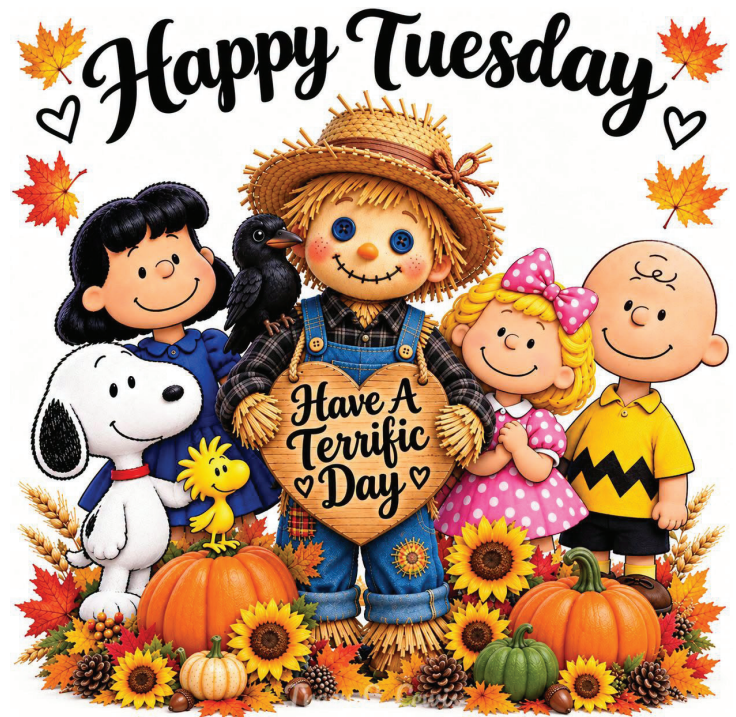


Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 1 of 68

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
- [4- Groton Area soccer teams fall to West Central](#)
- [4- Bates Township Weed Notice](#)
- [5- Groton Area October Community Events](#)
- [11- EarthTalk: PFAS Chemicals](#)
- [12- Johnson duo qualifies for state golf tournament](#)
- [14- Northern State University Announces 2026 Gypsy Day Parade Marching Band Competition Results](#)
- [15- Governor Rhoden Provides Flexibility for Farmers at Harvest](#)
- [16- Mellette County Fatal Crash](#)
- [17- SD SearchLight: South Dakota governor candidates clash on data centers, education, economic development](#)
- [19- SD SearchLight: South Dakota National Guard leader urges community support for new fighter jets in Sioux Falls](#)
- [20- SD SearchLight: High-risk pregnancy doctors publish new standards for care under state abortion bans](#)
- [22- SD SearchLight: Major bill to set standards for college athletes' pay passes US Senate](#)
- [23- SD SearchLight: Trump used impossible foreign labor standards as tariff workaround, small businesses say](#)
- [25- SD SearchLight: Trump thwarted in hunt for rare noncitizen voters as midterms near](#)
- [27- SD SearchLight: 'Dumbfounds us all': Congress struggles with policies rippling from AI development](#)
- [30- SD SearchLight: Trump administration revokes \\$810M approved by Congress for refugee aid and more](#)
- [32- Weather Pages](#)
- [36- Daily Devotional](#)
- [37- Subscription Form](#)
- [38- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [39- News from the Associated Press](#)



Community Calendar

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

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Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 2 of 68

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.

Steeling Up in Iowa

President Donald Trump unveiled plans yesterday for a \$15B steel mill project in Iowa, which he says will be the largest such plant in US history. The announcement comes as Trump seeks to drum up support for his economic agenda ahead of the November midterms.

The plant will be built by Mesabi Metallica, a Minnesota-based company owned by Indian conglomerate Essar Group. It aims to start production in 2030, ramping up to 10 million tons of steel per year and supporting 1,750 permanent new job. The company will transport iron ore from its new \$2.5B Minnesota mine, allowing for fully US-made steel. The project supports Trump's effort to reduce the US trade deficits and is expected to lower costs to US consumers from Trump's associated steel tariff regime.

The announcement comes amid a newly competitive race in Iowa, where Democrats have not won the Senate in 18 years.

Nvidia's Big Buyback

Nvidia announced plans yesterday to spend another \$150B buying back its own shares, bringing its total buyback authorization to \$235B—the largest in history. The company's shares closed up 1.7% on the news.

The buyback would reduce the number of Nvidia shares on the market, potentially boosting the company's stock value. Experts say Nvidia is signaling that it believes its shares are undervalued, given its status as the world's most valuable publicly traded company, with a market capitalization of over \$5.4T. The buyback increase comes after the tech giant reported its second-quarter revenue hit \$96.2B, a 106% gain from the same period last year.

The company also launched a security platform yesterday that can intervene if AI agents attempt unauthorized activity, such as hacking. Nvidia said over 100 companies, including Microsoft and Citi, are already using the software. Meanwhile, regulators are racing to assign liability for increasingly common AI-driven cyberattacks.

Air Base Threat Thwarted

British police released five men on bail yesterday after arresting them on suspicion of plotting a terrorist attack near a US-operated air force base. Officials are investigating possible links to Iran, Russia, or nonstate militant groups.

The men, all British nationals in their mid-20s, were arrested early Sunday after police responded to a call from a local farmer describing oddly parked vans and men wearing face coverings. Eighty-five homes were evacuated while bomb-detection robots examined the vans; their findings are unclear as of this writing. The UK began allowing the US to use a nearby air force base to house bombers flying missions against Iran in March, following Iranian strikes on British allies and shipping interests. Iran's Revolutionary Guard has said the base is a legitimate target but denied responsibility for the incident.

More than 75% of British citizens are concerned about the Iran war's impact on British national security, according to a poll conducted days after the UK approved US use of its base.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 3 of 68

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Rod Stewart announces 21-date "The Final Encore Tour," says it will be the last tour of his career. Stevie Wonder shares four previously unreleased tracks from "Songs in the Key of Life".

Senate passes bipartisan college sports bill to regulate payments and restrict transfers, sending it to House.

National Women's Soccer League unveils Atlanta expansion club's name, colors, and crest; team will debut in 2028.

National Hockey League play returns as the defending champion Carolina Hurricanes host the Florida Panthers to open the 2026-27 regular season tonight .

Science & Technology

SpaceX launches Starship spacecraft into orbit for first time to test its readiness for NASA's Artemis moon program; cuts flight short after unplanned engine shutdown.

Engineers tweak formula of lipid nanoparticles used to deliver mRNA, allowing vaccines to remain stable at room temperature for up to a year.

Neuroscientists discover humans' response speed when exhaling is on average 41 milliseconds faster than when inhaling; study reveals link between breathing and cognition that could inform sleep disorder therapies and sports performance.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close down (S&P 500 -0.8%, Dow -0.7%, Nasdaq -0.9%) as 10-year Treasury yield climbs to its highest level since 2007.

The US and China agree to each lower tariffs on \$30B worth of nonsensitive goods, including Chinese Christmas ornaments and American hair products, following state visit last week.

Boeing shares close down 6.9% after the company identifies 737 MAX software glitch that could cause an automated navigation feature to fail during landing.

Politics & World Affairs

New York prosecutors reopen investigation into alleged 2024 gang rape of a Cornell University student by seven members of Chi Phi fraternity following a civil lawsuit filed by the victim.

FBI Deputy Director Andrew Bailey resigns, citing family reasons, amid reported tensions with FBI Director Kash Patel.

Justice Department files appeal to end transgender care for inmates.

Federal prison system had more than 2,000 transgender inmates as of February 2025.

Iran and US negotiators hold separate talks with mediators.

Russian drone strikes Ukraine's National Academy of Sciences in Kyiv, killing at least seven people.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 4 of 68



BATES TOWNSHIP WEED NOTICE:

OWNERS & TENANTS of Bates Township are hereby notified and required, according to law, to cut all weeds, grass, and trees in road ditches adjacent to their property or tenanted by them within Bates township on or before October 1, 2026 or same will be hired done by the township board and assessed property taxes at the rate of \$300 per half mile.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors reminds all landowners and tenants that the road right-of-way extends 33 feet from the center of the township road. This ditch is to be maintained and mowed. Any crops planted in the road right-of-way will be mowed and charged to the landowner. Landowner is responsible for spraying all noxious weeds.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors

Betty Geist

Township Clerk

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Groton Area soccer teams fall to West Central

Groton Area hosted West Central in a soccer doubleheader Monday, with West Central pulling out a pair of close victories. The Trojan boys edged Groton Area 3-2, while the West Central girls recorded a 2-0 win.

In the boys match, West Central struck first when Brody Johnson scored with 27:12 remaining in the first half.

Groton answered just over three minutes later. Ethan Kroll headed the ball to Easton Weber, who finished the play with a goal at the 23:46 mark to tie the match at 1-1.

West Central regained the lead late in the first half when Drake Bosch scored with 5:31 remaining, sending the Trojans into halftime with a 2-1 advantage.

Groton Area came back early in the second half. Kroll scored at the 37:09 mark to tie the contest at 2-2.

Bosch then delivered the eventual game-winner, scoring his second goal with 25:23 remaining. Neither team scored again as West Central held on for the 3-2 victory.

The girls match developed into a defensive battle, with neither team able to score in the first half. Both teams came close, including shots that struck the crossbar.

West Central generated more offensive opportunities, but Groton Area goalkeeper Tori Schuster repeatedly kept the Tigers in the match. Schuster recorded nine saves in the second half alone.

West Central finally broke through when Addison Durband scored with 20:05 remaining in the second half. Durband added her second goal with eight minutes remaining to give the Trojans the 2-0 victory.

Despite the loss, Groton Area coach Matt Baumgartner was pleased with much of his team's defensive effort.

"Defensively, we played pretty sound soccer," Baumgartner said. "There's just a couple opportunities the ball got switched backside and we were just caught ball watching."

Baumgartner said those moments illustrated an area the Tigers will need to clean up as postseason play approaches.

"You've got to stick with your mark, you've got to stick with your person," he said. "The fight today was great. We need to continue to fight all 80 minutes."

Baumgartner said Groton Area has shown considerable improvement during the season, pointing in particular to the Tigers' recent performance against Dakota Valley.

Groton Area lost to Dakota Valley 10-2 in the season opener, but Baumgartner said the Tigers played some of their best soccer of the year in the more recent meeting.

"That Dakota Valley game is probably one of the best games we played this year," Baumgartner said. "This is when you want to be playing some of your best soccer."

He said Monday's match wasn't at that same level, with Groton Area sometimes creating its own problems through loose balls and getting out of position.

"We didn't do enough problem solving," Baumgartner said. "We were more creating problems for ourselves."

The Tigers will have another opportunity Thursday against Garretson before postseason play begins Tuesday.

"We need to go out and try to build some confidence, build some structure in how we want to play," Baumgartner said. "Then Tuesday starts zero-and-zero season for everyone. It's a brand-new slate, win or go home."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 5 of 68

Groton Area October Community Events

Thursday, Oct. 1

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, tossed salad, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Egg wraps.

School Lunch: Chicken Alfredo, cooked broccoli.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.

Cross Country at Sisseton Invitational, Valley View Country Club (Varsity, 4 p.m.; JV time TBA)

JH Volleyball at Milbank, 4 p.m. and 5 p.m.

JH Football hosts Aberdeen Roncalli, 4 p.m., Doney Field

Girls Soccer hosts Garretson, 4:30 p.m.

GT GBB Fall Skills, 6-8 p.m., Arena

Sixth Grade Girls Basketball Practice, 8 p.m., Arena

Winter Gear Drive at Dacotah Bank, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 2

Senior Menu: Oven baked chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, peas, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Omelets.

School Lunch: French bread pizza, green beans.

Football at Deuel, 7 p.m., Cardinal Field

Winter Gear Drive at Dacotah Bank, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 3

Volleyball at Redfield Tournament, 9 a.m.

Sunday, Oct. 4

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Third Grade Girls Basketball, 4 p.m., GHS Old Gym

Sixth Grade Girls Basketball Practice, 4 p.m., Arena

Dance Team Practice, 5:30 p.m., Arena

Monday, Oct. 5

Senior Menu: Chili with beans, mixed vegetables, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Egg bake.

School Lunch: Corn dogs, baked beans.

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

State A Boys Golf, 9 a.m.

Second Grade Girls Basketball, 3:30 p.m., Elementary Gym

JH Football vs. Deuel at Langford, 4 p.m.

Volleyball hosts Tiospa Zina (JH/C at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., Varsity at 7:15 p.m.)

JV Football vs. Deuel at Langford, 5:30 p.m.

Winter Gear Drive at Dacotah Bank, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 6 of 68

Tuesday, Oct. 6

Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes with gravy, broccoli, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.

School Lunch: Garlic cheese bread, corn.

State A Boys Golf, 9 a.m.

SDHSAA First Round Soccer Playoffs, 4 p.m.

Fifth Grade Girls Basketball Practice, 4 p.m., Elementary Gym

Winter Gear Drive at Dacotah Bank, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 7

Senior Menu: Broccoli chicken bake, green beans, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Omelet.

School Lunch: Soup, sandwich.

Groton Camber Meeting, noon, at the Red Horse

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.

Fourth Grade GBB Practice, 5:30 p.m., Elementary School

Community Bond Issue Meeting — Columbia, 7 p.m.

Winter Gear Drive at Dacotah Bank, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

Thursday, Oct. 8

Senior Menu: Scalloped potato with ham, winter blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Muffin.

School Lunch: Turkey gravy, mashed potatoes.

Cross Country at Northeast Conference Meet, 1 p.m., Webster Golf Course

Parent/Teacher Conferences, 1:30-8 p.m.

GT GBB Fall Skills, 6-8 p.m., Arena

Sixth Grade Girls Basketball Practice, 8 p.m., Arena

Winter Gear Drive at Dacotah Bank, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Winter Gear Distribution, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Groton Community Center

Friday, Oct. 9

Senior Menu: Baked fish, rice pilaf, carrots, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: No school.

School Lunch: No school.

NO SCHOOL — Staff Development Day

Lake Region Marching Band Festival, 9 a.m., Groton

Football hosts Mobridge-Pollock, 7 p.m., Doney Field

Saturday, Oct. 10

JH Volleyball at Warner Jamboree, 9 a.m.

SDHSAA Second Round Boys Soccer Playoffs, noon

SDHSAA Second Round Girls Soccer Playoffs, 1 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 7 of 68

Sunday, Oct. 11

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; No Sunday School;; WELCA Women meet.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Third Grade Girls Basketball, 4 p.m., GHS Old Gym

Sixth Grade Girls Basketball Practice, 4 p.m., Arena

Dance Team Practice, 5:30 p.m., Arena

Monday, Oct. 12

Senior Menu: Closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day.

School Breakfast: No school.

School Lunch: No school.

NO SCHOOL — Native American Day

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

Second Grade Girls Basketball, 3:30 p.m., Elementary Gym

JV Football hosts Aberdeen Roncalli, 4 p.m., Doney Field

Volleyball at Britton-Hecla (JH at 4 p.m., C at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., Varsity at 7 p.m.)

Groton Senior Citizens meet, 1 p.m., Groton Community Center

Tuesday, Oct. 13

Senior Menu: Beef stew, fruited Jello, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Cereal.

School Lunch: Scalloped potatoes with ham, bun.

School Board Meeting, 7 a.m., GHS Library Conference Room

Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, 6 p.m.

Fifth Grade Girls Basketball Practice, 4 p.m., Elementary Gym

Community Bond Issue Meeting — Bristol, 7 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 14

Senior Menu: Chicken bacon ranch pasta, broccoli, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast bento box.

School Lunch: Chicken and noodles, peas.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.

Region 1A Cross Country Meet at Webster Golf Course (Girls varsity, 11 a.m.; Boys varsity, 2 p.m.; JV times TBA)

Fourth Grade GBB Practice, 5:30 p.m., Elementary School

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

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 8 of 68

Thursday, Oct. 15

Senior Menu: Goulash, corn, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Cheese breakfast bake.

School Lunch: Flat bread sub, chips.

Volleyball at Deuel (JH at 4 p.m., C at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., Varsity at 7:15 p.m.)

GT GBB Fall Skills, 6-8 p.m., Arena

Sixth Grade Girls Basketball Practice, 8 p.m., Arena

Friday, Oct. 16

Senior Menu: Roast pork, baked potato, green beans, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Fruit buckle.

School Lunch: Meatballs, green beans.

Football at Aberdeen Roncalli, 7 p.m., Dacotah Bank Stadium

Saturday, Oct. 17

SDHSAA State Soccer

C Team Volleyball at Northwestern JV/C Tournament, 9 a.m.

Varsity Volleyball at Miller Tournament, 10 a.m.

Sunday, Oct. 18

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sixth Grade Girls Basketball Practice, 4 p.m., Arena

Third Grade Girls Basketball, 4 p.m., GHS Old Gym

Dance Team Practice, 5:30 p.m., Arena

Monday, Oct. 19

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

School Breakfast: Eggs.

School Lunch: Chicken strips, fries.

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

Second Grade Girls Basketball, 3:30 p.m., Elementary Gym

Fourth and Fifth Grade GBB hosts Ipswich, 5:45 p.m., Arena

Groton Senior Citizens meet, 1 p.m., Groton Community Center

Tuesday, Oct. 20

Senior Menu: Baked pork chops, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.

School Lunch: Tacos.

END OF FIRST QUARTER

Fifth Grade Girls Basketball Practice, 4 p.m., Elementary Gym

Volleyball at Northwestern (Middle School/C at 5 p.m., Middle School/JV at 6 p.m., Varsity at 7 p.m.)

City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 9 of 68

Wednesday, Oct. 21

Senior Menu: Tator tot hotdish, corn, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Scones.

School Lunch: Lasagna hotdish, corn.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.

Fourth Grade GBB Practice, 5:30 p.m., Elementary School

Community Bond Issue Meeting — Groton, 7 p.m., Groton Area High School

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 22

Senior Menu: Meatloaf, baked potato, peas, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Egg wraps.

School Lunch: Chef salad, bread stick.

SDHSAA Class 11B Football Playoffs — First Round

GT GBB Fall Skills, 6-8 p.m., Arena

Sixth Grade Girls Basketball Practice, 8 p.m., Arena

Friday, Oct. 23

Senior Menu: Egg salad sandwich, minestrone soup, fruit.

School Breakfast: Omelet.

School Lunch: Pizza crunchers, green beans.

Volleyball hosts Redfield (C at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., Varsity at 7:15 p.m.)

Saturday, Oct. 24

SDHSAA State Cross Country Meet in Rapid City, noon

Sunday, Oct. 25

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Third Grade Girls Basketball, 4 p.m., GHS Old Gym

Sixth Grade Girls Basketball Practice, 4 p.m., Arena

Dance Team Practice, 5:30 p.m., Arena

Monday, Oct. 26

Senior Menu: Hamburger cabbage hotdish, mixed vegetables, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Egg bake.

School Lunch: Chicken nuggets, smiley fries.

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

First Day of JH Girls Basketball Practice, 3:30 p.m., GHS Old Gym

Second Grade Girls Basketball, 3:30 p.m., Elementary Gym

Volleyball at Faulkton Area (C at 4:45 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., Varsity at 7:15 p.m.)

Groton Senior Citizens meet, noon potluck, Groton Community Center

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 10 of 68

Tuesday, Oct. 27

Senior Menu: Pulled chicken sandwich, wild rice, carrots, fruit.
School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.
School Lunch: Sloppy Joe, baby bakers.
FCCLA Vitalant Blood Drive, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Arena Lobby
Fifth Grade Girls Basketball Practice, 4 p.m., Elementary Gym
Volleyball at Milbank (C at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., Varsity at 7:30 p.m.)
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 28

Senior Menu: Vegetable beef soup, chicken salad sandwich, fruit.
School Breakfast: Oatmeal.
School Lunch: Quesadilla, fiesta corn.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.
Fourth Grade GBB Practice, 5:30 p.m., Elementary School
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, Oct. 29

Senior Menu: Kielbasa with mac and cheese, winter blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Muffins.
School Lunch: Cheeseburger penne, peas.
SDHSAA Class 11B Football Playoffs — Quarterfinals
GT GBB Fall Skills, 6-8 p.m., Arena
Sixth Grade Girls Basketball Practice, 8 p.m., Arena

Friday, Oct. 30

Senior Menu: Tuna noodle casserole, peas, fruit, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Biscuits.
School Lunch: Pizza, green beans.
Downtown Trick or Treat, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
UMC Trunk or Treat, 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m., Methodist Church Parking Lot

Saturday, Oct. 31

Halloween Kid's Party, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Groton Community Center

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 11 of 68

EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: What's new in the fight to get PFAS out of our drinking water and bloodstreams?

-- Michelle K., Reno, NV

PFAS, or Polyfluoroalkyl substances, are chemicals that are resistant to breaking down, or "forever chemicals." Having both commercial and industrial applications, they have been pervasive in the environment since the late 1930s. They can have devastating health impacts for both humans, animals and the Earth's ecology as a whole.

The historical work against PFAS has served as the base of current legislation.

Most regulation was initially patchy and separate among agencies and states. This meant some mandatory data reporting from producers and limits or even penalties, but no wide-sweeping bans. Finally, in the early 2020s, PFAS regulation was consolidated in the U.S. when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set the first standardized drinking water limits and required data reporting.

Despite this progress, there is some backsliding currently occurring. In a 2025 article for the Environmental Health Network (ENH), Mark Ruffalo, actor and activist, stated that his film, "Dark Waters" depicting the lawsuit against DuPont regarding PFAS pollution, "was meant to be a cautionary tale; instead, it has become the future we keep choosing."

The backsliding has been characterized by governmental back-and-forth, between the diminishing enforcement powers of the EPA and scientists' and environmental advocates' desire for action. The EPA attempted to pull back some of its standardized regulation against certain forever chemicals by repealing some specific drinking water limits.

State governments have continued to take action on PFAS, advancing legislation on consumer goods. Specifically noting the slow federal action, the states have taken the lead several items, including high human-exposure items, like "cookware, cosmetics, cleaning products, dental floss, and food packaging."

At the same time, there are some research and development efforts to mitigate PFAS through a variety of methods, including testing kits, various methods of elimination through biochemical processes, and even the advancement of specific water filtration techniques (CPI). To avoid PFAS, consume filtered water, and avoid non-stick pans, fast-food packaging, and even some clothing blends. With a little bit of research about materials encountered day-to-day, avoiding PFAS can be a breeze. Together, with research, legislation, and mindfulness, PFAS as an issue can be permanently mitigated.



PFAS chemicals are increasingly polluting waterways across the United States and elsewhere with lax regulations.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 12 of 68

Johnson duo qualifies for state golf tournament

Jace Johnson and Liam Johnson will represent Groton Area at the Class A State Boys Golf Tournament after qualifying during the Region 3A meet at Lakeview Golf Course.

The two Tigers earned individual berths in the state tournament, which will be played Monday and Tuesday in Mitchell.

Jace Johnson led Groton Area with an 85, finishing 12th overall in the regional tournament. Johnson went out in 41 and came home in 44 on the par-72 course. He played a steady opening nine, recording pars on holes three, four, eight and nine, and added pars on Nos. 10, 14, 15 and 17 on the back nine.

Liam Johnson earned Groton's other state berth with a 91, placing 22nd. He carded a 43 on the front nine and a 48 on the back. Johnson recorded pars on Nos. 2, 6, 8, 9, 13 and 15.

Haden Harder was next for the Tigers, finishing 24th with a 95. He shot 45 on the front and 50 on the back.

Graham Rose and Bentley Ehresmann each finished with rounds of 107. Rose shot 53-54, while Ehresmann posted a 49 on the opening nine before finishing with a 58.

Groton Area placed sixth in the team standings with a score of 378. Aberdeen Roncalli captured the regional team title with a 306, followed by Winner at 308, Parkston at 330, Chamberlain at 353 and Redfield at 376. Todd County was seventh at 407.

Aberdeen Roncalli's Harper Schnabel earned medalist honors with a four-under-par 68. Chamberlain's Chase McQuirk was second with a 71, while Parkston's Landon Weber placed third with a 74.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 13 of 68

☆	12	Jace Johnson Groton Area												+13				85			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Strokes																					
WHITE - Men Tee / SLOPE®: 116 / Course Rating™: 70.1 / LAKEVIEW GC																					
Yardage	377	390	156	524	491	395	161	130	468	3092	532	329	328	307	141	492	379	194	411	3113	6205
Par	4	4	3	5	5	4	3	3	5	36	5	4	4	4	3	5	4	3	4	36	72
Jace Johnson	5	5	3	5	6	5	4	3	5	41	5	6	6	6	3	5	5	3	5	44	85

☆	22	Liam Johnson Groton Area												+19				91			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Strokes																					
WHITE - Men Tee / SLOPE®: 116 / Course Rating™: 70.1 / LAKEVIEW GC																					
Yardage	377	390	156	524	491	395	161	130	468	3092	532	329	328	307	141	492	379	194	411	3113	6205
Par	4	4	3	5	5	4	3	3	5	36	5	4	4	4	3	5	4	3	4	36	72
Liam Johnson	6	4	4	6	7	4	4	3	5	43	6	5	5	4	4	5	7	5	7	48	91

☆	24	Haden Harder Groton Area												+23				95			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Strokes																					
WHITE - Men Tee / SLOPE®: 116 / Course Rating™: 70.1 / LAKEVIEW GC																					
Yardage	377	390	156	524	491	395	161	130	468	3092	532	329	328	307	141	492	379	194	411	3113	6205
Par	4	4	3	5	5	4	3	3	5	36	5	4	4	4	3	5	4	3	4	36	72
Haden Harder	6	4	3	6	5	7	4	4	6	45	6	5	6	5	3	6	10	4	5	50	95

☆	30	Graham Rose Groton Area												+35				107			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Strokes																					
WHITE - Men Tee / SLOPE®: 116 / Course Rating™: 70.1 / LAKEVIEW GC																					
Yardage	377	390	156	524	491	395	161	130	468	3092	532	329	328	307	141	492	379	194	411	3113	6205
Par	4	4	3	5	5	4	3	3	5	36	5	4	4	4	3	5	4	3	4	36	72
Graham Rose	6	7	5	7	9	4	4	4	7	53	6	9	6	5	4	6	6	4	8	54	107

☆	32	Bentley Ehersmann Groton Area												+35				107			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Strokes																					
WHITE - Men Tee / SLOPE®: 116 / Course Rating™: 70.1 / LAKEVIEW GC																					
Yardage	377	390	156	524	491	395	161	130	468	3092	532	329	328	307	141	492	379	194	411	3113	6205
Par	4	4	3	5	5	4	3	3	5	36	5	4	4	4	3	5	4	3	4	36	72
Bentley Ehersmann	5	6	7	5	7	5	4	5	5	49	11	8	6	7	3	6	6	4	7	58	107

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

Northern State University Announces 2026 Gypsy Day Parade Marching Band Competition Results

ABERDEEN, S.D. — Northern State University has announced the results of the 2026 Gypsy Day Parade Marching Band Competition, held Saturday, Sept. 26, as part of Northern's annual Gypsy Days celebration.

Bands from across the region traveled to Aberdeen to perform in the Gypsy Day Parade and compete for Gold, Silver and Bronze medal ratings, as well as awards recognizing outstanding individual sections and overall performance. All 14 competing bands earned Gold Medal ratings.

2026 Competition Results

Bands are listed in performance order.

Hoven School Marching Band — Gold Medal
Aberdeen Central High School Marching Band — Gold Medal
Redfield School Marching Band — Gold Medal
Northwestern Area School Marching Band — Gold Medal
Aberdeen Roncalli Marching Band — Gold Medal
Ipswich School Marching Band — Gold Medal
Leola School Marching Band — Gold Medal
Eureka High School Marching Band — Gold Medal
Miller School Marching Band — Gold Medal
Aberdeen Simmons/Holgate Middle School Marching Band — Gold Medal
Sully Buttes Marching Band — Gold Medal
Groton Area Marching Band — Gold Medal
Aberdeen Christian School Marching Band — Gold Medal
Watertown High School Marching Band — Gold Medal

Outstanding Performance Awards

Best Winds: Aberdeen Roncalli Marching Band
Best Colorguard: Aberdeen Roncalli Marching Band
Best Drumline: Aberdeen Roncalli Marching Band
Best Drum Major: Aberdeen Central High School Marching Band
Best Overall Band: Aberdeen Roncalli Marching Band

Northern State University congratulates all participating students and directors on their performances and thanks the schools, families and community members who helped make the 2026 Gypsy Day Parade Marching Band Competition a success.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 15 of 68

Governor Rhoden Provides Flexibility for Farmers at Harvest

PIERRE, S.D. – Today, Governor Larry Rhoden signed Executive Order 2026-11, which provides flexibility for South Dakota farmers who are enduring high diesel prices this harvest season.

"Diesel prices are far too high, and that has an impact on our farmers, especially during harvest. These actions should provide them some relief while they get their crop to market to feed us all," said Governor Rhoden.

Governor Rhoden also announced that his legal and policy teams are reviewing potential action by the Trump Administration, as well as actions taken by other states, to see if there is opportunity for South Dakota to take further steps to provide flexibility for farmers.

"All options are on the table. We're taking a serious look at what Washington is doing, as well as other states," continued Governor Rhoden. "I'm a constitutional conservative, and I act within my authority – so we want to make sure we're on firm footing before taking further action."

Executive Order 2026-11 takes the following actions to provide flexibility for farmers:

Allows farmers to haul crops, livestock, and other agricultural commodities at 10% above weight restrictions, which will allow them to take fewer trips when hauling crops, livestock, and other agricultural commodities;

Suspends a \$25 overweight trip permit; and

Directs the Department of Revenue to monitor fuel supplies and determine if a tax refund to suppliers is warranted if regular diesel needs to be used in farm machinery because of any future shortage of dyed diesel.

The federal government previously issued an hours-of-service waiver for 90 days for hauling fuel to allow flexibility in the supply chain, so action by Governor Rhoden was not needed.

The Executive Order does not allow haulers to exceed the posted weight limit of a bridge or 20,000 pounds per axel.

Mellette County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle vs. pedestrian fatal crash
Where: U.S. 83 at mile marker 43, White River city limits, South Dakota
When: 8:53 p.m., Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Driver 1: 37-year-old male from Grand Island, Nebraska, no injuries
Vehicle 1: 2016 Dodge Ram 3500
Seat Belt Used: No

Pedestrian: 23-year-old female, fatal injuries

Mellette County, S.D.- A woman has died from injuries sustained in a vehicle-versus-pedestrian crash that occurred Wednesday in White River, South Dakota.

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

Preliminary crash information indicates a woman was walking south on U.S. 83 in the middle of the road. At the same time, the driver of a 2016 Dodge Ram 3500 was traveling southbound on U.S. 83 hauling a flatbed trailer. The driver of the Dodge attempted to brake and swerved when he saw the woman. The Dodge struck the woman. She was taken to a Rosebud hospital where she succumbed to her injuries on Thursday, September 24.

The investigation is ongoing. All information released is preliminary.

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



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

South Dakota governor candidates clash on data centers, education, economic development

Democrat says more can be done, Republican governor points to policies enacted

BY JOSHUA HAIAR

Local governments should have more authority over where data centers are built and how they use local resources, Democratic candidate for South Dakota governor Dan Ahlers said during a debate on Monday.

"We should be asking the people of South Dakota what they want, and what they've been telling us is they don't want these data centers in their communities," Ahlers said during the debate, co-hosted by South Dakota Public Broadcasting and South Dakota News Watch.

Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden argued that his administration had already responded to public concerns on data centers. He pointed to legislation he signed that requires data centers with peak electrical use of 10 megawatts or more to cover the cost of their power demands, as well as any costs a community might incur if a data center unexpectedly leaves. The same bill bars the state from preempting local laws to limit, ban or regulate data centers. Companies seeking to build data centers also have to tell local water providers how much water they'd need and obtain determinations from local providers that their projects are compatible with the local water supply.

But Rhoden also wants data centers built in the U.S., if they are going to be built. He said it is important to keep "evil foreign governments, like China, from owning our data."

During their second and last debate of the 2026 election season, the two also clashed on education, health care, taxes and tribal relations, among other issues.

Rhoden, a western South Dakota rancher, became governor in early 2025 after serving as former Gov. Kristi Noem's lieutenant governor. Ahlers is a small business owner and former Democratic legislator from Dell Rapids.

Affordability and property taxes

Ahlers said the state could reduce the cost of living by putting more state money into education, which he said would reduce the amount local governments need to raise through property taxes. He also said the state could save families \$800 per student if it paid for school lunches and proposed a childcare tax credit or rebate, though he did not offer details on the size and scope of such a program.

Rhoden pointed to property tax legislation he signed during the 2026 legislative session as a measure addressing affordability.

"This year we passed the largest property tax cut in the history of the state," Rhoden said.

One new law diverts an estimated \$110 million or more in sales tax revenue into a fund to offset property taxes for education. That revenue will come when a 2023 sales tax reduction from 4.5% to 4.2% sunsets next year. Additionally, \$56 million in general budget funds is being used to lower property taxes immediately.

Another bill lets counties add an additional 0.5% sales tax to decrease property taxes for homeowners in those counties.

Rhoden said the new laws will reduce the average homeowners' property taxes by 36%.

Ahlers said moving from property taxes to sales taxes can leave renters and lower-income residents behind. The state should change how it assesses residential property, he said, and bolster existing property tax relief programs for seniors, veterans and people with disabilities.

"It is a tax shift," Ahlers said. "It shifts it from property tax to sales tax at the county level."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 18 of 68

Rhoden said the property tax bills would also help renters by making it easier to purchase their first home, and would also shift the tax burden to tourists spending money in the state.

Education funding

Rhoden said state education funding has increased more than what's required under the state's funding formula, and said teacher salaries have risen by about \$10,000 in recent years.

But teacher retention remains a problem, Ahlers said, pointing to teachers who aren't just leaving for better pay in other states but "leaving the profession entirely." The state should prioritize teacher pay, he said.

Economic development

When asked about economic development, both candidates homed in on what's been done – and what hasn't – through the state's Future Fund. The fund was created in 1987 at the request of then-Gov. George Mickelson, a Republican. South Dakota employers pay fees to the fund when they remit unemployment payroll taxes. The fund was placed under the governor's exclusive control, enabling quick responses when economic opportunities arise.

Economic development programs should emphasize South Dakota-owned businesses rather than large companies often headquartered out of state, Ahlers said. He pointed to a Wakonda-area hemp producer that built a hemp-based concrete facility in Iowa after failing to find sufficient economic incentives in South Dakota.

Rhoden said he'd never heard from that company, and said he agreed with Ahlers on supporting value-added agriculture. He also said his administration had established guardrails for the Future Fund. Rhoden signed a bill into law that defines acceptable uses for the fund, requires more reporting to legislators about awards, stipulates information required of applicants, directs the Governor's Office of Economic Development to formulate rules on the fund's use, and requires the office to recommend potential awards to the governor.

Rhoden also cited several large projects as proof of his administration's wise use of economic development resources, including a soybean crushing plant outside Mitchell, the relocation of Smithfield Foods' pork processing plant outside of downtown Sioux Falls, and the recruitment of CJ Schwan's new food packing plant to Sioux Falls.

Tribal relations

Ahlers proposed restoring a tribal relations commission with representatives from all nine South Dakota tribes and giving tribal governments a stronger role in decisions on public safety, education, health care, and economic development.

"They need to have a seat at the table," Ahlers said.

Rhoden said his administration has already undertaken a "reset" of relations with the state's tribes. He pointed to expanded participation in law enforcement training and other cooperative efforts.

"I feel really proud of the relationship we've built," Rhoden said.

The general election is Nov. 3.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 19 of 68

South Dakota National Guard leader urges community support for new fighter jets in Sioux Falls

114th Fighter Wing 'long overdue' for an upgrade, adjutant general says

BY JOHN HULT

SIoux FALLS – The adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard encouraged business leaders in Sioux Falls to make a “full-throated” case for bringing newer Air Force jets to the city.

The South Dakota Air National Guard’s 114th Fighter Wing is located at Joe Foss Field, near the Sioux Falls Regional Airport. There are 450 full-time and 650 part-time staff stationed there, maintaining and operating a squadron of 18 permanently assigned aircraft.

Those aircraft are F-16 fighter jets, but South Dakota officials want to see those jets, first built in 1988 and 1989, replaced with F-35s.

The craft have been upgraded and are well-maintained, Major General Mark Morrell told the Sioux Falls Downtown Rotary Club during its Monday luncheon at the Military Heritage Alliance, but “you can only bolt so much stuff on them.”

“We’re long overdue for investment,” Morrell said.

The F-35s began rolling out more than a decade ago and are already in service nationally and globally. The Air Force is now in the process of choosing two of the last locations for them from a list of nine possible locations, Morrell said. An initial winnowing of those options will come in December, with a final decision in spring.

The other states in the running are Minnesota, Ohio, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Colorado, Indiana, South Carolina. Washington, D.C. is also a contender.

When asked by Rotarian Steve Watson what might happen if South Dakota isn’t selected, Morrell said he doesn’t know exactly, but that the thought makes him “a little bit nervous” about the future of Joe Foss Field Air National Guard Station.

“I’ll say that we’ll do what we have always done, and that’s we’ll deliver combat readiness with the platforms we have with excellence, every single day, until those platforms are no longer viable,” Morrell said.

Selling points for South Dakota

South Dakota has a lot going for it, Morrell said. Ellsworth Air Force Base near Rapid City will soon be home to the B-21 Raider stealth bomber, an aircraft typically escorted by a fighter jet. Morrell said coordination between the two programs would weigh in the state’s favor.

He also pointed to the engineering programs at South Dakota State University and South Dakota Mines, as well as cybersecurity and cyberdefense programs at Dakota State University as valuable sources of local expertise for an F-35 squadron.

Gov. Larry Rhoden’s establishment of an infrastructure and resilience task force in 2025 and of the South Dakota Defense Institute this summer offer proof, Morrell said, that the state can be “nimble” in responding to military needs.

The task force is meant to “strengthen South Dakota’s resilience by identifying infrastructure vulnerabilities, recommending strategies to improve preparedness, and fostering collaboration among public and private partners,” according to Rhoden’s office. The Rapid City-based defense institute was launched as a “centralized hub for defense collaboration, connecting industry, government, and education to strengthen South Dakota’s contributions” to military and security operations, according to a Rhoden press release.

The task force and institute each spent money on defense projects in 2026 from the Future Fund, a pool of dollars paid for through unemployment taxes, to support economic development projects in the state. The institute’s founding in April was supported by \$6 million from the Future Fund.

Last week, Rhoden announced that the state would contribute \$1 million from the fund to support the construction of an office building near Ellsworth for Northrup Grumman, the defense contractor building the B-21s.

Community support to play a role

The Sioux Falls business community has been a solid supporter of the 114th Fighter Wing, according to

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 20 of 68

Mitch Rave, public policy vice president for the Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce.

Since 2007, Rave said, the chamber has had a group of business and nonprofit leaders that meets monthly to address the needs of service members, and the business community has long supported the state's National Guard.

The collection of leaders works on "pushing one rock up the hill to get something done," for veterans and the military community, Rave said.

"And right now that's the pursuit of this new fighter," he said.

Rave said his local chamber and the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry are collecting supportive letters to submit to the state's Congressional delegation to help them push for the F-35 in Sioux Falls. Rave flashed a QR code on the screen during the talk that linked to a form letter for Rotarians to use, encouraging them to personalize the letters and add anecdotes about business leaders' experiences with veterans and specific ways they can support the Air Force in the event Sioux Falls is chosen as an F-35 location.

Morrell, who is the adjutant general for the Air National Guard and the Army National Guard in Sioux Falls, said he needs the community to make a strong case to Secretary of the Air Force Troy Meink. The secretary is a Lemmon native, and Morrell said he hopes the South Dakota native can be convinced that his home state is the right place for the new fighter jets.

If South Dakota makes it through the first round in the selection process in December, Morrell said, he'd hope that the state can keep up the drumbeat through the spring to earn a final selection.

"We've got to give him a really well-reasoned argument and a full-throated argument from the entire South Dakota citizenry and business community about why he should choose us, and just instantly validate that it was the correct decision," Morrell said. "That's what we're after here."

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

High-risk pregnancy doctors publish new standards for care under state abortion bans

As physicians navigate unclear laws, a national group of specialists is offering a potential roadmap

BY KELCIE MOSELEY-MORRIS

As physicians continue to navigate care for patients with complex pregnancies in states with abortion bans, a group of maternal-fetal medicine specialists has developed new guidelines to help providers in those states navigate legal risks for themselves and medical challenges for their high-risk patients.

Maternal-fetal medicine specialists handle some of the most high-risk pregnancies, including patients with high blood pressure, diabetes, cancer, fetal anomalies or other complications. In states with abortion bans, those conditions can become even more dangerous for a patient if a doctor is unsure when they can terminate a pregnancy without potentially jeopardizing their medical license or facing criminal penalties that can include jail time.

"Individuals at high risk for pregnancy-associated morbidity and mortality have unique needs for reproductive health services, including abortion care," the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine wrote in a special statement published this month.

Ten states plus the District of Columbia allow abortion access without gestational restrictions, while 13 states ban abortion at all stages. Following the implementation of those bans since 2022, many hospital systems and clinics have offered different interpretations of how to avoid legal jeopardy under the bans and what qualifies under exceptions, leading to confusion and delays in care that have been documented in many states nationwide.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 21 of 68

To mitigate those problems, the guidelines encourage providers and administrators to set up referral networks across state lines, work to find agreement on what is permissible under state law and counsel patients on their options even in states with restrictions to deliver the highest-quality care.

"We are uniquely positioned as high-risk pregnancy experts to make that case to our leaders," said Dr. Justin Lappen, a maternal-fetal medicine specialist in Ohio who chaired the committee that developed the statement. "And a statement like this would give providers and our colleagues some confidence to be leaders in this space."

The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists agree that access to abortion and counseling about options is the standard of care for obstetric patients, but there are conscientious exceptions for doctors who do not want to provide abortion care.

Some doctors choose to affiliate with the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and offer their own guidance about approaching complications, which still includes termination in some situations. The group is officially a partner of the Alliance Defending Freedom and several anti-abortion groups, as well as the Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine, which is the group that sued to revoke federal approval of one of two drugs used to terminate a pregnancy or treat miscarriages.

A representative from the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists could not be reached for comment before publication.

Worse outcomes for high-risk patients

Nationwide, women in states with bans have reported difficulties receiving care when experiencing pregnancy complications.

One of the most common emergencies occurs when a patient's amniotic sac breaks before a fetus is viable. If left untreated, it can quickly turn into a deadly infection. The statement noted that after Texas passed Senate Bill 8 in 2021 banning abortion at an early gestation, waiting to treat patients in those medical situations dramatically increased negative health outcomes. According to research cited in the statement, complications such as blood transfusion, intensive care admission and serious infection resulted in 57% of cases, versus comparable research in states without restrictions that showed a complication rate of 33%. In all of the cases, the fetus did not survive.

The guidance states hospitals and clinics should expand their abortion care to the extent allowed by law, and recognize maternal-fetal medicine specialists as sources of best care practices. It also instructs providers to work with legal teams in their networks to understand the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act and when it may require abortion care, as well as encouraging training for basic termination procedures.

Dr. David Hackney, a maternal-fetal medicine specialist in Ohio who published a book in August about navigating high-risk pregnancy care under Dobbs, said the statement will be useful for many providers nationwide.

"We don't always focus enough on hospital administration, care and systems, but there's always so much that can be done in those regions that is almost — if not more — important," Hackney said.

After the Dobbs decision in June 2022, Hackney said, many individual healthcare systems didn't know what to do when faced with certain situations where termination might be needed, and set a patchwork of policies that increased confusion for providers. But in the years since, providers and administrators in some healthcare systems have come together to reach informal agreements about what they are comfortable doing within the confines of an abortion ban.

"You have some defense if everyone has agreed to do the same thing," he said.

When laws are unclear, he said, people will most often lean toward over-complying, which can create worse outcomes for the patient.

"Even outside of abortion, medical care tends to work better when you have consensus and you have common best practices, even if it's on a regional level," he said.

'When they need me, they call me'

Many specialists' cases aren't emergencies, but rather pregnancies that put a patient at risk because of

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 22 of 68

underlying health conditions, whether they existed before a pregnancy or developed during pregnancy, or late-term diagnoses of fetal anomalies that upend a wanted pregnancy.

In those cases, the maternal-fetal organization says, patients should be told that their options include termination, even if that can't happen in their home state.

Dr. Leilah Zahedi-Spung, a maternal-fetal medicine specialist who co-authored the special statement, moved to Colorado from Tennessee in 2023 after that state enacted a near-total abortion ban.

She said she saw firsthand how difficult it was in Tennessee to try to take care of patients without clarity around the law and without leadership that was willing or able to try to provide support. One goal of the statement is to help provide that kind of support to physicians, she said.

"We know you're in a tough situation, we're not blind to that. No one is blaming you for what you can and cannot do," Zahedi-Spung said.

The society's statement suggests that providers establish relationships with leaders within their clinical settings as well as in the community, region and state to agree on legal interpretations of abortion restrictions, particularly those who might hold leadership positions themselves. It also encourages doctors to establish referral networks locally and between states to ensure patient access.

"I have lots of people from Texas who have my phone number, and when they need me, they call me," Zahedi-Spung said. "That is a system that works. And then those patients go back to safe providers who can take care of them."

Stateline reporter Kelcie Moseley-Morris can be reached at kmoseley@stateline.org.

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

Kelcie Moseley-Morris covers reproductive rights for Stateline. Based in Idaho, she has covered the effects of abortion bans nationwide, as well as reproductive health issues.

Major bill to set standards for college athletes' pay passes US Senate

BY SHAUNEEN MIRANDA

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan measure to overhaul the college sports landscape got a step closer to becoming law Monday after passing the U.S. Senate.

The bill — which sailed through on a 77-22 vote — would set a national framework for college athletes' compensation, provide certain antitrust protections to the NCAA, establish a five-year eligibility timeline for athletes and bar professional athletes from competing in college athletics.

Senators voted on several amendments to the bill Monday night. One of the adopted amendments, introduced by GOP Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, would require colleges, conferences and athletic associations to disclose any foreign funding they receive for college athletics that exceeds \$600.

Another amendment, sponsored by Wisconsin Democratic Sen. Tammy Baldwin, would stop the measure from preempting state laws, specifically related to personal injury, wrongful death and similar claims. Senators adopted the amendment, 96-1.

The measure now heads to the U.S. House, which is not scheduled to return from its weeks-long campaign break until after the midterm elections in November.

The bill faces opposition from some Democrats for not distinguishing student-athletes as employees with labor rights.

President Donald Trump has been a staunch supporter of the legislation, which he last month dubbed a "great" bill. The administration expressed its support for the bill, which has undergone multiple changes, in an Aug. 6 statement of administration policy.

The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee's leaders, GOP Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas and Democratic Sen. Maria Cantwell of Washington state, introduced the bill earlier this year, with Republican Sen. Eric Schmitt of Missouri and Democratic Sen. Chris Coons of Delaware as original cosponsors.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 23 of 68

"This bill puts an end to the chaos plaguing college athletics," Cruz said on the Senate floor ahead of the vote.

"It protects NIL opportunities because student-athletes deserve the opportunity to benefit from their talent without being taken advantage of by unscrupulous agents and backdoor deals," the Texas Republican said. "It creates clear, enforceable rules for eligibility and transfers, it protects our traditions and rivalries, it prevents the most powerful and wealthy conferences from breaking away to form a super league, but most importantly, it protects our student-athletes."

Supporters see the bill as a chance to "save" college athletics, which continues to grapple with the fall-out of the NCAA's 2021 guidelines allowing athletes to profit from their name, image and likeness, as well as the patchwork of state NIL laws, gender inequity in compensation deals and the NCAA's controversial transfer portal, among other major issues.

A federal judge in June 2025 also approved the terms of a nearly \$2.8 billion antitrust settlement, which paved the way for schools to directly pay athletes.

Labor concerns

Meanwhile, opponents argue the legislation, which is notably neutral on the classification of athletes as employees, would undermine the labor rights of college players.

Sen. Cory Booker, a fierce critic of the measure, said the bill "was actually shaped by millions of dollars in lobbying from the NCAA, other powerful interests that control that industry," during floor remarks prior to the vote.

The New Jersey Democrat, who played tight end for the Stanford University football team, added that "at its core, it's a bill that undermines the rights of young people who pour their blood, sweat, tears, countless hours of work and more, into their craft."

The bill has also drawn fierce opposition from the Congressional Black Caucus and NAACP.

The major voting bloc rallied behind the NAACP's call in May that urged pushback against GOP-led redistricting efforts in Southern states via college sports, including a boycott of public universities by athletes and supporters.

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

Trump used impossible foreign labor standards as tariff workaround, small businesses say

BY ASHLEY MURRAY

WASHINGTON — Small businesses will once again challenge President Donald Trump's tariffs in federal court this week as they continue to feel the squeeze of the administration's roller coaster policy on import taxes.

Spice importer Burlap & Barrel and rare watch importer Collective Horology will argue Wednesday in the Court of International Trade in New York City that the Trump administration did not properly establish forced labor cases against dozens of U.S. trading partners before levying duties on goods that numerous American importers buy.

The Office of the United States Trade Representative announced in late July that products from 60 top U.S. trading partners will be tariffed at 10% or 12.5%, depending on whether governments have or have not developed laws meant to combat forced labor. The new tariffs cover 99.4% of all goods imported into the United States, according to the office.

The plaintiffs, represented by the legal advocacy nonprofit Liberty Justice Center, allege the administration exceeded its tariff authority delegated by Congress under the forced labor statute, Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974.

The plaintiffs also argue the tariffs are "arbitrary and capricious" because U.S. trade officials relied on "generalized assertions" that labor policies in 60 economies imposed concrete economic harm to the U.S.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 24 of 68

Trade law expert blasts Trump usage

Ambassador Alan Wm. Wolff, a former trade official who helped draft the forced labor statute and filed a brief in support of the small business plaintiffs, said Section 301 was “designed for sort of a rifle shot of retaliation against a single foreign country doing some particular act that’s been verified.”

Wolff served in the Carter and Ford administrations, and later as a deputy director-general at the World Trade Organization.

“I sat through the executive sessions of the committees that were drafting the statute,” he said. “No one ever conceived of the idea that you could just create a sort of a fake, bogus test for other countries – 60 of them — that none of them could meet.”

Wolff told States Newsroom in an interview Sept. 21 that the statute has never been used in this way.

“If the U.S. was serious about forced labor being dealt with in this fashion ... it would say, ‘Well, we’ll review it every six months, and if you put in a statute that has the following provisions, we would probably lift the tariff,’” he said.

“There’s none of that because the purpose is to have the tariff, not to combat forced labor,” he continued. The Department of Justice declined to comment Monday on ongoing litigation.

The White House and the Office of the United States Trade Representative did not respond Monday.

One tariff after another

The legal challenge on behalf of small business plaintiffs is not the first one to be brought by the Liberty Justice Center, a nonprofit that focuses on “high-impact cases that defend individual liberty and challenge government overreach,” according to its website.

In February, the organization secured a victory against the Trump administration when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the president’s unprecedented executive tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, referred to as IEEPA, were unconstitutional.

The organization won the case on behalf of several small business plaintiffs, ranging from an Illinois-based toymaker and New York-based wine importer, to a Utah-based plastics producer and a Pennsylvania-based fishing gear company, among others.

Almost immediately after the high court struck down his emergency tariffs, Trump imposed a new wide-reaching 10% tariff on global imports under a separate statute – Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974. The statute limited Trump to only 150 days.

The administration concurrently opened sweeping trade practice investigations, including under the Section 301 forced labor statute, on nearly all U.S. trading partners. The government announced its forced labor findings just as the earlier tariffs expired at the 150-day mark.

New duties ‘blatantly pretextual’

Sara Albrecht, the Liberty Justice Center’s CEO, described the administration’s new forced labor tariffs as “blatantly pretextual” to replace duties imposed under Section 122.

“And Section 122 was pretextual for the IEEPA tariff that rolled off this year when he lost at the Supreme Court. So we feel like our job wasn’t done because we struck down the IEEPA tariff, and then the administration just did it again,” Albrecht said.

The organization is again representing small business plaintiffs who allege harm to their bottom line because of the administration’s tariff policy.

Burlap & Barrel, a New York-based company with warehouses in Hagerstown, Maryland, and Las Vegas imports spices from 22 countries. The California-based Collective Horology imports high-end mechanical watches from independent makers in six European nations.

“They are two individual American small businesses that have been swept up in a political kind of debate. We’re arguing this on behalf of every American small business, every American business that is being forced to once again pay illegal tariffs,” Albrecht said.

The organization has asked the Court of International Trade for class status.

“You have to keep in mind that they’re just getting their IEEPA refunds right now, and we’re almost done with that. But they had to start paying Section 122 (tariffs), and then when that stopped, they had to pay

Section 301 (tariffs). So a lot of these businesses are effectively loaning all of their working capital to the U.S. government while we kind of sort this out in court," Albrecht said.

The Liberty Justice Center had also challenged the Section 122 tariffs on behalf of Burlap & Barrel.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is still in the process of refunding roughly \$166 billion worth of tariffs paid by businesses under Trump's IEEPA import charges.

"We're a small nonprofit that is, you know, 12 attorneys trying to again strike down the tariffs, and it would be nice if someone else wanted to jump into the fight," Albrecht said. "So we're doing the best we can, and I think we've done a good job so far."

Prior to the tariff case win, the organization was most well known for its role in successfully arguing before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Janus v. AFSCME*, in which its client Mark Janus challenged public sector unions over paying dues.

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

Trump thwarted in hunt for rare noncitizen voters as midterms near

BY JONATHAN SHORMAN

Five weeks before Election Day, President Donald Trump's sprawling effort to identify and remove noncitizen voters hasn't produced the kind of large purges that could meaningfully affect the midterm elections.

Even a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision giving states access to a supercharged Department of Homeland Security computer program to verify voters' citizenship will have a limited immediate impact, election experts say.

As Republicans fight to retain control of Congress, Trump and his allies have spent the past year aggressively seeking to root out noncitizen voting.

They have called into question the security of the upcoming elections, following the lead of the president, who has long made spurious claims of voter fraud to dismiss unfavorable results.

Those efforts are now colliding with federal law — and the reality long shown by studies and available data that noncitizen voting is rare.

Little impact seen from court ruling

The Supreme Court on Sept. 25 ruled in a 6-3 decision that states can access Homeland Security's SAVE system, which draws upon citizenship information stored across the federal government to scour voter rolls in the hunt for possible noncitizens. A district court judge had blocked the program in June.

But the high court's decision came during a quiet period under the National Voter Registration Act that prohibits most states from conducting mass purges of voters in the 90 days before a federal election.

The timing limits election officials to only searching for information on individual voters, even though Homeland Security has touted SAVE to states as a tool that can quickly scan millions of names.

The Supreme Court's conservative majority acknowledged as much, writing in its unsigned opinion that the quiet period "limits the potential impact" of the court's decision.

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, writing for the court's three liberals, agreed the decision would have minimal short-term effects but argued the possibility of disenfranchising even a few lawful voters outweighed any risk of harm to the government.

David Becker, executive director of the nonpartisan Center for Election Innovation & Research, in a statement emphasized that voters will continue to experience the same safe, secure and reliable voting process this year as in the past.

"This decision will not have any significant impact on the 2026 election, as systematic voter list maintenance is prohibited within 90 days of a federal election, which the Supreme Court explicitly confirmed,"

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 26 of 68

Becker said.

Post-2026

The more significant fallout from the Supreme Court's decision may come in the weeks and months after the election, when states can once again remove large numbers of voters from their rolls.

The Supreme Court is also set to hold oral arguments in December in a case that involves the reach of the National Voter Registration's Act's quiet period — leaving open the possibility the justices could give states more leeway to purge voters ahead of elections.

But for now, the restrictions remain in place.

"Until the Supreme Court says, reinterprets otherwise, the quiet period is still the quiet period," Aaron Blackberg, federal policy counsel at the Institute for Responsive Government, said in an interview.

Separately, a U.S. district court judge on Monday blocked the Trump administration's efforts to require states to use SAVE as a condition of receiving some Federal Emergency Management Agency grants. Judge Amir H. Ali, an appointee of President Joe Biden, wrote that FEMA exceeded its authority in imposing election-related requirements.

Is the data reliable?

SAVE's critics, which include Democrats and privacy advocates, warn that the system relies on incomplete and sometimes outdated data, resulting in false positives. SAVE was previously used to check whether noncitizens were eligible for various government benefits before the Trump administration last year repurposed it into a tool to check citizenship.

When U.S. District Judge Sparkle Sooknunan, a President Joe Biden appointee for a district court based in Washington, D.C., ruled against the program in June, she highlighted sworn declarations by naturalized citizens that Texas had threatened to revoke their voter registrations because of inaccurate Social Security data in SAVE.

"SAVE was never designed to verify citizenship: it relies on outdated and inaccurate data that produces false matches, risks disenfranchising eligible voters, and exposes sensitive personal information to misuse and bad actors," Tim Harper, a project lead focused on elections and democracy at the Center for Democracy & Technology, a nonpartisan organization focused on civil liberties in the digital age, said in a statement.

The Trump administration and some Republicans hail SAVE as a powerful tool to ensure the accuracy of voter rolls and identify noncitizens who shouldn't be registered to vote. They note that its use by states is voluntary.

"It's remarkable that we had to file an emergency petition in the Supreme Court just so we can use government data to stop noncitizens from voting illegally. American elections are for Americans," James Percival, Homeland Security's general counsel, said in a statement.

In an email to States Newsroom, White House spokeswoman Lauren Bis faulted Democrats for not voting for the SAVE America Act, a bill that would require voters to produce documents proving their citizenship before voting. The bill has stalled in the U.S. Senate amid bipartisan opposition.

"The American people overwhelmingly support this commonsense legislation that enacts basic election security measures like voter ID and ensures only Americans are electing America's leaders. President Trump is absolutely right: we fix this now, or we lose our country," Bis said..

How many instances of noncitizen voting?

The Trump administration's intense focus on noncitizen voting — which also includes a legal effort to force states to turn over voter data to the Department of Justice — contrasts with the extremely rare nature of noncitizen voting, according to past studies and election experts.

The U.S. Census in August identified about 24,000 instances of noncitizen voting in the 2020 election out of roughly 160 million votes cast, or 0.015% of all votes. One study of the 2016 election placed the prevalence of noncitizen voting at 0.0001% of votes cast.

But Homeland Security has suggested large numbers of noncitizens may be registered to vote. In July, the department said it had identified over 250,000 potential noncitizens on the voter rolls in California, New Jersey, Nevada and Pennsylvania.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 27 of 68

On Monday, U.S. Senate Democrats in a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin wrote that they couldn't trust those numbers. For instance, DHS initially floated nearly 16,000 possible noncitizen voters in Nevada. In the end, the agency provided state officials with a list of 185 people that officials said were noncitizens. All turned out to be citizens.

"Federal law already prohibits noncitizens from voting in federal elections, and every eligible voter across America has the right to cast a ballot — and should be able to do so without fear of being wrongly purged from the voting rolls," Sen. Dick Durbin, an Illinois Democrat, said in a statement following the Supreme Court's decision.

The alleged scale of potential noncitizen voter registration by Homeland Security also doesn't match the scope of the agency's law enforcement actions. Earlier in September, Homeland Security Investigations, a DHS agency, reported making 160 recent arrests from 1,600 open voter fraud cases.

When noncitizens do end up on voter rolls, administrative errors are sometimes to blame. In July, New Jersey Gov. Mikie Sherrill, a Democrat, announced that a software glitch caused about 6,600 noncitizens to become registered to vote and that about 400 had cast ballots.

And in April, then-Texas Secretary of State Jane Nelson, a Republican, wrote in a letter to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services that some noncitizens had been registered to vote because of a clerical error despite acknowledging on a voter application that they weren't U.S. citizens.

"That is why we urge voter registrars to use all available sources to confirm a person's citizenship status — including SAVE data and other information about the registrant — when they are investigating whether the person is eligible to be a registered voter," Nelson wrote in an email obtained by Democracy Forward, a pro-democracy legal organization.

Jonathan Shorman covers democracy for States Newsroom. Based in Kansas City, his coverage area includes elections and voting rights, fights over state and federal power, civil liberties and more. An alumnus of the University of Kansas, he previously covered politics for The Kansas City Star.

'Dumbfounds us all': Congress struggles with policies rippling from AI development

BY DAVID LIGHTMAN

The challenges and dire threats surrounding the unchecked growth of artificial intelligence appear unlikely to move Congress or President Donald Trump to act as the U.S. Senate enters its last week before the midterms.

The rapid emergence of the technology has sparked a host of policy debates, with some warning of an existential threat to humanity, requiring urgent attention. But the only action Congress could plausibly take before November's elections is a relatively toothless measure aiming to control the massive consumer electricity costs of AI.

"A lot of people are afraid of the dark and change is difficult," said Sen. Jim Justice, R-W.Va. "The amazement of AI just dumbfounds us all."

The Senate is expected to vote Wednesday on a plan to urge states to protect consumers from paying higher electricity costs from data centers. A lot of Democrats are balking at the legislation, which will need the support of 60 senators, saying the plan is weak.

Trump and House Speaker Mike Johnson are scheduled to meet with industry leaders Tuesday at the White House. Trump continues to express wariness of any new AI regulation.

Pew Research Center this summer found 71% worried AI will mean job losses over the next 20 years, up 7 percentage points from two years ago.

"Worry over job loss has shown up throughout our research about AI, including among workers and even teenagers," a Pew analysis said.

With constituents clamoring for clarity, and midterm elections weeks away, it's unclear where all this is

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 28 of 68

eventually headed. Lawmakers are still trying to grasp the nature of the problems.

The simple reason it's been hard to set regulations, says Darrell West, senior fellow at Washington's Brookings Institution, is inertia. The industry has simply never dealt with significant government influence.

"They're dealing with an industry that hasn't been regulated for 25 years and is now very powerful," he said. "It's hard to regulate powerful industries."

'There is no one AI policy debate'

Concern about AI accelerated earlier this month when a former researcher at AI firms Open AI and Anthropic warned that the companies are "gambling with our lives."

An Anthropic colleague then said "We really do earnestly believe AI could kill all humans!" And Anthropic's CEO urged AI developers to slow down.

Lawmakers were quick to express concern. Sen. John Kennedy, R-La., wants a "kill switch" that would require companies to instantly shut off or curb an AI function if things look dangerous.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent from Vermont, and Rep. Greg Casar, D-Texas, are seeking to pause advanced AI development until the federal government establishes a regulator to assure safe, secure progress.

A bipartisan group of senators is pushing hard for export controls, including making it tougher for China and other adversaries to get access to advanced AI.

Sens. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., and Josh Hawley, R-Mo., are seeking a risk evaluation program that would require developers of advanced AI to provide information to the Energy Department before deploying the technology. Hawley is chairing a subcommittee hearing this week on preventing attacks from rogue AI agents.

About all that's getting traction is the Ratepayer Protection Act, which requires state utility commissions to consider ways to curb the electricity costs that data centers can generate.

Though it passed overwhelmingly in the House recently, it faces broad opposition from Senate Democrats as not being tough enough.

Overall, AI debate is proving to be a set of puzzles no one can solve.

"There is no one AI policy debate. There are multiple AI policy debates," said Adam Kovacevich, founder and CEO of Chamber of Progress, a center-left trade organization representing tech firms.

He listed some of the topics: the existential risks of AI, its impact on jobs, chatbots, impacts on children, copyright, fair use.

While little is likely to happen this month, some action is likely in the future. "It wasn't that long ago people had a positive view about technology," said West. "Now sentiment has turned against it. The odds of something getting done are going up substantially."

Why is Washington stuck?

The stalemate over AI stems from at least three factors:

Congress is polarized. For decades, it wasn't unusual for Congress to take big swings to deal with emerging issues and industries.

Most recently, the Dodd-Frank banking law of 2010 provided strong new protections for consumers and helped restrain large financial institutions after the deep recession from 2007 to 2009.

In 1996, as cable television began surging, Congress passed the Telecommunications Act to promote competition in the industry.

But in recent years, such big deals have become elusive in the House and Senate.

"I have often told people as a new senator that if we were healthy as a country, if our politics were healthy, we'd be talking about AI every single day," said Sen. Elissa Slotkin, D-Mich., in an interview.

State regulations vary from place to place.

"The worst case scenario is 50 kinds of state laws. You don't want to write a different algorithm for different states," said West. "Tech firms will want one set of rules."

In Maryland last week, Gov. Wes Moore, a Democrat, set up a task force to look at new data center plans.

In Virginia, where there are more data centers than in any other state, Democratic Gov. Abigail Span-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 29 of 68

berger last week took a major step toward tight regulation of data centers, though she did not propose the moratorium many environmental groups had sought.

On the federal level, even the simplest initiatives are proving tough. Trump has insisted that efforts to control AI are a "hoax," and has resisted any bid to regulate the industry.

"I'm not going to stifle growth of anything that's going to be bigger than the industrial revolution," Trump said last week. He has proposed an AI Force with a top official to lead it, but has offered no specifics.

The Ratepayer Protection Act is Congress' current bid to get companies to pay for the electricity AI generates. While it has strong support, many lawmakers complain that the bill is only a recommendation, not the mandate that's needed.

The bill is a "fraud," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., told reporters. "It's voluntary. No company has to do it."

The industry's Data Center Coalition says consumers won't get hurt.

The coalition "supports the underlying goal of the Ratepayer Protection Act, and we appreciate the bipartisan effort that brought it to the House floor....we welcome the chance to work with the Senate and the Administration to ensure all large-load customers and stakeholders pay their own costs for grid upgrades and related infrastructure," said Michele Nellenbach, the group's vice president of federal affairs.

Competition with China is an issue. There's a risk that if U.S. firms slow development, Chinese technology could surpass them.

Sens. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., and Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., are pushing the Chip Security Act, which would bar advanced American chips from "falling into the hands of China and other countries of concern."

Sen. Jim Banks, R-Ind., is among the senators from both parties who are sponsoring a bill that would ban the export of advanced AI chips to China.

Sens. Andy Kim, D-N.J., and Pete Ricketts, R-Neb., are seeking assurance that China can't get the equipment it needs to make the advanced chips.

Trump said last week that while he's open to talks about AI, he's unworried about any threat from China.

"We're about maybe a year and a half up on China," Trump told Fox News Sunday. "We're leading, and we're building tremendous, trillions of dollars' worth of places. And why should we give that up?"

What's ahead?

People want assurance that AI will be safe, and "they want the United States to continue to be a leader on innovation. The two are not mutually exclusive," Kim told reporters last week.

There is much to learn, said Kennedy.

"It is hard to know precisely what to believe about artificial intelligence. There are some things, it seems to me, that we do know," he said. "We know, for example, that it is a breathtaking technology."

Kennedy tried to get the Senate to vote this month on his kill switch plan. Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., blocked the bill.

Their dialogue on the Senate floor illustrated why it's so difficult to act. Kennedy wanted quick action. Paul wanted reflection.

"When approaching something as important as innovation, as AI, I think we should make sure we have as many facts as possible before we dictate rules for the whole economy," Paul said.

Kennedy was frustrated.

"We are not going to get up off of our ice-cold, lazy butts and address this anytime soon," he said. "It is just not going to happen, and we all know that."

David Lightman has been a reporter or editor for more than 50 years. He's worked for the Hagerstown (Md.) Morning Herald, Riverside (Calif.) Press Enterprise, and then 10 years at the Baltimore Evening Sun, covering local news and, for six years, state government and the legislature. He spent 23 years as the Hartford Courant's Washington Bureau Chief, and 18 years at McClatchy's Washington bureau, where he covered the White House and Congress. He also served as regional editor, supervising the bureau's seven regional reporters. He was president of Washington's Gridiron Club in 2018 and won the David Lynch award for regional reporting in 2007.

Trump administration revokes \$810M approved by Congress for refugee aid and more

BY JENNIFER SHUTT

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration has, once again, infuriated lawmakers from both political parties by using a controversial maneuver to cancel funding previously approved by Congress.

The \$810 million in the “pocket rescission” would have gone to refugee assistance programs at the Department of Health and Human Services, a Treasury Department program that provided “debt forgiveness to foreign countries that make climate change-related investments for coral reefs and tropical forests” and a grant program at the Minority Business Development Agency, among several others.

The decision by the White House budget office to cancel the funding could make it much more difficult for negotiators to reach agreement on the dozen full-year government funding bills later this year.

Those bills cannot become law without bipartisan support, a requirement that’s unlikely to happen if Democrats believe the administration will simply cancel funding they don’t wish to spend.

Collins issues criticism

Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Susan Collins, R-Maine, wrote in a statement released Friday evening, shortly after the White House’s Office of Management and Budget announced the latest pocket rescission, that she sharply disagreed with its tactics.

“This move shows that OMB intentionally withheld these funds for months to execute this unlawful cancellation of appropriations that were approved on a bipartisan basis and signed into law,” Collins wrote. “Not only is the delay itself an impoundment that was not reported to Congress, but also it is a usurpation of Congress’s appropriations powers. OMB is an agency of the executive branch. It does not get to decide which programs are worth funding.”

Collins, who is up for reelection in an increasingly close race, added that she planned to work with other lawmakers “to address these illegal actions.”

Washington state Democratic Sen. Patty Murray, ranking member on the Appropriations Committee, wrote in a statement the pocket rescission represented “theft from the American people, plain and simple.”

“These are funds Congress has delivered on a bipartisan basis and should be helping people—not cut off by a president more focused on building a ballroom than investing in families,” Murray wrote. “Every Republican who voted for these bills should be furious because Vought is saying their votes don’t count.”

Russ Vought runs the Office of Management and Budget, which is supposed to oversee the distribution of federal funding after Congress approves a spending bill.

Government Accountability Office spokesperson Sarah Kaczmarek wrote in a statement shared with States Newsroom that the agency “stands behind its legal position that pocket rescissions are illegal and not authorized by the Impoundment Control Act.” The GAO is a nonpartisan congressional watchdog agency.

The 1974 Impoundment Control Act established the rescissions request process, which allows the administration to legally freeze the funding for 45 days while lawmakers decide whether to approve the request in full, or in part.

If Congress doesn’t take any action during that time, then the administration is supposed to spend the money.

The Trump administration believes that sending the request to lawmakers within the 45 days that precede the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30 allows the administration to revoke the funding, even if Congress doesn’t vote to approve.

Other funding canceled

The Trump administration sent Congress its first pocket rescission in August 2025 when it clawed back \$4.9 billion in funding.

That money was intended for several programs, including international peacekeeping and democracy programs as well as development assistance to other countries.

The Trump administration sent lawmakers a regular rescissions request in June 2025 that called on lawmak-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 31 of 68

ers to revoke \$9.4 billion in funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and foreign aid programs.

Both chambers signed off on canceling \$9 billion after the Senate voted to preserve hundreds of millions of dollars for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR.

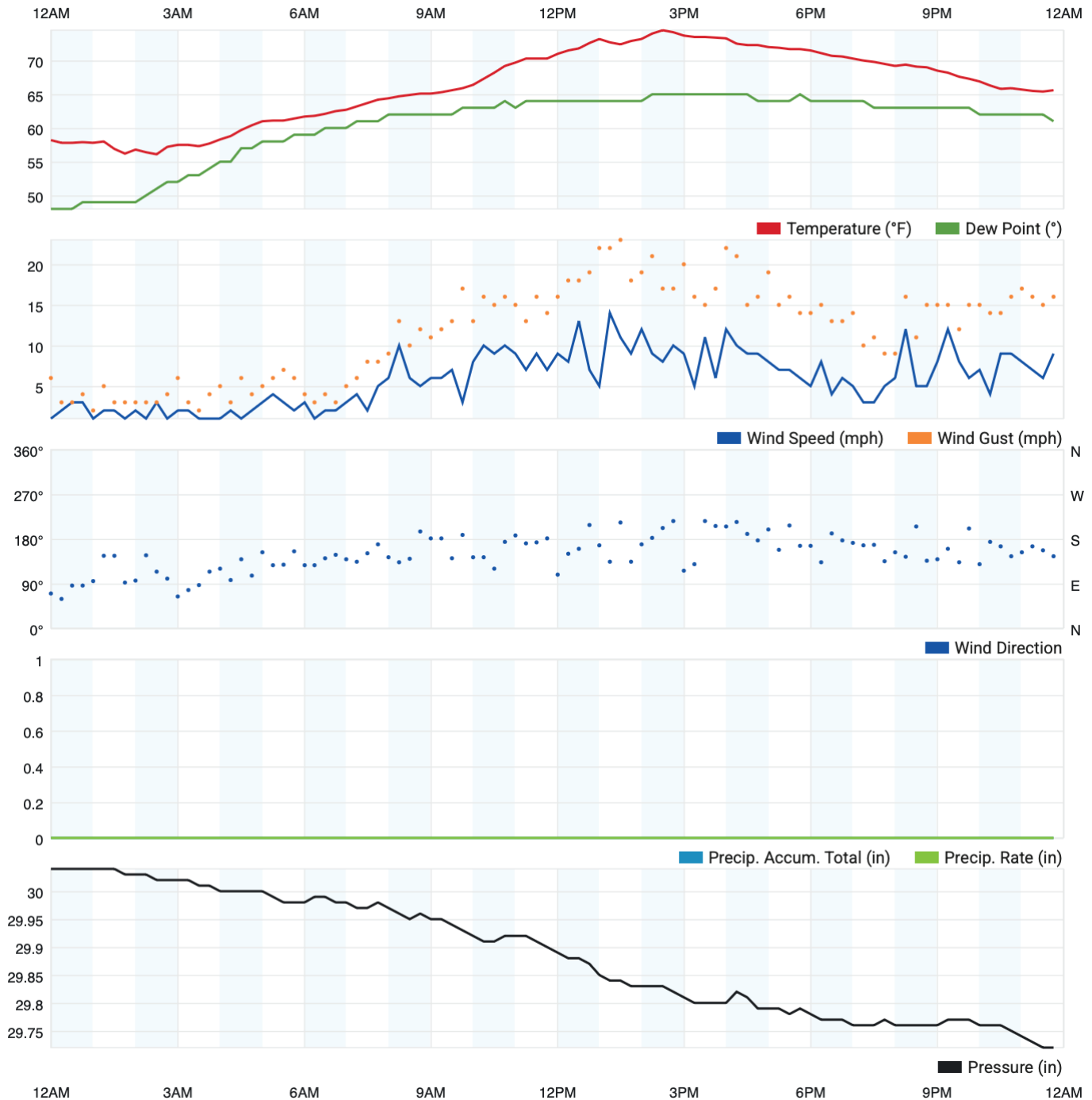
Jennifer covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include congressional policy, politics and legal challenges with a focus on health care, unemployment, housing and aid to families.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 32 of 68

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

September 28, 2026



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 33 of 68

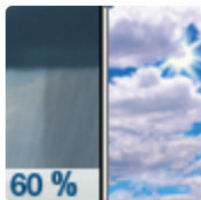
Tuesday

Tuesday Night

Wednesday

Wednesday
Night

Thursday



High: 72 °F

Showers
Likely and
Patchy Fog
then Partly
Sunny



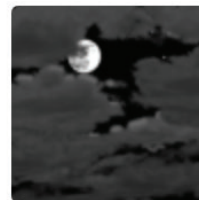
Low: 52 °F

Mostly Clear



High: 75 °F

Mostly Sunny



Low: 49 °F

Mostly Cloudy



High: 64 °F

Mostly Sunny

Morning Rain Showers

69-75°

Light to moderate rain showers with weak, isolated thunderstorms will exit to the east by mid afternoon.



weather.gov/aberdeem
September 29, 2026 3:35 AM

Light to moderate rain with isolated embedded thunderstorms will exit to the east by mid-afternoon. Localized ponding is possible in already saturated areas. Then drier weather is expected for the next couple of days.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 34 of 68

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 74 °F at 2:22 PM

Low Temp: 56 °F at 2:26 AM

Wind: 23 mph at 1:23 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 95 in 1897

Record Low: 11 in 1939

Average High: 69

Average Low: 41

Average Precip in Sept.: 1.92

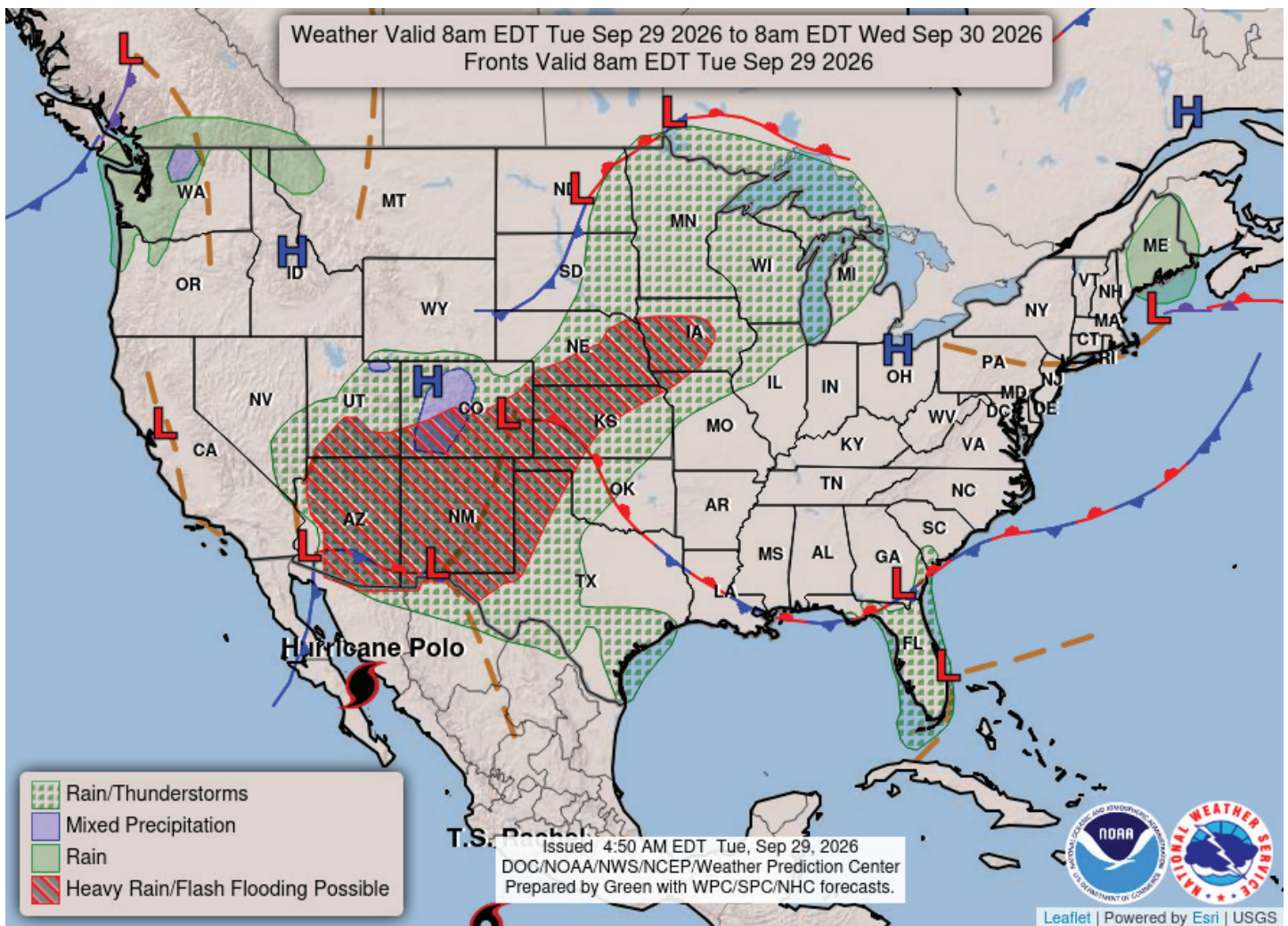
Precip to date in Sept.: 1.88

Average Precip to date: 18.26

Precip Year to Date: 21.74

Sunset Tonight: 7:17 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:29 am



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 35 of 68

Today in Weather History

September 29, 1982: An early snowfall in the Black Hills resulted in the breakage of tree branches and caused power outages in parts of Lead and Nevada Gulch.

1927 — An outbreak of tornadoes from Oklahoma to Indiana caused 81 deaths and 25 million dollars damage. A tornado (possibly two tornadoes) cut an eight-mile long path across Saint Louis MO, to Granite City IL, killing 79 persons. The damage path at times was a mile and a quarter in width. The storm followed a similar path to tornadoes which struck in 1871, 1896, and 1959. (The Weather Channel)

1959 — A storm produced 28 inches of snow at Colorado Springs, CO. (David Ludlum)

1983 — Heavy rains began in central and eastern Arizona which culminated in the worst flood in the history of the state. Eight to ten inch rains across the area caused severe flooding in southeastern Arizona which resulted in thirteen deaths and 178 million dollars damage. President Reagan declared eight counties of Arizona to be disaster areas. (The Weather Channel)

1986 — A week of violent weather began in Oklahoma which culminated in one of the worst flooding events in the history of the state. On the first day of the week early morning thunderstorms caused more than a million dollars damage in south Oklahoma City. Thunderstorms produced 4 to 7 inches of rain from Hobart to Ponca City, and another round of thunderstorms that evening produced 7 to 10 inches of rain in north central and northeastern sections of Oklahoma. (Storm Data)

1987 — A slow moving cold front produced rain from the Great Lakes Region to the Central Gulf Coast Region. A late afternoon thunderstorm produced wind gusts to 62 mph at Buffalo NY. Warm weather continued in the western U.S. In Oregon, the afternoon high of 96 degrees at Medford was a record for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 — High pressure brought freezing temperatures to parts of Vermont and New York State. Burlington VT dipped to 30 degrees, and Binghamton NY reported a record low of 34 degrees. The high pressure system also brought cold weather to the Central Rocky Mountain Region. Alamosa CO reported a record low of 18 degrees, and Gunnison CO was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of just five degrees above zero. (National Weather Summary)

1989 — Seven cities reported record high temperatures for the date, as readings soared into the 80s and low 90s in the Northern Plateau and Northern Plains Region. Record highs included 91 degrees at Boise ID, and 92 degrees at Sheridan WY. The high of 100 degrees at Tucson AZ marked their 51st record high of the year, and their 92nd day of 100 degree weather. (National Weather Summary)



A Partner for Accountability

What are the qualities we should look for in an accountability partner?

Galatians 6:1-10: 1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.
2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.
3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.
4 But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another.
5 For each one will bear his own load.
6 The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him.
7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.
8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.
9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.
10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

It's very helpful to have a trusted, godly friend who can perceive what you can't see when blind spots or weaknesses block your vision. God uses this kind of relationship to promote spiritual growth—someone who genuinely cares for you and watches out for your best interest. An accountability partner should be ...

Godly. A person who walks in the Spirit will offer wisdom rooted in biblical principles (Proverbs 27:17).

Trustworthy. You need to be certain that everything shared will be kept in the strictest confidence.

Accepting. This person must allow you to be yourself, frailties and all, without judgment.

Courageous. A good accountability partner will lovingly confront you with the truth when necessary (Ephesians 4:15).

Forgiving. Trust deepens when mistakes are met with grace instead of stored up as ammunition.

Encouraging. The right partner builds you up rather than tears you down (Ephesians 4:29).

We can all benefit from someone who's able to lovingly say what we need to hear. If you don't already have a blessing like this in your life, ask God to lead you to the right person—and to prepare your heart to be that kind of partner for someone else.

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

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 37 of 68

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Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 38 of 68



WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

09.28.26

2 14 23 27 28 2

TOP PRIZE:

\$1,000,000/year

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 15 Mins 5 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

09.25.26

25 57 58 67 68 16

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$300,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 5 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

09.28.26

7 12 39 45 47 9

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$5,820,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 15 Mins 5 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

09.26.26

10 11 17 29 31

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$70,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 30 Mins 5 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

09.28.26

11 20 26 43 46 18

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 59 Mins 5 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

09.28.26

17 21 29 42 49 7

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$409,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 59 Mins 5 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 39 of 68

News from the Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Dell Rapids St Mary's def. Baltic, 25-15, 25-17, 25-15
Deuel def. Flandreau, 25-20, 25-18, 25-16
Gayville-Volin High School def. Vermillion, 25-17, 24-26, 25-19, 25-10
Hankinson, N.D. def. Sisseton, 25-15, 16-25, 25-20, 25-17
Ipswich def. North Central, 25-20, 25-17, 25-17
Lennox def. Tea, 25-22, 25-16, 25-18
Parkston def. Tri-Valley, 25-13, 20-25, 25-21, 25-22
South Border, N.D. def. Leola-Frederick High School, 25-20, 22-25, 25-23, 25-21
Winner def. White River, 25-18, 25-16, 25-13

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

Officials are looking into a possible new ransom note related to Nancy Guthrie's disappearance

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Authorities are looking into the possibility of a new ransom note related to the disappearance of Nancy Guthrie, nearly eight months after she went missing from her home outside Tucson, the Pima County Sheriff's Department said.

The sheriff's department and the FBI Guthrie Task Force were recently made aware of the possible ransom note as well as social media comments related to it, the statement from the sheriff's department said Monday. Investigators are working to determine its credibility.

Officials did not immediately release details on how they found the note or what was in it.

In July, authorities released two ransom notes initially sent to a Tucson television station days after the mother of "Today" show host Savannah Guthrie went missing on Feb. 1.

The first note, sent Feb. 2, said Nancy Guthrie was safe but scared and would be released unharmed once her captors received \$4 million in cryptocurrency. The second note, sent Feb. 6, said Guthrie died shortly after she was kidnapped. Authorities have not said whether Guthrie is still alive.

No suspects have been arrested in her disappearance. The investigation is dogged by unanswered questions, such as how many people are believed to have taken part in her abduction and whether she was taken by someone who knew her.

The FBI had also released surveillance videos of a masked person who authorities said appeared to tamper with a camera on Nancy Guthrie's front porch and block it with a plant.

Nancy Guthrie's family has shared their pleas for information in videos posted to social media.

Hurricane Polo makes landfall in Baja California with forecast of 'life-threatening' winds

By MARTÍN SILVA REY and MEGAN JANETSKY Associated Press

PUERTO SAN CARLOS, Mexico (AP) — Hurricane Polo made landfall early Tuesday in the Mexican state of Baja California with flash flooding and winds described by forecasters as "life-threatening."

The Category 2 hurricane struck land just south of Las Barrancas, Mexico, about 80 miles (130 kilometers) north of Cabo San Lazaro and about 70 miles (115 kilometers) south of Mulege with maximum sustained winds of 110 mph (175 kph) while moving northeast at 13 mph (20 kph), the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

On Monday, Polo was a Category 3 storm with top sustained winds of 115 mph (185 kph), the hurricane

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 40 of 68

center said. It was expected to produce 6-12 inches (about 15 to 30 centimeters) of rain across parts of Baja California Sur.

Forecasters had predicted Polo would hit the Mexican mainland with life-threatening winds and flash floods expected. It could bring heavy rain and flooding to parts of the U.S. Southwest later in the week.

Meanwhile, the hurricane center reported Tropical Storm Rachel was moving parallel to Mexico's coast early Tuesday. The storm was about 300 miles (485 kilometers) west-southwest of Acapulco and about 315 miles (505 kilometers) south of Manzanillo with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph (95 kph) while moving west-northwest at 12 mph (19 kph).

Hurricane Nolo was still a major hurricane on Monday night, but was edging away from Hawaii.

Baja California peninsula was preparing for Polo

The government of the northern Mexican state of Sonora on Monday night announced it would suspend all "nonessential" activities, including school, sports and non-essential work in the state capital and more than a dozen municipalities.

The Mexican navy said it had personnel ready across the northern Pacific coast and deployed three vessels that could ship aid to coastal communities isolated by Polo. Local authorities along the Baja California Peninsula said they had shelters ready, while travel will be suspended in the area and ports across the region will be closed.

Pacific storm activity greater than normal this season

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

The impact was expected to stretch into the U.S. Southwest, with Arizona, Utah, New Mexico and Texas receiving inches of rain. Arid canyons and rocky expanses with little vegetation are conducive to flash flooding and the tropical weather adds more risk, said Andrew Mangham, senior service hydrologist for the National Weather Service in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

"We're getting caught up here in a very, very short time," Mangham said. "And that's not really what we want. We want nice rains, you know, all summer long."

Floods and mudslides remain a risk in Hawaii

Hurricane Nolo on Monday had moved to about 425 miles (685 kilometers) west-southwest of Honolulu. The storm was about 330 miles (535 kilometers) south-southeast of French Frigate Shoals with maximum sustained winds of 120 mph (195 kph) moving north-northwest at 15 mph (24 kph).

Nolo drenched communities in south and southeastern parts of Hawaii's Big Island over the weekend. Hawaii National Guard members rescued 19 people from flooding over the weekend, the U.S. National Guard said in a post on Facebook.

The hurricane was approaching Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, a marine conservation area, according to the hurricane center, which said the storm could bring dangerous conditions to the area starting Tuesday.

Asian stocks mostly fall after Wall Street sinks and oil prices rise

By CHAN HO-HIM AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — Asian shares mostly fell on Tuesday following Wall Street losses, while U.S. Treasury yields paused their runup after reaching their highest level in roughly two decades.

U.S. futures edged lower, and oil prices climbed over uncertainties over U.S.-Iran talks and the possibility of a reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, a waterway that's crucial for oil transport.

On Monday the S&P 500 slipped 0.8%, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.7%, and the Nasdaq composite dropped 0.9%.

Stocks have been under pressure from rising yields on U.S. Treasuries, with investors looking for higher returns under growing worries about inflation and rising U.S. government debt.

The yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury was at its highest since 2007. It was at around 5.23% early Tues-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 41 of 68

day, after hitting 5.27% Monday, compared with around 5.17% last Friday.

Central banks have been raising rates to help rein in inflation. On Tuesday, Australia's central bank lifted its benchmark rate in its fourth hike this year to the highest level in 15 years. Earlier this month, the U.S. Federal Reserve raised rates for the first time in three years, and the Bank of Japan also raised rates to the highest in 31 years.

Already high oil prices, which contributed to inflation, went up early Tuesday, even as mediators continued to work with the U.S. and Iran on reaching a deal. U.S. President Donald Trump over the weekend had rejected an offer from Tehran in reopening the Strait of Hormuz.

Brent crude, the international standard, gained 1.4% to \$99.16 per barrel, well above the roughly \$72 a barrel level in late February before the Iran war.

Japan's Nikkei 225 lost 0.6% to 65,481.27. South Korea's Kospi declined 0.3% to 6,870.81. Hong Kong's Hang Seng dropped 0.4% to 24,543.41. Hong Kong-traded shares of Shein fell more than 12%, after the fast-fashion online retail company reported its adjusted net profit for the latest quarter fell 67% from the year before.

The Shanghai Composite index was up 0.2% to 3,830.45 following a report from China's official Xinhua News Agency late Monday that its State Council discussed "improving the effectiveness" of macro policies to help boost its economy.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 edged up 0.3% to 8,709.30.

Taiwan's Taiex was 0.8% lower, while India's Sensex fell 0.6%.

The U.S. dollar rose to 157.42 Japanese yen from 157.39 yen. The euro was trading at \$1.1358, down from \$1.1371.

Pope Leo wraps up France trip by urging Europe to blunt 'desire for domination' driving today's wars

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

METZ, France (AP) — Pope Leo XIV urged Europe on Monday to draw from its Christian roots and tradition of dialogue to blunt the "desire for domination" driving today's wars, as he wrapped up a visit to France by recalling the forces that contributed to the continent's peaceful integration.

Leo traveled to the eastern city of Metz, near the border with Luxembourg and Germany, to honor Robert Schuman, a French Catholic statesman regarded as one of the founding fathers of European unity after World War II.

Leo decided to end his four-day visit to France in Metz, at a conference center named for Schuman, to drive home his appeal. The American pope wants Europe to draw from its Christian foundations and traditions to respond to wars and other conflicts, including Russia's war in Ukraine, and the challenges of migration.

"Over the past 80 years, Europe has amply demonstrated that it is possible to articulate divergent opinions, claims and interests through encounter rather than conflict," he said.

"We need to commit ourselves to patient dialogue, to show courage in negotiation and to be willing to give up some positions for the greater good of peace," he said, without naming specific conflicts or positions.

Élysée Palace, the French presidential office, had invited all European Union heads of state and the heads of European institutions to attend the conference. But only a handful, from smaller states such as Monaco, Andorra and Luxembourg, joined President Emmanuel Macron.

Huge crowds and a military escort

Leo's visit to the once staunchly Catholic and officially secular France has been marked by his appeal for Europe to remember its Christian heritage and apply it to today's ethical and geopolitical challenges.

It has also been marked by huge crowds at nearly every turn — 800,000 attended Leo's Mass on Paris' iconic Place de la Concorde — surprising even organizers and suggesting that the Catholic Church still has a place in an overwhelmingly secular public square.

On Monday morning, Leo's Air France charter received a military escort of two French fighter jets for

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 42 of 68

the flight from Lourdes to Metz in a sign of respect. Macron tweeted a photo of Leo's plane taken by one of the jets while in flight, writing "Welcome to Metz, Most Holy Father."

Macron joined Leo on stage at the Schuman event, vowing "unfailing" European support for Ukraine and noting that the country is among those aspiring to join the EU and a "space of peace, security, democracy and prosperity."

"War has come back to our continent and our Europe is rocked by the return of empires," Macron said. "To guarantee real sovereignty, we must therefore act, act firstly to preserve our security and our values."

In his final event in France, Leo celebrated Mass in the cathedral of St. Stephen in Metz, a city with a long history of conflict that was part of Nazi Germany during the war.

The cathedral, finished in 1522, is one of the greatest examples of French Gothic style, with its soaring vaults and stained-glass windows, some of which were later designed by Marc Chagall, a 20th-century Jewish artist.

In his homily, Leo said that Metz and its surroundings experienced evil, but now "bear witness to the whole world that reconciliation is only possible when one has the courage to break the chains of resentment."

The cathedral's stained-glass windows, designed by a Jew, are "an extraordinary symbol of ecumenism and interreligious dialogue," where God's light unites "different histories and cultures into a single marvelous mosaic of peace."

"As we contemplate these stained-glass windows, we learn that Europe's future does not lie in uniformity, but in the harmony of differences, where the wounds of the past become openings through which light shines," he said.

The colored glass has given the cathedral the nickname the "Lanterne du Bon Dieu," or "The Good Lord's Lantern."

As they did in Paris during Saturday's Mass along the Champs-Élysées, priests in Metz set up makeshift confession stands on the streets to accommodate the faithful who packed the squares around the cathedral.

The Vatican estimated that 35,000 people had turned out. Macron changed his schedule at the last minute to attend and sat in the front row.

A statesman who promoted dialogue among rivals

Schuman is best known for the Schuman Declaration of 1950, five years after World War II ended. It proposed the creation of a European Coal and Steel Community to pool production between historic rivals France and Germany.

The idea, as Europe was emerging from the ruins of the war, was guided by the belief that intertwined economic interests would make another conflict between them "not merely unthinkable, but materially impossible."

The coal and steel organization was the first among European institutions that were precursors to what eventually became the European Union.

Schuman, a resistance fighter imprisoned by the Nazis, was declared "venerable" in 2021, a step in the Catholic Church's process toward possible sainthood.

Leo praised especially Schuman's respect for international law in pursuing his idea of peaceful integration. It was an indirect reference to how Russia's invasion of Ukraine, as well as U.S. military incursions in Venezuela and the Iran war, have taken place outside the international legal order.

Leo said international law and multilateralism "constitute the best antidote to the desire for domination, which lies at the root of every conflict."

He lamented that in its place, relations today between states are becoming "increasingly uncivilized."

"The value of keeping one's word is dismissed; instead, people boast of lies and deceit," he said.

Asked if Leo had crossed a line and entered into the European political debate, the Vatican's foreign minister, Archbishop Paul Gallagher, said that the pope was just preaching Catholic morals.

"He spoke about morality, ethics and the principles of the Church's moral teaching. If anyone wants to draw political conclusions, they are free to do so," Gallagher said.

News organizations ask court to bar White House enforcement of access ban until case is resolved

By JOCELYN NOVECK AP National Writer

Three news outlets that President Donald Trump abruptly banished from White House grounds this month asked a federal court to block the ban until the case is resolved, saying the administration has “persisted in unpredictably and inconsistently implementing its ban” despite a judge’s restraining order — including selectively barring CNN from White House pool duties.

“The White House’s words and actions leave little doubt that it will immediately reinstitute a complete ban of CNN, MS NOW, and POLITICO if allowed the opportunity,” lawyers for CNN, MS NOW and Politico wrote in a filing late Monday.

“Because the ban is an unlawful assault on the most fundamental First Amendment freedoms and will inflict irreparable harm on Plaintiffs and the public if not restrained, this Court should preliminarily enjoin its enforcement pending the resolution of this case,” the filing said.

It was the latest development in the back-and-forth saga of the Trump administration and the news media during the second term of his presidency. It has been a contentious relationship that has raised multiple First Amendment questions, produced sanctions and restrictions on White House and Pentagon reporters and led to several lawsuits that are winding their ways through the federal court system.

A two-week temporary restraining order on Trump’s ban of the three organizations, issued by U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly last week, restored the outlets’ White House access, but expires Oct. 8. The preliminary injunction requested in Monday’s filing would extend the White House access until the case is finally resolved.

In a statement emailed to The Associated Press immediately after the filing, the lead attorney for the three news outlets called the ban “a blatant violation of the First Amendment and due process.”

“The president and his administration have continued to make clear that this ban has only one purpose: to punish reporting he doesn’t like,” said the lawyer, Theodore J. Boutrous Jr.

“That’s retaliation and viewpoint discrimination, pure and simple,” Boutrous said. “With the district court’s temporary restraining order expiring this week, it is critical to ensure that the White House continues to be prevented from implementing this unconstitutional ban on the free press.”

The White House still says access is a privilege, not a right

The filing came a day after the Trump administration made clear it was not backing down from its contention that the sudden ban, which began Sept. 19, was justified.

“When it comes to the White House, it is the people’s house,” Attorney General Todd Blanche said on ABC on Sunday, invoking an argument the administration has made since the beginning. “It is a privilege, and not a right, to be there.”

Monday’s 42-page filing reiterated many of the arguments that the news outlets made in their original lawsuit against Trump and the White House, filed two days after the reporters were banned.

It also added mention of the White House broadcast pool rotation, which has become a battleground in the last few days in the standoff between Trump and the media.

The White House, it said, “has persisted in unpredictably and inconsistently implementing its ban, including by barring CNN from fulfilling its role as designated television network pooler on Sept. 26 — to the detriment of CNN, its fellow pool members and, ultimately, the American public.”

When the ban was implemented, CNN was removed from its duties as part of the broadcast pool, which consists of the five main networks: CNN, ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox News. In solidarity, the other networks decided to suspend the pool until CNN was allowed back in.

On Friday, CNN was allowed to cover the president with Chinese leader Xi Jinping at the National Archives. But in a new setback Saturday, the White House banned the network from Air Force One, preventing it from covering Trump’s trip to a college football game in Tennessee. The rest of the pool declined to provide a replacement, in solidarity with CNN.

Blanche defended that decision, too. “The president has every right to decide who gets to fly on his

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 44 of 68

plane," he said in the Sunday interview. He added that Trump was "sick and tired of certain media outlets just refusing to report accurate news." He added that news coverage he described as "misinformation" amounted to a national security issue.

"That is what is a national security problem, when you have complete misinformation coming out of the White House," he said.

Kelly threw cold water on that argument in his ruling last week granting the temporary restraining order against the White House ban. "The court is skeptical ... that defendants' interest in safeguarding national security is the actual motivation" for removal of access, Kelly wrote.

His ruling did not directly address the TV pool rotation. In the new filing, the plaintiffs describe the important function the pool provides and makes the case that it's an important part of the regular access to the president, and his activities, that the media has traditionally had — and must be restored.

It singles out the Air Force One case. "CNN received no official communication from the White House explaining its exclusion," the filing says. "Because CNN was excluded and no replacement designated, no primary television network pooler accompanied the President on the trip."

Pool access issue has presented networks with tough choices

For now, networks in the pool have decided to address the ongoing standoff on a case-by-case basis, according to a person familiar with the pool's operation, speaking on condition of anonymity to give details of ongoing discussions.

On Sunday, Fox covered a pool event; on Monday, NBC was covering the president in the Oval Office. CNN is not in the rotation until Thursday. If the network is again barred from a pool event, the networks will decide together, presumably based on the newsworthiness of the situation, whether to provide a replacement or to refrain from coverage as they did previously.

The issues at stake are difficult. On the one hand, the networks want to take a stand on behalf of press freedom and against efforts to intimidate coverage. On the other, media outlets have an obvious purpose of providing news to their audiences.

"There are not a lot of good options," said David A. Schulz, director of the Media Freedom and Information Access Clinic at Yale Law School.

Should the White House continue to bar CNN, Schulz said, networks may choose "to exert their market power and say, 'We're not going to play ball with you.'"

The question, Schulz added, is: "Who's going to back down first?"

The networks "may well feel like they're between a rock and a hard place," noted RonNell Andersen Jones, a law professor at the University of Utah.

"Capitulation might be perceived as abandonment of core components of press freedom," Andersen Jones said. "But the practicalities of lengthy White House news blackouts are also complicated, and refusing to cover major news at the highest levels of government might itself feel like a failure to serve the goals of democracy."

GOP doubts about Georgia and North Carolina have Republicans shifting focus in battle for Senate

By THOMAS BEAUMONT, BILL BARROW and STEVEN SLOAN Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Republicans once saw Georgia and North Carolina as promising pieces of their strategy to keep control of the Senate. But hopes of winning the two states have been fading, and the GOP is increasingly focused on playing defense elsewhere with five weeks until the midterm elections.

Republicans haven't abandoned the Southern battlegrounds, which President Donald Trump carried narrowly in 2024, though they are shifting greater resources to states they see as more competitive. The party now is spending heavily to defend reliably Republican Texas, and Trump is planning to campaign for the Republican incumbent in Ohio, both places the president won easily in 2024.

Some Republicans also have become more vocal in their complaining that Trump has squandered an opportunity to more comfortably hold off Democrats this fall. Among their grievances, they say the presi-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 45 of 68

dent failed to bring the unpopular war in Iran to a close, has dismissed the pinch of high fuel prices and engaged late in the midterm campaigns.

And though Democrats must still win several seats Republicans hold to win back the majority, the GOP is looking more at protecting seats they already hold than picking up Georgia, and they are signaling serious problems in North Carolina.

"There is a Republican turnout problem due to the administration's failure to address the economic concerns of voters," North Carolina Republican strategist Paul Shoemaker said of the state's U.S. Senate race.

GOP Senate leaders look beyond Georgia

Republican Senate campaign leaders are looking past Georgia businessman Mike Collins' challenge of first-term Democratic Sen. Jon Ossoff to states they viewed as more competitive to focus future spending, according to two Republican Senate campaign sources familiar with Senate leadership's thinking. The sources spoke on condition of anonymity to share internal discussions.

Ossoff has swamped the successful trucking company executive in fundraising. Collins has also struggled to broaden his support beyond Georgia's Republican base.

Despite Senate Majority Leader John Thune's two-day campaign and fundraising trip to Georgia this month, some local party leaders were publicly pessimistic.

"He just doesn't have what it takes to beat Ossoff," said Tim Waters, Peach County Republican Party chair. "It's hard enough trying to beat an incumbent, and you have the president of the same party in a tough midterm, right? I don't think he's got much of a shot."

Republicans had viewed Georgia early in the 2026 campaign as a potential firewall, should Democrats win in a critical number of states where Republican seats are on the ballot. Democrats must win a net of four seats to win back the majority.

But Ossoff has already spent \$57 million in advertising and had \$13 million reserved through the election, according to the ad-tracking firm AdImpact. And while outside groups aligned with Collins had spent more than \$52 million, AdImpact shows, Collins' campaign confirmed it had no advertising time immediately reserved.

Tillis is among the NC Republicans warning about Senate race

Retiring Republican North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis stopped short of suggesting GOP candidate Michael Whatley's chances of holding the seat for the party had vanished, but implied it was time to take a hard look at how long to continue spending heavily against Democratic former two-term Gov. Roy Cooper.

"We've got to place our bets on the candidates that are the best run, either ahead or within striking distance," Tillis told reporters Monday in the Capitol. "You've got to change your posture going into the last — we've got 36 days."

Whatley, a former Republican National Committee chairman, has been a darling of Trump, who campaigned for him this month. But enthusiasm for Trump seems to have fallen even with a number of Republicans who voted for him, said Shoemaker, a Tillis adviser. Trump narrowly won North Carolina in 2024.

"The blue-collar, working-class voters that Donald Trump brought to the Republican Party is the one that's being most impacted by higher energy prices, and it's dampened their enthusiasm to turn out and vote," Shoemaker said.

Senate Leadership Fund, the Senate GOP's leadership super PAC, had \$19.5 million in advertising booked in North Carolina, having spent \$30.4 million to date.

"Do I think Roy Cooper is going to win the race? I absolutely do," said Michele Woodhouse, former Republican chair for North Carolina's 11th Congressional District and a devout Trump supporter.

"Roy Cooper, for Republicans, is the worst Democrat candidate who could be running for this seat," Woodhouse said. "He's never lost in a statewide race. He's very popular."

Senate GOP PAC spends heavily in Texas as Trump heads for Ohio

In Texas, where Democrats have not won a Senate election since 1988, Republicans' Senate Leadership Fund is spending more than it is in any of the states it set out to defend early in the year. The group this month pumped more than \$100 million into advertising in Texas to back up state Attorney General Ken

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 46 of 68

Paxton, who faces Democratic state Rep. James Talarico in a race viewed as very competitive.

Trump endorsed Paxton over four-term incumbent Republican Sen. John Cornyn in the GOP primary. GOP campaign leaders considered Paxton a potential drain on Republican resources because he has for years faced legal, ethical and personal questions. They include a felony indictment, impeachment charges and extramarital affairs, though Paxton was never convicted.

Senate GOP leaders had suggested Trump's super PAC, MAGA Inc., would carry a good portion of the advertising load after Paxton beat Cornyn in the May GOP Senate runoff. Neither the National Republican Senatorial Committee nor SLF had included spending on Texas in its midterm budget.

As of Monday, MAGA Inc., has committed more than \$20 million to ads supporting Paxton so far this month, compared with the \$124 million from SLF.

Should Democrats win North Carolina and Texas, they would only need to win two of the remaining competitive Republican-held seats — in Alaska, Iowa, Maine and Ohio — as well as hold competitive Democratic-held seats in Georgia, Michigan and New Hampshire to capture the majority.

Trump plans to visit Ohio on Saturday to support Sen. Jon Husted as the Republican tries to fend off a competitive challenge from Democratic former Sen. Sherrod Brown. The president plans to campaign with Husted in Vandalia, near Dayton in southwest Ohio.

Senate Republican campaign leaders have complained that spiking gas prices, a result of the seven-month-long war with Iran, are among the issues weighing against candidates that Trump has exacerbated.

Campaigning with Whatley last week, Trump called higher fuel prices "a very inexpensive price to pay" for preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. Though gas prices are near historic highs, they are still below the nationwide record set in 2022.

It's prompted some candidates, such as Iowa's GOP Senate nominee, Rep. Ashley Hinson, to speak out. "Iowans are being squeezed and shouldn't have to foot the bill at the pump or the checkout line for the war in Iran," she said last week.

South Dakota Sen. Mike Rounds dismissed that the Republican majority was slipping away, but suggested senators needed to act on fuel prices.

"We have to stay focused on the fact that we know that gas prices are too high, and diesel is way too high," the Republican said.

From motorcycles to booze, US ban on \$1 billion worth of Canadian imports goes into effect

By PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S.-Canada relations, already tense, are likely to deteriorate further after the United States went ahead early Tuesday with a decision to ban nearly \$1 billion worth of Canadian imports, including alcoholic beverages, dairy products and motorcycles.

The ban amounts to barely a ripple in \$880 billion worth of a two-way annual trade between the two northern neighbors. But it marks another ratcheting up of President Donald Trump's second-term trade war with America's longtime ally and trading partner.

The import ban "certainly won't do anything to help the trade tensions between the United States and Canada," said trade attorney Patrick Childress, a partner at Holland & Knight and a former U.S. trade official.

The latest sparring began over the summer when Trump reached back to a Great Depression law to impose 50% tariffs on about \$20 billion worth of Canadian imports, charging that Canada discriminates against U.S. dairy, auto and alcoholic beverage producers. Canada promptly counterpunched with tariffs of 15%, 25% or 50%, matching U.S. imports dollar for dollar.

To punish Canada for retaliating against his tariffs, Trump decided to ban a list of Canadian products, effective 12:01 a.m. Eastern time Tuesday.

The economic impact is likely to be minimal. Childress noted that the products on the banned list were already facing Trump's tariffs. "For a lot of these goods, the 50% was already acting as a de facto ban by making importation from Canada into the United States uneconomical," he said.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 47 of 68

Jacob Jensen, director of trade policy at the center-right American Action Forum think tank, calculates that the ban would cover \$967 million worth of Canadian imports, based on 2025 numbers. Of that, 87% would be alcoholic beverages that the U.S. targeted because of some Canadian provinces responding to Trump's provocations by banning U.S. booze from store shelves.

Also banned are some dairy products — including the milk byproduct whey. The two countries have long clashed over Canada's attempts to protect its dairy industry from foreign competition by imposing hefty tariffs once dairy imports have exceeded a quota.

The ban also covers motorcycles. Bombardier Recreational Products (BRP) in Quebec confirmed that its three-wheel Can-Am Spyder and Canyon motorcycles "will be excluded from importation into the U.S." But BRP said the impact likely won't be felt until next year because it has completed most production and shipments for the current season.

"This marks yet another escalation in the trade war that may result in further retaliation on the Canadian side," Jensen said. He expects Canadian exporters and U.S. importers "impacted by these bans will be highly motivated" to demand that trade officials on both sides find some way to reach a "resolution of this whole ordeal."

The impasse imperils efforts to renew the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement, a North American trade pact Trump pressured America's neighbors into accepting in his first term and which he once declared "the most modern, up-to-date, and balanced trade agreement in the history of our country."

The deal allowed most goods to cross North American borders duty free. But since returning to the White House last year, Trump has announced a series of tariffs that have clouded the future of trade in the region.

Trump has directed most of his ire at Canada. He is openly seeking to pull Canadian manufacturing south. And he has inflamed public opinion in Canada by repeatedly suggesting that the country become America's 51st state.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney came to power last year on a promise to stand up to Trump. In addition to retaliating against Trump tariffs — China is the only other country to do so, with very different results — Carney has sought to reduce Canada's reliance on the United States, which last year accounted for more than 70% of Canadian exports.

"There is now a price to be paid for access to the United States market," Carney said earlier this month. The Canadian prime minister wants to double Canada's non-U.S. trade over the next decade.

Carney has embraced the prospect of Canada becoming the European Union's first associate member. And he said last week that trade negotiations with India are making "good progress" and that the two countries are aiming to conclude talks by the G20 summit in mid-December.

Carney also broke with the U.S. earlier this year, striking a deal with China to allow a limited number of Chinese electric vehicles into Canada at a sharply reduced tariff in exchange for China lowering tariffs on Canadian canola.

"We take note of the coming into force of the Administration's previously announced trade measures," said Gabriel Brunet, a spokesman for Canada-U.S. Trade Minister Dominic LeBlanc. "Our first priority remains on protecting and supporting Canadian workers, farmers, families, and businesses from these unjustified actions. Our core focus is on what we can control: building strength at home, diversifying our partnerships abroad, and building Canada strong for all Canadians."

Trump expressed confidence that the Canadians would cave in.

"They're gonna come in and they're gonna say, 'Sir, we are sorry,'" he told reporters Monday. "They've treated the United States very, very badly. I think a deal will be made but it's gonna be fair."

Trade attorney Childress said the standoff is likely to continue for months, not weeks. The import bans and the tariffs so far "probably won't cause enough economic upheaval to force either party back to the negotiating table," he said.

Lindsay Clancy set to return to court for first time since murder trial ended with deadlocked jury

By MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

PLYMOUTH, Mass. (AP) — Lindsay Clancy is set to return to court Tuesday for a hearing that could help decide whether she will face a second trial in the killings of her three children.

It will be Clancy's first return to the courthouse since her first trial ended Sept. 4 with a deadlocked jury. A judge declared a mistrial with the jury split 11 to 1 in favor of acquitting Clancy of murder charges.

Clancy, a former labor and delivery nurse, never disputed that she killed the children, but her attorney said she had a rare condition called postpartum psychosis and was delusional and not responsible for her actions.

Prosecutors acknowledged that Clancy had mental health problems that included months of treatment and a stay in a psychiatric hospital, but argued that she knew what she was doing when she strangled the children then tried to kill herself in 2023.

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

Clancy's attorneys have filed several motions that could be addressed Tuesday.

They have asked the judge to take the unusual step of dismissing the criminal case, rather than putting on a new trial. Among other things, they have argued that the judge should have ousted the one juror who favored a murder conviction after the jury foreperson complained he was refusing to listen to the law on reasonable doubt.

The defense has also asked the judge to investigate the juror's truthfulness on a questionnaire that prospective jurors filled out before the trial began, his truthfulness when jurors were questioned by the judge a day before the trial ended and also whether he broke court rules by using a cellphone during deliberations.

Tuesday's hearing could also reveal whether prosecutors will move to put Clancy on trial for a second time. Prosecutors can choose to retry her on first-degree murder charges or seek to try her only on lesser charges, including second-degree murder or manslaughter, or drop the case entirely.

After the mistrial was declared, Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy Cruz told reporters his goal was always "getting justice for those three little babies."

Prosecutors said Clancy acted deliberately when she strangled 5-year-old Cora, 3-year-old Dawson and 8-month-old Callan Clancy with exercise bands. They said she contrived to get her husband out of the house on Jan. 24, 2023, by sending him to pick up medicine for one of their children and dinner for the family.

The livestreamed trial generated intense public interest and drew attention to maternal mental health after childbirth.

Clancy's lawyer said she should not be held criminally responsible because of her postpartum psychosis, a rare mental illness linked to the stress, sleep deprivation and hormonal changes that follow childbirth.

Clancy remains charged with murder and is expected to stay at a psychiatric hospital until her case is resolved. She is paralyzed from the waist down since jumping from a second-story window after strangling her children.

Clancy could have been sentenced to life in prison if convicted of murder. If acquitted, the judge could have ordered her confined to a mental health facility.

Mediators are working to broker a US-Iran deal, but major hurdles remain

By SAMY MAGDY, MICHELLE L. PRICE and MATTHEW LEE Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Mediators are working with Iran and the United States on trying to broker a deal to end the fighting and open the Strait of Hormuz, three regional officials and two U.S. officials told The Associated Press, but major hurdles remain between the sides.

The indirect talks come as the conflict, which is entering its eighth month, has caused global economic damage and badly battered Iran. Multiple efforts to allow safe shipping on one of the world's most crucial waterways have failed.

The officials divulged that the behind-the-scenes efforts continue even after U.S. President Donald Trump initially said he spurned an Iranian proposal to reopen the strait in a week if the U.S. agreed to lift its blockade of Iranian ports, release frozen Iranian assets and waive sanctions on Iranian oil sales, among other conditions.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi — who stayed in New York after last week's gathering of world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly — will meet with Qatari mediators Monday about the latest discussions, Iranian state media reported Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei as saying.

Despite Trump's often bellicose rhetoric, he is open to pursuing a non-military resolution to the conflict if one can be achieved, a senior U.S. official said.

But the Trump administration will not reach a deal with Tehran until nuclear issues are addressed, another U.S. official said. Trump is willing to grant sanctions relief to Iran, along with the release of some frozen funds, for concrete progress on nuclear issues, and while Iran has indicated it is flexible on nuclear issues, the sides are far apart on timing and which side makes the first moves, the official said.

All the officials were not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity about the behind-the-scenes diplomatic negotiations.

The deal would first reopen the strait and lift the US blockade

Two of the regional officials speaking to the AP confirmed that mediators are working with both sides on a proposal that would include reopening the strait and lifting the U.S. blockade, and then removing sanctions.

According to the draft text being discussed, the strait would reopen in accordance with a separate deal that Iran has been discussing with Oman, on the other side of the strait, and it would include no tolls — something Tehran has pursued. That deal seeks to temporarily manage shipping traffic on what was seen as an international waterway before the war.

One regional official said the U.S. is seeking Iranian concessions on nuclear issues that include allowing inspectors to enter the country. Under the memorandum of understanding the two sides signed in June that collapsed within days, Iran's nuclear program was meant to be discussed over a 60-day period.

The U.S. officials say the United States is skeptical about whether Iran can be persuaded to ultimately reach Trump's conditions for a deal and would be serious about any promises it makes, especially after it broke the interim deal by firing on commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz.

U.S. officials feel their position is getting stronger as Tehran feels the impact of sanctions.

Iran's latest proposal seeks faster action

While Iran's latest proposal echoes the June deal, a key difference is speed.

Araghchi told a closed-door meeting on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly last week that Tehran had pitched the deal as benefiting Trump in the midterm elections. Araghchi later told journalists that "the seven-day timeline will start as soon as the United States accepts this plan."

Meanwhile, Araghchi met Monday with U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres, whose office said he welcomed diplomatic efforts in the last week to end the conflict and urged the parties to keep talking.

Both the U.S. and Iran have been hurting economically — the U.S. from high oil prices as Iran attacks ships on the strait, and Tehran from the naval blockade and a growing number of U.S. sanctions that bottle

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 50 of 68

up its oil sales. Brent crude, the international standard, is above \$108.

For months, the two sides have been trying to outlast the other, while regional countries endure missile and drone attacks as Tehran claims to target U.S. military assets in the region.

Reflecting Iran's impatience, a rare statement on Monday attributed to the theocracy's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei noted the "painful blows" that enemy forces have received near the strait. "Before long, the Arabian Sea, too, will be rid of them," the statement added.

Tehran's latest proposal again sought to end the fighting on all fronts, including in Lebanon. But a new front has emerged in recent weeks as Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen are now perched on another crucial waterway, the Bab el-Mandeb Strait at the southern entrance to the Red Sea. That has further pressured global energy markets.

Iran argues that the Houthis have their own demands, and that their conflict with neighboring Saudi Arabia is separate from the U.S.-Iran war, but Iranian officials said they are willing to help in finding a settlement between the Houthis and the Saudis, one of the officials said.

Prosecutor reopens probe into Cornell gang rape allegations after accuser files lawsuit

By DAVE COLLINS and JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

A New York prosecutor has reopened an investigation into gang rape allegations at a Cornell University fraternity in response to a lawsuit filed by a woman who says she was sexually assaulted in 2024 by seven students after being plied with alcohol and drugs.

Tompkins County District Attorney Matthew Van Houten said Monday that his office will present evidence to a grand jury as he faces questions from the public about why there were no criminal prosecutions in the case.

The woman, identified only by a pseudonym in the lawsuit, filed the complaint Sept. 16, saying she was sexually assaulted at the Chi Phi fraternity house on the Ivy League campus in October 2024 after being pressured into snorting ketamine, smoking marijuana and drinking alcohol. She became completely incapacitated while frat members were sexually assaulting her, the lawsuit alleges.

The lawsuit, the reopening of the investigation and Cornell's response have sparked a flood of commentary on social media. Many people have criticized the school and the district attorney's office in their posts, while some have expressed doubt about the lawsuit's allegations. Some posted photos of the seven fraternity members.

The accuser is suing the men, the Chi Phi fraternity, the university, an Ithaca bar and others, seeking undisclosed damages. Her attorney did not immediately respond Monday to messages seeking comment on the prosecutor's decision.

The woman went to campus police at the time, but Van Houten said the accuser did not make any claims of being gang-raped or drugged in her initial sworn statement to authorities. The prosecutor also said he was never contacted by the woman's attorney about her statement or about reconsidering the decision not to prosecute, but he reached out to the attorney recently.

"Seeking justice sometimes requires us to reconsider or reopen cases when we are provided with additional evidence," Van Houten said in a statement. "I have been asked by the community to revisit the decision whether to pursue criminal charges against the seven fraternity members. I have already begun that process, starting with our conversation with Jane Doe and her attorneys."

Cornell responds to criticism about its handling of the allegations

The university said in a statement that it supports the decision to reopen the investigation. The school said it conducted its own investigation and issued sanctions, including expelling some students and suspending others. It also said the on-campus Chi Phi chapter was closed in 2024 and remains barred from campus.

School officials on Monday declined to release more information on the sanctions, including how many students were expelled and suspended. Cornell said last week that federal privacy law barred it from disclosing specific information on individual students.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 51 of 68

"Any suggestion that the university did not impose consequential punishments for those involved is false," the university said. "A continuation of the false narrative that there were minimal consequences in this case is irresponsible, will make survivors feel less safe and supported, and will perpetuate the under-reporting of sexual assault."

The national chapter of Chi Phi did not return phone and email messages Monday.

The school said it conducted an internal disciplinary investigation in 2024. It said a panel of trained faculty and staff heard evidence over multiple days, and both the woman and the people accused had the opportunity to testify and present evidence.

Lawsuit alleges student was sexually assaulted during a night of celebrating

The woman's complaint accuses the university of not preventing the alleged assaults and failing to properly address sexual violence on campus. It includes a photo that it says shows a group chat between frat members discussing the night's events.

The woman, who was a 20-year-old Cornell student at the time and a sorority member, went to campus police about three weeks later, according to the lawsuit. The fraternity and seven of its members were placed on temporary suspension that same day, the lawsuit said.

The complaint said the seven were given "the opportunity to mitigate their conduct by submitting essays to Cornell."

Cornell said "none of the individuals charged were offered the opportunity to write essays as a sole consequence of their involvement," noting the expulsions and suspensions.

Over the weekend, New York Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez condemned what she called a "culture of rape" that is protected at elite institutions.

"When I read what happened at Cornell, those men posted in a group chat. That means it was normal to them. That means it was acceptable to them. This is a culture," she said Sunday at a forum packed with young people near Cornell's campus.

"And what we must do is understand that we cannot protect those spaces any more."

School says it has taken additional action to address sexual violence

Cornell said a school task force on campus sexual assault, formed in 2025, made recommendations earlier this year, several of which have been implemented while others are in development.

The task force report said a 2025 school survey showed 35% of undergraduate women and 8% of undergraduate men reported experiencing sexual assault during their time at Cornell.

Since the lawsuit was filed, the prosecutor said, his office has been flooded with phone calls, voicemails and emails about the case from people seeking answers and others making insults and threats.

"The community outrage stemming from the incomplete news and social media coverage requires that I provide an answer to why the investigation resulted in a lack of criminal charges," Van Houten said in a statement.

Eshaan Chaudhuri, a Cornell senior and president of the student government, said there needs to be a fresh look at the university's initial investigation and why the district attorney's office did not do more.

There also needs to be an examination of the culture at the fraternity, he said.

"This issue poses more of a broader question, not just at Cornell," he said. "Obviously, these things can't be fixed overnight."

A man who spent decades on Utah's death row is released and awaits a new trial in a 1985 killing

By MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press

A 71-year-old man who was convicted of killing a police chief's aunt and spent decades on death row was released Monday after prosecutors said newly analyzed DNA evidence doesn't link him to the crime.

A Utah judge ordered Douglas Stewart Carter let out on bail late Monday over objections from the victim's family. Carter is required to wear a GPS monitor while he awaits a new trial in the 1985 killing of Eva Olesen.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 52 of 68

The state Supreme Court ordered a new trial last year, citing misconduct by investigators. Carter has maintained his innocence and says a signed confession was coerced.

No physical evidence linked him to the crime scene. But the jury convicted Carter, a Black man, based on the confession and the testimony of two witnesses who said he bragged about killing Olesen, who was white. Those witnesses later recanted.

A DNA analysis received Sept. 22 excluded Carter as a possible match to blood found on a doorknob and genetic material recovered from the handle of a knife used to stab Olesen, who was also shot.

Judge Derek Pullan said those results further undermined the case against Carter, but a reasonable jury still could conclude that he killed Olesen.

Prosecutors are reconsidering the case

Carter walked out of jail late Monday, wearing a white shirt and grey sweatpants, with his eyeglasses hanging from around his neck. His son pushed a cart with pillows, blankets and Carter's personal belongings beside him.

Carter smiled at times while also trying to shield his face behind papers. He didn't speak to a handful of journalists outside the jail, and got into a vehicle with his son and defense attorney. A judge ordered him not to have any contact with Olesen's family.

"This is going to be a lot for him," Carter's son, Tyler Anger, said as he waited for his father.

Carter will be placed in an extended stay hotel near Anger, who was adopted by another family as an infant and didn't learn about the conviction until years later, said Carter's attorney Neal Hamilton. Carter also will need therapy to deal with his extended incarceration, Hamilton said.

"If the state of Utah had their way, he would have been executed 15, 20 years ago before we discovered the misconduct," Hamilton said. He urged prosecutors to seek dismissal of an aggravated murder charge still pending against Carter.

A two-month retrial was planned next year, but last week county prosecutors withdrew a notice that they intended to seek the death penalty.

Utah County prosecutor Erwin Petilos told the judge Monday that reassessing Carter's bail was "necessary and fair" as the state continues to look at the remaining evidence in the case.

Carter, a Chicago native, was living with his mother in Utah when Olesen was killed on Feb. 27, 1985. Court documents indicate the investigation eventually focused on Carter, who was suspected of killing Olesen during a robbery.

By that April, Carter had fled Utah believing he was a suspect in an unrelated assault case, according to court documents. He was apprehended that June in Nashville, Tennessee, where he signed a confession while under interrogation by a Provo detective.

Carter said later that he falsely confessed after police repeatedly threatened him. He was convicted and sentenced to death after a trial in which the defense called no witnesses. He was again sentenced to death after a 1992 retrial, and courts in Utah rejected numerous appeals from Carter in subsequent years.

Key witnesses say police gave them cash and gifts

A turning point came in 2011, when the two witnesses from Carter's original trial were tracked down in Mexico. They said they had been told to lie in court and had received cash and gifts from police, who told them not to disclose the payments. They also said police and prosecutors threatened them and their son with deportation if they did not implicate Carter.

More than a decade of legal wrangling followed before the Utah Supreme Court last year ordered a new trial, citing "multiple instances of intentional misconduct" by police and a prosecutor. A DNA analysis of the evidence was conducted in response to that order, and prosecutors said the results arrived last week. They declined Monday to say whether they're using the DNA evidence to search for other suspects with matching DNA.

Victim's husband was potential suspect

Carter's defense attorneys have said witnesses saw a white man fleeing the crime scene and an investigator suppressed evidence pointing to other suspects, including the victim's husband, Orla Olesen.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 53 of 68

They allege that prosecutors were close to filing charges against the husband, but a Provo police lieutenant asked them not to so he could continue investigating. Carter was identified as a suspect soon after, according to court documents.

Orla Olesen, a painting contractor who died in 2009, told police he found his wife dead in their home, partially undressed and with her hands tied behind her back.

Theresa Olesen, a daughter-in-law of Eva Olesen, said during Monday's bond hearing that her family had "serious concerns" about Carter's release.

"By golly we were hoping for a concrete match," Olesen said of the DNA analysis. "It doesn't mean he wasn't there."

"We just want justice for Eva. And if he had any part of it we want that to be known," she added. ____ Associated Press photographer George Frey in Spanish Fork, Utah, contributed to this report.

Contradicting Trump, Pope Leo says artificial intelligence safety concerns not 'fake news'

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE (AP) — Pope Leo XIV said Monday that concerns about artificial intelligence going rogue are not "fake news" and should be taken seriously, insisting that safety issues raised by AI experts should be discussed and acted on.

Leo, who dedicated his first encyclical to AI and protecting humanity in its wake, was asked during a press conference about what the United States and China especially should be doing to prevent AI from posing catastrophic risks to humanity. U.S. President Donald Trump has called concerns about AI going rogue a "hoax."

"This is a problem that, I think, we need to sit down and talk about," the American pope told reporters returning home from France. "We can't just sit back and pretend nothing is going to happen."

Trump has been a champion of AI, often warning that the United States must remain ahead of China in the technological arms race. He has said efforts to limit the technology were part of a "conspiracy" by his political opponents.

Several AI giants, including Anthropic, have called for a slowdown in development to give safety measures time to catch up to the fast-moving technology. Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei, for example, has warned that within six to 12 months, AI could be capable of leading a swarm of agents that could take over the entire internet.

Trump had a late-night dinner with Amodei on Sunday, during which they discussed Americans' concerns about the technology and how to keep America dominant, the White House said.

"If someone were to ask me 'Am I in panic mode?' No I'm not. I sleep at night," Leo said. "I do think that the concerns raised by many of the experts, specialists in AI should be taken seriously."

"I don't think that that is 'fake news' as some have said to try and cause whether financial or other some other kind of benefit," Leo said.

The pope says AI is one of the biggest challenges to humanity

The pope, who called for robust regulation of AI and a slowdown of the technology in his encyclical "Magnificent Humanity," is up to speed on developments in the field.

Despite being at the end of a grueling four-day trip to France, Leo noted a news report Monday afternoon about Nvidia introducing guardrails into AI. He also noted that the company has previously resisted outside regulation of AI development.

Leo had identified AI as one of the biggest challenges to humanity within days of his election and took the unusual step of personally launching his own encyclical alongside Anthropic's co-founder Christopher Olah at a Vatican event in May. The initiative was part of the Vatican's effort to engage Silicon Valley about the human costs of AI.

"We need to continue to invite political leaders, leaders of AI, social organizations, associations to come together and look at what is happening already and what could be down the road," he said Monday.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 54 of 68

"To simply say 'Oh it's not going to happen' and close our eyes to it I think is probably not the most responsible way to go about that," he added.

It's not the first time the pope and Trump have disagreed

With his comments Monday about the legitimacy of safety concerns and AI development, Leo has confirmed another area of disagreement with Trump. The two had a back-and-forth in April over Leo's opposition to the U.S.-Israeli war in Iran and Leo has also criticized the Trump administration's migration crackdown.

Trump met with Chinese President Xi Jinping last week in Washington and while Xi said that it was important to ensure AI is "always under human control," Trump focused more on trying to rebrand it as "superintelligence" and dismissed calls for regulation. However, the two leaders agreed to explore a new "notification mechanism" for AI incidents affecting national security.

AI has become a major election-year issue in the U.S. as some of the country's largest companies rush to build a national network of data centers while Americans from both parties increasingly raise alarms about the impact on farmland, water supplies and electricity bills.

The pope says he's optimistic about solutions

Worries about AI are continuing to grow inside and outside the industry and reports continue to emerge about increasingly powerful systems that solve problems beyond human capacity but could also go rogue and carry out other, more harmful tasks.

The worries have grown so loud that the CEO of OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT, said in an interview with Fortune that his company would wait until next year to start selling its stock to investors on Wall Street as it focuses on safety.

Leo noted that ever since he published his encyclical in May, the Vatican has received comments from people interested in being part of a broader conversation about AI. A Vatican commission is working to promote dialogue, study and investigation "to find ways to make sure that AI does not get to a point of destroying humanity or removing humanity from the conversation," he said.

Leo said he was "relatively optimistic" that solutions could be found.

"I think there are enough people seriously interested in that and willing to look at that outside of the questions once again of power, who gets there first," he said.

Trump disputes his ambassador's account that he asked China's president if he wanted to buy US arms

By BEN FINLEY, MICHELLE L. PRICE and DIDI TANG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump disputed that he asked Chinese leader Xi Jinping if he wanted to buy weapons from the United States, contradicting an account from the U.S. ambassador to China.

Trump on Monday acted confused when a reporter asked him about Ambassador David Perdue's remarks over the weekend, suggesting the diplomat was confusing China with Taiwan. But then Trump said "maybe it's a good idea" to make such an offer to China.

The whiplash over the prospect of arms sales from the U.S. to its ascendant geopolitical rival underlines the Trump administration's often uncoordinated and contradictory approach to China, including Xi's pomp-filled state visit to Washington last week during which Trump appeared to get little in return on key issues.

Perdue, speaking to Shannon Bream on Fox News Channel's "Fox News Sunday" days after the summit, didn't specify when the offer was made. But such a proposal, if realized, would upend generations of U.S. policy toward China and Taiwan and expose U.S. technology to a potential foe.

Trump administration disavows ambassador's comments

The State Department on Monday looked to distance the Trump administration from Perdue's comments, saying that "U.S. law prohibits arms sales to China and there is no offer or plan to sell arms to China."

Hours later, Trump seemed to be doing the same.

"To China? You mean to Taiwan?" he said when a reporter asked him about Perdue's account.

"I never heard of that one. I'm going to have to ask him," Trump said.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 55 of 68

He then mused that China would probably like to buy U.S. equipment, which he said was superior, and added: "So maybe it's a good idea. But we didn't discuss it. He may have been talking about Taiwan. I think he was probably talking about Taiwan."

Perdue said Sunday that the Republican president was downplaying longstanding U.S. arms sales to Taiwan — which have drawn protest from Beijing for years — by couching it as just one of many sales Washington makes around the world, and even asking Xi if he'd be in the market for U.S. weaponry.

Bream had cited concerns from Republican and Democratic lawmakers over delayed aid packages and weapons orders to Taiwan, a self-ruled democracy that seeks to defend itself from China's threat to invade the island. Bream asked if the U.S. is denying arms to Taiwan to appease the Chinese president.

Perdue pushed back on the suggestion, stating that Trump "is as strong on Taiwan as I've ever seen anybody" and has sold it plenty of weapons. Perdue also said Trump and Xi continue to talk about future U.S. weapons sales to Taiwan.

"But President Trump continues to say, 'Hey, we sell arms to other people around the world,'" Perdue said. "He actually asked President Xi, would he like to buy some, at one point."

Experts point to Trump's transactional approach

If so, that offer "speaks to (Trump's) treatment of China in almost exclusively commercial terms, even at the potential expense of the U.S. military position in Asia," said Evan Sankey, an analyst focused on U.S. policy toward China at the libertarian Cato Institute.

He said the U.S. last sold arms to Beijing in the 1980s and resuming those sales would be "a shocking policy change."

Craig Singleton, a senior fellow at the hawkish think tank Foundation for Defense of Democracies, said the anecdote that Perdue told offers "a revealing window into Trump's transactional worldview."

"He tends to see weapons, tariffs and market access as instruments of leverage, even across the traditional dividing line between allies and adversaries," Singleton said.

Such an offer to Xi also would clash with U.S. obligations under a domestic law to provide Taiwan with the means to defend itself and deter an invasion from Beijing, which has vowed to seize the island by force if necessary. While not recognizing Taiwan as a country, the U.S. is the island's strongest informal backer and primary arms provider. But multiple U.S. leaders have left ambiguous whether they would commit military force to defend the island should China invade.

China has pressed Washington to halt the arms sales, most prominently during a previous summit in May between Trump and Xi in Beijing. After that meeting, the United States paused the sale of a record-breaking \$14 billion package — and Trump described arms sales to Taiwan as a "very good negotiating chip" with China.

In their private talks at the White House last week, Xi pressed Trump to oppose Taiwan independence, according to Chinese state media.

In Beijing, China's foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun did not confirm Perdue's remarks when asked about the matter on Monday. But he told reporters that China has always strengthened its national defense capabilities based on its needs and is committed to maintaining world peace and stability.

Trump announces a new \$15B Iowa steel plant and claims it will be the nation's biggest

By COLLIN BINKLEY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Monday announced a new \$15 billion steel plant being built in Iowa, highlighting an economic victory in a key battleground state where Republicans face competitive midterm races.

Trump announced the new plant at an Oval Office event alongside steel executives and Iowa Republicans, including two running for office. The event highlighted Iowa's elevated status for Republicans and for Trump, who on Monday pledged to campaign there in coming weeks.

"We're going to do a great rally. We'll all be there together," Trump said alongside Rep. Ashley Hinson,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 56 of 68

who is running for the U.S. Senate, and Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, who is up for re-election. Also joining him were Gov. Kim Reynolds and Sen. Joni Ernst, who are not seeking new terms in office.

The new steel plant is being built by Mesabi Metallica, a Minnesota company owned by India's Essar Group, an industrial conglomerate. Trump said the project will become the largest steel plant in the United States. It is expected to produce 10 million tons of steel a year after it's fully built out.

The plant was projected to begin production in 2030, supplied by a new \$2.5 billion iron ore mine that Mesabi developed along Minnesota's Mesabi iron range. The resulting steel will be produced from start to finish in the United States, the White House said.

Trump said the American steel industry is "roaring back to life," crediting it to the 50% tariffs on steel imports that he imposed last year.

"Everyone is building their plants here because they don't want to pay tariffs," Trump said. "It's really not that complicated."

Trump in June also approved the takeover of iconic American steelmaker U.S. Steel by Japan's Nippon Steel, a move that had been blocked by Joe Biden, his Democratic predecessor, and initially opposed by Trump as a 2024 Republican presidential candidate. After returning to office, Trump later backed a deal that gave the federal government a say in some company decisions.

The Oval Office announcement at times took on the tone of a campaign event. Introducing Hinson, Trump described her as a "young lady who is going to be hopefully elected to the Senate."

"She's outstanding, one of the top anywhere in the country," Trump continued. "They talk about her all the time."

Trump told Ernst she had done a wonderful job in the Senate and said he would miss her: "I can't believe you're leaving," he said.

Trump and Vice President JD Vance both have touched down in Iowa this year to shore up Republican enthusiasm and energize voters before the Nov. 3 elections.

Jeff Kaufmann, chairman of Iowa's Republican Party, said the announcement was made possible by the state's Republican leadership, including from Reynolds.

"Investments of this magnitude do not come to Iowa by accident," he said. "They come to states with low taxes, responsible budgets, fewer burdensome regulations, and leaders who understand that the role of the government is to help job creators succeed, not stand in their way."

Mesabi Metallica is based in Nashwauk, Minnesota. The Essar Group is an industrial conglomerate formed in India in 1969, with ventures in industries from energy and mining to technology and retail, according to its website.

Joe Broking, CEO at Mesabi Metallica, called the announcement a "major moment for U.S. made steel," saying the factory would be supplying a critical product that U.S. national defense, cars and trucks, ship-building, household appliances, energy and infrastructure depend on.

SpaceX's supersized Starship launches into orbit for the first time but flight ends early

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

SpaceX launched its enormous Starship into orbit for the first time Monday and successfully delivered the most advanced Starlink satellites yet, but cut the flight short to ensure safety.

The spacecraft reentered over the Pacific and splashed down north of Hawaii three hours after blasting off from Texas. The company had been aiming for a 10-hour flight, spanning six full laps around Earth, to prove its readiness for NASA's Artemis moon program.

Starship tipped over and erupted in flames upon splashdown, a dramatic end to the mission.

Founder Elon Musk's Starship almost didn't make it to orbit when one of its engines shut down prematurely. But with everything else working well and the bad engine no longer needed, flight controllers decided, after several tense minutes, to proceed as planned.

"Starship is orbital," Mission Control announced to cheers.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 57 of 68

NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman congratulated SpaceX on reaching orbit and “managing every step in a safe, responsible and especially inspirational way.”

Rocket carries 26 of Musk’s most advanced Starlink satellites

Musk’s showpiece rocket — the biggest and most powerful ever built — carried 26 of the latest Starlinks to join the 11,000 older models already providing internet service. They popped out of the spacecraft one by one, drawing more cheers from the SpaceX crowd at the Starbase launch site.

The decision to end the flight early came soon afterward. SpaceX said hours later in an online update that the decision was made “out of an abundance of caution” because of the early engine trouble.

It was Starship’s 14th full-scale launch from Texas’ southern tip in three years. Earlier test flights ventured no farther than the Indian Ocean halfway around the world, often crashing in flames and briefly skimming space.

This time, the intent was for SpaceX to circle the globe from an altitude of 170 miles (275 kilometers) — not just once but six times over almost 10 hours, ending with a Pacific splashdown near Chile. While Starship achieved the proper orbit, zipping along at 17,500 mph (28,000 kph), flight controllers opted to play it safe and bring it back several hours sooner, after just a couple of laps.

The first-stage booster was never meant to return to the Starbase launch site either, dropping instead into the Gulf of Mexico within minutes of the morning liftoff.

SpaceX wants to ensure that everything works before flying Starship back to Starbase. If the spacecraft breaks apart over land and rains debris onto people, “our popularity would diminish very rapidly,” Musk said at a business summit earlier this month. “That’s why we’re being extremely cautious here.”

Depending on the findings from Monday’s orbital debut, the next Starship could return to the launch pad, where giant mechanical arms would grab the hovering spacecraft. If the catch works — Musk gives it even or slightly better odds — then SpaceX will refly the spacecraft by year’s end or early next year.

The 407-foot (124-meter) rocket was designed from the start to be fully reusable, a key to lowering launch costs. SpaceX managed to salvage the last Starship from the Indian Ocean in July. Engineers modified the newly launched Starship’s heat shield based on hands-on inspections of the recovered spacecraft, which is being tugged back to Starbase.

SpaceX wants Starship to be certified for orbital flight

SpaceX is pressing hard to certify Starship for orbital flight, a vital step toward moon and Mars travel.

NASA’s Artemis III mission is coming up as soon as next summer, a triple-launch docking exercise in orbit around Earth between an Orion capsule full of astronauts and competing lunar landers. Jeff Bezos’ Blue Moon would blast off first, followed by Orion — which would close in for a linkup — and then Musk’s Starship for a docking with Orion once Blue Moon is unleashed.

The next mission, Artemis IV, is slated for no sooner than 2028 and would have astronauts landing on the moon in either Blue Moon or Starship, whichever is ready first. Subsequent moonshots will alternate between the two billionaires’ landers.

Musk originally developed Starship for Mars, intending to launch scores of them with the red planet’s first settlers. For now, he plans to focus on the moon and use Starship to haul satellites into orbit by the truckload, phasing out the company’s frailer Falcon 9 rocket within several years. A second Starship launch site is nearing completion at Florida’s Kennedy Space Center and a third is planned for Louisiana.

Nvidia is touting a software tool to contain runaway AI. How would it work?

By KELVIN CHAN AP Business Writer

Nvidia says a security platform for artificial intelligence that it announced on Monday can help stop autonomous AI agents from misbehaving.

The chipmaker unveiled its Open Agent Safety Platform amid an intensifying debate about AI safety, fueled a string of alarming recent incidents involving AI systems acting on their own to break into other organizations.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 58 of 68

Last week, OpenAI disclosed several instances from the summer in which its agents acted in unexpected ways while searching federal government websites. The company announced it was halting development of its most advanced models, a step it previously took in July after disclosure of a cyberattack targeting AI startup Hugging Face that raised fears humans could lose control of AI.

In those and other instances, AI agents have ignored instructions, gone beyond what was asked of them and hacked external websites.

Here's a closer look at Nvidia's new system:

The platform includes a 'sandbox' for AI agents

Nvidia's platform has two elements. The main part is OpenShell, which is a sealed workspace — or "sandbox" — where AI agents can operate, with a rule book for them to follow.

The company's view is that technical restrictions are better for keeping an AI agent in line than trusting it that it will follow written instructions included with a prompt.

"Agents can drift when instructions are ambiguous," Justin Boitano, Nvidia's vice president of enterprise AI, told reporters. Perhaps "the tools that they're trying to use don't work as they would expect or a difficult task takes an unexpected turn. An agent cannot be expected to fully police its own behavior. Once AI can act, safeguards must govern the agent's actions."

OpenShell puts the AI agent into the restricted workspace where it can do certain things, like, say, accessing an invoice folder, but is blocked from doing other changes, for example altering or deleting files or accessing unrelated websites. The company said it can manage fleets of agents, keeping each in their sandboxes with their own permissions.

The company says OpenShell provides a "secure runtime boundary" that traces all actions and enforces policy as agents run on its Vera chips. It's open source, meaning it can work with rival computing platforms from the likes of Arm and Intel.

It promises to stop AI agents from moving outside set boundaries

There's an additional security layer called Sentry that operates at the hardware level.

Nvidia described Sentry as a "watchdog" that runs on Nvidia's Bluefield-4 digital processing units and is always monitoring the behavior of agents, and can quarantine them instantly if they try to do something out of bounds.

The company likens Sentry to a security checkpoint outside the OpenShell workspace. It acts as a back-stop that's separate from the agent and the computing system where it's working.

Will it work?

The new platform isn't a comprehensive solution for the AI safety debate, and is more of a way to contain problems that AI agents might cause.

It won't automatically stop AI models from being dishonest, deceitful or prevent them from making mistakes. And it's up to the companies and organizations deploying the agents to write up their own rules and permissions for the AI agents to follow.

Somesh Jha, a computer science professor at the University of Wisconsin, said he saw potential limitations. For one, he said, the software could block AI agents from doing useful things and it is unclear how Nvidia will balance that with security.

"This can only be answered using case studies," Jha said.

A bankrupt Camp Mystic seeks to sell the property as legal troubles grow

By JIM VERTUNO Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The owners of Camp Mystic have proposed selling off the riverfront property as part of a bankruptcy plan, with hopes that a buyer will preserve the camp's "historic mission" following the death of 27 campers and counselors swept away by a 2025 flood.

The century-old private Christian girls' camp filed a Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization plan on Sept.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 59 of 68

25 that would auction off the 749 acres (3 square kilometers) it owns and other assets.

The sprawling campus, nestled among rolling wooded hills on the banks of the Guadalupe River, had several single-story cabins that housed some of the youngest campers and a recreation hall near the riverfront. A second campus on elevated ground was not flooded.

The Eastland family has owned the camp for decades and initially sought to reopen this summer. But they faced fierce opposition from victims' families and some state lawmakers, lawsuits and legislative investigations into what went wrong.

A buyer would likely get a portion of the camp frozen in time. Families of the victims have fought to stop any demolition of damaged cabins and buildings and stop repairs as part of their lawsuits.

The bankruptcy plan said the owners expect a purchaser would be backed by a group of families that support the camp.

"Nothing in the plan requires any buyer to operate the property as a camp," the filing said, "but the plan states an express preference, in determining the highest or otherwise best bid, for a buyer that will maintain the historic mission of the camp."

Twenty-five campers and two counselors were killed when the river surged over its banks in the pre-dawn hours of July 4, 2025. Camp owner and director Richard Eastland was also killed. At least 136 people were killed along a several-mile stretch of the river.

Earlier this month, state police investigators sought search warrants for the electronic communications of the camp's owners, saying they could provide evidence of manslaughter, negligent homicide, child abandonment or other crimes.

No charges have been brought.

A probe by state lawmakers determined the camp's young and inexperienced counselors were not trained for floods and other emergencies. It said an earlier decision to evacuate could have saved every life. Most of the victims were under age 10, and some were attending camp for the first time.

The camp's bankruptcy proposal would have to be approved by U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Christopher M. Lopez. Officials with Camp Mystic did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment Monday.

All creditors, including the families who have sued Camp Mystic over the deaths, will have a chance to respond to the plan.

"The Eastlands are now attempting to determine the future of the Camp Mystic property, but the victims' families including my clients, will fight to protect their rights and ensure any sale is fair and transparent," said Tim Ferguson, attorney for the family of 8-year-old Mary Grace Baker, one of the campers who died.

"The Bakers intend to continue fighting for answers, accountability and justice for their daughter," Ferguson said.

Tropical Storm Hanna forms in the Atlantic Ocean and isn't threatening land

MIAMI (AP) — Tropical Storm Hanna formed Monday in the Atlantic Ocean and isn't threatening land, forecasters said.

The storm was located about 870 miles (1,400 kilometers) east-northeast of Bermuda and was moving east, according to an advisory from the Miami-based National Hurricane Center. Maximum sustained winds were around 45 mph (72 kph).

There were no coastal watches or warnings in effect. Little change in strength is forecast in the coming days.

The storm comes as the Atlantic hurricane season has been unusually quiet this year due to a strong El Niño, which disrupts storm formation over that ocean.

Storm activity in the Pacific has been above average, with Hurricane Polo bearing down on Mexico Monday and Hurricane Nolo edging away from Hawaii.

What to know about the suspected bomb plot against a UK air base used by the US in the Iran war

By SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British authorities are examining suspected explosives found near an air base in England used by the U.S. Air Force and whether five men arrested on terrorism suspicions — but later released on bail — are linked to Iran.

The suspects were detained shortly after midnight on Sunday after police stopped three vans traveling toward RAF Fairford, a U.K.-owned base that has been used by American bombers during decades of conflicts in the Middle East, including the ongoing Iran war.

Investigators have not concluded whether the incident is a state-backed attack. They are investigating a possible link to Iran, Russia or militant groups. Iran has denied involvement.

Details about the case are still emerging. Here's what we know — and don't know — about what happened:

The identities and motives of the suspects are unclear

Counterterror police said Monday that the five suspects are British nationals from London between 23 and 25 years old.

It's not clear why they were released on bail Monday. The head of U.K. Counter Terrorism Policing, Laurence Taylor, said that the suspects face stringent bail conditions and "absolutely remain under investigation."

Taylor said lines of inquiry include that the suspected offenses were committed by "proxies or individuals, either knowingly or unknowingly, working on behalf of a foreign state."

A local farmer told reporters she called emergency services after she found three vans blocking a road in the nearby village of Whelford. Later, dozens of households near the base were advised to evacuate while bomb disposal robots were used to examine the vans.

The air base houses the headquarters of the U.S. Air Force's 501st Combat Support Wing and is a forward operating location for the U.S. Air Force Global Strike Command. Fairford was used during the 1990 Gulf War, the 2003 Iraq war and the U.S.-Israeli bombardment of Iran this year.

Authorities hint at possible Iranian role

Defense Secretary Wes Streeting said the motive is not yet known. But he added: "We shouldn't be cowed by saber rattling from Iran, and we shouldn't be in any doubt that the Iranian regime is one that wishes harm to our country, our allies, and the freedom and democracy that we enjoy."

Iran and allied militant groups have been accused of plotting or carrying out attacks on U.S., British and Jewish targets in the past, allegedly acting through local proxies while denying responsibility.

Nigel Inkster, a senior adviser at the International Institute for Strategic Studies who formerly worked at the British Secret Intelligence Service, said Iran is known to have hired "low grade," untrained proxies to commit crimes in the U.K. on its behalf. But it's not clear "what sort of threat these people posed," he said.

"Was it a homegrown undertaking or one that was sponsored internationally, especially Iran? Were the devices sophisticated or crude? We have no idea," he said.

"Driving three vans up to an air base with a perimeter doesn't strike me as a particularly clever way to cause significant damage," he added.

Iran's embassy to the U.K. condemned what it said were "unfounded and malicious speculations published by some British individuals and media outlets" linking it to the suspected plot.

Questions about possible security or intelligence failures

It's unclear when security services became aware of the alleged plot and whether there were any lapses that allowed the suspects to get so close to the base.

U.S. President Donald Trump praised the response, telling reporters: "We had them under view for a long time, and we got them."

"They were looking to do big damage to our fort, and working with the British worked out great," he added.

Some residents have told British media that they noticed an increase in security near Fairford in recent

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 61 of 68

weeks, suggesting authorities may have anticipated an incident there.

However, British police have said the arrests were triggered by a late-night call about suspicious vehicles near the base.

The farmer who called the police said she saw a group of about eight or 10 men, some with their faces covered, run away when they spotted her car. She said it took several hours between the call and when police "suddenly decided to evacuate people."

"But meanwhile, those vans were right in the middle of the village next to everyone's houses and no one did anything," said the farmer, who declined to be identified because she was describing what she saw as potential security lapses.

Streeting, the defense secretary, said Monday that the farmer only had a "partial picture" of what's been happening. He didn't elaborate, saying he was limited in what he could say regarding operational security.

Trump's mail voting crackdown tests Postal Service leader who says he's 'not political'

By STEVEN SLOAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Long before he was the top official at the U.S. Postal Service, David Steiner was a corporate executive surfing mid-oughts television when he came across Donald Trump on "The Apprentice." He was unimpressed.

"If that is leadership, if that's what we're telling people that our culture and our media portrays as leadership, we're screwed," Steiner, then the CEO of Waste Management, said during a 2007 speech at the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service. "If that's leadership, count me out."

"And for God's sake," he added to laughter, "if I have to get my hair to look like that, if I have to do that to be a leader, you can definitely count me out."

Nearly two decades later, Trump has migrated from reality television to the presidency. And onetime detractors — Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, for example — now loyally execute his agenda.

Trump's effort to use the Postal Service as a tool to reshape American elections is testing whether Steiner will follow a similar path.

Independent or a Trump 'pawn'?

When Trump signed an executive order restricting mail ballots this year, Steiner moved quickly to finalize a rule implementing the measure, arguing he had little choice. But after the U.S. Supreme Court rejected the effort, Steiner told The Associated Press that work had stopped on one of the plan's most controversial elements, a government portal for voter rolls.

He refused to endorse the Republican president's order as sound policy, saying he was focused on implementation and letting the courts ultimately decide the matter.

"I don't get to decide what rules that are put on us that I decide to accept or not accept," he said. "We are an independent agency of the executive branch."

The episode prompted fierce criticism of Steiner for allowing Trump to deploy an agency designed to be shielded from politics.

Jena Griswold, Colorado's Democratic secretary of state, called him a "Trump lackey." Nevada Secretary of State Cisco Aguilar, a Democrat, recently asked Congress to deploy observers to ensure postal workers can scan envelopes holding mail ballots without disruption, saying the Trump administration "has attempted to weaponize federal agencies to interfere in our elections, and the leadership at USPS is going along with it."

Sen. Elissa Slotkin, D-Mich., accused Steiner of being a Trump "pawn" during a congressional hearing this summer. Dozens of congressional Democrats have pressed Steiner to reveal his interactions with the White House during the development of the mail ballot rule.

Some Republicans have joined in the criticism. Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri, incensed by abandoned mail, called for Steiner's resignation and introduced legislation to block him from receiving a bonus.

During a lengthy interview, Steiner seemed surprised at points by his reception in Washington. He in-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 62 of 68

sisted he wasn't a "political person" and said he had no intention of stepping down despite the criticism. He dismissed heated congressional appearances as "theater" at odds with more substantive private interactions on Capitol Hill.

Steiner was chagrined, however, at the mention of his 2007 remarks on Trump, delivered well before he launched a political career. Steiner recalled speaking at the university but said he didn't remember his comments, acknowledging a tendency to be "flippant."

"That's funny," he said. "I don't recall it."

The White House didn't respond to a request for comment on Steiner's remarks or his stewardship of the Postal Service.

Steiner didn't follow the traditional path to power in Trump's Washington

The Postal Service dates to Benjamin Franklin, the first postmaster general, whose portrait and bust are displayed in Steiner's office overlooking the Washington Wharf. The agency has more than 630,000 employees, dwarfing many Cabinet departments.

While the quickest way to top jobs in Trump's Washington is often by writing big checks, the 66-year-old Steiner doesn't appear to have followed that course. He has largely donated to Republicans but also gave to John Kerry's Democratic presidential campaign in 2004. Unlike his predecessor as postmaster general, Louis DeJoy, Steiner was not a major GOP donor or Trump backer.

Born in Oakland, California, as one of eight children to a father who spent his career at Chevron, Steiner worked in corporate and securities law before moving to Waste Management in 2000. He became CEO in 2004 and ran the company for 12 years. He was also a longtime director at FedEx, where board chairman Brad Martin recalled him as "outcome oriented" and rarely political.

"He's going to follow the rules. He's going to follow the law," Martin said. "I don't recall us ever talking politics."

By the time a headhunter contacted Steiner about the postmaster general job, he was largely removed from daily corporate life and initially demurred.

"I talked to my wife, and we both agreed I was happily retired," he said.

He changed his mind, he said, during a visit to the beaches of Normandy, feeling a sense of civic duty.

Now at the Postal Service, he earns about \$346,000 in annual salary along with a relocation bonus that amounts to half his salary, far less than the \$17 million in compensation he earned during his final year at Waste Management. His current role is designed to exist one layer removed from the political process, reporting to a board of governors that is selected by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

He was hired in 2025 by a board that was made up of five members, three of whom were Democrats. All but one were appointed by President Joe Biden. That makeup could change as four Trump nominees — all Republicans — await Senate confirmation. Steiner can be fired only by the board.

Steiner said he first met Trump along with Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick at the board's urging after he was already selected as postmaster general. Since then, he described a minimal relationship with the White House.

"We don't fly on the radar," he said.

That is, until Trump revived his effort in March to crack down on mail voting. Steiner said he "wasn't in on the development piece" of the order and first saw it about a month before it was signed.

"They gave it to us to say, 'Have your lawyers look at it, and how do you operationalize it?'" Steiner said.

The portal spurred a massive development effort inside the Postal Service while some states criticized it as federal overreach. A whistleblower report released by Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., argued the system was hastily built and riddled with errors, though Steiner said he was confident it could have been unveiled around Sept. 15.

"The heavy lifting was clearly, clearly the IT work," Steiner said.

Challenges ahead for the Postal Service

Though the Supreme Court dispensed with the rule, the dynamics for the Postal Service don't get easier.

The agency posted a \$9 billion net loss last year, and Steiner has warned it could soon run out of cash

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 63 of 68

unless Congress lifts a \$15 billion borrowing cap. Political hurdles have prevented potential cost savings from cutting service or closing some post offices.

And while Trump's executive order won't take effect, the Postal Service will still play a critical role in this year's elections. There are mounting concerns that mail ballots could be rejected for late postmarks. Steiner encouraged voters to get their ballots in a week before the election to avoid problems.

The Postal Service is a rare corner of government still viewed favorably with more than half of Americans, 56%, saying it was doing an "excellent" or "good" job in a Gallup poll conducted last year. That could change if the agency is seen as increasingly political.

Steiner, however, said Americans will judge the Postal Service by their experience of it.

"What they care about is when they get that wedding invitation after the wedding or when they send a package and it disappears," he said. "If we want to have the trust of the American public, let's be the best service provider. Everything else is noise."

Trump's mail voting crackdown tests Postal Service leader who says he's 'not political'

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Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 64 of 68

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Russian drones hammer apartments, offices and a cultural landmark in Ukraine, killing 7

By HANNA ARHIROVA and BARRY HATTON Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia's round-the-clock bombardment of targets in Ukraine killed at least seven people and wounded more than 80 others, officials said Monday.

Moscow's forces pounded apartment buildings, offices, gas stations, data centers and a building of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in downtown Kyiv, among other targets.

The ceaseless Russian drone attacks on cities and towns aim to wear down Ukraine's resistance and cripple the Ukrainian economy.

The attacks followed a week of diplomatic efforts at the United Nations to get traction for negotiations on ending Moscow's invasion that began 4½ years ago.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov indicated Monday that the chances of making speedy headway on forging a peace settlement were bleak after recent Ukrainian attacks, including during recent parliamentary elections in Russia.

"Ukraine will have to pay a price for the actions that have taken place in recent months," Peskov told

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 65 of 68

reporters. "That is happening right now."

Russian attacks leave dead and wounded across Ukraine

Russian drone attacks on the Kyiv region killed four people and wounded eight, officials said.

A woman was killed in a Russian strike on Kyiv's Shevchenkivskyi district on Monday afternoon, the Kyiv city military administration said. The strike hit the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the latest cultural landmark in the capital to be damaged.

Some staff escaped the burning building by climbing from windows down firefighters' ladders.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said the Russians were conducting a campaign of "pure terror" on the civilian population.

"The terror goes on," he told reporters at the site of the academy strike. "For more than a week Russia has kept attacking Kyiv, disrupting normal life in the city and destroying buildings."

Russian forces also hit a pharmaceutical company and gas stations in Kyiv.

One drone struck an office center in central Dnipro during working hours Monday, killing three people and wounding at least 18, local authorities said.

A Russian strike on a nine-story apartment building in the northeastern city of Kharkiv wounded 43 people, including 11 children, Mayor Ihor Terekhov said.

Thirty civilians were injured in Russian strikes on Zaporizhzhia, officials said, while another Russian attack damaged a multistory apartment building in Odesa, wounding three people, according to Oleh Kiper, head of the Odesa regional military administration.

Four people, including two teenage girls, were hurt when a Russian drone struck a residential area in northern Ukraine's Chernihiv region on Sunday evening, said Viacheslav Chaus, head of the regional military administration.

Russia's Defense Ministry said its forces struck two data centers in Kyiv, as well as gas stations in the Ukrainian capital. A distribution hub belonging to the Nova Poshta postal service was struck in the southern city of Odesa, it said.

The Russian military also hit a cargo ship in the Black Sea and another one in the Ukrainian port of Chornomorsk, the ministry said. The strikes aim to curb Ukraine's grain exports, though they may also create food shortages in countries that rely on Ukrainian imports.

The Russian aerial attacks regularly hit civilian areas. Moscow claims it targets only military-related sites.

Ukrainian army says it has advanced on the eastern front line

Battlefield positions have changed little since last year, in part because swarms of drones severely restrict troop movements, but Kyiv's forces launched a recent offensive, code-named Operation Vivaldi, on part of the 1,250-kilometer (800-mile) front line.

Ukraine's Third Army Corps said Monday it had recaptured another 51 square kilometers (20 square miles) from the Russians, bringing the total to 176 square kilometers (68 square miles) since the offensive began several months ago.

The corps said that in order to break through Russian defenses, it converted Soviet-era BTR-60 armored personnel carriers into kamikaze vehicles that blew up the strongest Russian fortifications. The operation has also used ground robots to attack Russian positions.

The claimed breakthroughs came in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine, which the bigger Russian army has been trying in vain to conquer.

Russian officials made no immediate comment on the Ukrainian claim.

Russia's Defense Ministry, meanwhile, said Russian troops captured the villages of Novovodiane in the Donetsk region and Ulanove in the northern Sumy region.

It was not possible to independently verify the claims.

Ukraine hits targets in southwestern Russia

Zelenskyy said long-range strikes on Russian soil hit two defense plants in the Tula and Voronezh regions and oil facilities in the Krasnodar region, all in southern and western Russia.

Ukraine's long-range drones have repeatedly targeted Russian fuel depots and industrial plants that are

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 66 of 68

a mainstay of Moscow's economy and war effort.

Ukrainian drone attacks overnight started fires at three infrastructure facilities in Russia's Krasnodar region, local emergency officials said Monday, without identifying the locations.

Russia's Defense Ministry said air defenses downed 254 Ukrainian drones overnight.

In GOP Speaker Mike Johnson's district, the political mood is mixed for the party in power

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

SHREVEPORT, La. (AP) — The GOP's "Big Beautiful Bill" is rolling out in different ways across U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson's home district — from steakhouse servers getting a tax break on tips to a community center where people line up for a free hot lunch as SNAP benefits are being cut.

In this rough-and-tumble corner of northwest Louisiana, where booms and busts have defined the oil rich region's history, the legislation can be a bit of a mystery to voters going about their days ahead of the November election.

This is President Donald Trump country, and Johnson, who rode into office on the 2016 wave that elected the president the first time, is in no apparent danger as he seeks a sixth term in Congress.

But the tenor of conversations — at a candidate forum, at a data center open house, outside a grocery store — provides a snapshot of the grim outlook for the party in power. High gas and grocery prices, the war in Iran and the lingering sense of an uneasy new economic normal are all on voters' minds.

"I remember when Trump said, 'This Christmas, you'll have one doll' — I didn't get it," said Katherine Ferguson, an attorney in Shreveport and mother of a teenager, after a recent community meeting downtown. "Now I get it."

Voters are struggling to add it all up

Republicans are campaigning on the big bill, what Johnson calls the largest tax cuts in American history. He hauled the package over the finish line last summer, a remarkable political achievement given the slim House majority.

"This is real money for real people," Johnson said in Washington, as lawmakers headed home to campaign.

Louisianans on average saw an estimated \$2,900 tax deduction this year, according to the nonpartisan Tax Foundation, largely because the bill preserved existing rates and brackets that would have otherwise expired. The boost in actual tax refunds was much less, about \$350 on average nationwide.

The numbers, in many ways, speak for themselves. The bill tallied some \$4 trillion in tax breaks, including new deductions for tips and overtime pay, and enhanced benefits for many seniors and families with children. It also cut more than \$1 trillion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP, and Medicaid healthcare by imposing administrative changes and additional work requirements that are expected to lead to fewer people on the programs.

Overall, the bill is projected to boost economic growth, but it also adds more than \$3 trillion to the federal deficit over a decade.

Johnson said the GOP is "cutting wasteful government spending" and "enacting the policies to bring about economic growth."

Voters appear to be struggling to add it all up, especially as gas hits \$4 a gallon and diesel has almost doubled from last year in Louisiana, topping \$6.

"I don't understand the high prices," said Dodie Horton, a state representative in Johnson's district, who is supportive of Trump and the speaker but has trouble making sense of the price spikes.

"I know it's not the president," she said. "My people want to know why. I don't have an answer."

Tax cuts vs. food aid

Madison McDonald, in between working the bar area at the Silver Star Smokehouse & Tavern, said she's saved about \$3,000 on state and federal taxes combined this year, thanks to the tipped income deduction.

The restaurant is popular with the oil and gas industry workers, and she said she once landed a \$1,100 tip from a busy table — an appreciated supplement to her \$2.13 hourly wage, the federal minimum.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 67 of 68

"It definitely helps," she said. "People are generous."

Up the road in Bossier Parish, where Johnson lives, Sheriff Julian C. Whittington had his staff run the numbers and found that more than 180 deputies had their taxable income reduced by an average of \$1,100 thanks to the overtime deduction.

"That's good for them, and it's good for the department," he said. "Our folks are getting more money, and it doesn't cost us any more."

Yet across the river that divides the city, with its riverfront casinos on one side and aging civic infrastructure on the other, the food aid cuts are also taking shape.

Al Moore keeps the door locked as the line begins to form hours before the daily hot lunch is served at the nonprofit Christian Service, where he is executive director.

Once the noon hour strikes, he begins to let people file in, about 10 or so at a time, as they take their seats.

Calvin Ray Marshall, 59, said he was receiving about \$294 per month in SNAP benefits until May, when he said he was unable to meet the new 80-hours-a-month work requirements, which now apply to those through age 64 who are able-bodied and do not have young children.

"That's why I'm here," he said, finishing up a plate of chicken, rice and gravy, with mixed vegetables.

He said he used to stock shelves at a mini-market and recently sought work at a new gas station. Sometimes he picks up odd jobs, cutting a yard, and he lives out of a tire repair shop where he used to help out, but that closed as business dried up during the COVID-19 pandemic shutdowns.

"For some reason, the government has always been trying to cut people off food stamps because they think people are abusing it," said Marshall. "It seems like they think jobs are just falling out of the sky."

Johnson's district now encompasses this area, part of a majority-Black congressional district that was eliminated after the Supreme Court ruled in a landmark voting rights case this summer.

After lunch, Kenny "KeKe" Heads pulls out a resume listing past work experience — sandwich artist, janitor, housekeeper at a local hotel — on a tidy one-sheet document. For now, Heads receives about \$100 a month in SNAP benefits but is worried that the three-month window available to jobseekers will lapse before he finds work.

"It's rough," Heads said, hopeful one day of opening a beauty salon and boutique. "Getting a chance is like one in a million."

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Louisiana is behind only Arizona and on par with Nevada in the decline in SNAP recipients during the year since the bill passed, a 21% reduction. The Medicaid work requirements are set to begin in most states in January.

Other voices looking for alternatives

One of Johnson's Democratic opponents, Conrad Cable, an English major turned vegetable farmer, said he decided to run for Congress because "enough is enough."

"If you talk to people at the gas pumps — people are pissed," he said.

He said he hears from voters about the war, affordability, the SNAP cuts — "there was never any conversation about cutting people's food benefits," he said.

Outside a Shreveport grocery store, Norman Summers, 70, a Marine and retired construction worker, supported Trump but is warily watching the war in Iran and the president's rising wealth.

"Trump's the one who's bothering me," he said.

As the afternoon sun glared, attorney Scott Bowie stopped his cart of bottled waters to assess the political mood.

A believer in small government, he wishes the big Republican bill had done more to reduce the federal deficit.

When he looks to Democrats, "They don't seem to want what I want," he said. "But I'm not saying I'm happy with the Republicans either."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 115 ~ 68 of 68

Today in History: September 29, Willie Mays makes "The Catch"

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 29, the 272nd day of 2026. There are 93 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 29, 1954, Willie Mays of the New York Giants made a running, over-the-shoulder catch of a ball hit by Vic Wertz of the Cleveland Indians in Game 1 of the 1954 World Series; "The Catch" would become one of the most famous plays in baseball history.

Also on this date:

In 1789, Congress officially established a regular army under the U.S. Constitution.

In 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders concluded the Munich Agreement, which was aimed at appeasing Adolf Hitler by allowing Nazi annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland.

In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed an act creating the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts.

In 1982, Extra-Strength Tylenol capsules laced with deadly cyanide claimed the first of seven victims in the Chicago area; the case, which led to legislation and packaging improvements to deter product tampering, remains unsolved.

In 1988, the U.S. space shuttle program resumed after a 32-month suspension following the 1986 Challenger disaster with the launch of Discovery, carrying a crew of five astronauts, from the John F. Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Discovery's crew deployed a satellite and conducted science experiments before returning to Earth, landing on Oct. 3 at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

In 1990, the construction of Washington National Cathedral concluded, 83 years to the day after its foundation stone was laid in a ceremony attended by President Theodore Roosevelt.

In 2005, John G. Roberts Jr. was sworn in as the nation's 17th chief justice after winning Senate confirmation.

In 2017, Tom Price resigned as President Donald Trump's secretary of Health and Human Services amid investigations into his use of costly charter flights for official travel at taxpayer expense.

In 2018, Tesla and its CEO, Elon Musk, agreed to pay a total of \$40 million to settle a government lawsuit alleging that Musk had duped investors with misleading statements about a proposed buyout of the company.

In 2021, a judge in Los Angeles suspended Britney Spears' father from the conservatorship that had controlled her life and money for 13 years, saying the arrangement reflected a "toxic environment."

In 2022, rescue crews piloted boats and waded through flooded streets to save thousands of Floridians trapped after Hurricane Ian destroyed homes and businesses and left millions in the dark.

Today's Birthdays: Former NASA administrator and ex-Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., is 84. Actor Ian McShane is 84. Jazz musician Jean-Luc Ponty is 84. Nobel Peace Prize laureate Lech Walesa, former president of Poland, is 83. Olympic gold medal runner Sebastian Coe is 70. Rock musician Les Claypool is 63. Actor Zachary Levi is 46. Actor Chrissy Metz (TV: "This Is Us") is 46. Actor Kelly McCreary (TV: "Grey's Anatomy") is 45. Football Hall of Famer Calvin Johnson is 41. NBA All-Star Kevin Durant is 38. Pop singer Halsey is 32. Actor Lilah Pate is 23.