

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 1 of 60

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
- [4- Prairie Doc: "When Heartburn Keeps Coming Back Up"](#)
- [5- Faulk County Fatal Crash](#)
- [6- September 2026 Legion Auxiliary Meeting](#)
- [7- Weekly Vikings Roundup](#)
- [8- EarthTalk: Wood Buring Stoves](#)
- [9- Today on GDILIVE.COM](#)
- [10- Legion facade done Sunday](#)
- [11- SD SearchLight: Contain a wildfire? Call in the cows.](#)
- [12- The Weekly Roar](#)
- [13- Weather Pages](#)
- [17- Daily Devotional](#)
- [18- Subscription Form](#)
- [19- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [20- News from the Associated Press](#)

Community Calendar

Monday, Sept. 28

Senior Menu: Sloppy Joe on a bun, baked potato, baked beans, fruit.

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

JV Football at Milbank, 4 p.m.

Soccer hosts West Central (boys at 3:30 p.m., girls at 5 p.m.)

Third-Sixth Grade football hosts Redfield, 5 p.m.

GT GBB Fall Skills, 6 p.m., Arena

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

Tuesday, Sept. 29

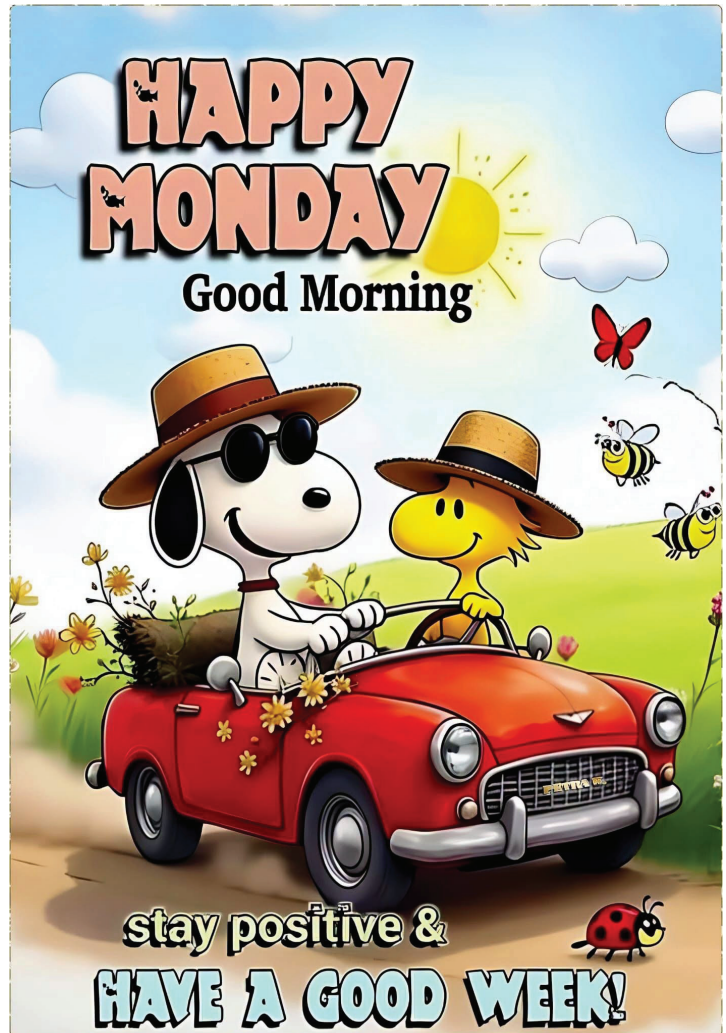
Senior Menu: Chef salad with deli ham, tomatoes and cucumbers, fruited Jello.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Groton Invitational Cross Country Meet, 2 p.m., Olive Grove Golf Course

JH Football hosts Milbank, 4 p.m.

JV Football hosts Milbank, 5 p.m.



Wednesday, Sept. 30

Senior Menu: Chicken Alfredo, broccoli, fruit, breadstick.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.

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

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

School Picture Day!

Aberdeen Marching Band Festival, 9 a.m.

Fourth Grade GBB Practice, 5:30 p.m., elementary school

Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

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

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Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 2 of 60

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.

An Early Nor'easter

An early-season nor'easter brought heavy rain and strong winds to the East Coast over the weekend. At least one person was killed by a falling tree, and around 180,000 people lost power at the storm's peak.

Multiple New England states recorded wind gusts exceeding 60 mph and rainfall from two to six inches. Coastal floods overtook roads and buildings along the Jersey Shore and Long Island. Warnings for river flooding in New Jersey and Massachusetts remained in effect yesterday. On Nantucket, nor'easter-driven waves washed remains from a shipwreck ashore. Experts believe the wooden fragments were part of a schooner that sailed in 1884.

Separately, Hurricane Nolo threatened Hawaii with gusty winds, rain, and flooding as it moved away from the islands yesterday. Its proximity prompted Hawaii's unprecedented third hurricane watch in a single year, fueled by an exceptionally strong El Niño.

Science Museum Swan Song

The Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia closed its museum to visitors yesterday, concluding an almost 200-year run. Opened in 1828, it was the oldest natural history museum in the Western Hemisphere, containing over 19 million scientific specimens.

As with 55% of US museums, the academy struggled to return to prepandemic attendance levels, sliding from 123,550 visitors in 2019 to below 42,000 in 2021. It has been a nonprofit subsidiary of Drexel University since 2011, but the private institution said that the operational costs had become unsustainable. The university faces its own financial challenges, including a roughly 20% drop in enrollment over the last decade. Hundreds of people gathered to protest the museum's closure, and Philadelphia City Council members scheduled a special hearing with museum leadership for Oct. 7.

The museum featured a life-size Tyrannosaurus rex cast, a live butterfly garden, and over 200 plants collected by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.

Missouri Map Mayhem

The Supreme Court rejected an effort to reinstate a reworked congressional map in Missouri late Friday, suspending a federal appeals court ruling permitting its use in the upcoming midterms. The decision—the third in recent weeks ruling in favor of a 2022 map—means some voters will cast ballots for candidates different from those in August primaries.

One of the more chaotic examples of recent midcycle redistricting efforts, the state's legislature passed a new map favoring Republicans last September. A voter petition to use the 2022 map was ultimately found valid, but only after the primaries, forcing election officials to scramble to rewrite ballots. The current (from 2022) map gives the GOP a 6-2 seat advantage; the rejected map aimed for a 7-1 split.

The Nov. 3 midterms are 36 days away.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 3 of 60

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Taylor Swift wins video of the year at the MTV Video Music Awards; see full list of winners.
Oregon QB Dante Moore out indefinitely with a concussion after taking a late hit from a USC defender.
Baseball regular season ends; wild-card round begins tomorrow, see postseason bracket.
Jon Watts, the director behind three "Spider-Man" films from 2017-21, will lead the first installment of a new "Star Wars" trilogy on the Skywalker family.

Science & Technology

OpenAI pauses training of latest models for second time in three months amid multiple reports of its agents probing US and Australian government websites.
Archaeologists excavate the first intact human burials from Göbekli Tepe, the world's oldest known temple site; the organized graves offer researchers clues about why bones previously found appeared to be scattered around the site.
Mount Vesuvius' eruption helps scientists refine geochronology methods to more accurately date Earth's history, per new study.

Business & Markets

US stock markets finish Friday up (S&P 500 +0.5%, Dow +0.9%, Nasdaq +0.5%), fueled by a drop in oil prices following talks between Iran and US officials.
Ban on some Canadian alcohol goes into effect at midnight tonight.
Jury finds Apple owes more than \$5.7B in damages for unintentional patent infringement around haptic technologies, which provide tactile feedback (i.e., when your phone vibrates).
Trump administration cuts Biden-era fuel economy standards; proposed rule cuts fleetwide averages for cars and light trucks from 50.4 to 34.5 mpg by 2031.
Diesel prices down slightly week over week, around \$6.47 per gallon.

Politics & World Affairs

President Donald Trump rejects Iranian offer to restart talks to reopen the Strait of Hormuz; US reportedly focused on nuclear program concessions.
Five men arrested on suspicion of terrorist activity outside RAF Fairford, a British airbase used by the US.
Northern Ireland's "Orange Order" cleared to hold contentious Drumcree parade for the first time since 1998; march was a flashpoint during decadeslong Catholic-Protestant conflict.
At least 27 people killed, more than two dozen wounded in separate mass shootings outside South Africa's Johannesburg and Cape Town; suspects at large as of this writing.

"When Heartburn Keeps Coming Back Up"

Most of us have experienced heartburn or acid reflux at some point. It may happen after eating too much. You might burp up food or liquid, notice a sour taste in your throat, or feel a burning pain in the middle of your chest. Sometimes there is discomfort in the upper middle part of the abdomen, called the epigastric region.

Heartburn and other symptoms of acid reflux are very common, affecting about one-fourth of people at least once a week. Some people are more prone to reflux than others.

Diet and lifestyle changes can often help. Eating smaller meals, avoiding foods that trigger symptoms such as spicy or acidic foods, reducing caffeine or alcohol, losing excess weight, avoiding tobacco, reducing chocolate, and not eating close to bedtime may make a difference. Elevating the head of the bed can also help, particularly with nighttime symptoms.

Some medications that can cause symptoms of reflux include NSAIDs such as ibuprofen or aspirin, antibiotics like doxycycline, or GLP-1 weight loss medications.

An occasional antacid, such as Tums, can be an appropriate treatment for mild, infrequent symptoms. A short course of an acid-reducing medication, such as a proton pump inhibitor like omeprazole or an H2 blocker like famotidine, may also help. However, if symptoms are frequent or ongoing, it is worth discussing them with your healthcare provider.

Daily acid-reducing medication is a common treatment for chronic GERD (gastroesophageal reflux disease). These medications can be very effective, but long-term use should be periodically reviewed with a healthcare provider. The goal is generally to use the lowest effective dose for the shortest appropriate duration. Long-term use has been associated with some infections and nutritional deficiencies, although research linking these medications to conditions such as dementia, cardiovascular disease, and kidney disease has produced mixed results.

When GERD is severe or poorly controlled, repeated exposure of the esophagus to stomach acid can cause inflammation and damage. Over time, this can lead to changes in the esophageal lining, including Barrett's esophagus, which can increase the risk of esophageal cancer.

For people with longstanding or difficult-to-control GERD, or concerning symptoms, a physician may recommend an EGD, or upper endoscopy. This procedure allows a physician to look directly at the esophagus and stomach for inflammation, ulcers, or other abnormalities.

Unlike a colonoscopy, an EGD does not require a bowel preparation. The patient simply needs to fast so the stomach is empty. For convenience, an EGD can sometimes be performed during the same appointment as a colonoscopy.

The take-home message is that if you have frequent heartburn or reflux, talk with your healthcare provider. Medication may be appropriate, and an EGD may be recommended in certain situations. But don't overlook the importance of diet and lifestyle changes. When possible, those changes can help reduce symptoms and the need for medication.

Your stomach—and your esophagus—will thank you.

Dr. Andrew Ellsworth is a Family Medical Physician at Avera Medical Clinic in Brookings, SD. He serves as a volunteer host for the Prairie Doc® team, which is currently celebrating its 25th season of providing health education based on science and built on trust. 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).



Andrew Ellsworth, MD

Faulk County Fatal Crash

What: Two-vehicle fatal crash

Where: SD 45 and 155th Street, 5 miles west of Cresbard, South Dakota

When: 2:03 p.m., Saturday, September 26, 2026

Driver 1: 70-year-old female from Harrold, South Dakota, life-threatening injuries

Vehicle 1: 2021 Ford Edge Titanium SUV

Seat Belt Used: Under investigation

Passenger 1: 72-year-old male from Harrold, South Dakota, fatal injuries

Seat Belt Used: Under investigation

Driver 2: 16-year-old male from Faulkton, South Dakota, minor injuries

Vehicle 2: 2022 Ford F-350 Super Duty

Seat Belt Used: Under investigation

Faulk County, S.D.- A Harrold man died Saturday in a two-vehicle crash near Cresbard, South Dakota.

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

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2021 Ford Edge Titanium SUV was traveling southbound on SD 45. At the same time, the driver of a 2022 Ford F-350 Super Duty pickup truck was traveling westbound as he approached the SD 45 and 155th Street intersection. The Edge collided with the F-350 as the pickup truck entered the intersection.

The driver of the Edge was taken to a Faulkton hospital with life-threatening injuries. Her passenger sustained fatal injuries. The driver of the F-350 sustained minor injuries.

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. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 6 of 60

September 2026 Legion Auxiliary Meeting

The Groton Legion Auxiliary meet on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at the American Legion clubroom.

Tami Zimney opened the meeting with a prayer, a moment for our dead, and the Pledge of Allegiance. The auxiliary's preamble was recited.

We were honored to have several members of Carol Rix Dohman's family in attendance. Carol was a 46-year member who passed away on Sunday, August 23, 2026. To honor Carol, the Draping of Color ceremony was presented by Jan Siebel and Tami Zimney. Lori Giedt and Tami Zimney shared memories of working with Carol. A \$30.00 memorial will be sent to the Groton Rescue Squad in her name.

Her name will be added to the Groton American Legion Auxiliary's memorial stone at the Groton cemetery.

The secretary's report was given by Wendy Cooper. The treasurer's report was given by Lori Giedt.

Thank-you notes were read from Teagan Hanten and Emerlee Jones; they thanked us for the opportunity to attend Girls' State. Emerlee also received a \$1,000.00 state scholarship.

Committee Reports:

Memorial Day: Wendy Cooper reported that 87 people were served a dinner after the ceremony at the cemetery.

Poppy Day: Deb McKiver and Tami Zimney will chair this project for 2027.

State Convention in June in Aberdeen: Jan Siebel, Tami Zimney, and Deb McKiver attended the convention.

Salad Buffet: Wendy Cooper reported that 37 salads and several desserts were made and served to 108 people.

Dictionaries: Tami Zimney said that there are 29 students on each side of the third grade.

Pumpkin Fest: It has been cancelled for this year.

Veterans' Day Program, November 11, 2026: Jan Siebel is working on this presentation.

Chairmanships: Rita Kampa will chair the Turkey Shoot, and Lori Giedt will chair the Honor Guard.

Grocery Receipts: Wendy Cooper mentioned they can be used from September 1, 2026, to April 30, 2027. Last year's totals were St. John's Lutheran Preschool, \$2,843.98; Kessler's, \$1,644.91; and Ken's, \$8,939.32, for a total of \$13,428.21

Trick or Treat on Main: It will be on Friday, October 30. We will have small candies in a snack-size plastic bags with a prayer for the veterans.

Introduction of New Member, Pat Johnson: She will be the Teacher Appreciation chair for the May 2027 event.

Installation of Officers: Jan Siebel as president and Lori Giedt as treasurer.

The next meeting will be Monday, October 5. The hostesses for lunch will be Deb McKiver and Tami Zimney.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Cooper, Secretary

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 7 of 60



The Vikings are off to a strong start this season after beating the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 23-16 on Sunday. Minnesota is one of only a handful of teams to remain undefeated through Week 3, and going back to last season, they've won eight straight. You'd think confidence for this team would be through the roof... you'd be wrong.

Kyler Murray was back on the field after missing last week while he was in the concussion protocol. He finished the game with 168 yards, one touchdown and one interception, although 71 of those yards came in two plays – deep shots to Jordan Addison on the Vikings' only touchdown drive of the game. I'm willing to chalk the ho-hum performance up to the fact that he's still new to this offense, but if this level of play continues, the team

will need to seriously consider abandoning this plan.

Head coach Kevin O'Connell clearly wanted to get the ground game going, which meant a heavy dose of Aaron Jones Sr., who handled 17 of the Vikings' 21 handoffs. Jones was a fantastic back, and what he's doing in his 10th season is impressive, but it's clear opposing defenses aren't scared of him. The Vikings need to get Jordan Mason back as soon as possible, and they need to seriously consider improving their RB depth (speaking of which, Cam Akers is a free agent).

The defense was playing out of its mind, but what else is new? Six sacks, led by Eric Wilson and Kyle Van Noy (1.5 each), six tackles for a loss, seven pass breakups, two interceptions, and 12(!) QB hits. Baker Mayfield was running for his life all game, and a less-slippery QB would have had a very rough day.

The most worrisome thing to come out of this game was the injury to Justin Jefferson, who had two catches for 32 yards before leaving the game in the first quarter with an ankle injury. I don't expect him to be out long (he might even be back next game), but any time your star player leaves with an injury it can be panic inducing.

The player of the game was Myles Price. After the Vikings' defense forced a three-and-out on Tampa Bay's first drive, Price caught the punt at the 14-yard line and scampered 86 yards for a touchdown. It was the team's first punt return touchdown since Marcus Sherels had one in Week 5 of the 2016 season. It was also tied for the third-longest punt return in Vikings' history. Price has been close to breaking one for a while now, so it was great to see him finally find the end zone. Also, I'd recommend checking out some videos the Vikings put out, because many of them feature Price, and he seems like such an easy guy to root for.

I also want to shout out Will Reichard, who was 3 for 3 on field goal attempts Sunday. He's also made his last 26 field goals going back to last season (knock on wood). At this point, it seems like the only thing that can stop him is camera wires.

Looking ahead, the Vikings return home and welcome the Miami Dolphins. The Dolphins are 0-3 so far this season, and their best offensive player, De'Von Achane, is injured and will likely miss this game. On paper, the Vikings should have no problems against Miami, which means it'll likely be a close game that comes down to the wire. Skol

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 8 of 60

EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Are wood burning stoves and fireplaces bad for our health? – Name withheld

During the cold gaps of the winter day, a warm, cozy fire may seem like the perfect solution. But burning wood releases far more than just heat—including materials linked to cancer, heart disease and bronchitis.

According to Northwestern University, residential wood burning accounts for more than a fifth of our wintertime exposure to fine particulate matter—Northwest adds dementia to possible outcomes. How is burning wood so detrimental to our health? The answer lies in the process of combustion.

When wood is not completely burned, it releases creosote, a gummy, foul-smelling residue that sticks to chimneys, flue liners and stovepipes. Creosote is not only a dangerous fire hazard, it is also a concentrate of carcinogens, including substances like benzene and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which can accumulate in the surroundings.

But the arguably more dangerous aspect of wood-burning is the part that's not always visible: the release of fine particulate matter. "Small particles less than 10 micrometers in diameter pose the greatest health problems because they can get deep into the lungs," says allergist and immunologist Dr. Cain. "Some may even get into the bloodstream."

These tiny pieces of inhalable matter, often termed PM 2.5, are especially harmful to older adults and children, especially considering their lower immunity. In fact, Northwestern University reports that about 8,600 premature deaths occur each year due to pollution from residential wood burning.

However, if using a fireplace is the last resort to provide heat, there are a few points to consider. Cleveland Clinic suggests burning dry wood, preferably that stored for at least six months. Also, the room with the fireplace should be well-ventilated and aerated. And materials like plastic, garbage or pressure-treated wood should not fuel the fire; newspaper and small pieces of wood should be used instead.

Nonetheless, the risks cannot be entirely eliminated. While following these procedures may reduce exposure, it doesn't cut off the creosote, carcinogens and contaminants. Nick Hopkinson, medical director at the British Lung Association warns against any and all use of wood-burning fires: "To protect yourself and others around you...avoid buying a wood-burning stove or using an open fire if you have another source of fuel to cook and heat your home with."



Wood burning stoves and fireplaces are an air pollution hazard that we willingly invite into and around our homes. Credit: Pexels.com.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 9 of 60



Soccer
Groton Area
hosts West Central
Mon., Sept. 28, 2026



Groton
Area
Tigers
Groton, SD

GDILIVE



YouTube

A production of the

Groton Daily Independent

For more info: GDILIVE.COM



Boys Game at 3:30 p.m.
Girls Game at 5:00 p.m.

Sponsors on GDILIVE.COM are: Agtegra, Avantara-Groton,
Bierman Farm Service, BK Custom Ts, Blocker Construction,
Dacotah Bank, Farmers Union Insurance,
Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, Heartland Energy,
Jacobson Electric, John Sieh Agency,
Jungle Lanes & Cafe, Rix Farms / R&M Farms, S & S Lumber,
and The Meat House of Andover.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 10 of 60



The facade for the Groton American Legion was done Sunday with the new sign installed. Bottom left photo features Brent Wienk and Ben Smith assisting with some of the work. (Photos by Paul Kosel)





SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

COMMENTARY

Contain a wildfire? Call in the cows.

by Dave Marston

When fire commanders try to figure out how to contain a major wildfire, the last thing you might expect them to deploy is a herd of beef cattle. But on the recent Gold Mountain Fire in western Colorado, cows are eating the “fine fuels” along a three-mile fire line on the Big Cimarron River.

Putting that idea into practice five years ago would have required miles of electric fencing and a range rider to gather strays. Now, new technology has changed the game for cattle grazing by putting electronic collars — all solar-powered — on cows and linking them by satellite.

“The Halter Collar is similar to a dog collar, has a tone, vibrate and a shock,” explained Mike Higuera, agricultural manager of Western States Ranches, based in Eckert, Colorado. An app on a smartphone allows range riders to draw electronic fences and track each cow by GPS.

“Gathering cattle in fall used to take four or more weeks and hundreds of person hours, but now it’s a few days,” said Higuera.

The idea for using cows to help contain wildfire came from Sean Brown, a 23-year veteran of range management at the U.S. Forest Service, who pulls in overtime organizing logistics for major forest fires near his base in Montrose, Colorado. He said he and the fire commanders realized that cattle would offer a safer way than setting a hazardous back burn to add to an “indirect” fire line, one away from direct flames.

Once Brown had permission from his bosses, he called Tyler Westhoff, Western States Ranches ranch manager. Westhoff quickly agreed to bring 350 radio-collared cows onto the fringes of the fire zone, which at that point, in mid-August, was 87% contained.

“Tyler flew into action,” Brown said. It turned out that Higuera and Westhoff were relieved to put cows onto their Big Cimarron federal grazing permit. “We’d been trucking water on another permit on the Uncompahgre Plateau, but this is better feed and good water,” said Higuera, who stressed that fire officials were ready to remove the cows if fire conditions turned ugly.

Brown said equipping the cows electronically gave him confidence that they could eat their way to an expanded fire line. This would reduce the burden on fire crews trying to keep the 39,000-acre fire contained until a season-ending event, typically rain or snow.

Westhoff loves what he calls the “Big Cim” grazing permit: “The top of it goes from 8,800 up to 12,000 feet. It’s northern San Juans and a prime grazing permit.” Best of all, he added, “There’s lots of grass.”

Brown took me on a Big Cim tour five days after the herd went to work. Standing in a field where tall grasses were now three inches tall, he explained that cattle are typically kept off burned permits for two years. Nature comes back, Brown said, but without constant herding cattle can move into sensitive areas and exacerbate erosion.

“We’ll have this herd in the Cimarron Valley next year, and fire-affected areas will be excluded with a virtual fence.”

The wildfire work on the Big Cim is good news for Western States Ranches, which was having a dismal summer. The Gold Mountain Fire started near the tourist town of Ouray, quickly roared across the ranch’s Owl Creek permit outside Ridgway, and traveled 26 miles onto the ranch’s Big Cimarron permit.

“We felt like we had a target on our back,” Higuera said. “We were geared to release cattle above Ridg-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 12 of 60

way, then four days later our evacuated cow camp was in flames."

What does an electronic Halter Collar cost? The leased equipment costs \$96 per cow per season. "But for sprawling operations, when you add up person hours, diesel, and trucking water, a Halter pays for itself quickly," Higuera said.

The collars have other uses besides wildfire work, especially for weed control. Often the first grasses to return after a burn are cheatgrass, which grows quickly in spring and then dries to become highly flammable. "But cows love it," Westhoff said, "and on lower elevation permits, we've made it through a couple winters on cheatgrass."

The ranchers said they were grateful to Brown and fire commanders for letting the cows perform. "Typically, there's a risk aversion in the agency... but we showed we can be part of the solution," Higuera said.

As for Brown, he said that sending in cows to expand a fire line was unique: "Never in my 23 years have I ever done something like this."

Dave Marston is the publisher of Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He lives in Colorado.



Monday, September 28th:

- Region 3A Boys Golf @ Mitchell (Lakeview Golf Course - 10am)
- Soccer vs. West Central (Boys @ 3:30pm, Girls @ 5:00pm)
- V Football @ Milbank (4pm)

Tuesday, September 29th:

- Cross Country @ Home (Olive Grove - 2pm)
- H Football vs. Milbank (7th @ 4pm, 8th @ 5pm)

Wednesday, September 30th:

- School Picture Day!
- Aberdeen Marching Band Festival

Thursday, October 1st:

- Cross Country @ Sisseton (4pm)
- Girls Soccer vs. Garretson (4:30pm)
- JH Football vs. Roncalli (One 6 quarter game - 4pm)
- JH Volleyball @ Milbank (7th @ 4pm, 8th @ 5pm)

Friday, October 2nd:

- Football @ Deuel (7pm)

Saturday, October 3rd:

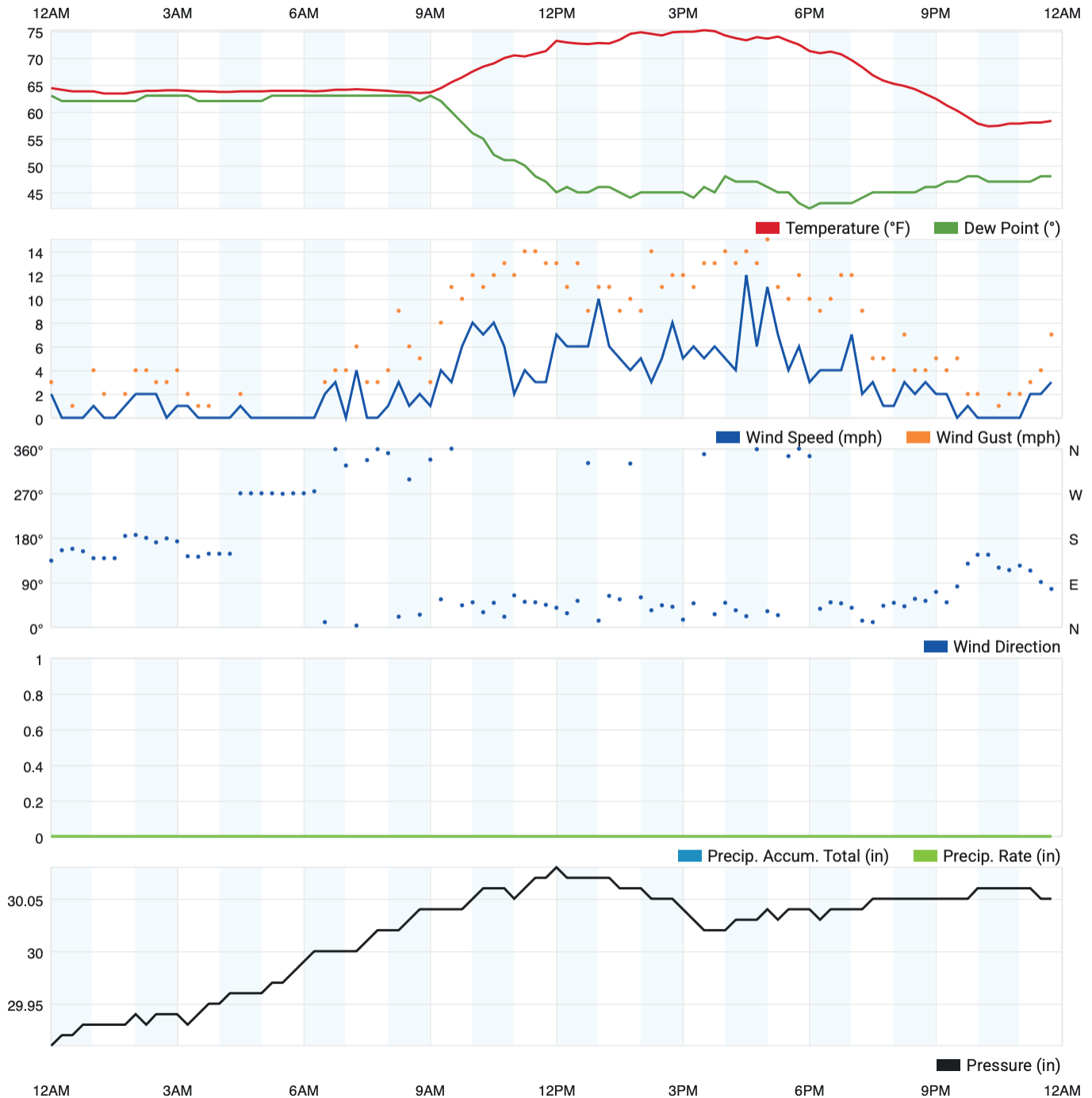
- Volleyball @ Redfield Tournament (9am)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 13 of 60

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

September 27, 2026



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 14 of 60

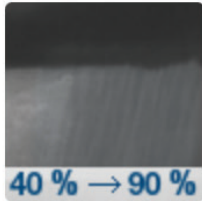
Today



High: 72 °F

Chance
Showers

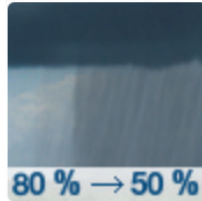
Tonight



Low: 60 °F

Chance
Showers then
Showers and
Patchy Fog

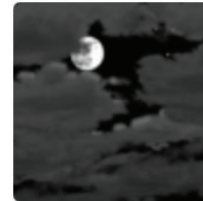
Tuesday



High: 70 °F

Showers and
Patchy Fog
then Chance
Showers

Tuesday Night



Low: 53 °F

Mostly Cloudy

Wednesday



High: 73 °F

Partly Sunny

Showers and Thunderstorms to Start the Work Week

***Storm coverage is scattered across central SD today then spreads east tonight.**

***Severe weather is generally not expected.**

***Slow moving storms may produce heavy rain.**

Forecast

Today



70-77°

Tuesday



67-72°

Wednesday



69-75°



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

September 28, 2026 4:24 AM

14

Showers and thunderstorms will continue across central SD today and spread east Tuesday. While no severe weather is expected, storms may contain small hail and gusty winds as well as heavy rain.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 15 of 60

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 76 °F at 3:25 PM

Low Temp: 57 °F at 10:11 PM

Wind: 16 mph at 11:04 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 94 in 2021

Record Low: 18 in 1951

Average High: 70

Average Low: 42

Average Precip in Sept.: 1.86

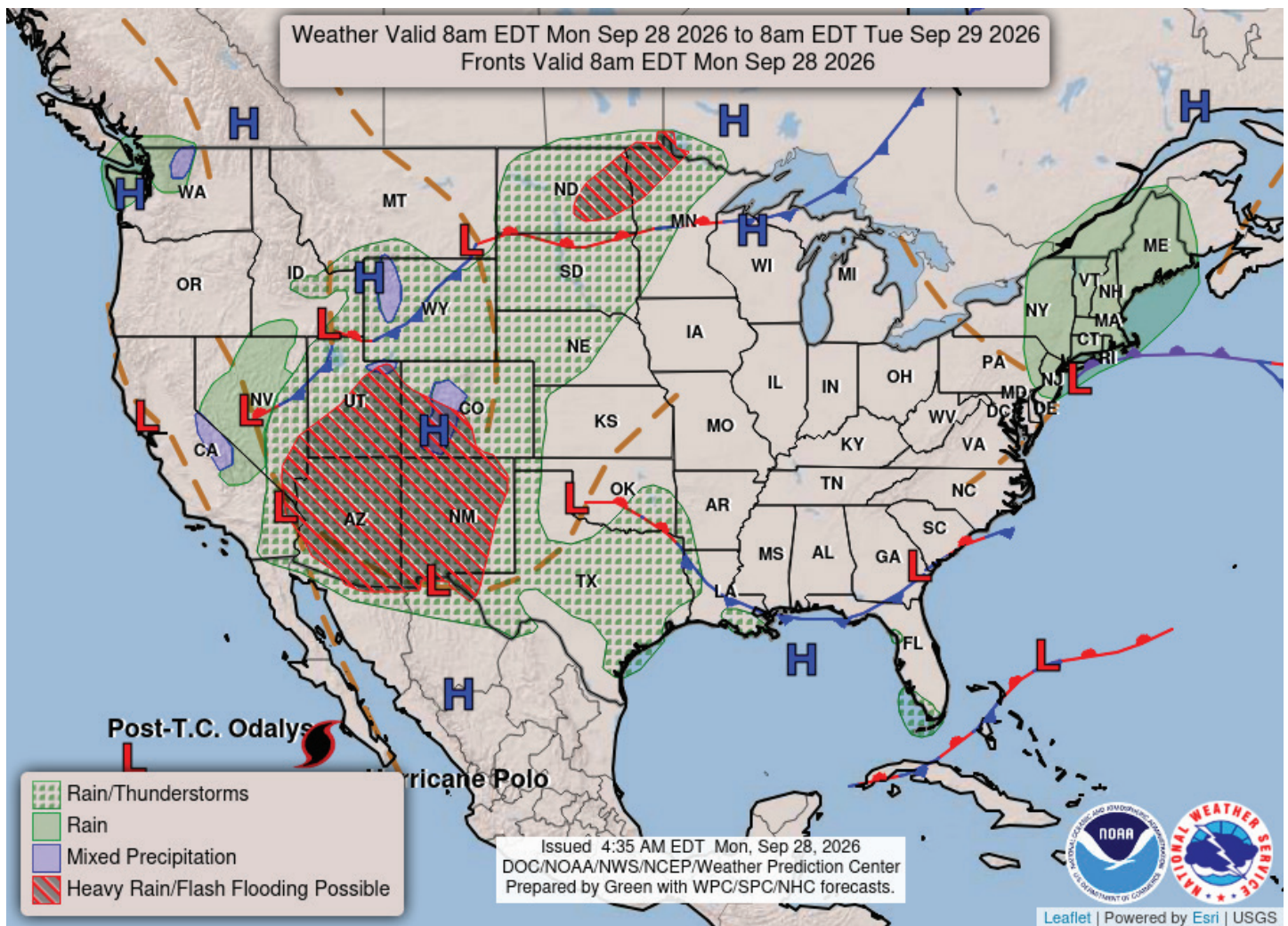
Precip to date in Sept.: 1.88

Average Precip to date: 18.20

Precip Year to Date: 21.74

Sunset Tonight: 7:19 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:27 am



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 16 of 60

Today in Weather History

September 28, 1951: During the early morning hours, near-record to record cold covered central and northeast South Dakota as well as west-central Minnesota. Temperatures across the area fell into the upper teens and 20s. Aberdeen recorded a record low of 18 degrees; Kennebec dropped to 20 degrees, Pierre fell to 21 degrees while Timber Lake had a record low of 23 degrees. The overnight low in Mobridge was 23 degrees, 24 degrees at Watertown, and 26 degrees at Sisseton.

1836 — The first of three early season snows brought four inches of snow to Hamilton, NY, and two inches to Ashby MA. (David Ludlum)

1837: The first recorded storm to rake the entire Texas coast was Racer's Storm, named for a British sloop of war which encountered the system in the extreme northwestern Caribbean on September 28th. It is remembered as one of the most destructive storms of the nineteenth century due to its extreme duration and 2000 mile path of destruction.

1874: A strong category 1 hurricane went by Charleston and Georgetown, South Carolina. The tide was unprecedented height, inundating the entire riverfront of the city of Charleston.

1893 — Albuquerque, NM, was soaked with 2.25 inches of rain, enough to establish a 24 hour record for that city. (The Weather Channel)

1917 — A hurricane hit Pensacola, FL. Winds gusted to 95 mph, and the barometric pressure dipped to 28.50 inches. Winds at Mobile AL gusted to 75 mph. (The Weather Channel)

1929: A hurricane-spawned tornado hit Fort Lauderdale, Florida. While the path length of this estimated F2 tornado was 0.8 miles, it caused 16 injuries.

1987 — Thunderstorms produced up to ten inches of rain in southern Kansas and north central Oklahoma overnight. The Chikaskia River rose 2.5 feet above flood stage at Blackwell OK during the day causing flooding in Kay and Grant counties of north central Oklahoma. Early morning thunderstorms in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas produced 3.07 inches of rain in six hours at McAllen. Thunderstorms produced up to six inches of rain in southeastern Texas later in the day. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 — Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front in the central U.S. produced severe weather from northern Texas to the Lower Missouri Valley during the late afternoon and evening hours. Hail three inches in diameter was reported at Nolan TX, and wind gusts to 80 mph were reported at Lawrence KS. Thunderstorms drenched downtown Kansas City MO with up to four inches of rain, leaving some cars stranded in water six feet deep. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 — Thunderstorms over northeastern Florida drenched Jacksonville with 4.28 inches of rain between midnight and 6 AM EDT. Unseasonably cool weather prevailed in the northeastern U.S. Five cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Binghamton NY with a reading of 30 degrees. Morning lows were in the 20s in northern New England. Unseasonably mild weather prevailed in the northwestern U.S., with afternoon highs in the upper 70s and 80s. In Oregon, Astoria reported a record high of 83 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1998: On the morning of September 28th, Hurricane George made landfall near Biloxi, Mississippi with maximum winds of 110 mph and a minimum pressure of 964 mb, making it a Category 2 hurricane. After landfall, Georges moved very slowly across southern Mississippi and weakened to a tropical depression by the morning of the 29th when the center was about 30 miles north-northeast of Mobile, Alabama. The storm dissipated near the northeast Florida/southeast Georgia coast by the morning of October 1, 1998.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 17 of 60



Daily Devotion

Freedom That Considers Others

As believers, we're called to be sensitive to and considerate of those who are new to faith.

1 Corinthians 8:9-12: 9 But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

10 For if someone sees you, who have knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols?

11 For through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for whose sake Christ died.

12 And so, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

How should we approach our decisions—by thinking primarily of ourselves or by considering how our actions affect those around us? For believers, the answer to this question matters a great deal.

As we mature in our faith, it's possible for our sense of freedom in Christ to outpace our sensitivity to others. We may feel comfortable with choices that a younger or less grounded believer would find confusing. It's not that we have done anything sinful, but we've stopped asking whether our freedom might unsettle someone else's faith.

Paul addressed this directly in 1 Corinthians 8, appealing to love rather than to guilt. He reminded mature believers that they carry a responsibility not only for their own actions but also for the effect of those actions on other people. The question isn't simply, Am I free to do this? We must also ask, Will doing this help or harm my brother for whose sake Christ died? (v. 11).

Christian freedom is a gift, but it was never meant to be exercised in isolation. We live our faith in full view of others, and what feels like liberty to us may look like confusion to someone else. When we allow the Spirit to shape both what we do and the way it impacts those around us, our freedom becomes an expression of love rather than an exercise in privilege.

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. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 18 of 60

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Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 19 of 60



WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.27.26

24 25 30 35 47 4

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

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 34 Mins 29
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.25.26

25 57 58 67 68 16

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$300,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 19
Mins 29 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.26.26

22 27 31 49 51 3

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$5,630,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 34 Mins 30
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.26.26

10 11 17 29 31

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$70,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 16 Hrs 49
Mins 30 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.26.26

9 23 31 59 69 12

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 18 Mins 30
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.26.26

14 40 52 55 57 24

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$389,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 18 Mins 30
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Congo Ebola outbreak tops 8,000 confirmed cases as disease remains out of control

BUNIA, Congo (AP) — The number of confirmed cases of Ebola virus in Congo has surged past 8,000, as the country runs out of health workers to contain the deadly disease.

Congo announced an outbreak on May 15, caused by the rare Bundibugyo virus, which has no known treatment or vaccine, and has struggled to contain it.

Latest data from Congo's health ministry showed that 8,067 cases have been confirmed, with 3,901 deaths as of Sept. 26 across 63 health zones in seven of the country's 26 provinces, with a fatality rate of more than 48%.

"The continuously high crude case fatality ratio, and especially the continuously high rate of deaths occurring in communities, highlights the seriousness of the disease and the persistent challenges in timely case detection and access to early and adequate patient care," the World Health Organization said in its latest report.

Last week, the WHO said that Congo is running out of health workers to contain the disease. Health workers have complained about delayed or missing payments, triggering several strikes despite the delicate nature of the outbreak. According to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 50 health workers have died since the outbreak was announced.

Some areas have shown signs of improvement, with a fall in confirmed cases, including in Ituri province and Haut-Uele, but officials say the disease is spreading further in other areas, expanding its geographical reach.

According to data from the Africa CDC, the current outbreak has outpaced the 2-year-long West Africa regional outbreak in terms of spread in the same time. By Week 19, the regional outbreak between 2014 and 2016 recorded 3,781 cases, while the current outbreak recorded 7,840. The WHO said it is on track to surpass the regional outbreak, which killed 11,000 people.

Containment efforts have been hamstrung by insecurity, displacement, a health workers' strike and intense population movements.

Hurricane Polo could produce life-threatening flooding in Mexico's Baja California

By MARTIN SILVA Associated Press

PUERTO SAN CARLOS, Mexico (AP) — Hurricane Polo bore down on Mexico's Baja California peninsula on Monday with a threat of storm surge, high winds and heavy rains, while Hurricane Nolo threatened parts of Hawaii with torrential rain even as the storm edged further away from the state's islands.

Polo was a Category 3 storm with top sustained winds of 125 mph (205 kph) Sunday evening, the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said. The storm is expected to lash the peninsula with heavy rainfall overnight and could produce life-threatening flooding and mudslides.

Nolo was well southwest of Hawaii and moving away from the Big Island as the weekend drew to a close, but a high-wind warning, wind advisory and high surf advisory remained in effect for parts of the island through Sunday evening. Nolo's maximum sustained winds increased to near 105 mph (165 kph).

In Puerto San Carlos, a fishing town of about 5,700 people on Mexico's Baja California peninsula, residents boarded up homes Sunday as workers hauled dirt and rubble to shore up the embankments protecting the town. Authorities said 90% of the community was susceptible to flooding.

Residents feared high tides and pounding waves could breach the barriers and send seawater through the community. Some families planned to evacuate to shelters in Ciudad Constitucion, about 37 miles (60 kilometers) away.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 21 of 60

"Civil Protection told those of us here in San Carlos to evacuate because this is a high-risk area. With the current tides, the expected waves and the wind, the earthen barriers they built (to prevent flooding) could give way. They said they wouldn't hold," Rocío Sánchez, a fisherman, said.

Forecasters said Polo would hit the Mexican mainland after crossing Baja California and could bring heavy rain and flooding to parts of the U.S. Southwest later in the week. Polo was moving to the north at 12 mph (19 kph) about 270 miles (435 kilometers) west of Cabo San Lucas at the peninsula's southern tip, the hurricane center said.

It's been a busy seasons for Pacific storms

The Pacific has been unusually active, according to National Weather Service lead forecaster Bob Oravec, with storm activity running above average during what is already the peak of hurricane season. He said that pattern is consistent with El Niño years, when the Pacific often sees more tropical storms and hurricanes.

With Polo approaching Mexico, the Mexican navy said it has gathered personnel and humanitarian aid in the ports of Guaymas and Mazatlan, on the country's Pacific Coast, and deployed three vessels that could ship aid to coastal communities isolated by the storm.

One of the towns in the hurricane's projected path is San Juanico, a small fishing community on Baja's Pacific coast. The town has only had full-time electricity for a few years, and still experiences frequent outages. There is concern that washed-out roads could block access to medical facilities.

"Our people are concerned about this event," said Gloriely Robles Meza, a manager at a small hotel. "We haven't faced such a worrying situation in many years."

Robles Meza said Sunday that army soldiers arrived in San Juanico to prepare a shelter and provide support for possible emergencies.

Also Sunday, Tropical Storm Rachel formed well off Mexico's southwest coast. The hurricane center said Rachel had maximum sustained winds of 40 mph (65 kph) and was located about 300 miles (485 kilometers) south of Acapulco. No coastal watches or warnings were in effect.

In Hawaii, floods and mudslides are still a risk

Forecasters said Nolo's outer bands could cause life-threatening flooding and mudslides, with parts of the Big Island possibly getting up to 20 inches (50 centimeters) of rain. Heavy rain also was expected on the other islands.

More than 120 National Guard members were activated, part of roughly 400 statewide after the governor issued an emergency proclamation. President Donald Trump recently approved an emergency declaration, authorizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate assistance and provide funding support.

Hawaii residents are still recovering from Hurricane Lala, which produced heavy rain and winds strong enough to sweep about 100 homes off their foundations on the Big Island.

US and China release reciprocal \$30 billion product lists for tariff cuts after Trump-Xi meeting

By CHAN HO-HIM and KANIS LEUNG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — The United States and China released Monday reciprocal lists of products worth about \$30 billion each that will see tariff cuts, in a deal expected to boost bilateral trade.

The details came days after Chinese President Xi Jinping met with President Donald Trump in Washington in his first state visit to the U.S. since 2015. The U.S. had already reduced tariffs against China after Trump's tariffs reached as high as 145% at one point last year, as tensions between the two countries eased.

China's commerce ministry said in a statement the agreement will help strengthen trade cooperation.

Most country-specific tariffs practically eradicated

The lists included 1,619 items of U.S. goods entering China, ranging from agricultural commodities, personal care products to timber and medical equipment. Coal from the U.S. will also be included.

For Chinese goods exported to the U.S., 77 categories were covered, including fireworks, tableware, glass and wooden Christmas ornaments and soccer balls.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 22 of 60

Tariff rates on over 90% of the products would be subject to "most-favored-nation" levels, the Chinese commerce ministry said, meaning that country-specific tariffs will effectively be eliminated.

U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said in a separate statement the product lists focused on "nonsensitive goods on each side that could benefit from more favorable tariff treatment." The deal could help secure market access for U.S. farmers, manufacturers, businesses and workers, while benefiting American consumers with imports from China including household goods and toys, Greer said.

Both countries said they agreed the list may be adjusted later as needed, but amendments were likely to be no more than on an annual basis.

The Chinese commerce ministry said the two countries agreed to further cooperate in the agricultural sector, forming a group under the Board of Trade established in May to optimize bilateral trade.

Sectors of strategic importance for both countries, such as chips, electric vehicles and batteries, were not covered under the agreement.

A potential boost to US-China bilateral trade

"This is a positive outcome for these affected products compared to a smaller tariff cut, and could lead to a more significant boost to bilateral trade," said Lynn Song, chief economist for Greater China at ING Bank.

The lowered tariffs could be a win for U.S. consumer brands, added Jacob Cooke, CEO of WPIC Marketing + Technologies based in Beijing, as some of the products covered by China's list of U.S. imports included fast-growing categories like hair care, personal care products and infant formula.

The U.S. list for Chinese imports focused more on consumer goods, which could help lower U.S. inflation while also allowing Chinese firms to export more of their overcapacity, said Gary Ng, a senior economist at French bank Natixis.

Some experts said, however, the economic impact at \$30 billion each way may be limited overall.

U.S. exports to China were roughly \$68 billion through the first seven months of this year, while Chinese exports to the U.S. were at around \$270 billion for the first eight months, said Prashant Bhayani, chief investment officer for Asia at BNP Paribas Wealth Management.

A \$30 billion deal each way will be "more meaningful" for U.S. exports to China in terms of percentage share, he said.

China's trade surplus expected to remain elevated

While the deal did not cover sensitive strategic goods, analysts believe U.S.-China trade will likely continue to recover for the rest of the year after steep U.S. tariffs on Chinese products last year hit bilateral trade.

The U.S. and China last week also reached a two-month extension of the broader trade truce that was set to expire Nov. 10 to January.

China's trade surplus, which reached a record \$1.2 trillion last year, will likely remain elevated. By August, it stood at about \$800 billion, putting this year's surplus "on pace to exceed the 2025 record," according to Ecaterina Bigos, a senior market strategist with BNP Paribas Asset Management.

The U.S. is also investigating China among 16 trading partners in its Section 301 probe on excess industrial capacity and could impose additional tariffs on China when the investigation concludes.

However, with more meetings set between Trump and Xi, including at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Shenzhen in November and at the Group of 20 summit in Florida in December, Song at ING said he would not expect a major flare-up of trade tensions before year-end.

Exporters welcome the tariff deal

Some Chinese exporters welcomed the tariff deal announcements.

"This is positive news," said Richard Chan of Golden Arts Gifts & Decor, which manufactures Christmas decorations in southern China and supplies to countries including the U.S. "The economy in both the U.S. and China is not really good, and the two sides should help each other more."

However, because most of this year's Christmas goods are already being shipped ahead of the peak holiday season, the tariff reductions may have limited effect for them at least for now.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 23 of 60

Global benchmarks are mixed despite Wall Street's rally finish last week

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Global shares were trading mixed Monday after a cooldown in oil prices last week helped U.S. stocks close out their first winning week in the last three.

France's CAC 40 edged up 0.3% in early trading to 8,097.99, while the German DAX added 0.2% to 25,464.53. Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.3% to 10,725.57. U.S. shares were set to drift lower with Dow futures dipped 0.3% to 51,992.00. S&P 500 futures shed 0.4% to 7,770.75.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 declined 0.7% to finish at 65,877.62.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 added 0.2% to 8,679.70. South Korea's Kospi dipped 2.7% to 6,889.74. Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.5% to 24,642.51, while the Shanghai Composite lost 1.7% to 3,823.62.

In energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude gained 3.41% to \$95.56 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, rose 3.73% to \$108.21 a barrel.

Last week, Brent oil had momentarily dropped to \$97-levels. The price is volatile because of uncertainty about when the war with Iran will allow oil to flow freely again from the Middle East, including access to the Strait of Hormuz.

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar fell to 156.93 Japanese yen from 157.19 yen. The euro cost \$1.1377, down from \$1.1393.

Analysts say market players are closely watching upcoming inflation indicators to see if global central banks will stay hawkish, as they have been. Also of interest of late are AI shares, as those companies continue to post strong earnings, despite public expressions from various influential people about the risks of the technology.

British police investigate whether arrests near US-run air base foiled an Iran-linked attack

By ALASTAIR GRANT Associated Press

FAIRFORD, England (AP) — Police were holding five men on Monday and examining suspected explosives found near a U.S.-operated air force base in England, as counterterrorism detectives investigated whether the arrests foiled an attempted attack linked to Iran.

The men were detained early Sunday after three vans were spotted near RAF Fairford, a U.K.-owned base operated by the U.S. Air Force that has been used by American bombers during decades of conflicts in the Middle East.

The five, who have not been named, were initially held over suspected explosives offenses, and later also arrested on suspicion of preparing an act of terrorism. Police can hold them for up to 14 days before they must be charged or released.

Arrests came after reports of suspicious vehicles

President Donald Trump said the suspects had been detained following cooperation between the U.S. and Britain, and had been "under view" for some time. Police, however, said the arrests were triggered by a late-night call about "suspicious vehicles" near the base.

British Defense Secretary Wes Streeting declined to give details of the operation, but said "it was a proud moment" that Trump had recognized "the work that our police and intelligence services do every day."

"As and when we can, we will report back to the public about these individuals and about the nature of the threat," Streeting told Times Radio.

Investigators have not concluded whether the incident is a state-backed attack. They are investigating a possible link to Iran, Russia or non-state-backed militant groups. RAF Fairford has also been the focus of protests by anti-war campaigners.

The arrests come at a time of heightened tensions around the threat from hostile states, with British intelligence services saying Russia and Iran have both used proxies to commit crimes on British soil. In

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 24 of 60

March, officials said the number of national security cases involving activity by hostile states including Iran increased 50% in the six months to December 2025.

Iran has been linked to a series of attacks in Europe

Britain did not join the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran that began Feb. 28 and initially denied Trump's request to use bases in the U.K. to strike Iran. But then-Prime Minister Keir Starmer agreed in March to let the U.S. use bases in Britain for what he called "defensive" operations against Iran's missiles and their launch sites following Iranian attacks on U.K. interests and Britain's allies in the Gulf.

American B-1 and B-52 bombers have taken off from Fairford, 100 miles (160 kilometers) west of London, for operations during the Iran conflict.

Iran has said it considers any base used to attack its territory a legitimate target.

British security officials say proxies linked to Iran have been behind a string of arson and sabotage attempts in the U.K. and other countries, many of them targeting the Jewish community. They have previously warned that Tehran could expand its targets in the U.K. if conflicts in the Middle East continue.

Residents were evacuated from 85 homes in the village of Whelford near the base on Sunday, as army bomb-disposal experts used a robot to examine three white vans. The villagers had not been able to go home as of Monday morning, and the vans had not yet been moved.

The U.S. Air Force said its personnel based at RAF Fairford "remain vigilant," but "for operational security reasons we will not discuss specific force protection measures."

The U.S. embassy in London has warned Americans in Britain to be cautious and mindful of their personal security.

Trump said authorities had the suspects "under view for a long time and we got them."

"It was an amazing job. We had them under investigation. They were looking to do big damage to our fort. And working with the British worked out great," he told reporters in Chicago on Sunday.

Taylor Swift becomes most-awarded artist in MTV VMAs history, dedicates top prize to Dolly Parton

By MARIA SHERMAN AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Taylor Swift broke records at the 2026 MTV Video Music Awards, as she is known to do.

The pop powerhouse received the inaugural Artist Director Honors on Sunday night, becoming the most-awarded artist in VMA history.

Previously, she was tied with Beyoncé for the title, with 30 VMAs each. The new award is meant to recognize artists "whose work behind the camera has expanded the possibilities of music video and advanced the art of visual storytelling."

"I got to start making music videos and being a part of music videos 20 years ago," Swift said in her speech, adding that she's been involved in making roughly 60 music videos, 18 of which she wrote and directed.

"You, the fans, make it so much fun," she said.

She also took home the top prize of the night — video of the year — for "The Fate of Ophelia" from her album "The Life of a Showgirl."

Swift dedicated that award to the "ultimate showgirl," the late Dolly Parton.

"I think we were all very lucky to share this planet with Dolly Parton for a time," Swift said.

Taylor Swift debuts 'Patient Zero' music video

Swift also debuted the music video for her new song, "Patient Zero," during the award show. She directed the visual, which stars Colin Farrell and Dakota Johnson. Johnson and Swift portray mirror images of each other.

"Patient Zero" is also her first single since marrying Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce at Madison Square Garden in July.

The two-hour show was broadcast live on CBS from the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 25 of 60

Madonna opened the starry award show — and won big “It’s mother,” were the first words uttered by Madonna as she opened the VMAs with her 2026 single “Bring Your Love” alongside collaborator Sabrina Carpenter. Later in the night, the pair won the award for best collaboration for the song.

“It’s been a while since I did one of these things,” Madonna joked. “So, I’ve prepared nothing.”

When it came time for her return to the stage to accept the award for artist of the year, Madonna began with, “First of all, I would like to thank my fingers because I can always count on them.” Returning a third time to accept for best dance, she said simply, “I came alive on the dance floor. ... We’re all equal on the dance floor.”

If her aim was to bring the dance floor to the award show stage, Madonna did exactly that in her opening number — and then some, when Charli xcx emerged from a club bathroom to perform their reworked version of “Danceteria.” Around them? A trove of dancers and various famous friends, including actor Debi Mazar, Sombr and Julia Garner.

The show, which was delayed 20 minutes by a tight NFL game, wasted no time getting heart rates up.

Snoop Dogg, a 13-time VMAs nominee and three-time winner, emerged as host shortly thereafter.

“Now that is an icon,” Dogg said of Madonna, before pivoting to a joke: “She ain’t a virgin no more.”

Teyana Taylor then presented the first award for best pop to LISA for “Dream,” featuring Kentaro Saka-guchi.

“Thank you MTV for this amazing award,” she said while holding back tears. “All those late-night dreams brought me here today.” It was a different scene about an hour later, when she returned to the stage for her hip-hop heavy hitter “Sawadika,” which loosely translates to “Hello” in her native Thai.

Performances include a tribute to Dolly Parton

There was always going to be a big musical tribute to Dolly Parton. Kacey Musgraves paid homage to the late, great country music icon with a cover of Parton’s “I Will Always Love You.”

Parton, whose soaring vibrato vocals, poignant songwriting and sparkling costumes defined her rise from a log cabin in the Tennessee mountains to the height of stardom and acclaim, died in Nashville of cancer in August. She was 80.

Performances arrived fast and furious: Raye delivered a medley of her throwback soul, including “I Will Overcome” and “Where Is My Husband!”

Bruno Mars slowed things down with “Dance With Me.” Shaboozey launched into his saloon single “Cow-girl,” before being joined by Gunna for some hybrid country-rap with their crossover track, “High Noon.”

“Survivor” host Jeff Probst and actor Brandon Sklenar introduced the final performance of the night and arguably its best — a partial reenactment of GENER8ION and Yung Lean’s “STORM” music video — which began with Lean smashing a VMA ‘Moon person’ trophy.

Sienna Spiro belted out her “Great Expectation.” It was a welcome introduction to the new talent, who was named best new artist shortly thereafter.

Orville Peck introduced a tribute to George Michael, who died 10 years ago on Christmas Day. He was 53.

Nirvana took home the 2026 Video Vanguard Award

If this year’s VMAs felt too pop-heavy for some viewers, that changed when the coveted Video Vanguard Award was awarded to Nirvana.

“They were completely original and always fearless at a time when the status quo kind of got to the point of being formulaic,” Public Enemy rapper Chuck D said of the grunge greats.

The award was presented to surviving members Krist Novoselic, Dave Grohl and Pat Smear. Frontman Kurt Cobain died in 1994.

“Kurt was one of one,” Novoselic said in their acceptance speech, adding that the band never imagined its sound and aesthetic would resonate with so many people. He said the music continues to endure because people are still hungry for “something real, something uncompromising” and a message that “it’s just OK to come as you are.”

Residents brace for a possible Russian hybrid attack on Poland's border with Ukraine

By CLAUDIA CIOBANU and RAFAL NIEDZIELSKI The Associated Press

DOROHUSK, Poland (AP) — Three times in one day, phones lit up across this Polish border community with a warning: A drone or a missile could cross from Ukraine, and residents should stay vigilant in case they might need to take cover.

Above the village of Dorohusk in eastern Poland, vapor trails cut across the pale blue sky and military helicopters rumbled overhead. Just 2 kilometers (1.24 miles) away, traffic at the border crossing into Ukraine was suspended three times, and staff were even evacuated once.

The alerts and disruptions on Thursday came as The Associated Press was visiting the village. They reflected a new reality along Poland's eastern frontier, where the war in Ukraine — now 4 1/2 years old — has felt increasingly close.

Russia isn't at war with Poland, but over the past few years European leaders say it's mounted a series of so-called hybrid attacks to pressure adversaries in the West and NATO that include sabotage, disinformation and cyberattacks. Poland is worried that the drones or missiles strikes could spill over from Ukraine, whether by accident or as part of a Russian strategy of ambiguous attacks.

The anxiety intensified after two Russian drones exploded on the Ukrainian side of the Dorohusk-Yahodyn crossing in the early hours of Sept. 13. The explosions could clearly be heard in Dorohusk.

"There is new restlessness and fear because you could hear those explosions very well on that night in our village," said Wojciech Sawa, the Dorohusk mayor. "We had never had something like that before. This was the first time the sirens wailed."

Poland is preparing for a more serious Russian hybrid attack

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk warned on Sept. 17 that Russia was planning hybrid strikes with drones or rockets on European countries supporting Ukraine, among them Poland, and regions bordering Ukraine would be especially vulnerable in the coming months. Other European leaders and intelligence services have shared his warnings that Russia is likely to step up its hybrid campaign.

In Dorohusk, people have lived in the shadow of the war for years. They watched Ukrainian refugees flee across the frontier in the early days of Russia's 2022 invasion and, this July, had a Russian missile pass through airspace in eastern Poland before crashing some 90 kilometers (56 miles) inside the country.

But the recent drone attacks and the Polish government's efforts to prepare the population for further serious incidents have brought a new sense of apprehension — and also confusion — among locals.

Kids in border regions have to evacuate when sirens warn of air threat

Jarosław Wójcicki, the Dorohusk school's director, said staff, including the school psychologist, now discuss with students "practically every day" how to stay safe.

The school had to be evacuated once so far and Wójcicki showed the two rooms in the basement of the school building where the kids took cover. Windows had been boarded up to avoid glass shards hurting anyone in case of an explosion.

"The older children had no problem at all, without showing any particular emotion," the director said. "You could see a little fear among the younger children, but they were well looked after by their teachers."

Wójcicki is responsible for the safety of hundreds of children who travel from nearby villages to attend school in Dorohusk, and his voice wavered as he described the enormity of the task.

Poland's Defense Minister Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz visited the Dorohusk-Yahodyn border crossing on Sept. 22 and announced new air defense elements were being brought to the border region. He added that Patriot batteries were deployed in the two Polish regions bordering Ukraine, including the one where Dorohusk is located.

More work needs to be done on civil preparedness

While the government's warnings are stark, even communities closest to Ukraine are still catching up on civil defense preparedness.

"We are at the beginning of the process of building civil resilience and the resilience of the state to

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 27 of 60

threats," said Mirosław Sokal, head of resident safety for the city of Lublin, 90 km west of Dorohusk. "We have to remember that over the past 40 years we thought we would be living in peace."

He said, given the lack of more solid infrastructure, Poles should respect one minimal rule when there's an air threat: get inside and put two walls between them and any window.

Sawa, the Dorohusk mayor, said villagers typically live in individual homes with basements and that is the obvious place to hide in case of air threats. "If I don't have a basement myself, my neighbor likely does," he said.

But people on the streets of Dorohusk seemed more confused about their options in case of a real attack.

"For now, I sleep well at night, so I don't really hear it," said Irena Popek, a woman in her 80s. If planes are coming, she said, her basement was not an option as it was flooded. "I simply have nowhere to hide, and that's it."

Renata Pastuszo, a local shop employee, said she continued working through the recent siren alarm because it's better to keep a positive spirit in front of the Russian threat.

Krzysztof Rulka, another resident, complained that alerts were now coming too often, leaving people confused about their meaning.

"If someone told me that a drone was going to explode in the center of Dorohusk, then I would know what to do," he said. "But this kind of confusion — there's an air attack somewhere in Ukraine — well, what am I supposed to do now? Run to Germany?"

Powerful nor'easter floods Northeast again, causing problems from New Jersey to New England

By LEAH WILLINGHAM and JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Residents of coastal communities in the Northeast slogged through floodwaters for a second day as a powerful nor'easter pummeled the shoreline Sunday, knocking out power to tens of thousands of homes.

Tidal surges swamped low-lying neighborhoods in New Jersey while wind gusts toppled trees on New York's Long Island, damaging homes and bringing down utility poles.

In the New Jersey beach town of Sea Bright, each high tide brought a new round of flooding. "It's not like a one-time occurrence," said Caroline Virenius, whose garage filled with about a foot of water (30 centimeters). "It's getting wet again and again."

The slow-moving storm, which killed a New York City Housing Authority worker when a tree fell Saturday, was expected to linger through Sunday with heavy rain, strong winds and dangerous surf all the way to New England.

Extreme amounts of rain — more than 4 inches (10 centimeters) since Friday in some spots in New Jersey — combined with a surging ocean led to flooding amounts not seen for close to a decade in places used to dealing with high water, residents said.

The National Weather Service predicted the storm will weaken over Sunday night with local heavy rain in parts of New England and the mid-Atlantic. But local officials in New Jersey and New York told residents that high tide late Monday could potentially bring more flooding.

"There is another band of the storm, a weaker band, but still another band that could hit early this afternoon and later into the evening," said New York's Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman.

Nor'easter disrupts flights and utilities

The nor'easter triggered memories of Superstorm Sandy, which left behind over \$60 billion in damage across the eastern U.S. in 2012. While this storm's impact has been nowhere near that, it could be the first of several along the East Coast this fall because of an El Niño climate pattern that's disrupting this year's weather.

Images of waves crashing into sea walls and onto beaches raised concerns about coastal erosion.

Well over 100,000 customers were without power across the Northeast and mid-Atlantic at times on Sunday, according to PowerOutage.us. The most widespread outages were in counties along the coast

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 28 of 60

from New Jersey to Connecticut.

Numerous flights were canceled or delayed up and down the coast. More than 250 flights had been canceled at Boston Logan International Airport by late Sunday morning as wind gusts reached 40 mph (64 kph), according to the Massachusetts Port Authority.

Flooding the biggest concern from nor'easter

The worst of the remaining rainfall was expected Sunday from northern New Jersey into southern New England.

While the storm was gradually weakening, tidal flooding would stay through high-tide cycles Sunday night, said Bob Oravec, a lead forecaster with the National Weather Service in College Park, Maryland.

In New York City, water a few inches deep filled streets in the Howard Beach neighborhood but didn't deter residents from venturing out for coffee Sunday morning.

Carole Ann Palmer, who owns Jingles Bait and Tackle in North Beach Haven, New Jersey, said this was the worst flooding she's seen in 10 years.

"Yesterday, I was like, oh my God, it just keeps getting higher and higher," said Palmer, who lives above the store.

The front step was swept away in the storm and she saw neighbors kayaking through the streets on Saturday.

Her biggest problem on Sunday was taking her two puppies outside to relieve themselves. She had to put on waders and carry them to dry land.

"I take one at the time, carry them across the street so they can do their business and then come back, dry them off and then do the other one. It's a workout," Palmer said.

New Jersey community better prepared after Sandy

Bernard Dowd waded through tidal water Sunday to get to his Sea Bright home, a day after he got back from work to find his basement "filled up like a swimming pool."

But he said the situation around his neighborhood likely would have been much worse if it weren't for new rules requiring homeowners to raise the height of their homes in the wake of Sandy, which devastated the community.

He also noticed that many around the community had lined their homes and businesses with sandbags — something he wishes he had done too.

"I'm always thinking they are hyping the storm," he said.

Mexico's Baja California braces for major Hurricane Polo as Hurricane Nolo still threatens Hawaii

By EUGENE GARCIA and GREGORY BULL Associated Press

HILO, Hawaii (AP) — Hurricane Nolo edged further away from the Hawaiian Islands on Sunday as major Hurricane Polo bore down on Mexico's Baja California peninsula with a threat of storm surge, high winds and heavy rains.

Nolo was well southwest of Hawaii and moving away from the Big Island as the weekend drew to a close. A high-wind warning, wind advisory and high surf advisory remained in effect for parts of the island through Sunday evening as Nolo's maximum sustained winds increased to near 105 mph (165 kph).

Meanwhile, residents of Mexico's Baja California braced for the expected arrival Monday of Category 3 Polo, which had top sustained winds of 125 mph (205 kph) Sunday evening, the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said. Heavy rainfall from Polo would begin impacting the peninsula overnight and could produce life-threatening flooding and mudslides.

Forecasters said Polo would hit the Mexican mainland after crossing Baja California and could bring heavy rain and flooding to parts of the U.S. Southwest later in the week. Polo was moving to the north at 12 mph (19 kph) about 270 miles (435 kilometers) west of Cabo San Lucas at the peninsula's southern tip, the hurricane center said.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 29 of 60

In Hawaii, floods and mudslides are still a risk

Forecasters said Nolo's outer bands could cause life-threatening flooding and mudslides, with parts of the Big Island possibly getting up to 20 inches (50 centimeters) of rain. Heavy rain also was expected on the other islands.

More than 120 National Guard members were activated, part of roughly 400 statewide after the governor issued an emergency proclamation. President Donald Trump recently approved an emergency declaration, authorizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate assistance and provide funding support.

Hawaii residents are still recovering from Hurricane Lala, which produced heavy rain and winds strong enough to sweep about 100 homes off their foundations on the Big Island.

In Naalehu, at the island's southern point, Peggy McKibbin surveyed silt-covered roads from her four-wheeler Sunday and pointed out the lingering damage from Lala, which wiped out a local bakery, a fire station and a hardware store.

"Everyone has been very much affected by this," McKibbin said.

The latest Pacific storms in a busy season

The Pacific has been unusually active, according to National Weather Service lead forecaster Bob Oravec, with storm activity running above average during what is already the peak of hurricane season. He said that pattern is consistent with El Niño years, when the Pacific often sees more tropical storms and hurricanes.

With Polo approaching Mexico, the Mexican navy said it had gathered personnel and humanitarian aid in the ports of Guaymas and Mazatlan, on the country's Pacific Coast, and deployed three vessels that could ship aid to coastal communities isolated by the storm.

One of the towns in the hurricane's projected path is San Juanico, a small fishing community on Baja's Pacific coast. The town has only had full-time electricity for a few years, and still experiences frequent outages. There is concern that washed-out roads could block access to medical facilities.

"Our people are concerned about this event," said Gloriely Robles Meza, a manager at a small hotel. "We haven't faced such a worrying situation in many years."

Robles Meza said Sunday that army soldiers arrived in San Juanico to prepare a shelter and provide support for possible emergencies.

Also Sunday, Tropical Storm Rachel formed well off Mexico's southwest coast. The hurricane center said Rachel had maximum sustained winds of 40 mph (65 kph) and was located about 300 miles (485 kilometers) south of Acapulco. No coastal watches or warnings were in effect.

Rain eases in Bangkok but persistent flooding forces thousands to leave home

BANGKOK (AP) — Rain eased in Thailand's capital on Sunday, but flooding persisted in several low-lying areas, with thousands forced to move into temporary shelters. At least eight people were reported killed in the past 10 days nationwide.

Days of continuous downpours have caused widespread flooding and severe disruptions in Bangkok, impacting traffic and businesses, with accumulated rainfall exceeding 30 centimeters (11.8 inches) in many areas.

Thailand's Meteorological Department said moderate to heavy rain was still expected Sunday in several parts of the country, but conditions were expected to improve by Monday.

The city set up more than 200 temporary shelters, and about 3,000 people remained in them as of Sunday. Officials said 31 roads were still impacted by floodwaters.

Bangkok Gov. Chadchart Sittipunt said rainfall in the capital has decreased and city officials were working to drain water as quickly as possible. He cautioned that water levels in the city's main canals remained high, with some still rising as water continued to flow in from nearby areas.

Several low-lying areas, particularly in the suburbs, were still submerged and many communities had to evacuate, Chadchart said.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 30 of 60

More than 545,000 people in 25 other provinces have been impacted by flooding as of Sunday, especially in the central and eastern regions, according to the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation.

Incessant rainfall caused flooding that overwhelmed drainage capacity in many areas, Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said.

He ordered relevant authorities to take immediate measures to relieve the situation and assist those impacted.

Several long-distance train and bus services were suspended. Airports continued to operate, but passengers faced some delays.

Heavy rain and flooding kill at least 62 in northern India

By BISWAJEET BANERJEE Associated Press

LUCKNOW, India (AP) — At least 62 people have died after days of heavy rain and flooding in northern India's Uttar Pradesh state, officials said Monday.

The state government said 46 people were injured and more than 1,000 houses were damaged after three days of heavy rainfall caused flooding in several districts.

Schools were closed Monday in parts of the state, including the capital, Lucknow, while rescue teams moved people from flooded areas to safer locations. Residents were advised to avoid unnecessary travel through waterlogged areas and stay away from fast-flowing rivers, streams and drains.

Rainfall was expected to ease from Monday as a weather system over the Bay of Bengal weakened, said Atul Kumar Singh, a senior scientist at the Regional Meteorological Centre in Lucknow. Light rain could continue in eastern and western parts of the state through Tuesday, he said.

Flooding also affected the eastern state of Odisha, where more than 75,000 people were evacuated to safer areas, officials said.

In neighboring Nepal, 21 people died in weather-related incidents from Thursday through Sunday, the country's disaster management agency said. Five people remained missing and five others were injured, while floods and landslides damaged 194 houses.

Nepal is recovering from devastating August floods that killed more than 1,400 people and left nearly 6,000 missing.

Serbia's populist President Vucic resigns to run for prime minister at early vote

By JOVANA GEC Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Serbia's populist President Aleksandar Vucic resigned Sunday to pursue a bid to become prime minister in an upcoming early parliamentary election that will test his firm rule in the Balkan country, which was rattled by nearly two years of protests.

Vucic's second presidential term would otherwise end in May next year. He is banned by the Serbian Constitution from seeking a third term and said he was resigning to lead his right-wing Serbian Progressive Party in the Oct. 25 ballot.

The governing populists face a major challenge at the ballot box from a youth-backed movement that led the protests triggered by the Nov. 1, 2024, train station canopy collapse that killed 16 people in the northern city of Novi Sad.

University students demanded accountability for the tragedy. Their struggle for justice and against corruption has grown into a strong movement that will attempt to oust Vucic's government after 14 years in power. Vucic himself has been either prime minister or president for the past 12 years.

"I am resigning the duty of the President of the Republic," Vucic said, reading the text of his resignation.

Tensions are rising ahead of high-stakes October ballot

The ballot in October will be held against a backdrop of high political tensions as Vucic's populists seek to remain in office despite widespread popular discontent. His decision to run for prime minister is seen

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 31 of 60

as a carefully planned maneuver to retain a top position, and to boost his party's chances against the student movement.

Before signing his resignation, Vucic briefly addressed his supporters outside the presidency building in Belgrade. He said "tonight is a very special occasion for me, my last evening in this beautiful building."

"But I look to the future with joy, new victories await us," he told the crowd as they chanted his name. "Let's beat them (opponents) more convincingly than ever before."

Vucic in recent weeks has toured the country tirelessly in a live coverage on pro-government media. He has opened new roads, offered assistance money and cheaper medicines, and visited voters in their homes. More recently, Vucic was filmed driving in his brother's car to some of the events.

The prime minister in Serbia is formally more powerful than the president. But Vucic still took a dominant role during his two five-year terms, sometimes presiding over government sessions and routinely announcing all important decisions and plans.

The Independent Bureau for Social Research, or BIRODI, has filed a complaint alleging that Vucic has abused a public institution as president to promote his party, which he has dismissed. There has been no response from the anti-corruption authorities that are under government control.

Presidential vote to be held later

After Vucic's resignation, the acting president will be a close ally and former prime minister, Ana Brnabic, who is the outgoing speaker of Serbia's 250-member Parliament.

Vucic said the first round of the early presidential election must be held by the end of this year because of a 90-day deadline.

Vucic and his party have been accused of rampant corruption, organized crime links and a clampdown on democratic freedoms, including the critical media. The SNS party has gradually taken control over all state institutions since coming to power in 2012, while denying abuse of office and repeatedly pledging to fight graft.

The student-backed election list includes little-known experts, professors, teachers, athletes and other individuals from all walks of life. Groups of students have been touring the country on bicycles as part of their campaign calling for the rule of law and an end to corruption.

Analysts say the student group and Vucic are polling close, heralding a tight race and a referendum-like atmosphere. Also running are Vucic's allies, the Socialist Party, a pro-EU opposition alliance and several smaller groups.

Vucic said that as of Monday, he will be "everywhere in Serbia to listen to the people." While praising his government's achievements, Vucic contended that "I have made mistakes but I have worked diligently like hardly anyone in this position."

Vucic also said he had pardoned 49 people before leaving the office, including 23 who have been prosecuted for alleged offenses during the protests. They include a group of anti-government activists who fled Serbia after being accused of anti-state activities.

Authorities have pushed hard against protesters with police violence and detentions as Vucic, without offering evidence, accused his opponents and critical media of intending to "destroy the state" under unspecified foreign influence.

He told Serbia's state-run RTS Television earlier on Sunday that foreign powers and unidentified people in the country plan to stir unrest on election night.

Serbia's efforts to join the European Union have stalled under Vucic because of democratic backsliding and a refusal to join sanctions against Russia over the war in Ukraine.

Pope blasts assisted dying as 'false compassion' at French shrine known for miraculous cures

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

LOURDES, France (AP) — Pope Leo XIV on Sunday condemned the legalization of medically assisted death as immoral "false compassion," reaffirming Catholic teaching on the sanctity of life during a visit to

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 32 of 60

Lourdes, the French shrine associated with miraculous healings.

On the third day of his visit to France, Leo again waded into the end-of-life debate unfolding in his native U.S. and countries around the world. The issue roiled French politics for years before lawmakers recently approved legislation allowing adults with incurable illnesses to receive lethal medication.

Leo also met on Sunday with seven survivors of clergy sexual abuse, in what has now become a regular appointment for popes on foreign visits. The aim is to atone for the Catholic Church's failure to protect its youngest and most vulnerable members from predator priests.

"It was extraordinary," said survivor Jean-Marie Delbos, who joined four others at a press conference afterward to praise Leo for the encounter, saying he listened and was informed of their cases. "I never thought I would have a pope before me."

A message about end-of-life care

Leo's visit to the once staunchly Catholic and officially secular France has been marked by huge crowds — 800,000 at Leo's Mass on Paris' iconic Place de la Concorde — and his messaging against abortion and assisted dying.

France's National Assembly in 2024 enshrined abortion as a constitutional right and recently gave final approval to its end-of-life bill.

On Sunday, the American pope celebrated Mass before some 150,000 people — many in wheelchairs — on the prairie next to Lourdes' main basilica. He then visited a care center for sick people on the sanctuary's grounds. He sought to encourage especially those who live in "terrible pain" that they have inherent dignity that no law or algorithm can "eliminate."

"On the contrary, it is precisely in the name of this inalienable dignity of the human person that we must reject the temptation to cause death under the guise of false compassion," he said. "What is legal is not necessarily moral," Leo said to applause from the crowd.

Catholic teaching holds that all human life must be protected and defended from conception until natural death, leading to its firm opposition to abortion, euthanasia and medically assisted dying.

Leo had specifically criticized a medical-aid-in-dying law that took effect in Sept. 12 in his home state of Illinois — the 13th U.S. state with such a law.

Lourdes became a major pilgrimage destination after the Catholic Church officially recognized visions of the Virgin Mary reported here by a young girl in 1858. The site near the Spanish border draws millions of pilgrims each year, especially sick and disabled believers hoping for a cure from the famed spring water in the Lourdes grotto where the visions purportedly occurred.

As a result in Lourdes, where the church has recognized 72 "miraculous" cures as authentic, the question of respecting even the most frail, sick and vulnerable is particularly acute.

Survivors visit Lourdes as part of their healing process

More recently, Lourdes has also become a place of healing for survivors of clergy sexual abuse, and it was chosen as the site for Leo's encounter with victims. Leo met with them in a group and one-on-one in an encounter that lasted nearly two hours, the Vatican said.

The pope "listened to their stories, the pain and suffering they had endured — sometimes, unfortunately, with the complicity or silence of those who could have helped them — and their suggestions for ensuring that this does not happen again," the Vatican said in a statement.

Olivier Mardi, co-founder of Voix Libérées de Touraine, a survivor group, said he perceived that Leo was a decisive "man of engagement" who had done his homework going into the meeting. He said Leo knew Mardi's case and asked him precise questions.

"He's not fooled; he knows that these incidents will continue and that we must remain vigilant," he said. "There was an emotional side to it, and at the same time, something very powerful when he spoke."

The French church has faced a brutal reckoning with its legacy of abuse. An independent report in 2021 estimated 330,000 children had been abused over 70 years by some 3,000 priests and church workers.

Despite criticism of the report's methodology and conclusions, French bishops put in place an independent system of compensation for victims that to date has recommended the church pay out more than

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 33 of 60

20 million euros (\$22.7 million).

During a meeting with French bishops on Sunday morning, Leo praised their response to victims and urged them to continue. But he also acknowledged that the cratering in priestly vocations in the French church is related to the scandal, given the priesthood is now sometimes viewed with suspicion.

"For priestly vocations to flourish, the priest must be welcomed, accepted, and loved," Leo said.

Monsignor Pierre-Antoine Bozo, spokesperson for the bishops' conference, said Leo intentionally wanted to keep the encounter with victims small to facilitate an intimate encounter.

"When it comes to listening to them, you can't have 50 people in front of you," he said. "So I think that's really what the pope chose: to listen so that we can act and respond more effectively."

Mosaics are a painful reminder of alleged abuse

In Lourdes, Leo was also reminded of a prickly abuse case inherited from Pope Francis.

The façade of one of the Lourdes basilicas was designed by the Rev. Marko Rupnik, a religious mosaic artist.

Rupnik is currently on trial in a Vatican court, accused by more than two dozen women of having psychologically, spiritually and sexually abused them starting in the 1990s, including during the creation of his artworks.

His case was covered up for three decades by his Jesuit superiors, and even Francis was suspected of having protected his fellow Jesuit. In response to a media outcry, Francis ordered a canonical trial in 2024, which is ongoing.

The Rupnik case posed the question of what to do with his mosaics, which adorn basilicas around the world.

Lourdes Bishop Jean-Marc Micas in 2025 decided to cover the façade of the Notre Dame du Rosaire Basilica, reasoning that abuse victims who come to Lourdes for healing shouldn't be forced to see the mosaics.

On Sunday, Leo looped in front of the basilica in his popemobile, passing by the mosaic panels now covered by mustard-colored curtains affixed with plastic ties.

Trump administration set to roll out lower fuel economy standards for cars, light trucks

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Trump administration on Monday plans to release new fuel economy standards that would relax regulatory requirements for automakers to control pollution from gasoline-powered cars and light trucks.

President Donald Trump said on his Truth Social media account Saturday that the less stringent mileage requirements would "take the waste out of building cars in America" and save families "thousands on a new, beautiful and safe car," while boosting auto production in the U.S.

Last December, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration projected that the new standards would set the industry fleetwide average for light-duty vehicles at roughly 34.5 miles per gallon in the 2031 model year, down from a projected 50.4 miles per gallon in 2031 under rules put in place by the Biden administration.

Fuel economy requirements set out how far new vehicles need to travel on a gallon of gasoline. The change would further make do on Trump's promise to revoke policies that encouraged or created incentives for the production of electric vehicles.

Since taking office, Trump has relaxed auto tailpipe emissions rules, repealed fines for automakers that do not meet federal mileage standards and terminated consumer credits of up to \$7,500 for EV purchases.

Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy said Saturday on his social media account on X that the changes would be announced Monday. The White House, Department of Transportation and NHTSA couldn't immediately be reached for comment on the details of the new standards.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 34 of 60

General Motors, Stellantis, and Ford Motor, maker of the top-selling pickup truck, the F-150, also couldn't be immediately reached for comment. The administration and automakers have said the new rules will increase Americans' access to the full range of gasoline vehicles they need and can afford.

The average new car in America sold for \$50,089 in August, crossing over the \$50,000 line for the first time since last December, according to Kelley Blue Book data. At the same time, Americans are spending more on gas as Washington's war with Iran disrupts the global flow of fuel. The national average price for a gallon of gas was \$4.47 on Sunday, up from \$4.09 a month ago, according to the AAA motor club.

Trump has repeatedly pledged to end what he falsely calls an EV "mandate," referring incorrectly to President Joe Biden's target that half of all new vehicle sales be electric by 2030. No federal policy has mandated auto companies to sell EVs.

According to data from the automotive research group Edmunds, EVs accounted for 6.5% of new vehicle sales in February, down from 7.4% for all of 2025.

News of the revised standards immediately drew rebukes from environmentalists.

Dan Becker, director of the Center for Biological Diversity's Safe Climate Transport Campaign, said that the final rule "ignores the feasibility of clean technology and the millions of fuel-efficient cars already on the road."

"Trump is tanking sensible mile per gallon standards at the worst possible time for consumers, who are getting hit with sky-high prices at the pump," Becker said in a statement. "Consumers will pay the price for these reckless rollbacks while Trump's Big Oil and Big Auto buddies reap the short-term profits."

Katherine García, director of the Sierra Club's Clean Transportation for All campaign, vowed the environmental group would fight the rule and said that the loosening of fuel standards would "make driving more expensive too."

"Less fuel-efficient cars mean more gas burned, spending more at the pump, and dirtier air in our communities," García wrote in a statement.

When the 2024 standards went into effect, NHTSA estimated they would save 14 billion gallons of gasoline from being burned by 2050. The agency also said that while new fuel-efficient vehicles cost more up front, savings on gasoline over the lifetime of the car or truck would more than make up for that.

Without these standards, in 2035, cars could produce 22,111 more tons of carbon dioxide per year than under the Biden-era rules. It also translates to an extra 90 tons a year of deadly soot particles and 4,870 additional tons a year of smog components such as nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds emitted into the air in coming years.

Mileage standards, known as the corporate average fuel economy, or CAFE, have been implemented since the 1970s energy crisis, and over time, automakers have gradually improved their vehicles' average efficiency.

Trump's golf tour takes him back to the Presidents Cup

By JAY COHEN AP Sports Writer

MEDINAH, Ill. (AP) — President Donald Trump returned to the Presidents Cup as honorary chairman for the second time, getting a loud cheer and keeping his remarks brief.

"These people want to see golf," he said Sunday.

And just like his last visit to the Presidents Cup in 2017, he saw the Americans win. They rallied with the best performance on the final day in tournament history.

"Our team played unbelievable golf. They went in with a massive deficit, and they came out with a tremendous victory, just a great comeback," Trump told reporters when he landed back at Joint Base Andrews outside of Washington.

His visit to Medinah Country Club in suburban Chicago marked the fourth time Trump has gone to a golf tournament this year. He arrived early and participated in the closing ceremony, helping with the presentation of the trophy to the winning U.S. team.

Security was tight. The Secret Service would not let spectators cross from one side of the first fairway

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 35 of 60

to the other except for when Trump took a break from greeting players to go inside a suite.

Trump also was honorary chairman at the 2017 Presidents Cup during his first term. He showed up at Liberty National, across the Hudson River from Manhattan, toward the end of the competition when the Americans were assured of winning. He posed with U.S. players during the trophy presentation.

This time, he arrived before the start of the 12 singles matches in the final session. Flanked by PGA Tour CEO Brian Rolapp, Trump greeted players and caddies on both teams. In between player introductions, he watched the action on the videoboard at No. 1.

Scottie Scheffler, the No. 1 player in the world and among several golfers who have played with Trump, patted the president's shoulder as he walked onto the tee. U.S. captain Brandt Snedeker also visited the president a couple of times.

"He told me I was going to bring some energy today for you guys, you guys need it, and I told him if we did this, he gets all the credit," Snedeker said after the U.S. closed out the victory. "Thank you, President Trump."

Trump signed three hats for fans, and he responded to sections of the crowd clamoring for his attention by pointing, waving and offering a thumbs-up. When a fan yelled "We love you Donnie!" right before Chris Gotterup's tee shot, Trump waved discreetly.

He congratulated both teams during the closing ceremony. He also posed for photos and handed out challenge coins to Team USA and their significant others.

Trump was introduced by Rolapp at the beginning of the session, prompting Trump to remark "the fake news media will say I got a very bad reception."

The president spoke briefly, noting that Rolapp had asked him to make a short speech.

"I said, 'No, I don't have the courage to make a speech. These people want to see golf. They don't want to hear speeches,'" Trump said. "I'll only say this: Our country is doing great, better than ever before."

Unlike regular golf tournaments, the first tee is boisterous with a flag-waving crowd and music at the Presidents Cup and the Ryder Cup, which Trump attended last year at Bethpage Black on Long Island in New York.

The Americans lost the Ryder Cup to Europe, but they rallied past the International team for their 11th consecutive Presidents Cup win.

Before the horseshoe-shaped grandstand was filled, the loudest buzz was Air Force One flying over Medinah, louder than any of the commercial airlines that have been flying over the course every 70 seconds throughout the week during descent to O'Hare International Airport.

"They were nice enough to name me chairman or honorary chairman, so it's an honor. It's a very big event, one of the biggest events in golf by far," Trump told reporters Sunday morning as he left the White House. "You have the Ryder Cup, and you have the Presidents Cup, and this is a big one, and so it's a great honor. So, I'm going there."

It's a traditional role offered to leaders of every country where the tournament is played.

The Presidents Cup began in 1994 to include international players from non-European countries who were not eligible for the more famed Ryder Cup. The name of the tournament comes from including the head of state of the host country as honorary chairman.

Then-Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was part of the trophy presentation at the last Presidents Cup in 2024 at Royal Montreal.

President Bill Clinton was in office in 2000 when he attended for one round at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club in Gainesville, Virginia. The first time Trump attended in 2017, the start of the week was the biggest display of presidents when Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama sat together on the first tee for the opening round.

Trump this year was at the Cadillac Championship at his Trump National Doral near Miami in early May. He also attended the LIV Golf event at his Trump National Bedminster course in New Jersey in August.

Earlier this month he attended the Irish Open at his course in Doonbeg, Ireland.

Americans rally in singles to win the Presidents Cup for the 11th straight time

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

MEDINAH, Ill. (AP) — The deficit was larger than anything the Americans had ever experienced at home in the Presidents Cup. The celebration Sunday afternoon? That was all too familiar, even the part where President Donald Trump stuck around for the trophy presentation.

The U.S. players — from world No. 1 Scottie Scheffler to 21-year-old rookie Jackson Koivun — passed the gold cup down the line, which was only fitting.

Everyone had a hand in the latest comeback at Medinah, where the Americans delivered the most lop-sided singles session in Presidents Cup history. They won nine of the 12 matches and halved the other for a 17-13 victory, their 11th in a row against the hard-luck Internationals.

U.S. captain Brandt Snedeker went from blaming himself for the three-point deficit to choking back emotions as his team set the tone early and rode momentum and a raucous Chicago gallery late that left them believing again they can succeed in team golf.

The real proof comes a year from now in Ireland for the Ryder Cup. For now, the Americans redeemed themselves in a competition they have lost only once since these matches began in 1994.

"Is it a record in singles? That doesn't happen unless you have a special group of guys, and we do," Snedeker said. "I'm really proud of how they came together."

It was a crushing blow to Geoff Ogilvy and his International team, which outplayed the Americans in team matches over three days, taking the lead for only the fourth time in the Presidents Cup, and the first time on American soil.

Five matches were on the course — the U.S. were 1-up in three, the other two were halved — and the Internationals need to find three points to win the cup. The Americans simply didn't budge.

"It just felt like it was sort of right on a knife edge for a massive part of the day," Ogilvy said. "If you hole a couple of putts at the right time and get a bit more yellow on the board at the right time, the momentum, and the crowd sort of stays out of it a little bit.

"Just sort of started drifting away for us in the last few hours."

The Americans, outplayed down the stretch all week on the No. 3 course at Medinah and Ogilvy's architecture company redesign, flipped two key matches on the back nine. Collin Morikawa beat Hideki Matsuyama, and Koivun went from 2 down after 10 holes to a 2-up victory over Si Woo Kim.

Trump, the honorary chairman of the Presidents Cup, was on the first tee for the start of the 12 singles matches and was there for the trophy presentation, as he was at Liberty National in 2017 during his first term.

That was an American blowout. This one was tight, and yet it still felt inevitable, nothing like the Ryder Cup at Medinah in 2012 when Europe rallied from a 10-6 deficit to win on the road.

The Americans rallied behind endless and boisterous cheers, some of which went a little too far.

Someone yelled in the backswing of Nico Echavarria, causing him to drop the driver as his ball sailed to the right. Scheffler barked at the fan, and after missing a birdie putt, he conceded a 30-foot par to the Colombian in a show of sportsmanship.

Scheffler went on to win. So did Cameron Young and Justin Thomas and Chris Gotterup in the early part of the lineup as the deficit shrunk and soon turned into another comfortable victory.

"I told the guys last night that funny stuff happens here. Medinah has a history of funny things happening," said Snedeker, who was on that losing Ryder Cup team in 2012. "Sure enough, they went out and played their (tails) off today. I'm so damn proud of those guys."

That group included Koivun, who just over a year ago was on the winning Walker Cup team for amateurs. Just four months ago, he helped Auburn to an NCAA golf title. And there he was Sunday, turning a loss into a point and hitting clutch shots at the end.

Koivun was 2 down through 10 holes to the Kim when he won three straight holes to flip the color to American red on the board. The kid drilled his tee shot on the 18th, and twirled his iron when he knew

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 37 of 60

the approach was pure. He wound up with a 2-up victory, and then it was a matter of time.

"The kid is special. He's different," Snedeker said. "You saw that for a 21-year-old kid to stand up there and hit those last two balls like he did. Not many people like that."

The clinching point came from Jacob Bridgeman, another Presidents Cup rookie.

Patrick Cantlay had another moment, as he always seem to do in these events, holing a birdie putt from just inside 60 feet on the par-3 16th against Adam Scott, who now has played 12 times in this competition without ever being on the winning side.

"Look, it's a very difficult thing to beat the U.S. in singles in the U.S.," Ogilvy said. "They're great players, and the crowd came out for them. They get a bit of red on the board, and the noise gets loud. They started the day with a lot to do and they all played great."

All the Internationals can do is regroup and try again at Kingston Heath in Australia in two years. Their only victory was at Royal Melbourne in 1998, and there was a tie in South Africa in 2003.

Anthropic and OpenAI sound the alarm on AI safety — and seek to shape how it's controlled

By GARANCE BURKE Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — As tech titans warned an AI-weary world that their own advanced systems could endanger humanity, the question emerged: What do they have to gain?

The answer may lie in the companies' efforts to score political goals ahead of the U.S. midterm elections and the money top artificial intelligence labs and their investors stand to make in much-anticipated listings on a jittery stock market.

The CEOs of Anthropic and OpenAI recently declared America's cutting-edge models are so powerful, they're dangerous, and need to be regulated and independently tested before being released. In a rare instance of unity, they have sketched alarming scenarios in essays, social media posts and speeches to the United Nations.

Along the way, they are shaping the conversation around how their technology should be controlled. With their rhetoric, the companies appear to be seeking public favor and to set the terms for their own safety protocols in the unregulated market, experts, analysts and former government evaluators told The Associated Press.

Those aims may not exactly align with what Anthropic engineer Jacob Coxon sought when he quit via a post on X this month, calling for a pause on tech development to keep "superhuman" systems from eluding their makers' control. But the companies saw his post as an opportunity to highlight their own safety efforts and position themselves as cautious market leaders, just when they need fresh capital before going public on Wall Street.

President Donald Trump has shunned the need for new AI regulations, dismissing talk of risks to humanity as a "HOAX" designed to help China.

An Anthropic spokesperson said in response to questions for this story that the company has been calling for regulation for several years. An OpenAI spokesperson, Liz Bourgeois, noted the company recently paused training of its most advanced models.

"People want to know AI is being developed safely, and that starts with what companies like ours do ourselves," Bourgeois said.

Calls for slowdown shift the conversation on AI risks

Turning the conversation toward unproven threats — and away from polarizing issues such as data centers' environmental impacts, uncontrolled hacking incidents, mass AI-powered surveillance and the AI systems' use in warfare — puts Silicon Valley in a more comfortable position, said Sarah Shoker, who previously led OpenAI's geopolitics team.

"Once again we're talking about existential risk, while deprioritizing a number of other safety-critical risks that exist today. If you look at the use of AI in military tech, you can see that these systems are already used to kill people," said Shoker, a senior non-resident fellow at University of California, Berkeley Risk &

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 38 of 60

Security Lab.

As AI companies have gone from building chatbots to advanced AI "world models" with 3D awareness, debate has raged over how their technologies should be tested.

Problematic incidents have shown leading AI companies failing to police themselves or design safe experiments. In recent months, leading labs' AI agents have hacked into external websites after being allowed to escape company training sandboxes, interacted with U.S. government websites in unexpected ways, and appeared to achieve a mathematical breakthrough only to face accusations of stealing mathematicians' work.

OpenAI representatives told reporters recently that they have talked with AI companies including Anthropic and Google about pausing development. They also argue they need independent auditors to check the labs' progress, if the government won't regulate.

Leading labs press their oversight vision

Trump has shown little interest in regulating AI, which has been a major driver of recent U.S. economic growth.

The Republican president himself has struck deals with Silicon Valley firms that more closely tie the economy to their successes. San Francisco venture capitalist David Sacks, who co-chairs Trump's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, has dismissed calls for an AI slowdown as fearmongering from the "Doomer Industrial Complex."

The reality is the Trump administration already evaluates some of the tech giants' models through a little-known federal agency, the U.S. Center for AI Standards and Innovation. Democratic President Joe Biden created the agency in 2023, when it was heralded as a clearinghouse for labs to voluntarily submit advanced AI models for testing.

The agency still exists, but the field has since expanded to include an array of independent evaluation firms, such as Berkeley, California-based nonprofit METR, which Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei suggested in a recent essay could help vet his company's safety practices.

But unlike regulated sectors like restaurants, financial services or aviation, there are no universal standards for how to test the safety and security of AI systems, said Andrew Strait, who recently left the United Kingdom's AI Security Institute, which worked with CAISI.

Notably, the companies aren't calling for more oversight from the government agency equipped to handle such requests, said Conrad Stosz, who previously led CAISI. Instead, they're vowing to create their own auditing parameters and choose particular evaluators to grade them.

Stosz now works at one such evaluation lab that has worked with Anthropic, OpenAI and Google to test their systems, and also chairs the AI Evaluator Forum, which is drafting best practices for the field. He said even the forum has questions about what Amodei and OpenAI CEO Sam Altman want.

"Lots of evaluators are interested in embedding with labs and getting greater access, but it's a little ambiguous what embedded evaluators means," said Stosz, now head of governance at Translucent, which revealed last week that OpenAI agents hacked U.S. and Australian government websites. "Will evaluators be able to thoroughly investigate, assuming that access is granted in a way that does not undermine their independence and credibility?"

Companies position themselves as safe bets

For Harrison Rolfes, a PitchBook senior research analyst, AI companies' calls for caution seem meant to curry favor with investors ahead of public offerings and the midterms, when the political winds could shift. Democratic governors already are rushing to show they're taking the warnings seriously.

Meanwhile, the AI giants can block smaller competitors' growth by positioning themselves as the safest bet for investors, as well as for AI chipmakers and tech companies such as Nvidia and Google, which in turn can benefit from deals that provide the giant AI companies compute power, Rolfes said.

"They're creating a wall or a moat within this sector. ... It's genius and they're all going to make a lot of money," Rolfes said. "That's where I see this heading, having the top companies in the world just creating their own wall, and then using the safety as the reason."

Not all AI companies endorse a slowdown. Chipmaker Nvidia's CEO Jensen Huang said in a phone con-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 39 of 60

versation with Trump — a call he took onstage at a conference — that he agrees there has been excessive AI alarmism and companies can choose to pace themselves.

Daniel Kokotajlo, who left OpenAI in 2024 over concerns similar to Coxon's, said he continues to worry that AI systems are advancing faster than companies can control, and fears existential scenarios such as AI's potential to supercharge the creation of bioweapons, nuclear war or other catastrophes.

"All of this talk is actually a way to sort of dissipate and redirect this political will that has built up, rather than actually channeling that political will to do something good," said Kokotajlo, who now leads an AI safety advocacy organization and said he counseled Coxon before he resigned. "Just please don't do the thing that's going to get us all killed."

From collapse to clinch, Phillies survive 'living hell' of last week and win final NL wild card

By DAN GELSTON AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Kyle Schwarber belly-flopped more than he actually slid headfirst into second base and popped up with his uniform smudged in dirt. He punched his right fist in the air and shouted something in exhilaration toward a fired-up Phillies dugout.

Schwarber delivered with a clutch two-run double, yes. He also showed the fire, the fight that vanished from the Phillies during a treacherous week that sent them from the brink of a wild-card clinch to the edge — and yes, the bottom was crumbling — of an all-time franchise collapse.

His slide had Phillies fans roaring from their feet — perhaps more than a few who wore brown paper bags over their heads a night earlier — and instantly all felt right on a soggy day inside Citizens Bank Park.

Zack Wheeler pitched a gem against Tampa Bay on Sunday and untangled a few thousand knots inside the stomachs of Phillies fans, and even from those inside a mostly solemn clubhouse. The Phillies survived their perilous five-day scare and are indeed headed to the playoffs for the fifth straight season after beating the Rays 7-3 to clinch the final NL wild-card berth.

"We didn't play the best baseball we could in September," slugger Bryce Harper said. "Should we have clinched two weeks ago? Probably, right? But we didn't. We clinched today."

Johan Duran struck out Nick Fortes to seal it. Duran pounded his mitt and was greeted by teammates for a fairly muted celebration on the field.

The Phillies got more rowdy inside the clubhouse and sprayed cheap beer and bubbly as bottle caps floated in booze-soaked puddles on the carpet while Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive" was cranked to 11.

Philadelphia did indeed survive a freefall that coincided with the Arizona Diamondbacks getting hot over the final week of the season. The Phillies' slam dunk of a playoff spot morphed into something much more tenuous.

Interim manager Don Mattingly said ahead of Wednesday's game — the first day the team could clinch — that, yes, Philadelphia would wait until midnight if needed to pop the bubbly if it beat Milwaukee and the Diamondbacks lost a time zone away to Colorado.

The Phillies lost that one. Then came three more defeats, capped by a 12-1 embarrassment on Saturday against the AL East champion Rays.

Mattingly's presumed wait of a few hours to celebrate was not complete until 5:19 p.m. Eastern on Sunday, Sept. 27.

The Phillies scored only three runs during their four-game losing streak. They needed an unearned run on Saturday to snap a 21-inning scoreless streak.

Schwarber's double in the second inning made it 4-0, and that all but erased the significance of the Diamondbacks' outcome in San Diego. Philadelphia entered the day needing a win or an Arizona loss to make the playoffs.

J.T. Realmuto slogged through 34 straight hitless at-bats. He also ripped an RBI double in the second inning.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 40 of 60

Bryson Stott batted cleanup for only the seventh time in his career. He also hit an RBI double that scored Schwarber in the first inning.

Harper lined a solo shot into the first row of the right-field seats, and Edmundo Sosa added a two-run homer for a 7-1 lead in the seventh.

Slumps were busted. Losing streaks were obliterated. Corks were popped.

"It was kind of a living hell in slow motion," Phillies managing partner and CEO John Middleton said of the final week.

Wheeler allowed one run and threw 97 pitches over six innings to earn his 14th win of the season on a rainy day that stirred memories of the 2008 World Series between the same teams.

The Phillies, though, likely took a loss by pushing the clincher to the 162nd game. With Game 1 in the best-of-three Wild Card Series set to start Tuesday in Atlanta, the Phillies will almost surely have to beat the Braves without a start from Wheeler.

The Phillies' rotation has been a strength this season, and Jesús Luzardo and Cristopher Sánchez are in play for Games 1 and 2. Andrew Painter or Aaron Nola could make a Game 3 start, if necessary.

Mattingly had goggles wrapped around his backward cap and laughed when he said it was "too early" to announce a Game 1 starter.

NL East champion Atlanta won the season series 9-4 and finished six games ahead of second-place Philadelphia.

The Phillies were 9-19 when they fired popular manager Rob Thomson in April after he led the Phillies to four straight playoff appearances, including the 2022 World Series, and consecutive NL East titles.

Mattingly, hired in the offseason as bench coach, is back in the playoffs a season after he was on the staff of a Toronto team that lost the World Series in seven games to the Los Angeles Dodgers. He's tasked with leading the franchise to its first championship since 2008, the second year of a five-year playoff stretch for the Phillies.

That was a record, until this year's team matched it.

"You wouldn't think that, right, with everybody's opinion of us," Harper said. "I think as a team, as a group, pretty cool. The job's not done, the job's not finished. We've never finished the job before."

The Phillies did all they could to try and blow their lead.

Philadelphia had a 6 1/2-game lead over Arizona for the third NL wild card on Sept. 1 before going into a tailspin that spurred painful memories of the 1964 season. Those Phillies lost 10 straight games to blow a 6 1/2-game lead and the NL pennant with 12 games left.

This year's team will be able to raise a playoff flag on opening day (whenever that is in 2027).

The Phillies also must try and prove their late-September meltdown was nothing but a blip in a long and successful October.

That's a problem to start to solve on Monday.

On Sunday, it was hugs and high-fives and a collective exhale that more playoffs were on the horizon.

"We know our team," Schwarber said. "We know that we have a lot of experience. We've got talent. When we're playing our game, and we're executing what we need to do, we're a really hard team to beat."

3 people are killed and 4 are injured in shooting at Detroit after-hours strip club, police say

DETROIT (AP) — Three people were killed and four more were injured when an argument led to gunfire at an after-hours strip club Sunday morning in Detroit, officials said.

Police responding to the 7:21 a.m. shooting on a largely residential street found three men who had been fatally shot, Detroit Police Chief Todd Bettison told reporters at a news conference.

Four more people — two men and two women — were taken in private cars to area hospitals. None are thought to have life-threatening injuries.

All the victims are thought to be in their 20s and 30s, Bettison said.

"A fight occurred, an altercation occurred, and as a result individuals decided to settle it with gun vio-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 41 of 60

lence," he said.

"This address is not new to the Detroit Police Department," he said, noting police had seven calls to the location this year. He said the department had leads but wouldn't discuss them any further.

"This was an after-hours location," he said of the shooting scene. "Imagine a strip club. ... I'll leave it at that."

Detroit Mayor Mary Sheffield urged anyone with information to contact authorities.

"We know that we need more people to speak up to bring justice to the situation," she said at the news conference. "It's heartbreaking and our community should not suffer from this type of violence."

Earlier Sunday, a shooting broke out at a birthday party at a park in Macon, Georgia, leaving 12 teens with gunshot wounds, Bibb County Sheriff David Davis said during a news conference. Two of the injured were in critical condition, while the others were stable. There were no immediate arrests, but Davis said investigators had several persons of interest.

Palestinian death toll in Gaza war passes 74,000, and other Mideast news

By The Associated Press undefined

The Palestinian death toll from the nearly three-year Israel-Hamas war has surpassed 74,000, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi says Tehran has not been formally notified of U.S. President Donald Trump's rejection of its proposed deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. And the World Health Organization says nearly 700 people have been killed in Yemen since fighting escalated last month.

Here is a look at the latest news from the Middle East on Sunday.

Iran's top diplomat says they await word from mediators

Araghchi said Tehran awaits a U.S. response through mediators after Trump rejected Iran's proposal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and resume negotiations.

Speaking from New York, Araghchi told NBC that Iran is "fully prepared for the war to be resumed."

He added, however: "At the same time, we stand ready for diplomacy. It is up to President Trump to choose."

Trump told Axios he expects U.S. negotiators to engage in more talks this week.

Araghchi, who had described the proposal on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly, earlier told Iranian state media that Tehran's conditions for reopening the strait remained unchanged and there would be "no backing down from them."

Israel to expel Dutch diplomats over settlements-related ban

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said the government had notified the Dutch embassy in Israel that its diplomats in Ramallah had to leave within one week.

Saar said the decision was in response to a Dutch ban that went into effect on Sept. 22 on the "import, purchase and sale of goods" originating from Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, which the Netherlands, like most of the international community, considers illegal.

Israeli news outlets reported Sunday that Dutch authorities searched the luggage of passengers on a flight from Tel Aviv to Amsterdam to ensure compliance.

"Any country that acts in a hostile and unilateral manner against Israel will lose influence and relevance in the region," Saar said in a statement. There was no immediate comment from the Dutch foreign ministry.

Israel also ousted the Dutch delegation from the International Gaza Support Center last month.

In Gaza, over 1,100 have been killed since ceasefire

Gaza's Health Ministry on Saturday said the Palestinian death toll has risen to 74,016, with 175,068 wounded. The war began on Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas-led militants invaded Israel, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking 251 others hostage.

While a ceasefire that took effect last Oct. 10 has halted the heaviest fighting, Israeli strikes have continued in what the military has said are responses to threats or attacks.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 42 of 60

Since the ceasefire, 1,145 Palestinians have been killed, said the ministry, which is part of the Hamas-led government. It maintains detailed records viewed as generally reliable by U.N. agencies and international organizations. It does not distinguish between civilians and militants. Meanwhile, seven Israeli soldiers have been killed since the ceasefire.

Next steps in the U.S.-brokered ceasefire remain largely stalled. Israeli forces now control over half of the territory, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says they will not withdraw until Hamas disarms.

Israeli strikes in Gaza kill at least 2

Israeli strikes in central and southern Gaza killed two Palestinians and wounded several others, according to hospital officials.

In Gaza City, a strike hit a car, killing one person and wounding several others, according to Shifa Hospital. Video showed a chaotic scene around the charred vehicle.

Israel's military said it targeted a military operative.

A separate Israeli strike in the Muwasi area of Khan Younis killed one person and wounded three others, according to Nasser Hospital.

Israeli's military said it targeted a Hamas militant.

Houthi rebels accuse Yemeni forces of a deadly strike

Iranian-backed Houthi rebels accused Saudi-backed Yemeni government forces of striking a market in Yemen's Taiz province, killing at least seven people.

Anees al-Asbahi, a spokesperson for the Houthi-run health ministry, said the strike hit shops in a market in the district of Taiziyah. He said at least other 40 people, including five children, were wounded.

The military of Yemen's internationally recognized government rejected the Houthi claims, saying it attacked Houthi "warehouses and positions" in northern, southern and western Taiz and left "dozens of dead and wounded" among the rebels.

There has been fierce fighting on Yemen's Red Sea coast as government forces attempt to reverse recent Houthi advances. The WHO says almost 700 people have been killed since the escalation last month.

Hezbollah supporters mark Nasrallah's death

Thousands of people gathered in Beirut's southern suburbs to mark the two-year anniversary of former Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah's death in an Israeli airstrike. In a video address, his successor, Naim Kassem, reiterated the militant group's refusal to disarm while Israeli forces occupy southern Lebanon.

"With regard to disarmament, we have told (the government) that we are ready for dialogue, but first the south must be liberated and its people return," he said.

The latest Israel-Hezbollah war began when the Iran-backed group fired missiles across the border, two days after the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran. Israel responded with bombardment and a ground invasion and now occupies a large swath of the south.

Lebanon's government signed a U.S.-brokered agreement in June under which Israeli forces would gradually withdraw in exchange for Hezbollah disarming. Hezbollah was not a party to the negotiations, and implementation of the agreement has stalled.

5 men arrested near UK air base used by US in Iran war on suspicion of preparing a terrorist act

By PAN PYLAS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — U.K. police said that five men arrested in the early hours of Sunday near an air base used by the United States during its war against Iran are being held on suspicion of preparing a terrorist act that appeared to involve three trucks.

London's Metropolitan Police, which takes the lead on potential terrorist activities, said police received a call at 12:45 a.m. related to the three suspicious vehicles that appeared to be traveling toward RAF Fairford, a U.K.-owned base that is operated by the U.S. under an agreement dating back to the Cold War.

The base is home to US bombers striking Iran

The arrests come at a time of heightened tensions around the threat from hostile states to the U.K.,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 43 of 60

with Russia and Iran among those that have used proxies to commit crimes on their behalf on British soil. In March, officials said the number of national security cases involving activity by hostile states including Iran increased 50% in the six months to December 2025.

Fairford has been used by American bombers for strictly limited strikes against Iranian missile sites under an agreement with former British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who voiced opposition to the war after it was launched by the U.S. and Israel on Feb. 28.

Authorities are investigating a link between the Fairford arrests and Iran as one possibility. Iran has previously indicated that a base used to attack its territory is a legitimate target.

U.S. President Donald Trump praised those who were involved in making the arrests.

"It was an amazing job. We had them under investigation. They were looking to do big damage to our fort. And working with the British worked out great," he told reporters in Chicago on Sunday. "We had them under view for a long time and we got them."

Police feared an explosion

The five men were initially arrested on suspicion of committing offenses under the Explosives Act in the Whelford area, which backs onto RAF Fairford, which hosts the headquarters of the U.S. Air Force's 501st Combat Support Wing and the 420th Air Base Squadron.

Aerial footage from Sky News appeared to show a bomb disposal robot roaming between three white trucks. The rear doors of two of the vans were open and large black items could be seen scattered around. The robot appeared to be working toward getting access to the third truck.

Police gave no details as to the nationality of those arrested. Suspects arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000 can be detained for up to 14 days without charge, compared to the 24-hour limit for standard arrests, without an extension application.

"We are in the early stages of an investigation, and five men remain in custody," said Vicki Evans, the Met's counterterrorism policing senior national coordinator.

Evans said a 400-meter (yard) cordon has been put in place around the three vehicles that raised suspicion while the army conducts examinations. As a precaution, around 85 households have been evacuated whilst these examinations take place. Some have been taken to a nearby recreation center.

The U.S. embassy in London warned Americans to be cautious and mindful of their personal security.

British Prime Minister Andy Burnham said he knew the incident would be "deeply concerning" for many. In a post on social media, Burnham thanked police and the armed forces for their response and said he was grateful to the residents who have been evacuated from their homes "while precautionary checks are carried out."

He urged people "not to speculate while the authorities establish the full facts."

The defense secretaries of the U.S. and the U.K., Pete Hegseth and Wes Streeting, have also spoken about the incident.

British security officials say proxies linked to Iran have been behind a string of arson and sabotage attempts in the U.K. and other countries, many of them targeting the Jewish community. They have previously warned that Tehran could expand its targets in the U.K. if conflicts in the Middle East continue.

Local residents evacuated as investigation continues

Gloucestershire police said the situation appeared to be "contained" and urged residents to follow official advice while the investigation continues.

Julian Tudsbery, who has lived in Whelford for 30 years, said another resident had reported seeing three "suspicious vans" in the village early on Sunday.

"There were several police, three police cars in the drive, and they said you need to evacuate, there's been a major incident, said he couldn't elaborate," he said.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 44 of 60

Florida rides win over Rebels to No. 8 ranking in AP Top 25; Texas, Georgia, Notre Dame top 3 again

By ERIC OLSON AP College Football Writer

Florida made a massive jump in The Associated Press Top 25 on Sunday and landed in the top 10 for the first time in five years while four new teams joined the rankings in a major shuffle.

The Gators' 24-point win over then-No. 4 Mississippi under first-year coach Jon Sumrall on Saturday earned them a 13-rung promotion to No. 8, their highest ranking since 2020 and first top-10 appearance since 2021.

Texas, Georgia and Notre Dame continued to hold the top three spots, Miami was a season-high No. 4 and Ohio State moved up two spots to No. 5. Indiana, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi and BYU completed the top 10.

The Longhorns received 62 first-place votes from the media voting panel, four more than last week, after they held off Tennessee 20-17 in their first road game.

Georgia, coming off a convincing win over Oklahoma and outscoring opponents by an average of 41.5 points per game, got six first-place votes, double its number last week. Miami and Indiana each received one first-place vote.

Mississippi State moved up eight spots to No. 16, its highest ranking in four years, for beating Missouri at home. Oregon was up five spots to No. 15 after winning on the road against Southern California. Houston also moved up five spots to No. 20 after winning at Georgia Southern.

Iowa earned its highest ranking since 2021, at No. 14, for knocking off Michigan on the road on the final play of the game.

Seven ranked teams lost in Week 4 and four dropped out of the poll. Penn State took the biggest fall, going from No. 13 to unranked after losing to Wisconsin at home.

In and out

No. 19 Oklahoma State, which won at West Virginia for its third straight victory after losing 21 straight against Bowl Subdivision opponents, is ranked for the first time in two years.

No. 22 Boise State of the Pac-12 is the first Group of Six team to crack the Top 25 this season. The Broncos' 25-point win at Western Michigan was their third straight win after a narrow loss at Oregon. They hadn't been ranked since the 2025 preseason poll.

No. 23 UCLA is 4-0 for the first time in four years after a 51-point road win over Maryland and is ranked for the first time in three years.

No. 24 Kentucky followed its win at Texas A&M with an easy victory at South Alabama to earn its first ranking since 2023.

In addition to Penn State, Michigan, Louisville and Texas A&M fell out of the Top 25.

Poll points

— Florida's rise was the biggest since LSU leapt 14 spots, from No. 25 to No. 11, on Sept. 4, 2018.

— The Big 12's five ranked teams are the most since the conference had the same number ranked Oct. 26, 2025. It's just the sixth time in the 2020s the Big 12 has had that many in the Top 25.

— Georgia is in the Top 25 for the 700th time, which is 10th-most all-time.

— Alabama made its 300th straight appearance in the Top 25, the longest active streak and nearly double that of the next team (Georgia, 153).

Conference call

SEC (10 ranked teams): No. 1 Texas, No. 2 Georgia, No. 7 Alabama, No. 8 Florida, No. 9 Mississippi, No. 11 LSU, No. 16 Mississippi State, No. 17 Tennessee, No. 24 Kentucky, No. 25 Missouri.

Big Ten (6): No. 5 Ohio State, No. 6 Indiana, No. 14 Iowa, No. 15 Oregon, No. 18 USC, No. 23 UCLA).

Big 12 (5): No. 10 BYU, No. 12 Texas Tech, No. 13 Utah, No. 19 Oklahoma State, No. 20 Houston.

ACC (2): No. 4 Miami, No. 21 SMU.

Pac-12 (1): No. 22 Boise State.

Independent (1): No. 3 Notre Dame.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 45 of 60

Ranked vs. ranked

No. 5 Ohio State at No. 14 Iowa: Buckeyes were ranked No. 3 when they last visited Kinnick Stadium, in 2017, and the 55-24 loss killed their playoff hopes.

No. 7 Alabama at No. 16 Mississippi State: Crimson Tide have won 16 straight in the series, and most of the games haven't been close.

No. 8 Florida at No. 25 Missouri: Tigers have won last two meetings in Columbia, on a field goal with 5 seconds left in 2023 and on a 2-point conversion pass in overtime in 2021.

Supreme Court vote shadows Maine Sen. Susan Collins in her first race after abortion rights decision

By KIMBERLEE KRUESI and PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press

GORHAM, Maine (AP) — For years, Planned Parenthood's endorsement of Susan Collins was enough to persuade Erin Evans to vote for Maine's longtime U.S. senator, believing that the moderate Republican would protect abortion access.

Evans is now "just furious with myself" for those votes. The 56-year-old from Portland described Collins' critical vote to confirm Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court, where President Donald Trump's nominee eventually helped overturn the constitutional right to abortion, as a betrayal.

"I was a really uninformed voter," Evans said. "I thought any woman from Maine was probably in line with me."

The Nov. 3 election will be the first time Collins is on the ballot since the Supreme Court's 2022 ruling that overturned Roe v. Wade, resulting in abortion being banned in much of the United States. This time, Evans says she is backing Democrat Troy Jackson, a former state lawmaker and logger trying to deny Collins a sixth term.

Jackson and Democrats are hoping that voters like Evans will help flip a seat in a state the party has made a priority in the quest to retake the Senate.

Both Collins and Jackson have made an effort to appeal to women, who make up the majority of Maine's population and have had a slightly higher rate of voting than men, according to a recent report by democracy advocacy groups. In campaign ads from both candidates, women are featured prominently.

Democrats' ads have focused heavily on Collins' vote in support of Kavanaugh and describe her as caving to Trump. The Democratic-aligned advocacy group Affordable Maine has spent nearly \$10 million on ads stressing the senator's backing of other Trump-appointed judges who oppose abortion. An additional \$32 million has been spent by Win Senate, a political action committee focused on Collins. Planned Parenthood Votes has so far spent at least \$500,000 to run ads that include a female voter who regrets voting for Collins because of her Kavanaugh vote.

Yet Jackson is facing a steep challenge.

Collins has a 30-year record of winning elections even as Maine voters have spurned Republican presidential nominees, including Trump, since 1988.

And the issue trails others in terms of importance to voters. A New York Times/Siena poll conducted in September found that when asked in their own words what one issue will be most important in deciding their vote for Congress in November, almost no likely Maine voters mentioned abortion.

"I do not regret" voting to confirm Kavanaugh, Collins says

Collins has long called herself a "pro-choice" Republican and a supporter of a woman's right to an abortion. She was one of the few Republicans endorsed by Planned Parenthood earlier in her political career. In 2022, she co-sponsored legislation to put federal protections for abortion into law.

The position has put her at odds with her party but was in line with Maine voters.

In 2020, the last time Collins sought reelection, the vast majority of Maine voters in the Senate race, 76%, said the Supreme Court should not overturn Roe v. Wade, according to AP VoteCast, an extensive survey of the electorate. That included most Collins voters. Some 35% of voters who supported Collins in her successful reelection bid said they wanted Roe to be overturned.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 46 of 60

Collins' 2018 vote in support of Kavanaugh was crucial to his confirmation. At the time, Collins waited months before announcing her decision in a 45-minute floor speech. The final vote was 50-48.

Kavanaugh later joined the 6-3 conservative majority in stripping away constitutional rights to abortion.

Collins criticized the high court's decision in 2022, but she has never publicly wavered in her decision to confirm Kavanaugh. She told reporters in June that "I do not regret that vote." Collins had said before the 2018 vote that Kavanaugh, in a two-hour meeting with her, said he viewed Roe as settled law.

But her confirmation vote is what stands out in the minds of voters like Bente Lundh, 67, of Falmouth.

"She's positioned herself as this moderate voter, but she's really chopped that down with her vote for Kavanaugh," Lundh said.

For others, Collins' long-standing record as a moderate continues to draw their support even if they are disappointed with the eventual overturning of Roe.

"I think I've tried to not have my allegiance to party make me blind to what may be a better path from time to time," said Mary Ann Lynch, a Democrat supporting Collins. "Neither party, in my view, has a monopoly on the truth and how best to do things. So I think it's really important to have people who will reach across the aisle."

Lynch added that Collins may have voted to confirm Kavanaugh, but she also voted to confirm Supreme Court Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan, who dissented in the abortion ruling. They were nominated by Democratic President Barack Obama.

Jackson makes his case to women, abortion rights supporters

Since launching his campaign in July, Jackson has announced a "Women for Troy" coalition made up of women from all 16 Maine counties and he has secured endorsements from abortion rights groups Planned Parenthood and Reproductive Freedom for All.

Jackson was serving as a top state senator when the landmark 1973 decision was upended in 2022. He says he worked to pass "some of the strongest protections for abortion access in the country."

Yet Jackson has had his own hurdles.

The Democrat became a last-minute Senate nominee after Graham Platner dropped out this summer following criticism of his past relationships with women and a sexual assault allegation, which Platner denies. Jackson is now scrambling to win over voters who may be wary of his connection to Platner. The two campaigned together as Jackson initially sought the Democratic gubernatorial nomination but lost.

Jackson also has had to explain the evolution of his support on abortion rights and same-sex marriage, both of which he opposed years ago. Jackson now says he was wrong about his past beliefs and changed his mind after talking to women. Jackson's campaign spokesperson Maggie Amjad said Jackson now holds a "100% rating from Maine's Planned Parenthood."

Blake Kernen, a spokesperson for Collins, described the senator as the only "reliably pro-choice" candidate in the race.

Abortion is not top of mind for Maine voters

While Jackson is reminding voters of Collins' role in the abortion rights fight, he is doing so in a state that was not highly affected by the decision compared with Republican-controlled regions where many abortion clinics have shuttered, said Mark Brewer, a political science professor at the University of Maine.

"If you were in a state where all of the abortion clinics had closed, then that might be a bigger issue," Brewer said. "That has not been the case here."

The state's Democratic-controlled Legislature in 2023 approved a law that allows abortions at any time if deemed medically necessary by a doctor, and Democratic Gov. Janet Mills has enacted legislation protecting providers of abortion and gender-affirming care from legal action brought by other states.

A CNN/SSRS survey of likely Maine voters conducted in late August and early September found that most voters are still unhappy about the decision to overturn Roe, but that anger over the loss of abortion rights could be overshadowed by broader concerns about the economy.

Strikes kill 8 in Ukraine, 1 in Russia after Moscow rejects German calls to de-escalate

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia and Ukraine exchanged strikes overnight and Sunday, killing at least eight people in Ukraine and one in Russia, officials said, hours after Moscow rejected German calls to ease off its escalation toward NATO.

Russia's top diplomat on Saturday brushed off what's believed to have been the first face-to-face meeting with his German counterpart since Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The meeting was held during the U.N. General Assembly's annual gathering of world leaders, as an intensifying aerial war between Russia and Ukraine showed no sign of slowing.

Ties between Russia and Germany have soured in recent weeks, following an attempted drone attack last month at Leipzig airport that Berlin blamed on the Kremlin.

With front-line positions largely unchanged since last year, Moscow has hammered its neighbor with cruise and ballistic missiles, powerful glide bombs and jet-powered drones in recent months. Meanwhile, Kyiv's long-range drones have targeted Russian oil refineries and businesses.

Strikes kill 8 in Ukraine, 1 in Russia

In Kyiv, a man was found dead after a Russian drone hit a non-residential building overnight, according to Ukraine's emergency service.

Later on Sunday, Russian drone strikes killed one person and wounded at least five on the outskirts of the capital, according to local administration head Tymur Tkachenko. In Kyiv itself, a drone hit a 9-story apartment block, wounding at least one woman, according to municipal authorities.

In Russian-occupied Ukraine, a strike by Kyiv's forces on Sunday killed a civilian woman in Enerhodar, the town housing Europe's largest nuclear plant, according to its Kremlin-installed mayor. Maxim Pukhov said the Ukrainian drones also wounded two others.

Russian forces also attacked Ukraine's southern Odesa region, which surrounds the country's main Black Sea port, multiple times overnight into Sunday, killing one person and wounding two, according to the head of the local military administration, Oleh Kiper.

On Sunday afternoon, a woman and a 16-year-old girl were killed as Russian guided bombs struck the city of Sumy in northern Ukraine, regional administration head Oleh Hryhorov reported. He said five other people were wounded.

In the northeastern Kharkiv region, two people died and two more were injured after Russian drones struck passenger cars, the regional prosecutor's office reported.

In Russia's Belgorod border region, a woman died in a hospital on Sunday after being wounded in a Ukrainian strike, regional authorities said.

Separately, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russia struck twice at a data center in Kyiv on Sunday morning, wounding two children and an adult. Russia's Defense Ministry said its forces struck multiple data centers in Kyiv on Sunday that it claimed were providing internet to Ukraine's armed forces.

Russia and Ukraine have repeatedly blamed each other for damaging power lines supplying Enerhodar's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which Moscow captured early in the war. The plant is not in service, but needs power to keep cooling systems running and maintain safety.

Russia's Lavrov brushes off rare Germany meeting

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov was dismissive after the meeting in New York, which was held at German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl's request. Lavrov said that Wadepuhl "simply reiterated his official position condemning Russia".

"You can judge for yourself whether that counts as dialogue or not," he said.

Wadepuhl expressed openness to a better relationship but said it required a genuine willingness from Russia's leadership to end the war in Ukraine, according to a German delegation official.

An overwhelming majority of U.N. member nations have repeatedly condemned Moscow's invasion. The Kremlin describes the war as a "special military operation" intended to ensure Russia's security and the rights of Russian speakers.

'Avengers: Endgame' retakes box office crown; Robert Pattinson drives sales for 'Primetime'

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Seven years after becoming the second-highest grossing film ever, "Avengers: Endgame" returned to the No. 1 spot at the box office in a victory lap for Marvel and an appetizer for the upcoming blockbuster "Avengers: Doomsday."

The rerelease grossed \$26 million over the weekend and another \$60 million overseas, according to studio estimates Sunday. The film, which grossed \$2.8 billion in 2019, was put back into theaters with several new end-credits scenes and an introductory thank you to fans from Robert Downey Jr. and Chris Evans.

Among rereleases, only the 1997 release of "Star Wars: A New Hope" (\$35.9 million) and the 2011 repeat of "The Lion King" (\$30.2 million) have opened higher than "Endgame" in domestic cinemas.

Hollywood has increasingly turned to rereleases in recent years to take advantage of holes in the release schedule. But The Walt Disney Co. rerun, billed as "Endgame: Encore," came out on top on an especially crowded weekend in theaters.

Three well-reviewed new releases — A24's "Primetime," with Robert Pattinson; Paramount Pictures' "Heart of the Beast," with Brad Pitt; and Universal Pictures' "Forgotten Island" — all landed in theaters.

Second place, though, went to Zach Cregger's reboot of "Resident Evil." The Sony Pictures release followed up its above-expectations debut with \$23.3 million in its second weekend. In two weeks, the video-game adaptation has grossed \$103.5 million in U.S. and Canadian theaters.

In a close race for third place, "Heart of the Beast" came out just ahead of "Primetime" with an estimated \$20 million from 3,435 theaters. Directed by David Ayer, the film stars Pitt as a retired veteran who must trek through the Alaskan wilderness with his combat dog after a plane crash. It added \$30.1 million in international theaters.

Pattinson drives 'Primetime' sales

But the opening for "Primetime" was more impressive. "Heart of the Beast" cost \$82 million to produce, making its path to profitability challenging. "Primetime," starring Pattinson as "To Catch a Predator" host Chris Hansen, was made with a modest budget of \$15 million and it opened in 500 fewer theaters.

Yet "Primetime," buoyed by strong reviews and buzz out of the Venice Film Festival, debuted with \$19.2 million. For Pattinson, who also starred this year in A24's "The Drama" and Universal's "The Odyssey," the strong performance showed the actor's drawing power with Gen Z audiences.

Some 69% of ticket buyers for "Primetime" were under the age of 30. Gen Z has emerged as the most regular moviegoing demographic, fueling hits this year like "Obsession" and "Backrooms." "Primetime" is directed by 30-year-old documentarian Lance Oppenheim, who co-directed the much-anticipated Elizabeth Holmes documentary, "You Can See Everything," due out next month.

"Forgotten Island," from DreamWorks Animation, had a hard time standing out. The film, which cost \$80 million to make, opened in fifth place with a disappointing \$12.8 million domestically. In 31 overseas markets, "Forgotten Island" also didn't make much of a dent, grossing \$7.8 million internationally.

Universal will hope family audiences catch up to the movie that landed the weekend's best CinemaScore (an "A") and the best reviews (94% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes). "Forgotten Island," directed by Joel Crawford and Januel Mercado, is about two friends who get stranded in a mystical world.

The confluence of releases added up to a historically good September weekend in theaters. According to Rentrak, ticket sales were up 58.5% from the same weekend last year. The domestic box office has massed \$7.8 billion thus far, putting it 19% ahead of last year.

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. "Avengers: Endgame: Encore," \$26 million.
2. "Resident Evil," \$23.3 million.
3. "Heart of the Beast," \$20 million.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 49 of 60

4. "Primetime," \$19.2 million.
5. "Forgotten Island," \$12.8 million.
6. "Practical Magic 2," \$5.7 million.
7. "Spider-Man: Brand New Day," \$4.1 million.
8. "The Odyssey," \$3.7 million.
9. "Coyote vs. Acme," \$1.9 million.
10. "Daniel and the Fiery Furnace," \$1.5 million.

Police hunt gunmen after 2 mass shootings in South Africa leave at least 27 dead

By GERALD IMRAY Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — Two separate mass shootings in South African townships within hours of each other have left at least 27 people dead, police said on Sunday.

South Africa has struggled with violent crime for years, but recent shooting incidents have shocked a country used to some of the highest homicide rates in the world.

In the first attack, eight gunmen armed with AK-47 rifles and pistols opened fire at a bar near Johannesburg late on Saturday. The South African Police Service said 17 people were killed at the small venue in Wedela township, southwest of South Africa's biggest city.

The attackers fired at patrons outside the bar before moving inside and continuing to shoot. The victims included 13 men and four women, with at least 15 other people injured, police said.

The gunmen searched some of the patrons and took their mobile phones before escaping in two vehicles. Two cars were set alight outside the bar during the shooting.

Around four hours later, 10 people were killed and 11 wounded in a shooting at a store linked to what police described as an entertainment venue in Lwandle township, near Cape Town, South Africa's second biggest city. Police said they were searching for multiple suspects, though they didn't give an exact number.

No arrests have been made in either case. Police deployed specialized units to both townships and surrounding areas in the hunt for the gunmen.

The attacks came five days after another mass shooting in a township near Durban killed at least 11 people, including a pregnant woman, when multiple gunmen attacked a house party in KwaMakhutha township. Police have not reported any arrests.

South Africa's gun violence problem

Wedela resident Siyabonga Nondabula said there had been shootings in the area in the past involving illegal mining gangs, but none of them targeted so many people.

"Seventeen people and (maybe) even more have died, this has never happened here," he said. "So I feel very sad and traumatized."

A high rate of killings is a longstanding problem for Africa's most advanced economy, but the phenomenon of mass shootings is becoming more common, according to experts, with recent killings often being carried out by multiple gunmen.

Gun homicides mostly affect South Africa's poorest communities in townships and informal settlements made up of shacks and small homes on the edges of many big cities. Police have linked some of the recent shootings, including last week's house party killings near Durban, to criminal gangs.

Other recent mass shootings include one in June in a poor neighborhood of Johannesburg that killed 12 people, and two in the space of two weeks in December that left a total of 21 people dead.

Soldiers deployed to help police fight crime

South Africa's violent crime problem prompted President Cyril Ramaphosa to deploy soldiers on the streets in March in a yearlong operation to combat crime in some of the country's worst-affected areas. The deployment included high-crime areas around Johannesburg and Cape Town, as well as other areas.

Announcing the deployment, Ramaphosa said crime by organized gangs was the biggest threat to South Africa's democracy and economic development. Some critics viewed the use of soldiers on the streets as

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 50 of 60

an admission that police were failing.

Soldiers were deployed Sunday to the scene of the bar shooting in Wedela.

South Africa has on average 60 homicides a day

South Africa recorded 5,427 homicides in the three-months ending June 30, an average of nearly 60 a day, according to police statistics.

Shootings are the most common method of homicide in the country. Police and crime experts have long identified the large number of illegal firearms in circulation as a major problem.

Firearm ownership is legal in South Africa but heavily regulated and subject to strict competency requirements. Estimates from political parties and the country's national gun owners association suggest that between 2 million and 6 million illegal firearms are in circulation. Those groups say the weapons are used in the vast majority of gun homicides.

UN speakers' go-to quotes: Ancient texts, modern greats and a little Talking Heads

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Presidents, premiers, monarchs and cabinet ministers have plenty to say at their annual gathering at the U.N. General Assembly. Still, sometimes they borrow a few words, quoting from a range of sources.

Speakers this week touched on homeland sayings, ancient texts, figures of moral authority and more — even a bit of Talking Heads (not TV pundits — the 1980s new wave band.)

Here's a sampling of references:

“Laws are made to prevent the strong from oppressing the weak.” — the ancient Babylonian king Hammurabi, quoted by Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi

“The coral reef where different species of fish congregate to feed and seek shelter.” — a reference from a Marshallese proverb, as explained by Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine

“We're on a road to nowhere.” — David Byrne of the band Talking Heads, quoted by Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis

“We are the land, its custodians and its inhabitants. To us it belongs, for we are its people and its home. Today belongs to the people, and the glorious yesterday belongs to them, as well. To them belong the future, history and time itself.” — a Yemeni poet, as quoted by Abdullah Abdulkader al Alimi-Bawzer, vice president of Yemen's internationally recognized governing council, and as translated by U.N. interpreters

“The breach of one rule inevitably leads to the breach of other rules.” — Mahatma Gandhi, quoted by Finnish President Alexander Stubb

“Members of the United Nations General Assembly, your very name implies commitment, through your peace initiatives and humanitarian policies, to igniting the fires of conscience, empathy, unity and equity.” — Barbados' poet laureate, Esther Phillips, quoted by Barbadian Prime Minister Mia Mottley

“When we gather together in the moonlit village ground, it is not because of the moon. Every man can see it in his own compound. We come together because it is good for kinsmen to do so.” — author Chinua Achebe, quoted by President Azali Assoumani of The Comoros

“When there is anguish in Port-au-Prince, it's still Africa crying. We're outing fires in faraway places when our neighbors are just burning.... I refuse to believe that we good people will forever turn our hearts and

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 51 of 60

our eyes away. Haiti, I'm sorry." — calypso singer David Rudder, quoted by President Godwin Friday of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

"Knowledge is like the ocean's waves: It comes in many forms and sizes, yet no wave overpowers another, and all ultimately reach the same shore." — one of a couple of Palauan sayings translated and quoted by Palau President Surangel Whipps

"How wonderful it is that no one has to wait, but we can start right now to gradually change the world!" — Anne Frank, referred to by Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten, who also quoted Mahatma Gandhi, Nuremberg war crimes trial prosecutor Robert H. Jackson and an inscription at a cemetery for American World War II soldiers in the Netherlands

Bus carrying Filipino tourists overturns on way to Germany's Oktoberfest, killing 2

BERLIN (AP) — A bus carrying tourists from the Philippines toward the Oktoberfest festival in Munich veered off a highway and overturned on Sunday, killing at least two people and injuring at least eight others, Germany's dpa news agency reported.

The coach left the road on a highway near the town of Buchloe in Germany's Ostallgäu region at about 6 a.m. local time, dpa said, citing officials.

Images from the scene showed the bus lying on its side in a wooded area as rescue crews worked nearby. Martin Cornils, a spokesperson for traffic police in nearby Fürstentfeldbruck, said at the scene that the tour group had been traveling to Oktoberfest, the news agency reported.

The popular annual festival began eight days earlier.

The cause of the crash was not immediately clear and remained under investigation.

Dpa initially reported that the bus was traveling from Zurich, Switzerland, to Milan, Italy. Officials later said about 35 people were on board — fewer than initially estimated — and that all the passengers were Filipino nationals. The two bus drivers were unharmed.

Earlier this month, five people were killed when a Dutch tour bus crashed in eastern Switzerland.

A'ja Wilson wins AP WNBA Player of the Year for 3rd straight year; Angel Reese top defensive player

By DOUG FEINBERG AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A'ja Wilson is in a class by herself, winning the AP's WNBA Player of the Year award for an unprecedented third straight year.

Wilson received 15 of the 17 first-place votes from a national media panel Sunday. She topped Olivia Miles of Minnesota as well as Caitlin Clark and Kelsey Mitchell of Indiana, who all had stellar seasons.

"It's big. It's an honor for me to do it three times in a row. It's not easy," Wilson said in a phone interview. "My counterparts in this league are really good. I don't take it lightly because of how much talent we do have in this league."

It's the fourth time that Wilson has won the AP award, breaking a tie with Breanna Stewart for most since the awards were first given in 2016.

"That's got a nice ring to it," Wilson said. "That's pretty cool."

The AP voting is done by a 17-member panel that votes on the power poll each week. It's the 11th year of the awards.

The WNBA will announce its postseason awards over the course of the playoffs, which begin Sunday. Wilson is a huge favorite to win the WNBA MVP for the third straight season.

Wilson once again led the league in scoring (26.2) while shooting nearly 53% from the field. She also

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 52 of 60

averaged 9.4 rebounds, a career-best 3.2 assists and 1.9 blocks.

Angel Reese dethroned Wilson as the AP Defensive Player of the Year. Wilson had won the award in three of the last four seasons.

Reese made the most of her move to Atlanta this offseason. She was third in the league in steals and had the versatility to guard most positions defensively. She also topped the league in rebounds for the third consecutive season.

Miles had an incredible first season and was honored as the AP Rookie of the Year as a unanimous choice. The No. 2 pick in the draft by the Lynx averaged 19.8 points, 6.0 assists and 4.7 rebounds to help Minnesota finish with the best record in the league. She set the WNBA record for points by a rookie, surpassing Clark's from 2024.

Miles was joined on the AP All-Rookie team by Dallas' Azzi Fudd, Chicago's Sydney Taylor, Seattle's Flau'jae Johnson, New York's Pauline Astier and Toronto's Kiki Rice.

Wilson, Clark, Miles and Mitchell headlined the AP All-WNBA first team. They were joined by New York's Stewart. Reese was on the second team along with teammate Rhyne Howard, Dallas' Paige Bueckers, Las Vegas' Jackie Young and Golden State's Gabby Williams.

Other AP winners included:

— Coach of the Year: Cheryl Reeve. It's the third time the Lynx coach has won the award, also being honored in 2020 and 2024. She guided the team to the No. 1 seed in the playoffs while it was missing superstar Napheesa Collier for the first half of the season when she recovered from offseason surgery on both her ankles. Reeve beat out Golden State's Natalie Nakase and Washington's Sydney Johnson.

— Comeback Player of the Year: Clark. The Fever guard missed much of last season with a variety of injuries. She came back strong this year, playing in 40 games. She averaged 22.3 points, 8.3 assists and 4.0 rebounds. Washington's Georgia Amoore and Chicago's Courtney Vandersloot also received votes.

— Most Improved Player: Jessica Shepard. The Dallas Wings forward came to the team as a free agent and excelled. Shepard averaged career highs in points (14.5), rebounds (11.1), assists (5.3) and minutes (31.7). Shepard had six triple-doubles this season. Washington's Shakira Austin and Seattle Dominique Malonga were next in the balloting.

— Sixth Woman of the Year: Janelle Salaun. The Valkyries forward came off the bench in all 40 games she played this season and averaged 12.7 points and 4.0 rebounds while shooting 39.2% from behind the 3-point line. She led all reserves in scoring this season and the Golden State bench averaged over 36 points a game. Marine Johannes of New York was next in the voting.

Sea level rise is reshaping a California beach town and threatening a key rail line

By AMY TAXIN Associated Press

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. (AP) — For years, residents of this Southern California beach town could walk a mile along a stretch of cream-colored sand and dip their toes in the waves lapping ashore.

That trip has been cut short.

Coastal erosion has been eating away at the beach in San Clemente, known for nearly a century as a "Spanish village by the sea." The rising sea and crashing waves have pushed the shoreline landward, splitting the city's picturesque North Beach. Crumbling seaside bluffs have damaged oceanfront homes and forced the repeated closure of a passenger rail line considered the second busiest in the country.

It's one of many California coastal communities grappling with the effects of sea level rise. Nearly a decade ago, scientists forecast that more than half of Southern California's beaches could significantly erode by 2100, radically altering how people live and recreate along the state's famed coast.

"The constant pressure is sea level rise," said Sean Vitousek, research oceanographer with the U.S. Geological Survey. "It is going to keep rising, and rising, and the beaches will retreat landward."

After years of erosion, California is bracing for flooding and landslides ahead of this year's expected super

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 53 of 60

El Niño, a temporary warming in parts of the equatorial Pacific known to warp weather worldwide. Already this year, the town of Pacifica south of San Francisco shuttered its cracked concrete pier, and seawater flooded homes in Long Beach near Los Angeles during a hurricane-driven storm surge. A recent study showed that El Niño events are getting stronger because of human-caused climate change.

In San Clemente, a town of 62,000 people, urban development has slowed the flow of sediment that once nourished the city's beaches, and warmer ocean waters have pushed waves higher and further ashore. It's become so challenging that residents of the largely Republican city are considering taxing themselves to raise money for beach restoration. A measure to add a 1% sales tax to fund wildfire protection and sand replenishment in San Clemente is on the November ballot.

Crumbling hillsides disrupt seaside rail

Over the past five years, the rail line that has operated along the coast for more than a century has faced repeated closures due to encroaching surf on one side and fragile bluffs on the other. The 7-mile (11-kilometer) segment is part of a 351-mile (565-kilometer) passenger rail corridor that links San Diego with Los Angeles County's huge port complex and San Luis Obispo. It's also used by freight and the military.

Transportation officials have shored up the tracks to ensure passenger safety by laying down rock. But as waves slam against the rocks, they sweep more sand offshore and speed up erosion that will eventually threaten the rail line again.

Locals say the erosion is dramatically altering their community.

"We've lost our walkable beach," said Cameron Cosgrove, a San Clemente resident who wrote the tax measure. "It used to be you could come to North Beach, walk the beach trail, or on the beach to the pier and actually all the way down to the south end of town. Can't do either anymore."

City and transit officials agree more sand is needed and note that coastal communities, including surf hub Huntington Beach, have nourished their beaches for years. Opponents of the measure want sand — but not the tax — and argue San Clemente should work with other communities on a regional approach.

"Fighting Mother Nature is very expensive," said City Councilman Zhen Wu, who opposes the measure.

City Manager Andy Hall said San Clemente faces a sand deficit of about 3 million cubic yards. Getting that much sand to the beach is no easy task, he said, adding that trucking it would require 300,000 trips.

Darrell Johnson, chief executive of the Orange County Transportation Authority, said a challenge has been getting state permits for more sand. He hopes California's recent emergency declaration ahead of El Niño will speed up the process. In the long run, Johnson said officials will study moving trains inland — an idea previously deemed too costly. A third option is to halt the line, he said.

"If we can't figure out how to shore up properly in a way that is long-term in nature, and we can't figure out how to relocate, I think that is a question that's going to have to be asked," Johnson said. "What happens to passenger rail? What happens to freight?"

More sand will also shape wave breaks

Further south, transportation officials have been working to stabilize coastal bluffs to shore up the rail line in the community of Del Mar. The plan is to eventually move the tracks, but officials have not decided where.

Charlie Fox, a 56-year-old San Clemente resident and marine meteorologist, said sand provides a critical buffer between whatever structures — train tracks, homes, lifeguard headquarters — are built along the coast. The lifelong surfer said sand also helps waves roll gently onshore, creating a steady wave break for surfing.

On a recent morning, surfers bobbed in the water off North Beach, not far from the rocky structure shoring up the train tracks by the sea.

"When you see those rocks, that's them attempting to fight the ocean," Fox said. "That is a futile endeavor."

"The ocean wins," he added. "Ocean always eventually wins."

Andy Burnham brings good vibes to Labour's annual conference but tough choices are coming

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LIVERPOOL, England (AP) — British Prime Minister Andy Burnham has been in the job for two months, and so far his party isn't demanding his head. These days, that's an accomplishment.

The governing Labour Party opened its annual conference beside the River Mersey in Liverpool on Sunday, with Burnham pledging to turn the page on a decade of economic and political turmoil. He is the U.K.'s seventh prime minister since the country voted in 2016 to leave the European Union.

Burnham said the message of his keynote conference speech on Tuesday would be: "It's time for Britain to have hope again."

"I am here to end the decade of drift and division that we've had since Brexit, because it's not been a great decade for Britain," he said on Sunday.

His message is aimed at both the British public and a center-left party that is hopeful but nervous — ready to embrace his promise of better times, but worried about economic damage rippling out from conflict in the Middle East.

University of Manchester political science professor Rob Ford said Burnham's difficult task is to win over "a skeptical electorate" eager for change, "while at the same time doing that within the constraints of a very difficult economic and fiscal situation."

In short: "How do you serve people a bowl of cold porridge and convince them it's a pepperoni pizza?"

Upbeat Burnham replaced unpopular Starmer

Britain's main political parties all hold conferences in September and October, combinations of pep rally, social gathering and policy forum that set the political tone and agenda for the year ahead.

Last year's Labour gathering was gloomy, as members despaired about Prime Minister Keir Starmer's deep unpopularity, little more than a year after winning power in a landslide, and the seemingly unstoppable rise of the anti-immigration opposition party Reform UK.

Burnham, then the popular mayor of Greater Manchester, was followed around Liverpool by journalists as speculation grew that he would challenge Starmer.

Events came to a head months later when a panicky party forced Starmer's resignation and his replacement by Burnham as party leader and prime minister in July.

Now, Labour is seeing a "Burnham bounce" driven by the new leader's upbeat talk and modest moves to put money in voters' pocketbooks by cutting tax on electricity bills and capping bus fares.

Meanwhile, Reform is facing parliamentary and police investigations over its finances — though it also recently received 72 million pounds (\$95 million) from two cryptocurrency billionaires.

Burnham has already set out some priorities, including handing more power to local leaders in order to generate "good growth in every post code." He says he'll reform Britain's privatized utilities, especially the expensive, leaky and polluting water network, and will tackle the soaring cost of housing with measures including a government-backed loan plan to help people buy their first homes.

While the party is relatively united behind Burnham, he faces a divisive decision about whether to approve new oil drilling in the North Sea — opposed by environmentalists but backed by trade unions — and pushback over plans agreed under Starmer to make it harder for immigrants to settle permanently in Britain.

The next general election does not have to be called until 2029, but Labour's revival has sparked talk of a snap election — something Burnham denies he's considering.

"All of this speculation on an early election, I can knock that dead," Burnham told broadcaster ITV on Friday.

Looming budget promises pain

But no matter how upbeat Burnham is, economic pain is coming.

Burnham must explain to party members and voters how he will deal with economic turbulence from the on-off U.S.-Iran war, which has severely restricted the movement of oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 55 of 60

Treasury chief John Healey is set to deliver the Burnham government's first budget on Oct. 28, with rising energy prices pushing up inflation and the cost of government borrowing. Like other countries, Britain also needs to find money to increase defense spending to counter threats from Russia.

At the same time, Burnham is promising to strengthen Britain's state-funded National Health Service and set up a "national care service" to fix what he calls a "broken" social care system.

That means tax rises or spending cuts – or both – could be on the cards.

One thing that might bring an economic boost is to ease some of the trade barriers erected by Brexit. Burnham has pledged closer ties with the European Union, though he's currently bound by Starmer's 2024 election pledge not to rejoin the bloc or enter its single market for goods, services and employment.

Progress toward closer ties has been slow. A summit to reset EU-U.K. relations which was initially due to be held in July has been pushed back to November at the earliest because the two sides are wrangling over the bloc's "made in Europe" rules, which Britain says will hurt its producers.

Ford said that, unlike Starmer, who quickly squandered the public's goodwill, Burnham has retained his reputation "as an optimist and an effective communicator." But Burnham's "really stern test" is yet to come, he said.

"The bills are still going to land on the doormat," Ford said. "He's going to have to be the prime minister who can sell the average voter on, 'Yes, that is indeed a bowl of cold porridge in front of you, but it will get better.'"

'Lower 48' is a phrase to fight over in Alaska. It's a fixture in the state's US Senate contest

By BECKY BOHRER Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — One of the most biting insults in Alaska politics is to be accused of being aligned with the "Lower 48," code for candidates taking marching orders from powerful forces in the contiguous United States rather than sticking up for Alaskans.

It's a central theme of the Alaska's U.S. Senate race, one of a handful expected to determine control of the chamber in the November elections.

Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan's campaign has made it a key attack line against Democrat Mary Peltola, a former congresswoman. He lumps her in with "Lower 48 liberals" who have opposed expanded oil and gas drilling in a state that has relied heavily on that industry for decades.

Peltola, an Alaska Native, has countered that she "took on" then-President Joe Biden, a fellow Democrat, to help win approval in 2023 of the huge Willow oil project, which environmentalists strongly opposed. She also says she will "take on anyone, including Democrats — anyone in the Lower 48 who doesn't understand what Alaska needs."

The pejorative label reflects a mystique about Alaska, which outsiders often refer to as "The Last Frontier." A state for less than 70 years, Alaska is renowned for its natural beauty, wildlife and vast landscapes. Its rural nature — isolated from the rest of the country and with many of its communities accessible only by air or water — breeds a self-reliance. It's a place where many residents hunt and fish to fill their freezers for winter and take pride in their independence.

The two major Senate campaigns and some third-party groups have leaned into that sentiment — that Alaska is different — and cast their candidates as authentic voices for Alaskans.

"We love the persona Alaska is a tough place to live," said Republican Andrew Halcro, a political podcast host and former state lawmaker who has lived in the state nearly all his life.

Abundance of oil and other resources has created friction with federal government

Alaska, rich in natural resources, has long had a love-hate relationship with the federal government, which owns about 60% of the state's land. That relationship has been especially strained under Democratic presidential administrations that have sought to restrict logging, mining and the availability of areas for oil and gas development over environmental concerns.

Policies can shift dramatically from one administration to the next.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 56 of 60

The Democratic Obama and Biden administrations banned leasing on roughly half the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, which is home to wildlife such as caribou and polar bears and provides habitat for millions of migrating birds. Republican President Donald Trump's administration has rolled back those and other restrictions as part of a broader push for expanded oil and gas development in Alaska. The administration also is supporting lease sales in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The state also has bristled at Democratic efforts to stifle road building and logging in areas such as the Tongass National Forest, a temperate rainforest in southeast Alaska. That dispute dates to the Clinton administration.

Alaska's share of royalty revenue from oil and minerals on federal land has been another ongoing source of tension. Some lawmakers say the state was promised a larger share at statehood and that the federal government has failed to uphold its end of the deal.

While oil production is a fraction of what it was at its peak in the late 1980s and has fallen in recent years, political leaders have pointed to signs of a turnaround. They cite in part the strong interest from major companies that snatched up leases in a sale earlier this year for the petroleum reserve, home to the Willow project.

Alaska communities have been hit hard by spikes in fuel prices caused by the Iran war. That is especially true for remote communities that must have their fuel flown in or delivered by barge before the rivers ice over.

Oil development is the top issue in this year's election for Darryl Hugo, who lives in the small North Slope community of Anaktuvuk Pass. He is backing Sullivan and notes that revenue from oil development is largely responsible for his town's health clinic, school, police and fire departments and water system.

"My region's economy depends on oil," he said via a messaging app.

Candidates are seen as trying to stake claim as 'the real spokesperson for the real Alaska'

Robert Sewell, an independent from the Juneau area, said he sees the "Lower 48" taunts and Peltola trying to distance herself from national Democrats as examples of the candidates "fighting to establish who is the real spokesperson for the real Alaska."

He also likens it a bit to the schoolyard jeer, "I know you are, but what am I?"

Peltola, during her unsuccessful 2024 congressional reelection campaign, refused to endorse Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris and said she would not vote for Trump. This year, before Alaska's August primary, Harris sent a fundraising appeal that offered support of Peltola.

In response, Peltola's campaign told reporters that she "isn't seeking endorsements from anyone from the Lower 48."

In videos highlighting her backing of the Willow oil project, Peltola said she will work with Trump, who handily carried Alaska each of the three times he has run, to advance more oil and gas projects.

"I took on Joe Biden to secure the largest development project in decades," she said in one video on social media. "And I'll work with Donald Trump on more."

Sewell, a Peltola supporter, said he does not begrudge that position. He said he does not think "for one moment that she likes Trump or Trump's agendas" on other issues.

'Lower 48' jabs fill social media and airwaves, but do voters care?

Peltola, who is Yup'ik, is among the roughly 43% of Alaskans born in the state. She grew up fishing on the Kuskokwim River in western Alaska and prominently displays fishing photos on her website. Her campaign slogan, "Fish, Family, Freedom," is intended to appeal to what she believes are Alaskans' shared values.

Sullivan, originally from Ohio, came to Alaska in the late 1990s when he was in his early 30s. Now a retired Marine, he served as Alaska attorney general and natural resources commissioner, and was an assistant secretary of state in President George W. Bush's administration.

Sullivan spokesperson Nate Adams said that for the senator, "being an Alaskan means loving this state, fighting everyday for his fellow Alaskans and making sure Alaskans, not Lower 48 liberals, decide our future."

The SLF PAC, which supports a Republican Senate majority, has been keying in on that theme. In one of its ads, a speaker says of Peltola, "They dress her up, throw her out on a stream somewhere, make her look like an Alaskan." Another says: "Mary Peltola sounds like Alaska, but toes a different line in Wash-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 57 of 60

ington, D.C.”

Peltola’s campaign said Alaskans “won’t be fooled by mudslinging ads.” In a statement, her campaign sought to link Sullivan with “Lower 48 special interest donors.”

Halcro, the former lawmaker and podcaster, said Alaskans have been inundated with such ads and flyers, but he is not sure the messaging over which candidate aligns less with the “Lower 48” is one voters want to hear this year.

“It’s all of this stuff just to make us angry at a time where we really genuinely, genuinely just need stability,” he said. “We just need to elect somebody who’s not going to break anything.”

At least 12 dead and dozens missing after a vessel capsized in eastern Congo’s Lake Kivu

BUKAVU, Congo (AP) — A vessel carrying traders capsized in Lake Kivu in eastern Congo, killing at least 12 and leaving dozens missing, authorities said Sunday.

The vessel was carrying more than 50 people when it capsized on Saturday night on Idjwi Island, in South Kivu province, said Félix Habiragi, chief of the village of Kisheke near the scene of the accident.

He said that about 15 people have been rescued. The cause of the accident was not immediately clear.

Deadly boat accidents are common in Congo, where rivers and lakes are a major means of transport for its more than 100 million people.

The vessel was transporting fish traders and goods from Idjwi Island’s Bwina to Boza, according to Muhindo Ntambuka Pascal, the local administrator.

Videos that appear to be from the scene showed villagers and other passengers pulling bodies from the lake.

Christian Amini Ndahira, a resident of Idjwi, said he lost a friend on the boat. “We had even spoken in the evening, before he boarded that boat. It’s so sad for me and for his family.”

Congo’s vessels are often overloaded with goods and passengers, many of whom frequently travel without life jackets.

“The authorities had, in particular, begun requiring passengers to wear life jackets. Today, however, many people continue to travel without them,” said Dorcelle Bagazane, a member of civil society in Idjwi.

Rio residents find their own way to tackle gangs as crime dominates Brazil’s election

By ELÉONORE HUGHES and DIARLEI RODRIGUES Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Crime is the top concern for Brazilians ahead of October’s presidential election, with candidates competing to offer the toughest — and most effective — approach to the deep-seated problem.

Sen. Flávio Bolsonaro, son of ex-President Jair Bolsonaro, is seeking to defeat President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, with a promise to loosen organized crime’s grip on Brazil, particularly in Rio de Janeiro.

After Rio’s deadliest-ever police operation last year, in which more than 120 people were killed, polls indicated that the hard-line policies Sen. Bolsonaro touts are popular. Lula, meanwhile, has argued for a more prominent role of the federal government in the fight against organized crime as well as greater coordination between governmental institutions.

But while politicians trade barbs, residents in Rio de Janeiro have been designing their own responses, with ex-traffickers launching podcasts and grieving mothers stepping up to stop youth recruitment.

Many residents, community leaders and experts say that the current approach — which favors armed confrontations between police and the groups — is inefficient and often results in indiscriminate loss of life. They’re taking on crime on their own to bridge that gap.

Here is a look at some local initiatives.

Podcast warns of the dangers of gang life

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 58 of 60

Once a week, a group of former drug-traffickers gather in a small recording studio on the outskirts of Rio to dissect their past lives of crime and those of their guests. They air the episodes of 01 Sobreviventes, or 01 Survivors, on YouTube and streaming platforms.

A painting of the four founders grinning hangs on the wall, while the podcast's logo – a microphone breaking a chain – is projected on a screen over the desk.

"We want to propagate the idea that crime isn't worth it," said host Fábio Santos, a 56-year-old ex-trafficker from the Manguinhos favela who spent 25 years in prison.

"We want them to follow our current lives so that they don't go through what we went through," he added after recording a recent interview with a former gang member who is now a pastor.

The podcast, launched in 2024 and followed by more than 225,000 people on Instagram, is both for those tempted by the allure of quick cash and for those who need convincing to course-correct. Crime leads to prison, a wheelchair or a coffin, they say repeatedly.

Santos says several people have said they have seen traffickers listening to the podcast and that he regularly hears about people who left the world of crime or didn't enter thanks to their work.

Martial arts keep youth from a perilous path

Alan Duarte, 38, grew up in Complexo do Alemão, one of the two sprawling complexes of favelas targeted in Rio's lethal police operation last year. He lost a brother, uncle and cousins — 10 family members in all — to violence.

He credits the influence of a nonprofit offering martial arts classes in a nearby favela for keeping him from going down a perilous path. That insight inspired Duarte to create his own academy in his childhood neighborhood.

Since opening in 2014, Abraco Campeao, or Embrace Champions, has expanded into teaching boxing, jiu-jitsu, Muay Thai and capoeira, and providing educational talks. Duarte hopes to boost its current 600-student capacity to 1,000.

"I often say that martial arts, Abraco Campeao, offers the same things that draw youngsters to gangs: identity, respect, attention, authority and a sense of belonging," Duarte said during a recent tour of the school.

Classes, uniforms and equipment are free. During one of the thrice-weekly classes, attendees have an hour-long discussion with an educator about themes ranging from environmental issues to relationships.

Mherry Esperança Rosário, a 23-year-old amateur boxer who has been part of the school for more than a decade, is studying software engineering at a nearby university. He said the school changed his life.

"Abraco Campeao offers a path that is different to what we often see around here," he said. "It shows that we can attain our dreams."

Job opportunities offer a way out

When two armed men turned up to Vanderson Rocha Silva's electricity course in a Rio favela asking if they could join, the 43-year-old didn't turn them away. Today they are both working as electricians.

"If they want to leave crime but they don't have an employment opportunity, any hopes for life, what are they supposed to do? A project changes everything," Rocha Silva said.

Rocha Silva grew up in an abusive household in the famed City of God favela and was 8 when he entered the world of drug-trafficking.

After stints in prison and converting to Evangelical Christianity, he eventually left that life behind and now runs what he calls a therapeutic community, named "R3," which stands for Rescuing, Resocializing and Resending. The organization offers psychological assistance as well as free electricity, refrigeration and English courses.

"I'm starting my life again," said Danilo Gomes da Silva, 37, who was once addicted to cocaine and involved in a criminal organization. He now has a job in building maintenance and is slowly furnishing a small home; a fridge is on its way.

"Look at all (the pastor) is doing without help from the state. Imagine all the people he could resocialize," he said.

A grieving mother helps young boys

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 59 of 60

Nadia dos Santos' son Cleyverson ran a social project that distributed food, medicine, clothes and other essentials to people in need in the Chapadao complex of favelas where he grew up. After police killed him in 2022 when he was 17, his mother shifted the focus of the project specifically to help youth under 26 get jobs and training.

"We have to get them out of the world of criminality where they are used to living," dos Santos said.

Due to funding challenges, the project is still in its early stages, hosting occasional events. Dos Santos plans on transforming a house she owns into its headquarters, with a room for computers and another for a community food center.

At a recent event she organized in her son's memory, other grieving mothers called for a change in the approach to security in Rio.

Maria Rubia Brito da Silva, a 61-year-old who was at the event, said her son and grandson became involved in drug-trafficking and were later killed.

"Even if our sons become involved in the wrong kind of life, the state doesn't have a right to take their lives away," she said.

Brito da Silva blamed the lack of educational, recreational and employment options for youth's gang involvement. She says her granddaughter hardly has class because of police operations.

"If there were opportunities for these children, I'm sure they would leave the streets and their self-esteem would soar," she said.

"They would be able to lead a dignified life and bring lots of pride to us mothers who live with the fear of losing our sons."

Today in History: September 28 Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, Sept. 28, the 271st day of 2026. There are 94 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 28, 1928, Scottish medical researcher Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, the first broadly effective antibiotic.

Also on this date:

In 1781, American forces in the Revolutionary War, backed by a French fleet, began their successful siege of Yorktown, Virginia.

In 1924, three U.S. Army planes landed in Seattle, completing the first round-the-world trip by air in 175 days.

In 1941, Ted Williams became the last Major League Baseball player to hit over .400 for a season, batting .406 for the Boston Red Sox.

In 1962, a federal appeals court found Mississippi Gov. Ross Barnett in civil contempt for blocking the admission of James Meredith, a Black student, to the University of Mississippi.

In 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat signed an accord at the White House calling for an end to Israel's military occupation of West Bank cities and expanding the responsibilities of the Palestinian Authority.

In 2016, Hurricane Matthew formed near the Windward Islands and went on to kill over 1,000 people in Haiti, elsewhere in the Caribbean and the southeastern U.S.

In 2000, capping a 12-year political battle, the U.S. government approved use of the abortion pill RU-486.

In 2020, the worldwide death toll from the coronavirus pandemic reached 1 million, according to a count by Johns Hopkins University.

In 2022, Category 4 Hurricane Ian barreled ashore in southwestern Florida and then bisected the center of the state, causing more than 100 fatalities and billions of dollars in damage.

Today's Birthdays: Filmmaker John Sayles is 76. Football Hall of Famer Steve Largent is 72. Zydeco musician C.J. Chenier (sheh-NEER') is 69. Hockey Hall of Famer Grant Fuhr is 64. Actor-comedian Janeane

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 114 ~ 60 of 60

Garofalo (juh-NEEN' guh-RAH'-fuh-loh) is 62. Actor Maria Canals-Barrera is 60. Actor Mira Sorvino is 59. Actor Naomi Watts is 58. Olympic gold medal swimmer Lenny Krayzelburg is 51. Rapper Jeezy is 49. Golf Hall of Famer Se Ri Pak is 49. Pop-rock musician St. Vincent is 44. Actor Hilary Duff is 39. Retired boxer Terence "Bud" Crawford is 39. Tennis player Marin Čilić is 38. Actor Keir Gilchrist is 34. Singer Sienna Spiro is 21. Actor Momona Tamada is 20.