley

A look at the ACC

By MAURA CAREY

No. 5 Miami benefited from Ohio State's loss, improving two spots in the poll to break the top five. The Hurricanes are 2-0 and have outscored opponents 122-13 over the past two weeks.

No. 16 SMU and No. 23 Louisville each moved up one spot, while No. 25 Virginia held steady. Virginia Tech and Pittsburgh also received votes.

The rankings will likely look quite different next week after SMU and Louisville go head-to-head.

Ask a voter: Thoughts on Texas Tech after recent struggles?

By KOKI RILEY

What are the thoughts on Texas Tech after recent struggles?

Trendon A.

This is a good question because I really think Texas Tech's sluggish start has gone a bit under the radar.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 38 of 57

I was a little more pessimistic than some on the Red Raiders heading into the season because of the losses on the defensive line and the Brendan Sorsby situation. The portal haul was more than strong enough to keep them in my preseason rankings, but their unconvincing start to the year has led me to wonder if I'm putting them too high in my poll still. — Sports writer Koki Riley has been an AP Top 25 voter for three seasons. You can follow him on X: @KokiRiley

BYU earns highest ranking in Big 12

By MAURA CAREY

BYU jumped over Texas Tech, improving from No. 15 to No. 11, to become the top-ranked team in the Big 12 following a 28-17 win over Arizona.

Texas Tech held steady at No. 13 for another week after beating Oregon State 35-24.

BYU had the biggest jump of the week aside from Michigan, which returned to the poll at No. 19.

The Big 12 has four ranked teams, with Utah up three spots at No. 17 and Houston holding steady at No. 22.

What do the Gators need to do to be ranked?

James B.

By MAURA CAREY

Florida is off to a strong start and voters are noticing. The Gators have received the second-most votes of any unranked team in back-to-back weeks, falling behind Washington this week.

The Jon Sumrall-led Gators rolled past Florida Atlantic and Campbell, but they haven't quite been challenged yet. Florida doesn't face a ranked opponent until Ole Miss in Week 4. They travel to Auburn on Saturday, and a win against an undefeated conference opponent could be enough to crack the Top 25.

Ask a voter: Would Texas or Georgia win in a head-to-head matchup?

By KOKI RILEY

Who do you think would win in a head-to-head matchup, Texas or Georgia, given what you've seen thus far this season?

CL Smith

Texas is my No. 1 team, so I'm going with the Longhorns. One team has Colin Simmons and Cam Coleman, while the other has question marks at receiver and edge rusher.

— Sports writer Koki Riley has been an AP Top 25 voter for three seasons. You can follow him on X: @KokiRiley

AP Top 25 temperature check

By MAURA CAREY

Heating up: Texas (1), Indiana (4), Miami (5), LSU (7), Ole Miss (8), Texas A&M (9), Alabama (10), BYU (11), USC (12), Penn State (14), Tennessee (15), SMU (16), Utah (17), Iowa (18), Michigan (19), Missouri (20), Louisville (23).

Cooling down: Ohio State (6), Oregon (21), Oklahoma (24), Washington (unranked).

Steady: Georgia (2), Notre Dame (3), Texas Tech (13), Houston (22), Virginia (25).

Ask a voter: What do you think will happen when Tennessee comes to Neyland this weekend?

By KOKI RILEY

With Faizon Brandon looking like he's already started to settle in, what do you think will happen when Texas comes to Neyland this weekend?

Peyton M.

Texas faces UTSA next weekend, but I'm looking forward to that Tennessee matchup in Week 4.

I'm a little worried for Faizon Brandon if Texas slows down Tennessee's running game and Arch Manning puts up points early on the other side of the ball.

Tennessee still has a chance, though, since it's in Neyland.

— Sports writer Koki Riley has been an AP Top 25 voter for three seasons. You can follow him on X: @KokiRiley

Knocking on the door

By DAVE ZELIO

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 39 of 57

There are 15 teams receiving votes but not quite enough to crack the AP Top 25.

The top two are Washington and Florida, but Group of Six powerhouse Boise State is third and then comes a grouping that is fun to look at:

Oklahoma State (1-1) is fourth among 'also receiving' votes after stunning then-No. 6 Oregon over the weekend, followed by Western Michigan (1-1), which followed its controversial loss to Michigan with an easy win over Monmouth. Then comes Tulsa (2-0), whose opening win was against ... Oklahoma State.

Also in this group is North Dakota State, which moved up to the Bowl Subdivision this season and is only the second team in the FBS to be 3-0 along with No. 12 USC

In and out

By DAVE ZELIO

The only new team in the poll this week is No. 19 Michigan (2-0), which knocked off then-No. 11 Oklahoma to return from a one-week poll hiatus among the unranked following its controversial Hail Mary win over Western Michigan.

Previously No. 19 Washington (2-0) dropped out after a 16-14 win at home over Utah State. The Huskies picked off Utah State's Hail Mary attempt in the end zone to narrowly avoid the loss.

Ask a voter: What made Oregon your No. 1 in the preseason, and what can they fix?

By KOKI RILEY

Koki, you had Oregon ranked at #1 in your preseason poll. What metrics determined that, and what can they fix immediately?

Morgan

Thanks for making me look so good in front of everyone, Morgan.

Yes, Oregon was my preseason No. 1, which shows how perfect my rankings were ahead of Week 1.

I still think the Ducks have a shot to turn things around because of their pure roster talent, but Dante Moore and the passing game have to turn things around immediately, and the defense needs to be more aggressive.

I've been kinda stunned that they haven't been wrecking games at the line of scrimmage defensively. — Sports writer Koki Riley has been an AP Top 25 voter for three seasons. You can follow him on X: @KokiRiley

Ask a voter: Texas can enjoy its ranking ... for now

By KOKI RILEY

I have Texas losing to both LSU and Texas A&M, so they can enjoy their ranking for now.

Dennis C.

That wouldn't stun me, given that both of those games will be on the road.

I will note that Texas A&M didn't look amazing this week despite the lopsided score. Arizona State outgained the Aggies by 114 yards. — Sports writer Koki Riley has been an AP Top 25 voter for three seasons. You can follow him on X: @KokiRiley

Mestemaker shines in Oregon upset

By MAURA CAREY

Oklahoma State quarterback Drew Mestemaker proved to be a double-threat too difficult for Oregon to stop on Saturday. Mestemaker threw for 317 yards and two touchdowns while rushing for 109 yards and another score in the 39-31 upset.

The quarterback was one of nearly 20 players to follow coach Eric Morris from the University of North Texas to Oklahoma State.

Some of Mestemaker's former North Texas teammates also played a critical role in the win this weekend. Caleb Hawkins rushed 23 times for 110 yards and a score and Wyatt Young caught five passes for 121 yards and a touchdown.

The Top 25 origin story

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A version of The AP Top 25 college football poll started in 1936, the brainchild of former Sports Editor

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 40 of 57

Alan J. Gould.

The number of teams ranked, the number of voters on the panel and how the ballots are tabulated have fluctuated over the years, but no news organization has been ranking teams and naming a college football national champion longer than the AP.

Check out the QB highlights

By MAURA CAREY

Arch Manning bounced back from a rough first half in what would become the biggest statement-making game of his career. He finished the game 23-of-37 for 195 passing yards, a touchdown and a fluky first-quarter interception. He also led three consecutive touchdown drives in the fourth quarter to overcome a 20-point deficit and knock off No. 1 Ohio State.

Georgia's Gunner Stockton had the best game of his career, tying a school record with five passing touchdowns in the Bulldogs' 70-20 win against Western Kentucky.

Colorado quarterback Julian Lewis threw for 366 yards, four passing touchdowns and one rushing score in a 52-21 rout of Weber State.

Louisville's Lincoln Kienholz had another impressive outing, throwing for 332 yards and two touchdowns and running for 42 yards and two scores vs. Villanova.

AP Top 25 rankings

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1. Texas
2. Georgia
3. Notre Dame
4. Indiana
5. Miami (Fla.)
6. Ohio State
7. LSU
8. Ole Miss
9. Texas A&M
10. Alabama
11. BYU
12. USC
13. Texas Tech
14. Penn State
15. Tennessee
16. SMU
17. Utah
18. Iowa
19. Michigan
20. Missouri
21. Oregon
22. Houston
23. Louisville
24. Oklahoma

Virginia

Bryce Underwood and Michigan beat Oklahoma

By MAURA CAREY

Michigan quarterback Bryce Underwood was under the spotlight this week after saying "that's cool" in response to his job being in jeopardy. But he played Saturday like a fire was lit under him, carrying Michigan to a 17-10 win against No. 11 Oklahoma.

Underwood ran the ball in for a 38-yard rushing touchdown to give Michigan an early lead. And the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 41 of 57

Wolverines capitalized on a fourth-quarter interception with a one-yard rushing touchdown to break a tie. It was a tough day for Sooners' quarterback John Mateer, who lost all momentum after back-to-back scoring drives with a pick at Oklahoma's 30-yard line.

Ask a voter: How would you rank UGA after their first two weeks?

By KOKI RILEY

How would you rank UGA after their first two weeks? They played cupcakes but scored a historic amount. Would this keep them at 1 over Texas?

Ethan C.

There's very little we can take away from Georgia's first two weeks. That's why I've tended to lean on my preseason evaluation of the Bulldogs, which tends to be much lower than many of my colleagues in the poll.

I worry about Georgia's lack of playmaking at receiver and its pass rush. The latter was especially an issue last season, and I'm not convinced the Bulldogs did enough this offseason to fix it.

I'm fascinated to see how right or wrong I am once they start playing better teams.

Georgia wide receiver Talyn Taylor (1) catches a pass during the first half of an NCAA college football game against Western Kentucky, Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026, in Athens, Ga. (AP Photo/Colin Hubbard)

— Sports writer Koki Riley has been an AP Top 25 voter for three seasons. You can follow him on X: @KokiRiley

How did SEC freshman QBs Faizon Brandon and Keelon Russell fare?

By MAURA CAREY

The Southeastern Conference's pair of promising freshman quarterbacks, Faizon Brandon and Keelon Russell, were each tested on the road this week, and they both passed.

Brandon followed a historic debut by leading Tennessee to a 45-24 win against Georgia Tech. Coach Josh Heupel said his performance may not have been flashy on paper, but with 148 passing yards, two touchdowns and no turnovers, it was what the Volunteers needed from the young signal-caller.

Meanwhile, Russell completed 16 of 23 passes for 188 yards, a touchdown and two interceptions. He led four second-half touchdown drives to put the game out of reach and boost Alabama to a 45-17 win over Kentucky after the Tide trailed 14-13 at halftime.

Ask a voter: Will Michigan be considered for ranking after beating Oklahoma?

By KOKI RILEY

Will Michigan be considered for ranking after beating Oklahoma?

Gage

Spoiler alert, but Michigan made my Top 25 this week.

I don't think this win fully makes up for last week's debacle against Western Michigan, especially given how poor Oklahoma looked on offense, but give credit where credit is due.

Michigan looked much better this week. I was particularly impressed with how the Wolverines controlled the line of scrimmage defensively. — Sports writer Koki Riley has been an AP Top 25 voter for three seasons. You can follow him on X: @KokiRiley

Peeking at Oregon on this Top 25 voter's ballot

By KOKI RILEY

Koki, please walk us through your balloting for Oregon from the preseason poll to today's poll, where you dropped them out altogether.

AP sports editor Dave Zelio

Not to spoil my column too much, which is up now at Nola.com, but it was always going to take a pretty crazy turn of events for Oregon to drop from No. 1 in my preseason poll to unranked in two weeks.

That's what we saw on Saturday when the Ducks were outgained by nearly 300 yards against Oklahoma State following a rough showing the week before at home against Boise State.

The Ducks will probably crack my rankings again soon, but almost nothing they've done so far suggests they're a Top 25 team.

— Sports writer Koki Riley has been an AP Top 25 voter for three seasons. You can follow him on X: @

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 42 of 57

KokiRiley

How the votes are counted

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For decades, voters called, emailed and faxed their votes to the AP and ballots were tabulated by hand.

Now voting happens online and the count is automated first before AP checks for miscues.

The poll operates on a 1 to 25 point system, with the No. 1 team receiving 25 points down to the 25th team receiving 1 point. In between, the poll lists the teams with the most points from 24 down to 2. Teams that receive votes but not enough to make the top 25 are noted separately.

In case you missed it

By MAURA CAREY

Week 2 was rife with viral moments, starting with a \$1.2 million kick on College GameDay. In Pat McAfee's kicking contest, Texas freshman Connor Kacena-Merrell won \$600,000 personally and \$600,000 for charity after drilling a barefoot 33-yard field goal.

Oklahoma State's upset over Oregon led fans to storm the field — and in 2024 Vanderbilt fashion, the goalpost was carried off into the nearest body of water: the Theta Pond.

Akron's "OC for a day" winner Marty Whims led the Zips' opening drive as promised. The drive had a promising start before ending in a lost fumble.

Big Ten teams are among this week's losers

It wasn't a great week for the Big Ten, which saw its two highest-ranked programs suffer road losses. Ohio State and Oregon entered the season at Nos. 1 and 2. Now the question is whether they will retain top-five status.

Ohio State allowed 21 unanswered points in the final 15 minutes after leading 23-3 through the first three quarters. The Buckeyes fell to Texas 24-23.

The Oregon Ducks lost 39-31 in a major upset by Oklahoma State.

On the upside, Indiana held its own among the top 10-ranked Big Ten teams with a 55-0 win over Howard.

Who decides the rankings?

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP Top 25 voters are writers and broadcasters who cover college football.

AP employees do not vote, but they do choose the voters, and they seek wide representation from all over the country. This season, there are 69 voters.

The focus begins with voter representation in states with a Bowl Subdivision school, and the total number of voters from each state increases with the number of FBS teams. There are also spots reserved for national voters.

The AP allows broad latitude for voters to determine their rankings. They are urged to base their votes on performance, not reputation or preseason speculation (except, of course, for the always provocative preseason poll); to avoid regional bias, for or against; to pay attention to head-to-head results; and to make significant changes if desired.

Teams to watch

By MAURA CAREY

Texas is eyeing the No. 1 spot after scoring 21 unanswered points in a come-from-behind 24-23 win against Ohio State. The Buckeyes, meanwhile, hope to retain top-five status.

Oklahoma State delivered a 39-31 upset over No. 6 Oregon, putting the Ducks' status in question.

Michigan could be on its way back into the rankings after a 17-10 win against No. 11 Oklahoma.

Celine Dion thrills fans with emotional comeback concert after overcoming rare illness

By THOMAS ADAMSON Associated Press

NANTERRE, France (AP) — She hit the high F, held it, then blew out a breath and turned to look back at the band — a quick, disbelieving glance toward her musical director. Some 30,000 people read it before

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 43 of 57

they had finished screaming: Celine Dion did it.

It was "All By Myself," the song the Quebec superstar's voice has been measured against since 1996, saved for the encore of her first full concert in more than six years — her first since stiff person syndrome, a rare, progressive neurological disease, attacked her muscles, including those of the throat.

Few doubted she could still sing. What nobody knew was whether she could get through a whole show, and then get up and do it again a few nights later.

Dion gave the crowd three words: "Je vais bien." ("I'm doing fine.")

"When she hit that note, I grabbed my friend's arm. I'd been holding my breath without realizing. Then I started crying. 'She's back. She's really back,'" said Élodie Marchand, 42, a primary schoolteacher from Nantes.

A disease that goes for the throat

Dion, 58, had not played a full concert since March 8, 2020. She was diagnosed in 2022 with stiff person syndrome. She canceled a world tour, then what was left of it, and went quiet. On Saturday night, 25 songs in 2 hours and 15 minutes at the Plénitude Arena in Nanterre, west of Paris, was the first night of the engagement meant to prove she can work again.

The sold-out run is punishing: 16 shows in five weeks, 10 more booked for May 2027, 26 nights in all before tens of thousands of people each time.

The last time France saw her sing, it lasted four minutes. At the Olympic opening ceremony in July 2024, Dion sang from the Eiffel Tower — one song, one night — and the world called it a resurrection. Saturday she had to do it 25 times, then get up and do it again Wednesday.

Stiff person syndrome affects one or two people in a million. It stiffens muscles and sets off spasms violent enough to break bones, triggered by loud noise, by touch, by emotional stress. An arena holding 30,000 people is all three at once. Singing with it, Dion told NBC in 2024, felt like being strangled.

"Touring can be very difficult even when you're 100%," she said in a statement in 2023, canceling the last of her dates.

'I promised myself I wouldn't cry'

She cried before she finished the first song. In a Dior gown and a Boucheron necklace, she pressed her hands together in prayer, then missed her cue in "On ne change pas," on the line about the skinny little girl from Charlemagne, Quebec.

"I promised myself I wouldn't cry," she said. The crowd answered by chanting the riff from "Seven Nation Army."

She said she had learned to live with the fragility and made it her reason to keep going. Then she sang for another two hours.

The voice has lost some of its top; it is not the instrument that sold 250 million albums. Every big note is now a decision she makes in front of 30,000 people.

She took most of them. She sang "My Heart Will Go On" and "The Power of Love," then Catalani's "Ebben? Ne andrò lontana" — Maria Callas' signature aria — in pink feathers while fake snow fell. Her disease attacks the larynx. She went for it anyway.

Willo Perron's set put her among gray megaliths, a pop Stonehenge. An 18-voice gospel choir came on in robes.

Michelle Obama watched from the seats. Outside, fans wore sashes reading "Celine Dion 2026," like beauty pageant winners, and T-shirts from the LVMH house that shares her first name.

"My daughter kept saying, 'Mum, we can't go all the way to Paris for Celine,'" said Isabelle Gagnon, 52, a teacher from Montreal. "Tonight my daughter was singing beside me, and I thought: you see? This is why we came."

"In Montreal, you grow up knowing those songs whether you mean to or not," said Antoine Beaulieu, 31, a graphic designer. "I used to pretend I was too cool for Celine. Tonight I knew every word, so clearly that was a lie."

More performances to come

Camille Morel, 38, a pharmacist from Lyon, put her phone away. "I wanted to actually be there," she

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 44 of 57

said. "My voice is completely gone. I'm supposed to be working tomorrow — good luck to them."

Then the encore, and the note: the last "anymore" a cappella, the note bent upward, the orchestra surging in beneath her. She fanned herself, laughing at her own relief.

She closed with two Jean-Jacques Goldman standards and a last line to the room: I love you, my loves. Take care of yourselves.

It had taken her 2,379 days to get back. She has 25 more nights to go.

House Speaker Mike Johnson says Trump's \$5,000 'dividend' needs congressional approval

By DIDI TANG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's proposal to send \$5,000 to every American adult if his Republican Party maintains control of the House and Senate in the November election needs congressional approval, House Speaker Mike Johnson said Sunday, while pledging to try to make it happen.

Trump made the unusual pitch at the party's midterm convention in Dallas last week, promising a "Trump Dividend" if voters keep the GOP in power on Capitol Hill. The president later told CBS News Texas that he did not think Congress would need to authorize the payments, though he did not specify how he could spend more than \$1 trillion without lawmakers' authorization.

But Johnson, R-La., said congressional approval is needed. "I would assume, yes, he'd need Congress to act, and that's a creative idea," he said.

A few hours later, Trump said he would deliver on his promise. "The 5,000's going to happen, 100%," he told reporters before boarding Air Force One in Ireland, where he attended a pro golf tournament at his resort.

Johnson, meanwhile, said he would work to get Trump's proposal through Congress despite a small Republican margin.

"He's the big ideas president. We're going to try to implement everything we can," he said. "I commit that Congress will work through it and find consensus on that like they have to do everything else."

The dubious election-year gambit could cost more than \$1 trillion, putting further strains on the country's nearly \$1.8 trillion annual budget deficit and exacerbating concerns of inflation. The economy is confronted by persistent inflation and increasing interest rates, a tough combination for governing Republicans as they seek to hold on to control of Congress.

The president argues that payments would be possible because of the strong economy, but consumer sentiment is weak as gasoline prices rise because of the war with Iran and wages struggle to keep pace with inflation.

Trump told reporters earlier Sunday that the payments would be "easy enough" because the United States has a strong economy.

"We can easily handle that because we're taking in so much money," he said. "We've never done better."

Just one-third of U.S. adults approve of how Trump is handling the presidency, according to a July poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. That compares with 37% in June and 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.

On Sunday, Trump said the gas price will "drop like a rock" but indicated no deal any time soon with Iran to end the conflicts and reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump says he'll consider releasing 9/11 records after families' request

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Sunday that he will look into requests from families of Sept. 11 victims to release records that could shed light on Saudi Arabia's alleged role in the attacks 25 years ago.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 45 of 57

Several families have long alleged that a group of extremist religious leaders in Saudi Arabia gained influence in the Saudi government and aided the hijackers. Fifteen of the 19 hijackers were Saudis, but the Saudi government has long denied any involvement in the attacks.

The families have asked Trump to declassify and release the relevant records. Asked about it Sunday during his trip to Ireland, the president said he would consider it.

"I'm going to look at it when I get back," Trump said just before boarding Air Force One to return to Washington after a weekend in Ireland. "I know they asked me Friday."

The relatives of 9/11 victims have been engaged in a lengthy legal battle against the Saudis. One of them, Terry Strada, called on Trump during the remembrance in New York City on Friday to "tell the Saudis to stop lying."

Strada, who lost her husband Tom Strada on 9/11, said U.S. presidents had chosen "to protect the Saudis instead of standing with the 9/11 families."

Strada, who was one of the 9/11 family members who read aloud the names of victims at this year's remembrance, added that the current administration should "stand with the families, stand with the survivors."

"It has been one betrayal after another," she said. "President Trump can still change that."

Trump loves the game of golf and takes pride in his relationships with some of the pros

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — President Donald Trump on Sunday presented the championship trophy to golfer Shane Lowry after the Irishman won the Irish Open tournament that was played at Trump's golf resort in the country.

It's no secret that the Republican president loves the game of golf. He likes to watch, play and even design courses. He isn't shy about his friendships with the pros, and now may be adding Lowry to his roster.

"Shane played unbelievable," Trump said. He said he'd watched Lowry on the Saturday night news hit nine putts in a row "and I thought that was 'best of.'"

"But he also hit the ball really well, too," Trump said. "He's a great guy" and "he's got an infectious personality."

Trump spent the weekend at his golf resort in the Irish village of Doonbeg to watch the tournament. He was joined for Sunday's final day of competition by Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin.

Golf is just one of the things the president does for fun, according to his friend, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick.

"The president works all day, every day. And there are two things that he does for enjoyment," Lutnick told reporters recently. "He plays golf on the weekend and he builds. He loves to build."

Trump has built friendships with some of the pros. He name drops and lavishes them with praise whenever he talks about them.

"I have so many friends that are professional, top professional golfers," Trump told Fox News Channel's "The Five" earlier this year. He then named Rory McIlroy, Tiger Woods, Bryson DeChambeau and Scottie Scheffler, among them.

He also posts pictures on social media of him with pro golfers after their rounds. Trump has given awards to some and invited them to the White House. Others are helping him redesign Washington-area golf courses.

Here's some of what Trump has had to say about them.

DeChambeau

Trump said DeChambeau is among the "great pros." The two have played together and DeChambeau has appeared at the White House. He celebrated his first U.S. Open title in 2020 at one of Trump's golf properties in New York. Last year, he was chosen as the chairperson of Trump's reconstituted version of the President's Council on Sports, Fitness and Nutrition, an advisory committee.

Els

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 46 of 57

The South African pro golfer was in the Oval Office in May 2025 as part of the delegation accompanying Cyril Ramaphosa, his country's president, to a meeting with Trump. Fellow South African golfer Retief Goosen was also part of the group.

"Ernie Els is a great golfer. He's a truly great golfer and Retief Goosen, who's another really — we call him really a great golfer, too, Ernie, right?" Trump said. "These two guys are fantastic, and we could add Gary to the group, Gary Player. What a group of golfers South Africa has had. There must be something in the water, right?"

Trump awarded Player, who is considered one of the sport's greatest golfers, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2021. It is one of the most prestigious honors an American president can give a civilian.

McIlroy

After winning this year's Masters, McIlroy was a guest at Trump's White House state dinner for King Charles III and Queen Camilla in April 2026. Trump recognized the six-time major champion from Northern Ireland as he spoke about the "unconquerable courage" he said is shared by the United States and the United Kingdom.

"And speaking of that, where's Rory McIlroy? ... Stand up, Rory. Will you please? That was unconquerable courage. That was very good, Rory," Trump said of the Masters win.

"I had to interrupt my speech because I watched that man win a tournament that was, that was a tough, that was a tough one. Congratulations. Very proud of you," Trump continued.

Nicklaus

"I love Jack. OK? Jack is great," Trump told Fox News host Trey Gowdy in August after he asked who the president would have in his "dream foursome."

Trump has enlisted the retired Nicklaus, who designs golf courses, to help him redesign the golf courses at Joint Base Andrews, the military base in the Maryland suburbs of Washington where Air Force One is parked.

Scheffler

"So great," Trump told Gowdy about Scheffler, the top-ranked player on the PGA Tour.

Annika Sorenstam

Sorenstam, the only LPGA player to shoot 59 and a winner of the career Grand Slam, played golf with Trump, Player and the late Sen. Lindsey Graham at his course in Virginia in 2019.

Trump awarded Sorenstam the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which brought criticism to the Swedish great because the ceremony took place on Jan. 7, 2021, one day after the violent riot at the Capitol.

Sorenstam is now host of an LPGA event called The Annika. Last year, she gave a sponsor invitation to Kai Trump, the president's granddaughter.

Woods

"I happen to love Tiger. Tiger is a great guy," the president told Gowdy.

Days later, Woods pleaded no contest to a reckless driving charge and a judge suspended his driver's license for five years following a March rollover crash in Florida. He was arrested in March after his SUV clipped a truck on a residential road near his home on Jupiter Island.

Two pain pills were found in Woods' pocket and he showed signs of impairment. Woods' career has been derailed by multiple back and knee surgeries, car crashes and dependence on pain medication.

After the court appearance, Trump repeated to reporters that he thinks Woods is a "great guy" and said he is "unique in so many ways, and especially as an athlete, but also as a man."

He said he thought the case was resolved fairly and that he'd previously suggested to Woods that he get someone to drive him around because of the pain he suffers.

Trump called Woods a "true legend" when he awarded him a Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2019. Woods is currently dating Vanessa Trump, the ex-wife of Donald Trump Jr.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 47 of 57

'Practical Magic 2' conjures a No. 1 box office debut with \$30 million

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr. AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Practical Magic 2" conjured a box-office victory this weekend, opening atop the North American charts nearly three decades after its predecessor grew from a modest theatrical performer into a cult favorite.

The Warner Bros. sequel starring Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman earned an estimated \$30 million from 4,146 theaters, according to estimates Sunday from Rentrak. The film knocked "Spider-Man: Brand New Day" out of the top spot after the superhero blockbuster led the domestic box office for six consecutive weekends.

"Practical Magic 2" added about \$16 million from 77 international markets, giving it a worldwide opening of approximately \$46 million.

The debut landed at the low end of Warner Bros.' projected range of \$30 million to \$35 million. The Susanne Bier-directed film carries a reported \$75 million production budget.

"It's the kind of movie that you can build an evening at the movie theater around with your friends," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Rentrak.

Dergarabedian said the return of Bullock and Kidman was crucial to rekindling interest after such a long gap between films. He said the bigger test will come next weekend, when the sequel faces little direct competition.

"It's not necessarily about that opening weekend," he said. "Weekend two will tell the tale, no question about it."

"Practical Magic 2" reunites Bullock and Kidman as sisters Sally and Gillian Owens, members of a family of witches whose love lives have long been haunted by an ancestral curse. The sequel finds them trying to end the curse for good and introduces a younger generation of the Owens family, played by Joey King and Maisie Williams. Lee Pace also joins the cast.

The film is adapted from the work of author Alice Hoffman and arrives 28 years after the original "Practical Magic." The 1998 film topped out at \$46 million during its initial domestic run but gradually developed a devoted following through home viewing, streaming services and social media.

The latest film received two out of four stars from The Associated Press, whose review said the sequel abandons some of the campy fun that helped the original find an unlikely second life, but is buoyed by the strong performances and chemistry of Bullock and Kidman.

"Spider-Man: Brand New Day" slipped to second with \$8.4 million, a 54% drop from the previous weekend. The Sony and Marvel blockbuster starring Tom Holland has now collected roughly \$935.2 million domestically.

That puts the film within about \$1.4 million of the \$936.6 million North American total for 2015's "Star Wars: Episode VII — The Force Awakens" and the top spot on the all-time domestic chart.

"Think about this movie opening at the end of July, and here we are in the middle of September," Dergarabedian said. He expects Sony to keep the film in theaters as it pursues an unprecedented \$1 billion in unadjusted domestic ticket sales.

Christopher Nolan's "The Odyssey" followed in third with \$7.4 million during its ninth weekend. The Universal Pictures mythic epic, starring Matt Damon as Odysseus, has crossed \$600.5 million domestically and \$1.68 billion worldwide.

The movie also passed 2015's "Jurassic World" to become Universal's highest-grossing global release. It has also collected a record \$506 million from IMAX screens worldwide, accounting for 30% of its global total.

Dergarabedian said the staying power of "Spider-Man: Brand New Day" and "The Odyssey," which both opened in July, demonstrates the range of films moviegoers are willing to embrace.

"People aren't just looking at the movie theater as the home for the traditional cookie-cutter blockbuster," he said. "They're looking at the movie theater like they do almost as a streaming service, where there's

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 48 of 57

this incredible array and mix of genres, stars and types of films.”

“Runner” opened in fourth place with \$6.6 million. The Angel Studios action-comedy stars Alan Ritchson as a former soldier who joins forces with an unlikely partner, played by Owen Wilson, to complete an organ delivery while being pursued by a ruthless cartel.

Directed by Scott Waugh, “Runner” opened in more than 2,500 North American theaters.

Ketchup Entertainment’s “Coyote vs. Acme” rounded out the top five, collecting \$6.2 million in its third weekend. The live-action and animated Looney Tunes feature has now earned about \$47.8 million domestically.

In sixth place, “Buddy” brought in \$3.5 million during its third weekend, pushing its North American total to \$21.3 million.

Sony’s “Insidious: Out of the Further” followed in seventh with \$3.35 million. The latest installment in the long-running horror franchise has generated roughly \$60.5 million domestically and \$155.2 million worldwide after four weekends.

The South Korean science-fiction thriller “Hope” opened in eighth with \$3.3 million from 1,560 locations. Directed by Na Hong-jin, the monster epic stars Hwang Jung-min, Zo In-sung and Hyeon and centers on a remote village thrown into chaos by the arrival of a mysterious creature.

“The Uprising,” directed by Paul Greengrass and starring Andrew Garfield, debuted in ninth with \$3.25 million. The Focus Features historical action drama follows an uprising of commoners against the tyranny of King Richard II in medieval England.

“By Any Means” finished 10th with \$2.5 million in its second weekend.

Domestic box-office revenue for the year stands at \$7.5 billion, up 19.2% from the same point in 2025.

“What a great summer, a record-breaking summer and a solid start to the fall,” Dergarabedian said. “It’s not like we had a blockbuster debut like we did last year with ‘Demon Slayer,’ but a solid start to a fall movie season that I think will deliver for sure.”

Top 10 movies by domestic box office

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

1. “Practical Magic 2,” \$30 million.
2. “Spider-Man: Brand New Day,” \$8.4 million.
3. “The Odyssey,” \$7.4 million.
4. “Runner,” \$6.6 million.
5. “Coyote vs. Acme,” \$6.2 million.
6. “Buddy,” \$3.5 million.
7. “Insidious: Out of the Further,” \$3.35 million.
8. “Hope,” \$3.3 million.
9. “The Uprising,” \$3.25 million.
10. “By Any Means,” \$2.5 million.

Texas rises to No. 1 in AP poll, Ohio State and Oregon tumble and Michigan returns to the Top 25

By ERIC OLSON AP College Football Writer

The unprecedented comeback by Texas to knock off Ohio State moved the Longhorns to No. 1 in The Associated Press Top 25 college football poll Sunday and pushed the Buckeyes out of the top five for the first time in two seasons.

Oregon, meanwhile, plummeted 15 spots to No. 21, its lowest ranking in four years, after its 39-31 road loss to an Oklahoma State team that had lost 21 straight against Football Bowl Subdivision opponents.

Michigan, which fell out of the Top 25 after needing an extra second and second-chance Hail Mary try to beat Western Michigan a week ago, returned to the poll at No. 19 following its 17-10 win over No. 11

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 49 of 57

Oklahoma. The Sooners dropped 13 spots to No. 24.

Texas' comeback from 20 points down in the fourth quarter to win 24-23 was the largest fourth-quarter rally ever for a win against an AP No. 1 team, according to Sportradar, and avenged a season-opening loss to the Buckeyes a year ago that knocked the Longhorns out of the No. 1 spot.

Texas received 56 first-place votes from the voting panel of writers and broadcasters and holds down the No. 1 spot in the regular season for the first time since Oct. 13, 2024.

No. 2 Georgia and No. 3 Notre Dame held their places, Indiana moved up one spot to No. 4 and Miami was bumped up two to No. 5. Ohio State, LSU, Mississippi, Texas A&M and Alabama rounded out the top 10.

Five teams besides Texas received at least one first-place vote. Miami got four, Georgia and Indiana three apiece and Notre Dame and LSU one each.

Ohio State had been No. 1 in 17 of the previous 20 polls since winning the 2024 national championship. The Buckeyes held the top spot in every regular-season poll last year, slipping to No. 3 after losing to Indiana in the Big Ten championship game and ending at No. 5.

They were back to No. 1 in the preseason poll and stayed there until the loss at Texas dropped them to lowest ranking since they were No. 6 entering the 2024 College Football Playoff. Ohio State is 1-3 in its last four games, though each loss came to a top 10 team.

Oregon's fall is the biggest surprise of the season to date. The Ducks came in with a cast of returning stars and a transfer class that raised the program's hopes of winning its first national championship. But they struggled to beat Boise State at home in the opener and then allowed 554 yards and generated just 281 in their first loss to an unranked opponent since 2021.

The Southeastern Conference has nine ranked teams, including the top two and six of the top 10, and the Big Ten has seven. The Big 12 and Atlantic Coast conferences have four each.

In and out

Michigan rebounded from its controversial win over Western Michigan to beat Oklahoma as a 4.5-point home underdog and returned at No. 19.

A second straight uninspired performance sent Washington out of the rankings. A week after the Huskies beat Washington State 24-10, they won 16-14 over Utah State as a 26.5-point home favorite. Washington became the first 2-0 team to win and drop out of the rankings since 2014.

Poll points

— Texas hasn't been ranked No. 1 so early in a regular season since 1965.

— Ohio State's drop from No. 1 to No. 6 was the biggest since Texas fell to No. 7 after losing to the Buckeyes last year.

— Oklahoma's drop was its biggest in a non-pandemic year since it went from No. 5 to out of the rankings (then the Top 20) after losing its 1968 opener 45-21 to Notre Dame.

— The SEC's six top-10 teams ties the record it set and matched in two straight September polls in 2024. The SEC also had six top-10 teams in the 2020 pandemic season but the Big Ten was not playing at the time of those polls.

Conference call

SEC (9 ranked teams): No. 1 Texas, No. 2 Georgia, No. 7 LSU, No. 8 Mississippi, No. 9 Texas A&M, No. 10 Alabama, No. 15 Tennessee, No. 20 Missouri, No. 24 Oklahoma.

Big Ten (7): No. 4 Indiana, No. 6 Ohio State, No. 12 USC, No. 14 Penn State, No. 18 Iowa, No. 19 Michigan, No. 21 Oregon.

ACC (4): No. 5 Miami, No. 16 SMU, No. 23 Louisville, No. 25 Virginia.

Big 12 (4): No. 11 BYU, No. 13 Texas Tech, No. 17 Utah, No. 22 Houston.

Independent (1): No. 3 Notre Dame.

Ranked vs. ranked

No. 7 LSU at No. 8 Mississippi: It's the first top-10 matchup of these teams since 1962 and, in a delicious scheduling quirk, LSU is playing in Oxford a second straight year. No doubt, Rebels fans will emerge from tailgating in The Grove juiced up and ready to give Lane Kiffin a not-so-warm welcome in his return after his somewhat awkward departure last December.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 50 of 57

No. 22 Houston at No. 13 Texas Tech: The teams have a common opponent, Oregon State. Houston beat the Beavers at home and Tech came from behind to win in Corvallis. Red Raiders have won 12 of the last 13 meetings and haven't lost to the Cougars at home since 1990.

No. 16 SMU at No. 23 Louisville: Both are coming off easy wins over FCS opponents. Kevin Jennings had a hand in four touchdowns in a 32-point win over an injury-plagued Cardinals team last year.

Trump's backing for a united Ireland has reignited a divisive political issue. Here's what to know

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

DOONBEG, Ireland (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump doubled down Sunday on his support for a united Ireland, saying it makes sense to merge the Republic of Ireland with the United Kingdom's Northern Ireland.

"It just seems to me that you have Northern Ireland and you have Ireland, and it would seem to me that one of the naturals of all time is put them together," Trump said as he attended the Irish Open at his golf course in Doonbeg, western Ireland.

It's not that simple.

Trump's statement Saturday that Irish unification would be "fantastic" touched a live rail in the histories of Britain and Ireland that lies behind a century of division and decades of violence. Reaction, for and against, was swift.

Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin urged politicians to "keep a calm perspective" on Trump's comments, and called some of the responses an overreaction.

Northern Ireland's status has been divisive for a century

When Ireland won independence from Britain a century ago and became a self-governing Roman Catholic-majority country, a six-county region in the north, which then had a Protestant majority, remained part of the United Kingdom.

Northern Ireland was split between two main communities: nationalists — most of them Catholic — who desired union with the rest of Ireland, and largely Protestant unionists, who wanted to stay British. In the late 1960s, tensions exploded into "The Troubles," three decades of violence involving paramilitary groups on both sides and British troops left some 3,600 people dead in bombings, shootings and other attacks.

A 1998 peace accord that the U.S. was instrumental in striking largely ended the violence, but left Northern Ireland's ultimate status unresolved by allowing people to identify as Irish, British or both. The Good Friday Agreement allows for a vote on unification if polls indicate it would likely pass, a threshold the U.K. government says has not been met. Ireland would also have to approve the change in a referendum.

Peace in Northern Ireland has largely endured, but divisions remain deep over the conflict's legacy and the region's competing identities. Despite Trump's view, the issue of whether Northern Ireland's future lies with the U.K. or Ireland remains unresolved.

The UK sought to downplay the remarks

Trump said Sunday that his comments were "only my opinion," but also that he'd had "so much support." The British government sought to downplay them.

Prime Minister Andy Burnham's office pointed back to his statement last week that he was "100%" behind the Good Friday accord and that the U.K. would only consider allowing a referendum "when public opinion has changed to the point where the call has to be considered."

Opposition U.K. Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch said Trump was "shooting from the hip as usual, just like he did with Greenland and Canada becoming the 51st state. This sort of loose talk about the future of democratic countries is deeply unhelpful and creates unnecessary tension."

Trump's remarks also were criticized by pro-British unionist politicians in Northern Ireland.

Gavin Robinson, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, posted on X that "Northern Ireland's constitutional future will be decided by the people of Northern Ireland, not by commentary in London, Dublin or Washington. Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom because that is the settled democratic will

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 51 of 57

of its people.”

Irish nationalists welcomed Trump’s intervention

Trump’s remarks were striking because previous U.S. presidents – even those with Irish roots, like Joe Biden – have avoided commenting directly on the subject of unification.

Sinn Fein, a political party that seeks unification and was allied during the Troubles with the Irish Republican Army, said it approved of Trump’s comments, although the left-leaning party has little in common with him politically.

Gerry Adams, who was Sinn Fein leader when the Good Friday accord was signed, said the “remarks by President Trump on the issue of Irish unity are welcome, even though we profoundly differ with him on many other matters.”

All the main Irish political parties support unification on paper, but Sinn Fein says Martin’s centrist Irish government has failed to prepare for it to happen.

Martin called some of the response to Trump’s comments “an overreaction,” noting the president had previously asked whether there would be a “merger” between Ireland and Northern Ireland.

“It shouldn’t be a surprise. He takes a different sort of perspective on things, we know that,” Martin said Sunday.

“I believe in Irish unity,” he added. “Many political parties in the Republic believe in our unity. But we also of course believe in the Good Friday Agreement.”

Trump has support in Doonbeg, though tiny snails have snagged his Irish golf course plans

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

DOONBEG, Ireland (AP) — Some people in Ireland can’t wait for U.S. President Donald Trump’s weekend visit, with its tight security and political tensions, to be over.

But one corner of the country has a lot of time for the president, whose Irish golf resort has brought jobs, tourists and the international spotlight to the village of Doonbeg on the country’s boggy, wind-lashed Atlantic coast.

Even in Doonbeg, though, Trump has his opponents, who have staged protests and even enlisted tiny snails to try to block his golf course plans.

Snails snag Trump’s ballroom plan

Trump spent much of Saturday and Sunday here, attending the Irish Open at the Trump International Golf Links. Since his organization bought the then-financially struggling resort in 2014. It has been an economic boon for the region, but also a source of friction.

The latest flashpoint is Trump’s planned ballroom — not the one at the White House, but a 320-capacity venue at the golf resort.

A group of environmentalists has tried to block construction, saying it will harm tiny narrow-mouthed whorl snails that live in the area and are protected under European Union rules.

After several years of wrangling, Clare County Council approved the ballroom in February, on condition Trump’s Irish company draws up a plan to monitor and manage the snails.

The company, which says construction will not harm the miniature mollusks, is seeking to alter the conditions, while a lone Irish objector with a history of blocking development projects has launched a new appeal to overturn planning permission. A final decision on all of that is pending.

Many local organizations supported the planning application, and some in Doonbeg see the environmental complaint as opportunistic. Local councilor Rita McInerney said that “much of the objection came from people who simply wanted to object to what Trump was doing.”

Trump’s golf course is an economic lifeline

Trump’s visit, a mix of work and family vacation for the president, brought road closures, hundreds of police officers and scores of protesters to the remote rural part of County Clare, some 175 miles (280 kilometers) west of Dublin.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 52 of 57

But many people in Doonbeg say the disruption is worth it.

"This is brilliant for the west Clare area," said Martin Kelly, who runs a local construction firm and says the Trump resort creates "a massive amount of employment."

"We're lucky to have it," he said.

That's also the view of Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin, who told Trump in Dublin on Saturday that the Doonbeg course is a "valuable asset to the area" that "illustrates the strength of the economic relationship between our two countries."

Some protest but others support the golf resort

Trump's presence drew protests, though far smaller than the thousands who marched Saturday in Dublin. Dozens of people stood on Doonbeg's main street on Sunday with Palestinian flags and placards protesting Trump's support for the Gaza war and his policies on immigration and the environment.

Many objected to what they saw as Trump's attempts to strong-arm smaller countries, and his insistence on Saturday that and his frequent complaints that other countries are taking advantage of the U.S. in trade relations.

"Our fear as people in Ireland is that our government will try to appease him because of the importance of foreign direct investment in Ireland," said Sarah Clancy, who helped organize the protests in Doonbeg. "Even if we're economically linked with the United States, we don't see that as a reason that we can't stand our ground, even if our government sometimes lets us down."

Others said they oppose Trump's policies but feel there is a limit to what anyone in Ireland, a country with a population of less than 6 million, can do.

"All of these rural coastal areas depend on tourism," said Lily De Sylva, who works for a local community radio station. "So, yes, the Trump resort is important."

"I wouldn't welcome him here or anywhere, but I can't stop him."

Paul O'Loughlin traveled from Wicklow in southeast Ireland to attend the tournament. He said some of his friends refused to come to a Trump-owned golf course.

"I don't think us not going is going to make any difference to him," O'Loughlin said. "I respect the protesters, I think they're great coming down and making their point. But it's falling on deaf ears, isn't it?"

The secret ballot has been an article of faith in US elections. That's being tested in Georgia

By KATE BRUMBACK Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Security researchers say rapid advances in artificial intelligence are making it more critical to address a flaw in Georgia's voting equipment that can allow voters to be matched to their ballots after they have been cast.

The system's vulnerability has been drawing increased attention, with election security advocates criticizing state election officials for failing to fix it before the November elections. Georgia election officials say they have taken steps to address the potential harm, but some advocates say the state is not going far enough.

The vulnerability does not allow votes to be changed or cast doubt on election results, but it could let someone see how others voted. That is important because ballot secrecy is a fundamental right under the state constitution and violations could create an opening for legal challenges.

While the flaw has been known for a few years, the widespread adoption of AI tools and the blistering pace of its sophistication have election security experts raising alarms.

This is "a bit of a wake-up call because it illustrates how much more easily vulnerabilities can be exploited now that AI can do all of the technical work for you," said J. Alex Halderman, a voting technology specialist at the University of Michigan who was part of the team that exposed the flaw.

Other jurisdictions across the country use the same voting equipment made by Dominion Voting Systems, a company that has since been sold and renamed Liberty Vote. But many have applied a software update to fix the flaw, and some other states do not allow the public release of records that are needed

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 53 of 57

to exploit it, said Mark Lindeman, policy and strategy director at Verified Voting, a nonpartisan group focused on election technology.

Georgia, a presidential battleground with one of the nation's most closely watched U.S. Senate races this year, is the only place where the system is used statewide. Lindeman said that, combined with an open records law that has allowed access to key documents, creates a "perfect storm."

"It's really embarrassing that this is still a possibility," Lindeman said.

How does voting work in Georgia?

Georgia voters make their selections on touchscreen voting machines that print paper ballots voters insert into scanners to tally the votes.

Such cast-vote records detail the votes from each ballot. Those records and electronic ballot images created by the scanners are randomized. But the software flaw allows them to be put back in the order they were cast, according to a report by researchers who discovered it in 2022.

Along with other publicly available data, that information could be used to match voters to their ballots, the researchers wrote.

Max Springer, a Princeton University researcher who was not involved in the original research and studies AI, said he gave a publicly available AI assistant that research. He said it was able to reverse the shuffling of electronic ballot records from Georgia's May primary and then tell him what other records it would need to match names to ballots.

He then gave the AI assistant the early voting list for the counties he examined and the cast-vote record file, which could be obtained through a public records request. It was able to create "buckets of ballots and potential voters," he wrote in a blog post. In many instances, that made it possible to match voters to their ballots.

In cases where ambiguity remained, he wrote, he got the public audit log for the ballot scanners and precinct check-in records and was able to match most ballots to specific voters.

"AI coding tools are essentially supercharging laymen people to exploit vulnerabilities," Springer said in an interview.

Why does ballot secrecy matter?

Georgia's Constitution says elections "shall be by secret ballot" and state law requires voting machines to "permit voting in absolute secrecy so that no person can see or know any other elector's votes."

A lack of ballot secrecy can make it easier to buy or sell votes and increase the danger of coercion to vote a certain way by family members, political organizations, employers or government officials. It also is information that could be invaluable to political campaigns.

Gabriel Sterling, special projects manager in the secretary of state's office, pushed back on the concerns. He said it would be easier to use mail ballots if vote-buying or coercion was the goal and that it likely would be cheaper for campaigns to just increase outreach to voters who fit a certain profile than try to identify voters this way.

State Election Board member Salleigh Grubbs proposed a rule during the board's August meeting that would have required the secretary of state's office to apply the software update recommended by the manufacturer by Tuesday.

"Each (voter) has one vote, and no one is entitled to know how it was cast," Grubbs said. "That privacy protects more than the individual voter. It protects the integrity of the entire election."

In a letter to the election board, an agency lawyer argued that the update has not been certified by the secretary of state, the implementation would take months and the legislature has not provided necessary funding. The board rejected Grubbs' proposal. Some members said they did not believe they had the authority to order the secretary of state to act and they raised concerns about the short timeline before the November midterms.

Board member Sara Tindall Ghazal, who voted against the proposal, said it is "intensely frustrating" that the software update has not been applied. But she pointed out that it is a felony to reveal how someone voted, which should serve as a deterrent.

"I hate the fact that it's even physically possible, but there are very, very severe penalties if somebody

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 54 of 57

were to actually do this," she said.

What's being done?

The secretary of state's office sent guidance to county election officials instructing them to refer open records requests for certain records to the secretary of state's office. It will release them with the problematic information blacked out and decline to release other information and documents.

Sterling said the office is working with a vendor to scramble the original order of ballot images and cast-vote records before they are made public. Halderman said that precaution would be necessary to keep someone from reconstructing the order.

While some other jurisdictions have applied the software update that reportedly fixes the problem, some have done what Georgia is now trying to do by restricting public access to the records needed to exploit the flaw.

Marilyn Marks is executive director of the Coalition for Good Governance, which advocates for election transparency and security and raised the alarm about the vulnerability. She argued that withholding documents is not the solution and that steps need to be taken to ensure ballots cannot be traced to voters in the first place.

"When Georgia's election records contain identifiers that can be used to trace ballots to voters, the only legal and acceptable answer is to stop recording that information — not restrict public access to sensitive unlawful information to insiders and commercial vendors," she said.

With time growing short before the elections, Marks said a workable interim solution would be to collect ballots in locked boxes at precincts and then shuffle and scan them at a central tabulating center.

Inside a Philadelphia barbershop, Black men debate their political past and future

By MATT BROWN Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Ever since Democrat Kamala Harris lost the presidential election to Donald Trump two years ago, political strategist Khalil Thompson has been traveling the country to figure out why Black men inched toward a white Republican rather than a Black woman.

Although Black men vote overwhelmingly Democratic, even small shifts in their support can help swing razor-thin elections. They are often some of the most scrutinized but least understood voters, a blind spot that Thompson wants to fix.

His mission led him to a Philadelphia barbershop one recent Friday night, where Thompson's organization, Win With Black Men, organized a conversation that mixed with the sounds of buzzing clippers and a break to eat cheesesteaks.

"We know the shop is like our own country club that we come to, so we really just want to start having a conversation about what's important to us in our community," Thompson told the few dozen people who were getting their hair cut, sat in chairs lined up around the room or stood wherever they found extra space.

The two-plus hour discussion, which included local politicians, union leaders, lifelong residents, recent arrivals and a few high schoolers, had immense political stakes. While Philadelphia is a liberal stronghold and not at play in this year's midterm elections, it is crucial in presidential elections. If Democrats cannot run up their numbers in the city, where Black residents are 40% of the population, it's much harder for them to win Pennsylvania. Democrats face similar tests across the country.

"I am a middle-class Black man who lives in D.C. I have no idea what the various day-in-the-life needs would be of the brother who goes to the Bill Pickett rodeo in Houston, the brother that may work on a peanut farmer in Albany, Georgia, versus the brother that lives in Oakland or one who lives in Detroit and goes to work at a car factory plant," Thompson later told The Associated Press. "When you're polling, messaging, making TV decisions for Black men with one monolithic filter, you're going to lose a broad swath."

As the conversation got underway, Thompson raised the key question that he has been pondering: Why didn't some Black men enthusiastically support Harris, the first Black woman nominated for president by

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 55 of 57

a major political party?

A heated exchange highlights unanswered questions

One exchange reflected the raucous but familiar debates some Black men have had with each other since Trump's return to the White House.

Stanley Thigpen, a civil engineer, had a theory about Black men and Trump, who he described as "Big T over in 1600," a reference to the White House's address at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

Thigpen said he is not a supporter, but "what we fail to realize is Trump has always been a prominent figure in Black culture," he said. Groans, laughs and objections immediately followed.

"I gotta push back on that," interjected Al Glay, a real estate agent.

"You can't push back on that!" Thigpen retorted. "Rappers rapped about Trump."

Glay recalled Trump's statements about five Black and Latino teenagers, now sometimes known as the Exonerated Five, who were wrongly accused and convicted of the 1989 rape of a white jogger in New York's Central Park.

"He was blatantly racist," he said. "How can you support that?"

Another man brushed that off. "They're all racist anyway."

"You looked your mom in your face, you looked your aunt in the face," Glay said. "You looked everybody in the face, and you saw Kamala, and you voted for the white man?"

The barbershop then briefly erupted.

There's a full circle moment for political outreach

Thompson got his start as an organizer for Democrat Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign. Thompson co-founded Win With Black Men in 2023 to mobilize Black men and highlight their priorities.

The organization's efforts were turbocharged after Harris entered the presidential race and concerns spread that Black men wouldn't enthusiastically back the then-vice president.

Harris visited the same shop — Philly Cuts in West Philadelphia — during her campaign, nine days before she lost to Trump. She discussed ways to improve Black male representation in education, including increasing pay and reducing student loans with the local state representative.

The recent conversation was much more free-form.

Men debated how to provide role models and educational opportunities for Black youths, whether the city's food deserts were the result of intentional policy and whether artificial intelligence posed greater risks or rewards for them in the labor market. But all agreed on greater government investment in their communities.

Thompson said he had found that Black men across regions, educational backgrounds and income levels are interested in policies that could help them serve as breadwinners and caregivers, build paths to independent wealth and obtain educational opportunities that boost financial independence and versatility.

Some shared feelings of disillusionment with politics that crossed party lines.

"For the longest time, we always have a reason to distrust government, because we know our history, right?" said Maurice Anderson, one of the barbers.

He remembered that Democratic President Bill Clinton signed legislation that boosted criminal penalties that disproportionately sent Black people to prison.

"What has happened," he said, "is that we're tapped out." But even that was a trap, he added: "They want you to fall back."

State Sen. Vincent Hughes, a Democrat, acknowledged the disillusionment.

"It's always important that we're having dialogue because we've got to turn that anger into action," he said afterward.

John White Jr., 77, a former state representative and members of the Philadelphia City Council who led federal housing policy during the Clinton administration, said the men were having "the same types of conversations we were having back then." He urged them to translate frustration into civic engagement.

Black men are set to be highly sought voting group in 2028

Political strategists increasingly regard men of color as a crucial voting group as the political landscape undergoes a generational shift.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 56 of 57

"Black men are not a monolith," said Terrance Woodbury, a political pollster whose firm, HIT Strategies, consulted on the Harris campaign.

Black men age 18 and older — roughly 4.3% of the U.S. population, according to the latest census estimate — have unique historical experiences that make their voting patterns distinct from other groups. In July, Black men age 20 and older had an unemployment rate of 6.2%, nearly double the 3.5% unemployment rate for white men, according to federal data.

A Federal Reserve survey of 2022 data found that their families had a median wealth of \$44,890 compared with the median white family wealth of \$285,010. In 2023, Black men's imprisonment rate was about 5.5 times the rate for white men, according to the latest figures from the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

About one-quarter of Black men supported Trump in 2024, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 120,000 registered voters in all 50 states. That compares with 12% in 2020, when Trump lost to Democrat Joe Biden.

Thompson says he has heard from Black men of different backgrounds — urban and rural, high- and low-income — about how deeper realities such as trauma, mass incarceration, economic discrimination and cultural stereotypes make some Black men more skeptical of mainstream institutions and traditional campaign outreach efforts.

Woodbury, the pollster, said several potential Democratic presidential candidates have already begun consulting his firm on outreach to Black men.

"There is no one looking at 2028 who does not understand the disproportionate impact that Black men will play in South Carolina," he said in reference to the first Democratic presidential primary state.

Thompson believes Black men are more likely to vote for candidates who offer an inspirational message rather than a pessimistic one. But just as Trump's own dire messaging to Black communities resonated with some Black voters, Thompson said fears about the administration's policies on policing civil rights, corporate diversity programs and how the nation's history is taught, have also emerged as motivating issues for Black voters in the midterms, he said.

"We have the freedom today that countless ancestors prayed for, died for," Thompson said. "And there are so many ways that we can use it. We just have to motivate and mobilize."

Today in History: September 14, Roosevelt becomes youngest US president

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, Sept. 14, the 257th day of 2026. There are 108 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 14, 1901, President William McKinley died in Buffalo, New York, of gunshot wounds inflicted by an assassin eight days earlier; Vice President Theodore Roosevelt succeeded him, becoming the youngest-ever U.S. president at age 42.

Also on this date:

In 1847, during the Mexican-American War, U.S. forces under Gen. Winfield Scott took control of Mexico City.

In 1861, the first naval engagement since the start of the Civil War took place as the USS Colorado attacked and sank the Confederate private schooner Judah off the coast of Pensacola, Florida.

In 1927, modern dance pioneer Isadora Duncan died in Nice, France, when her scarf became entangled in a wheel of the sports car in which she was riding.

In 1982, Princess Grace of Monaco, formerly film star Grace Kelly, died at age 52 of injuries from a car crash the day before.

In 1991, the government of South Africa, the African National Congress and the Inkatha (in-KAH'-tah) Freedom Party signed a national peace pact.

In 1994, on the 34th day of a strike by players, Acting Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig announced the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 100 ~ 57 of 57

1994 season was over.

In 2001, Americans packed churches and public squares on a day of remembrance for the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks. President George W. Bush prayed with his Cabinet and attended services at Washington National Cathedral, then flew to New York, where he waded into the ruins of the World Trade Center and addressed rescue workers in a show of resolve.

In 2012, fury over an anti-Muslim film ridiculing the Prophet Muhammad sparked violent clashes across the Muslim world.

In 2018, Hurricane Florence made landfall on the U.S. Southeast coast in the Carolinas, swamping entire communities, trapping hundreds in rising floodwaters and leaving at least 43 people dead.

In 2024, the first submarine especially designed to accommodate men and women sailors was commissioned by the U.S. Navy. The USS New Jersey, a fast-attack submarine, was put into service with separate sleeping and bathing quarters for the coed crew.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Walter Koenig (KAY'-nihg) ("Star Trek") is 90. Architect Renzo Piano is 89. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Larry Brown is 86. Actor Sam Neill is 79. Pope Leo XIV is 71. Country singer John Berry is 67. Actor Melissa Leo is 66. Actor Faith Ford is 62. Film director Bong Joon-Ho is 57. Supreme Court justice Ketanji Brown Jackson is 56. Actor Kimberly Williams-Paisley is 55. Actor Andrew Lincoln is 53. Rapper Nas is 53. Olympic gold medal middle-distance runner Hicham El Guerrouj is 52. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis is 48. Chef/TV personality Katie Lee is 45. NBA All-Star Jimmy Butler is 37. Golfer Tony Finau is 37. Actor Emma Kenney is 27. Actor and gymnast Morgan Wagle is 19.