

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 1 of 63

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
- [4- City Council Agenda](#)
- [5- Brown County Commission Agenda](#)
- [6- Johnson duo completes first day at state golf meet](#)
- [7- Tigers sweep Tiospa Zina, move above .500](#)
- [9- 108 South Dakota Students Are Waiting for a TeamMates Mentor](#)
- [10- Northern State football cracks top 25 in both national polls](#)
- [11- Northern State University Names Dr. Anna Schwan Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs](#)
- [12- South Dakota Transportation Commission Awards Economic Development Grants for Infrastructure Improvement](#)
- [13- SD SearchLight: South Dakota National Guard helps with more than 1,000 deportations since July 2025, governor says](#)
- [14- SD SearchLight: ACLU seeks 'deterrent' against election problems by training observers across South Dakota](#)
- [15- SD SearchLight: 7 coffins removed from North Dakota governor's residence property](#)
- [16- SD SearchLight: Trump drops longtime aversion to mail-in voting with GOP trailing in polls](#)
- [19- Weather Pages](#)
- [23- Daily Devotional](#)
- [24- Subscription Form](#)
- [25- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [26- News from the Associated Press](#)

Community Calendar

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.

Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

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

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 2 of 63

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.

Supreme Court Term Begins

The newest Supreme Court term kicked off yesterday with a case on whether energy companies can be held liable for damage related to climate change.

Boulder sued oil companies Exxon and Suncor in 2018 over allegations that their fossil fuels worsened local heat waves and wildfires. (An analysis by the left-leaning Colorado Fiscal Institute estimates climate change will cost the state \$37B over 25 years.) The companies and their supporters, including the Trump administration, seek to block the suit, arguing it would allow state law to supersede federal law regulating the environment. If allowed to move forward, the case would clear the path for dozens of similar lawsuits.

Later this term, the court will review challenges to state laws banning AR-15s that allegedly violate the Second Amendment, the Trump administration's authority to detain migrants without bond hearings and deport them to third countries, and states' ability to require proof of citizenship to vote. (Wondering how the Supreme Court became so influential?

Cornell Campus Protests

Student activists shattered a glass window and sprayed graffiti on Cornell University's main administrative building yesterday, kicking off protests over the Ivy League school's handling of an alleged sexual assault at a fraternity.

A former Cornell student filed a lawsuit against the university, seven Chi Phi fraternity members, and others last month, claiming the school failed to protect her after she was drugged and gang-raped in 2024. The woman, identified in court documents as Jane Doe, had reported the alleged assault to campus officials, prompting the university to ban Chi Phi and impose sanctions on the fraternity members, ranging from expulsion to essay writing. The district attorney, however, did not pursue criminal charges, citing insufficient evidence of nonconsensual sexual activity. It has since emerged that Cornell omitted Jane Doe's assertion that she was raped from a report given to prosecutors.

More than 35% of female undergraduates surveyed at Cornell last year reported experiencing nonconsensual sexual contact, up from 23% in 2023.

Book Ban Boom

Public schools across the US implemented nearly 12,000 book bans over the past year, a new study revealed. The bans encompassed 7,370 individual works, marking the highest total since nonprofit organization PEN America began tracking bans in 2021.

More than a dozen states have enacted sweeping laws to censor and remove books flagged as explicit or profane since 2021. Books addressing race, sexuality, and gender identity remain among the most commonly removed materials, according to PEN's analysis. Texas and Florida's combined tally accounted for around 95% of all recorded bans nationwide. Supporters say parents have a right to control their children's educational materials, while opponents contend that bans violate the First Amendment.

Stephen King was the most-banned author for the second consecutive year. His newest novel, "Other Worlds Than These," comes out today.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 3 of 63

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Washington Capitals star Alex Ovechkin announces plan to retire at the end of the NHL season, capping a record-setting career that cemented him as the league's all-time leading goal scorer.

Former "American Idol" contestant Caleb Flynn is sentenced to life in prison without parole for murdering his wife.

Comedian Reggie McFadden, known for appearances on "Def Comedy Jam" and "In Living Color," dies at age 57.

Taylor Swift's "Patient Zero" debuts at No. 1 on Billboard Hot 100 chart, knocking Ella Langley's "Choosin' Texas" out of the top spot after a record run of 24 nonconsecutive weeks.

Science & Technology

Astronomers discover first known second-generation planet orbiting the remains of the dead star from which it was born; finding suggests our sun could one day leave behind the ingredients for a new world.

Medical professionals link heat waves to a 25% increase in medical complications among pregnant women; a 1 degree Celsius increase in heat can boost chances of a preterm birth by roughly 5%.

People who eat ultraprocessed meals have higher insulin and blood sugar levels shortly after eating than those who eat less-processed meals of similar calories and macronutrient content.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close up (S&P 500 +0.7%, Dow +0.2%, Nasdaq +1.1%) as the Nasdaq composite and Nvidia hit all-time highs.

CNN CEO Mark Thompson will remain in charge of the news network after parent company Warner Bros. Discovery's \$110B acquisition by David Ellison's Skydance, expected to close today.

General Motors to reintroduce hybrid vehicles to US lineup as the gasoline-electric cars account for a record 16.3% of total vehicle sales amid rising gas prices.

Politics & World Affairs

Yemen's Saudi-backed government forces claim to have ousted Iranian-backed Houthi rebels from Bab el-Mandeb Strait, responsible for 12% of global trade; Houthis deny the claim.

Former Republican House speaker Dennis Hastert dies at age 84; the longest-serving Republican speaker from 1999 to 2007, Hastert was known for spearheading Bush-era tax cuts before he was disgraced by a child sex abuse scandal.

FlyDubai copilot who allegedly stabbed captain last week reportedly intended to crash into Tel Aviv airport or building; began planning attack over a year ago.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 4 of 63

Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

October 6, 2026 – 7:00pm

City Hall – 120 North Main Street

(IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CALL IN TO THIS MEETING, PLEASE MAKE PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS TO DO SO BY
CALLING CITY HALL 605-397-8422)

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
3. Curb & Gutter Discussion – Mary Carrico
4. Department Reports
5. Wastewater Project Update – IMEG
6. Groton's 150th Anniversary Discussion
7. Code Enforcement Contract with Code Enforcement Specialists
8. Monitoring System at Rubble Site
9. 2026 Baseball Report
10. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 798 – Certifying 2027 City of Groton Property Tax Levy to Brown County
11. 2027 Liquor & Wine License Renewals:
 - The Jungle:** package off-sale liquor & retail on-sale liquor
 - American Legion Post #39:** package off-sale liquor & retail on-sale liquor
 - Ken's Food Fair:** package off-sale liquor
 - American Grain LLC (DBA Red Horse Inn):** retail on-sale liquor
 - Olive Grove Golf Course:** retail on-sale liquor
 - Dollar General:** retail on/off-sale wine & cider
 - MJ's Sinclair:** package off-sale liquor
12. Minutes
13. Bills
14. Reminder: City Office, City Shop and Wage Memorial Library closed Monday, October 12, 2026 for Columbus Day
15. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
16. Hire Jeff Uzzle as Electric Utility Superintendent and establish wage
17. Adjournment

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 5 of 63



BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA

GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2026, 8:45 A.M.

COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS

COURTHOUSE ANNEX - 25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD

1. Call To Order - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Opportunity for Public Comment
 - ❖ *Public comment will be limited to 10 minutes or at Boards Discretion. Presentations will be limited to 3 minutes*
4. Richmond Dam Update
5. Dave McNeil & Ron Wager – City of Aberdeen
 - a. Discuss Task Force for Data Centers
6. Rachel Kippely, Fair/Fairgrounds/ Parks Manager
 - a. Set Bid Dates & Authorize Advertising for the following items:
 - i. Grandstand Sound/Lights/Stage for 2027-2031
 - ii. Grandstand Big Screens with optional Timing Service for 2027-2031
 - iii. Sanitation Services for 2027-2029
 - iv. Electrician Services for 2027-2029
 - b. Amend Hay Cutting Lease with Donald Griese for County Land at the Fairgrounds
7. Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent
 - a. R-O-W for NVC
 - b. R-O-W for East River Electric
 - c. R-O-W for Northern Electric
 - d. R-O-W for Basin Construction
 - e. Transfer Chevy Suburban to Museum
 - f. Department Update
8. Second Reading/Possible Adoption of the following Ordinances:
 - a. Ord. #334 – Rezone for County Line Developers, LLC
 - b. Ord. #335 – Amending portions of Title 4 Zoning Ordinances
 - c. Ord. #336 – Amending portions of the Comprehensive Plan 2020-2040
9. Approve & Authorize Chairman or Vice-Chairman to sign Payment #5 for Landfill Cell #5
10. Acknowledge & Accept Contract Resignation from Markcus Selzler DBA: Centennial Village, Inc.
11. Consent Calendar
 - a. Approval of General Meeting Minutes of September 29, 2026
 - b. Claims/Payroll
 - c. HR Report
 - d. Travel Requests
 - e. Landfill Tonnage Report for September
12. Other Business
13. Executive Session (if requested per SDCL 1-25-2)
14. Adjourn

You can join the Brown County Commission Meeting via **your computer, tablet, or smartphone on the following:**

<https://meet.goto.com/BrCoCommission>

You can also dial in using your phone in the United States: **+1 (872) 240-3311 - Access Code: 601-168-909 #**

Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://meet.goto.com/install>

Official Recordings of Commission Meetings along with the Minutes can be found at [Commission Meetings | Brown County](#)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 6 of 63

Johnson duo completes first day at state golf meet

Groton Area's Jace Johnson and Liam Johnson completed the opening round of the Class A State Boys Golf Tournament Monday at Lakeview Golf Course in Mitchell. The two-day tournament concludes Tuesday.

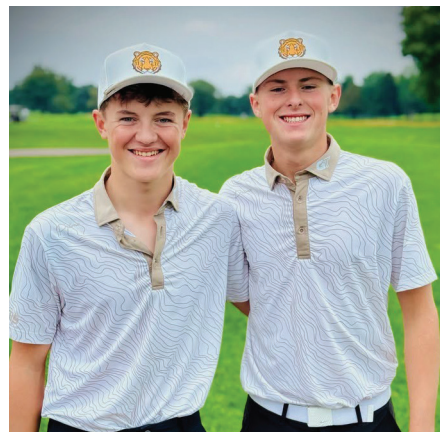
Jace Johnson led the Tigers with an opening-round 85, putting him at 13-over par and tied for 47th place. Johnson shot a 40 on the front nine and a 45 on the back.

His opening nine included a strong stretch on holes six through eight, where he went 3-3-2. He also recorded a 3 on No. 17 before finishing with an 85.

Liam Johnson finished the first round with a 90, 18-over par, and was tied for 70th place. He posted a 44 on the front nine and a 46 on the back.

Liam's best holes came on Nos. 13 and 14, where he recorded back-to-back 3s.

Both Groton Area golfers will return to Lakeview Golf Course Tuesday for the final round of the state tournament.



Liam Johnson and Jace Johnson are competing at the state golf meet being held in Mitchell. (Photo from Groton Area FB Page)

☆	T47	Jace Johnson <i>Groton Area</i>													+13				85			
Mon, October 5 LAKEVIEW GC (WHITE - Men)																						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total	
Jace Johnson	5	5	5	5	6	3	3	2	6	40	7	4	5	7	4	4	5	3	6	45	85	

☆	T70	Liam Johnson <i>Groton Area</i>													+18				90			
Mon, October 5 LAKEVIEW GC (WHITE - Men)																						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total	
Liam Johnson	5	5	4	5	6	4	4	4	7	44	8	5	6	3	3	6	5	5	5	46	90	

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 7 of 63



Tevan Hanson
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Kella Tracy
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Chesney Weber
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Tigers sweep Tiospa Zina, move above .500

Groton Area rolled to a straight-set volleyball victory over Tiospa Zina, winning 25-8, 25-8 and 25-6 to improve to 11-10 on the season.

The Tigers controlled the match from start to finish, finishing the night with 41 kills, 16 ace serves and 37 digs.

Taryn Traphagen led the Groton attack with 16 kills while adding one solo block and one assisted block. Tevan Hanson finished with eight kills, four ace serves and 12 digs, while Chesney Weber contributed seven kills, three aces, seven digs, one assisted block and 18 assists.

Kella Tracy added five kills, McKenna Krause had four kills and Libby Althoff recorded two kills, one ace and 12 assists. Elizabeth Cole added a kill.

McKenna Tietz led Groton at the service line with seven aces. Sydney Locke had three ace serves and nine digs.

Groton Area coach Chelsea Hanson said the match provided an opportunity for the Tigers to work on their offense and gain some confidence after a difficult stretch of the schedule.

"We did what we needed to do and tried to keep our errors low," Hanson said. "We got to take some big swings, and we needed that too."

Hanson also praised Tiospa Zina for the attitude it displayed throughout the match.

"They do little things right at certain times, and they have good spirits," Hanson said. "They were celebrating Taryn's victory and how good of a game Taryn had. They're always good sports and very competitive. Even if they're losing sometimes kind of bad, they have good spirits, and that makes it fun."

The victory came after Groton went 2-2 Saturday at the Redfield Tournament. The Tigers lost matches to Madison and Aberdeen Roncalli before rebounding with victories over North Central and Gettysburg.

Hanson said Groton knew going into the tournament that its pool would present a major challenge.

"We felt like, of the top five or six teams there, three of them were in our pool," Hanson said. "We knew we were going to have to work really hard to get out of our pool. We played okay. We just were kind of out of sorts and couldn't find a lot of offensive rhythm. Overall, not the greatest day for us, but to come out of there 2-2, we'll be happy about that."

Monday's match gave Groton's hitters a chance to reestablish some of that offensive rhythm.

"We've been struggling connecting with setters and hitters at all positions," Hanson said. "It was good

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 8 of 63

for us to get Taryn having some good swings, Kella having some good swings and Tevan having some good swings. We needed that."

Hanson said one challenge in a lopsided match can be adjusting to balls coming across the net in ways a team does not normally see against stronger competition.

"There's a lot of chaos balls coming over and things that just aren't necessarily orthodox, and sometimes that can throw off your rhythm too," Hanson said.

She added that the Tigers understand they will have to raise their level of play as the schedule continues.

"There are a lot of things that we need to be working on, and a lot of the things that we did tonight aren't going to work against teams that compete better," Hanson said. "We want to make sure we're still being competitive in practice and doing the things we need to do."

At the same time, Hanson said a match in which the Tigers could relax and enjoy themselves was welcome after playing a demanding schedule.

"At the point in time we're at in our season and how many hits we've taken playing a competitive schedule, every once in a while a game like this, just to be able to have some fun and let them enjoy it, is good too," Hanson said. "We'll chalk up a win anytime we can get it right now."

Tiospa Zina was led by Emma Jens with two kills. Khloe Adams had a block and an ace serve, while Wocekiya One Road had one kill. Tiospa Zina fell to 3-11.

Groton Area also swept the junior varsity match, 25-7 and 25-8.

Tori Schuster led the Tigers from the service line with seven aces and also had a kill. Abby Fjeldheim had five kills and an ace, Kinley Sandness recorded four kills and an ace, Brooklyn Spanier had three kills and four ace serves, and Neely Althoff finished with two kills and four aces.

Brynlee Dunker added two kills, while Kinsley Rowan, Arianna Dinger and Ryelle Gilbert each recorded an ace serve.

Witanin Bird had three ace serves for Tiospa Zina.

Groton won the C match 25-6 and 25-13.

Brynlee Dunker had five kills and two ace serves, while Charli Jacobsen recorded two kills and five aces. Sophia Fliehs had seven ace serves and a kill, and Maycee Moody finished with three kills and two aces.

Arianna Dinger added four ace serves, Mya Moody had an ace, Riley Stoltenberg recorded two kills and Gracie Borg added an ace serve.

Groton Area will have nearly a week before returning to action Monday at Britton-Hecla.

108 South Dakota Students Are Waiting for a TeamMates Mentor

(Pierre, South Dakota) — One hundred eight students in South Dakota are waiting to be matched with adult mentors, according to TeamMates of South Dakota, a youth mentorship program. The TeamMates state-wide board of directors recently met with Governor Larry Rhoden in Pierre to share information about the program overall, the impact the program has on students and mentors alike, and desire to grow the footprint through increased matches.

"Having a TeamMates mentor has proven to increase student attendance and improve grades," said Jess Karim, State Director of TeamMates Mentoring of South Dakota. "Our hope is that all students on the waitlist will be matched with caring adults. In most of our communities, we're especially in need of male mentors."

According to research by the National Mentoring Partnership, one in three young people will grow up without an identifiable mentor. TeamMates is working to build awareness and community partnerships to find more individuals willing to serve as mentors.

The TeamMates of South Dakota board recently gathered for a day-long meeting in Pierre to discuss how to increase awareness of the impact and need for mentors.

TeamMates is a school-based mentoring program that matches student mentees with adult mentors. Mentors are provided with training and meet their students weekly, on school grounds, for about an hour to play games and share common interests. There are eight chapters in South Dakota: Custer Hermosa, Belle Fourche, Lead Deadwood, Huron, Pierre-Ft. Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls and Spearfish. Currently, 420 South Dakota students are paired with a TeamMates mentor.

To learn more about TeamMates or to apply to mentor, visit www.teammates.org.

"Our kids and grandkids are the future of South Dakota. It is essential that we mentor them and build them up into the leaders of tomorrow," said Governor Larry Rhoden. "Thank you to TeamMates for making an impact on our state. I encourage everyone to consider becoming a mentor and giving back to the next generation."



Governor Rhoden speaks with TeamMates of SD State Director Jess Karim in Pierre.

Northern State football cracks top 25 in both national polls

Northern State University's strong start to the football season has earned the Wolves national recognition in both major NCAA Division II polls.

For the first time in program history, Northern State is ranked in the top 25 of the American Football Coaches Association poll, coming in at No. 25 this week. The Wolves are 5-1 on the season following their win over Bemidji State and received 42 points in the AFCA voting.

Northern State also moved up three spots in the D2Football.com Top 25, climbing to No. 22.

The Wolves will have another opportunity to make a statement nationally this weekend when they travel to Minnesota Duluth for a noon kickoff Saturday.

Minnesota Duluth enters the matchup with a 4-2 record and is ranked No. 18 in the D2Football.com poll. The Bulldogs are also receiving votes in the AFCA poll, collecting 24 points this week.

Ferris State holds the No. 1 position in both national rankings. Harding is second in the D2Football.com poll, followed by Minnesota State, Kutztown and Grand Valley State.

In the AFCA rankings, Harding is also second, with Kutztown third, CSU Pueblo fourth and Minnesota State fifth.

Northern State is one of several teams from the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference receiving national attention. Minnesota State is ranked No. 3 by D2Football.com and No. 5 by the AFCA, while Minnesota Duluth sits at No. 18 in the D2Football.com rankings.

Wayne State of Nebraska also received 10 votes in the AFCA poll.

Northern State's No. 25 AFCA ranking marks a milestone for the program as the Wolves continue their 5-1 start and prepare for another nationally recognized opponent.

Northern State University Names Dr. Anna Schwan Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

ABERDEEN, S.D. — Northern State University has named Dr. Anna Schwan associate vice president for academic affairs, broadening her leadership responsibilities across the university. Schwan will continue to serve as dean of Northern's Millicent Atkins School of Education while taking on additional responsibilities in academic affairs.

Schwan has served as dean of the Millicent Atkins School of Education since 2023, following a year as interim dean. During her tenure, the school has added academic pathways and partnerships designed to respond to workforce needs across South Dakota, including teacher apprenticeship programs, a new Bachelor of Science in Education in Career and Technical Education and an expanded Millicent Atkins 1901 Scholarship program. Schwan led the school through a major renovation of Gerber Hall to create more collaborative, technology-rich learning environments for students.

"Dr. Schwan has demonstrated that she is willing to rethink how we serve students, build partnerships and foster exceptional teaching," said Dr. Erin Fouberg, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "She has provided outstanding leadership for the Millicent Atkins School of Education, and she will continue that work as dean. With this additional role, Anna will be responsible for several areas that directly impact the student experience at Northern."

As associate vice president for academic affairs, Schwan oversees Graduate Studies, Online Learning and Continuing Education, Empowering Innovators and Northern's Center for Statewide E-Learning. She also chairs Northern's Graduate Council, giving her a greater role in graduate curriculum and academic policy across the university, and represents Northern on the South Dakota Board of Regents' Academic Affairs Council.

Schwan also serves as Northern's apprenticeship coordinator. In addition to Northern's work with teacher and early childhood education apprenticeships, she is helping develop new apprenticeship models. Schwan led the development of Northern's Teacher Apprenticeship Pathway, which provides paraprofessionals with a flexible pathway to earn teaching degrees while continuing to work in their communities.

"Northern means so much to me, and I care a great deal about this university and the community that makes it special," explained Schwan. "I am incredibly proud of what we have built together in the Millicent Atkins School of Education, and I'm excited to have the opportunity to expand that work across Northern. I believe strongly in who we are, the momentum we are building, and what is possible for Northern as we continue to grow. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve Northern in this expanded role and to work alongside our students, faculty and staff as we continue moving our university forward."

Schwan joined Northern in 2017 following 16 years in public K-12 education as a teacher and secondary school administrator which included Groton Area. Before becoming dean, she served as chair of the Department of Teacher Education and graduate faculty coordinator for Northern's Educational Studies and Leadership and Administration programs.

She earned a Doctor of Education and Specialist in Education from the University of South Dakota, a master's degree from Valley City State University and a bachelor's degree from South Dakota State University.



Dr. Anna Schwan

South Dakota Transportation Commission Awards Economic Development Grants for Infrastructure Improvement

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Transportation Commission recently awarded approximately \$2.36 million in economic development grants for infrastructure improvements to rural communities across the state. The funds are designated to improve roads leading to schools, main business areas, hospitals, grain elevators, and other economic areas within a community. The economic development grants may cover 80 percent of the construction costs up to a maximum of \$500,000 for Industrial Park Grants and \$600,000 for Community Access and Agri-business Grants.

“South Dakota rural communities are able to grow and thrive through the economic development grants provided by the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT),” said Transportation Secretary Joel Jundt. “By supporting local infrastructure improvements, we’re helping communities strengthen their economies, create opportunities, and build a foundation for continued growth today and into the future.”

The following Community Access Grants were awarded by the Transportation Commission on Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2026:

City of Bryant - \$600,000 grant award for Railway Street which serves Farmers Union Co-op and the downtown business area;

City of Hoven - \$556,200 grant award for Railroad Avenue and O’Gorman Street which serves the local grain elevator;

City of Leola - \$600,000 grant award for Leola Avenue which serves the local school; and

City of Parker - \$600,000 grant award for Main Avenue which serves the main business area and the schools.

Applications are still being accepted for Industrial Park and Agri-business Grants through Thursday, Oct. 15, 2026, to complete the 2027 grant cycle.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

South Dakota National Guard helps with more than 1,000 deportations since July 2025, governor says

Highway Patrol compensated with \$630,418 for work to aid ICE

BY JOHN HULT

The South Dakota National Guard has helped process 1,013 deportations for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement since July 2025.

Gov. Larry Rhoden's office included the figure on Monday in a news release announcing his decision to extend his order for cooperation with ICE in paperwork processing, a task assigned to seven National Guard members. The extension will run through September 2027.

It's unclear how many of the 1,013 people were residing in South Dakota, because some of them could have been passing through the state. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the federal agency that oversees ICE, did not provide the number to South Dakota Searchlight when asked.

Highway Patrol reimbursement

Rhoden's release also said the Trump administration will pay the South Dakota Highway Patrol \$480,000 for its continued work under a cooperative agreement with ICE. Under the terms of that agreement, signed in 2025, 38 state troopers have been trained and are enabled to question people about their immigration status and detain people on ICE's behalf.

Earlier this summer, Rhoden said the state got \$150,418 from ICE to compensate the Highway Patrol for its work.

Rhoden's Monday news release said the combined \$630,418 goes toward "personnel payroll, specialized field equipment, and information technology stipends to support the agency's coordinated enforcement efforts."

Troopers have been involved in "261 immigration-related arrests involving individuals unlawfully present in the United States who were encountered during routine patrols across South Dakota," according to the press release.

Prison, parole cooperation

The state Department of Corrections has also helped ICE deport people since Rhoden's pledge of state aid for immigration enforcement efforts began last year.

The prison agency has an agreement under which its officers can question inmates about their immigration status.

The state has also paroled inmates who are in the U.S. without legal status into ICE custody. Since July 2025, the state has done that to 38 people.

Some of those inmates were released on presumptive parole. That means they were in line for an automatic early exit from prison because they had followed the rules there and completed the in-custody programming assigned to them upon arrival.

Broader cooperation

In total, there are 11 state or local agencies in South Dakota that have 287(g) program agreements with ICE, under which the agencies are trained and empowered to conduct certain tasks related to immigration enforcement.

The Department of Corrections has two agreements.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 14 of 63

The power to question inmates comes through a "Jail Enforcement Model" agreement. The second agreement is a "Warrant Service Officer" model, which lets corrections staff serve immigration warrants to inmates in state prison custody.

The Highway Patrol has a "Task Force Model" agreement, acting on ICE's behalf to ask questions and detain people encountered in the normal course of state trooper business.

The Minnehaha and Pennington county sheriff's offices, both of which operate jails, have warrant service officer agreements. The Grant County Sheriff's Office has two agreements: one for jail enforcement, and another that lets its deputies question and detain as state troopers do.

Centerville and Viborg are the only cities in South Dakota that have 287(g) agreements with ICE.

The other agencies that have agreements with ICE are the sheriff's offices in Corson, Edmunds and Hughes counties, and the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation.

Tony Mangan, spokesperson for the division, said there hasn't been remuneration for its work with ICE, which is more limited in scope than the work of the Highway Patrol. Mangan also provided a statement from Marty Jackley, who oversees the division as South Dakota's attorney general and entered into its agreement with ICE.

"I limited the Division of Criminal Investigation's agreement with ICE to only violent criminals and drug dealers," Jackley said. "That mission has not changed."

Local chief hopes assistance helps bring new funding

Centerville Police Chief Lon Hatcher said he signed a task force agreement with ICE in the interest of making sure he and his fellow officer in the department of two are "evaluating who we're dealing with to make sure that we're safe, and the community remains safe."

"We don't have a huge amount of demand because our community is smaller," Hatcher said. "We're sitting between 900 and 950 people, roughly."

Centerville is about 40 miles southwest of Sioux Falls. Hatcher's task force agreement also involves welfare checks for unaccompanied minors.

Under that part of the agreement, Hatcher is empowered to help ICE visit children who entered the U.S. without a parent or guardian and are placed with adult "sponsors" by the Department of Homeland Security. Last November, the department announced its plans to leverage local agencies with 287(g) agreements to help locate and vet sponsors for 450,000 such children.

Hatcher said he's been called out to assist in one such welfare check, in Sioux Falls.

Centerville is reimbursed for its time and equipment use, but Hatcher said he also hopes the agreement will help the department receive favorable treatment when applying for federal grants.

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.

ACLU seeks 'deterrent' against election problems by training observers across South Dakota

BY MEGHAN O'BRIEN

Citizen observers could play an especially important role in the Nov. 3 general election, according to the American Civil Liberties Union of South Dakota.

"They are a deterrent against bad behavior," said Samantha Chapman, the organization's advocacy manager.

The group plans to deploy trained, volunteer observers in Aberdeen, Rapid City and Sioux Falls on Election Day, and is inviting the public to receive training this month in those cities and online.

Observers will document anything out of the ordinary, Chapman said, including instances of voter intimidation, inaccessible polling places, long lines, precincts running out of ballots, or challenges to voters' registration.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 15 of 63

With the control of Congress at stake, President Donald Trump and his aides have refused to rule out interfering in the elections. In an interview with TIME magazine published recently, when Trump was asked about sending Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to conduct enforcement actions at the polls, he said only that he hadn't thought of it. He also addressed whether he'd declare a national emergency to impose regulations on the election.

"I don't rule anything out or in. We'll see," Trump said.

For broadcasters

Produced 1 minute, 8 second audio story with host intro script.

New South Dakota laws that impact elections and voting rights also make an observer's presence more urgent than previous elections, Chapman said. Those include laws that designate registered voters as "federal only" — meaning they can only vote on federal contests, not state and local ones — if they failed to prove their South Dakota residency or U.S. citizenship. Another new law allows voters to challenge another voter's citizenship.

"With all of those big sweeping changes, we also think it's critically important to have our election observers there to make sure that no one is being disenfranchised because they don't understand what these new laws do or do not require," Chapman said.

During the 2024 general election, the ACLU deployed 40 trained observers to polls in the state's three largest cities, where observers documented that "our elections are being administered freely and fairly," Chapman said.

Early voting for the Nov. 3 general election is underway and the voter registration deadline is Oct. 19.

Election observer training

The ACLU of South Dakota invites the public to the following election observer training sessions:

Virtual: 7 to 8:30 p.m. Central time, Oct. 7.

Aberdeen: 5:30 to 7 p.m. Central, Oct. 13, K.O. Lee Aberdeen Public Library.

Sioux Falls: 3:30 to 5 p.m. Central, Oct. 18, Siouxland Libraries Downtown Library.

Rapid City: 5:30 to 7 p.m. Mountain, Oct. 22, Rapid City Public Library.

The ACLU will also host an informational session from 2 to 4 p.m. Mountain on Oct. 10 at the Catalyst Theater in Rapid City about what voters should know when they're at the polls, and what to do if they face problems while voting.

For information and to RSVP for any of the events, visit aclusd.org/events.

Meghan O'Brien is the audio reporter for South Dakota Searchlight where she covers the state government and its impact on South Dakotans. She's previously reported in Nebraska with a focus on health care and rural communities across the state.

7 coffins removed from North Dakota governor's residence property

BY MICHAEL ACHTERLING

Archaeologists recently removed seven coffins containing human remains and an unknown wooden box from a construction site near the North Dakota governor's residence, according to the Office of Management and Budget.

The archaeologists explored more than 80 areas of interest in September after human remains were discovered in May while construction crews were installing a new fence around the property.

Brandon Solberg, facilities management director for the office, said in a statement that archaeologists will now review and catalog all remains and items discovered during fieldwork. That analysis is expected to continue into early 2027.

"It's going to take a while now to do the research and analysis," Solberg said in an interview last week.

The archaeologists are trying to identify basic information, such as age ranges, and potentially diseases, Solberg said. DNA testing will not be part of the analysis, he said.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 16 of 63

The area where the remains were discovered was once part of Bismarck's first cemetery from 1873 to 1877, OMB said previously. Many of those burials were reinterred to St. Mary's Cemetery and Fairview Cemetery in the 1880s.

Remains were also discovered on the Capitol grounds during the 1903 construction of a trolley line near the southwest corner of the property and in 1959 during construction of the previous governor's residence, according to the statement.

The office said it has contracted with a local funeral home, and Crisis Care Chaplaincy has volunteered its services to ensure the remains are handled with care. Reinterment at a local cemetery is expected to take place in the spring, Solberg said.

Lawmakers last year approved \$2.35 million for security upgrades to the governor's residence, including the fence and driveway extension. As of Sept. 1, the archaeological work was estimated to cost the state an additional \$155,000, according to the Office of Management and Budget.

The office did not provide an update for additional costs after the exhumation work was completed.

North Dakota Monitor reporter Michael Achterling can be reached at machterling@northdakotamonitor.com.

This story was originally produced by North Dakota Monitor, 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.

Michael Achterling is a reporter based in Bismarck. He recently worked as digital editor and city government reporter for the Detroit Lakes Tribune in Minnesota and as news director for KDLM/KRCQ/KBOT, a part of Leighton Broadcasting. You can reach him at machterling@northdakotamonitor.com.

Trump drops longtime aversion to mail-in voting with GOP trailing in polls

BY JONATHAN SHORMAN

President Donald Trump wants to sharply curtail mail ballots. He's called them "inherently corrupt" and baselessly condemned them as a major source of fraud.

But with Republicans falling behind in the polls, the president is now urging his supporters to vote in the midterm elections any way they can, including by mail.

The White House has also sent emails through a government account promoting voter registration in recent days and Trump is continuing a string of campaign rallies in typically conservative states, including Nebraska on Monday night. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has directed that members of the military, who tend to support Republicans, have a day off to vote.

"If your state has early voting, do not wait. Go out and vote. Vote early, vote by mail, or vote in person on Election Day, November 3rd, so we can defeat the radical left 'Dumocrats' in a midterm victory that is too big to rig," Trump said in a social media video over the weekend, using a derogatory term for Democrats.

The about-face by the president is familiar. Trump encouraged his voters to cast their ballots by mail in 2024 and has repeatedly voted by mail himself, despite a long record of attacking the practice.

Republicans battle against loss of majorities

The latest comments — along with the red-state rallies — underscore the political peril that analysts see facing Republicans and Trump.

If Republicans lose control of either the House or Senate, Democrats are likely to launch investigations into the White House that could complicate the president's final two years in office. A Democratic House would face pressure from the base to pursue impeachment against Trump or other administration officials.

Democrats enjoy an 11-point advantage over Republicans on the generic congressional ballot, according to a nonpartisan September national poll by Emerson College. The poll also found Democrats more enthusiastic, with 78% "very excited" to vote compared to 66% of Republicans.

A poll by The New York Times and Siena College, released Saturday, found Democrats ahead or tied in Senate races in several GOP-leaning states, including Alaska, Kansas, Ohio and Texas.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 17 of 63

Several of those same states — including Alaska, Kansas and Ohio — allow voters to cast a ballot by mail without providing an excuse. Iowa also features a highly competitive Senate race and has no-excuse absentee voting, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Vice President JD Vance was visiting Alaska on Monday to campaign for the Republican Senate candidate, while Trump was scheduled to hold a rally in Grand Island, Nebraska, where the incumbent Republican Sen. Pete Ricketts faces a competitive challenge from independent Dan Osborn.

'We seem to have no choice'

Republicans are scrambling to find ways to turn out their base voters, said Brandon Rottinghaus, a political science professor at the University of Houston. The immediate objective for the party is maximizing voter turnout among their supporters, he said, adding that discouraging them from using legal methods to vote would be an obvious electoral disadvantage.

"The overriding concern for the White House is turnout, not consistency," Rottinghaus said. "The political messaging has been inconsistent on this. But all of that aside, the need to get Republicans to come vote is paramount for Republicans."

Trump at the White House on Monday said that he prefers voters to cast their ballots in person but that they can "vote by mail if they want because we seem to have no choice." Without offering evidence, he alleged significant cheating in voting by mail.

Pressed by reporters for evidence, the president pointed to California. The blue state, where all voters receive a ballot in the mail, has drawn his ire in the past for a vote-counting process that can last weeks, in part because of ballots that arrive in the mail after Election Day. But a slow count isn't evidence of fraud.

When asked about Trump's shifting stance, the White House referred States Newsroom to the president's Monday remarks.

Supreme Court blocked Trump

Trump's decision to again tout voting by mail — while also attacking it — came after he spent months pursuing a high-stakes effort to impose restrictions on mail ballots.

In August 2025, Trump promised to lead a movement to eliminate mail-in voting.

Less than a year later, he signed an executive order directing the U.S. Postal Service to require states, at least 90 days before a federal election, to notify the Postal Service whether they intended to allow ballots to be sent through the mail. States would have then had to submit to USPS a list of voters planning to vote by mail at least 60 days before the election.

Postmaster General David Steiner had said that the Postal Service wouldn't deliver ballots for states that refused to comply with the rule. Democrats and other opponents said it would have given the Postal Service unprecedented and unconstitutional authority over elections, which are administered by the states under the Constitution.

The U.S. Supreme Court blocked the rule from taking effect in a one-paragraph order that upheld a lower court decision halting it. Election officials and voting rights advocates had warned that implementing the requirements so close to the election would have caused chaos.

Trump railed against the decision at the time, calling it a "big loss" for Republicans and alleging it would make cheating by Democrats on mail-in ballots much easier. "And now they have open field to do so," he wrote on social media when the order was issued in mid-September.

On Monday, League of Women Voters President and CEO Celina Stewart emphasized that the Trump administration had spent months attacking voting by mail. She said in a statement that while Trump sought to impose restrictions through an executive order — which the League sued over — "the President does not have the authority to unilaterally dictate how states administer elections."

"A shift in rhetoric does not undo those actions, nor does it erase the need for the League to take this fight to court. We will judge this administration by its actions, not by its latest statement," Stewart said.

Trump's attacks on voting by mail

Trump's attacks on voting by mail stretch back to the 2020 election, when mail voting surged amid the pandemic.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 18 of 63

At that time, he characterized mail ballots arriving after Election Day as fraudulent, even though late-arriving ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day — indicating that voters made their choices before the close of polls. The Supreme Court this year upheld the authority of states to count mailed ballots that arrive after Election Day.

Six years later, mail-in voting remains a major way for Americans to cast their ballots. Nearly a third of U.S. voters cast a ballot by mail in 2024, according to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

This year, nearly 1 million people have already voted by mail in the general election, with more than 52 million mail ballots requested, according to data compiled by the University of Florida Election Lab.

For campaigns, every ballot a supporter casts by mail represents a “bird in the hand,” said Rottinghaus. By contrast, voters who wait until Election Day remain potential voters, with the risk that something will come up that keeps them from voting.

Campaigns build whole persuasion operations around mail voting, he said, adding that demonizing the practice takes away a weapon some campaigns rely on.

“This is a top-down effort from the most vocal and visible Republican that can create a lot of complications for Republicans down ballot who may rely on mail voting for a big part of their strategy,” Rottinghaus said.

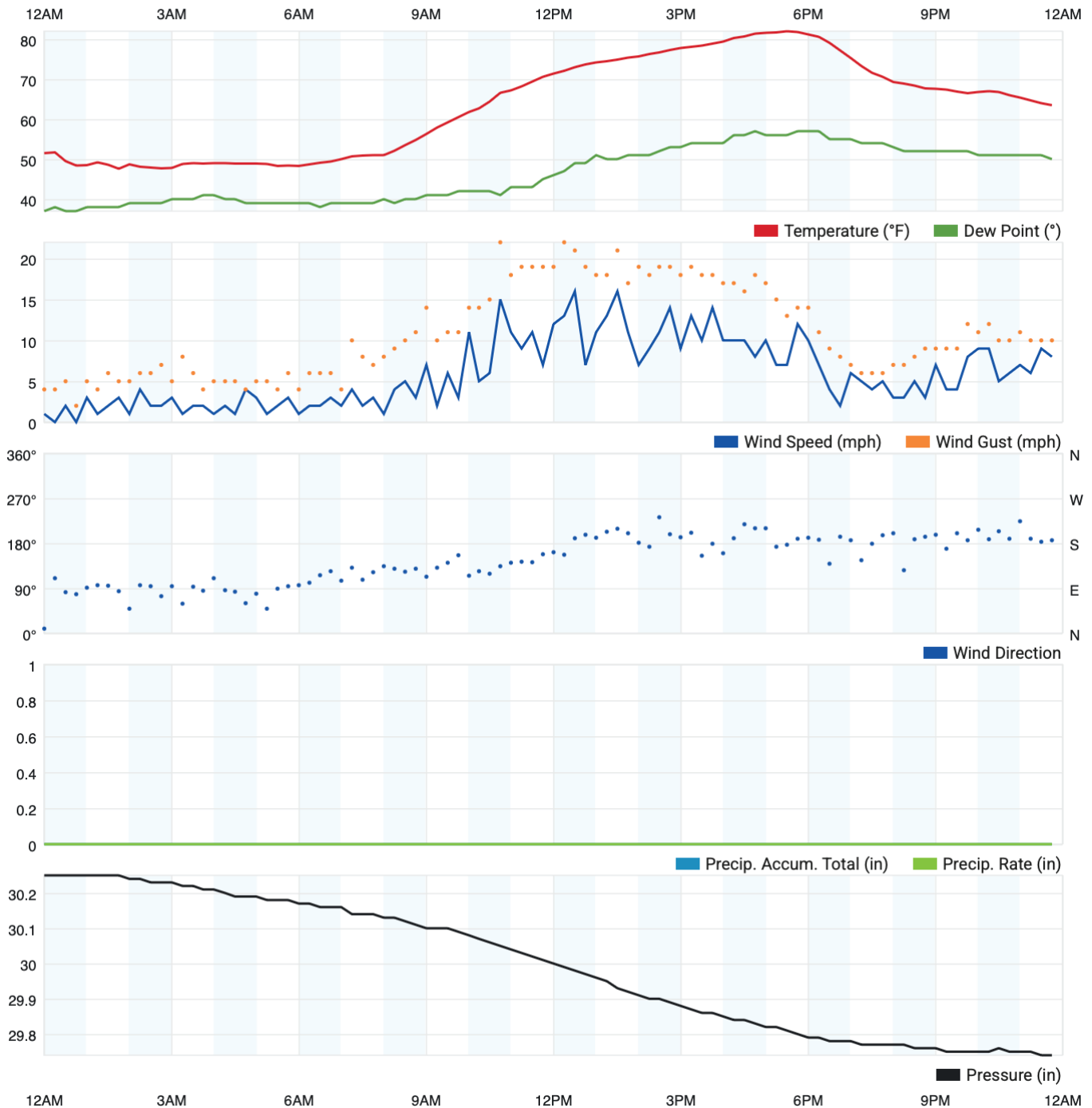
Jonathan Shorman covers democracy for States Newsroom. Based in Kansas City, his coverage area includes elections and voting rights, fights over state and federal power, civil liberties and more. An alumnus of the University of Kansas, he previously covered politics for The Kansas City Star.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 19 of 63

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

October 5, 2026



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 20 of 63

Today



High: 80 °F

Sunny

Tonight



Low: 45 °F

Increasing
Clouds

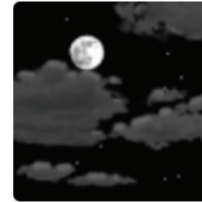
Wednesday



High: 72 °F

Mostly Sunny

Wednesday
Night



Low: 41 °F

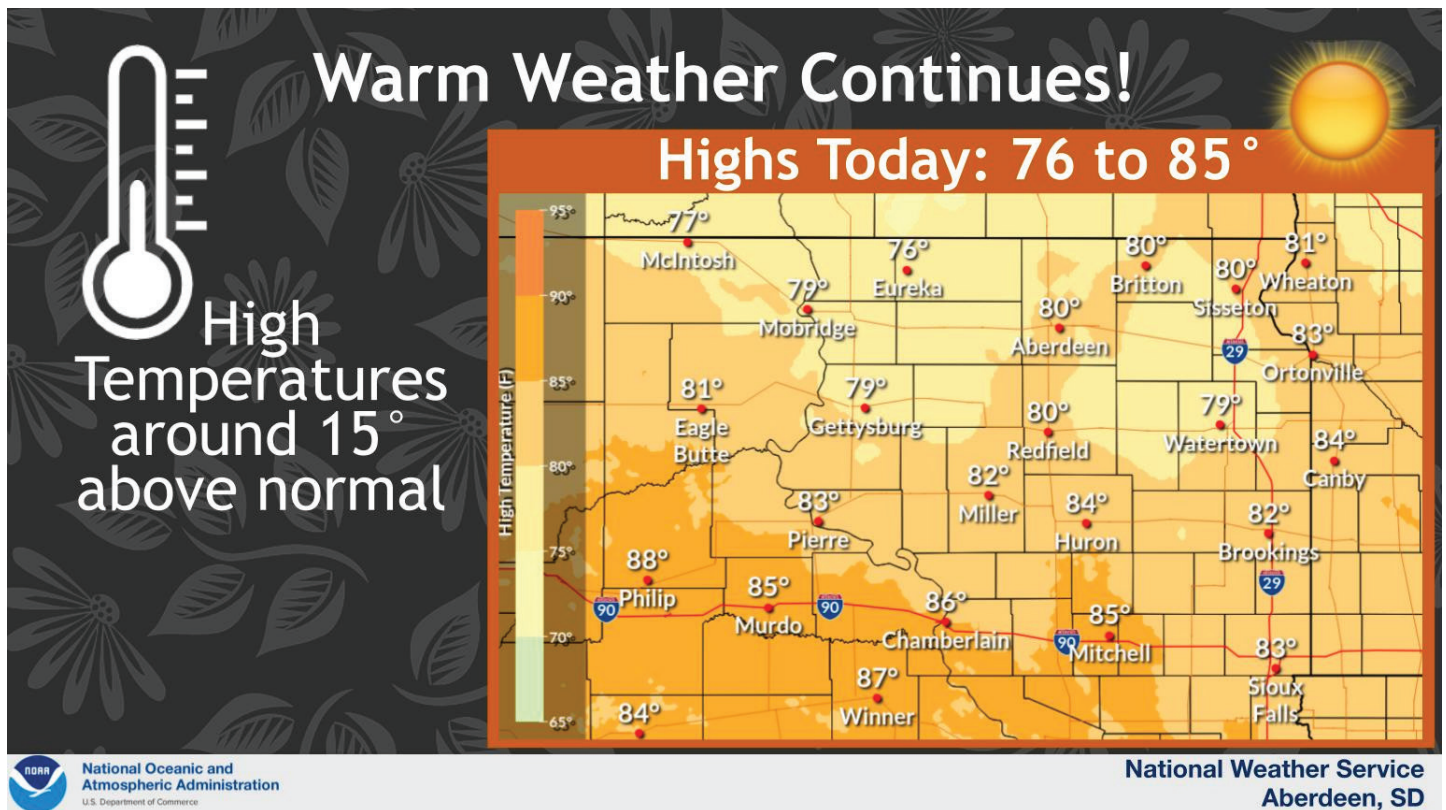
Increasing
Clouds

Thursday



High: 68 °F

Mostly Sunny



The warm and dry conditions will continue today. Temperatures topping out in the upper 70s to mid 80s will be around 15 degrees above normal for this time of year. The dry weather and above normal temperatures will continue through Saturday.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 21 of 63

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 82 °F at 5:31 PM

Low Temp: 47 °F at 1:43 AM

Wind: 25 mph at 12:16 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 91 in 1993

Record Low: 19 in 2012

Average High: 65

Average Low: 38

Average Precip in Oct.: 0.47

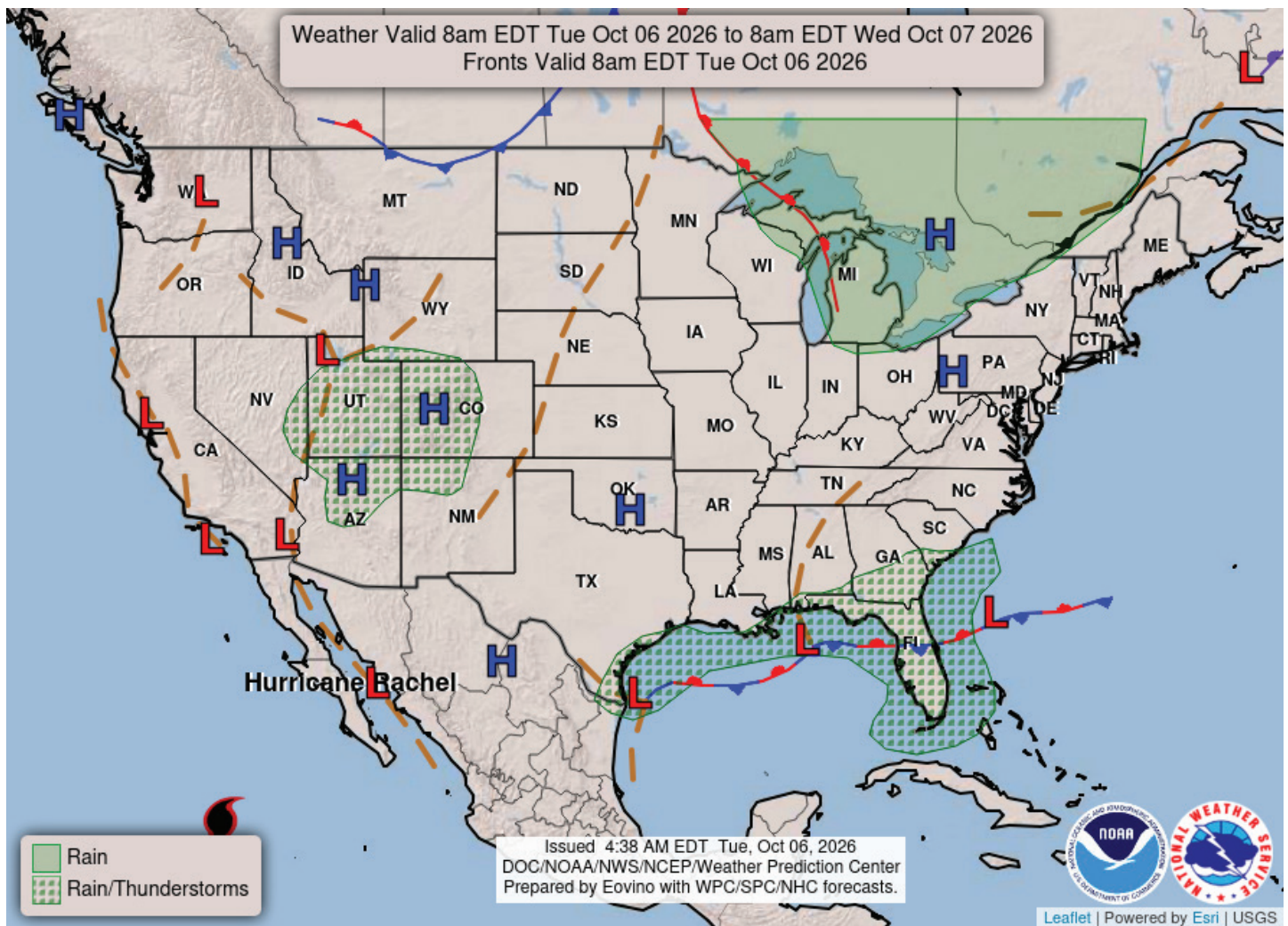
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 18.80

Precip Year to Date: 22.08

Sunset Tonight: 7:03 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:38 am



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 22 of 63

Today in Weather History

October 6, 1994: During the late afternoon hours, a small tornado traveled for 3 miles along an intermittent path east of Browns Valley, damaging several buildings on a local farmstead. Another tornado touched down east of Wilmot, South Dakota, in Roberts County. The tornado was on the ground for eight miles and destroyed several small farm buildings, a garage, damaged farm machinery, blew down a grain bin, and uprooted several trees. Several hogs were killed when their shed was destroyed, and minor damage was done to some homes. The tornado drove a 6-foot long 1x6 piece of lumber through the center of a large tree limb.

1836 — A second early season snowstorm produced eleven inches at Wilkes Barre PA and 26 inches at Auburn NY. All the mountains in the northeastern U.S. were whitened with snow. (David Ludlum)

1952: Sleet fell at several locations, making it the earliest documented winter precipitation in Arkansas.

1967: A Canadian weather record one-day rainfall of 19.3 inches falls at Brynnor Mines at Ucluelet.

1981: The Netherlands' fourth-worst aircraft accident (at the time) occurred on this day. At 5:09 PM, the crew noted heavy rainfall in thunderstorms on the weather avoidance radar and received clearance to avoid this area. At 5:12 pm, the aircraft entered a tornado, which caused the right-wing to separate from the plane. All 17 occupants of the plane perished in the accident.

1984 — The temperature at Honolulu, Hawaii, reached 94 degrees to establish an all-time record at that location. (The Weather Channel)

1985 — A tropical wave, later to become Tropical Storm Isabel, struck Puerto Rico. As much as 24 inches of rain fell in 24 hours, and the severe flooding and numerous landslides resulting from the rain claimed about 180 lives. (Storm Data)

1987 — The western U.S. continued to sizzle. Afternoon highs of 85 degrees at Astoria OR, 101 degrees at Tucson AZ, and 102 degrees at Sacramento CA, equalled October records. It marked the fourth time in the month that Sacramento tied their record for October. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 — Cool Canadian air prevailed across the central and eastern U.S. Toledo OH reported a record low of 27 degrees. Limestone ME received an inch of snow. Warm weather continued in the western U.S. Boise ID reported a record high of 87 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 — Temperatures soared into the 90s across southern Texas. Afternoon highs of 93 degrees at Houston, and 96 degrees at Austin and Corpus Christi, were records for the date. Beeville was the hot spot in the nation with an afternoon high of 101 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

2010: A significant severe weather event struck northern Arizona with at least eight confirmed tornadoes. This event will go down in history as the most tornadoes to hit Arizona in a single day. An EF2 tornado was on the ground for 34 miles, ranking as the longest-tracked tornado in Arizona history.

2016: Around a half dozen tornadoes struck Kansas, including an EF-2 and EF-3 in Saline County.

2016: The center of Category 4 Hurricane Matthew passed within 100 miles of Miami, Florida.



When God Is Silent

An unanswered prayer doesn't mean God is ignoring you.

Even in the silence, He is still at work.

John 11:1-7: 1 Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.
2 It was the Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.

3 So the sisters sent word to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."

4 But when Jesus heard this, He said, "This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it."

5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

6 So when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days longer in the place where He was.

7 Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

Have you ever felt as if God were giving you the silent treatment? Perhaps you prayed and asked Him for direction but didn't hear a thing.

When the Lord doesn't appear to be answering our prayers, it's natural to struggle. We may feel disappointed, discouraged, confused, or even angry. Some of us begin to wonder whether God has forgotten us altogether.

Today's passage gives us a powerful example of what God's silence can look like. When Jesus heard that His friend Lazarus was sick and about to die, He delayed for two days before setting out. The dying man's sisters, Mary and Martha, no doubt wondered why Jesus seemed not to care. But ultimately, Jesus performed a far greater miracle than healing an illness: He raised Lazarus from the dead, and for many, faith was strengthened.

When we can't hear God, it doesn't mean He is ignoring us, unaware of our circumstances, or planning to deny our request. He wants us to have an intimate relationship with Him that's not dependent on how He responds to our prayers—a love for Him rooted not in what He does but in who He is. That kind of love is the fruit of His Spirit working in us (Galatians 5:22), and it's something we can ask Him to deepen in our heart.

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, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 24 of 63

The Groton Independent

Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.2% Sales Tax

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

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

Groton Daily Independent

www.397news.com

Subscription Form

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

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

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

E-mail _____

Password _____

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

paypal.me/paperpaul

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



WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.05.26

2 9 21 41 57 5

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

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 45 Mins 42
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.02.26

6 37 40 41 55 10

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$345,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 30 Mins 42
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.05.26

1 19 22 37 47 2

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$2,050,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 45
Mins 42 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.03.26

6 9 10 14 16

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$78,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 42
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.05.26

7 22 29 35 51 20

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 29
Mins 42 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.05.26

16 23 32 36 54 9

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$485,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 29
Mins 42 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 26 of 63

News from the Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Aberdeen Central def. Brookings, 25-16, 21-25, 25-14, 25-19
Centerville def. Burke, 25-18, 17-25, 29-27
Chester def. Colman-Egan, 25-23, 25-21, 23-25, 25-21
Corsica/Stickney def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-11, 25-21, 25-18
Dell Rapids St Mary's def. Castlewood, 25-17, 25-14, 25-15
Dell Rapids def. Dakota Valley, 25-17, 25-19, 25-20
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Garretson, 25-23, 25-23, 22-25, 10-25, 15-12
Groton def. Tiospa Zina, 25-8, 25-8, 25-6
Hot Springs def. Edgemont, 25-14, 25-12, 25-14
Langford def. Wilmot, 25-18, 25-20, 25-20
Lyman def. Stanley County, 25-22, 25-13, 23-25, 19-25, 15-10
McCook Central-Montrose def. Baltic, 13-25, 27-29, 25-20, 25-21, 15-9
Milbank def. Ortonville, Minn., 25-19, 25-17, 25-22
Parkston def. Ethan, 25-20, 23-25, 20-25, 25-17, 15-11
Viborg-Hurley def. Mitchell Christian, 26-24, 25-19, 25-10
Warner def. Wolsey-Wessington, 25-14, 25-15, 25-15
West Central def. Parker/Marion, 25-16, 28-30, 25-13, 25-20

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

Protesting pupils blockade French high schools again, testing a weekslong movement

By NICOLAS GARRIGA Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Protesting pupils blockaded their high schools again Tuesday and adult demonstrators marched in support of the teenagers' weeks-old nationwide movement demanding more resources for the school system.

At the Hélène Boucher lycée, or high school, in Paris' 20th district, protesters tipped trash cans and bicycles on their sides to create a makeshift barricade in front of the school.

Like hundreds of others around the country, the school was closed. Authorities began shutting schools last week to take some steam out of the demonstrations after widespread damage to schools and mounting injuries among staff, students and police.

French media reported protests in other cities and towns on Tuesday morning. Flag- and placard-waving demonstrators responded to labor union calls for workers to march in support of the high school movement that is rattling the government of President Emmanuel Macron.

"You say 'young people are the future' so listen to them," read a handwritten placard attached to a metal barrier outside a Paris school.

Interior Minister Laurent Nunez defended the government's muscular response, despite a growing list of gruesome injuries to young protesters blamed on police riot-control weapons. The latest was Monday, with a 15-year-old who lost a hand, seemingly ripped off by a police stun grenade.

Nunez said the police response to the protests has been proportionate in "almost all cases."

The widespread use of arrests, tear gas and riot-control weapons against teenagers is fueling defiance and angering some parents and teachers. Officers have made more than 6,100 arrests, and 715 officers have been injured, Nunez said.

At Hélène Boucher on Tuesday, parents and other adults positioned themselves between protesters and

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 27 of 63

police keeping watch.

School blockades and protests began in the Paris region in mid-September before spreading to other cities and towns. Demonstrators have voiced a range of grievances, often centering on a lack of resources and opportunities for students in disadvantaged schools despite the promise of France's national motto: "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity."

Students have drawn attention to rundown classrooms that lack basics such as desks and chairs, become sweltering in summer without air conditioning and, in some cases, are infested with rats. Other common complaints include staff shortages and exhausting workloads. French high school students' compulsory classroom hours are among the highest in Europe.

Nobel Prize in physics to be awarded in Stockholm

By KOSTYA MANENKOV and STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The Nobel Prize in physics will be announced Tuesday by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm.

Last year, three scientists won the Nobel Prize in physics for research on the strange behavior of subatomic particles called quantum tunneling that enabled the ultra-sensitive measurements achieved by MRI machines and laid the groundwork for better cellphones and faster computers.

The announcements of this year's prizes began Monday with the Nobel Prize in medicine being awarded to three scientists whose work led to a tool that uses light to help unravel how the brain works.

This week's awards continue Wednesday with the chemistry prize and literature on Thursday. After Friday's peace prize is awarded, the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences will be announced on Monday.

The prize money this year is 12 million Swedish kronor (about \$1.2 million), whether for an individual, a small group of laureates or an organization.

Kenya confirms first Ebola case imported from Congo after patient dies in Nairobi

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Kenya's Health Ministry on Tuesday confirmed the country's first imported Ebola case from Congo.

Health Minister Aden Duale said a Kenyan citizen who arrived in the country on Saturday from Congo via Uganda had been isolated and treated at Nairobi Hospital. The patient tested positive for the Ebola virus after developing symptoms associated with hemorrhagic fever.

The patient died late Monday while receiving treatment.

Health authorities have placed the country on high alert and are monitoring for possible additional cases.

Duale said 28 contacts, including family members and health workers who cared for the patients, had been identified. Another 23 passengers who traveled on the same flight from Uganda were being traced.

The contacts will remain in isolation for 21 days and will be released after testing negative for the virus, the ministry's director, Patrick Amoth, said.

The patient will be buried within 24 hours in accordance with recommended public safety protocols.

Kenya is the fourth country to record an Ebola case in the current outbreak, which was declared in eastern Congo in mid-May. Uganda recorded 20 cases and France one. Before Kenya reported its case, there had been no active cases outside Congo since Uganda declared its outbreak over in late August.

This is the fastest-growing Ebola outbreak in history. The World Health Organization has warned it could become the deadliest as it continues to outpace efforts to track and contain it.

The outbreak is caused by the rare Bundibugyo virus, for which there is no approved vaccine or treatment. Vaccine and treatment trials are underway in Congo's Ituri province, the outbreak's epicenter.

Much of the world sees tragedy in Gaza. Many Israelis, scarred by Oct. 7, see only a threat

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

SDEROT, Israel (AP) — One by one, Israelis peered through the tourist-style binoculars at the shattered Gaza town of Beit Hanoun, a distance of several football fields away, where buildings tilted in the rubble like broken teeth. The only noticeable movement was dust kicked up by Israel's military.

The Israelis squinted for a few moments and gestured others over. The lookout is a rare place where they can confront the Palestinian territory firsthand, and some celebrate its devastation.

An Israeli documentary released this year included one onlooker exclaiming, "Wow, destroyed beautifully." The Associated Press heard similar sentiments there.

On Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people in southern Israel and abducted 251 others, leading to a devastating war and, eventually, a fragile ceasefire.

Three years on, a visit to the communities attacked that day made clear: It's too soon for many residents to see the Palestinians next door as anything other than a threat.

Barbecue reminds one woman of 'the smell of hell'

The highway running parallel to Gaza, where militants gunned down people trying to flee, is dotted with memorials. Victims' smashed and bullet-pocked cars are assembled elsewhere, rusting and piled a half-dozen high. Portraits of young female military spotters, whose warnings about a potential attack were disregarded, mark their deaths that day.

One resident, Deganit Bar Hay, said she still can't barbecue because the smell of burnt flesh — "the smell of hell" — is a trigger.

Globally, there is shock and condemnation over how Israel has conducted the war, and how Gaza remains in ruins and cut off from the world a year since the ceasefire. Over 74,000 Palestinians have been killed, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, and the vast majority of its 2 million residents live in rat-infested tent camps or among the debris.

But empathy for them is still unthinkable for many in Israel, with memories raw. Israeli media report little on the Palestinians of Gaza, and Israelis rarely if ever hear their voices unless they seek them out.

A new Israeli documentary, "NAZA," in which military insiders describe what they said was the systemic killing of Palestinian civilians in Gaza, has sparked outrage at the filmmakers, not the government. Everywhere in Israel — at train stations, beaches, the Gaza viewpoint — are dozens of stickers in memory of the hundreds of soldiers killed on Oct. 7 and in the ensuing war.

"We are post-traumatic, all of us," said Ziporah Livneh, outside a cafe catering to tour groups and soldiers a short drive from Gaza. Much of her family died in the Holocaust, and she came to Israel at the age of 2.

Now, she said, the answer for Gaza is to keep believing in people's humanity but respond strongly to acts of evil. A society and a country can't be built on revenge, but for the world to think "we can be Mother Teresa, it is a hypocrisy."

'Many people around the globe don't understand us'

Many Israelis are still turned inward. They say their story isn't being heard or understood. They assert that Palestinians in Gaza receive more attention, even as Israel's government still prevents journalists from entering the territory except under rare, highly managed visits — and very few Palestinians can leave.

From the day the war began, Israeli news and hearts were focused on the dead and the hostages taken into Gaza, a land that despite being an hour's drive from Tel Aviv has long felt remote. Cross-border contact had been severely limited since Hamas seized power in 2007. Then, on Oct. 7, militants ripped the fence apart.

This is the first anniversary since the attack that all remaining hostages are out of Gaza, alive or dead.

There is rebuilding in the Israeli communities where militants went home to home, burning and shooting. There is also the insistence on keeping Oct. 7 memories alive, with hope that the outside world will come to understand how Israel's sense of security was smashed.

"I know many people around the globe don't understand us," said Mor Izreal, director of an Oct. 7 virtual

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 29 of 63

reality exhibit in the border city of Sderot. She said over 10,000 people have visited since it opened a year and a half ago, most from overseas. Reactions range from sadness to rage to connectedness, she said.

The first election since the war brings fresh anger

This year, for the first time since the attack, there is also an election, a momentous and angry one.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government is deeply divisive. Many Israelis accuse him of failing to prevent the Oct. 7 attack and not securing the hostages' release sooner, before many of them were killed. He is also accused of corruption and threatening democratic institutions.

But there has been little criticism of how his government has treated the Palestinians in Gaza, where Israel's military now controls over 60% of the territory, squeezing them into an ever-smaller space.

Next to a bullet-pocked rocket shelter outside Sderot, a man held a banner calling for an official inquiry into the security failures surrounding the attack. Netanyahu has long resisted one.

Amit Gurfinkel said he spent Oct. 7 in a safe room with his daughter in the nearby community of Netivot, holding a knife and expecting the worst.

Gurfinkel is a minority in a population that has long supported Netanyahu. Posted across Sderot are campaign banners for his far-right allies, Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben Gvir — the national security minister who has called for killing "30 to 40" people in targeted assassinations in Gaza each night.

Security is paramount, especially in Sderot, where residents have just 10 seconds to seek shelter when rockets are fired from Gaza. But Gurfinkel sees Israel's reputation as crucial, too. He shook his head over passing drivers who shouted their support for Netanyahu, whose government is isolated over the destruction in Gaza and who has been indicted by the International Criminal Court.

"This is pathological. I don't know," Gurfinkel said. "Sociologists and psychologists will have answers in the years to come."

There is little discussion of Palestinian civilians

Some Israelis argue there are no real civilians among Palestinians in Gaza, pointing to Hamas' entrenchment. Some Palestinians feel the same way about Israelis, noting that military service is mandatory for most Jewish men and women.

"Death to Arabs" is written inside a rocket shelter across from the Sderot police station that was besieged and then destroyed. "Hamas is still in Gaza" is scrawled on a guardrail on the highway where bodies spilled from vehicles on Oct. 7. "Make Gaza Jewish Again" is on a banner in a public square in Jerusalem's Old City.

There is little public discussion about how everyday Palestinians are doing after three years of war.

"I think about them, and it's complicated," Adi Marmelstain said of the people in Gaza. She was visiting the sprawling memorial for the Nova music festival, where hundreds of people were shot dead on Oct. 7.

Her 20-year-old daughter, a member of the security forces like many young Israelis, stood in shorts and a tank top, her rifle slung across her. Both knew people who had been killed.

Marmelstain recalled waking up another daughter on Oct. 7 and sending her to war with bottled water and cookies. She later asked herself what she had been thinking. Three years later, life is not much easier to contemplate.

The world doesn't see Israel in the right light, she said. And the Palestinians in Gaza?

"I think they have the right to live, but they choose not to," she said.

Bulgarian prime minister says 2 commercial vessels hit by drones in economic zone

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — Bulgarian Prime Minister Rumen Radev said two commercial vessels were hit Tuesday by drones in the country's Exclusive Economic Zone.

Radev said after a government emergency meeting that the ships were attacked by several drones about 80 miles (128 kilometers) off Bulgaria's coast.

One of the ships, the Alfa Watan, which flew the flag of Togo, suffered critical structural damage and sank on the spot. There was no immediate information about the fate of the crew, he said.

The second vessel, the Able, which was flying the Palau flag, caught fire after the attack. The entire

crew of 18 was evacuated by a Bulgarian ferry. Two of the sailors suffered severe injuries and were flown to a hospital in the port city of Varna, Radev said.

The origin of the drones was not immediately established.

This was the first attack on shipping in the NATO member's economic zone in the Black Sea.

A crowd of students protests Cornell's response to gang rape complaint

By LEAH WILLINGHAM and TASSANEE VEJPONGSA Associated Press

ITHACA, N.Y. (AP) — Cornell students thronged a campus plaza to protest the university's response to allegations of sexual assault at a fraternity house, and the school's main administration building was splashed with graffiti and damaged overnight.

At a demonstration that overflowed the large space in front of the school's student center, students, faculty members and others wore purple ribbons and held signs with such messages as "support survivors, expel rapists" and "Justice 4 every Jane Doe" — the name by which the woman who reported the assault is known in court papers. Other people watched from pathways, windows and a nearby hill.

"Too often, we are met with silence, we are met with statements, we are met with procedures, but not enough support," student Athena Holloway told the crowd. "How much does it take for our university to stand with survivors?"

Hispanic studies professor Julia Chang added to applause: "Rape should not be inevitable."

Calls for Cornell president's resignation

Speakers faulted fraternities, the university trustees and Cornell President Michael Kotlikoff, saying he and his administration have prioritized protecting the university's reputation over students' safety.

"Kotlikoff, resign!" demonstrators chanted, among other slogans, as they marched to the damaged administration building to present a list of demands. They included changes to how the student code of conduct defines sexual consent, an overhaul of the student discipline system and expulsions or degree revocations for all students involved in the alleged 2024 assault of the woman known as Jane Doe, among other things.

The woman's account of being sexually assaulted by several fraternity brothers has made clear, on and beyond campus, that "for all the strong feelings about sexual assault, ... we do not do enough to prevent it, nor to support survivors after it happens," student Madeline Gage said.

The group began disbanding with chants including "ban the frats!"

Graffiti and broken glass at an administration building

The Ivy League school has been trying to quell a firestorm over its handling of the alleged 2024 gang rape. Early Monday, the university found signs of the anger on the very walls of its administrative headquarters.

Holes were knocked into one of the building's glass doors, and the walls beside them were marked with red-painted messages condemning patriarchy and the Ivy League school's handling of sexual assaults, news media photos showed. Later Monday, the graffiti was removed and the door was boarded up.

Cornell spokesperson Kyle Kimball said in a statement that the university was investigating and that "damaging property is not the answer" to Cornellians' "frustration and strong emotions." Campus police referred questions to his office, which declined to provide more detail on the incident.

Jane Doe alleges that she was sexually assaulted by multiple Chi Phi fraternity members in October 2024 after being pressured into drinking and taking drugs. She was a Cornell student at the time.

The woman recently sued the university, seven former students, the fraternity and others. Her lawsuit said that she became fully incapacitated as fraternity members assaulted her, and that one man sent others a message inviting them to participate.

"I felt like bait. I felt like lions around me. It just was a totally debilitating place to be in," she told Cornell investigators last year, according to records reviewed by The Associated Press.

Lawyers for two of the former students denied they participated in a sexual assault. Attempts by The

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 31 of 63

Associated Press to reach the other men or their representatives have been unsuccessful. Court records show that some of the accused students, when interviewed by Cornell investigators, described the sexual activity as consensual.

Shortly before she went to Cornell police in November 2024, Jane Doe recorded a phone call with one of the men she says raped her. ABC News broadcast portions of that call Monday, containing only what it said was his voice, and recounted other parts of the conversation in writing.

"What y'all did would be classified as gang rape," she told him at one point, according to the network, which said she had provided the recording to the university.

Students are demanding transparency, accountability

The suit has drawn national attention to what Cornell, its police force and the local district attorney did after she told the campus police in November 2024 she "can say with 100% confidence I was raped."

No criminal charges have been filed. The Chi Phi chapter at Cornell was shut down, and the Ivy League university has said it expelled some students and suspended others. In a statement last week, the administration bristled about the "false narrative that there were minimal consequences in this case."

Students, however, have demanded more accountability and transparency, and New York Gov. Kathy Hochul has said Jane Doe was "failed by people and institutions" including the Cornell police and local District Attorney Matthew Van Houten.

Hochul appointed the state attorney general last week to take over a criminal investigation that Van Houten had reopened days earlier, and the governor called for an independent review of Cornell's handling of the matter.

After the week's developments, Kotlikoff released an apologetic video Saturday, saying that Jane Doe's account "raises heartbreaking and troubling issues about sexual assault, dehumanization and aspects of party culture, alcohol and drug use."

Kotlikoff reaffirmed his support for an independent review of the university's actions and vowed more transparency and a commitment to "finding the answers our community deserves."

Rubio begins three-nation NATO tour in Iceland, which is wary of Trump's Arctic intentions

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has begun a three-nation tour of NATO allies with a stop Tuesday in Iceland, where unease persists about the Trump administration's Arctic intentions even after a deal was reached to ease the president's designs on neighboring Greenland.

Rubio called Iceland "a good friend" and offered no hint of tensions with the island that is a NATO member but has no army. Before the Greenland deal was signed last month, Iceland was an occasional feature of Trump's comments and social media complaints about NATO allies not doing enough to support the U.S.

Rubio, who also will visit Greece and Portugal before returning to Washington on Thursday, has often been called upon to mollify and reassure U.S. partners and allies after undiplomatic comments by Trump, including him referring multiple times to Canada as the 51st state and threatening to take over Greenland, a self-governing territory of NATO ally Denmark.

In remarks to reporters Monday before leaving Washington, Rubio gave no indication that his mission was to clean up or clarify the administration's strategy when it comes to the Arctic, NATO or Europe more broadly. But he did call all three of the countries he will visit "strong allies" that are important for protecting U.S. national interests.

Rubio said on social media that his visit to Iceland was meant to "advance our shared priorities: a secure Arctic, stronger commercial and energy ties, and closer defense cooperation."

Last month, however, Trump alarmed Icelanders when he posted a map showing the colors of the U.S. flag sprawling across all of North America and extending to Greenland and Iceland.

In response, Iceland Foreign Secretary Thorgerdur Katrín Gunnarsdóttir, whom Rubio will meet on Tuesday, summoned U.S. Ambassador Billy Long to a meeting and said she made it clear that the post

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 32 of 63

was unacceptable.

Iceland, which is just 180 miles (290 kilometers) away from Greenland, had already been on edge after Trump mistakenly named the country four times while speaking about Greenland.

Long, a colorful former Missouri congressman, IRS commissioner and professional auctioneer, also has made waves in Iceland. Before he took up his post in August, thousands of Icelanders signed a petition urging the prime minister to reject him after he made a crack earlier this year about Iceland becoming the 52nd U.S. state and making him governor. He has since apologized for the quip.

Long is not the first Trump ambassador to Iceland to have raised concerns with the host government. In Trump's first term, Ambassador Jeffrey Ross Gunter left locals in relatively crime-free Reykjavik aghast over his request to hire armed bodyguards, which prompted complaints.

At Rubio's next stop in Athens, he may be dealing with another ambassador controversy. Rep. Gregory Meeks, a New York Democrat who is the ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said last week that he would investigate allegations of misconduct and impropriety by the U.S. ambassador to Greece, Kimberly Guilfoyle.

In a letter to Rubio, Meeks said he wanted answers following the allegations reported by The Wall Street Journal last month and that he would call for Guilfoyle's dismissal if the behavior outlined in the news report was true.

The Journal reported that Guilfoyle told guests at a reception that the U.S. could undermine the Greek government if it chose to, promoted the business interests of one particular Greek construction and energy company, and allowed its lobbyist into private diplomatic meetings.

Some Greek opposition parties have called for an inquiry into the allegations, but it isn't clear if they will proceed.

Guilfoyle, a former Fox News host and California prosecutor who was once engaged to Trump's son Donald Jr., has denied any wrongdoing and Rubio has defended her before.

Guilfoyle, Rubio said after the Journal story appeared, "has been an incredible advocate for the president's agenda in Greece and across Europe." Rubio said he and Trump greatly value the ambassador's "pivotal work and leadership," notably on energy issues.

The Trump administration sees Greece as key to advancing the promotion and export of U.S.-produced liquefied natural gas to southeastern and central Europe.

Saudi-backed Yemeni forces expel Houthi rebels from several areas around key strait, officials say

By AHMED AL-HAJ and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

ADEN, Yemen (AP) — Forces of the Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen have recaptured several key areas around the strategic Bab el-Mandeb Strait from Iran-backed Houthi rebels, Yemeni officials said Monday, while the Houthis claimed attacks on Saudi oil facilities, airports and military bases as fighting escalated on Yemen's western coast.

The Yemeni officials said forces allied with the internationally recognized government retook the crucial town of Dhubab just north of the strait, a vital shipping route that connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden.

They also captured the towns of Bab and Hadeid, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters. Witnesses said they saw government tanks and forces entering the towns.

The government push came as part of a major offensive launched early Monday under air cover by a Saudi military coalition.

Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, the Houthis' military spokesman, claimed in a pre-recorded statement that the rebels used ballistic and cruise missiles and drones in attacks targeting King Khalid International Airport in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, and an oil refinery in the Red Sea city of Rabigh.

Also attacked were Abha airport, military facilities in Khamis Mushait and other "critical sites" in the cities

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 33 of 63

of Najran and Jizan, he claimed.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters that it was expected that the Saudi-backed government would hit back at the rebels to reclaim territory. Asked if the coalition coordinated the action with the United States, Rubio said that Saudi Arabia and the U.S. have a defense agreement but wouldn't offer more details.

Since the Yemeni government was ousted from some of its territory by the Houthis and the Saudis have come under attack, "they have a right to defend themselves," Rubio said.

U.S. Embassy in Riyadh warns of possible attacks

The U.S. has provided support to Saudi Arabia in its ongoing campaign against the Houthis, according to a regional official and a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak to reporters. The support included intelligence sharing, target identification and planning for the offensive, said the officials.

The U.S. had supported the Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthis early in the Yemen war, before quitting the coalition in recent years.

The U.S. Embassy in Riyadh warned U.S. citizens on social media to be vigilant about possible drone or missile attacks.

The offensive came just after the rebels said they had captured more territory in the southwestern part of Yemen, taking a key town in a blow to the Saudi-backed forces as they advanced toward a strategic provincial capital in the region.

The Saudi-led coalition spokesman, Maj. Gen. Turki al-Malki, said 100 fighter jets were providing support to government forces. He said the coalition secured "air protection" of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait and destroyed hundreds of Houthi targets.

Pakistan and Turkey say they will deploy forces to Saudi Arabia

Also on Monday, the foreign and defense ministers of Pakistan and Turkey agreed with Saudi Arabia to deploy military forces to the kingdom under their defense pact.

A joint statement released by Pakistan's Foreign Ministry after an emergency meeting in Riyadh did not specify troop numbers, identify which countries would contribute forces or give a deployment timetable.

The three countries condemned what they described as attempted attacks on Mecca and Medina, as well as continuing attacks on Saudi cities and civilian and economic facilities. The statement did not identify who was responsible.

The air campaign follows the fall of a key town in Yemen

The escalation between Saudi Arabia and the Houthis has revived Yemen's civil war after a four-year ceasefire.

Houthis seized the town of Turbah on Sunday. Turbah sits on a main road linking the provincial capital of Taiz with the port city of Aden, which serves as an interim seat of Yemen's government. Over the years, the town was a major post for government forces defending Taiz.

Earlier, the Houthis seized several villages and areas on Taiz's outskirts, paving the way for the rebels to encircle Taiz, Yemen's third-largest city.

Yemen's flare-up shows the capabilities of the Iran-backed rebels

The Houthis made a swift push on the country's western coast on the Red Sea in early September. They captured the strategic city of Mokha and several Red Sea islands, gains that enabled them to control the Yemeni side of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, through which 12% of global trade transits.

The Saudi-backed government said Sunday it was mobilizing troops across government-held areas.

Rashad al-Alimi, head of the ruling Presidential Leadership Council, said in a televised speech that the operations were aiming at "recovering the remaining territories" controlled by the Houthis. He called on the international community to provide support to his government.

Hours after al-Alimi's declaration, the Saudi military spokesperson al-Malki vowed "full operational support" to Yemeni government forces until the Houthis are "eliminated."

Saudi-backed government forces are trying to fight back

Al-Alimi said in a post on X on Monday that the operation — dubbed "Yemen Dawn" — had started with

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 34 of 63

the aim of “restoring state institutions, liberating” Sanaa, Yemen’s rebel-controlled capital, and ending “the Houthi terrorist militia coup.”

Al-Nazili said government forces were carrying out a “strategic offensive” on Sanaa. The Houthi media office reported multiple airstrikes on their territories, including Sanaa.

The rebels’ taking of Turbah will likely constrain government forces’ ability to reinforce and resupply front-line positions across Taiz province and the provincial capital of Taiz, according to the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank.

The escalation has revived Yemen’s 12-year civil war

Yemen’s civil war began in 2014 when the Houthis descended from their northern stronghold, capturing Sanaa and forcing the government to flee into exile in Saudi Arabia. The war created one of the world’s worst humanitarian disasters and killed more than 150,000 people.

The latest bout of violence has killed at least 959 people and wounded over 4,200 others, according to the World Health Organization. The flare-up forced about 174,097 people to flee their homes inside Yemen, according to the U.N. migration agency. More than 3,000 others fled across the waters into Djibouti, the agency reported.

Last week, Yemen’s health ministry — part of the internationally recognized government — warned about the conflict’s impact on health facilities and medical staff across Taiz province. The ministry said in a statement on Friday that health facilities in coastal, western and southern areas of the province have closed or are barely partially functioning.

Trump signs order extending tax-free use of red-dyed diesel during midterm stop in Nebraska

By NICHOLAS INGRAM, SEUNG MIN KIM and MEG KINNARD Associated Press

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. (AP) — President Donald Trump on Monday took his Republican midterm rescue mission to Nebraska, where he signed an executive order to ease limits on the tax-free use of red-dyed diesel, a decision he said would save “millions” for farmers and drive down the cost of all goods with just four weeks to go until the elections.

“Pete and Jim, this should absolutely ensure your election, I guarantee you that,” Trump said, addressing GOP Sen. Pete Ricketts, who is running against an independent candidate backed by national Democrats, and Gov. Jim Pillen, who is seeking a second term.

Diesel fuel prices have spiked in the aftermath of the Iran war, rattling voters and putting pressure on Republicans. Diesel fuel that is intended for off-road uses such as agriculture is exempt from federal and state excise taxes, and it is dyed for law enforcement purposes, the White House explained in a fact sheet. Temporarily removing the limits would reduce cost pressures on the businesses that rely on diesel.

“The typical trucker will save more than \$100 every time they fill up,” Trump said, signing the executive order onstage before a crowd in Grand Island, Nebraska, in the solidly conservative south-central part of the state. He said the order will save farmers millions of dollars and drive down the cost of goods.

Patrick De Haan of GasBuddy, a platform that monitors national gasoline and diesel prices, noted last week, when news of the possible action began to surface, that such an order could save money for on-road users but not farmers, who already use red-dyed diesel.

“Taxes aren’t the problem, supply is,” De Haan wrote on X.

Trump’s trip is part of what the Republican president says is a 32-day blitz of rallies ahead of Nov. 3 that so far has taken him to ruby-red territory such as Oklahoma and Alabama. On Wednesday, he’ll make his second stop in two weeks in Texas with a rally in San Antonio.

Ricketts, a former governor of the state, was appointed then later elected to fill Sen. Ben Sasse’s seat when he left to run the University of Florida in 2023. Now Ricketts is running for his first full six-year term against independent Dan Osborn — a race that initially was not expected to be competitive but is now being watched by the national parties.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 35 of 63

Republicans facing headwinds amid voter discontent

Voters across the country are frustrated with Trump's handling of the economy, including persistently high costs for fuel and groceries. It's a major issue for rural voters who have backed the president and his party in recent elections.

The administration's plan to allow more imports of foreign beef has particularly roiled the agriculture-rich state of Nebraska. Trump wants to lower beef prices for consumers, but ranchers have rebelled against the import proposal, arguing it would undercut them.

"The plan to import low-quality foreign beef is not helping Nebraska ranchers," Ricketts told the AP. "I would advise the White House to change that policy and look for longer-term things that will help us build the size of the herd and ultimately bring the price of beef down for consumers."

In Grand Island, rally-goers said they they trusted Trump to solve the high cost of living.

"I feel like if we get our reserves built back up, get this situation in Iran taken care of, our gas prices will go down. The economy as far as groceries and stuff like that, it's going to go down too. It'll stabilize. I have faith in him. More faith in him than I ever had in any other president," said Marlene Abel from Garfield, Kansas.

David Kuncle, who grew up on a farm, expressed confidence things would improve in the long run. But the Lincoln, Nebraska, resident insisted Trump wasn't to blame, pointing instead to what he believes is "a coup, a plot to try to hurt Trump" and the Republicans in the midterms.

"It's hurting us. Gas prices. Diesel prices. Beef prices," he said. "I don't know why they're high. But it's not that Trump's got anything to do with that. He'll do what he can. But of course he can't wave a magic wand and make it go lower."

Democrats are aiming to flip a House seat in Nebraska

In the House of Representatives, the Grand Island area is represented by Republican Rep. Adrian Smith, whose race is not expected to be close.

But Nebraska has a competitive House race farther east in Omaha, in the 2nd District — considered the "blue dot" of the state because the area's electoral vote in presidential elections often goes to Democrats. The district is in the midst of a competitive race between Republican Brinker Harding and Democrat Denise Powell to fill retiring Rep. Don Bacon's open seat.

Monday's rally came as the Congressional Leadership Fund, a super PAC dedicated to electing Republicans to the House, cancelled \$1.1 million in planned broadcast spending on behalf of the Republican candidate in the race, according to AdImpact, which tracks campaign media spending. It was a possible sign that GOP leaders feel the money could be put to better use elsewhere. The group did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

There are tentative plans for Trump to travel to other election battlegrounds, including Michigan, North Carolina, Georgia, Ohio, Kansas, Montana, Pennsylvania, Alaska, Nevada and Arizona before November's Election Day. That's according to a person familiar with the plans who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly and cautioned the plans could shift.

There are a few Senate races where independents are the challengers

Osborn, a former labor union chief, ran against Republican Sen. Deb Fischer in 2024 and lost by 7 percentage points. Though national Democrats support him, he has refused to say what party he would caucus with should he be elected in November.

Other independents in the Senate, including Maine's Angus King on the moderate end and Vermont's Bernie Sanders on the left, caucus with Democrats for organizational purposes and committee assignments.

With the Democratic brand remaining deeply unpopular in conservative states, Osborn isn't the only declared independent running for the Senate against Republicans this year. In South Dakota, Brian Bengs is campaigning as an independent against Republican Sen. Mike Rounds. Bengs ran as a Democrat for the Senate four years ago and was handily defeated by now-Senate Majority Leader John Thune. It's a similar dynamic in Idaho, where independent Todd Achilles is challenging GOP Sen. Jim Risch.

Democratic voters in Nebraska chose Cindy Burbank as their party nominee, but Burbank campaigned on ensuring that no votes would be siphoned from Osborn in the general election, and she has since

dropped out of the race.

Osborn has been traveling across Nebraska to hold meetings in all 93 counties, and has repeatedly criticized Ricketts for not holding town halls to meet with constituents.

Ricketts, whose family founded TD Ameritrade and owns Major League Baseball's Chicago Cubs, served as governor from 2015 to 2023.

Vance stumps in Alaska

As Trump traveled to Nebraska, Vice President JD Vance headed to Fairbanks to rally with Republican candidates, including Sen. Dan Sullivan, who is locked in a contest with Democrat Mary Peltola that's one of a handful expected to determine control of the chamber in the November elections.

Vance praised Sullivan before a crowd gathered at the airport, saying the two-term senator is known for texting Cabinet members in the middle of the night to make the case for Alaska interests.

He cast Peltola, who served in the House from late 2022 and lost reelection in 2024, as ineffective during her time in Congress and called her a "servant of the far left." Peltola has sought to distance herself from national Democrats and emphasize that she is doing what she thinks is best for the state. Alaska Democrats described Vance's visit to help Sullivan as an act of desperation.

Sullivan was in the Oval Office last week as Trump announced that South Korea planned to invest about \$54 billion in a natural gas project in Alaska, but South Korean officials were more cautious, saying they needed to assess the project's commercial viability before committing to the investment.

Vance also expressed support for Rep. Nick Begich, whom he called a "machine" and a hard worker. Begich, first elected in 2024, is facing independent Bill Hill, a commercial fisherman and former educator, as his main competitor.

Trump approves firing squad execution for Fort Hood shooter Nidal Hasan

By JONATHAN J. COOPER Associated Press

President Donald Trump has approved the execution by firing squad of Army Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan for the 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas.

The U.S. military has not carried out the death penalty since 1961. The Army secretary will decide a time and place for the execution, Pentagon spokesperson Sean Parnell wrote in a post on X.

"Judgement day for Hasan has finally come," Parnell wrote.

Hasan, an Army psychiatrist, walked into a medical building where soldiers were getting medical checkups, shouted "Allahu akbar" — Arabic for "God is great!" — and opened fire with a laser-sighted handgun. Thirteen people were killed and more than 30 injured.

He said it was an effort to stop them from going to Afghanistan and killing his fellow Muslims and made almost no effort to defend himself at trial. He told jurors that evidence would show he was the shooter and described himself as a soldier who had "switched sides."

Trump's approval triggers a series of procedural steps toward carrying out the execution, but Hasan could put them on hold — potentially for years — with a habeas corpus appeal in the civilian federal court system, according to an article published in May in the magazine *Army Lawyer*.

Death sentences are extremely rare in the military justice system, and executions even rarer. Four men, including Hasan, are currently on the military's death row at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. President George W. Bush approved the execution Army Spc. Ronald Gray in 2008 but it was put on hold by a judge and he remains at Leavenworth.

The last man executed in the military system was Pvt. John Bennett, hanged in 1961 for raping an 11-year-old girl.

Trump approved the firing squad execution days after a failed attempt to execute Christa Pike by lethal injection pushed Tennessee's governor to halt further executions this year and order an independent review.

Trump resumed the federal death penalty after an informal moratorium during previous administrations.

The federal government executed 13 people between 2020 and early 2021, contributing to making Trump the most prolific execution president in over 130 years.

Asked whether the botched execution in Tennessee would lead him to seek changes to capital punishment, Trump said it was "an interesting situation."

"It shouldn't be very difficult," Trump said of carrying out lethal injections.

Tennessee Republicans consider more execution options after Christa Pike lethal injection fails

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

Some of Tennessee's top Republicans said Monday they want to explore alternative ways of executing condemned prisoners after the failed execution of Christa Pike, which relied on a large dose of pentobarbital.

U.S. Sen. Marsha Blackburn, the state's Republican candidate for governor, said Pike's unsuccessful execution last week "should not be grounds to halt carrying out the death penalty." Rather, she said, Tennessee needs to reevaluate the way it does executions.

"If it's lethal injection, if it is electric chair, what we do know is we have to find a way to do this — and do it successfully," Blackburn told The Associated Press.

Top legislative leaders have already spoken with Blackburn about potential changes to state execution laws during their 2027 session.

"We want to broaden it, include more methods," House Speaker Cameron Sexton said. "What those are as of today, I'm not sure. But I don't think there's any method that's off the table at this point."

Most U.S. states that allow executions use lethal injection as their primary means, though South Carolina sets its default as electrocution and Idaho the firing squad, according to the Death Penalty Information Center. Some states give prisoners a choice of execution methods. Death by electricity or gas is authorized in nine states, including five that specify nitrogen gas, the center said. Five states authorize a firing squad.

Florida, which leads the nation in executions this year, uses a three-drug lethal injection that includes a sedative, a paralytic and a drug that stops the heart.

Tennessee's execution procedures have been in the national spotlight since Wednesday, when prison officials gave Pike two doses of a barbiturate that were supposed to be lethal but didn't ultimately kill her. Pike has remained hospitalized under guard, left unconscious and on a ventilator with blisters and burns on her arms from the drug, her lawyers have said.

Pike, now 50, was sentenced to death for the 1995 torture and slaying of a classmate, Colleen Slemmer. Pike was age 18 at the time and became one of the youngest women sent to death row.

Republican Gov. Bill Lee, whose term ends in January, halted the one remaining execution scheduled for this year and ordered an independent investigation into the state's capital punishment system after Pike's failed execution. He said Saturday the commissioner of the Department of Correction will step down.

Blackburn said comprehensive change is needed — "it is personnel, processes, procedures, protocols that are all going to need to be addressed."

Tennessee law already allows electrocution if the department is unable to carry out a lethal injection despite reasonable efforts to do so. State law also gives people who committed crimes before 1999 the option of choosing electrocution.

Between 2018 and 2020, five Tennessee prisoners chose electrocution. That could remain an option for about two dozen of the 40 people on death row.

Sexton said the legislature could consider amending the law to give the state a choice of execution methods.

House Majority Leader William Lamberth said he is open to making electrocution the state's primary means of execution. But no matter the method, Lamberth said he doesn't want any changes to take too long to implement.

"We want these sentences to be carried out effectively, efficiently and humanely," he said, adding: "Whatever we do, I do not want it to delay justice for these victims' families."

Republican state Sen. Todd Gardenhire, chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said he expects a deliberate review of what went wrong and what can be done to improve the execution process.

"I think the electric chair is the quickest and simplest way to do it," he said.

Former 'American Idol' singer Caleb Flynn is sentenced to life in prison for wife's murder

By JULIE CARR SMYTH and PATRICK AFTOORA-ORSAGOS Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A former music pastor in Ohio who appeared briefly on "American Idol" was sentenced Monday to life in prison without the possibility of parole, after a jury convicted him last week of murdering his wife while he was having an affair.

The judge said Caleb Flynn, 40, used his Christian faith to manipulate others and showed no remorse for actions marked by "layers of deceit, manipulation and cruelty."

With tears rolling down his cheeks, Flynn apologized to his family just before being sentenced, starting with his two young daughters, who were home when he shot his wife in her sleep. He called their births the "greatest joy in this life."

Although he said he accepted responsibility for his words and decisions, Flynn remained adamant that he was innocent.

"As I stand here before God, who is my ultimate judge, I am not lying when I say I did not kill my wife," he said.

Prosecutors said Flynn staged a home invasion in February and claimed a burglar killed his wife, Ashley Flynn, a 37-year-old schoolteacher and volleyball coach. In his 2013 appearance on "American Idol," Flynn credited his wife with encouraging him to chase his dreams on the singing contest. He did not advance to the main competition in Hollywood.

During the trial, Flynn didn't testify on his own behalf, nor did anybody else.

Family members, including Ashley's parents, spoke in favor of the harsh sentence Monday, while saying they had forgiven Flynn because they didn't want her legacy to be hatred.

Her sister, Kayla Keyt, said Flynn's actions have scarred their entire church community, prompting children to run into their parents' bedrooms to make sure their fathers haven't killed their mothers.

As a family member read a statement written by his daughter Ava, Flynn sobbed uncontrollably as a pile of tissues grew on the defense table in front of him. At one point, it appeared he might fall over.

"Mommy was the perfect person," her statement said. "The absolute perfect person. What did she ever do to you to make you hate her so much?" In her statement, his daughter Alyssa said she wouldn't visit him in prison.

During closing arguments, prosecutors told jurors that Flynn wanted out of his marriage when he shot his wife at their house in Tipp City, a suburb north of Dayton. He sent a text message to his lover the night before the shooting, saying, "I choose you. I'm free. Actions will come tomorrow," prosecutors said.

During the trial, Alleigha Botner testified she met Flynn in 2022 while she was a 20-year-old intern at his church and had an affair with him for more than a year. She told jurors that Flynn said he hated his wife and had thoughts of killing her.

The gun used to kill Ashley Flynn was not found at the scene, and his attorney told jurors that investigators found no evidence that Caleb Flynn fired a gun that day. Prosecutors said his fingerprints and DNA were at the scene and that his devices showed him moving around the house, even though he claimed he was asleep at the time of the shooting.

The jury found him guilty of multiple counts, including murder, felonious assault and tampering with evidence.

Pennsylvania's measles outbreak is the largest in decades in the US

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Pennsylvania has surpassed 1,000 measles cases this year, state health officials said Monday, making it the largest state outbreak in more than three decades.

The U.S. is enduring its worst year for measles since 1991, with nearly 3,900 reported cases, according to the CDC. The nation has seen eight reported measles-associated deaths in the past two years — more than the combined total of reported deaths over the previous three decades.

Since the beginning of last year, large outbreaks have been reported in several states, including Texas and Utah, as well as South Carolina, which had the largest with 997 cases reported.

The governor of New York on Monday declared a disaster emergency because of measles cases in neighboring states and in rural areas of New York. The executive order extends the pool of people who can administer measles vaccines to include paramedics, midwives and others, and allows nurses to join doctors in ordering testing. The state has more than 100 cases this year.

Health officials say Pennsylvania's current outbreak started in April, west of Philadelphia. There have been 1,004 cases, including 198 hospitalizations and five deaths, state officials said.

Health experts attribute such outbreaks to low vaccination rates.

It's been decades since a U.S. state has seen an outbreak surpass 1,000 cases, stretching back to a multiyear outbreak in New York City in the early 1990s that infected more than 4,500 people.

The nation eliminated the domestic spread of measles in 2000 by maintaining high vaccination rates, but those rates have fallen in recent years to below the 95% coverage needed to prevent outbreaks.

In November, international health officials will meet to determine if the U.S. and Mexico have lost their measles-free status.

Measles is highly contagious. It spreads when people who have it breathe, cough or sneeze, and through contaminated surfaces. It also can linger in the air for two hours. Up to 9 out of 10 people who are susceptible will get the virus if exposed, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

U.S. measles infections have been surging in recent years, as fewer kids get routine vaccines due to parental waivers, healthcare access issues and rampant disinformation.

Pennsylvania and New York are not the only states with a growing problem. Another is Ohio, with more than 200 cases this year. Like in Pennsylvania, some of the hardest-hit Ohio counties have significant Amish populations, which tend to have lower vaccination rates.

Meanwhile, CDC officials have quietly begun to acknowledge measles-associated deaths in Pennsylvania.

State officials in August announced that two unvaccinated residents died after being infected with measles.

The announcement quickly came under fire as a clash erupted between vaccine-promoting Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro and U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a Trump administration appointee with a history of raising alarms about established vaccines.

Since then, Pennsylvania has reported three additional deaths.

But for weeks, the CDC — which Kennedy oversees — did not count any deaths on its measles data dashboard, instead saying it was seeking more information. That changed two weeks ago, when one death was finally counted, and again last week when a second was added to the agency's tally.

2 people killed, including a student, after Florida school bus rolls over in crash

By DAVID FISCHER The Associated Press

A Florida school bus carrying nearly 40 people overturned after being struck by an oncoming car on the way to a high school early Monday, killing a student and the driver of another vehicle that caught fire, authorities said.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 40 of 63

A heavy presence of emergency responders rushed to the crash site in Winter Haven, south of Orlando, and 26 students were transported to a hospital, Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd said. At least one person was in critical condition.

The crash left the bus upside-down on the side of the road. The front end was a mangled mess of metal and one of its four back tires appeared to be missing.

"It was a horrible crash," Judd said. "It was a terrible, tragic morning. We had a beautiful 10th grade girl lose her life."

The bus was headed to Winter Haven High School when an oncoming car crossed the center line and struck the side of the bus near the rear wheels, Judd said. The sheriff said the impact ripped the tire off the bus, which then crashed head-on into an oncoming Jeep that caught fire.

Most of the 39 people aboard the bus were high school students, along with the bus driver and the driver's daughter. Judd said first responders spent the first several hours getting people to the hospital, identifying them and reuniting students with their parents.

"I think this is the most horrific bus tragedy we've had in decades, as far back as I can remember," Judd said.

Officials didn't immediately report the condition of the driver of the car that hit the bus, but Judd said that person had been heading to work and was cooperating with investigators. They were not arrested or charged with a crime.

Polk County Public Schools Superintendent Frederick Heid said students practice drills on how to leave a bus that is involved in an accident. Last month, another Polk County school bus was also involved in a crash but authorities said no students were on board at the time.

"This event could have been far worse. You can see the condition of the bus, you can see its current positioning," Heid said.

Justin Sharpless, chairman of the Polk County school board, asked the community to come together to support the family of the girl who died, as well as the school and school staff.

"There are really no words that can take away the pain of losing a young person," he said.

No arrests in Georgia block party shooting as police pursue who killed 2 and injured dozens

Associated Press undefined

VIENNA, Ga. (AP) — Whoever opened fire at a sprawling block party in rural southern Georgia over the weekend, killing two people and leaving nearly three dozen others injured, remained at large Monday as authorities offered no new information about the shootings.

No arrests have been announced in Dooly County, where the sheriff says more than 50 shots were fired early Sunday in the small city of Vienna as more than 1,000 celebrated a homecoming football victory long after midnight.

Dooly County Sheriff Craig Peavy identified the two people killed as Ja'Quavion Jackson, 21, of Cordele, and Macaleb Jackson, 23, of Hawkinsville. The two men don't appear to be related, said Sara Lue, a spokesperson for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

An additional 35 people were injured — most of them by gunfire, though others were hurt in the chaotic scramble to flee, authorities told reporters at a Sunday news conference. The sheriff said an unspecified number were hospitalized with critical injuries.

Authorities haven't said what may have motivated the shootings or whether they're looking for a lone gunman or multiple shooters. They also have not said precisely how many people were shot.

"At large parties with people from different places, not just your locals, sometimes problems come," Peavy said Sunday.

Local officials say the block party wasn't a school-sponsored event and didn't have a city permit. Peavy said he had extra deputies working over the weekend in anticipation of homecoming drawing large numbers of alumni and other out-of-town visitors.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 41 of 63

The sheriff did not immediately return a phone message Monday. Lue said no further updates were available from state investigators, who customarily assist Georgia's rural communities in major cases.

The violence marred what Peavy said had been a large but otherwise peaceful celebration of Dooly County High School winning its homecoming football game in Vienna, a city of about 3,000 people located about 50 miles (80 kilometers) south of Macon.

Crowds of revelers gathered across an area covering four blocks, and Peavy said that he had deputies patrolling the area. When the first shots were fired and deputies rushed to the scene, he said, more gunfire sounded about a block away.

"It was so many people," Peavy said. "And it was just hard to figure out what was going on."

Among this weekend's visitors was Antoria Felton of Jonesboro, who drove two hours to bring her daughter and six other girls to Vienna. She told WMAZ-TV that everything seemed peaceful when suddenly "bullets were going everywhere."

Felton said she saw that "kids laying on the ground had been shot" as she scrambled to find her daughter and the other girls.

"The only thing I'm trying to do is find these girls," Felton said. "Everybody scattered out everywhere, everybody running. It was terrifying."

Republican Sen. Tillis calls his vote for Hegseth the 'biggest regret of my career' in a new book

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Sen. Thom Tillis says in a new book that his deciding vote to confirm Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth in January 2025 is the "biggest regret of my career" and that he also "should've stopped" Robert F. Kennedy Jr. from becoming Health and Human Services secretary in the early days of President Donald Trump's second term.

In "How to Lose Friends and Antagonize Presidents," to be published Tuesday, the North Carolina senator defends his decision at the time to not be "the lone voice in the wilderness" preventing Trump's nominees from confirmation. But Tillis makes clear he was always skeptical of allegations about Hegseth's turbulent management style, treatment of women and excessive drinking. Hegseth denied all the allegations.

"I know for a fact that there are others like me," Tillis writes, "Republicans who agreed to go along with the early demands of the Trump team no matter how ridiculous they were, believing that failing to do so would mean the end of their political career, and who now see that things have gone way too far."

He writes that he can count at least 30 of his GOP colleagues who have "expressed reservations (to put it mildly) about many of the president's actions in private. Then, when the reporters showed up with their cameras and microphones, they'd have nothing but nice things to say."

Tillis, who announced last year that he would not run for reelection in a "breaking point" with the president on his sweeping tax and spending cuts package, is publishing the book in his final months in office. He joins a long list of Republicans who have ratcheted up their public denunciations of Trump once they had less to lose politically.

Still, Tillis mostly deflects full blame from Trump, saying, "my beef is not with him, but the idiots he's got working for him." He calls the president "an amazing political talent."

At the same time, he warns of a slippery slope toward authoritarianism and urges his colleagues to "wake up" and push back on Trump more often, for their own political good. Executive overreach, he says, doesn't work and sooner or later, "comes back to bite the majority party in the ass."

Tillis also predicts a "bloodbath" for Republicans in November's midterm elections.

"All along, we've had multiple chances to get off the path and avoid the giant bronze monster chasing us down," he writes.

Regrets his votes for Hegseth and Kennedy

The book is filled with cuss words and condemnations. He criticizes Trump's tariffs, the aggressive immigration raids that Tillis says were an effort to "intentionally sow disorder" and the Iran war, which he

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 42 of 63

initially supported. He said the war can only end with a coalition of willing nations and if Trump gets "Pete Hegseth the hell out of the way."

Tillis pushed Hegseth's confirmation vote late into the evening on Jan. 24, 2025, as he weighed his decision, talking to the White House, people who had worked with Hegseth and Hegseth himself. In the end, he said he couldn't corroborate the worst allegations and would support Hegseth's confirmation. His vote brought the total to 50-50, and Vice President JD Vance broke the tie.

On his vote for Kennedy, Tillis writes that "I guess it's easy to say now, but I'm the one who has to live with that vote and all the havoc Kennedy's tenure has caused the country as a result."

On both votes, he says he didn't want to be the deciding factor.

"I had no intention of letting my colleagues outsource their courage to me while they pretended to go along with the questionable nomination President Trump had put forward," he writes.

If you oppose Trump on everything, "you lose all influence," Tillis says. "If you oppose him and lose, you are in even worse shape."

He strongly criticizes several of Trump's other initial picks for the Cabinet in the book, including former Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, former Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick.

Tillis describes his 'breaking point' over the tax bill

Tillis's surprise announcement in June 2025 that he wouldn't be running for reelection came as he escalated criticism against Trump and his "Big Beautiful Bill" of tax and spending cuts. Trump attacked Tillis on social media after the senator said he couldn't support the bill's cuts to Medicaid. Tillis says he thought to himself, "I'm done."

"Everyone reaches a breaking point," he writes.

He texted the president asking him to look for his replacement in the Senate, to which Trump replied "I am! DJT."

In May 2026, Trump again attacked Tillis, calling him a "QUITTER!" on social media, among other insults.

Tillis ends the book with a profanity-laced text he sent to the president in response.

"I care if you fail and right now we are failing," Tillis wrote to Trump.

Supreme Court weighs local governments' climate change lawsuits against oil and gas companies

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST and MATTHEW DALY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court grappled Monday with whether local governments can sue oil and gas companies in state court to help cover costs associated with climate change, an issue with potentially billions of dollars at stake.

Key justices appeared wary about the potential sweep of litigation, but torn over the complex questions of federal and state law raised by the case.

Officials in Boulder argue their lawsuit is an attempt to hold energy companies Suncor and ExxonMobil accountable for their contributions to climate change.

They say that worsening disasters such as floods and wildfires put a heavy financial burden on local communities, and the industry should bear part of that cost.

The city and county of Boulder first sued the oil companies in 2018, years before the 2021 Marshall Fire destroyed nearly 1,100 homes and left two people dead. Total damage was estimated at \$2 billion, the costliest wildfire in Colorado history.

The companies say that a flurry of lawsuits in state courts is not the way to deal with the global issue.

Boulder case is part of a wave of legal action against oil companies

Governments from largely blue-leaning areas around the country have filed similar lawsuits seeking damages that could total billions of dollars, part of a wave of legal action worldwide seeking to leverage action through the courts.

"Presumably, if you prevail, the next day, a municipality in every single state will file a lawsuit," said Chief

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 43 of 63

Justice John Roberts. "How do you think that will work out on the ground?"

Justice Brett Kavanaugh said a win by Boulder could bankrupt the oil companies and other potential defendants.

"I mean, anyone is a potential defendant for a suit like this. Any manufacturer, any business," he said.

A win for the oil and gas companies at the Supreme Court, meanwhile, could shut down dozens of similar cases filed in recent years.

Suncor and Exxon argue that the Clean Air Act gives the federal government – not the states – the power to regulate emissions.

They have the support of the Trump administration, which argues the lawsuits are an unconstitutional attempt to regulate planet-warming emissions and impose Colorado's state law beyond its borders.

But Roberts and other justices pointed out that state courts consider lawsuits about a myriad of issues that have nationwide reach. "I guess I'm not quite sure what makes this situation different from those," Roberts said.

The court is also weighing a jurisdictional question that could allow it an "off-ramp" to avoid deciding the issues right away. Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson seemed like a vote in favor of that path.

"Why shouldn't we wait and hear all of these claims once the state courts are done?" she asked.

Alito absent due to ethics recusal

The case was heard without Justice Samuel Alito, who recused himself just a week before arguments after facing calls to step aside because he owns stock in oil companies. That raises the possibility of a tie vote.

A deadlock would leave in place a decision from Colorado's highest court allowing the case to proceed.

Attorney Kannon Shanmugam, representing the industry, urged the justices to reverse that ruling. He said the Boulder case was attempting to use the courts to decide a public policy issue that is properly up to Congress and other elected officials.

"Climate change is certainly one of the most pressing issues" facing the country, but the lawsuit "is exactly the wrong way to go about" addressing it, he said.

Principal Deputy Solicitor General Sarah Harris said Boulder's case "egregiously exceeds" the state's authority. The county essentially declares itself a victim of actions that occurred largely out of state, she said.

But Kevin Russell, an attorney representing Boulder, argued that state lawsuits can address damage in Colorado, regardless where the fossil fuels are produced.

Boulder is not trying to regulate greenhouse gas emissions or stop the companies from continuing to produce oil and gas, Russell said. Instead officials are seeking to hold the companies accountable for allegedly misleading the public about their contribution to global warming by burning fossil fuels, he said.

"Chapter 3" of the case trilogy, after tobacco and opioids

Justice Elena Kagan compared the climate case to previous state-based lawsuits against the tobacco industry and opioid makers.

"This is Chapter 3," she said, noting the similarities of states claiming harms from products produced nationally and even internationally.

"This is a different book," replied Shanmugam, the industry lawyer. Harms claimed by Boulder "are diffused nationwide and indeed worldwide," he said.

Trump's Republican administration has rolled back environmental regulations, including a move last month by the Environmental Protection Agency to repeal rules that limit emissions from power plants fueled by coal and natural gas. States and cities have already sued over the repeal of the power plant rule.

The conservative-majority Supreme Court has been skeptical of environmental regulations in the past, including in a 2022 decision limiting the EPA's authority to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from power plants.

A decision is expected in the coming months.

Dennis Hastert, longtime Republican House speaker who went to prison, dies at age 84

By MICHAEL TARM and HERBERT G. McCANN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Dennis Hastert, whose congressional legacy as the longest-serving Republican House speaker was later fouled by allegations that he had molested high school athletes during his prior career as a teacher and wrestling coach, has died, a coroner said Monday. He was 84.

Hastert, who was speaker from 1999 until 2007 and spent more than a year in prison later in life, died Saturday of natural causes at his home while receiving hospice care, according to Kendall County Coroner Jacquie Purcell.

When he was sentenced in 2016 to more than a year behind bars, the former history teacher became one of the highest-ranking American politicians ever ordered to prison.

In the late 1990s, Hastert was a little-known Illinois lawmaker with a reputation for congeniality that had helped him ascend the ranks of congressional leaders. When Newt Gingrich lost support because of ethics violations and the GOP's poor showing in an election, Republicans elected Hastert to succeed him. In his first weeks on the job in 1999, he presided over the House while the Senate conducted then-President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial.

After the GOP reclaimed the White House, Hastert helped pass then-President George W. Bush's legislative agenda.

A post-congressional scandal lands Hastert in prison

In 2015 he was accused of evading banking regulations as part of a plan to pay hush money to conceal unspecified "prior misconduct." Nearly a year later, prosecutors said Hastert's alleged misconduct involved the sexual abuse of teenage boys on his wrestling team in Yorkville, a small town west of Chicago.

Prosecutors said Hastert sexually abused at least four team members during his coaching career, which lasted from 1965 to 1981.

The person Hastert was paying, identified in court papers only as Individual A, said the abuse occurred in a motel room when he was 14 on the way home from wrestling camp. Hastert allegedly touched other wrestlers in a locker room after saying he would give them massages. Two wrestlers said Hastert performed sexual acts on them.

Prosecutors also described a recliner where Hastert often sat in the locker room with a direct view of the stalls where the boys showered.

Hastert agreed to plead guilty to evading banking laws. In all, he paid more than \$1.7 million out of \$3.5 million that he had promised to Individual A, sometimes in lump sums of \$100,000 cash.

At the sentencing hearing, where he received 15 months behind bars, the visibly angry judge called Hastert a "serial child molester."

In a statement, Hastert said he was "deeply ashamed" and admitted that he "mistreated" some of his athletes. But he never referred directly to sexual abuse.

He knew how hard being speaker would be

When he became House speaker, Hastert was aware of the pitfalls of holding the powerful position.

"You know, in this business, especially in a job like this, you can get your head someplace where it shouldn't be," Hastert said in a 1999 interview with The Associated Press. "But you come back home, and you're home. You're back where you've always been, and your feet are back on the ground."

As the recount of the 2000 presidential election dragged on, Hastert's aides briefed him on the possibility that he might become acting president in the event of an Electoral College deadlock.

"I really didn't want to be president, temporary or otherwise," Hastert wrote in a 2004 memoir.

Hastert's journey to Congress from his boyhood farm appeared to be the result of fate and luck.

In 1980, he finished third in an Illinois House primary. But the incumbent became fatally ill, and GOP leaders chose Hastert to take his place on the November ballot, where he won in a traditional GOP stronghold.

Hastert became a congressional candidate in 1986 and beat the Democrat with 52% of the vote, his smallest margin of victory in a congressional race.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 45 of 63

In Washington, Hastert served quietly in House leadership, working closely with Gingrich and then-House Majority Whip Tom DeLay after Republicans took control in 1995.

Hastert became wealthy largely through a complex web of transactions that coincided with one of his own highway earmarks increasing the value of land he had purchased in his district.

He was forced to step down as speaker in 2007, when Democrats gained control of the House, and he resigned his seat later that year.

Born in Aurora, Illinois, Hastert earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Wheaton College in 1964 and a master's in education from Northern Illinois University in 1967.

In 2007, Wheaton named its new public policy center the J. Dennis Hastert Center for Economics, Government and Public Policy. After Hastert's indictment, the school removed his name in 2015. Other organizations abandoned associations with Hastert, and his portrait was removed from a hallway outside the House chamber.

Hastert lived his entire life in Chicago's suburbs, primarily in the Yorkville area. While growing up, he helped his father with the family's feed business.

Survivors include his wife, Jean, and two adult sons.

Nobel medicine prize goes to 3 scientists for shining light on brain activity

By KOSTYA MANENKOV, LAURAN NEERGAARD and ADITHI RAMAKRISHNAN Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The Nobel Prize in medicine was awarded Monday to three scientists whose work led to a tool that uses light to help unravel how the brain works.

Dr. Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel carried out research that opened a new field with the wonky name optogenetics, combining light with genes to switch on and off neurons in living brains.

Separate research from the trio — one of whom lives in the U.S. and two in Germany — resulted in a technique that helps to identify neural pathways responsible for behavior and disease. It could lead to treatments, such as restoring some vision in people with a genetic form of blindness.

Experts said the advancements greatly expanded the understanding of how the brain is organized.

"It has let us go from a 'Rand McNally' road atlas of the brain to something more akin to 'Google Earth,'" neuroscientist Patrick Forcelli of Georgetown University said in an email.

Deisseroth, 54, is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator and Stanford University professor in California. Hegemann, 71, is at Humboldt University in Berlin, and Nagel, 73, most recently worked at the University of Würzburg, also in Germany, the assembly said.

Winning research shines a light into the brain

The breakthrough began when Hegemann explored how a single-cell type of green algae can swim toward light. He and Nagel discovered a particular protein that, when illuminated by blue light, opens a channel to create an electrical impulse. Putting that protein into other cells makes them light-sensitive.

Brain cells use electrical signals to communicate with each other, but normally they don't respond to light, Deisseroth told The Associated Press. He used what he calls "a trick from nature," putting the gene that controls that microbial protein into certain cells in the brains of living mice.

Beaming light at those cells — first by using tiny fibers, now with noninvasive methods — can turn neurons on or off while animals do various tasks.

"People usually think about light as a way of collecting information to observe things," he told the AP. "But this is the opposite of that. This is using light to control things, to make things happen, and to do it in a very precise way."

Optogenetics is mostly a research tool to learn how specific neurons and neural circuits work.

That "gives you, inevitably, ideas for how to correct things that go wrong," Deisseroth said. "Once you know the cells that are causal, that actually matter for a symptom or for correcting a symptom, you can devise medications or other methods that target those cells."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 46 of 63

Findings could help treat blindness and other problems

Already companies have studies underway trying to treat inherited blindness called retinitis pigmentosa by inserting a light-activated protein into a patient's retina and then outfitting the person with special light-emitting glasses.

Deisseroth, a physician-scientist, pointed to other scientists pursuing possible treatments for autism and schizophrenia based on information gleaned from optogenetics, he said.

Experts say optogenetics has transformed neuroscience around the world, becoming a mainstay in labs trying to understand the brain pathways involved in behavior and disease — and hopefully leading to ways to fix those that go awry.

"It's a very precise set of tools for doing experiments about how the brain works that are pretty hard to do any other way," said the University of Pittsburgh's Jeremy Berg. He was at the U.S. National Institutes of Health in the early 2000s when it awarded Deisseroth major funding for "this vision of optogenetics that was pretty much spot-on the way it played out."

Brain cells communicate in milliseconds, and optogenetics for the first time offered scientists a way to control them at the same speed in a laboratory, said Forcelli, Georgetown's chairman of pharmacology and physiology. That helped the field move from using fixed maps of brain activity to building functional wiring diagrams, and jump-started additional techniques to explore neural complexity.

"It has also helped reveal how specific brain circuits are disrupted, with implications for conditions such as blindness, depression, addiction and dementia," said Abdel El Manira, a member of the Nobel Assembly. "Yet despite these extraordinary advances, the brain still holds countless mysteries, with much more left to learn and discover. And optogenetics has given us a powerful means to take on these challenges."

Karl Deisseroth had just gone to bed when he got the Nobel call

Deisseroth, a self-described night owl, said he was up late in his Northern California home working on papers and emailing students. He had just gone to lie down when he got the call from the Nobel Assembly.

He was so surprised that "I almost couldn't speak for a little bit," he told the AP. "I almost felt as if I'd lost the power of forming words."

But he recovered quickly, pointing out that amid all the congratulations that morning, he still had to pack school lunches for his children once they woke up.

"That's my one obligation I have in the next few hours, to make sure I make their sandwiches," he said.

Thomas Perlmann, the secretary of the medicine committee, said he reached all three winners Monday. The AP could not immediately reach Hegemann and Nagel.

Medicine prize kicks off Nobels week

The prize was announced at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, kicking off Nobels week. The prize money this year is 12 million Swedish kronor (about \$1.2 million), whether for an individual, small group of laureates or organization.

Monday's medicine prize is followed by the physics prize on Tuesday, chemistry on Wednesday and literature on Thursday.

After Friday's peace prize is awarded, the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences will be announced on Oct. 12.

Woman charged with first-degree murder in fatal stabbing of 7-year-old girl in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP) — A woman has been charged with murder for allegedly stabbing to death a 7-year-old girl who was walking along a sidewalk in a Chicago neighborhood, police said.

Shavon Gayden, 48, was charged with one felony count of first-degree murder in connection with the death, Chicago police said in a statement Sunday.

Police said the girl was walking in the Chatham neighborhood Saturday morning when a woman carrying an unspecified sharp object approached her and stabbed her multiple times in the back. Bystanders chased after the woman and detained her, police said. Television networks showed a commercial strip

lined with a restaurant, a nail salon and a market cordoned off by police tape afterward.

Gayden, who is from Chicago, was initially scheduled to appear for a hearing Monday morning but was hospitalized and was not going to appear, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office said in an email. Her injuries were not considered life-threatening.

The Cook County Medical Examiner's Office identified the child as Edi Mari Hernandez Chacon. She was pronounced dead at Comer Children's Hospital.

A security photo from a nearby business showed the girl walking hand in hand with an older female when she was attacked, WLS-TV reported.

It was not immediately clear if there was any relationship between the attacker and the girl. Police have not commented on a possible motive for the stabbing and declined Sunday to provide further details.

Attempts to reach members of Gayden's family by phone were unsuccessful. Matthew Hendrickson, press secretary for the Cook County Public Defender, said that the office was assigned to Gayden at a hearing Monday but declined to comment further.

In a GoFundMe post to raise funds for a funeral, the girl's uncle, Richard Hernandez Chacon, wrote that Edi Mari's "passing leaves an indescribable void and profound grief in all of us who loved her."

Messages left with Hernandez Chacon and another person believed to be a family member were not immediately returned.

Washington Capitals captain Alex Ovechkin says his 22nd NHL season will be his last

By STEPHEN WHYNO and NOAH TRISTER AP Sports Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alex Ovechkin said Monday that his 22nd season in the NHL will be his last, beginning the farewell tour for the longtime Washington Capitals captain who holds the league's career goal-scoring record.

Ovechkin addressed teammates to deliver the news before the team posted a message from him on social media.

"It's sad, but it is what it is," Ovechkin said in his locker room address. "It's hard, but let's enjoy it and let's do some special things this year."

Ovechkin signed a one-year contract this past summer and turned 41 on Sept. 17. All signs pointed to this being the end, and he said he and his family decided as much in recent months.

"I love this game so much, but I know in my heart it's the right decision," the Russian star said in a statement released before the Capitals' home opener Wednesday night.

Ovechkin broke Wayne Gretzky's goals record in April 2025 and entered this season at 929. The front office acquired Jordan Kyrour and Alex Tuch in trades and signed fellow forward Boone Jenner and defenseman Vincent Desharnais in free agency to add around a young core in the hopes of making another long playoff run and contending for the Stanley Cup.

"Let's make the playoffs, let's have fun and enjoy the moment because times fly," Ovechkin told the team. "For young guys who are first year or experienced guys, I remember that moment, and enjoy the time. Because times fly. It seems like yesterday I was here my first year."

Speaking to reporters later Monday, Ovechkin said this was the right time to announce his decision, two days before the home opener.

"I'm not 20 years old," he said. "I want to play with my kids when they're growing up. Play hockey, play soccer, play basketball. I want to be healthy enough to do that kind of stuff."

Ovechkin has spent his entire career with Washington, winning the Calder Trophy as rookie of the year in 2005-06, the Hart Trophy as MVP three times and leading the NHL in scoring nine times. He was playoff MVP in 2018 when he led the Caps to the first Stanley Cup championship in franchise history.

There's been speculation Ovechkin could receive an unfriendly reception on the road after he appeared in an ad for a party aligned with Vladimir Putin during the offseason. But there wasn't much sign of that during the first two games of the season — at Carolina and at Tampa Bay.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 48 of 63

When addressing the fallout from that last month, Ovechkin confirmed he'd be going back to live in Russia when he retired from the NHL.

In Washington's season-opening win over the Hurricanes, Ovechkin had 12 minutes, 46 seconds of ice time, the lowest of his career in a game when he wasn't injured or ejected.

Monday was 21 years to the day after Ovechkin made his debut with the Capitals.

"It's been pretty good career, pretty good 22 seasons," he said. "Obviously the goal that we have, to bring a Stanley Cup to D.C., we did it."

Although the Capitals have designs on making the playoffs this season, within a couple hours of Ovechkin's announcement, tickets for Washington's regular-season home finale against Pittsburgh on April 4 were going for a minimum of \$825 on StubHub. With D.C. hosting college hockey's Frozen Four next year, the Capitals finish the regular season with three straight road games, wrapping up April 10 at Philadelphia.

The Capitals missed the playoffs in 2025-26, but Ovechkin played all 82 games and scored 32 goals. He's reached 30 in every season of his career except 2020-21, when he played only 45 games.

Long before he broke through during the Capitals' Stanley Cup run, Ovechkin had rejuvenated hockey in Washington, and he'll retire as one of the city's most accomplished athletes in any sport. The Capitals drafted him No. 1 overall in 2004, and he and Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby became stars almost immediately in 2005 when the league emerged from missing a season because of a lockout.

"Before we even met, we were kind of built up against each other: It's kind of a natural thing to happen," Crosby said. "Over the years developed a friendship with him. Have a ton of respect for him, and you play against someone that long, you're compared and see each other enough I think that's something that builds over time."

Ovechkin's combination of goal-scoring skill, physicality and boundless energy made him an instant hit, and he scored a career-high 65 goals in his third season, which earned him the first of his MVP honors.

"He's done everything," said Penguins center Evgeni Malkin, a fellow countryman who was picked second after Ovechkin in the 2004 draft. "He do everything for team, for league. I hope he plays good this year, no injury, he just stay healthy, score goals and enjoy the game."

Washington's penchant for postseason heartache, which existed long before Ovechkin showed up, followed him for a while as well. The Capitals won the Presidents' Trophy three times with the league's best regular-season record, falling short in the playoffs each time before a Washington team that merely won its division finally went all the way in the playoffs.

In four postseason meetings between Crosby and Ovechkin — in 2009, 2016, 2017, 2018 — the winner won the Stanley Cup each time. Washington's home opener Wednesday is against Pittsburgh.

"Definitely have had some great battles over the years," Crosby said. "Obviously when you get to our age, that's something that you have to make decisions on and for him, as long as he's happy and enjoying it, that's the biggest thing."

Appeals court weighs judge's authority to restore Trump administration funding cuts to Harvard

By MICHAEL CASEY and SUDHIN THANAWALA Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — A federal appeals court heard opposing arguments Monday over whether a judge had the authority to restore billions of dollars in funding that the Trump administration cut from Harvard University.

U.S. District Judge Allison Burroughs ruled last year that the cuts amounted to illegal retaliation for Harvard's rejection of the administration's demands for changes to Harvard's governance and policies.

The government had tied the move to Harvard's delays in dealing with antisemitism, but the judge said the university's federally backed research had little connection to discrimination against Jews.

The ruling restored more than \$2.6 billion in research funding for the wealthy Ivy League school.

Though the money has resumed flowing, a Justice Department attorney told a three-judge panel of the First U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Monday that Burroughs lacked the legal power to require the administration to pay it.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 49 of 63

The fight over the money was a contractual dispute that rightly belonged in a different court: the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, DOJ attorney Michael Velchik said. That court, which traces its origins to the mid-1800s, handles lawsuits by citizens seeking money from the federal government.

"The problem is that the district court lacked jurisdiction to order specific performance," Velchik told the First Circuit. "That is the only thing that we're complaining about here."

Velchik cited recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings in support of his argument.

Paul Clement, an attorney for Harvard, said the case was not a straightforward contractual dispute, but raised broader issues of retaliation and discrimination. The district court's decision restoring the funding was the "perfect remedy" for the violations it found, he said.

"These are not claims that really depend on the contract in any particular way," he said.

First Circuit Judge Joshua Dunlap, a nominee of President Donald Trump, pressed Clement on whether Burroughs had in effect issued an order requiring payment and whether Harvard could make its broader legal claims without a contract.

The other judges on the panel, Sandra Lynch and Gustavo Gelpi, were nominated by Democratic presidents. The judges did not immediately rule.

Harvard's lawsuit accused the Trump administration of waging a retaliation campaign against the university after it rejected a series of demands in a letter from a federal antisemitism task force.

The letter demanded sweeping changes related to campus protests, academics and admissions. It was meant to address government accusations that the university had become a hotbed of liberalism and tolerated anti-Jewish harassment on campus.

The administration also has sought to prevent Harvard from hosting foreign students and threatened to revoke its tax-exempt status in a clash watched widely across higher education.

During Monday's arguments, Lynch expressed skepticism of the administration's claim that Harvard had been indifferent to antisemitism.

"There are no findings. There was no investigation. There was simply an announcement, 'We're terminating against that backdrop,'" she said.

It appeared the administration "didn't want to have to cope with what the law and the facts of this case presented," the judge added.

Lula seeks shake-up and Flávio Bolsonaro reaches for more support ahead of Brazil's election runoff

By MAURICIO SAVARESE and ANNA-CATHERINE BRIGIDA Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — Sen. Flavio Bolsonaro, an ally of U.S. President Donald Trump, has pulled off a strong showing in Brazil's first round of presidential elections, giving him momentum in the weeks before an Oct. 25 runoff against incumbent Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Bolsonaro, the 45-year-old son of former President Jair Bolsonaro, has allied himself with the Trump administration at a moment when Trump allies are taking power in Latin America, while Lula has spoken out against U.S. interference in the Brazilian elections and built a stronger relationship with Beijing.

In a tight race on Sunday, Bolsonaro garnered 47% of the vote to the president's 45%. Since neither candidate secured an absolute majority, they will face off again in three weeks. Bolsonaro bested Lula by just 2.2 million votes, while other candidates who ran divided 9 million votes between them, leaving those potentially up for grabs.

The winner of Brazil's first round of voting has never lost an election, though never before has the second-place candidate been so close in the results.

Here's what to know about the upcoming second round and what it means for Brazil.

Candidates are preparing strategies for a tight race

The 80-year-old Lula will face an uphill battle to win the presidency for the fourth nonconsecutive term, analysts say.

Edinho Silva, the chairman of Lula's Workers' Party, told journalists in Sao Paulo that the president will

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 50 of 63

meet with campaign managers in Brasilia seeking to refine his message delivery, evaluate regional turnout figures, and re-allocate resources to key battleground states ahead of the second round.

TV debates, which were snubbed by both candidates in the first round, will also be key, he said.

"Now it is mano a mano. We will show Brazilians that Flávio Bolsonaro is dangerous and will not run this country in a way they will see their lives improve," Silva said. "We will try to speak to every democratic force in this country."

On the opposition side, Bolsonaro is engaging in outreach to political figures, party leaders and regional allies to consolidate support. His team is focusing on building on his already impressive congressional backing: His Liberal Party will have more than one-third of the Senate after their wins on Sunday — which is unusual in Brazil's fractured political system.

Lula faces right-wing shift, Bolsonaro exposed in corruption scandal

Lula is fighting a trend of frustration with incumbents and a shift to the right in Brazil and worldwide, according to Creomar de Souza, a political analyst with Dharma Political Risk and Strategy, a Brasilia-based political consultancy firm. The once widely popular Lula's approval ratings plummeted during his third term as Brazilians grew discontent with the higher cost of living and security concerns, but bounced back.

"The spirit of the times is pushing Brazil to another place. Since 2016, Brazil is under that right-wing spirit. It leaned to Flávio this time, but it could have been anybody else on the right," de Souza said.

"It will be tough for Lula to win. He is rowing from the back when he thought by now they would be winning by a small margin. Can he do it? Yes. Is it likely? It will be very tough."

Bolsonaro is facing his own challenges. A corruption scandal that shuttered Banco Master exposed Bolsonaro had accepted millions of dollars from a disgraced banker, Daniel Vorcaro, to fund a movie about his father's life. Bolsonaro admits to the payment but denies wrongdoing.

But Brazilians now used to corruption scandals might not be swayed. Lula himself served more than a year in prison for corruption-related charges from 2018 to 2019.

"They bring Bolsonaro into it, but really everyone's involved," said Tom Ferreira, a 35-year-old business administrator in Brasilia, who cast his vote for Bolsonaro.

Brazil's mandatory voting law could be key

Ten other candidates competed in the first round, and three have said they will not endorse either candidate. Bolsonaro and Lula will have to make appeals to these voters and those who abstained next time around.

Brazil holds general elections every four years, and voting is mandatory. Those who fail to cast a ballot without justification face a small fine, which doesn't stop those who don't want to participate from sitting out.

Sunday's first-round presidential vote had the highest abstention rate in 28 years — more than 33.4 million voters, or 21.08%. That's an increase compared with the previous election, when 32.7 million voters did not show up.

Analysts say Lula has a potentially narrow path to victory through boosting voter turnout in the three most populous states — Sao Paulo, Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro — that also have above-average abstention rates.

To do so, he will have to overcome a strong anti-Lula movement, said Carlos Melo, a political science professor at Insper University in São Paulo.

"Bringing voters back will require a lot of heavy lifting in populous states," Melo said.

Ferreira, the business administrator, is an example of a former Lula voter who swung to Bolsonaro, even though he doesn't think the senator has strong proposals. He preferred some of the other candidates who didn't get many votes, like Romeu Zema and Ronaldo Caiado.

"It's more of a question of change," he said.

Some voters give some hope to Lula, too.

Brenda Alves de Carvalho, a 27-year-old financial assistant, voted for another presidential candidate, Augusto Cury, in the first round but says she will support Lula in the runoff. That doesn't mean she is

excited about it. She said that the president's third term was not great, but it is "closer to what we want."
"I didn't want to vote at first. I know now I'll have to vote for one side, because I don't want to cast a blank vote."

Exclusive: Soldiers and Gold Star families press Army leadership after deadly Iranian drone strike

By JACK BROOK, KONSTANTIN TOROPIN, JULIE WATSON and RUSS BYNUM Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — On a sunny, cloudless morning on March 1, the day after President Donald Trump started the war against Iran, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Marzan was coordinating critical Army supplies out of Port Shuaiba in Kuwait.

In an instant, a drone crashed through the ceiling and exploded, killing Marzan, who had served in the military for 36 years. The force flung soldiers into the air, fragments of sheet metal and glass shards impaling them. The tin roof was peeled back "like opening up a sardine can," one soldier recalled.

Six soldiers were killed and dozens were injured in the deadliest known strike on U.S. troops since Operation Epic Fury commenced on Feb. 28.

For many, the attack at Port Shuaiba has receded into memory as the war nears its eighth month. But to those there that day and their families, it showed the cost of a hastily drawn conflict. The planning had apparent flaws, and commanders did not take intelligence reports of the Iranian threat seriously enough, leaving wounded soldiers questioning Army leadership and the military medical system.

In the aftermath, many of the wounded — some with decades of service and combat experience — told The Associated Press that commanders had been warned that the facility, a rectangular building with wooden sides at a working seaport and industrial area south of Kuwait City, was particularly vulnerable to a drone strike.

That warning went unheeded, the soldiers say. Some also said higher-ranking officers pushed for an all-clear to be called, but it's not certain from their accounts who ultimately made the decision to move soldiers out of a safer space in nearby bunkers. The wounded also would later say their serious injuries were not treated promptly or adequately in the weeks following the attack.

"We have the right to know what really happened," Marzan's widow, Tina Marzan, told the AP. "If somebody messed up, those people need to be held responsible."

In a chaotic battle, clarity is elusive

Battlefield conditions are inherently chaotic and assessments drawn by those involved are often in tension. The AP's account of the attack is based on interviews with 13 soldiers, primarily officers, serving in key positions of responsibility there or familiar with high-level briefings leading up to the strike.

Along with several Gold Star families — the military's designation for relatives of a soldier killed while on active duty — many are raising their concerns publicly for the first time and calling for the Army to reconcile what they say are failures of preparedness.

Several soldiers spoke on the record, which is rare for troops still in the Army. Others spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal. Some details of the attack have been reported by other news organizations, including The Washington Post and CBS News, but the AP is reporting other details for the first time.

In the early days of the war, Trump described it as a "little excursion" that would end quickly but now has no off-ramp in sight. The toll can be measured in 19 U.S. personnel killed, more than 800 wounded and at least \$44 billion spent to wage the fight.

The Army declined to comment on the AP's reporting on the Port Shuaiba strike, saying it had not yet briefed the families of those killed on the outcome of its investigation into the attack. The Pentagon also declined to comment.

"Out of respect for the primary next of kin who will be scheduled for briefs on the official findings of the completed investigation, we will not comment on specific details, individual accounts, or leaked portions of the report at this time," the Army said in a statement.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 52 of 63

The Army completed its investigation of the Port Shuaiba attack in June but has yet to release a report, citing the need to redact sensitive information, said an official familiar with the Army's investigation who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the report has not been released.

Commanding officers followed a familiar playbook

The story of the attack really begins in June 2025, when the U.S. bombed three nuclear sites in Iran. In anticipation of a counterstrike on U.S. troops in Kuwait, military planners relocated soldiers to Port Shuaiba, which the Army used for decades on the belief it was safer.

In the lead-up to the war in February, that was the same playbook followed by Major Gen. John Hinson, the two-star general overseeing logistics for U.S. Central Command in the Middle East, and Brig. Gen. Clint Barnes, who led the 103rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, an Iowa-based Army Reserve unit serving a nine-month deployment in Kuwait under Hinson's command. All six soldiers who died, and many of the dozens wounded, were from the 103rd.

Hinson and Barnes chose not to deviate from the plan despite knowing that the port lacked defenses against drones and was seen as increasingly likely to be attacked, according to five officers and an enlisted soldier familiar with the U.S. intelligence and threat assessments. The generals were following orders made at U.S. Army Central, which oversees Army units in the Middle East, and Central Command to leave the nearby Army base, Camp Arifjan.

Hinson declined to comment on the record for this story. Barnes did not respond to text messages and telephone calls.

Even before the attack, the threat of a drone strike was well known. But the command team rejected proposals to move the entire logistics headquarters to other sites identified as safer locations outside Kuwait, farther away from Iran, according to Major Billy Key, an operations planner working for Barnes who has served in the Army for more than 20 years. Another officer confirmed the alternate plans were scuttled. The port was about 65 miles (104 kilometers) from the Iranian border.

"Kuwait was just too close, that's the bottom line," Key said. "Kuwait was in striking distance of low-flying drones."

Senior leadership believed that a core group of the more than 200 soldiers who had been handling logistics at Camp Arifjan needed to remain in Kuwait. Two senior officers, including Lt. Col. Tim Halbur, told the AP that there were communications advantages to being there, so a small crew of about 75 soldiers was sent to the port to set up a temporary field headquarters for logistics in the region. Dozens of troops from other units were also present.

One enlisted soldier, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the command team is facing unfair criticism for hard decisions to balance its ability to carry out a crucial logistics mission with the inherent risks of war.

But six officers told the AP that the logistics headquarters' jobs could have been done from a safer site outside Kuwait, so long as they had access to a secure communications network.

"We did our work on a computer," Key told the AP. "We could have been anywhere."

During meetings, officers overseeing protection told Hinson and Barnes, among others, that Port Shuaiba would not be safe for troops due to the lack of air protection against drones, according to five soldiers who were present: Key, Maj. Stephen Ramsbottom and three others familiar with high-level briefings who insisted on anonymity due to fear of reprisal.

They said the generals were more focused on defending against missiles and were not prepared for drone warfare. "This type of fight has been going on for five years in Ukraine, and our excuse is we didn't expect it to happen to us," Ramsbottom said. "That's preposterous in my mind."

While the three major U.S. military bases in Kuwait had bolstered air protection heading into the war, the only U.S. air support for Port Shuaiba came from a Patriot anti-missile system in the vicinity of Camp Arifjan that was ill-equipped for shooting down Iranian drones.

While the system is capable of detecting the small aircraft, large numbers of drones are able to quickly deplete a battery, and the Patriot missiles cost vastly more than the drones. Using the system to down

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 53 of 63

drones also then leaves the area vulnerable to far more deadly missile attacks.

Neither Hinson nor Barnes was empowered to change anti-air or drone defenses at the site.

"There was nothing that was going to intercept a threat coming at us other than ballistic missiles," Ramsbottom said.

Just days before the relocation to the port in late February, a group of intelligence officers pressed Hinson and Barnes to not go there. Hinson asked whether Port Shuaiba was on a list of planned Iranian targets that had been obtained by U.S. intelligence before Operation Epic Fury and was told that it was not on the list but was considered a likely secondary target, according to two officers familiar with the meeting.

The officers said Hinson still made the call to go.

Lt. Gen. Patrick Frank, then leading Army Central, signed off on the plan to move to Port Shuaiba when Hinson briefed him, Halbur and another senior officer said.

"Obviously, somewhere at the two-star, three-star level, they knew the intelligence reports," Halbur said. "We were just told, like, 'Hey, yeah, we'll be fine there.'"

One officer who was involved in logistics and was wounded in the attack said staying at the Kuwaiti port seemed appropriate. Lt. Col. Arturo Lincón of the Defense Logistics Agency said Port Shuaiba had existing infrastructure for secure communications that could accommodate their unit and Jordan, where U.S. military operations also are based and many soldiers were being relocated, was already getting crowded.

Captain was concerned about port's safety the morning of the attack

At the start of the war, missiles from all sides lit up the screen inside the command post at the port. Soldiers rushed in and out of bunkers. They could feel booms shake the ground.

That night, at least five quadcopter drones hovered over the port and appeared to be surveilling the U.S. military site, according to Key, who said one was only about 40 feet (12 meters) above him. He said he told senior officers what he saw, and it was passed up the chain. "That was the last I heard about it," he added. Intelligence briefings had warned that quadcopter drones were a sign of impending strikes.

The next morning, March 1, Capt. Cody Khork, who oversaw safety for the unit and had strongly advised against going to the port, confided to Ramsbottom that he felt they should not leave their bunker because of the barrage of missiles and drones coming in, according to Ramsbottom. Both Khork and Ramsbottom were concerned that the radar being used to issue all-clears was not picking up low-flying drones.

"We knew we were not safe," said Ramsbottom, who would end up with a piece of shrapnel sticking out of his head and a traumatic brain injury. "No one knew the drone situation."

In the hours before the deadly strike, higher-ranking officers pushed Khork to get troops cleared to leave the bunkers, said Ramsbottom, who was with Khork in the bunker. The team was under tremendous pressure to carry out its mission, which included tracking munitions levels and fuel across the region, and that could not be done from inside the bunker.

It remains unclear who ultimately made the decision to leave the bunkers, which were within several hundred feet of the operations center. Around 10 a.m., about 20 minutes after the final all-clear was issued, an Iranian drone smashed through the operation center's roof.

Ramsbottom and Key recalled the drone struck seconds after Khork passed by them and said "good morning." Key was blasted into a metal cabinet and knocked unconscious. When he awoke, his ears were ringing and he stumbled through the rubble, coming across Khork's lifeless body. A group of soldiers helped take Khork's body from the wreckage to ensure he could be buried with dignity.

Key later recounted the scene to Khork's parents at his funeral in Florida several weeks later, telling them their son appeared to die instantly.

"I would have wanted someone to tell my family that if it were me," Key said. "I felt compelled to tell them exactly what happened."

Lincón, a West Point graduate, remained conscious but was severely wounded by shrapnel and briefly lost his eyesight. Another wounded soldier bandaged him and got him out of the burning building.

"Had it not been for those brave souls, there would have been a lot more, including myself, who probably (would have) burned there in place," Lincón said.

Hinson and Barnes also suffered traumatic brain injuries from the blast, and Hinson's hand was hit with

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 54 of 63

shrapnel.

Planning was limited for a mass casualty event

The soldiers based at Port Shuaiba headed into war without having implemented a broad-based plan for a mass casualty event, seven soldiers, including senior officers stationed there, told the AP. Soldiers who still had their phones intact used Google to locate the nearest medical facilities. Some among the wounded would later say their serious injuries were not treated promptly or adequately in the weeks after the strike.

A medical service officer had prepared an evacuation plan that would have included setting up collection points for transporting wounded soldiers, but she was among the group sent to Jordan, and her plan was never briefed and put into place. She declined to comment.

"I've been in Iraq and Afghanistan. I've been in combat operations before. I know what right looks like, and this was not right by any means," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jonathan Tenbrink, who has spent 35 years in the U.S. military and was wounded by shrapnel in his forehead, face, neck, shoulders and right arm.

Relocating to Port Shuaiba, some soldiers acknowledged there was also a false sense of security.

"It was the farthest thing from my mind that we would get hit there," said Lincón, who had deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan multiple times in his 27-year Army career.

A hospital sent wounded soldiers to barracks rather than inpatient care

Even for survivors, there was peril ahead.

Halbur had been among a group of about nine soldiers medically evacuated, and he was having surgery at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Maryland within a week, describing his care there as "excellent." He said he was told by visiting top Army leadership that the Port Shuaiba soldiers were "the guinea pigs" for the medical system as Operation Epic Fury commenced.

But other wounded soldiers, including those with serious head injuries and shrapnel wounds, had vastly different experiences of delayed care after the attack.

One group, some of whom were treated at a Kuwaiti hospital for about 48 hours, holed up in residential homes in Kuwait for another week as Iran unleashed missiles and drones that made it risky for evacuation flights. Soldiers finally boarded a cargo plane flown to Germany.

There, they say, they were not admitted to inpatient care at the military's main medical hub, the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, but were sent to Army barracks because they had not been documented as combat-injured troops. About a week later they were placed into demobilization at Fort Hood in Texas, a process not focused on providing medical care.

A Pentagon official told the AP that Landstuhl's mission is to stabilize patients to transfer them for specialized care at a military hospital in the U.S., rather than admit them. In a statement, the Pentagon said that all wounded troops who arrive at its medical facilities are evaluated and may be admitted based on the severity of the injury.

Families of the fallen received a briefing

In early July, Gold Star families received a briefing from Frank, who had just ended his rotation as head of Army Central Command, providing a broad overview of the investigation's findings. Tina Marzan said there was no admission of error.

Frank did not say anything about Port Shuaiba's vulnerabilities, only that soldiers were moved around because attacks on other bases were expected, according to Marzan. Frank also told her that there was proper medical treatment available to those at Port Shuaiba, she said.

"Whatever happened unfortunately does not bring my husband back," Marzan said.

One senior officer filed a complaint against Barnes and Hinson to the Army's inspector general. But in a July 20 letter reviewed by the AP, the watchdog concluded that Barnes had not engaged in misconduct or "ignored reliable intelligence" in this complaint based on "the limited evidence" provided by the officer.

The agency also noted this complaint against Hinson was withdrawn, which the officer disputed to the AP. The officer told the AP he relayed his conversations with Barnes discussing intelligence briefings but told investigators he had not directly interacted with Hinson.

A wounded soldier can no longer salute

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 55 of 63

Halbur, a father of two from Ankeny, Iowa, had been deployed as an Army reservist seven months earlier, hardly expecting to be on the front lines of a full-blown conflict.

He had served for nearly 30 years, but today he can no longer salute. His dominant right arm will likely never be able to bend past 90 degrees again after the blast shattered his forearm in four places, including his elbow.

"I can't squeeze both arms around my kids because my one arm won't allow me to do that anymore," Halbur said. "I want to coach my son's football team, but at the same time, I can't show them how to throw a football."

He says that his children, age 7 and 8, are coming to learn that "dad's never going to be the same."

He wears the names of the six soldiers who died at Port Shuaiba engraved in a metal wristband: Maj. Cody Khork, 35, an easygoing history buff; Master Sgt. Noah L. Tietjens, 42, a passionate martial arts instructor; Maj. Jeffrey R. O'Brien, 45, a father of three who loved playing the saxophone; Master Sgt. Nicole M. Amor, a 39-year-old mother of two with a knack for sarcasm; 20-year-old Sgt. Declan J. Coady, an avid outdoorsman and Eagle Scout; and Marzan, 54, a mentor to many younger soldiers. Khork, Tietjens, Amor and Coady received posthumous promotions.

Halbur said that he looks at the wristband whenever he feels depressed by his arm's limitations.

"I know that there are six families who would give that up in a heartbeat," he said. "So that always kind of gives me a little more motivation to not be so glum about the things that I can't do in my future. I'm still here." ____ Brook reported from New Orleans, Watson from San Diego and Bynum from Savannah, Ga. Associated Press journalists Nicholas Ingram in Ankeny, Iowa, and Thomas Peipert in Colorado Springs, Colo., contributed to this report.

Messi set for emotional Argentina farewell in Buenos Aires friendly vs Benin

By DÉBORA REY Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Argentina fans are confident there is a bright future beyond Lionel Messi as the team's most influential player of the last two decades prepares to bid farewell.

The 39-year-old superstar will play his final match for Argentina on Tuesday — a friendly against Benin at Estadio Monumental in Buenos Aires — marking a pivotal moment in the country's football.

Messi leaves behind an extraordinary legacy, including the 2022 World Cup title, two more World Cup finals (2014, 2026), two Copa América trophies (2021, 2024), an Olympic gold medal (2008), and 125 goals as the national team's all-time leading scorer.

His international retirement raises an inevitable question: Can Argentina remain among the global elite, or is a long trophy drought — reminiscent of the 35-year dry spell following Diego Maradona's departure — on the horizon?

"Messi leaves behind something unequaled," national coach Lionel Scaloni says. "We have to keep playing, but the feeling of having him on the pitch is unique. I've never seen anyone else convey what he does on a football field, and that is what we're going to miss."

However, Scaloni — who is in advanced negotiations to renew his contract for another four years — looks beyond Messi with optimism: "The Argentine national team will endure. We will remain at a high level, I have no doubt about that."

The future is here

In the first two post-World Cup matches without Messi, Argentina dazzled in the past week with resounding victories against Bolivia 4-0 and Burkina Faso 7-0. Despite the opponents' stature, the matches offered compelling glimpses of what lies ahead.

Alongside established stars like Emiliano Martínez, Cristian Romero, Enzo Fernández, and Lautaro Martínez, an exciting wave of new talent emerged — creative midfielders Nicolás Paz and Franco Mastantuono, and wingers Gianluca Prestianni and Leonel Flores.

Flores is a Boca Juniors youth player who made his professional debut just two months ago and has

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 56 of 63

already earned senior national team experience.

"There's a changing of the guard; maybe we have to play differently now, not thinking in terms of 'Messi and 10 others,' but rather as a unified team," supporter Cristian Versalles, 55, told the AP after watching the victory over Burkina Faso on Saturday.

His son, Ramiro, 23, added, "Given the number of players coming through, there's definitely a new generation ready to step up. Nico Paz is the heir apparent." Paz, playing out of Italian club Como, was one of the scorers.

Also at the friendly and wearing the No. 19 jersey — the same one Messi wore during his senior national team debut in 2005 — 10-year-old fan Uzzi Rivero admitted, "It makes me really sad that he doesn't play for Argentina anymore." However, the youngster scowled at the suggestion that Argentina might face a trophy-less era following Messi's retirement.

Another fan, Valentina Gago, 20, said: "I'm excited about Argentina without Messi; my favorite player is Lautaro Martinez. It's not the same as Messi but I love him just the same."

With his goal against Burkina Faso, Inter Milan captain Lautaro Martínez ranks as Argentina's third-highest all-time goal-scorer with 42.

"As long as the players are eager to give their all for the shirt, for me, Argentina will remain a contender," Gago said.

The world will find out at the 2028 Copa América.

Ukraine claims to have taken out more than half of Russia's oil refining capacity

By HANNA ARHIROVA and KATIE MARIE DAVIES Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine says its long-range strikes have neutralized more than half of Russia's oil refining capacity, hampering Moscow's ability to supply its forces during its 4 1/2-year-old invasion.

The Defense Ministry said late Sunday that recent strikes on refineries in cities, including Moscow, Yaroslavl, Ust-Luga, Perm, Saratov and Syzran, had disabled 51% of Russia's oil refining capacity. The claim could not be independently verified.

Moscow and Kyiv have intensified their aerial assaults as progress along the 1,200-kilometer (750-mile) front line has largely ground to a halt.

Ukrainian strikes cause fuel issues in Russia

Ukraine has launched repeated attacks on refineries from Moscow to Siberia, sparking a widespread fuel crisis in Russia earlier this year that forced authorities to restrict gasoline sales.

Russian officials have not released figures on damage to the country's oil infrastructure. But in a rare acknowledgment of the strikes' economic impact, President Vladimir Putin said on Oct. 1 that they had cost Russia roughly 1% of its gross domestic product.

"They started attacking oil refineries and openly declared the goal of damaging our economy. Did they achieve their goal? Partially," Putin told a meeting of the Valdai Club forum of international foreign policy experts.

Ukrainian Defense Minister Yevhenii Khmara said analysts from Ukraine's intelligence services, the General Staff and the Defense Ministry had assessed the strikes' effects.

"Fifty-one percent of struck refining capacity is a significant blow to the enemy's economy, to its ability to carry out aggression and supply its troop groupings. Our deep strikes continue to bring the war to Russian territory," he said.

Russia has historically been the world's third-largest producer of refined fuel products from crude, after the U.S. and China.

Some of Russia's 32 refineries have been hit as many as 15 times since the start of the war, and one refinery has been hit every three days in recent months, creating a cycle of damage and emergency repairs that could degrade units long term, according to the International Energy Agency.

Ukrainian strikes have also increasingly targeted the more complex equipment that removes impurities

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 57 of 63

from fuel, which takes months to repair. The IEA says diesel output has fallen by about 30%, and drivers have had to wait up to 40 hours to fill up at gasoline stations.

Russian refiners have tried to compensate by delaying scheduled maintenance and bringing mothballed units back online. Another response has been to lower fuel quality standards to maintain gasoline supplies, which risks damage to engines and pollution control equipment.

The Kremlin has also banned diesel exports, pushing global prices higher and prompting U.S. President Donald Trump on Sept. 13 to urge Ukraine to stop hitting refineries.

Russian strikes kill at least 4 in Kharkiv

A Russian attack with a guided aerial bomb killed at least three people and wounded 39 others, including three children, in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv on Monday, Mayor Ihor Terekhov said.

"There may be people under the rubble of the residential building that was hit. A search and rescue operation is underway," Terekhov wrote on his Telegram channel.

An earlier Russian drone attack on the city's Industrialnyi district also killed one person, Terekhov said late Sunday. Vehicles and an administrative building were set alight and apartment buildings were damaged, he said.

Another person was also killed in a separate Russian attack on the Sloviansk community in Ukraine's Donetsk region, said Vadym Liakh, head of the Sloviansk city military administration. He urged residents not to wait for a mandatory evacuation order but to leave the area.

Ukraine's air force reported that Russia launched 205 drones overnight into Monday, with 172 shot down or suppressed.

Russia's Defense Ministry said in a statement on Monday that it had struck an electrical substation in the Kharkiv region, in addition to energy and port infrastructure and maritime vessels used by Ukraine's military elsewhere in the country.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said a Russian drone attack caused a fire on board a commercial vessel that later sank in the Black Sea.

Two people died and 11 crew members were rescued, Romanian authorities said.

In a post on X on Monday, Zelenskyy described the attack as "a horrific strike by two Russian drones on a civilian vessel" in neutral waters. He said the vessel was Turkish-owned and carrying corn.

Russia did not immediately comment on the incident.

Ukraine has struggled in recent weeks to fend off Russia's intensified aerial attacks on cities that include ballistic missiles and high-flying jet-powered drones.

Kyiv has suffered under repeated air raid alerts, punctuated by loud explosions from drone and missile strikes. The onslaught aims to terrorize civilians, officials and analysts say, and break their will to resist Russia's full-scale invasion since 2022.

Ukraine says it shot down Russian drones with AI-operated guns

Presidential adviser Serhii "Flash" Beskrestnov said on social media that 12 automated turrets had been installed in Kyiv to counter jet-powered Shahed drones, with more planned. He described the turrets as artificial intelligence-controlled machine guns.

Ukraine's air force later said that it had used the robotic turrets to successfully shoot down Russian jet-powered drones, including the Geran-5, for the first time.

"It's machine vision that is used for the shootdowns. Artificial intelligence makes it possible to engage even jet-powered drones," air force spokesman Yuriy Ihnat said on Ukrainian television.

The Russian Defense Ministry said its forces downed 199 Ukrainian drones over Russian regions overnight, as well as the illegally annexed Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea and the Black Sea.

Ukraine-Moldova border crossing closed after Russian attack

Operations at a border crossing between Moldova and Ukraine were suspended Monday after a shell fell close to the checkpoint during a Russian attack on Ukrainian infrastructure, Moldova's Border Police said.

The shell fell near the Palanca-Mayaky-Udobne checkpoint, bounced off the ground and hit a passenger bus parked near the barrier, according to the statement.

The bus and a security checkpoint booth were damaged, and one border service employee suffered minor injuries, police said. No other casualties were reported. Border police advised people to avoid traveling to the area.

FACT FOCUS: What's known about the FlyDubai attack probe and the red flags about the suspect

By MELANIE LIDMAN, AAMER MADHANI and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The investigation into the thwarted FlyDubai cockpit attack last week has turned into a wide security and intelligence probe spanning from the Middle East to New Zealand as authorities try to figure out how the suspect, previously flagged for extremist views in Oman, was cleared to fly an Israel-bound flight.

Investigators in the United Arab Emirates, along with Israeli and Saudi authorities, are treating the midair assault by the ax-wielding Omani co-pilot, Hamam al-Hammami, as a planned terror attack. The plane's wounded captain managed to open the cockpit door to allow passengers in. They subdued the attacker and the plane made an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia.

The suspect was detained and sent to the UAE, where he remains in custody, and the focus of the probe has now shifted toward addressing apparent vetting failures.

Here are some key aspects of the investigation that are still being sorted out.

CLAIM: The co-pilot should have been barred from flying to Israel.

THE FACTS: It's unclear how a citizen of Oman, an Arab country that has no diplomatic relations with Israel, was allowed to fly a planeload of Israelis to Tel Aviv.

Israeli law requires airlines to provide information about passengers and crew members, including their names and nationalities, to Israel up to 48 hours before a flight.

Authorities in the UAE did share with Israel a list of passengers and crew ahead of the flight, according to officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters about the probe.

Israel had not raised red flags on any passengers or members of the crew, the officials said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday — a day after the attack — that Israel has long-standing agreements with foreign carriers to keep pilots from flying into the country if they are citizens of nations that don't maintain diplomatic relations with Israel.

Separately, officials have said that al-Hammami, who had spent some time in New Zealand, had been barred from flying by his native Oman because of concerns there that he had adopted extremist views.

The Shin Bet, Israel's domestic security agency, said the Transportation Ministry is responsible for vetting passenger lists from foreign flights.

However, Israeli Transportation Minister Miri Regev said on X that security agencies are responsible for flight security and that her ministry wasn't given a list of passengers or any warnings.

CLAIM: Netanyahu said al-Hammami "underwent Islamist radical indoctrination."

THE FACTS: Officials have offered scant insight into al-Hammami's motivations, and authorities in Israel, the UAE and Oman have not provided any details about his adoption of radical views.

Still, it does appear he had been plotting to carry out an attack for some time.

The initial investigation, which is being led by the Emiratis, found that al-Hammami originally planned to carry out the attack in July but did not go through with it at the time, according to a regional official who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

He specifically sought out work with an airline that flew to Israel in order to carry out the attack, according to the investigation.

CLAIM: U.S. President Donald Trump suggests that Iran may be linked to the in-flight attack.

THE FACTS: In his first public comments about the incident, Trump hinted there could be a link when asked by reporters at the White House whether he had been briefed about any connection between the

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 59 of 63

co-pilot and Tehran.

"I would say the answer, based on what I'm hearing, is yes, but we're working on it right now," Trump said. He did not elaborate about why he suspected Iranian involvement.

Trump also said that if the link to Iranian authorities was determined, they would face "very hard" retaliation.

But in the days since, regional officials have said they've yet to find any Iranian nexus. And Trump hasn't offered any evidence backing his initial speculation.

CLAIM: Netanyahu's rivals say the prime minister's government dropped the ball.

THE FACTS: In the days ahead, how the investigation plays out could have enormous consequences for Netanyahu as Israel gets ready to hold national elections on Oct. 27.

Netanyahu has long tried to cultivate an image as uniquely capable of keeping Israel strong and managing its existential threats.

Israelis celebrated their countrymen on the flight who quickly sprang to action to subdue the co-pilot after he attacked the plane's captain, Smit Machchhar, and tried to crash the plane. Netanyahu greeted the passengers after they arrived back in Tel Aviv and heralded the quick action of several aboard for preventing a catastrophe.

But Netanyahu now finds himself facing criticism from some political opponents who say security lapses by his government led to the situation.

Former prime minister and B'Yachad party leader Naftali Bennett and Yashar party leader Gadi Eisenkot, a leading rival to Netanyahu in this month's election, have demanded Netanyahu fire Regev, the transportation minister, over the incident.

Netanyahu has called on the head of the National Security Council to appoint an examiner to review "all security aspects" of Israel's civil aviation in the aftermath of the incident.

But opposition leader Yair Lapid has dismissed Netanyahu's ordered probe as a "sham."

"The chain of failures that preceded the incident could have led to a disaster of historic proportions, and this is how an Israeli prime minister responds?" Lapid wrote on X.

Bennett and Eisenkot sought to connect the FlyDubai attack with the Hamas-led October 2023 attack on southern Israel that triggered the war in Gaza.

Both attacks, they argue, reflect Netanyahu's failure to keep Israelis safe and an unwillingness to acknowledge responsibility.

Takeaways from AP report on Iranian attack in Kuwait that killed 6 US soldiers and wounded dozens

By JACK BROOK, KONSTANTIN TOROPIN, JULIE WATSON and RUSS BYNUM Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — As the war with Iran enters its eighth month, U.S. soldiers wounded in its deadliest strike yet on American troops are raising concerns publicly, many for the first time, about whether commanders underestimated the threat. Some of those wounded also said the military medical system failed them.

The Pentagon has released few details about the Iranian drone strike on Port Shuaiba in Kuwait that killed six soldiers on March 1, the day after the United States and Israel started the war against Iran.

The Associated Press spoke with 13 soldiers, primarily officers, serving in key positions of responsibility there or familiar with high-level briefings. Many said the Pentagon did not take Iranian threats seriously enough as it launched Operation Epic Fury. Some of the wounded soldiers said that since the strike they have faced what they see as inadequate medical care and a military bureaucracy that impeded their benefits.

Several soldiers spoke on the record — rare for troops still in the Army — others on the condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal.

The Army declined to comment on the AP's reporting on the Port Shuaiba strike, saying it had not yet briefed the families of those killed on the outcome of its investigation into the attack. The Pentagon also declined to comment.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 60 of 63

"Out of respect for the primary next of kin who will be scheduled for briefs on the official findings of the completed investigation, we will not comment on specific details, individual accounts, or leaked portions of the report at this time," the Army said in a statement.

Here are key takeaways from the AP's reporting:

Officers warned port could be targeted

Battlefield conditions are inherently chaotic and assessments drawn by those involved are often in tension.

Soldiers, including officers in senior positions in the logistics command stationed at Port Shuaiba, said Maj. Gen. John Hinson and Brig. Gen. Clint Barnes chose to move their operations center to the site despite threat assessments showing it was not sufficiently defensible against drone strikes and intelligence reports indicating it was a likely Iranian target. They also said the unit could have done its computer-based jobs from a safer site outside of Kuwait.

Hinson declined to comment on the record for this story. Barnes did not respond to text messages and telephone calls. Neither general was empowered to change anti-air or drone defenses at the site.

Senior leadership believed that at least some soldiers handling logistics needed to remain in Kuwait. Two senior officers, including Lt. Col. Tim Halbur, told the AP that there were communications advantages to being there, so a small crew of about 75 soldiers handling logistics remained, along with dozens of troops from other units.

A captain overseeing safety was killed after warning of port's risks

The three major U.S. military bases in Kuwait had bolstered air protection heading into the war. But the only U.S. air support for Port Shuaiba came from a Patriot anti-missile system in the vicinity of Camp Arifjan that was ill-equipped for shooting down Iranian drones.

While the system is capable of detecting the small aircraft, large numbers of drones are able to quickly deplete a battery, the Patriot missiles cost vastly more than the drones and using the system to down drones then leaves the area vulnerable to far more deadly missile attacks.

Capt. Cody Khork, who oversaw safety for the unit stationed at the port and had strongly advised against going there, said that he felt they should not leave the bunker on the morning of the attack, according to Maj. Stephen Ramsbottom, who was with Khork in the bunker. But higher-ranking officers pushed him to get troops cleared to leave the bunkers, Ramsbottom said.

"We knew we were not safe," Ramsbottom said. "No one knew the drone situation."

Minutes after the final all-clear was called, a drone smashed through the roof, killing Khork. He was posthumously promoted to major.

Soldiers say military care has been its own battle

The soldiers based at Port Shuaiba headed into war without having implemented a broad-based plan for a mass casualty event. That's what seven soldiers, including senior officers stationed there, told the AP.

Soldiers who still had their phones intact used Google to locate the nearest medical facilities. The wounded would later recount that their serious injuries were not treated promptly or adequately in the weeks that followed the strike. Army officials said that the medical care was appropriate.

Some wounded soldiers, including those who shared their medical records with the AP, said they were sent to Army barracks in Germany after being flown out of Kuwait and told to set up outpatient appointments instead of being hospitalized at the main U.S. military facility there, Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

In a statement, the Pentagon said that all wounded troops who arrive at its medical facilities are evaluated and may be admitted based on the severity of the injury according to physicians who follow "healthcare-industry practices."

Several soldiers said it took weeks before they were diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury and able to start receiving specialized care.

Dr. James Kelly, chief medical scientist at the Invisible Wounds Foundation, which is focused on military brain injuries, said it's still not uncommon for a TBI diagnosis to take longer than it should, which could impact a soldier getting treatment as early as possible for the best outcome.

Families of killed soldiers demand answers

The Army completed its investigation of the attack in June, but has yet to release a report due to the need to redact sensitive information, said an official familiar with the Army's investigation who spoke on condition of anonymity because the report has not been released.

Some Gold Star families said they are frustrated with the lack of transparency from the Army and questioned why their loved ones were sent to a site known to be lacking protection against drone strikes.

"We have the right to know what really happened," said Tina Marzan, whose husband, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Marzan, was killed in the strike.

Trump's immigration crackdown divides rural voters as midterms approach, AP-KFF poll finds

By LINLEY SANDERS, SARAH JANE TRIBBLE, ALI SWENSON and FATIMA HUSSEIN Associated Press and KFF Health News

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than a year into President Donald Trump's sweeping immigration crackdown, a poll finds that voters in rural parts of the country are divided on whether those immigration policies have benefited or harmed their communities.

In The Associated Press-KFF survey of more than 2,000 rural voters in August, about a third said the Trump administration's immigration enforcement had been positive for their community and about a third said it had been negative. The remaining 3 in 10, roughly, said it had no impact.

Trump promised tough enforcement on the campaign trail in 2024, and the survey highlights how a cornerstone of his base, rural supporters of his Make America Great Again movement, are especially likely to say they see a benefit where they live from the Republican president's stringent immigration policies.

Yet many rural voters also say immigrants are a key part of their local economies, and some believe Trump's immigration actions have gone too far.

Laura Leigh Taylor, a 37-year-old farmer who voted for Trump in 2024, said she disapproves of the wide-ranging scope of Trump's immigration crackdown, which resulted in a friend's hardworking father being deported.

"I understand getting rid of the rapists and the murderers," she said. "But all the people that fell in between that really weren't doing nothing but taking care of their family."

Taylor now regrets her vote for Trump. As a resident of Smithville, Georgia, a town of about 600, Taylor thinks she will vote for Democratic Sen. Jon Ossoff in November because, she said, the Democrats have been the ones talking about families being uprooted by Trump's immigration enforcement.

"Just because of that simple fact, I'm going to go with him," Taylor said.

Most rural voters want politicians to talk about immigration

Roughly three-quarters of rural voters say it's "extremely" or "very" important for midterm candidates to talk about immigration, though that's lower than the share who want them to address the cost of living, fraud in government programs or healthcare costs.

Rural voters don't overwhelmingly think Trump's immigration policies have helped their communities, but they are also less likely than the general public to say that Trump has overstepped in his efforts, which have involved mass deportations and rapid deportations of immigrants to countries where they have no ties.

Only about 4 in 10 rural voters say Trump has "gone too far" in restricting legal immigration or deporting immigrants living in the U.S. without authorization, below the 55% of U.S. adults overall who said the same in a September AP-NORC poll.

John Thomas, a 55-year-old from Liberty, Kentucky, supports Trump's efforts to deport people without legal status. Thomas, who has just been approved for disability benefits after injuring his back in 2008, believes they put too much of a burden on the healthcare system. Regulating immigration, he said, is a means of providing better healthcare to Americans.

"They've been taking from everybody," Thomas said of immigrants. "People that really need this stuff can't get it because of them."

David Grabowski, a professor of healthcare policy at Harvard Medical School, said that research suggests

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 62 of 63

immigrants use less healthcare than native-born Americans. "It is hard to argue that they are placing an undue burden on the system," he said, because many immigrants work in healthcare and pay taxes.

Most rural voters see the economic importance of immigrants

Immigrants often play key roles in sustaining local industries, including by filling jobs in manufacturing, healthcare and agriculture. The survey suggests the vast majority of rural voters see immigrants in the country legally as an important part of their local economies.

Shannon Monnat, director of the Center for Policy Research at Syracuse University and president of the Rural Sociological Society, said immigration has been a demographic lifeline for much of rural America. Rural areas have been losing young adults for years, she said.

"For a lot of small towns, immigrants are the reason the school and hospital stayed open and the county didn't shrink," Monnat said.

About 7 in 10 rural voters see immigrants who are in the country legally as "very" or "somewhat" important to their local economies, and a similar share say the same about temporary or seasonal agriculture workers. Hundreds of thousands of immigrants take seasonal jobs on U.S. farms each year, with most of them coming from Mexico, on H-2A visas.

Rural voters with a connection to agriculture and farming are more likely than those without one to say that temporary or seasonal workers are "very important" to their local economies, the poll found.

Jeff Miller, a 56-year-old Republican hydro blaster and vacuum technician, has mostly been pleased with Trump's agenda, and he believes things are "heading in the right direction." The one thing Miller has struggled with is Trump's aggressive immigration policy, which he blames for the deportation of a "really good worker" and friend, who was removed from the U.S. when his work permit expired.

Miller, from Racine, Ohio, said he would support exceptions for hard workers, or just a less aggressive approach.

"There's kind of an up-and-down thing because I lost a really good friend over that," Miller said.

Rural voters are much less likely to say immigrants who are in the country illegally are beneficial, but 45% say they are at least "somewhat" important to local economies.

Albert Martinez, a 70-year-old Democrat from San Diego, Texas, voted for Trump in 2016, but he now believes the Trump administration has "gone amok." The Army veteran said he is a proponent of getting criminals out of the country, but that is not what he is seeing happening with current immigration enforcement.

"They started doing everybody across the board," Martinez said. "Innocent kids and women, people who work in restaurants, people who work in hotels, people who are building homes, people who are doing masonry work, and innocent, good, taxpaying people. Taxpayers. It's insane."

Rural MAGA voters support Trump's immigration policies

Some of Trump's most loyal supporters — rural Republicans who consider themselves MAGA supporters — are about twice as likely as rural, non-MAGA Republicans to see a benefit to Trump's immigration policies where they live.

Roughly 4 in 10 rural voters identify as MAGA Republicans, while about 1 in 10 are Republicans but not MAGA supporters.

About two-thirds of rural MAGA Republicans say Trump's immigration policies have had a positive impact where they live. Roughly half say the Trump administration has "not gone far enough" on deporting immigrants in the country illegally, while about half say his actions have been "about right."

Katherine Reed, a 27-year-old Republican who supports the MAGA movement, has been pleased to see the Trump administration's deportation policies play out. The resident of Mount Pleasant, Texas, believes her community has always been safe but that the administration's policies have had a positive impact by reducing violent crime nationwide, saying, "It's made life for people a lot safer."

She believes if someone comes to America, they should "respect the law of the land" and "do it legally."

"I want really amazing people to become Americans," Reed said. "That's the whole point of America."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 06, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 122 ~ 63 of 63

Today in History: October 6, Anwar Sadat assassinated

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 6, the 279th day of 2026. There are 86 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 6, 1981, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat was shot to death by members of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad while reviewing a military parade.

Also on this date:

In 1927, the era of talking pictures arrived with the opening of "The Jazz Singer" starring Al Jolson, a feature film containing both silent and sound-synchronized sequences.

In 1949, Iva Toguri D'Aquino, a U.S. citizen commonly known as "Tokyo Rose" for participating in Radio Tokyo propaganda broadcasts during World War II, was sentenced in San Francisco to 10 years in prison for treason. She was released from prison in 1956 and pardoned by President Gerald Ford in 1977.

In 1973, war erupted in the Middle East as Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on Israeli forces in the Sinai Peninsula and the Golan Heights during the Yom Kippur holiday, starting a nearly three-week conflict that would become known as the Yom Kippur War.

In 1976, Republican President Gerald R. Ford, in his second presidential debate with Democrat Jimmy Carter, asserted that there was "no Soviet domination of Eastern Europe." Carter went on to narrowly defeat Ford.

In 1976, two bombs exploded on a Cubana de Aviacion flight off the coast of Barbados, killing all 73 on board, including the 24 members of Cuba's national youth fencing team.

In 1979, Pope John Paul II, on a weeklong U.S. tour, became the first pontiff to visit the White House, where he was received by President Jimmy Carter.

In 2007, British adventurer Jason Lewis completed the first human-powered circumnavigation of the globe, spanning 13 years and more than 46,000 miles (74,000 kilometers).

In 2010, Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Roy Halladay tossed just the second postseason no-hitter in MLB history, blanking the Cincinnati Reds 4-0.

In 2014, the Supreme Court unexpectedly cleared the way for a dramatic expansion of same-sex marriage in the United States as it rejected appeals from five states seeking to preserve their bans, effectively making such marriages legal in 30 states.

In 2018, in the narrowest Senate confirmation of a Supreme Court justice in nearly a century and a half, Brett Kavanaugh was confirmed by a 50-48 vote; he was sworn in hours later.

In 2023, Iranian activist Narges Mohammadi won the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her tireless campaigning for women's rights and democracy, and against the death penalty. Mohammadi kept up her activism despite numerous arrests by Iranian authorities and having spent years behind bars.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Britt Ekland is 84. Irish politician Gerry Adams is 78. Pro Football Hall of Fame coach Tony Dungy is 71. Bowler Walter Ray Williams Jr. is 67. Actor Elisabeth Shue is 63. House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, a Louisiana Republican, is 61. Actor Emily Mortimer is 55. Basketball Hall of Famer Rebecca Lobo is 53. Actor Ioan Gruffudd (YOH'-ihn GRIH'-fihth) is 53. Actor Jeremy Sisto is 52. Football Hall of Famer Richard Seymour is 47. NFL quarterback Trevor Lawrence is 27. Social media personality Addison Rae is 26. Basketball player Bronny James is 22.