

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 1 of 69

[1- Upcoming Events](#)

[2- 1440 News Headlines](#)

[3- Hein Birthday](#)

[4- Groton Area reclaims Battle of the Tigers trophy with 18-12 win over Mobridge-Pollock](#)

[9- Lawrence County Fatal Crash](#)

[10- SD SearchLight: Measles cases reach 4,080 for the year — the highest in decades](#)

[11- SD SearchLight: Recent razor-thin result is a reminder of the importance of voting](#)

[12- SD SearchLight: Dan Ahlers: Democrat seeking South Dakota's top office says he knows how to win uphill battles](#)

[15- SD SearchLight: Trump may backtrack on livestreamed execution of Fort Hood shooter](#)

[15- SD SearchLight: Election betting is booming as the midterms near. Do states have the power to curb it?](#)

[19- Weather Pages](#)

[23- Daily Devotional](#)

[24- Subscription Form](#)

[25- Lottery Numbers](#)

[26- News from the Associated Press](#)

Community Calendar

Saturday, Oct. 10

JH Volleyball at Warner Jamboree, 9 a.m.

SDHSAA Second Round Boys Soccer Playoffs, noon

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

Sunday, Oct. 11

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

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

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

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

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

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

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; wor-



ship, 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

Monday, Oct. 12

Senior Menu: Closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day.

School Breakfast: No school.

School Lunch: No school.

NO SCHOOL — Native American Day

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

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

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

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

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

Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

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

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 2 of 69

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.

Nobel Peace Prize

The Nobel Committee yesterday awarded its Peace Prize to former UN human rights chief Navi Pillay. The South African-born lawyer began her career fighting apartheid and, more recently, led a panel that concluded Israel committed genocide against Palestinians in Gaza.

Pillay, 85, became the first nonwhite woman on South Africa's High Court after being nominated by President Nelson Mandela, whom she defended as an anti-apartheid lawyer. She went on to serve on several international courts, including the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, where she helped establish sexual violence as a form of genocide. The Nobel Committee chair also cited Pillay's more recent work leading the UN commission on Gaza as a factor in the award. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned the decision, while President Donald Trump reshared a Truth Social post claiming he deserved the prize.

Hours later, the Trump administration imposed sanctions on the International Criminal Court, where Pillay previously served as a judge, accusing it of unfairly targeting Americans and Israelis accused of war crimes.

Former Chicago Bears coach and Hall of Fame tight end Mike Ditka dies at age 86.

Ditka is the only person to have contributed to the Bears' last two league championships, as a tight end in 1963 and head coach in 1985. He was the first tight end inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame and is credited with transforming the position into a more prominent offensive role. Later known as "Iron Mike" and "Da Coach," his blue-collar attitude while leading the dominant Bears of the 1980s cemented him as a cultural icon.

Panama is struck by two powerful earthquakes.

A 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck Panama yesterday, collapsing dozens of buildings and prompting evacuations nationwide. It triggered a tsunami threat several aftershocks, including a 6.6 magnitude earthquake roughly two and a half hours later. Several injuries but no casualties have been reported, as of this writing. The last major earthquake to cause widespread damage in Panama struck in 1991.

Trump administration strikes deal to obtain diesel from Russia.

The White House struck the deal in an effort to ease high fuel prices, with diesel averaging \$6.28 per gallon yesterday. President Donald Trump said Russia would immediately supply more than 300,000 tons of diesel, with millions more tons to follow. The announcement comes less than a month after Trump signed a sweeping sanctions bill intended to pressure Moscow to end its invasion of Ukraine..

President Donald Trump establishes committee to investigate Fed's Lisa Cook.

The committee will explore mortgage fraud allegations against the Federal Reserve governor and whether they constitute grounds to fire her. The inquiry will include a Nov. 5 hearing, to which Cook has been summoned. The Supreme Court blocked Trump's past attempt to fire Cook, citing a lack of due process. His ongoing efforts to remove her have raised concerns about the central bank's independence..

Separately, the Trump administration selected conservative commentator Katie Zacharia to replace Karoline Leavitt as White House press secretary..

Pentagon will livestream first military firing squad execution since World War II.

Nidal Hasan, a former Army psychiatrist who fatally shot 13 people and wounded more than 30 others at Fort Hood military base in 2009, is scheduled to be put to death by firing squad Dec. 3. It would be the first US military execution by firing squad since 1945 and the first to be publicly broadcast. The last

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 3 of 69

public execution in the US took place in 1936, when about 20,000 people gathered in Kentucky to witness the hanging of a Black man convicted of raping an elderly white woman..

Iran-backed Houthis strike Riyadh airport, killing three Saudis.

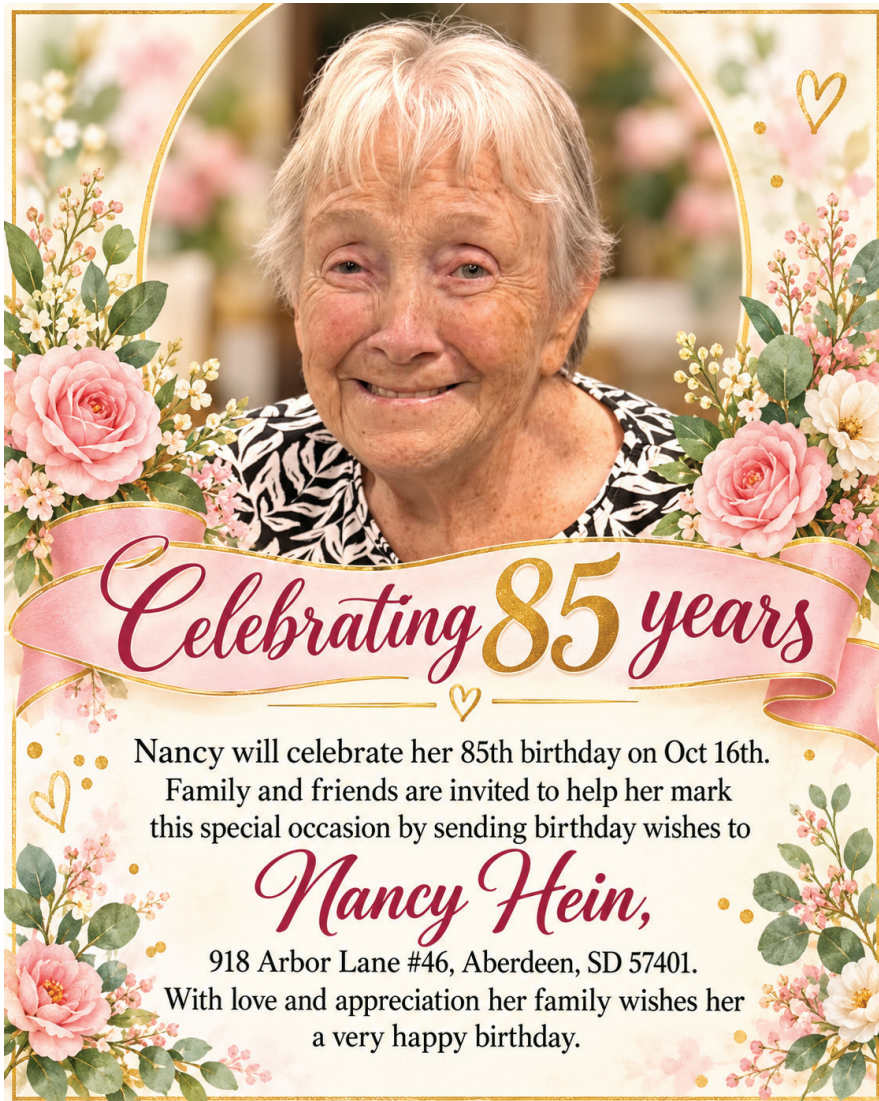
Saudi authorities said three Saudis, including an airline pilot, were killed, while people of several other nationalities were wounded. The attack is the deadliest since the kingdom launched an offensive with Yemen's UN-recognized government last week to regain territory from the Houthis. The Iran-backed group has seized key positions along the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a key Red Sea shipping lane..

Thieves steal 30,000 bottles in Italy's largest-ever wine heist.

Legacy winemaker Marchesi Antinori said at least seven people stole roughly \$5.8M worth of its premium wines. They allegedly disabled the winery's surveillance system before using the company's forklifts to load two large trucks in the middle of the night. The 640-year-old family-owned company is now warning customers to exercise caution when purchasing its wines outside official channels..

Separately, French authorities recovered two Renoir paintings stolen from a museum last month and arrested six suspects..

Humankind(ness)



Celebrating 85 years

Nancy will celebrate her 85th birthday on Oct 16th.
Family and friends are invited to help her mark
this special occasion by sending birthday wishes to

Nancy Hein,
918 Arbor Lane #46, Aberdeen, SD 57401.
With love and appreciation her family wishes her
a very happy birthday.

Today, we're sharing a story from reader Christie J. in Alexandria, VA.

"Spooky season just started, so I took my kids (5 and 2) to our local farm stand to buy some pumpkins. Happy with our selections, we went inside to pay our tab, and as we're checking out, my 2-year-olds's eyes and hands start roaming, trying to grab any fruit or vegetable she can get. Now I'm trying my best to put everything back on pace with her, but she won the battle and grabbed a giant, beautiful tomato and took a huge bite. I put it up on the checkout scale and said we have to pay for this too.

The boy who was tallying up our pumpkins nodded and kept adding up our total. Once I paid, he whispered, 'Don't worry about the tomato,' and smiled. I'm sure it's something that happens all the time there, but it was still so nice of him to do! It was a great end to a fun, rainy afternoon."



Groton Area reclaims Battle of the Tigers trophy with 18-12 win over Mobridge-Pollock

Groton Area reclaimed the traveling Battle of the Tigers trophy Friday night with an 18-12 victory over Mobridge-Pollock in a hard-fought football game that featured blocked punts, turnovers, penalties and a dramatic defensive stand in the closing minutes.

The Groton Area Tigers built an 18-6 halftime lead and held off a second-half rally by Mobridge-Pollock, with Anthony Tracy coming up with a crucial interception in the final two minutes to help preserve the victory. Both teams are now 3-4 on the season.

"It was one heck of a win right there," Groton Area head coach Jordan Carson said following the game. "When you have a guy like Travis Kurth calling the defensive plays, you feel pretty fortunate to have a guy like that in your corner."

Groton's defense and special teams made their presence felt early in the contest. Mobridge-Pollock received the opening kickoff but was forced to punt on fourth-and-14. Layne Johnson blocked the punt, giving Groton Area excellent field position at the Mobridge-Pollock 20-yard line.

However, Groton fumbled on second-and-10, allowing Mobridge-Pollock to recover at its own 28-yard line. The visitors eventually faced fourth-and-one, but Ryder Schelle sacked quarterback Easton Eiseman, giving Groton Area possession at the Mobridge-Pollock 38.

Groton put together a drive featuring three first downs before Asher Johnson scored on a one-yard run with 2:24 remaining in the first quarter. The two-point conversion pass from Johnson to Schelle was unsuccessful, leaving Groton with a 6-0 lead.

Mobridge-Pollock answered early in the second quarter when Eiseman connected with Kale Knudson on a 42-yard touchdown pass with 10:10 remaining in the half. The two-point conversion failed, tying the game at six.

Groton Area responded with another drive, but a fumble gave Mobridge-Pollock possession at its own 24-yard line. The visitors promptly returned the favor with a fumble of their own, giving Groton another scoring opportunity at the Mobridge-Pollock 26.

A penalty wiped out a Groton first down, but on third-and-15, Johnson broke loose on a 31-yard touchdown run with four minutes remaining in the half. The conversion attempt failed, putting Groton ahead 12-6.

Groton's special teams came through again later in the quarter when Layne Johnson blocked another Mobridge-Pollock punt, giving the home team possession at the visitors' 22-yard line. Although that op-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 5 of 69



Asher Johnson looks for an open player as he gets ready to throw the ball. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

portunity ended with an interception in the end zone, Groton got another chance before halftime.

The Tigers mounted a late drive, moving the ball inside the Mobridge-Pollock 5-yard line. Jordan Schwan scored on a one-yard run with 37 seconds remaining. The conversion attempt failed, but Groton carried an 18-6 advantage into the locker room.

At halftime, statistician Tom Woods praised the Tigers' defensive performance against a Mobridge-Pollock team that had entered the game following a narrow one-point loss to Clark/Willow Lake.

"I'm proud of our Tigers is an understatement," Woods said during the GDILIVE halftime broadcast.

Woods reported that Groton held Mobridge-Pollock to just four first downs and seven rushing yards on 14 attempts in the opening half. Mobridge-Pollock completed three of 10 passes for 42 yards, with the long touchdown accounting for nearly all of that production.

Groton Area, meanwhile, had eight first downs, 103 rushing yards on 22 carries and 44 passing yards on five completions in 11 attempts during the first half.

Mobridge-Pollock narrowed the gap in the third quarter with its most productive drive of the evening. Starting at its own 11-yard line, the visitors marched 89 yards in seven plays, capped

by a two-yard touchdown run by Eiseman with 3:54 remaining in the quarter. The score cut Groton's lead to 18-12.

Neither team managed another touchdown, but the fourth quarter provided plenty of drama.

Mobridge-Pollock moved the football but struggled with penalties, eventually facing fourth-and-33 and being forced to punt. Groton also had difficulty sustaining drives, including one possession in which a Mobridge-Pollock penalty extended the series before Groton was pushed backward by a penalty of its own.

With the Tigers protecting their six-point lead, Mobridge-Pollock mounted another drive from its own 25-yard line. The visitors picked up a couple of first downs before facing fourth-and-10. An incomplete pass ended the threat and gave Groton possession with 2:21 remaining.

Groton picked up a first down aided by a penalty but eventually had to punt, giving Mobridge-Pollock one final opportunity.

That was when the Tigers' defense delivered the decisive play.

With Mobridge-Pollock threatening late in the game, Tracy intercepted a pass with 1:40 remaining, ending the visitors' comeback hopes. Groton was then able to run out the remaining time and secure the 18-12 victory.

Carson credited his players' effort and preparation, along with the defensive game plan developed by assistant coach Travis Kurth.

"I mean, they're a good team," Carson said of Mobridge-Pollock. "I think we just had a lot of guys that were playing, you know, 110% out there, which is what we've been trying to get our guys to do all year."

Carson said the team's preparation throughout the week helped make the difference.

"When you put together a good scouting report and you have a good plan throughout the week and you practice well and then you can go out there and you can execute it, that is huge when it comes to 11B football," he said.

The game was not without its frustrations, particularly with the number of fumbles and penalties that interrupted both teams' offensive possessions.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 6 of 69



Ryder Schelle tries to keep ahead of Mobridge-Pollock's Kellen Pfitzer. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

"As an offensive guy, nothing's more frustrating than watching the ball fumble around on the ground," Carson said. "But then our defense came up and they got a couple turnovers in big spots, too. So sometimes you just have to try to outlast the turnovers, I guess."

Carson also acknowledged that penalties prevented Groton from putting the game away earlier, pointing specifically to an offensive pass interference penalty that disrupted a late possession.

Still, the coach was pleased with the way his young players responded to the pressure of protecting a narrow lead.

"We've got some good players. We've got some good young players, and they're only playing harder as they're getting older here," Carson said. "It's awesome to see these guys turn the corner."

Groton Area finished with 10 first downs and 128 rushing yards on 39 carries, scoring all three touchdowns on the ground. Asher Johnson led the Tigers with 76 yards on 17 carries and two touchdowns. Case Reints added 25 yards on eight attempts, Schelle rushed for 24 yards on seven carries, Tracy had nine yards on three attempts and Kyson Kucker added two yards on one carry. Schwan finished with minus-eight yards on three carries but scored Groton's third touchdown.

Johnson completed seven of 16 passes for 61 yards with one interception. Schwan led the receiving corps with four catches for 38 yards, while Schelle caught two passes for 18 yards and Tracy added one reception for five yards.

Mobridge-Pollock also recorded 10 first downs, rushing for 124 yards on 25 attempts. Eiseman accounted for most of that production with 102 yards on 14 carries and a touchdown. Eiseman also completed 10 of 23 passes for 128 yards, one touchdown and one interception.

Knudson led Mobridge-Pollock's receivers with four receptions for 59 yards and a touchdown. Mack Saxon added four catches for 34 yards, Luke Olson caught one for 24 yards and Dylan Fjeldheim had one for 11 yards.

Defensively, Ryder Schelle led Groton Area with nine tackles, followed by Asher Johnson with seven and Branden Fliehs with six. Isaiah Scepaniak, Layne Johnson, TC Schuster and Ryder Schwan each recorded five tackles, while Gunner Hardy added four. Layne Johnson also blocked two punts, Asher Johnson and Anthony Tracy each recorded an interception, and Fliehs recovered a fumble.

Mobridge-Pollock was led defensively by Carsen Wiesner with nine tackles, Jaxton Winter with eight and Alex Gallardo with six. Aiden Tvedt recorded an interception.

Groton Area lost both of its fumbles and was penalized five times for 38 yards. Mobridge-Pollock lost one fumble and was flagged 10 times for 57 yards.

The victory also carried historical significance in the annual Battle of the Tigers rivalry.

According to Woods, Friday's contest was the 856th varsity football game in Groton's program history and the 36th meeting between Groton and Mobridge, dating back to 1985. Groton won that first meeting 27-6.

Entering Friday's game, Groton had won 19 of the previous 35 meetings, with Mobridge winning 16. The latest victory gives Groton a 20-16 advantage in the series.

Woods explained that the traveling trophy was originally created by a Mobridge alumnus and has undergone repairs over the years, including work completed during former Groton coach Shaun Warner's tenure.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 7 of 69

Mobridge and Pollock consolidated into one school district in 2008, with the football team beginning play under the Mobridge-Pollock name in the fall of 2009. Woods also pointed out the unusual geography of the district, noting that the two communities are approximately 44 miles apart.

The rivalry trophy was especially meaningful to Groton's players, who were already discussing where it would be displayed.

"They're pretty excited about that trophy over there," Carson said. "They're already planning where they're gonna put it and everything, so we better have a place polished up for the next year."

The win also strengthens Groton Area's position heading into the final stretch of the regular season and the Class 11B playoffs.

Woods noted at halftime that playoff seeding would be especially competitive, with several teams potentially finishing the regular season with identical records. He said Groton's final results could make a significant difference in its opening-round opponent and travel distance.

Groton Area will close out the regular season with a rivalry contest against Aberdeen Roncalli at Dakota Bank Stadium in Aberdeen, while Mobridge-Pollock will face Miller/Highmore-Harrold.

Carson expects another challenging matchup against Roncalli.

"They're always coached well. They always have a good game plan coming in, and they're gonna want a little bit of get back after last year," Carson said.

For now, however, Groton Area can celebrate a hard-earned victory, a strong defensive performance and the return of the Battle of the Tigers trophy.

And as Woods jokingly predicted at the beginning of the night, the Tigers were going to win. This time, it was Groton's Tigers who earned the victory.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM with the voice of the Tigers, Justin Olson, along with technicians Savannah Bible and Paul Kosel.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 8 of 69

Groton Area

First Downs 10
Rushing: 39-128, 3 TDs
Rushers:
Asher Johnson 17-76, 2 TD
Anthony Tracy 3-9
Case Reints 8-25
Jordan Schwan 3-(-8), 1 TD
Ryder Schelle 7-24
Kyson Kucker 1-2

Passing: 7-16, 61 yards, 1 Int.
Asher Johnson 7-16, 61 yards, 1 Int.

Receivers:

Jordan Schwan 4-38
Ryder Schelle 2-18
Anthony Tracy 1-5

Fumbles: had 2, lost 2
Penalties: 5-38

Defensive Leaders:

Ryder Schelle 9 tackles
Asher Johnson 7 tackles, 1 interception
TC Schuster 5 tackles
Ryder Schwan 5 tackles
Anthony Tracy 1 Interception
Gunner Hardy 4 tackles
Layne Johnson 5 tackles, 2 Blocked Punt
Isaiah Scepaniak 5 tackles
Braeden Fliehs 6 tackles, 1 Fumble Recovery

Record: 3-4
Next game: Roncalli in Aberdeen

Scoring:

First Quarter: 2:24: Groton: Asher Johnson, 1 yard run. (PAT pass failed) 6-0
Second Quarter: 10:10: Mobridge-Pollock: Kale Knutson pass from Eastman, 42 yards (PAT run failed) ... 6-6
Second Quarter: 4:00: Groton: Asher Johnson, 31 yard run. (PAT run failed) 12-6
Second Quarter: 0:37: Groton: Jordan Schwan, 1 yard run (PAT pass failed) 18-6
Third Quarter: 3:54: Mobridge-Pollock: Easton Eiseman, 2 yard run (PAT run failed) 18-12

Mobridge-Pollock

First Downs: 10
Rushing: 25-124, 1 TD
Rushers:
Easton Eisemann 14-102, 1 TD
Dylan Fjeldheim 5-3
Jacoby Carry Moccasin 5-5
Mack Saxon 6-14

Passing: 10-23, 128 yards, 1 TD, 1 Int.
Easton Eisemann 10-23, 128 yards, 1 TD, 1 Int.

Receivers:

Mack Saxon 4-34
Kale Knudson 4-59, 1 TD
Luke Olson 1-24
Dylan Fjeldheim 1-11

Fumbles: had 1, lost 1
Penalties: 10-57

Defensive Leaders:

Jaxton Winter 8 tackles
Carsen Wiesner 9 tackles
Alex Gallardo 6 tackles
Aiden Tvedt 1 interception

Record: 3-4
Next game: Miller/Highmore-Harrold

Lawrence County Fatal Crash

What: Two-vehicle fatal crash

Where: Nemo Road, 8 miles southwest of Deadwood, South Dakota

When: 3:34 p.m., Friday, October 9, 2026

Driver 1: 65-year-old male from Balaton, Minnesota, serious non-life-threatening injuries

Vehicle 1: 2002 Harley-Davidson FLSTC

Helmet Used: No

Passenger 1: 66-year-old female from Balaton, Minnesota, serious non-life-threatening injuries

Helmet Used: No

Driver 2: 35-year-old male from Rapid City, South Dakota, fatal injuries

Vehicle 2: 2013 Harley-Davidson FLHX

Helmet Used: No

Lawrence County, S.D.- A Rapid City man died Friday in a two-vehicle crash near Deadwood, South Dakota.

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

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2013 Harley-Davidson FLHX motorcycle was traveling southbound on Nemo Road when he approached a curve in the roadway and began to slide. At the same time, the driver of a 2002 Harley-Davidson FLSTC motorcycle was traveling northbound at the same location. The 2013 Harley-Davidson slid into the other motorcycle and continued into the ditch. The driver sustained fatal injuries. The driver of the 2002 Harley-Davidson and his passenger were taken to a Deadwood hospital with serious non-life-threatening injuries.

The investigation is ongoing. All information released is preliminary.

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



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Measles cases reach 4,080 for the year — the highest in decades

Pennsylvania reports 5 deaths total as several states see their case numbers rise

BY TIM HENDERSON

Measles cases for the calendar year surpassed 4,000 for the first time in decades, with as many as five deaths in Pennsylvania, as the federal government steps in with financial help for states but also fans vaccination fears and skepticism.

A weekly report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed 4,080 cases this year as of Oct. 8, up 192 cases in a week.

Pennsylvania, which has reported five confirmed deaths from measles, alone had 142 new cases for the week — for a total of 1,105 for the year. The CDC has recognized just two of the state's reported deaths.

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, a Democrat, has protested the CDC's death count; his state's five deaths would be more than the three deaths reported in 2025 for the entire nation.

Other states with large numbers of cases, more than 200, did not see their case numbers change for the week: South Carolina (670 for the year), Utah (535) and Wisconsin (207). States with more cases included New York, which declared a measles emergency, with 19 new cases for a total of 103 this year; and Iowa, up 17 cases to 39.

Kentucky reported separately on Friday that cases there had reached 104, up 10 from last week.

Pennsylvania, which has become ground zero for this year's outbreaks, reported this week that a new awareness and pop-up vaccine clinics are leading to more measles vaccinations.

All but five states have had at least one measles case this year. The last time the United States had this many cases was in 1991, reaching 9,643 cases as the nation still struggled to roll out vaccinations for the disease, amid budget cuts that hit programs in big cities.

Pennsylvania's health department this week announced "a surge of interest" in vaccinations as more residents become aware of the outbreak — more than 56,000 doses were given out in September, more than twice the usual monthly volume. The state has added pop-up clinics in the most affected areas. All but four of the measles cases were among unvaccinated people.

The Lewistown Sentinel reported that an 18-year-old woman there died in September from brain swelling as a result of the measles virus after two of her brothers survived the disease.

While the federal government has offered states more funding to combat measles, Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy moved forward this week on plans to emphasize vaccine injury, announcing a new clinic and work to strengthen a database that tracks problems after a vaccination.

"We must listen to patients and families who report vaccine injuries — not dismiss or gaslight them," Kennedy said in a statement.

Stateline reporter Tim Henderson can be reached at thenderson@stateline.org.

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

Tim Henderson covers demographics for Stateline. He has been a reporter at the Miami Herald, the Cincinnati Enquirer and the Journal News.

COMMENTARY

Recent razor-thin result is a reminder of the importance of voting

by Dana Hess

Sometimes voting in South Dakota can seem like a lost cause. With Republicans dominating every state and national elected office, it seems like a foregone conclusion that they will win again. It's easy to make excuses for sitting out this election.

Part of the problem is the less than stellar job that members of the state's Democratic Party have done in recruiting candidates. Their candidate for U.S. Senate decided to call it a day, and they didn't field a candidate for state attorney general. In the state legislative races, Democrats are running for 44 of the 105 seats in the Legislature. That means 58% of those seats won't have a Democrat on the ballot competing for your vote. In many districts, seats in the Legislature were decided in the Republican primary.

If every Democrat on the legislative part of the ballot is elected, Republicans will still ease their way into automatic majorities in the House and Senate. Fortunately for voters, there's more to hold your interest on Election Day than just seeing which Republican will be elected to office for the next two, four or six years. Even in a blushing red state like South Dakota, there may be reasons for some Republican candidates to feel uneasy.

It wasn't too long ago that the city of Sioux Falls almost elected a Democrat as its next mayor. City elections are supposed to be nonpartisan, but some of the Republican candidates in the gubernatorial primary felt like it was their job to endorse the Republican in that race.

Democrats have every right to feel good about one of their own coming so close to running the state's largest city. Republicans who have dominated state politics for so long will be forgiven for feeling a little queasy about that outcome and what it might mean for the general election.

Nicole Gronli, the Democratic candidate for the U.S. House, and Brian Bengs, the independent candidate for the U.S. Senate, have been touting polls that show them closing in on their opponents. Any candidate's polling has to be taken with a grain of salt, but, in a year when there is supposed to be a "blue wave," Republicans Marty Jackley and Mike Rounds may not have the easy road to victory that candidates from their party have enjoyed in the past. How much more interesting the politics in this state would be if having an "R" next to your name didn't ensure an automatic win.

The political competition doesn't stop at the top of the ballot. During this election, many county races will be decided, too. Races for sheriff, auditor and county commissioner have a direct bearing on your safety and how your local tax dollars will be spent.

In some communities, the election for city council members will be held in conjunction with the general election. The candidates chosen by voters in those nonpartisan elections will have a direct influence on the spending of local tax dollars.

South Dakota voters will also be making decisions about four state constitutional amendments. They'll decide the fate of a trust fund for unclaimed property, a back door method for getting the state out of funding expanded Medicaid, a measure that mirrors a law that already bars noncitizens from voting in South Dakota elections and an amendment that makes it tougher to change the state constitution by requiring a 60% favorable vote.

No matter what you may think about the need for these particular amendments, it's plain that they touch on important issues of our day — state funding, access to Medicaid, voting rights and citizen access to changing the state constitution. The amendments alone are reason enough to show up on Election Day.

Or show up sooner. Early voting is going on now and absentee ballots are also available. If you're not registered to vote, get registered. The deadline is Oct. 19.

Making what you consider to be the right choices on the ballot requires some work on your part. Get a sample ballot at your courthouse to look over the candidates and the issues. Attend candidate forums or debates. You'll make an informed decision by spending some time studying the candidates and the issues. South Dakota Searchlight offers an extensive Voter Guide with explanations of the constitutional

amendments, links to the candidates' websites and links to past news coverage.

There's too much at stake in this election to just sit on the sidelines. As citizens, it's our duty to play a part in the election process. Remember the outcome of the mayoral election in Sioux Falls. It was decided by a handful of votes. That's a wonderful example of every vote counting. Make sure yours gets counted, too.

Dana Hess spent more than 25 years in South Dakota journalism, editing newspapers in Redfield, Milbank and Pierre. He's retired and lives in Brookings, working occasionally as a freelance writer.

Dan Ahlers: Democrat seeking South Dakota's top office says he knows how to win uphill battles

After decades planting roots in Dell Rapids community, former legislator wants to bring his experience to the governor's office

BY MEGHAN O'BRIEN

DELL RAPIDS — In a coffee shop on his hometown's main thoroughfare, Dan Ahlers thinks back on his first run for elected office 20 years ago.

There was a different Democrat running who needed to drop out, local party leaders said, and they wanted Ahlers as a replacement.

"Don't worry, it won't be a big deal. You won't win anyways," Ahlers recalled them saying. "But I took that as a challenge, and I won."

As a 32-year-old Democrat in a district where Democrats were outnumbered by Republicans, Ahlers was elected to one of the district's two House seats. He went on to win election to the Legislature two more times and served a total of six years.

By the time of his first campaign, Ahlers said, he was accustomed to exceeding expectations. He ran long distance track at Augustana University, after the team's head coach told him he wouldn't make the team.

"My sophomore fall semester, I took a PE class, and he saw me running, and he called me over," Ahlers said. The coach asked why Ahlers wasn't out for track, to which Ahlers responded, "Because you said I was too big." He said, "Be at practice at 4."

After graduating with a degree in government and international relations, Ahlers couldn't find many South Dakota jobs that fit what he'd studied, but he wanted to stay close to home.

He decided to open a VHS video rental store in Dell Rapids, where he remembers a loan officer telling him the business wouldn't last.

"And I remember the day that he signed up as a customer in my third store," Ahlers said. "Not too bad for something that wasn't going to work."

Now Ahlers, 52, is running for governor — an office Democrats in the state haven't held for 47 years, since 1979 — against Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden.

Ahlers faces an uphill battle running against a sitting governor in a state where Republicans outnumber Democrats. He said that doesn't bother him.

"Whether it was business or running for the Legislature, over and over, I've been told that things are not possible," Ahlers said.

Roots in local business, community

Ahlers opened his first video rental store in 1999 in Dell Rapids, a town of about 4,000 people located 20 miles north of Sioux Falls in eastern South Dakota.

He eventually added stores in Hartford and Tea, which he later sold. Ahlers maintained his Dell Rapids store until 2019 but closed it as it became increasingly difficult to get DVDs from studios.

Less than a decade after getting his video rental business off the ground, Ahlers purchased a building in downtown Dell Rapids.

A small business loan officer told him a coffee shop wouldn't sustain itself in a small town, Ahlers said, but authorized a \$50,000 loan. That wouldn't cover paying for the building, renovations and the equipment needed to get a coffee shop running, Ahlers said. So, he used profits from his video stores.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 13 of 69

"That other business that they said would never succeed helped pay for it," Ahlers said.

He was determined to make the coffee shop a success.

"I enjoy proving people wrong," he said. "I think that I take those things as a challenge."

For the next two years, he repaired the building's damaged foundation and renovated the space before opening the shop in 2008. It became The Jabberwock — a coffee shop that also welcomed local musical acts, wedding receptions and graduation parties.

He sold the business a few years later, but still owns the building. He has also been a substitute teacher and led Dell Rapids' before- and after-school program, and its Chamber of Commerce. Ahlers was hired in 2023 as the executive director of the state Democratic Party, but has taken a step back from his duties while on the campaign trail.

Ahlers lives in Dell Rapids with his wife of 28 years, Amy, and their two sons. He said the decision to run for governor came down to what his family thought of it.

"My wife, I mean, she had to think very hard on this," Ahlers said. "She's very thoughtful, very deliberative, and she eventually said, 'I think you need to do this.'"

Democrats ask, 'Why not now?'

Republican former Gov. Kristi Noem ignited the race to succeed her in January 2025 when she resigned to accept a job in President Donald Trump's administration. Her lieutenant governor, Rhoden, was automatically elevated to fill the remainder of her second and final term.

While serving as executive director for the Democratic Party, Ahlers asked other Democrats to put their names on the ballot for local and state offices. People around him asked why he wasn't doing the same, he said.

Shane Merrill, chair of the state Democratic Party, was one of those voices.

"It just made total sense," Merrill said, mentioning Ahlers' legislative career and community experience.

Ahlers said his focus was on recruiting. He didn't set out to run for governor.

"I think those opportunities for public service call you," Ahlers said. "Some people do plan them. I mean, they go, 'I'm going to do this, and then I'm going to do that.' I'm a Democrat in a Republican state. I don't have the luxury of laying out a plan like that."

Ahlers was the last candidate for governor to throw his hat in the ring when he announced his campaign in February. By then, four Republican candidates were running, setting up a primary election that ended in South Dakota's first-ever statewide runoff election, won by Rhoden in July.

"I spent a lot of time listening, watching, doing the town halls, doing all that type of legwork to prepare for what was going to be a very quick, fast election cycle," Ahlers said.

Merrill said a momentum shift toward Democratic candidates in other Midwestern states tells him that now might be the time for one to take office in the Mount Rushmore State.

"I think that the Democrats are poised to do very well," he said. "It's still South Dakota, it's still a red state. It's been 50 years, but eventually, in my lifetime, I guarantee it's going to happen, and why not now?"

The Democratic Party hasn't held a majority in either chamber of the South Dakota Legislature since the 1990s. Democrats had eight members in the 105-member lawmaking body this year.

Ahlers said he's ready to work with Republicans.

"People will tell you we just don't share the same values. I don't believe that," Ahlers said. "I don't know a single Republican that says, 'I want a bad education system for my kids or grandkids.' I don't know a Republican that says, 'I want terrible healthcare,' or 'I love potholes in my roads.'"

Education an 'incredibly important' part of platform

Ahlers spent parts of his childhood in Dell Rapids and Rapid City, before his family moved to Gillette, Wyoming, where he spent the majority of his younger years. As a student of the public school system, Ahlers said an eighth-grade civics class caught his attention.

"I was inspired by a group of people from different backgrounds, with different ideas, who were able to come together and create something special like this country," he said. "I want to be part of that. I want to go out and make life better, and have a positive impact for people."

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 14 of 69

He returned to Dell Rapids as a senior in high school, but his time as a student in Wyoming taught him that "we can do better with education," he said. There, students had more opportunities in STEM, or to prepare for skilled labor jobs after high school, he said.

"Education is incredibly important to me," Ahlers said. "I know that when people get a good quality education, regardless of their abilities, they are better off in life, and we're all better off for it."

As a student in the school lunch line, he remembers carrying a different lunch ticket from the kids around him, because he'd receive a reduced-price meal.

"We didn't ask to be where we were financially. It was a recession," Ahlers said. "But walking up with a different-colored ticket said somehow that I was less than other people."

He doesn't want South Dakota students to feel singled out at lunch time.

"I don't think that families should be charged for school lunches at all. I don't understand why we treat it like an extracurricular activity," Ahlers said. "It's part of the day, you're required to be there. Why aren't we just feeding them?"

South Dakota lawmakers this year approved spending about \$600,000 annually to cover the family share of reduced-price meals for students enrolled in the federal program. The legislation came from a Sioux Falls Democrat, Rep. Kady Wittman.

Legislative victories like those, Ahlers said, come from a willingness — and a need — to work with the majority party in the Legislature.

Ahlers 'willing to learn'

As a freshman lawmaker, Ahlers said he was excited to use what he'd studied in college. He looked to more experienced lawmakers, like Paul Dennert, a Democrat from Columbia who served as assistant minority leader.

"He came in as a young man, was awestruck, like everybody," Dennert said of Ahlers. "But, he was that young businessman from Dell Rapids, and was willing to learn and willing to ask a lot of questions to get familiar with the process."

Ahlers was a member of the joint budgeting committee as a state senator in 2009 and 2010, and during his latest term in the House from 2017 to 2018. Also on that panel was Republican former Rep. Hugh Bartels, of Watertown, who ultimately served as speaker of the House.

Though he won't be voting for Ahlers in the governor race, Bartels remembers Ahlers' work on the committee favorably.

"He worked across the aisle," Bartels said. "He knew appropriations is one of those areas where there's only so much money to go around, and he realized that as an appropriator, and worked to get things through."

Ahlers said most of his legislation came from constituents, including parents from the community who shared their concerns about their children enrolled in special education programs.

During his most recent House term, Ahlers sponsored successful legislation that created an advisory committee of parents, educators and experts to improve language development for children who are deaf or hard of hearing before they enter kindergarten.

The state Department of Education initially spoke in opposition to the legislation, and no members of the majority party signed on as co-sponsors. But Ahlers "did the footwork" to get it passed, according to former state legislator Julie Bartling, a Democrat from Gregory.

He brought in students who would be impacted by the changes and experts in education and advocacy to show how the changes could benefit students who are deaf or hard of hearing, Bartling said.

"It was really pretty neat to watch how he could just start from something so simple," she said, "and just take it all the way to the top."

Ahlers remembers the day then-Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed the bill, making South Dakota one of the first states in the nation to enact such a law.

"It was great. It was a good day for those families. It was a good day for bipartisanship," he said. "That's when you get the best of what government can offer, when you find those moments where we can all

figure out how to work on things together.”

As he looks at the path ahead of him, Ahlers considers everything else in his life that was, at one point, an uphill battle: a college track career, long-lived businesses, a legislative race he wasn't supposed to win.

“I think those types of challenges drive me,” Ahlers said. “When people say that there are things that we just can't fix, things that are too far gone, I'm like, ‘No, I know that we can do it.’”

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.

Trump may backtrack on livestreamed execution of Fort Hood shooter

BY JONATHAN SHORMAN

President Donald Trump on Friday appeared to leave open the possibility that the federal government won't livestream a military execution planned for December that Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth had said would be public.

But Trump also told reporters at the White House that he had “absolutely” approved livestreaming the execution.

The apparently contradictory comments came as the Trump administration faced a wave of criticism over plans to livestream the execution of Nidal Hasan, a former Army major convicted of killing 13 people at Fort Hood, Texas, in 2009. Hegseth announced Thursday that Hasan's death by firing squad would be public.

“I'm going to make a determination about that, but he will be killed,” Trump first told reporters when asked about the livestream.

A short time later, Trump was asked whether he had approved livestreaming the execution. He replied, “Did I approve? Absolutely.”

Plans for the public execution came under bipartisan condemnation from lawmakers, along with numerous religious figures, Thursday and Friday.

Sen. Thom Tillis, a North Carolina Republican, wrote on social media that public executions are “what oppressive dictatorships like Iran and Afghanistan do.” He called the plans “beyond disgusting.”

Sen. Patty Murray, a Washington Democrat, on social media urged the Pentagon to reverse course.

“We are long past the days of public hangings in the town square,” Murray wrote. “Kids watch what our leaders do and say, is this kind of bloodshed really what we want them seeing?”

Even Vice President JD Vance cast doubt on whether the execution would be broadcast. He told reporters that if it's ultimately livestreamed, “I'm not gonna be watching it.”

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.

Election betting is booming as the midterms near. Do states have the power to curb it?

BY JONATHAN SHORMAN

On Friday morning, the prediction market platform Kalshi gave the Democratic candidate in Minnesota's U.S. Senate race an 87% chance of winning. The volume of trading on the outcome exceeded \$1.8 million.

This is exactly the type of activity Minnesota and numerous other states want to shut down.

“They jeopardize people's trust in government and government decision-making. They jeopardize people's trust in elections,” said Minnesota state Rep. Emma Greenman, a member of the state's Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party. She helped spearhead Minnesota's first-in-the-nation near-total ban on prediction markets earlier this year.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 16 of 69

Prediction markets have emerged as a flashpoint in state and federal relations, as a host of states struggle with the Trump administration over who has authority to regulate the platforms and whether state laws restricting gambling apply to them. While much of the fight centers on the future of sports betting, a growing number of state officials fear the sites are opening the door to a new era of gambling on elections — a practice many states have long prohibited.

Some state election officials have warned their residents in recent months that using prediction markets to place money on elections is illegal. Others are locked in litigation with the platforms. At least one state, Arizona, has filed criminal charges against Kalshi.

But the prediction markets remain widely available as Election Day approaches, with the industry maintaining that the federal government has authority over the platforms, not the states.

Betting on control of Congress

On the two leading prediction market sites, Kalshi and Polymarket, individuals can put money down on the outcome of a wide array of races and related questions, like whether Kansas or Nebraska's U.S. Senate races will have a larger margin of victory.

That includes which party will control Congress following the midterm elections. On Friday morning, the Democratic Party had a 90% chance of winning the U.S. House on Polymarket.

Money changing hands over the outcome of elections is corrosive to democracy and amounts to an attempt to bypass existing bans on election betting, civic organizations and some public officials say. Twenty-three states completely ban election betting, according to data from the National Conference of State Legislatures analyzed by the Pew Research Center.

"It's supposed to be a civic duty where people are deciding what candidate they actually think is best for a leadership position, not what candidate can make them the most money if they bet the right way," said Benjamin Schiffrin, director of securities policy at Better Markets, a nonprofit watchdog group advocating for consumer and investor financial protections.

The prediction markets and their supporters say the sites offer contracts that pay out if a given event or outcome occurs. Under that view, the contracts are essentially swaps, a financial product often traded by sophisticated investors to hedge against economic risk.

Critics of the platforms say the contracts effectively function as wagers. Unlike swaps, which investors use to help offset the effects of events like rising interest rates, contracts on sporting events, elections and other non-financial questions serve no legitimate hedging purpose, they say.

CFTC and prediction markets

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the federal regulator that oversees markets for swaps, has asserted authority to regulate the platforms under the federal Commodity Exchange Act.

In a statement, Polymarket said it maintains that "prediction markets are regulated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission under a federal framework, not a patchwork of state rules."

Kalshi didn't respond to a request for comment. In a March court filing in a federal lawsuit, lawyers for Kalshi wrote that its events contracts are swaps and that election and sports contracts "fit comfortably" within that definition.

"The outcomes of political events such as elections are connected to obvious financial consequences," the court filing says.

The Trump administration has firmly sided with the prediction markets. The CFTC is made up of five members, but currently only has a single commissioner, Michael Selig, who was appointed by President Donald Trump in 2025.

Selig has taken a favorable stance toward the industry, and in June the CFTC proposed a rule that would set up a new framework for how the commission regulates events contracts. The rule would continue to allow trading on elections.

On Friday, the CFTC unveiled another new rule that would expressly define events contracts — including those centered on politics — as swaps.

In a July 27 letter to the CFTC, 16 civic watchdog groups, including Better Markets, Common Cause and

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 17 of 69

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, warned that the rule ignores concerns about the harm the contracts could cause to elections.

"Event contracts that involve elections allow individuals to bet on elections, which is illegal under many state laws. This election betting would incentivize election interference and has the potential to undermine the integrity of our democracy," the groups wrote, urging the commission to prohibit election-related events contracts because they go against the public interest.

The CFTC didn't respond to questions from States Newsroom.

"Americans use event contracts to hedge risks, speculate, and provide the public with information about the outcome of future events," Selig said in a news release on Friday. "These products are commodity derivatives squarely within the CFTC's regulatory remit under the Commodity Exchange Act and are within the agency's exclusive jurisdiction."

Maryland issues public warning

In Maryland, Jared DeMarinis, the state administrator of elections, said that in his view, the election contracts on prediction markets violate the plain meaning of his state's prohibition on election gambling.

The Maryland State Board of Elections, which oversees an office run by DeMarinis, issued a public warning about betting on elections in March and said that even though prediction market sites are accessible to residents, the activity on them may still conflict with state law.

DeMarinis argued that it's important to take a strong position against election betting while the prediction market industry remains in its infancy. By 2028, a presidential election year, he fears betting on elections could become a more firmly entrenched practice.

"This is kind of like a watershed moment. You can kind of end it before it proliferates," DeMarinis said.

DeMarinis in July asked the Maryland Office of the State Prosecutor, which investigates violations of state election law, to examine the legality of election-related wagering on the platforms. Maryland State Prosecutor Charlton Howard wrote in an email that the agency doesn't comment on the existence or status of an investigation unless it results in criminal charges.

Wisconsin advisory, Arizona criminal charges

In Wisconsin, the state Elections Commission issued a public advisory in July warning voters against gambling on elections, including on Kalshi and Polymarket. The commission cautioned that residents who bet on an election and then vote in the contest could have their ability to vote challenged in the future.

The Wisconsin Elections Commission declined to make its administrator, Meagan Wolfe, available for an interview. But in a statement in July, Wolfe said that "it's important for voters to understand the consequences if they bet on an election outcome."

Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes, a Democrat, filed state criminal charges against Kalshi in March. Mayes alleged the company had accepted bets from Arizona residents in violation of state law, including on sports and election wagering related to the 2028 presidential race, along with state-level contests in Arizona in 2026.

Kalshi preemptively sued over the prosecution in federal court and obtained an order halting the case from U.S. District Court Judge Michael T. Liburdi, a Trump appointee. He ruled that Kalshi was likely to show that a federal law granting the CFTC the authority to regulate swaps preempted Arizona's gambling laws.

Liburdi wrote in his order that the CFTC had consistently treated weather-based financial products as swaps because weather events produce commercial consequences for a wide range of market participants. Contracts based on sports and elections function the same way, the judge wrote.

"That these event contracts can be used to offset financial exposure confirms the association between the event and commercial consequences to stakeholders," Liburdi wrote.

Battles in the courts

The fight over who has power over prediction markets — and therefore, potentially, election contracts — is unlikely to be settled until the U.S. Supreme Court takes action.

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, which covers much of the western United States, and the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals, which covers Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, have issued contradictory decisions.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 18 of 69

The 9th Circuit has sided with the states, finding that federal law doesn't preempt state-level gambling restrictions, while the 3rd Circuit upheld the CFTC's exclusive power to regulate events contracts.

In September, New Jersey filed a petition asking the Supreme Court to decide whether federal law preempts states from regulating sports bets offered on markets registered with the CFTC — in other words, the prediction markets. The justices haven't decided whether to take the case, but the high court is generally seen as more likely to intervene when lower courts are divided.

New Jersey's petition is framed around the uncertainty over sports betting, but the outcome could provide clarity on election contracts as well. In 2024 the CFTC attempted to block Kalshi from offering contracts about which party would control Congress, but an appeals court in the final weeks before Election Day allowed the company to continue.

Schiffman said the election contracts are essentially the same as the sports contracts.

"You're betting on the outcome of a contest. It should be considered gambling, no different than if you're betting on the outcome of a sporting event," he said.

In Minnesota, a federal judge halted the state's ban on prediction markets before it took effect this summer after the CFTC, Kalshi and Polymarket sued the state. U.S. District Court Judge Katherine Menendez, an appointee of President Joe Biden, ruled that federal law likely preempts the state's ban on many contracts offered on prediction markets.

Minnesota bans gambling on elections and hasn't legalized sports betting. Greenman, the Minnesota state lawmaker, said decisions about whether to allow betting should be made by people in the state.

"We should be rebuilding trust in government decision-making, that the public's heart — the public's interest — are what sit at the center," Greenman said.

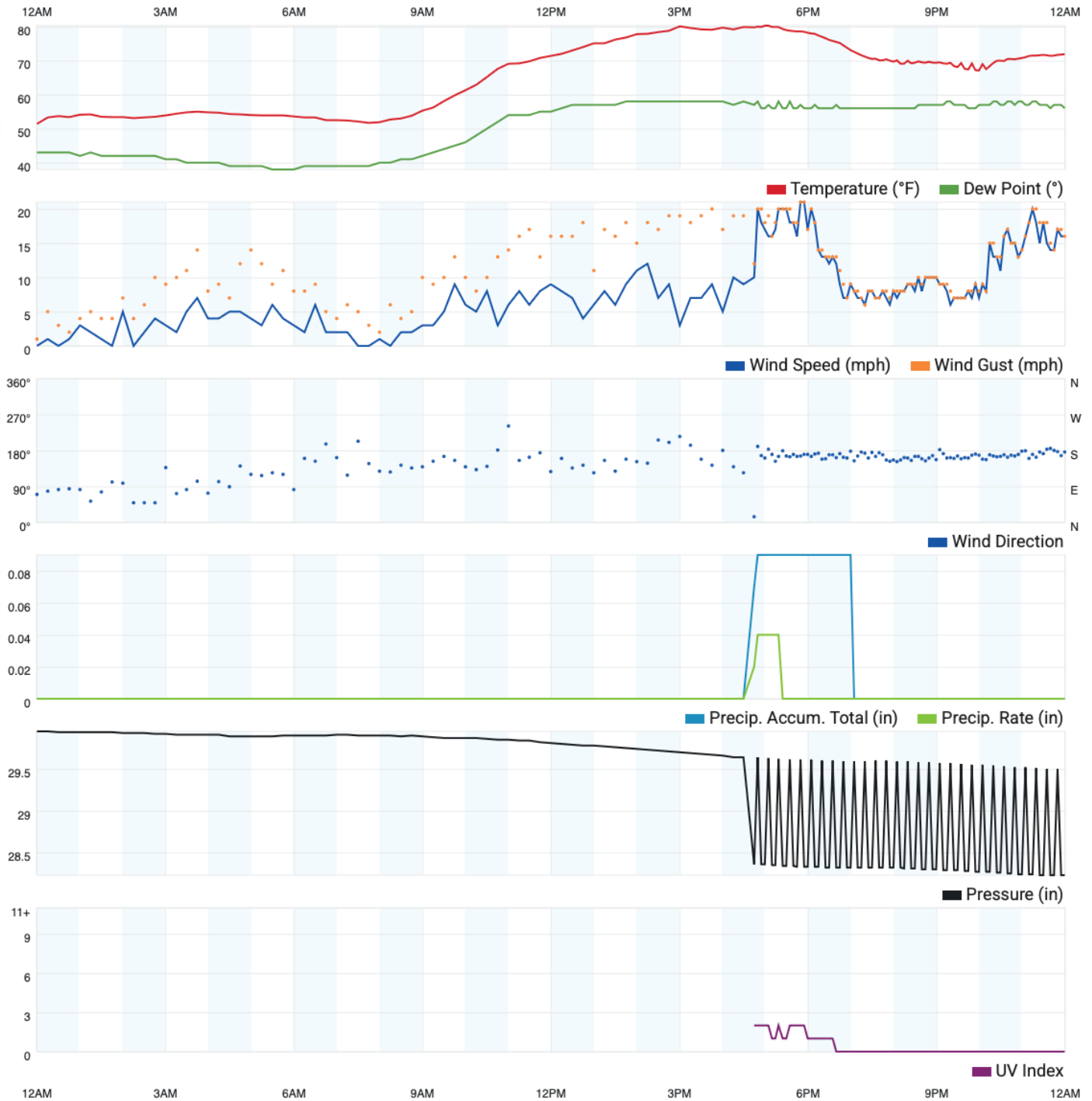
Jonathan Shorman covers democracy for States Newsroom. Based in Kansas City, his coverage area includes elections and voting rights, fights over state and federal power, civil liberties and more. An alumnus of the University of Kansas, he previously covered politics for The Kansas City Star.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 19 of 69

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

October 9, 2026



Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 20 of 69

This Afternoon



High: 89 °F

Sunny

Tonight



Low: 53 °F

Mostly Clear

Sunday



High: 69 °F

Mostly Cloudy

Sunday Night



Low: 46 °F

Mostly Cloudy

Columbus Day



High: 62 °F

Chance
Showers

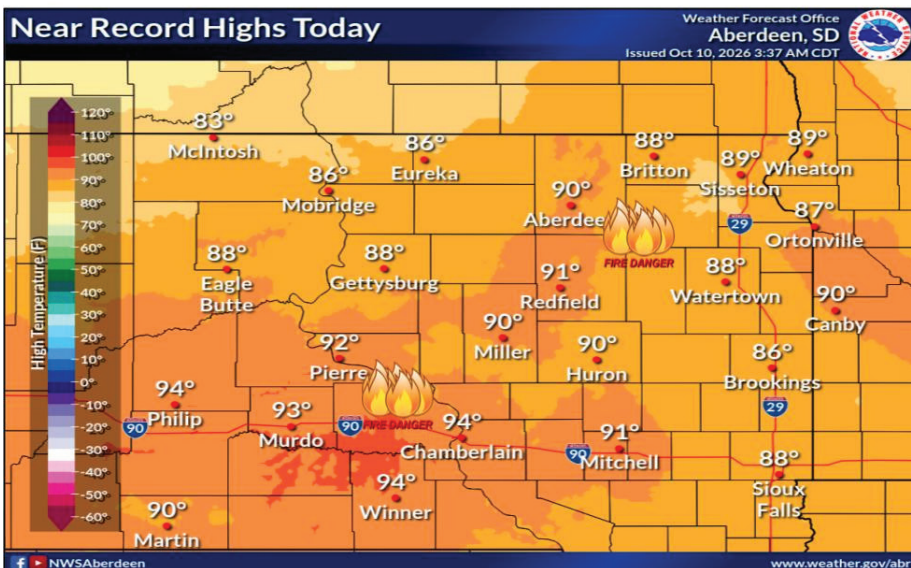


Warm and Windy Saturday

October 10, 2026
3:53 AM CDT

Elevated Fire Weather Concerns for South Central and Northeastern SD into West Central MN

- Unseasonably warm conditions with highs in the 80s to low 90s (15–25°F above normal) and relative humidity of 15–30% will combine with southerly winds gusting 20–40 mph (localized gusts to 45 mph near the Sisseton Hills) to elevate **fire weather concerns** across south-central and northeastern South Dakota into west-central Minnesota.



Maximum Wind Gust (mph) & Minimum RH (%)

		Forecast					
		10/10 Sat			10/11 Sun		
		6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm
Aberdeen	WindGust	24↑	25↑	25↑	25↑	16↑	10↑
	RH	56	41	30	27	29	51
Miller	WindGust	32↑	31↑	26↑	23↑	15↑	21↑
	RH	43	36	26	23	30	43
Mobridge	WindGust	13↑	17↑	18↑	16↑	12↑	20↑
	RH	53	42	27	24	29	47
Murdo	WindGust	23↑	24↑	24↑	22↑	14↑	17↑
	RH	43	33	23	19	23	38
Ortonville	WindGust	25↑	31↑	32↑	31↑	26↑	20↑
	RH	65	48	36	35	38	53
Pierre	WindGust	18↑	17↑	18↑	16↑	12↑	13↑
	RH	45	36	24	20	26	43
Sisseton	WindGust	38↑	40↑	37↑	36↑	29↑	24↑
	RH	56	39	30	29	32	46
Watertown	WindGust	31↑	35↑	36↑	35↑	31↑	26↑
	RH	56	45	33	31	36	50

Much above normal temperatures will be felt today, with highs in the 80s to low 90s. These numbers will be flirting with record highs in some areas. Southerly wind gusts from 20 to 40 mph (highest over northeast SD) and humidity from 20 to 35 percent (lowest over central SD) will combine to elevate the fire danger across the region today. There may be some areas of blowing dust as well, mainly over northeast SD where winds are expected to be the strongest.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 21 of 69

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 80.3 °F

Low Temp: 51.4 °F

Wind: 21.0 mph

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 93 in 2015

Record Low: 10 in 1919

Average High: 63

Average Low: 36

Average Precip in Oct.: 0.75

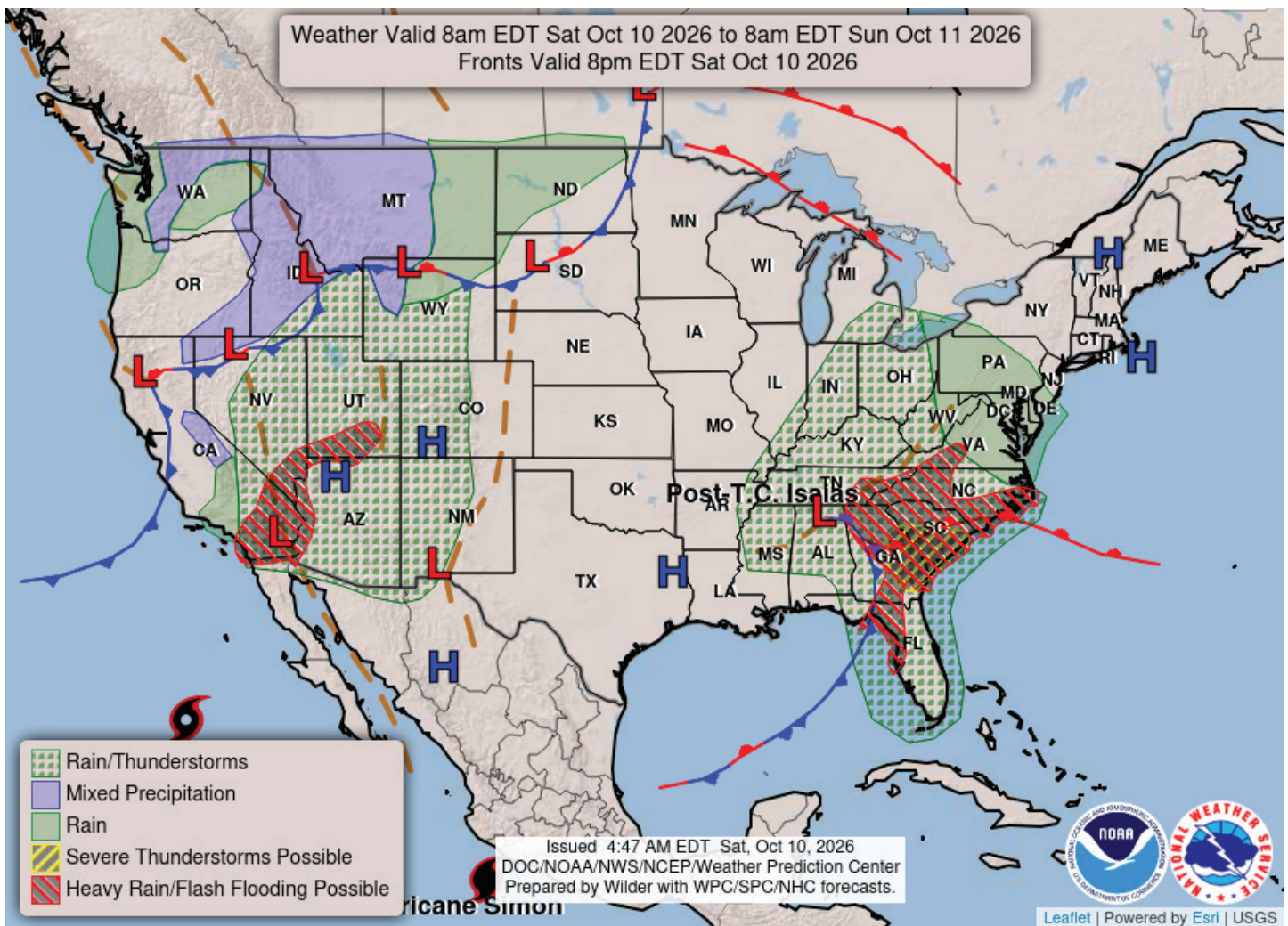
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 19.08

Precip Year to Date: 22.08

Sunset Tonight: 6:56 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:43 am



Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 22 of 69

Today in Weather History

October 10, 1928: The temperature reached 90 degrees at Minneapolis, Minnesota, the latest such reading on record.

October 10, 1982: October 8th through October 10th, 1982, record amounts of snow piled up in the northern Black Hills. Not only was the storm an unprecedented breaker because it came so early in the season, but it was also a record snowfall producer for any time of year. Amounts of three to six feet were typical across the northern hills. On October 9th, 1982, thirty-two inches of snow buried Lead. The thirty-two inches that day is the most on record for 24 hours in South Dakota.

1780: The Great Hurricane of 1780 made landfall on the island of Barbados on this day with estimated wind gusts of 200 mph. This hurricane went on to affect the islands of St. Vincent, where only 14 of 600 homes stood at Kings Town. St. Lucia, Martinique, Dominica, and Puerto Rico were all impacted by this hurricane. This storm is the deadliest Atlantic hurricane on record, with between 20,000 and 22,000 deaths.

1804 — A famous snow hurricane occurred. The unusual coastal storm caused northerly gales from Maine to New Jersey. Heavy snow fell across New England, with three feet reported at the crest of the Green Mountains. A foot of snow was reported in the Berkshires of southern New England, at Goshen CT. (David Ludlum)

1846: A major hurricane, likely a Category 5, moved through the Caribbean Sea. This Great Havana Hurricane struck western Cuba on 10 October. It hit the Florida Keys on 11 October, destroying the old Key West Lighthouse and Fort Zachary Taylor.

1928 — The temperature at Minneapolis, MN, reached 90 degrees, their latest such reading of record. (The Weather Channel)

1949: A rapidly deepening area of low pressure produced gale to hurricane-force winds across much of Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Michigan, and the Dakotas. Sustained 1-minute winds reached 85 mph at Rochester, MN, and 79 mph at La Crosse, WI, during the early afternoon. Winds gusts were as high as 100 mph. This storm produced extensive damage to buildings and power lines. Also, many corn crops were flattened.

1970: A slow-moving tropical depression produced 41.68 inches of rain in Jayuya, Puerto Rico from October 2-10th, 1970.

1973 — Fifteen to 20 inch rains deluged north central Oklahoma in thirteen hours producing record flooding. Enid was drenched with 15.68 inches of rain from the nearly stationary thunderstorms, which established a state 24 hour rainfall record. Dover OK reported 125 of 150 homes damaged by flooding. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 — Eleven cities in the north central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Colorado Springs CO with a reading of 23 degrees, and Havre MT with a low of 11 degrees above zero. Light snow was reported as far south as Kansas. Omaha NE reported their third earliest snow of record. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 — Sunny and mild weather prevailed across the nation for Columbus Day. The afternoon high of 77 degrees at Kalispell MT was the warmest reading of record for so late in the autumn season. Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced wind gusts to 56 mph at Lorain OH. Snowflakes were observed at Milwaukee WI around Noon, but quickly changed to rain as temperature readings were in the lower 60s. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 — Thunderstorms produced torrential rains along the northeast coast of Florida. Augustine was deluged with 16.08 inches of rain. The heavy rain caused extensive flooding of homes and businesses, and left some roads under three feet of water. Ten cities from South Carolina to New England reported record low temperatures for the date, including Concord NH with a reading of 23 degrees. Temperatures dipped into the 30s in the Carolinas. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2009: Nome, Alaska, experiences its first-ever October thunderstorm with five lightning strikes between 8 and 9 PM ADT.

2009: A band of snow dropped a dusting to over 6 inches of snow in central to western Iowa, into central Nebraska.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 23 of 69



Daily Devotion

Effective Prayer for Others

Scripture provides a beautiful framework for how to faithfully pray for others.

Colossians 1:11-12: 11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously

12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

One of the disciples saw Jesus praying and said, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). If they needed instruction, then we certainly do as well. Thankfully, there are many examples in Scripture for us to follow. Paul's first-century requests for the believers in Colossae are not only still applicable; they're also instructive in terms of the kinds of petitions we should make.

For instance, Paul prayed they would know God (Colossians 1:10). This happens through studying the Word, applying biblical principles, walking in obedience, and letting the Spirit work in us.

Another plea was for the Colossians to experience God's power (v. 11). Paul wanted them to have the Lord's energy and strength to carry out His will. What is impossible by man's effort becomes possible through God.

Finally, the apostle asked that they would joyously give thanks (vv. 11-12). This indicates his hope for them to express gratefulness and delight, even during difficult situations.

In church, we often hear people asking for prayer, and many do so faithfully. Paul's example gives us a beautiful framework for those prayers. Rather than praying only for circumstances, we can pray for the people we love to know God more deeply, experience His power more fully, and give thanks more freely.

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

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 24 of 69

The Groton Independent

Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.2% Sales Tax

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

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

Groton Daily Independent

www.397news.com

Subscription Form

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

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

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

E-mail _____

Password _____

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

paypal.me/paperpaul

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

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 25 of 69



WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.09.26

1 2 5 51 57 4

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

NEXT DRAW: 13 Hrs 4 Mins 58
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.09.26

2 7 16 63 70 8

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$385,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.07.26

7 10 19 20 43 3

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$2,100,000

NEXT DRAW: 12 Hrs 4 Mins 58
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.07.26

8 16 21 25 30

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$82,000

NEXT DRAW: 12 Hrs 19 Mins 58
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.07.26

17 18 23 66 69 1

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 12 Hrs 48 Mins 58
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.07.26

11 13 14 21 65 19

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$516,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 12 Hrs 48 Mins 58
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 26 of 69

News from the  Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

Arlington 42, Chester 30
Avon 60, TDAACDC 6
Baltic 40, Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan 36
Bennett County 30, Philip 16
Brandon Valley 48, Rapid City Stevens 7
Britton-Hecla 49, Redfield 6
Canton 54, Custer 0
Castlewood 48, Sisseton 16
Centerville 52, Viborg-Hurley 6
Chamberlain 18, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 14
Clark-Willow Lake 30, McCook Central-Montrose 28, OT
Corsica/Stickney 60, Gregory 20
Dell Rapids 41, Tri-Valley 14
Dupree 55, Tiospa Zina 8
Elk Point-Jefferson 49, Beresford 21
Elkton-Lake Benton 46, Alcester-Hudson 13
Faulkton 20, North Central 7
Florence-Henry 34, Wilmot 28
Freeman 50, DeSmet 0
Groton 18, Mobridge-Pollock 12
Hamlin 56, Garretson 21
Herried-Selby 28, Gettysburg 12
Hot Springs 51, Douglas 0
Howard 61, Canistota 0
Ipswich 16, Lemmon High School 6
Irene-Wakonda 52, Gayville-Volin High School 14
Kimball-White Lake 51, Burke 0
Lead-Deadwood 42, Harding County 40
Lennox 44, Dakota Valley 13
Lower Brule 48, Marty 6
Madison 42, West Central 21
Milbank 41, Aberdeen Roncalli 0
New Underwood 34, Jones County 6
Northwestern 50, Sunshine Bible Academy 0
Oldham-Ramona-Rutland 54, Deubrook 30
Omaha North, Neb. 27, Harrisburg 7
Parkston 50, Hanson 0
Platte-Geddes 50, Stanley County 0
Rapid City Christian 43, Belle Fourche 0
Riggs 65, Spearfish 0
Sioux Falls Christian 35, Vermillion 8
Sioux Falls Jefferson 41, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 0
Sioux Falls Lincoln 57, Sioux Falls Washington 21
Sioux Falls Lutheran 48, Estelline-Hendricks 16
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 48, Rapid City Central 13

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 27 of 69

Sioux Valley 20, Parker/Marion 18, OT
St Thomas More 51, WWSSC 0
Sturgis Brown High School 53, Huron 47
Tea 41, Mitchell 21
Timber Lake 44, Sully Buttes 36
Todd County 64, St. Francis Indian 0
Wall 47, Kadoka 16
Walthill, Neb. 52, Crow Creek Tribal School 0
Warner 51, Leola-Frederick High School 0
Watertown 35, Aberdeen Central 7
Waubay/Summit 26, Great Plains Lutheran 6
Webster 38, Waverly-South Shore 14
White River 76, McLaughlin 0
Winnebago, Neb. 70, Mahpiya Luta 14
Wolsey-Wessington 48, Iroquois-Lake Preston 26
Yankton 35, Brookings 14

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

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Mitchell def. Rapid City Central, 25-14, 15-25, 25-15, 26-24
Rapid City Stevens def. Huron, 25-13, 25-17, 25-20
Sioux Falls Christian def. St Thomas More, 25-17, 25-13, 25-16
 Fargo South Tournament=
Aberdeen Central def. Dickinson, N.D., 25-15, 25-9
Aberdeen Central def. Grand Forks Red River, N.D., 25-12, 25-12
 Fargo South, N.D. def. Aberdeen Central, 27-25, 25-23

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

The airport in the Saudi capital has been attacked again, officials say

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Two regional officials say the airport in the Saudi capital has been attacked again.

One official said the Riyadh airport has been evacuated, and the other said air traffic has stopped. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak to the media.

King Khalid International Airport has been targeted multiple times this week, with three Saudi civilians including a pilot killed on Thursday.

Iran-backed Houthi rebels in neighboring Yemen have claimed responsibility for those attacks. There was no immediate Houthi statement Saturday.

The airport issued a terse alert telling passengers to check with airlines to confirm flights before going there.

Fighting in Yemen between the Houthis and the Saudi-backed Yemeni government forces has escalated, with a Saudi-led coalition providing air support for government forces in an attempt to reverse recent Houthi gains along the Red Sea.

Russian attacks kill 17 in Ukraine after Trump strikes diesel deal with Putin

By SUSIE BLANN and ELISE MORTON Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian strikes killed at least 17 people in Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia region, Ukrainian officials said Saturday, a day after U.S. President Donald Trump announced a deal to buy Russian diesel that Kyiv warned would help bankroll Moscow's war in Ukraine.

Three children were among those killed when Russian aerial bombs hit residential buildings in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine's State Emergency Service said Saturday. At least 18 people were wounded in the attack.

Missiles also struck Kyiv in a daytime attack Saturday. Mayor Vitalii Klitschko said four people were wounded.

Russia and Ukraine are locked in a long-range aerial war while their armies remain largely deadlocked on the front line, more than 4 1/2 years since Moscow's full-scale invasion. Ukraine is struggling to counter escalating Russian bombardments that have killed more than 60 people over the past four days.

Trump said Friday he had struck a deal to obtain diesel from Russia, a stunning reversal of years of U.S. pressure on Moscow over its war with Ukraine and an attempt to address high fuel prices ahead of the U.S. midterm elections.

Anger in Kyiv over diesel deal

"Today, Russia expressed its thanks for the lifting of sanctions on diesel exports by dropping five glide bombs on residential buildings in Zaporizhzhia," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote Saturday on X.

He said the attacks show Moscow understands "any easing of pressure to mean they can keep fighting, to mean they can keep dropping bombs on cities."

"Russia's choice is war," Zelenskyy said in a later Telegram post, after drone attacks on energy facilities and a ballistic missile attack on Kyiv. He said every additional billion dollars Russia earns from exports would help pay for weapons components, drone upgrades, missile production and the recruitment of mercenaries, and that Moscow would only be ready to stop when its ability to fight diminished.

Moscow received from diesel deal "signals that it is apparently permissible to continue attacking. And this needs to be corrected," he said, urging the U.S., Europe and other partners to limit Russia's capacity to wage war.

Zelenskyy said Ukraine was coordinating steps to counter the extra revenue Russia will receive, and that he had spoken to French President Emmanuel Macron about shoring up air defenses, warning of an increased risk of further missile strikes in the coming days.

He also said he had discussed the developments with Finnish President Alexander Stubb, and that Ukraine would receive ammunition in the coming days for the F-16s it uses to intercept Shahed drones.

Trump had been set to discuss a suspected case of plague in Russia with President Vladimir Putin in a phone call.

Instead, the American leader announced Friday that Russia will immediately supply more than 300,000 tons of diesel, followed by an additional 500,000 tons in November and 1 million tons "immediately thereafter." Russia will deliver an additional 3 million tons "within a short period of time" after that, he wrote.

In Kyiv, people gathered at a memorial to fallen soldiers on Independence Square greeted the deal with a mix of anger and resignation.

"Trump has once again shown his true face," said Oleksandr Petrenko, 26. "He didn't care about the situation, the shelling or the destruction of our homes. All he's interested in is oil or the fuel prices and how much Americans have to pay."

"Knowing Trump, he tries to manipulate the markets. He's got an election coming up soon," Petrenko said. "So he needs to emphasize to his voters that gasoline will be cheap. But it won't be effective."

For Oksana Yakunina, a financial adviser from the central city of Kropyvnytskyi, the announcement "didn't really come as a surprise."

"Trump has been working with Putin for a long time," she told The Associated Press.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 29 of 69

European allies question US-Russia deal

Ukraine's European allies expressed dismay at the deal and said they stood by their commitment to sanctions.

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said Stockholm regretted the agreement, "as energy revenues are central to the Russian war chest," and noted that the European Union would adopt its most comprehensive sanctions package yet on Monday, with 1,600 listings targeting Russia's military-industrial complex.

The German government "remains committed to the sanctions imposed on Russia and is working with its European partners on further sanctions," spokesperson Stefan Kornelius said, adding that support for Ukraine "remains unwavering."

Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski questioned whether Russia could deliver at all. Citing his embassy's reports of fuel shortages even in Moscow, and "serious sources" saying Ukraine has damaged about half of Russia's refining capacity, he asked on X: "So where will the surpluses for export come from?"

Trump's announcement was in stark contrast to a sweeping Russia sanctions law he signed last month that aimed at clamping down on the oil and gas revenues that fuel Russia's war against Ukraine.

Trump announced the deal as his envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner met with Ukrainian officials in Miami on Friday to discuss a proposal to end the war.

"I believe our team is simply being used as a smoke screen. And that is certainly not fair. It is certainly not how partners should treat each other," Zelenskyy said Friday.

Teen migrants are sleeping on Ceuta's streets as Spain delays in responding to the crisis

By SUMAN NAISHADHAM Associated Press

CEUTA, Spain (AP) — Hundreds of teenage migrants lined up outside a church in Ceuta in early October, hoping Spain's visiting minister of youth would bring them some good news: passage to continental Europe or at least a spot in a shelter.

For two months, they had slept on cardboard sheets and ripped sofas in squalid tent camps, or on the streets of the Spanish city in North Africa that juts into the Mediterranean like a thumb. On clear days, southern Spain is visible on the horizon.

Among them was a 17-year-old aspiring model from northern Morocco. In late July, he crossed into Ceuta with around 80,000 others in what would become Spain's deadliest border crisis.

"Pray for me!" he told an Associated Press reporter. But instead, the teens were led down a steep hill to a soccer field so as not to overwhelm the minister. Within hours, many were back on the streets and hillsides.

Another setback for the young migrants, the scene also illustrated the Spanish government's slow, often improvised response to the migration crisis in the territory. Thousands of minors reached Ceuta alone and, under Spanish law, are entitled to shelter, healthcare and education. Experts acknowledge the difficulties authorities face, but say the government may simply be hoping that many of them give up and head home.

"I was expecting a really easy experience," said the 17-year-old, who did not want his name used because he is alone in Ceuta and fears for his safety. "I was expecting two to three weeks of this."

Children fend for themselves in a foreign country

Open-air, makeshift camps with adults and children have festered on beaches, at warehouses and on hillsides since tens of thousands of people swam or climbed around a breakwater that separates Morocco from Ceuta in July. About 140 people died trying to cross. Most of those who made it left within days, but officials do not have an exact count of how many people stayed.

A few thousand people lived in one beachside camp where the air reeked of human waste. Children as young as 13 slept and showered among adult men who frequently broke into fights.

Elsewhere, minors hid in the steep, narrow streets of some of the city's predominantly Muslim neighborhoods.

"Our streets are littered with kids," said Ahmed Enfed-Dal, the president of a neighborhood association.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 30 of 69

Spanish prosecutors are investigating reports of torture and mistreatment of migrants, including minors. In September, Amnesty International published a report detailing allegations of cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment by Spanish soldiers. The report also mentioned the unsafe conditions of underage migrants and allegations of sexual abuse of girls.

In early October, the 17-year-old said he was sleeping in a car with other teens from Morocco. When he first arrived, he slept in a garage with two other minors. A resident charged them each 15 euros (\$17) per night. Unable to keep paying, he went back to the streets.

"People tried to rob me twice and hit me," he said. As weeks became months, he has started questioning why he stayed, but feels he cannot return to Morocco.

Like many Moroccan teens, he told the AP his high school diploma afforded limited opportunities back home. In Tetouan, just 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of Ceuta, he worked with his father as a butcher. He said his family has encouraged him to stay.

"Morocco is a good tourist place," he said. "But it's not a good place to be a citizen."

A political blame game hardens

Minors who reach Spanish soil alone are the responsibility of regional governments or, in Ceuta's case, the city. Under Spanish law, a child can be sent back to his or her home country only under specific circumstances.

Spain's national government has told Ceuta to process those below 18 on a case-by-case basis, approving more than 90 million euros (\$101 million) in funding, but the city insists it does not have the resources. Spain's Youth Minister Sira Rego has said most minors in Ceuta wish to stay in Spain, and "they will do so," she told Spanish radio station Cadena Ser.

But Ceuta's Mayor Juan Vivas has urged national authorities to find a way to send the minors from Morocco back home.

"It's easy to judge from over there," Vivas said in September. "But you've got to be here."

No one knows how many migrants stayed

The two sides also have disagreed over something even more fundamental: How many migrants are still in Ceuta.

After the initial border rush, Spain's interior minister said all but 2,000 people had gone back to Morocco. Spain revised the figure to up to 10,000 migrants in September. But Ceuta's mayor says up to 15,000 people remain, acknowledging "the figure changes from one day to the next."

Estimates of the number of unaccompanied minors have also fluctuated. Authorities say thousands remain in the city, though it's unclear how many are unsheltered.

Rights groups have criticized Spain for still not knowing how many minors there are.

"We understand that the protection system is currently overwhelmed, but that does not change the fact that there should be an official registry of all individuals in the city who declare themselves to be minors," said Jennifer Zuppiroli, a migration expert at Save the Children in Spain.

Some remain in vulnerable situations

As more minors have entered shelters, those still waiting are growing weary.

For weeks, the aspiring model visited the beachside tent camp to collect food from the Red Cross. He and dozens of migrant boys staged small demonstrations, appealing to authorities for help.

"We just want one thing — that Spain protects minors. Long live Spain!" read a tattered sign that boys as young as 13 held up as traffic whizzed past.

In early October, Spanish police started bulldozing the camp and mountains of detritus. Groups of migrants were bused elsewhere. Rights groups and others said some minors were taken to the border.

Over WhatsApp, the 17-year-old said he knew some teenagers whom police had taken from the beach. Some ended up in shelters. He was disappointed it happened on the one day he didn't visit the camp.

Fearful that the police will send him back to Morocco, he has stayed hidden.

"I'm feeling tired for the first time since I came," he said. "It's been two months and we're still living in the streets."

A third school attack in less than a week shakes Poland

By CLAUDIA CIOBANU Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Police say a third attack at a Polish school in less than a week took place on Saturday, when a 21-year-old woman injured three people inside an educational institution in the capital, Warsaw, police said.

The attacker used a “dangerous object” to attack a 17-year old woman and ended up hurting two other people, aged 17 and 24 respectively, Jakub Filipiak, a spokesman for Warsaw police, told The Associated Press. None of the injuries was life-threatening.

The police did not identify the educational institution, but said it was open on a Saturday because it is a higher education establishment. The attacker did not know any of the victims, the police said.

The attack came after police on Saturday said they detained 76 people across Poland and checked nearly 50,000 schools nationwide as part of efforts to prevent further violence following two school attacks earlier in the week.

On Friday, schools across Poland stepped up security, with some suspending classes, many parents keeping children at home and police patrols deployed to educational institutions after two attacks at schools earlier in the week left one person dead and several others wounded, including children.

On Wednesday, a 19-year-old student at a vocational school in the Mazovian province in central Poland attacked fellow students, teachers and passersby with a sharp object, injuring nine people before fleeing and being arrested nearby. The following day, a 15-year-old killed a school custodian and wounded two others in a knife attack at his former school in the same province.

The assaults, both carried out by Polish nationals, shocked a country where school violence by minors is a new phenomenon.

By Thursday night, rumours that the attacks were coordinated and that there would be more on the culmination day dubbed “bloody Friday” were being shared in parents’ online groups and by mainstream media.

59 schools preemptively suspended classes on Friday across Poland, the majority in the Mazovian district, where the capital Warsaw is located. School directors sent messages announcing stepped-up security measures including extra school staff placed at entrances and voluntary backpack checks.

“There will be no compromise here. The safety of the youth is the most important thing,” Interior Minister Marcin Kierwiński said.

Those detained on Friday include a 14-year-old boy from a central district of Warsaw who was found in possession of a knife with a concealed blade and 11 firecrackers, and a 16-year old from another Warsaw district who came to school with a butterfly knife in his backpack. Others had posted online photos of knives, threatened their peers or threatened school attacks.

So far, the government said, it had found no evidence that an internet challenge promoting school attacks was ongoing. There is also no official confirmation that the two attacks were linked; both perpetrators are in custody.

Parents across Poland are now having to catch up fast on how to speak to their kids about school violence. Authorities say extra security measures at schools will continue and crisis training will be organized. The liberal government also promised to renew efforts to pass a bill blocking harmful online content.

“If that juvenile attacker had streamed the crime online today, we would have been unable to block that content because we have not been given that legal tool,” Prime Minister Donald Tusk said.

After wounding three adults in Thursday’s attack, the 15-year-old, who wore a camera to record his actions, was eventually overpowered by school director Krzysztof Ochmański. Ochmański later told reporters there was a moment when the boy seemed to realise the enormity of his actions and said he did not want to do this any more.

“Once I had established contact, he asked me for help,” Ochmański recounted. “It got to the point where he wanted a hug.”

Trump's Medicaid cuts strip refugees and other legal immigrants of their health coverage

By MIKELLA SCHUETTLER and FATIMA HUSSEIN Associated Press

New restrictions have stripped Medicaid coverage from certain legal immigrants, including refugees and victims of human trafficking, as part of broader federal changes to the health insurance program that are expected to force millions off their coverage.

The change effective Oct. 1 cut from Medicaid what is estimated to be hundreds of thousands of people who legally immigrated to the United States, many of whom work and pay taxes, in the latest Trump administration policy to target foreigners.

The move is part of sweeping changes to Medicaid under President Donald Trump's 2025 tax cut and policy law, with many set to take effect early next year. The Medicaid changes are projected to result in 7.5 million fewer people with health insurance, according to the Congressional Budget Office's 2025 estimate.

Advocates say that without Medicaid, people will not be able to afford private insurance and will either delay care or end up in emergency rooms, adding pressure to strained health system. For immigrants, the cuts could be felt more acutely, compounding the effects of other administration efforts to restrict their access to public assistance as part of a broader immigration crackdown.

"This is about telling every immigrant in the United States that they are not welcome here and that they should leave," said Ben D'Avanzo, a senior strategist at the National Immigration Law Center, which has pursued litigation against the Republican administration over its immigration agenda.

Refugees, asylum seekers, victims of human trafficking and domestic violence are among those who have lost coverage. Green-card holders were not impacted.

Lauren Bis, a White House spokesperson, said in a statement that "immigrants must be able to support themselves without taking from overburdened benefits programs paid for by hard-working American taxpayers."

D'Avanzo said many people who have lost coverage will likely only realize when they need medical care. But for some, the change has been felt immediately.

Dwindling supplies of lifesaving medication

In Tucson, Arizona, María Chacon has been caring for her son Jesus for almost five years since a car accident at 17 left him unable to breathe on his own. He requires a ventilator, a feeding tube and daily medication, and must be turned once every two hours to stop sores from forming. Chacon said he sometimes opens his eyes.

The family is originally from Mexico and entered the U.S. on a T visa, offered to victims of human trafficking, in 2018.

Chacon said Medicaid has helped cover almost \$25,000 per month of care for her son, which includes a small stipend for her and her husband as compensation for being long-term caregivers. She said doctors have explained that even if they both worked 24 hours a day, they would not be able to cover the cost of his care.

"Since that day I haven't been able to sleep. We haven't been able to eat or anything. We're wondering what we're going to do?" Chacon said.

Jesus takes medication that Chacon estimates costs \$7,000 a month. The supply runs out in mid-October. Without coverage, she does not know how her son is going to survive.

Chacon found out just days before the cuts that she was losing care. She called the state's Medicaid offices to appeal. Although she is in the process of obtaining a green card, Medicaid coverage would only kick in five years after she is approved.

Steven Camarota, research director for the Center for Immigration Studies, a right-leaning think tank that seeks less immigration, said the administration "is trying to nibble around the edges" with the Oct. 1 cuts, finding piecemeal ways to curb immigration into the U.S.

Camarota believes the government should screen legal immigrants for income potential and education,

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 33 of 69

reducing the number who might rely on public benefits once they cross the border.

"You need immigrants who are unlikely to need welfare," he said, or those with high educational attainment.

The administration recently revived a federal rule that could deny green cards to immigrants who use public benefits that could include food stamps, Medicaid, housing vouchers and others.

Chacon believes the cuts to Medicaid coverage are part of the administration's clampdown on immigrants. She said her son is in no condition to travel.

"I know that's what he's doing, but, as my son is, I couldn't go to Mexico," Chacon said.

Millions more will be dropped from Medicaid

Medicaid, jointly funded by states and the federal government, has become a political focal point during Trump's second term. The president has pushed to root out what he describes as fraud in the program. In July, the administration deferred over \$1 billion in Medicaid payments to California and Minnesota, claiming there was suspected fraud; critics argued the move targeted Democratic-led states.

As more people are cut from Medicaid, the federal government is predicted to reduce program spending by \$911 billion, according to healthcare research nonprofit KFF.

In Arizona, officials said 29,000 legal immigrants were cut from Medicaid rolls on Oct. 1. In Florida, estimates are closer to 177,000. Overall, more than 281,000 immigrants from nine states and the District of Columbia are estimated to lose Medicaid coverage, according to KFF.

As more states implement various restrictions to coverage, 7.5 million people are expected to lose coverage by 2034, according to analysis by the Congressional Budget Office.

Without coverage, people will turn to emergency rooms for care. When people delay seeing a doctor, conditions can worsen and become even more expensive to treat.

"At the end of the day, it does raise the cost for the states because once you get these people in for something that could have been prevented, they could not go to the doctor because they were uninsured; they most likely will end up at a hospital in an emergency room," said Carmen Feliciano, the vice president of policy and advocacy at UnidosUS, a Latino civil rights organization.

UnidosUS partners with community organizations to help provide medical care, but Feliciano said they already are overwhelmed and would not be able to support the number of people who are going to lose medical coverage in the coming months.

"We are not going to have the capacity to serve all the people who need it," Feliciano said.

The United Auto Workers tries to reassert political power in Michigan as it faces internal divisions

By JACQUELINE GANUN Associated Press/Report for America

SHELBY TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — Walter Usakowski was mowing his lawn in a northern suburb of Detroit when three canvassers from the United Auto Workers approached.

"I don't even need to talk to you," Usakowski said. As a retired member, he was already supporting the union's slate of Democratic candidates in the Nov. 3 midterms.

But he is not sure how many of the other "guys in the shop" will vote for Democrats. He worked at Ford Motor Co.'s Sterling Axle Plant for more than 45 years, and he knows many members who backed Republican President Donald Trump.

The election-year canvassing was one part of the UAW's efforts to reassert its political power in Michigan, a premier political battleground. Although the union generally backs Democrats, its membership is more divided over which party best represents working-class interests. It also is reckoning with past corruption scandals, a drop in membership and a lack of transparency that has eroded trust within its ranks.

"It's not going to be an overnight thing," said JJ Jewell, who is part of the UAW's Community Action Program executive committee. "Even if this election goes fantastically, that's not mission accomplished. That means we're 1% of the way done."

Internal divisions and distrust pose challenges

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 34 of 69

Jewell and others made the rounds on a recent sunny Saturday in Macomb County, where Trump won by nearly 14 percentage points in 2024. Many of the union members they met in a neighborhood of well-kept suburban houses were retirees, and while most said the cost of living was their top concern, they did not agree on whether Democrats or Republicans would better address it.

One resident, who said she blamed billionaires for the country's problems, planned to vote for Democrats. Another street over, a couple said they both supported Trump and declined to take a flyer of the UAW-endorsed candidates.

In a microcosm of broader political rifts, union voters remain politically divided. Union voters have traditionally been seen as a Democratic-leaning constituency, but Trump made direct appeals to them with his anti-elite rhetoric and promises to overhaul international trade agreements that sapped factory jobs. In 2024, voters who were union members or were in a household with a union member split between Trump and Democratic nominee Kamala Harris, with more than half voting for the then-vice president and 44% for Trump.

Betty Anderson, a UAW member, thinks the organization is on the right track, but she is not confident about bridging internal political divisions. She said she is angry with members who voted for Trump, whom she sees as selling out the working class.

"I don't think those people are ever going to be on our side," Anderson said. "They think they have an opportunity to be in an elite class."

Leaders hope to rebuild trust with transparency

Since 2017, more than 10 UAW officials have pleaded guilty in a corruption investigation that found millions of dollars of union dues were stolen. Members also faulted leaders for closed-door contract negotiations that they said destroyed trust in the UAW.

Shawn Fain was elected UAW president in 2023 on a platform of transparency, and victories in labor disputes with Detroit's three major automakers bolstered member support. Leaders hope this will translate into votes for its candidates.

"I think the UAW members now are starting to fall a little more in line," said Usakowski, the retired axle plant worker.

On Friday, Fain said he won reelection to lead the union for four more years. The results have not yet been certified.

Mark DePaoli, director for one of the UAW's southeast Michigan regions, said the union hosted forums with candidates where any member could ask questions. The UAW endorsed progressive Democrat Abdul El-Sayed in the U.S. Senate primary even though rival Haley Stevens, a four-term congresswoman, worked as chief of staff on an auto bailout task force during the Great Recession, a position she frequently cited while campaigning.

"I don't think anybody expected us to endorse him," DePaoli said. In its announcement, the union referenced El-Sayed's support for universal healthcare and criticism of corporate money in politics. El-Sayed wore a UAW pin during the first Senate debate with his Republican opponent, former U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers.

"The UAW's backing of Abdul was critical in winning a historic primary despite being outspent by tens of millions of dollars, and will be just as critical in winning" next month, El-Sayed spokesperson Cole Wozniak said in a statement.

Rogers is emphasizing his opposition to controversial federal regulations under Democratic President Joe Biden that would have required automakers to ramp up production of electric vehicles, which some feared would lead to factory closures.

"Mike knows the challenges our autoworkers face, and he'll be their champion in the U.S. Senate," Rogers spokesperson Alyssa Brouillet said in a statement. "The same can't be said for Abdul and UAW national leadership."

The union needs to turn out the vote to be politically relevant

Robert Bruno, a professor in the School of Labor and Employment Relations at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, said the UAW's strength relies on its ability to mobilize voters.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 35 of 69

"You don't win campaigns off of your endorsements," Bruno said. "You win campaigns at the door, or at the bar, or at the union hall."

In the 1980s, there were more than 600,000 active and retired UAW members in Michigan, according to the union. Today, that number hovers around 350,000. The UAW is still the largest union in the state.

UAW leaders are optimistic after a primary election campaign drive and what they see as better, more transparent leadership. The union said about 113,000 of its members voted early during Michigan's August primary, and it has volunteers canvassing and calling voters before Election Day.

In September, the UAW hosted a conference of its Michigan political arm for the first time since 2018. Fain told reporters at the Lansing event that the organization wants members to drive the direction of the union, focusing on issues like affordability.

"We are as active as we can be right now," he said.

Isaias weakens but flooding threat persists as hundreds of thousands grapple with power outages

By SOPHIE BATES, EMILIE MEGNIEN, HALLIE GOLDEN and JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

GULF BREEZE, Fla. (AP) — Isaias weakened overnight and was no longer considered a hurricane but flash flooding threats and the potential for tornadoes persisted Saturday as the storm moved inland across Alabama.

The storm, now considered a post-tropical cyclone, made landfall Friday as a Category 2 hurricane, then quickly moved north through Alabama as its wind speeds dropped sharply to 35 mph (55 kph). But the possibility of life-threatening storm surges still loomed for parts of the Florida Panhandle, along with a potential for 4 to 8 inches (10 to 20 centimeters) of rain across southern Alabama, the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend over the weekend.

Early Saturday, Isaias was about 25 miles (40 kilometers) south-southwest of Montgomery, Alabama and nearly 105 miles (170 kilometers) south of Birmingham, Alabama, with maximum sustained winds of 35 mph (55 kph), the NHC said Saturday. It is expected to move into the Tennessee Valley later Saturday and Sunday.

All tropical storm and storm surge warnings have been discontinued. But forecasters warned that conditions could stir up tornadoes across parts of the Florida Panhandle and into Georgia and the Carolinas.

Isaias made landfall near Destin, Florida, as the first hurricane of the Atlantic season. Hurricane-force winds lashed the Gulf shoreline in the low-lying coastal area known for powdery white-sand beaches dotted with vacation homes, waterfront bars, and seafood shacks.

"The storm is here. Buckle down at this point. Don't be getting out on the roads," Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said at a news conference Friday.

Roads in Destin were flooded, while in nearby Pensacola, police warned residents to stay off the streets because of debris across roadways. While the extent of the damage was not immediately known, many area residents posted pictures online of downed trees and power lines, and one social media video showed a roof being ripped off an inn in Pensacola.

Strong hurricane winds blew the roof off a hotel in Pensacola and the city's mayor, D.C. Reeves, said on his Facebook page that the airport "took some damage." Some power was out downtown, he said, and there were trees and power lines down in some areas.

Some Panhandle counties temporarily suspended emergency response Friday night because of dangerous conditions.

Parts of southern Alabama also were flooded, with officials in Mobile reporting downed trees and power lines. Roads in Houston County, which is in the southeastern corner of the state, were closed because of similar conditions.

More than 915,000 customers in Florida, Alabama and Georgia were without power early Saturday, according to [poweroutage.com](https://www.poweroutage.com).

Tim Mowry, who rode out the storm from his home in Pensacola, said the wind was so intense it sounded

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 36 of 69

like a train whistle as it whipped through a crack in his patio door. He lost power around 4:30 p.m. but was able to rely on a generator. Standing water also covered his backyard, and parts of his fence were ripped down, but overall he said the storm wasn't as bad as he expected.

"As far as Pensacola-wise, we really got fortunate," Mowry said.

Mowry said his son, who lives about 15 minutes away, tried to drive to his home after losing power but had to turn around because downed trees and power lines blocked the roads.

Isaias, the first hurricane to hit the eastern U.S. since Milton tore up the Gulf Coast of Florida in 2024, is also expected to bring heavy rain and potential flooding to much of the Southeast over the weekend, then to parts of the Midwest and Northeast into Monday.

The storm also grounded most Friday flights at several panhandle airports, including all flights into and out of Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport. President Donald Trump, meanwhile, scrapped his plans to attend Saturday's football game between the University of Georgia and the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. He said he didn't want to disrupt emergency response efforts.

Meanwhile, in the Pacific, Simon strengthened into a Category 4 hurricane as it approached Mexico's coast.

Tropical Storm Rachel was also expected to bring heavy winds and rain to northern Mexico and Southern California over the weekend.

A small-town Alaska fisherman has Republicans on the defensive as they try to keep US House majority

By BECKY BOHRER Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — In the thick of Alaska's primary election season this summer, independent Bill Hill took a break from his U.S. House campaign to return home to Bristol Bay.

The world's biggest sockeye salmon run was beginning, and that meant he needed to get back to work.

"I told my team that I have got to fish," he said, adding: "Commercial fishing is the way that we pay the bills."

Hill, 57, grew up in a tiny southwest Alaska village where he said his family had no phone and had to haul water from a nearby lake for cooking and bathing. Today, while he no longer has to fetch water, his lifestyle is not much different. He lives in a remote fishing community of about 430 people that he has called home for nearly half his life.

A retired teacher and school administrator, Hill has positioned himself as a working-class candidate who can relate to Alaskans' frustrations with high fuel and other costs. He has made affordability and pushing back against billionaires a central theme in his campaign against Republican Nick Begich, who's seeking a second term in Congress.

"We are pedal to the metal, making sure that every Alaskan knows about this campaign, every Alaskan knows what we stand for and every Alaskan knows that it's really one of them going to Congress," Hill told people at a campaign event this week in Juneau, wearing his standard campaign uniform of jeans, a zip-up vest and cap with a fishing company logo. "I need your help getting there."

The race has become a concern for Republicans as they are trying to hold onto their majority in the U.S. House. Vice President JD Vance held a rally this week for Begich and Dan Sullivan, the U.S. senator who also is in a tight reelection race. President Donald Trump is scheduled to do another in the coming week.

Begich and Republican political action committees have ratcheted up ad spending in the House race since the primary.

Planes, ferries and four-wheelers on the campaign trail

Hill, a first-time candidate who is Alaska Native, faces an incumbent from a prominent family long associated with the state's politics. Begich's late grandfather once held the state's only U.S. House seat. Begich's uncle Mark was a U.S. senator. Both were Democrats. Nick Begich is a lifelong Republican and has aligned himself with Trump, who has carried Alaska in his White House runs.

Hill's campaign said he has traveled more than 20,000 miles in the state, including by plane, ferry and

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 37 of 69

all-terrain vehicle, to introduce himself to voters and promote his message.

Begich's name recognition presents a hurdle for Hill's campaign, but some Democrats tried to clear a better path for Hill. One suspended his campaign before the August open primary and endorsed Hill. Two other Democrats with virtually no name recognition withdrew after the primary despite being in line to advance.

One candidate registered as a Democrat remains in the top four, Eric Hafner. He has no apparent ties to the state and is incarcerated in New York.

Hafner received 3.8% of the vote, enough to qualify for the ranked vote general election on Nov. 3. His submitted candidate biography appearing in state election materials makes no reference to his stint in federal prison, where he is serving time for making threats against police officers, judges and others.

Hill's campaign has shared stickers showing Hafner in an orange jumpsuit and calling him a "fake 'Democrat.'"

"We want to make sure that the Alaskan people are well-informed," Hill said.

Begich gets support from Trump and the US House speaker

The contest has received national attention, with spending by groups that include the National Republican Congressional Committee and House Majority PAC, which seeks to flip the U.S. House to Democrats.

In early August, U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., held a rally for Begich that was closed to reporters. Vance called Begich a "machine" and effective legislator during his rally in Fairbanks, where Vance also gave support to Sullivan, who faces a challenge from Democrat Mary Peltola, a former congresswoman.

Trump has cited Begich's support of his signature package of tax breaks, social service cuts and immigration enforcement that was passed last year. The president plans to headline a rally Tuesday in Wasilla, hometown of Sarah Palin, the party's 2008 vice presidential nominee.

Hill said the visits show Republicans are nervous.

"I was not going to get into this race to waste people's time, to waste people's money," he said. "I did my due diligence before jumping in to ensure that there was a path to victory."

Begich's campaign did not respond to messages from The Associated Press. On social media, the campaign has highlighted events such as Begich's visit to the Alaska State Fair and recently has taken swipes at Hill.

Zach Bannon, an NRCC spokesperson, said Begich has delivered "commonsense wins for Alaska," including support of expanded oil and gas development. He called Hill a "far-left Democrat."

Hill was endorsed by Democrats but asserts his independence

Hill, who was endorsed by the Alaska Democratic Party, said he is a lifelong independent. He said he will not be beholden to a "party boss" or party line, and he rankled some voters earlier in the campaign by not explicitly saying which party he would caucus with in the House if he were elected.

He has said he is willing to work with anyone on what is best for Alaska. He also has called for bans on congressional stock trading and for limiting the influence of money in elections.

Hill said he wants to help build coalitions, saying he "can be a big part of a small group that makes big changes."

Democrat Bill Brown came to the Juneau event planning to vote for Hill but wanting to talk with him directly. He said they aligned on numerous issues, including support for the environment, schools and ending "forever" wars.

The retired economics professor said policy is important, but in this political moment he finds himself "most interested in the integrity of the candidate. Bill Hill convinced me on that issue."

Hill, who is Dena'ina Athabascan, said the top concerns he hears about from Alaskans are the price of fuel and overall cost of living. He said he had to fly home earlier this year and pump fuel oil from the textile manufacturing business he runs with his wife and bring it back to his house in a barrel because the community had run out.

He said fuel prices jumped from about \$6.70 per gallon to about \$9 per gallon after a barge shipment to his town earlier this year. Prices also have been higher elsewhere, particularly in communities accessible only by air or water. On social media, Hill's campaign calls out Begich for his support of the Iran war as it posts photos of fuel prices around the state.

Steve Davis, a voter at Hill's Juneau event this week, called him authentic and a "really good dude." He said he was drawn to Hill in part because he wants to see Congress reclaim its oversight role. Hill drew applause during the gathering when he said Congress must reassert itself as a separate but equal branch of government.

"We don't need a unified executive, we don't need kings," Davis said. "We need a Congress that actually functions."

Drone strike in Sudan kills 40, Lebanon welcomes US flight ban lift, and other Mideast developments

By The Associated Press undefined

A drone strike in Sudan killed dozens of people, including children, said a rights group.

Meanwhile, attacks on the Riyadh international airport in Saudi Arabia earlier this week damaged three aircraft, officials said. Lebanon also welcomed the lifting of a decades-long flight ban with the United States. Here is the latest news from the Middle East on Saturday. Read our full coverage here.

Drone strike kills at least 40 people in Sudan, rights group says

A drone strike killed at least 40 people, including children, in Sudan along the border with Ethiopia, according to Emergency Lawyers, a group that tracks the war.

It said the Rapid Support Forces, a paramilitary group that has been battling Sudan's military since 2023, was responsible for Friday's strike in the Abu Shandi area in Sudan's Blue Nile province.

The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said it was appalled by the strike.

The conflict has killed at least 150,000 people, according to conflict monitor ACLED, though aid groups say the real number is likely higher.

Strikes hit Sanaa airport, say Houthis

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis said Saturday four strikes hit the Sanaa International Airport in the Yemeni capital. The Houthis' media center accused Saudi Arabia of the attack without providing further details.

The attacks came as the Houthis fought Yemen's government forces on the Red Sea coastline, with Saudi Arabia providing air cover for their allies in Yemen.

The Saudi government-run Center for International Communication, which oversees foreign media in the kingdom, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Houthi attacks on Saudi airport damaged 3 planes

Two regional officials said Saturday attacks by Houthi rebels on Riyadh airport on Thursday damaged three planes. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to brief the media.

Three Saudi citizens were killed and several were wounded, Saudi Arabia's General Authority of Civil Aviation said Friday.

Air traffic was again disrupted Friday evening when the Houthis fired another missile at the airport, one of the officials said. Flight-tracking platform Flightradar24 said many flights were diverted.

Also on Friday, the spokesperson for the Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthis, Maj. Gen. Turki al-Malki, said forces had destroyed 136 military targets in areas controlled by the rebels in Yemen. He said the coalition is working to "destroy the ballistic missile network of the terrorist Houthi militia." The AP could not independently verify these claims.

Fighting in Yemen between the Houthis and the Saudi-backed Yemeni government forces has escalated, with a Saudi-led coalition providing air support for Yemen's government forces in an attempt to reverse Houthi gains.

— By Samy Magdy

Lebanon's president praises Trump's decision to remove flight restrictions

The Lebanese presidency announced on Saturday the official lift of flight restrictions between Lebanon and the U.S. The Reagan administration suspended direct flights between the U.S. and Lebanon in 1985 following the hijacking of TWA Flight 847.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 39 of 69

Trump made the surprise announcement in July during a visit by Lebanon's President Joseph Aoun. He ordered the lifting of the restrictions nearly two weeks ago, but the decision was publicly announced on Saturday.

Aoun welcomed the decision, saying it signaled U.S. confidence in Lebanon's steps to improve civil aviation safety.

The move comes after the Iran-backed Hezbollah group was severely weakened by two wars with Israel over the past two years in which many of the group's political and military commanders were killed.

Israeli strikes kill five Palestinians in Gaza, say health officials

An Israeli strike Saturday killed four people in western Gaza City while another killed one person in the city's east, said health officials at al-Shifa Hospital.

An Israeli military official said strikes were carried out in those areas to target militants.

Saturday's strikes came one year after a ceasefire deal was reached between Israel and Hamas, yet Israel still launches near-daily strikes.

Since the ceasefire, more than 1,480 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, according to the Health Ministry.

Adult acne is real, but there are ways to treat it. Here's what to know

By ADITHI RAMAKRISHNAN AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As a teenager, Gillian Maegan Montalbo's pimples weren't too bad — just a few bumps on her forehead and nose.

But as an adult in the workforce, the breakouts returned and intensified. The acne on her cheeks and chin made her hesitant to look her bosses in the eye.

"It really took a toll on my self-esteem and my self-confidence," said Montalbo, a marketer and content creator who lives in the Philippines.

Pimples and acne are an uncomfortable hallmark of teenage years, but adults can have breakouts too. Acne can also happen on other parts of the body like the chest and shoulders. And then there's bacne, the internet's term for back breakouts.

The best treatments vary from person to person depending on what's causing the acne and how it looks. And breakouts can leave behind dark marks and scars that take even longer to heal.

Pimples come and go, but if breakouts stick around and cause discoloration or changes in skin texture, it's a good idea to see a dermatologist.

"We know how to treat acne. We know the cause of it. So don't suffer alone," said Dr. Crystal Aguh, a dermatologist and director of the Ethnic Skin Program at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

The causes of acne can vary

Teenage acne tends to affect the forehead, nose and cheeks. Older adults and women in particular can experience hormonal acne that pops up along the jawline and chin, Aguh said. Taking steroids can also trigger acne for some people.

Pimples happen when tiny pores in the skin get clogged by oil, bacteria and dead skin cells. They can fade over the course of weeks to months, but if patches persist and spread, it could be a sign of acne, which dermatologists consider a medical condition.

"Essentially, you're not getting a break from a breakout," Aguh said.

Acne is caused by many factors including genetics, hormones, environment and even diet — like eating excessive amounts of dairy. The causes of facial and body acne are similar, although skin bacteria sometimes plays a larger role in body acne.

Breakouts can look like milder, painless white bumps or dark specks known as whiteheads and blackheads, or more painful red bumps and deeper cysts — a mark of cystic acne.

There are OTC and prescription treatments for acne

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 40 of 69

Don't pick or pop your pimples, no matter how strong the urge or how satisfying it might be.

"Everyone wants to pick and squeeze. That will almost always make things worse," said Dr. Lauren Fine, founder of Fine Dermatology in Chicago.

Picking can drive inflammation deeper into the skin and cause acne to spread. It also increases the risk of marks and scarring. For darker-skinned people, those marks take longer to go away because their skin produces extra pigment when stressed, Aguh said.

Treatments for acne range from over-the-counter creams and lotions to prescription-strength medications. Dermatologists say it's somewhat easier to treat acne on the face compared to the rest of the body because the face has more sweat glands and doesn't dry out as easily. It's also harder to apply some treatments like creams to hard-to-reach areas like the back, so doctors often prescribe oral medications.

For milder forms of face acne, dermatologists may recommend face washes or creams containing benzoyl peroxide, salicylic acid or retinoids like adapalene.

For more frequent breakouts, they might prescribe higher-strength regimens like antibiotics or medicines with tretinoin. Isotretinoin may be an option if those medicines don't work, or for cases of severe cystic acne.

Treatments for adult hormonal acne, particularly in women, can differ from what's done for teens. Some dermatologists recommend birth control, which can help stabilize hormones, or treatments like spironolactone.

Shots of cortisone can help treat active acne spots in a pinch, but they aren't a long-term fix, Fine said.

Pimple patches containing a gel called hydrocolloid can absorb fluids from oozing pimples and stop you from picking at them. Aguh said they are suited only for mild forms of acne; Fine said the patches have given some of her patients discoloration and she doesn't recommend them.

Treat discoloration with exfoliants and face washes

Experts say exfoliants and face washes containing glycolic acid can help discoloration fade. Over-the-counter products containing adapalene and retinol creams can also help.

For more serious scarring, dermatologists can recommend more aggressive treatments like lasers that probe deeper into the skin.

It can take time to develop the right treatment plan, and longer still to see results. When starting a new treatment, some people can also experience skin purging: breakouts that happen when a product quickly brings clogged pores to the surface of the skin.

Montalbo's acne cleared up within a year after seeing a dermatologist, but she was still dealing with acne scars. After that, she had to rebuild her self-confidence.

She said a strong support system was essential to getting through some of the hardest moments. Her dad, who also struggled with acne, was the one who encouraged her to see a doctor and find the right products. She also had a close friend who traveled with her overseas for a vacation during the worst of the breakouts, and mentioned in passing that she'd never even noticed Montalbo's acne.

"When you are with the right people, they won't mind how you look," Montalbo said. "Because to them, what's important is how you treat them."

Wildfires threaten Indonesia's orangutans as rescuers find injured animals

By NINIEK KARMINI and ANDI JATMIKO Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Wildfires sweeping across parts of Indonesia's Borneo island have left endangered orangutans struggling to survive, prompting rescuers to evacuate animals found injured, stranded and surrounded by thick haze.

A female Bornean orangutan nicknamed Novita was among dozens of apes rescued from wildfires in parts of Sumatra and Borneo in recent months. She was found clinging to a nearly leafless tree as dense smoke billowed across the scorched landscape in the Katune forest in Central Kalimantan province, said Jamartin Sihite, the chairman of the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 41 of 69

"The palms of her hands and the soles of her feet suffered burns that were likely sustained when Novita crossed a burned area while trying to reach a tree," Sihite told The Associated Press in an interview. He said that Novita, estimated to be 3 to 4 years old, was tranquilized, given oxygen and intravenous fluids and taken to the rehabilitation center in Nyaru Menteng.

Once her burns have healed, Novita will be evaluated to see if she can climb and survive in her natural environment, Sihite said. "We have previously released orangutans missing several fingers and they were still able to survive in the forest, so we remain hopeful that Novita can eventually return to the wild."

Forest and land fires in Indonesia have worsened this year as El Niño intensifies a prolonged dry season, not only in the Indonesian part of Borneo but also in some regions on Sumatra island. Water shortages in the areas have hampered firefighting, while Japan has provided firefighting assistance to the island.

A male orangutan named Sampurna, believed to be around 20 years old, was found struggling to breathe by residents early last month on a palm oil plantation in West Kalimantan's Ketapang district, an area affected by wildfires. He died hours after being rescued, Indonesia's Forestry Ministry said.

It said more than 270 wild animals in Kalimantan had been rescued, rehabilitated or guided to safer habitats as of Saturday.

Government data showed more than 202,000 hectares (499,000 acres) of land burned between January and July. The independent Nusantara Atlas project, which monitors fires using satellite imagery, estimated that nearly 896,000 hectares (2.2 million acres) had burned by the end of August.

Toxic haze and smoke have caused a health crisis in neighboring countries as well. The smoke has drifted as far as the Philippines, more than 800 kilometers (500 miles) away. In Malaysia, authorities declared an emergency last week in Sarawak on Malaysia's part of Borneo.

Novita's case highlights the impact of forest and peatland fires on wildlife as well as people, said Andi Muhammad Kadhafi, head of the Central Kalimantan's Natural Resources Conservation Agency, a government body.

"Wildfires do not only affect humans but can also threaten wildlife and their habitats," he said. "Fire prevention, habitat protection, monitoring and rapid response need to go hand in hand."

Isaias makes landfall as hurricane, hammering US Gulf Coast with powerful winds, dangerous flooding

By SOPHIE BATES, EMILIE MEGNIEN, HALLIE GOLDEN and JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

GULF BREEZE, Fla. (AP) — Isaias crashed into the U.S. Gulf Coast on Friday as a dangerous Category 2 hurricane, hammering communities in Alabama and the Florida Panhandle with damaging winds, heavy rain, flooding and life-threatening storm surges.

The first hurricane of the Atlantic season made landfall near Destin, Florida, the Miami-based National Hurricane Center said. It had maximum sustained winds of 105 mph (169 kph). The storm weakened to just below major hurricane status before it came ashore and by early Saturday was no longer considered a hurricane as its wind speeds continued to decrease.

"The storm is here. Buckle down at this point. Don't be getting out on the roads," Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said at a news conference, adding that flash flooding would be a hazard "throughout the region."

Hurricane-force winds lashed the Gulf shoreline in the low-lying coastal area known for powdery white-sand beaches dotted with vacation homes, waterfront bars, and seafood shacks. Forecasters warned the conditions could also stir up tornadoes across the Florida Panhandle and into southern Georgia.

"We're watching it very closely, the hurricane," President Donald Trump told reporters at the White House late Friday night as he returned from a rally in upstate New York, adding that it was "under control."

Roads in Destin were flooded, while in nearby Pensacola, police warned residents to stay off the streets because of debris across roadways. While the extent of the damage was not immediately known, many area residents posted pictures online of downed trees and power lines, and one social media video showed a roof being ripped off an inn in Pensacola.

Some Panhandle counties temporarily suspended emergency response Friday night because of danger-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 42 of 69

ous conditions.

Parts of southern Alabama also were flooded, with officials in Mobile reporting downed trees and power lines. Roads in Houston County, which is in the southeastern corner of the state, were closed because of similar conditions.

More than 664,000 customers in Florida and Alabama were without power early Saturday, according to poweroutage.com.

Many are braving Isaias at home

Tim Mowry, who rode out the storm from his home in Pensacola, said the wind was so intense it sounded like a train whistle as it whipped through a crack in his patio door. He lost power around 4:30 p.m. but was able to rely on a generator. Standing water also covered his backyard, and parts of his fence were ripped down, but overall he said the storm wasn't as bad as he expected.

"As far as Pensacola-wise, we really got fortunate," Mowry said.

Mowry said his son, who lives about 15 minutes away, tried to drive to his home after losing power but had to turn around because downed trees and power lines blocked the roads.

One of the biggest concerns is a storm surge that could reach 3 to 5 feet (0.91 to 1.52 meters) from Dauphin Island, Alabama, to Florida's Aucilla River, according to the hurricane center.

Dangerous conditions are expected throughout the western panhandle, southern Alabama and southern Mississippi, the National Hurricane Center said. Several counties announced mandatory evacuations while Mobile, Alabama, imposed a curfew through Saturday morning.

In a sign of how serious the warnings are, dozens of Waffle Houses in the Florida Panhandle closed, according to the company's website. The beloved Southern breakfast chain is known for staying open through severe weather and often serves as a measure of a storm's severity.

Kelsei Frazier, a Florida native living in Pace and no stranger to hurricanes, knows all about the Waffle House Index.

"We joke because if Waffle House is still open, then you know it's not a bad hurricane, but all the Waffle Houses that I know of within at least a normal range from us are closed," said Frazier.

DeSantis warned residents to expect gasoline shortages and bridge and highway closures.

The state's National Guard deployed about 5,000 soldiers and airmen to help with the response, and search-and-rescue teams were ready to respond, while some prisons evacuated inmates.

The whole region could get soaked

Isaias was already slowing after landfall, and it was expected to weaken further and be downgraded to a tropical storm by Saturday afternoon, the center said.

Still, heavy rain is forecast as it moves inland, with 4 to 8 inches (10 to 20 centimeters) or even more expected through the weekend from southern Alabama to southwestern Georgia.

Isaias, the first hurricane to hit the eastern U.S. since Milton tore up the Gulf Coast of Florida in 2024, is also expected to bring heavy rain and potential flooding to much of the Southeast over the weekend, then to parts of the Midwest and Northeast into Monday.

Isaias grounds flights but likely to miss oil hubs

The storm grounded most Friday flights at several panhandle airports, including all flights into and out of Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport. Trump, meanwhile, scrapped his plans to attend Saturday's football game between the University of Georgia and the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. He said he didn't want to disrupt emergency response efforts.

Isaias was expected to miss the oil industry's biggest hubs along the Gulf Coast, but fuel prices could rise if power outages shut down refineries for processing crude, industry experts said.

Meanwhile, in the Pacific, Hurricane Simon became a Category 4 storm early Saturday, ahead of a projected landfall in Mexico this weekend.

Tropical Storm Rachel was also expected to bring heavy winds and rain to northern Mexico and Southern California over the weekend.

A US-brokered ceasefire was supposed to end the war in Gaza. A year later, progress has stalled

By JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

It's been a year since a ceasefire deal brokered by U.S. President Donald Trump and Arab allies promised to end the war in Gaza, and Israel is still launching deadly strikes on the devastated territory.

The agreement halted major military operations, freed all remaining hostages and increased humanitarian access. But it has failed to deliver on promises of a new Palestinian administration aided by international forces, the disarmament of Hamas and an end to Israel's control over more than half the territory. Almost nothing has been rebuilt.

Israel has tied any progress on the other issues to Hamas' complete disarmament, while the militant group — and the Trump administration — say they should happen simultaneously. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hardened his stance over the summer, openly defying Trump, his most important ally, ahead of Israeli elections later this month.

The wrangling has left Gaza's 2 million Palestinians in limbo. Most are sheltering in rodent-infested tent camps, the rubble of their former neighborhoods or war-damaged buildings at risk of collapse.

In the Jabaliya area of the northern Gaza Strip, Abdullah Abu Zubaida's family lives in a makeshift shelter built from the debris of their house.

"When the ceasefire began last October, we expected the war to halt, assassinations to cease, and aid to flow in," he said. None of that has happened.

For Ne'man Abu Jarad and his family, displaced from Beit Lahia in northern Gaza to Khan Younis in the south, the truce also has brought no clear path home. The family, including five daughters, continues to live in tents.

"The ceasefire is merely nominal, ink on paper," Abu Jarad said.

Early success raised hopes of ending the war

The 20-point ceasefire agreement, reached after months of negotiations under the Biden and Trump administrations, ended major military operations and led to the return of all the remaining hostages taken in Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack that ignited the war.

Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people that day and abducted 251. Israel responded with massive bombardment and a ground invasion that has killed more than 74,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

The ministry, part of the Hamas-run government, maintains detailed records and is seen as generally reliable by U.N. agencies and independent experts. It does not distinguish between civilians and militants in its toll but says women and children make up around half the dead.

After the deal was announced, Trump called for a new era of harmony in the Middle East. "We have a once-in-a-lifetime chance to put the old feuds and bitter hatreds behind us," he said at a summit marking the deal.

The agreement called for much more

The agreement called for Hamas to hand over power to a committee of Palestinian administrators vetted by the Board of Peace, a new body chaired by Trump and charged with implementing the ceasefire.

The militants officially dissolved their government in July but left the civil service intact and remain the dominant power in the roughly 40% of Gaza not controlled by the Israeli military. Israel has meanwhile barred the new Palestinian administration from entering Gaza via Egypt.

The formation of an International Stabilization Force was announced in February but has yet to materialize. Indonesia, which pledged the largest troop contingent — 8,000 soldiers — put those plans on hold last spring as the world's focus shifted to the Iran war.

Israel was supposed to withdraw from Gaza but has instead seized more territory, pushing the so-called yellow Line of Control westward toward the Mediterranean Sea. It has also carried out regular strikes on individuals it accused of violating the ceasefire, approaching the yellow line or having taken part in the Oct. 7 attack — strikes that have often killed civilians.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 44 of 69

Israeli strikes have killed over 1,400 Palestinians since the ceasefire took effect, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. Sporadic attacks have killed five Israeli soldiers in Gaza in the same period.

More deadlock after Netanyahu defied Trump

In July, Trump announced a deal to disarm Hamas, portraying it as a breakthrough in the long-stalled process.

That deal, an extension of the original ceasefire, called for Hamas to disarm "in a gradual, sequential and time-bound manner" that is "linked to an Israeli withdrawal, in phases." Hamas confirmed for the first time that it had agreed to disarm, also linking it to Israel halting its strikes and withdrawing from Gaza.

Days later, Netanyahu announced that Israel would not withdraw from any part of Gaza until after Hamas has been completely disarmed, explicitly rejecting the agreement announced by Trump.

The rare instance of friction between the two allies came as Netanyahu seeks to shore up his nationalist base ahead of Oct. 27 elections that could end his nearly unbroken 17-year rule, the longest in Israel's history.

Netanyahu has come under fire over security and intelligence failures leading up to the Oct. 7 attack, with opponents accusing him of having been soft on Hamas. That gives him little space to make even minor compromises on Gaza, at least until a new government is formed, which could take months.

In the meantime, virtually nothing has been rebuilt in Gaza, Hamas is weakened but still in power, and a return to fighting cannot be ruled out.

Trump and Iran agree on one thing. The US election calendar isn't driving their decisions on the war

By AAMER MADHANI and AMIR-HUSSEIN RADJY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and Iran's leadership appear to agree on one thing about their seven-month-old war: they each insist the U.S. election calendar isn't motivating them to find an end to it.

Persistent inflation and high gas prices fueled by the conflict have driven widespread American disapproval of the war — a sentiment casting a long shadow over the Nov. 3 election that will determine whether Trump's party keeps control of Congress. And U.S. economic sanctions and a naval blockade on Iranian oil are causing profound shocks for Tehran's economy.

Yet, Iranian officials remain insistent there won't be a deal until the U.S. lifts the blockade and delivers sanctions relief. Trump, meanwhile, is vacillating. He has dispatched more military resources to the region and threatened to resume strikes — even as he also declares that the U.S. "will not be attacking Iran at any time prior" to Nov. 3.

Speaking to fellow world leaders last month at the U.N. General Assembly, Trump insisted he "will not give credence to the election when it comes to Iran."

Now, more than a week into a 32-day campaign blitz for Republican candidates, Trump is doubling down on that message, telling voters he's winning the war while darkly warning he's ready to "finish it off" if Iran doesn't capitulate.

"I will tell you what: Iran will be very quick one way or the other," Trump said Friday as he campaigned in New York. "Either they give us everything, or they don't exist any longer."

Iran has shown resilience to Trump's threats

Trump's campaign bravado comes after his stated war goals in Iran have shifted significantly over the course of the conflict.

He's moved from maximalist demands for unconditional surrender by the theocratic government to a focus on economic pressure, containing Tehran's nuclear program and reopening the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran's economy is certainly in shambles. Its navy and air force have been devastated, and key political and military leaders were killed in the first weeks of the conflict.

Yet, Iran has shown no small measure of resilience in the face of Trump's repeatedly being on the cusp of ordering big new strikes — only to back down at the last moment.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 45 of 69

After months of grinding war, an American election season isn't fundamentally changing Iran's approach with the U.S. leader they've found to be an unreliable narrator, said Sasan Karimi, a former Iranian government official.

Iran's leadership, Karimi added, is concerned that "the U.S., especially in the Trump era, will not be compliant to any deal even if he himself signs it."

Some Republicans distance themselves from Trump

Trump's message isn't easy for Republican candidates to embrace as they make their case to voters frustrated by elevated gas prices and food costs.

Most Americans, 69%, say the war has not been worth fighting, according to a poll published last week by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. That's up slightly from 64% in July. Only 28% approve of how Trump is handling Iran.

Some Republicans in competitive races have sought to distance themselves from Trump on the war.

In Michigan, Republican Senate candidate Mike Rogers has said the "war with Iran needs to end — and end quickly." Rep. Ashley Hinson, who is in a competitive Senate race in Iowa, said Iowans shouldn't have to "foot the bill" for the war. Seven House Republicans voted in favor of a war powers resolution aimed at curtailing Trump's war of choice.

Yet, trying to stand apart from Trump on Iran is almost impossible for Republicans so close to Election Day, says Christopher Borick, director of the Lehigh University Opinion Observatory in Pennsylvania.

"It's an enormous weight on Republicans," Borick said. "Shifting the narrative to draw separation from Trump is going to be a Herculean task."

Iran anticipates Trump will resume strikes

Negotiations had appeared at a standstill after Trump late last month publicly rejected Iran's proposal to quickly reopen the Strait of Hormuz if the U.S. met certain conditions.

Iranians, however, say they have since received a U.S. counterproposal and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Thursday said he expected Tehran would offer a formal reply within days. Trump on Thursday described the indirect negotiations as "productive."

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has said Tehran wants a return to the framework of the short-lived June deal. That agreement held out the promise of financial relief for Iran, which never materialized.

But the Iranian president also expressed skepticism. "We are trying to move the process forward. We are having conversations; every time we have held talks with them, they attacked us again," Pezeshkian said Thursday as he met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Turkmenistan.

As part of any deal, Iranian officials say the U.S. must lift its blockade before Iran agrees to cease attacks on international oil tankers using the Strait of Hormuz.

"We are telling America, you have to act first. Enough talking, enough negotiations," Mohsen Rezaei, a former Revolutionary Guard commander and secretary of Iran's top security body, recently told Iranian state television, boasting that Iran had the upper hand in the conflict.

Some Iranian officials seem to believe that a return to full-scale war may be inevitable.

Mahdi Mohammadi, a Tehran-based analyst and an adviser to Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, said on Telegram that while indirect talks with the U.S. have been "serious," he predicted that "the war will start" again soon.

Fighting between Saudi Arabia and Houthis adds complications

At his rallies, Trump has pointed to a recent surge in Gulf oil making it through the Strait of Hormuz as he's made his argument that Iran's leadership will soon have to capitulate.

Indeed, Iran has lost its near-chokehold over oil flows through the waterway as U.S. Central Command shepherds oil tankers through the strait at night with their location systems turned off.

But in recent days, Iran has ramped up attacks on tankers passing through the strait. And overall, ship traffic remains well below prewar levels.

Tanker operators willing to risk running the gauntlet under Central Command's protection are in some cases charging rates of \$1 million a day or more, shipping analysts say.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 46 of 69

The situation has become further complicated as Saudi Arabia and Yemen's government have launched a military campaign aimed at driving Iran-backed Houthi rebels from the Bab el-Mandeb strait, another critical Middle East trade route for oil and other goods.

The Houthis, in turn, are targeting Saudi airports and key infrastructure in the kingdom with drone and missile strikes.

Iranian officials see little change, even if Democrats win control of Congress

Trump insists that the U.S. naval blockade to prevent Iranian oil from getting to market has driven Tehran to the brink.

Iran's oil minister Mohsen Paknejad recently resigned, Iranian state television announced this week. And the Iranian currency, the rial, continues to crater.

Iranian leaders appear convinced that they can still absorb military pressure, and impose further costs on the United States and the global economy, said Karimi, the former Iranian government official.

Hamzeh Safavi, a political scientist at the University of Tehran, said Iranian officials are giving little weight to the midterms as they calculate their next move.

"Iran knows that whether it's Democrats or Republicans, there is a shared view about the fundamental confrontation with Iran," Safavi said. "They just might not agree regarding the method of confronting Iran. For that reason, the results won't really create a foundational change in relations with Iran."

Trump veers into Nobel Prize grievances during upstate New York rally on day award is announced

By SAGAR MEGHANI, ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE and THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — President Donald Trump veered far from midterm election politics during a rally in upstate New York on Friday, aiming a bitter diatribe at the Norwegian Nobel Committee for giving the Peace Prize he has long sought to South African jurist Navanethem "Navi" Pillay, a former U.N. human rights chief, for her work on justice and accountability for war crimes and genocide.

Trump unspooled a lengthy argument explaining why the award was "an indelible stain on the country of Norway," saying he "should have received the Nobel Peace Prize, but didn't."

Trump claimed, as he often does, to have ended eight wars, though some of the conflicts the president claims to have resolved were merely tensions, and his role in easing them has been disputed. Meanwhile, the war with Iran that he and Israel started — which Trump predicted would last mere weeks — remains unsettled and is a weight on his party as it faces a dour electorate ahead of midterm elections.

An Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll conducted last month and published Oct. 1 found 71% of U.S. adults disapproved of Trump's handling of Iran, with 28% approving. The conflict has pushed gas prices higher, and polls show voters blame Trump for the high cost of living.

Trump bitterly described Pillay as "a liberal person who works at the United Nations who nobody has ever heard of," adding: "The Nobel Peace Prize has been forever discredited by a handful of radical ideologues who are anti-democracy and really enemies of civilization. And we will not forget, Norway, "

Nobel diatribe eclipses political mission

It was a lengthy deviation from an event aimed at promoting Bruce Blakeman, the Republican nominee in the race for New York governor. While Trump criticized Democratic incumbent Gov. Kathy Hochul, who is running for her second full term, he spent as much time excoriating New York Attorney General Letitia James, a prominent Trump adversary who brought civil charges against Trump and his business.

As a result of James' charges, a court found Trump liable for fraud. An appeals court subsequently threw out the massive financial penalty but upheld the fraud finding. On Friday, from the stage at the Oncenter in Syracuse, New York, Trump called James "a dog."

Trump has been on a series of political stops, trying to stoke loyalty among his base as Republicans work to fight off possible setbacks in their effort to hold congressional majorities on Nov. 3.

Friday's mission was to lift up Republican Blakeman in the Democratic-leaning state. In Trump fashion, Blakeman, Nassau County's executive, has suggested Democrats might steal the election, played up fears

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 47 of 69

about immigrant criminals and posted AI-generated videos depicting the state as dangerous and unaffordable.

And while he invited Blakeman onstage, Trump spent large swaths of time pushing back against a national narrative that voters in the United States do not have faith in his handling of the economy.

Trump tried convincing voters that the economy is humming

Trump spent much of the first half of the rally — just 25 days before midterm elections that will determine whether Republicans can keep control of Congress — trying to talk past Americans' gloomy feelings about the economy.

"The poverty rate has just reached its lowest level, the best number," he said. "Lowest level in American history."

"The job numbers are the best. The stock market has soared," Trump said.

And while gas has fallen a few cents per gallon in the last week, it remains about 15 cents higher per gallon than a month ago, according to AAA. Trump briefly veered from his economic cheerleading to call on oil retailers directly to "start dropping their prices now."

The latest AP-NORC poll, also found only 26% of U.S. adults approved of Trump's handling of the economy — a new low — down from 32% in July. Notably, only 17% approved of his handling of the cost of living.

Trump has largely steered clear of political battlegrounds in his travels so far, focusing on red states and friendly crowds at a moment when Republicans worry that his unpopularity could drag down the party. The most closely watched U.S. House race in New York state is several hours away from Syracuse, where Republican Rep. Mike Lawler is trying to fend off a challenge from Democratic candidate Cait Conley.

Blakeman has emphasized his independence from Trump

On the campaign trail, Blakeman argues he's winning over Democrats and independents, painting himself as the moderate candidate in his race against Hochul. He dismisses the idea that his closeness with the president could hurt his chances in blue New York.

In an interview, Blakeman denied he was aligned with the president on everything. "I am somebody who takes every issue and makes a decision based on good advice from smart people and common sense," he said.

"I've proved my independence over and over and over again. I make my own decisions. I call my own shots," he said.

Hochul has emphasized Blakeman's ties to Trump — mirroring much of the Democrats' national strategy for the midterm elections — hoping the president's dismal approval ratings help sink her Republican foe at the ballot box.

In a sarcastic press release, Hochul's campaign described Trump's visit as "an extremely boring puppet show" and said Hochul, like Trump, is asking voters to pretend the president is on the ballot. "Why is Trump in Upstate New York?" the campaign asked. "Because Bruce Blakeman, for some reason, begged him to do so."

Panama rocked by 2 powerful earthquakes and multiple aftershocks, prompting evacuations

By JUAN ZAMORANO, MEGAN JANETSKY and ALMA SOLÍS Associated Press

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Two powerful 7.7 and 6.6 magnitude earthquakes and a series of aftershocks roiled southern Panama Friday afternoon, collapsing buildings near the epicenter and prompting evacuations across the country.

The earlier quake, felt as far away as neighboring Colombia, was centered about 10 kilometers (6 miles) southwest of the remote community of Pitaloza Arriba, in the central province of Herrera, the USGS said. It struck at a depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles).

The USGS initially reported the first quake as magnitude 8, then revised it to 7.6 and later to 7.7.

Visibly shaken residents of Panama City, the capital, gathered outside as they waited for news of the quake's impact on Friday.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 48 of 69

"We felt it very strongly. It knocked things over in the kitchen, but we're okay, though we're very scared," Rosendo Domínguez, 60, who is from Herrera province, where the earthquake struck, told The Associated Press by phone. "Everyone is outside, scared."

Multiple aftershocks continued to rattle Panama, including several measuring magnitude 5.8, 5.5 and 5.2. Seismologists at the University of Panama recorded more than 45 aftershocks, though many were too weak to be felt.

Calls for calm and reports of collapsed buildings

Despite the strength of the successive quakes, Panamanian President José Raúl Mulino said authorities had not documented anyone killed as of Friday evening, though he cautioned that could change in the coming hours or days.

"Nobody was ready, and no one is ever ready for this type of disaster," Mulino said, after calling for calm earlier in the day.

Images of crumbling buildings and deep fissures slicing through roads added to fears across a region battered by a series of devastating earthquakes in recent months.

Two back-to-back 7.2 and 7.5 magnitude earthquakes roiled Venezuela's La Guaira state in June, killing more than 6,500 people and leaving 17,000 homeless. In August, a 7.4 magnitude earthquake in Colombia killed at least 289 people.

The notably lesser toll in nearby Panama may have been due to the country's strict building codes, especially governing construction of skyscrapers in the capital, said Carlos Valdés, head of the Seismology Department at the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

Omar Smith of the National Civil Protection Service said on the Telemetro Reporta news channel that damage was concentrated in the central provinces of Veraguas, Herrera and Los Santos and there were no reports of damages in Panama City.

Smith said several injuries have been reported, including one person struck by debris from a partially collapsed structure in the city of Penonomé, around 150 km (93 miles) from the capital. He confirmed a partial collapse and cracks at the cathedral in the district's main square, as well as damage in the governor's office building and the Dos Continentes hotel.

Local news outlets also reported that the Church of San Atanasio, a colonial-style Catholic church in Panama's Los Santos province, had collapsed. The church was declared a National Historic Heritage Site in 1938. Elsewhere, including in Veraguas province, large fissures ran along roadways.

Tocumen International Airport in Panama City, one of the region's busiest airports with more than 20 million passengers in 2025, temporarily suspended operations after the first quake but said Friday afternoon that it was reopening.

The Panama Canal Authority said operations were continuing normally along the global trade route. It said its priority was the safety of employees, vessels and crews and that specialized technical teams were inspecting facilities for possible damage.

Tsunami warnings as far as Chile's Easter Island

The last major earthquake to cause widespread damage in Panama struck in 1991. A magnitude 7.4 quake, centered in nearby Costa Rica, killed 23 people, injured 559, and left thousands of people homeless in the border Bocas del Toro region.

Earthquakes are common, especially along Panama's border with Costa Rica and its Pacific coast, because of the interaction of several tectonic plates, including the Cocos, Nazca and Caribbean plates.

Panama lies along the "Ring of Fire," a 40,000-kilometer (25,000-mile) arc of volcanoes and fault lines around the Pacific Basin, where most of the world's earthquakes occur.

The National Weather Service lifted a tsunami warning issued shortly after the quakes on Friday for the coasts of Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Guatemala. Alerts issued by El Salvador and Chile for Easter Island were also lifted.

Néstor Luque, director of the Geosciences Institute at the University of Panama, said waves between 3 to 10 feet (1 and 3 meters) were expected around Isla Cañas and the southern coast of Los Santos province, but major waves weren't expected beyond that. Seawater had already reached homes near the

coast on Isla Cañas, he said.

Messages of support and offers of assistance flooded in from across the region on Friday afternoon. Mulino thanked fellow Latin American leaders for their support, saying he had spoken with the presidents of Chile, Uruguay and Guatemala, among others.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said he was closely watching the situation in Panama and “rapidly mobilizing resources and personnel to assist” at the request of Panama’s government.

“The United States stands with the people of Panama,” Rubio wrote on X.

Colombian President Abelardo de la Espriella, whose country was recently hit by earthquakes, expressed his solidarity with the Panamanian people and their government during what he called “difficult times.” Acting Venezuelan President Delcy Rodríguez, Costa Rican President Laura Fernández Delgado, Ecuadorian President Daniel Noboa and Peru’s government also offered assistance.

“Panama is not alone! You can count on Colombia’s support and our full willingness to provide whatever assistance is needed,” de la Espriella wrote on X.

A botched execution and plans for one in public show the US is conflicted about capital punishment

By JOHN HANNA, DEEPA BHARATH and SARAH RANKIN Associated Press

Americans have long been divided over the death penalty, with nearly half of states banning capital punishment outright and just a handful of others carrying out most of the nation’s executions each year.

The longstanding but uneasy relationship with executing the nation’s worst criminals has been on clear display in recent weeks, first following a botched lethal injection in Tennessee and later after the military announced plans to livestream a death by firing squad. Both have prompted fresh calls for abolition from death penalty opponents and led supporters to publicly grapple with how to humanely carry out government executions.

When Christa Pike was sentenced to die in 1996 after being convicted of murdering a classmate, Tennessee was among 37 states that had capital punishment, and the number of annual executions in the U.S. was on the rise. Since then, 10 states have abolished capital punishment, and executions haven’t approached their late 1990s peak.

Still, it is unlikely the U.S. is headed for complete abolition. Thirty inmates have been executed this year, and another eight executions have been scheduled, most of them in Texas and Florida. The military’s planned firing-squad execution for Fort Hood shooter Nidal Malik Hasan is scheduled for Dec. 3.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth’s announcement Thursday that the military would livestream Hasan’s execution shocked even some capital punishment supporters. Vice President JD Vance on Friday questioned whether it would happen and said he wouldn’t watch. Retiring North Carolina Republican U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis called a livestream “beyond disgusting.”

American attitudes on the death penalty are complicated

While about two-thirds of U.S. adults see the death penalty as morally justified for people who have committed murder, according to a Pew Research Center poll conducted in July, about 6 in 10 say the death penalty does not deter crime. About 7 in 10 say there is some risk an innocent person would be put to death. Gallup’s trend suggests that support for capital punishment has fallen considerably since the 1990s.

Victims’ families are often among the most vocal advocates on either side of the debate. The family of Colleen Slemmer, whom Pike was convicted of killing, has supported Pike’s execution.

On the opposite side is Rachel Sutphin, a Presbyterian pastor whose father was killed in the line of duty as a sheriff’s deputy. The man convicted of killing him was the last person Virginia executed, in 2017. Sutphin was part of a coalition that successfully argued for abolishing the death penalty in the state in 2021. She said the Pentagon’s announcement was so shocking it might push her back into advocacy work.

“This place where (in) the name of revenge, taking an eye for an eye, has become socially acceptable and has almost become a form of entertainment -- that very much concerns me,” she said.

In Tennessee, Republican legislators weren’t backing off their support for the death penalty after Pike

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 50 of 69

survived her attempted execution Oct. 1. Instead, they contemplated returning to the electric chair or allowing firing squads. Idaho recently made the firing squad the state's primary execution method, viewing it as more humane because the death is quicker and the chances of botching it are remote.

Idaho state Republican Rep. Bruce Skaug, a retired attorney who introduced that legislation, said he believes the death penalty should be rare but that once the court issues such a punishment, it's the government's duty to "carry it out properly."

But Skaug was surprised by the Pentagon's announcement and still pondering it Friday.

"That's a difficult one for me to swallow."

Public executions used to be common in the U.S.

From the Revolution and into the 20th century, American executions were often public and sometimes treated like mass entertainment. But no public executions have taken place since the late 1930s.

Brenner Fissell, vice president of the National Institute of Military Justice, said public executions "are seen by most civilized societies as grotesque and barbaric." Almost every European nation has abolished capital punishment.

But, Fissell added, he did not know of any legal obstacles that would prohibit the administration from livestreaming Hasan's execution.

"You don't have a right to a secret death," he said.

But Robert Blecker, a professor emeritus at New York Law School, said there are arguments in favor of making executions public. He said it forces the government to take responsibility for executing someone.

"Shouldn't the people have access to what's being done in their name?" he said. "If we can't stomach and can't tolerate it, then abolish it."

Religious institutions highlight conflicting attitudes on death penalty

American culture is replete with portrayals of clergy being around execution, either advising and comforting the condemned or even occasionally giving a moral lecture from the gallows before a hanging. They have been a major part of the ongoing debate over capital punishment.

Blecker, who agrees with some criticism of how capital punishment is administered but believes it is morally appropriate in a few cases involving the worst criminals, said that idea came from the ancient Hebrews and Greeks. They felt that failing to adequately punish criminals polluted the population as a whole.

Hegseth's church and denomination were co-founded by archconservative pastor Doug Wilson, who supports capital punishment.

Christian denominations such as the Southern Baptist Convention and the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod support the death penalty, citing Biblical passages that mandate retributive justice under an authority granted by God to punish grave crimes. Supporters in these faith traditions view the death penalty as necessary to uphold the moral order and as a just response to the taking of innocent life.

But major religious denominations including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and several mainline Protestant denominations have taken official stances opposing the death penalty. Those positions are anchored in their theology of redemption and value for the "sanctity of life."

Many clergy members, chaplains and volunteers from faith groups provide spiritual counseling, prayer and human connection to death row inmates and their families. Faith-based groups routinely organize prayer vigils and letter-writing campaigns while lobbying legislators to commute sentences or abolish capital punishment.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, on Friday issued a statement sharply condemning the military's plans to livestream Hasan's execution.

"This decision is a barbaric promotion of a culture of death and must be reconsidered," he said.

Videos show ICE shooting in NYC unfolded in a few chaotic seconds

By REBECCA SANTANA, PHILIP MARCELO and JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Homeland Security officials said Friday that immigration officers feared for

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 51 of 69

their lives when they shot a man driving with his young son in New York, wounding him and sparking protests in the city.

Local police released surveillance camera and body camera footage of the chaotic moments before and after the gunfire, but those videos didn't immediately answer questions about whether the officers were justified in opening fire.

The 28-year-old Dominican national wounded in the ICE operation was being held at a federal jail in Brooklyn with a bullet still in his body, according to his lawyers, and was in pain, afraid for himself and deeply concerned for his unhurt but terrified 5-year-old son.

"You're not supposed to get shot in your car with your child sitting in the back. Period," his lawyer, Harold Solis, said following a court hearing.

The federal officers who opened fire weren't aware that the child was in the car, senior immigration officials said Friday.

New York City police security cameras recorded the start of the encounter, but not the shooting itself.

One video released by the department shows two immigration officers wearing civilian garb running up to a parked vehicle with their guns drawn and pointed at the driver. As one officer bashes the barrel of his gun against the car's windows, the driver peels away from those officers on the narrow street and out of view of the camera.

A second video taken from a different angle shows the scene a moment later as people scramble and dive for cover on the sidewalk. Only seconds elapsed between when agents first ran up to the car and when it came to rest against a concrete barrier a few yards down the street, with bullet holes in its windshield and a rear-seat window.

Homeland Security officials say driver rammed vehicles

Marcos Charles, the head of enforcement and removal operations for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said the driver had refused orders to exit his vehicle, and then accelerated and smashed into two government vehicles as ICE officers tried to block him from driving away.

"Our officers, using their training and believing that their life and the life of the partners and the general public were in danger, used their training and fired weapons," he said during a news conference in Washington.

He said the driver was injured "superficially" in the neck.

New York City police and local court records identified the wounded man as Oscar Belgal. His lawyers later gave the spelling of his last name as Bergal. Federal officials spelled his last name Bengal.

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin blamed the man for putting his son at risk by trying to evade officers.

The shooting was the latest violent encounter with ICE officers during President Donald Trump's nationwide immigration crackdown. The agency has on previous occasions said its officers felt in danger when operating against immigration targets or during protests. In some instances, evidence has later emerged casting doubt on those claims.

ICE previously tried to detain Belgal

Belgal associated with a robbery crew that used mopeds and weapons, and was convicted of grand larceny last year and sentenced to five years of probation, Charles said, adding that he evaded officers in September when ICE tried to arrest him for deportation.

Belgal has pleaded not guilty to narcotics-sale charges in an ongoing case. The Legal Aid Society, which represents him in that case, called Friday for a "full and transparent" investigation of the shooting, but declined further comment.

Attorneys representing Belgal filed an emergency petition challenging the legality of his detention, and a judge issued an order temporarily barring the government from removing him from the U.S.

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani and New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, both Democrats, said late Thursday that they had unsuccessfully pressed Mullin and Trump to release Belgal. They also urged the administration to immediately release ICE officers' body camera footage of the shooting and to halt immigration enforcement operations in the city.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 52 of 69

Body camera footage could answer questions about shooting

Mullin said ICE would release ICE body camera footage from the shooting, but declined to say when. Under agency policy, bodycam video can be released within 72 hours if "determined that it is in the best interests of the agency."

NYPD body camera footage released Friday shows the scene after the arrival of local police, who had not been involved in the immigration operation. Belgal is seen sitting on the pavement with his hands behind his back as federal officers attend to his injury. The police officers then lift Belgal, place him into their SUV and drive him to a nearby hospital.

"Yo put pressure. Put pressure," an officer can be heard saying as the SUV reverses down the block.

New York City Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said Thursday that the federal immigration officers fired seven rounds during the incident.

Mamdani called the shooting an "outrage."

"There is no justification for what we have seen today," he said late Thursday.

Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark said Friday that her office is investigating the shooting and working to determine "the appropriate course of action."

Trump administration officials blame 'sanctuary' policies for violence

Mullin accused New York officials of creating an unsafe atmosphere for immigration detentions.

Under laws in place for years, the city's jails don't honor most immigration detention requests, meaning people awaiting trial for minor crimes, or who have finished serving jail sentences, are regularly freed even if they are being sought for deportation.

"Why would they release these individuals back onto the streets?" Mullin said.

Homeland Security officials have cited the "weaponization" of vehicles in calling other shootings justified, though video footage has sometimes called those claims into question.

ICE agents have fired their guns during more than a dozen vehicle stops since last year, killing at least four people and wounding others.

Trump strikes deal with Putin to get diesel in sharp reversal of US policy weeks before midterms

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and COLLIN BINKLEY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said he has struck a deal to obtain diesel from Russia, a stunning reversal of years of U.S. pressure on Moscow over its war with Ukraine and an attempt to address high fuel prices ahead of the U.S. midterm elections.

Trump said on social media on Friday that he struck the deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin in a phone call in which he was expected to discuss a suspected case of plague in Russia. Instead, Trump announced that Russia will immediately supply more than 300,000 tons of diesel, followed by an additional 500,000 tons in November and 1 million tons "immediately thereafter." Russia will deliver an additional 3 million tons "within a short period of time" after that, he wrote.

Trump's shocking announcement was in stark contrast to a sweeping Russia sanctions law he signed last month that aimed at clamping down on the oil and gas revenues that fuel Russia's war against Ukraine.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called it "a weak decision, unfortunately, a weak decision by strong partners," according to a statement released by the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington.

Trump announced the deal as his envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner were meeting with Ukrainian officials in Miami to discuss a proposal to end the Russia-Ukraine war.

"I believe our team is simply being used as a smokescreen. And that is certainly not fair. It is certainly not how partners should treat each other," Zelenskyy said.

Trump's move casts doubt on the likelihood of the White House imposing new sanctions on Russia, given that the law that passed overwhelmingly by Congress directs the administration to target countries that purchase Russian oil and gas. Lawmakers this week had urged the Trump administration to act quickly to use the tools available to help Ukraine.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 53 of 69

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, along with Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, who is the top Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee, and Sen. Elizabeth Warren, the ranking Democrat on the Banking Committee, called Trump's announcement a betrayal of Ukraine, the European allies and U.S. national security.

"Enough is enough," the senators wrote. "The President must end his war with Iran instead of funding Russia's war machine."

Gas prices globally have surged as the war in Iran upends the energy sector. While diesel future prices dipped on the news on Friday, the national average for a gallon of diesel in the U.S. remained high at \$6.28, according to AAA, after hitting a record \$6.52 on Sept. 22.

Trump did not address the sanctions or Russia's war but said, "Lower prices for Americans, especially our Great Farmers, Ranchers, and Truckers, is my Greatest Priority."

Trump said later as he left the White House for a campaign rally that he was thankful for the deal. "I want to thank President Putin. To be honest with you, we have massive amounts of oil coming into our country, and it's diesel, which is what we want. So, thank you," Trump said. He did not answer shouted questions about the criticism from Zelenskyy.

Washington and Moscow offer few details on deal

The White House did not immediately respond to questions about who was paying for the Russian diesel or when it would become available.

A statement from Putin, released by the Kremlin on Friday, said during their call he and Trump dedicated "significant attention to the prospects of resolving the Ukrainian crisis" and also discussed "the situation around Iran and various aspects of bilateral relations."

Russia "confirmed its readiness to supply oil and oil products to the American and global markets," Putin said. "I am confident that this will have a positive impact on the entire global economy."

Russian presidential aide Yuri Ushakov, speaking later to reporters, wouldn't say whether the U.S. made any concessions in exchange for the supplies, or what, if anything, was promised to Russia in exchange.

Trump and Putin's deal draws immediate backlash

Zelenskyy, in a lengthy post online reacting to the deal, said Russia would repay it "with further terror and perfidy." He cast it as an investment in the war, allowing it to be prolonged.

"It plays into Russia's hands — allowing it to kill more, wage war for longer, have even less respect for America, and inflict even greater losses and damage on the world," he said.

Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal, who co-sponsored the Russia sanctions law, said Trump's decision "makes us complicit in Putin's war against Ukraine." In his scathing statement, Blumenthal invoked the memory of Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Trump ally and Russia hawk, for whom the law is named.

"This agreement with a murdering dictator is a stain on our nation's character, an insult to Lindsey Graham's memory, and directly contrary to Congress's intent in our bipartisan sanctions bill," he said.

Rep. Don Beyer, the senior House Democrat on the Joint Economic Committee, called Trump's announcement "infuriating."

"This is what we warned anyone who would listen: Trump isn't the slightest bit trustworthy when it comes to Russia," Beyer said in a statement on X.

The law Trump signed last month envisions sanctions on Russian officials, banks and a shadow fleet of tankers and bans all new U.S. investment in Russia and the handling of sovereign debt.

It also directed Trump to impose tariffs of up to 100% on the top five importers of Russian oil or natural gas, with an exception for countries that import less than 15% of Russia's natural gas exports and have taken significant steps to reduce those imports.

The U.S. has not imported Russian oil or gas since 2022, when the Biden administration banned the imports because of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Treasury Department moves to ease diesel sanctions for six months

Shortly after Trump made the announcement, the Treasury Department said it was immediately issuing a temporary license allowing Russian diesel to be supplied to the global market.

This is the latest license the U.S. Treasury has issued regarding Russian fuel shipments since the start of the Iran war early this year. But it is the first to ease sanctions on diesel for longer than the standard

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 54 of 69

30-day window since the start of the Ukraine war in February 2022.

The license means U.S. sanctions will not apply until April 2027 on deliveries of Russian diesel that has been loaded onto tankers as of Friday.

The extensions underscore how the fallout from the Iran war has boosted Moscow's ability to profit from its energy exports.

It's unclear how the move will impact oil prices

"What does this do to prices? I think probably not much," said Clayton Seigle, an energy strategist and expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

But, Seigle said the new deal is a "great benefit to Russia and to Putin," who are currently trying to offload their summer-grade diesel for the heavier winter and arctic grades that they will need in the coming months.

"It's kind of shuffling deck chairs on the Titanic," said Michael Lynch of the Energy Policy Research Foundation, a non-partisan research institution focused on energy and economics.

"If we get diesel from Russia, basically it means that their existing customers are not going to get it and they'll have to go somewhere else, and that will keep the price basically where it is now," Lynch said.

Russia, once a major exporter of diesel, has banned exports since July as it has struggled to meet demand inside the country because of Ukraine's repeated attacks on Russian oil refineries. The International Energy Agency says Russian diesel output has fallen by about 30%.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak told state news agency Tass that Russia is "immediately starting to lift restrictions on diesel exports ahead of schedule." He said Moscow could start supplies to the U.S. this month and Russia's domestic market will be "fully supplied" with diesel, as well.

Vance expresses doubts about Pentagon plan to livestream Fort Hood shooter's execution

By JULIE CARR SMYTH and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

HEBRON, Ky. (AP) — Vice President JD Vance cast doubt Friday on whether the Pentagon will livestream the execution of Fort Hood shooter Nidal Malik Hasan in December but told reporters that if it is livestreamed, "I'm not going to be watching it."

The Republican vice president said, "I don't know that that's actually going to happen," when asked about the plans that the Pentagon confirmed Thursday. But Vance then tried to set aside the controversy over the plans for a public execution and said Hasan's crimes should not be forgotten.

Hasan was convicted of killing 13 people and injuring 32 others in a shooting spree at the military base in 2009.

"So whatever the controversy is about the method of the execution, I hope that people don't forget that this is a guy who brutally murdered a lot of innocent people," Vance said.

"Now, that said, I mean, look, if it's ultimately livestreamed, I'm not going to be watching it," he added.

Vance is a convert to the Catholic Church, which has long opposed capital punishment.

President Donald Trump had endorsed Hasan's execution by firing squad during a Wednesday political event in Texas, suggesting "he deserves it."

However, Trump was noncommittal when asked Friday whether he wanted the execution livestreamed. "Well, they're making a determination about that," Trump told reporters before traveling to a political event in Syracuse, New York.

But he again endorsed the firing squad as the method.

"He will be killed. He will be, through firing squad," Trump told reporters. "I really don't care how he goes, as long as he goes. And I think the death penalty is a very worthy way of going for him."

Trump did not answer when asked if he would watch a livestreamed execution.

Earlier Friday morning, the head of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops condemned the U.S. government's decision to livestream Hasan's execution.

"It is with shock and great sorrow that I have learned of the Department of War's decision to publicly

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 55 of 69

livestream the execution," Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, president of the conference, said in a statement. He added that the decision was "a barbaric promotion of a culture of death and must be reconsidered."

Trump approved the execution by firing squad days after a failed attempt to execute Christa Pike by lethal injection late last month pushed Tennessee's governor to halt further executions in that state this year.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said the military hasn't executed a service member by firing squad since World War II. The last military execution took place on April 13, 1961, when Army Pvt. John Bennett was executed by hanging.

From Congress, lawmakers from both parties, Republicans and Democrats, widely condemned what they called the "gruesome" and "disgusting" decision to livestream the execution and implored the Pentagon to reverse course.

"Beyond disgusting," said Sen. Thom Tillis, the Republican from North Carolina. "Public executions are what oppressive dictatorships like Iran and Afghanistan do. It should not be happening in America."

The lawmakers said the authoritarian-style spectacle would send a message that runs deeply counter to American values and its system of justice, and risks putting U.S. service personnel and others overseas at risk of blowback.

Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Intelligence Committee, condemned Hegseth's plan, saying there's a reason why "almost no countries in the world engage in this barbaric practice."

Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska said how the U.S. carries out its system of justice matters, and urged the Pentagon "to reverse this gruesome decision."

Republican Sen. John Curtis of Utah pointed to Rome's bloody spectacles of the past said Hegseth's plan to livestream the execution risks "feeding that appetite" for corrosive entertainment.

"I urge him to reconsider," Curtis said.

Trump names commentator Katie Zacharia of his media company as next White House press secretary

By THOMAS BEAUMONT and COLLIN BINKLEY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump announced Friday that Katie Zacharia, a communications adviser for his media company, will succeed Karoline Leavitt as White House press secretary.

Trump revealed his selection of Zacharia on his Truth Social platform, where he often makes political and official announcements. Zacharia is a conservative commentator for Trump Media & Technology Group, which operates the social media site.

In naming Zacharia, Trump described her as "a loyal and brilliant supporter, right from the beginning."

In a social media post, Zacharia thanked Trump and called it the "honor of a lifetime." She added that Trump's leadership is "a blessing to this country."

"The work ahead is to continue delivering strong results for our Country and communicating to the American people the major wins that this Administration is making every single day," she wrote on X.

Zacharia briefly worked as a spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security earlier this year and has been a commentator for Fox News and Newsmax. Trump said Zacharia had been involved in his presidential campaigns, notably in swing states.

A request for comment left with Zacharia was not immediately answered. A LinkedIn profile noted that she earned a law degree from Pepperdine University.

Leavitt announced her departure Aug. 12 and left the position Aug. 27.

She will serve as an on-air contributor on Fox News Channel beginning Nov. 1, the network said Monday.

Leavitt became press secretary in January 2025, and left the position, she said, to spend more time with her young children. Prior to serving in the White House, Leavitt was national press secretary for Trump's 2024 presidential campaign.

Mike Ditka, the quintessential Chicago Bear and a Pro Football Hall of Famer, dies at 86

By JIM LITKE AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Mike Ditka, who personified the toughness and grit of Chicago in a Hall of Fame career as a player and coach of the Bears and the leader of arguably the most dominant team in NFL history, has died. He was 86.

Ditka's family announced his death on Friday in a statement.

"It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, Mike Ditka," the family said. "While the world knew Mike as a Hall of Fame football player, legendary coach, and leader of the Chicago Bears' Super Bowl XX championship team, we knew him as the heart of our family. Mike will be missed beyond measure and remembered forever."

Nicknamed "Iron Mike" as a player, Ditka helped revolutionize the tight end position and in 1988 was the first to play at the spot to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He then moved to the sidelines and later took over as Chicago's coach. His 1985 team featured one of the game's most dominant defenses ever. It also had enough outsized personalities to record a rap video, "The Super Bowl Shuffle," and back up their boasting in the championship game three months later.

He was arguably the NFL's most recognizable — and imitated — personality during his time as Chicago's coach with his thick but neatly groomed mustache and sweater vest with "BEARS" emblazoned across the chest. The iconic look is still mimicked by fans at Bears games decades later. That along with his fiery, red-faced sideline tantrums inspired the popular "Da Bears" skit on "Saturday Night Live" during the 1980s.

After retiring as a coach, Ditka became a restaurateur, pitchman and TV personality, as well as a forceful advocate for improved medical and retirement benefits for former players.

Ditka was tough and gruff, the quintessential Chicago Bear. He did everything from order off the menu to knock defensive backs on their butts with a growl. His adopted hometown reveled in every minute.

Revered as "Da Coach," Ditka was the ringmaster of the 1985 Bears, one of the most dominant and perhaps the zaniest Super Bowl-winning team in league history.

"When I got to Chicago in the summer of 1985, Mike Ditka and the Chicago Bears were king," former President Barack Obama wrote on X. "Coach Ditka set the tone for a team that was punishing, dominant, and fun — and the city loved him for it. I'm thinking of the Ditka family and Bears fans everywhere on the passing of a legend."

Ditka was enshrined in the College and Pro Football Halls of Fame and the Bears said during a ceremony in 2013 that his "No. 89" jersey will be the last one retired by the team.

"Player. Coach. Legend," the Bears wrote in a tribute on social media. "Mike Ditka embodied the spirit of Chicago and will be deeply missed."

Ditka was the first person enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, who had won Super Bowls as a player, assistant coach and head coach. Tom Flores, inducted in 2021, is the only other person to accomplish the feat.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said Ditka "epitomized football over so many years" during his career.

"He brought intensity, authenticity and an unmistakable personality to everything he did," Goodell said in a statement. "As a Hall of Fame player, Super Bowl-winning coach with his beloved and iconic Bears, and as a broadcaster, Mike served as an ambassador for the game and inspired generations of fans. Through his work with the Gridiron Greats Assistance Fund, Mike was a champion for taking care of those who helped build our game. We extend our deepest condolences to Diana and the Ditka family."

Ditka got his "Iron Mike" nickname during his western Pennsylvania upbringing

He was born in Carnegie, Pennsylvania, the son of a welder who changed the family name from Dyczko. He grew up in nearby Aliquippa — which also later produced fellow Pro Football Hall of Famers Ty Law and Darrelle Revis — close to the coal-mining and steel-manufacturing plants that dotted the western part of the state, a big, talented, three-sport athlete and All-American at Pitt whose bruising style made his first nickname, "Iron Mike," a good fit.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 57 of 69

"When our players see Mike Ditka's name, I want them to understand how he competed," current Pitt football coach Pat Narduzzi said in a statement. "He gave everything he had and expected the same from the guys beside him. That's Pitt. He showed us that tough people find a way through tough times and taught us to fight for the names on the front and back of our jerseys."

Selected fifth overall by flinty Chicago owner George Halas in the 1961 draft, Ditka went on to Rookie of the Year honors, multiple Pro Bowl trips and the 1963 NFL Championship. He and Baltimore's John Mackey changed the tight end position and offensive schemes forever. He was a battering ram of a blocker, but Ditka was just as likely to catch a short pass and pinball through an entire secondary or outrace a lone safety on a deep touchdown throw.

He left Chicago in 1966, playing briefly for Philadelphia and Dallas.

Soon after his playing days, Ditka became "Da Coach" of the Bears.

Ditka moved to the sideline in 1973 as an assistant to the revered Tom Landry and stayed with the Cowboys for eight years, including winning the Super Bowl during the 1977 season, before returning to a hero's welcome in Chicago as head coach in 1982.

Ditka's return to the Bears lasted 10 tumultuous years, including five straight NFC Central titles, the Super Bowl win, a DUI conviction, a heart attack, a long-running feud with defensive coordinator Buddy Ryan and, finally, a new nickname — "Da Coach."

To Hall of Fame linebacker Mike Singletary, the seeds of what was to come were planted in Ditka's first meeting with the team. He laid out his vision, saying Chicago would be in the Super Bowl in three years — and many of the players in the room would not be around for it.

"When I first heard him when he walked in the room, to me Coach Ditka had the opportunity to be the greatest coach of all time because he had the fire," Singletary said at the Bears' 100th anniversary celebration in June 2019. "I don't know how George Halas coached. But I can imagine that the fire and intensity and passion that Coach Ditka exuded that first day set the tone for exactly what he said: 'Three years from now, we're going to be in the Super Bowl.' And that was 1982. In '85, we were there and it was because of that vision."

The Bears were a colorful bunch, with Ditka leading the way.

The public beefs with Ryan mirrored the behind-the-scenes battles that Ditka waged trying to contain a team bristling with outsized personalities.

"It was more than a team," Ditka once said. "It was a team of characters that had character that played for a crazy man, who let him be crazy and had fun doing it and don't apologize for it ever. I wouldn't want to be one of these suits walking around on the sideline today."

"I have no desire to be that. I was what I was and they were what they were and, damn, it was fun."

It wasn't until two dozen players recorded "The Super Bowl Shuffle" — an audacious rap-styled video released three months ahead of the 1986 title game — that the rest of the football world wondered whether Ditka was losing his grip.

His players never did.

"We call him 'Sybil' after that girl in the movie," quarterback Jim McMahon once explained. "You know, the one that had all those personalities. Mike will be calm one minute, then throw a clipboard the next. People don't understand that, but we do."

The Bears demolished the New England Patriots 46-10 in the Super Bowl, but Ditka often said he regretted having McMahon and defensive tackle William "The Refrigerator" Perry run for touchdowns instead of Walter Payton, Chicago's loyal and long-suffering running back.

Ryan departed for a head coaching job in Philadelphia soon after. While the Bears continued to be a contender for most of the next five years, a 5-11 season prompted Ditka's departure in 1992.

Ditka's last coaching tenure in New Orleans was highlighted by a stunning trade.

After a five-year absence, he returned to coaching with the New Orleans Saints, but failed to revive the franchise. His tenure with the team might be best remembered for the trade before the 1999 NFL draft when he dealt a package of eight draft picks — including each one the Saints had that year and two of

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 58 of 69

its first three selections in 2000 — to Washington to move up from 12th overall to No. 5 so New Orleans could select running back Ricky Williams.

After a miserable 1999 season ended with a 3-13 record — Ditka's worst as either a player or coach — he left the sidelines for good.

"We proudly honor his chapters as a head coach in New Orleans," the Saints said in a statement. "While his time leading our franchise on the field was brief in longevity, his presence left an indelible mark on our organization. Mike approached his tenure with the Saints with the same bold authenticity and relentless drive that defined his entire career."

Ditka's post-football career featured TV appearances and advocating for former players

Ditka's face and demeanor were so familiar by then that a second act became an easy segue. He began building a stable of restaurants and appeared as himself in TV sitcoms from "Cheers" to "Third Rock from the Sun," as well as shows such as "L.A. Law."

He also stayed close to the game as an NFL analyst and game-day show personality — first at NBC after his Bears tenure, and then at CBS and ESPN after his time with the Saints.

"Mike Ditka was larger than life, an iconic football figure whose presence commanded attention the moment he walked into a room," ESPN VP and executive producer Seth Markman said in a statement. "He was fearless and candid on the air, bringing the same authenticity and conviction that defined his football career."

"For those of us who worked with him at ESPN, we were able to experience another side of Mike: a kind, generous and genuinely caring colleague who treated everyone with warmth and respect, whether he knew you or not."

Ditka's high-profile status also made him an effective advocate to secure improved health and retirement benefits for former players.

His name also circulated for years in Illinois political circles. Though he never ran for office, Ditka described himself as a staunch conservative and was mentioned several times as a possible Republican candidate, including a congressional race against then state Senator Obama for the U.S. Senate.

"Mike Ditka," ESPN NFL host Chris Berman said in a statement, "was a national treasure."

FlyDubai co-pilot intended to crash plane into Tel Aviv airport, UAE prosecutor says

By ERIN CUNNINGHAM undefined

JERUSALEM (AP) — The axe-wielding co-pilot who attacked the captain of a FlyDubai flight to Tel Aviv last month intended to seize control of the airplane and fly it into the passenger terminal at Israel's main international airport, authorities in the United Arab Emirates said Friday.

The suspect, an Omani national, did so "with the intention of causing the greatest possible number of human casualties," the UAE's top prosecutor said in a statement carried by the state news agency WAM. Most of the 174 passengers on the flight were from Israel.

The statement said the co-pilot "drew inspiration" from the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the United States and used two previous flights from Dubai to Tel Aviv to "familiarize himself with the flight route and the airport."

It said none of FlyDubai's security or professional checks had indicated that the pilot, who was identified by The Associated Press as 29-year-old Hamam al-Hammami, harbored extremist views or plans to carry out an attack.

Hammami "admitted that he had acted alone, without the involvement of others," the statement said, adding that he "provided a detailed confession outlining his motives and the stages of planning and execution" in the presence of his lawyer. It also suggested he was radicalized at a mosque in Australia while attending the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in 2017.

The update from the public prosecutor Friday was the most comprehensive since the UAE took over the

investigation shortly after the incident on Sept. 30. FlyDubai is a government-owned airline.

The crisis unfolded suddenly in the skies above Jordan and Saudi Arabia, when Hammami attacked the captain, Smit Machchhar, with a crash axe in the cockpit. Bloodied and beaten, Machchhar managed to open the cockpit door, alerting passengers and crew to the assault.

Passengers detained Hammami and helped steady the aircraft, which had plunged roughly 14,000 to 16,000 feet in less than a minute. Two reserve pilots then guided the plane to an emergency landing at Tabuk airport in Saudi Arabia.

US hits International Criminal Court with sweeping sanctions as part of drive to dismantle tribunal

By MATTHEW LEE and MOLLY QUELL Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration has imposed sweeping new sanctions on the International Criminal Court as part of its campaign to dismantle the tribunal over investigations into the United States and its allies, including Israel.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced the sanctions Friday, after the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to South African jurist Navi Pillay, a former judge at the ICC and other international courts. Trump has coveted that prize for himself.

"We will ban transactions with this rogue court, cutting off their resources and crippling its ability to operate against us," Rubio said in a video address posted to social media. "The United States and the American people are not subject to the jurisdiction of this fake ICC."

The sanctions cut the court off from U.S.-based financial services, technology companies and even using U.S. dollars. They set a six-month timeline for U.S. companies and individuals that have business with the court to wind that business down.

The ICC denounced the step as an attack on the rule of law and the foundations of international order, themes that Rubio had appeared to embrace only two days ago in a speech in front of the Acropolis in Athens.

"It is an attempt to obstruct the course of justice and to prevent the court from doing what it was created to do," the court said in a statement. "It is an assault on the rule of law and on the very foundations of the international legal order which strikes at the simple principle that no one stands above the law."

ICC President Tomoko Akane, a citizen of U.S. ally Japan, said the court would "continue to fully discharge its mandate, with independence and impartiality, acting only on the basis of the law and the evidence, for the sake of the countless victims of grave crimes."

She also appealed to other ICC members for support. "This is not just about defending a single institution, but about safeguarding the international order grounded upon the rule of law."

Rights groups also denounced the sanctions.

"This existential attack must fail," said Erika Guevara Rosas, an Amnesty International senior director. "States must take concrete action to resist the imposition of these measures and actively protect the Court."

The court's host country of the Netherlands has been preparing for weeks for the move. One possible measure to mitigate sanctions is the EU "blocking statute," which could be used to protect European court staff by preventing European companies from complying with the U.S. measures. Dutch Foreign Minister Tom Berendsen has called the blocking statute the "nuclear option" in countering possible sanctions, but said the Netherlands has been in talks with the European Commission to ensure that if it is necessary it can be quickly enacted.

In a joint statement, Canada, Denmark, Germany, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom expressed strong disagreement with the U.S. sanctions.

"We will continue to work together to support the court's vital work, uphold the rules-based international system, and advance accountability," the statement said.

"If put into effect, these sanctions will have a significant impact on the court's work, its dedicated staff and their families. They work every day to bring those accused of the most serious international crimes

to justice and to support their victims.”

Rubio said U.S. allies should join in the U.S. actions. “If they do not, the United States will continue its campaign to dismantle the ICC, piece by piece, until Americans are threatened no longer,” he said.

A number of countries have withdrawn from the court this year, including Venezuela and Chad. The South Pacific island nation of Naoero was the most recent to announce it would quit.

Israel’s scorn of Nobel Peace Prize laureate highlights its combative relationship with UN bodies

By JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

The decision to award this year’s Nobel Peace Prize to veteran jurist Navi Pillay has exposed the vast gulf between Israel and global institutions charged with upholding international law, a rift that has widened over the war in Gaza.

Over a decades-long career, Pillay served at the highest levels of international organizations created in the wake of World War II to prevent a recurrence of its horrors. As a young lawyer in her native South Africa she campaigned against apartheid and for the release of Nelson Mandela, and as an international jurist she helped sentence dozens of people convicted of taking part in the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

But her leadership of a U.N.-backed panel that determined Israel committed genocide in Gaza — allegations it vehemently denies — has led many in Israel to see the Nobel nod as a high-profile rebuke of the country just days after the anniversary of the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack that triggered the war.

Allegations of genocide are particularly explosive in Israel, which was founded in part as a refuge for survivors of the Nazi Holocaust.

“Awarding Pillay the Nobel Peace Prize isn’t a recognition of justice. It’s the grotesque weaponization of an award to legitimize anti-Israel hatred and prejudice,” Israel’s Foreign Ministry said on X. “Joseph Goebbels is certainly applauding from hell,” it added, referring to the Nazi propagandist.

The vitriol comes from the widespread perception in Israel that the United Nations and other international bodies are biased against it. The United States has echoed that criticism and announced a raft of sanctions aimed at dismantling the International Criminal Court hours after the Nobel Prize announcement.

But Pillay’s findings over the years were largely consistent with those of major human rights groups and other international bodies, and the facts she cited in reaching her conclusions had been widely reported.

Pillay led a panel that accused Israel of genocide in Gaza

Pillay led a three-member expert panel commissioned by the U.N. Human Rights Council that concluded last year that Israel had committed genocide in Gaza.

Their 22-page report cited the death toll; Israeli restrictions on humanitarian aid that led to widespread hunger; a policy of “systematically destroying” the healthcare system; the direct targeting of children and “explicit statements” of intent by Israeli civilian and military authorities.

Human rights groups and many experts on genocide have reached similar conclusions.

The commission has also issued reports accusing Hamas of war crimes during its Oct. 7, 2023, attack, when militants killed some 1,200 people and abducted 251 others. Israel’s retaliatory offensive has killed over 74,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry. The ministry, part of the Hamas-run government, maintains detailed records seen as generally reliable by U.N. agencies and many independent experts.

Israel has vehemently denied the allegations, casting them as an antisemitic blood libel. The Israeli military says it takes extraordinary measures to prevent harm to civilians and blames their deaths on Hamas because it operates in densely populated areas.

The International Court of Justice, the U.N.’s top court, is investigating genocide allegations brought by South Africa, and the International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Pillay currently serves as an ad hoc judge in the ICJ’s ongoing genocide case against Myanmar and served as an ICC judge from 2003-2008.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 61 of 69

Israel has rejected the commission since its inception

The commission was created after the 2021 Israel-Hamas war and is the first to have an open-ended mandate. Critics say such permanent scrutiny shows anti-Israel bias, while supporters say it's needed to keep tabs on injustices faced by Palestinians under decades of Israeli rule.

Israel has refused to cooperate with the commission or other U.N.-endorsed investigations. It has pointed to the presence of notoriously repressive countries on the 47-member Human Rights Council and accused it of relentlessly singling out Israel while ignoring violations elsewhere.

A member of the commission, Indian jurist Miloon Kothari, sparked controversy in 2022 when he referred to a "Jewish lobby" in a media interview and questioned Israel's U.N. membership, citing its alleged violations of member state obligations.

Pillay issued a letter at the time saying Kothari had been misquoted and that the commission does not question Israel's status or U.N. membership.

She addressed the wider criticism in an interview with The Associated Press last year after she and the other commission members resigned, citing personal reasons and the need for change. They have since been replaced.

"We're an independent panel," she said. "People who accuse us of being antisemitic ... they twist the facts, they invent facts, falsify facts. I would like to see them challenge the report: Which of the facts that we have set out are incorrect?" she said.

Pillay also investigated Israel's decades-long occupation of the West Bank

Even before the latest Israel-Hamas war, Pillay had repeatedly taken Israel to task over its open-ended military rule over millions of Palestinians.

In a report released more than a year before the Oct. 7 attack, the commission accused Israel of de facto annexation of the West Bank, which it captured alongside Gaza and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want an independent state encompassing all three territories.

The International Court of Justice later issued a landmark ruling that Israel's occupation of the territories was unlawful.

The commission had said Israel's continuous expansion of Jewish settlements, its demolition of Palestinian homes and its fragmentation of Palestinian life were aimed at securing permanent rule over the territory, which is home to some 3 million Palestinians and 500,000 Israeli settlers.

Palestinians in the West Bank live under Israeli military rule, with the Palestinian Authority administering population centers. The settlers have Israeli citizenship, including freedom of movement and the right to vote.

Israel's U.N. mission rejected the report at the time of its release, calling it part of an "anti-Israel agenda" at the international body.

But Israel's current government and most of its political class is opposed to Palestinian statehood, and Netanyahu has repeatedly said Israel will maintain permanent control over the territories.

Israel views the West Bank as the biblical and historical cradle of Judaism, and says its withdrawal would pave the way for a Hamas-run state that would threaten its existence. The last substantive Israeli-Palestinian peace talks broke down in 2009, after Netanyahu returned to office.

Pillay's commission had also raised concerns about Israel's potential annexation of Gaza, saying its efforts to carve out buffer zones and military corridors were "vastly disproportionate to any reasonable military objective."

It said calls by Israeli officials for the "voluntary migration" of much of Gaza's population from the war-ravaged territory, if implemented, would amount to forcible transfer, a crime against humanity.

Republicans once raced to embrace Trump. Their debate answers tell a different story now

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Not long ago, Georgia gubernatorial nominee Rick Jackson eagerly compared himself to his fellow billionaire in the Oval Office. He promised to be Donald Trump “with a Southern tone.” And sharing a summer rally stage, Jackson pointed at the president and declared, “I’m going to be this man’s favorite governor.”

On the debate stage this week with his Democratic opponent, however, Jackson discussed Trump only when Keisha Lance Bottoms brought him up. And he assured his audience that he’d “stand up to anybody.”

Jackson is not alone in his recalibration: Republican nominees for Senate, the U.S. House and governor’s offices across the country are sidestepping Trump or openly distancing themselves as they debate before Election Day.

Those tactics, not unlike Republicans scrubbing Trump from their campaign websites, are the latest signs of how much Trump’s standing has fallen because of voters’ frustration with inflation, the Iran war and other matters. And the dynamics highlight the perilous options many Republicans face as they try to stitch together winning coalitions that go beyond Trump’s core supporters.

“Republicans right now are facing a voter turnout problem” in their own party, said GOP pollster Paul Shumaker, and must win “unaffiliated voters” who care most about the economy.

“You have to have something significant to change this narrative,” Shumaker said. But, he explained, that means “a significant victory in Iran” and seismic economic improvements — not something any Republican midterm candidate can force from behind a debate podium.

There’s a Trump tightrope on Iran, tariffs and rhetoric

Some Republicans are taking specific positions at odds with the president.

Michigan Senate candidate Mike Rogers said in his debate Thursday with Democrat Abdul El-Sayed that he’d urged the White House privately to reach a trade deal with Canada and end the president’s tariffs. Canada is Michigan’s largest trading partner, as it is for many Great Lakes and Midwestern states.

Days before, Rogers unveiled a new ad in which he said, “We know that Canada is not our enemy. We need to end the tariff war — now.”

That’s a noticeable departure from Rogers’ earlier, less specific statements praising Trump’s “America First” economic agenda while saying tariffs are not a “one-size-fits-all” solution.

Another Michigan Republican, Rep. Tom Barrett, already had bucked the president by voting for a war powers resolution intended to assert congressional authority over military actions in Iran. But debating Democrat Will Lawrence in their central Michigan district, Barrett added a criticism of Trump’s rhetoric Monday in Nebraska, where he floated the possibility of Iran attacking San Diego and Los Angeles.

The president mentioned those cities as part of his argument that higher gas prices because of his Iran war are a “small price to pay” to keep the country safe. But Democrats seized on the remarks, some insisting that Trump was calling for Iran to attack U.S. cities.

Barrett was asked whether Trump’s words were acceptable. Given the opportunity to echo the White House explanation that Trump was offhandedly mentioning a worst-case scenario he was trying to prevent, Barrett offered no defense.

“Nope,” he said flatly.

Many Republicans prefer a more generalized stiff arm

Reflecting the complex electoral balance, most Republicans have attempted to separate themselves without naming any firm difference with the president.

Running for a promotion to the Senate, Iowa U.S. Rep. Ashley Hinson tried in her debate Wednesday against Democrat Josh Turek to reconcile her earlier promises to be a Trump ally in Congress’s upper chamber. She said it would be “really easy” to keep her word and still be bipartisan — a buzz word she’s already been featuring in her campaign.

“I’ll be President Donald Trump’s ally when it is important for Iowa, but I will push back on him — he

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 63 of 69

knows this, because I talk to him regularly — on things that are wrong for our state,” she said. “That’s true no matter who’s in the White House. That’s true no matter who is governing and who has the gavel.”

That’s the same path Jackson took in Georgia, as he pivoted away from Trump by embracing outgoing Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, a Republican who has clashed with the president, starting with Trump’s false claims that he won Georgia in the 2020 presidential election.

“I will stand up to anybody, just like Brian Kemp has done,” Jackson said.

Another Republican House member, Mike Lawler of New York, made a point of name-checking a Democratic colleague, New Jersey’s Josh Gottheimer, and discussing bills they’d work on together. It was part of his argument that he’s able to challenge Trump and the party line.

“When I agree with the president I say it. When I disagree with the president, I say it,” he said in his closing remarks.

Hinson, meanwhile, referenced bills she’s worked on in the House that have been signed into law by both President Joe Biden and Trump.

But she also avoided criticizing Trump when asked about the president sending Affordable Care Act rebate checks to some Americans and promising a \$5,000 bonus after the midterm elections if Republicans retain control of the House and Senate.

She said she “cares very deeply” about making sure Congress maintains the power of the purse and thinks it’s important to “live better within our means.”

Democrats pounce on either approach

Regardless of the Republican efforts, Democrats have continued peppering them with attacks and retorts about Trump. The most heated moments came when Democrat Cait Conley repeatedly said Lawler always voted with Trump.

“No matter how many times you say 100% of the time,” the congressman answered, “it’s provably false.”

When Rogers conceded in his back-and-forth with El-Sayed that the administration “probably” made errors in its mass deportation strategy, the Democrat answered swiftly.

“He said it was probably not right. I mean, it’s definitely not right,” El-Sayed said. “They killed two people.”

And while Georgia’s Jackson seemed uncomfortable talking about Trump, Bottoms was more than happy to mention him.

“I’m not running to be his favorite governor,” she said. “I’m running to work on behalf of people like you.”

Trump establishes committee to investigate Federal Reserve’s Lisa Cook in latest effort to fire her

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump opened another chapter in his effort to fire Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook Friday by establishing a “committee of inquiry” to investigate allegations that she made false statements in mortgage applications.

The inquiry will include a hearing at the White House Nov. 5, Trump said in a written memo, that Cook “shall” attend to answer questions from the committee. The hearing wouldn’t be public but a transcript would be published, the memo said.

Trump’s extraordinary demand that Cook testify before the committee will likely renew concerns about threats to the Federal Reserve’s independence. The president has repeatedly called for the central bank to cut its key interest rate, but just last month, the Fed raised it instead, led by Chairman Kevin Warsh, whom Trump appointed earlier this year.

Trump’s attempts to fire Cook from the Fed’s seven-member board of governors represent the first time in the central bank’s 113-year history that a president has sought to remove a Fed governor. Cook was appointed by former President Joe Biden and is the first Black woman on the Fed’s board. Trump’s attacks on her followed other efforts to oust or indict Black officials, such as New York Attorney General Letitia James and Gen. Charles Q. Brown, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

“As President, it is my job to ensure the laws are faithfully executed, including by firing subordinates who

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 64 of 69

cannot be trusted to tell the truth and follow the law," Trump wrote in the memorandum.

Cook's attorneys, Abbe Lowell and Norman Eisen, said they were considering having Cook appear at the Nov. 5 hearing and respond to the charges.

"We have engaged with the White House to evaluate whether the process proposed has a possibility of being a genuine one and not simply a box checking exercise," Lowell and Eisen said in a statement. "Governor Cook welcomes the opportunity to present the facts so she can clear her name and demonstrate there is no legal basis to fire her."

The "committee of inquiry" will be composed of Kevin Hassett, the president's top economic adviser, who has frequently echoed Trump's criticisms of the Fed; Keith Sonderling, the acting director of the Office of Government Ethics, whom the president has also appointed to lead the Labor Department, and Andrea Lucas, the chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, whom Trump appointed in November 2025.

Trump initially tried to fire Cook in August 2025 after alleging she had committed mortgage fraud by declaring two different properties to be her "primary" residence in mortgage applications in 2021. Mortgages on primary homes can often receive a lower interest rate or other beneficial terms.

Cook has denied any wrongdoing and has not been charged with a crime. Lowell and Eisen have previously said Cook committed an "inadvertent error" and did refer to one of the properties as a vacation home in other documents.

"An inadvertent error is not fraud, as the President and a third of his cabinet should know because they reportedly did the same thing," Lowell and Eisen said in August.

The Federal Reserve declined to comment on Trump's announcement.

Trump and some of his economic advisers have blamed the Fed's broader rate-setting committee, which includes 12 voting members and 19 officials in total, for forcing last month's rate hike, even though it followed comments by Warsh in August that signaled higher rates were likely. As a member of the board of governors, Cook is also one of the 12 voting members of the committee. The vote to lift rates Sept. 16 was unanimous.

The move also follows a Supreme Court ruling in June that Cook could keep her job after Trump sought to fire her last year. That ruling included a footnote that said nothing prevented Trump from "trying again" as long as she was given proper notice and an opportunity to respond to the charges.

Trump said the committee of inquiry will seek to establish whether there is "cause" to fire Cook, as required under the law governing the Fed. The Supreme Court said in June that a for-cause firing required an alleged offense that was serious and related to an official's job.

Scott Alvarez, formerly the chief counsel for the Fed, said that President William Howard Taft set up a similar commission in 1912 to remove two officials from an independent agency. The commission created by Trump goes beyond the type of process the Supreme Court said was needed to fire Cook.

"It's an attempt to show that he's really giving Cook as much process as possible," Alvarez said.

Still, the allegations against Cook don't appear to meet the "for cause" standard set out by the Supreme Court, Alvarez said.

Other analysts said that Trump will likely use the process to ultimately fire Cook.

"We do not see why the White House would start this process if it were not trying to create a way to justify removing Cook from her job," Jaret Seiberg, managing director of TD Cowen's Washington Research Group, said in a note to clients.

Hurricane Simon strengthens to a Category 2 storm, the National Hurricane Center says

MIAMI (AP) — Hurricane Simon has strengthened to a Category 2 storm and was forecast to approach Mexico's coast as a major hurricane this weekend, the National Hurricane Center said Friday.

The center said maximum sustained winds have increased to nearly 100 mph (155 kph), and that Simon is expected to continue strengthening rapidly during the next day or so. Simon is forecast to become a

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 65 of 69

major hurricane by late Friday and strengthen further on Saturday.

U.S. forecasters earlier issued a hurricane warning for parts of the central and southwest coast, where hurricane-force winds were expected within 36 hours.

Simon is expected to bring heavy rainfall over parts of southwestern Mexico, with rain possibly concentrated across the coast of Jalisco and parts of Michoacan, Colima and Nayarit. Forecasters warned of life-threatening flooding and mudslides.

Simon was centered about 335 kilometers (210 miles) south of Manzanillo and 500 kilometers (310 miles) south-southeast of Cabo Corrientes.

The state of Jalisco suspended classes on Friday and Monday in 22 coastal municipalities and began evacuating dozens of people from at-risk areas. It also asked the tourism sector in Puerto Vallarta, a popular destination for U.S. tourists, to ensure that both workers and visitors are fully accommodated in shelters or safe zones by Friday afternoon.

"If we let our guard down and try to come up with a last-minute action plan, it is highly likely that lives will be lost," said the state director of civil protection, Sergio Ramírez.

Governor Pablo Lemus urged the public to stay informed at all times given the hurricane's "highly erratic behavior," which has caused it to change direction between Manzanillo and Puerto Vallarta.

"What is certain is that it will hit the coast of Jalisco with very heavy rains starting this Friday, throughout the weekend, and on Monday," he said.

The state of Guerrero has also suspended classes and non-essential activities in areas along the coast and in the central part of the state due to heavy rains brought by Simon since Thursday.

The flooding hit the port of Acapulco the hardest, where some streets were turned into rivers, with vehicles swept away by the current and homes and businesses flooded. There have been no reported casualties, said Governor Evelyn Salgado.

The U.S. Embassy also issued alerts advising against entering the water or walking on the beach and urging travelers to heed the warnings of local authorities.

Farther north, Tropical Storm Rachel was expected to reach Baja California, northwestern Mexico and Southern California this weekend. It had maximum winds of 85 kph (50 mph) and was forecast to weaken, though it may bring heavy rain to the area.

Tropical storm activity has been above average this season in the Pacific, due to the effects of a strong El Niño.

The climate phenomenon typically depresses storm activity in the Atlantic. Hurricane Isaias, which was expected to hit the U.S. Gulf Coast late Friday or Saturday, developed more than four months into the Atlantic hurricane season.

FBI arrests suspect in ShinyHunters hack of the bureau's jobs portal

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

The FBI has arrested an accused co-conspirator of a criminal hacking group that said last month that it had breached the bureau's jobs portal and obtained sensitive and personal data on nearly all employees of the law enforcement agency, Director Kash Patel said Friday.

The arrest was the latest targeting ShinyHunters, the group that claimed responsibility for the hack, as the FBI continues a global investigation into the breach of its network, which Patel said "occurred on a platform managed by a third-party vendor."

"We will continue to work closely with our partners to disrupt what's left of the ShinyHunters group and their associates, no matter where they operate," Patel said in a statement.

The identity of the person arrested was not immediately clear, nor what charges they might face.

In a message taking responsibility for the hack and announcing the collection of sensitive information, ShinyHunters said it had taken action over false allegations contained in an FBI public advisory from May that described the organization as a "cyber criminal group specializing in large-scale data breaches and

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 66 of 69

extortion.”

That advisory characterized ShinyHunters as “threat actors” who often “use their real or exaggerated claims of access to sensitive or personal information to prompt payment from victims,” commonly harass or threaten people and “may falsely claim to have sensitive or compromising information, including embarrassing photographs or videos of victims, which frequently do not exist.”

Experts said that although the data that appeared to be compromised was the type of personal information that is routinely accessed during a breach, the hack nonetheless had alarming national security implications given that it could expose agents and their families to extortion, swatting and other harassment and because the identities of spouses were also said to have been obtained.

The midterms stakes are high for these 2028 presidential prospects

By STEVE PEOPLES, JILL COLVIN and JOEY CAPPELLETTI Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — As most of the political world focuses on next month’s midterm elections, the shadow primary for the 2028 presidential contest is quietly playing out in public view.

Democratic and Republican presidential prospects have been crisscrossing the country, raising money and tapping their political connections to help boost their parties’ candidates — and their own White House ambitions.

Here’s a closer look at some of the leading prospects and how their political futures may be influenced by what happens Nov. 3.

Newsom has a Southern strategy

Gavin Newsom leaves the California governor’s office at the end of the year, and he’s been among the most active Democrats throughout the midterms.

He’s paid particular attention to the South, where he’s campaigned with candidates up and down the ballot in states like Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina and, not surprisingly, South Carolina, which hosts the party’s first presidential primary contest in 2028.

The Southern focus aligns with the mission of Newsom’s Campaign for Democracy political action committee, which was established in 2023 to help his party compete in red states. But it could also help endear him to African American voters, who make up the heart of the Democratic base.

Newsom’s star power — and his extensive email list — has strengthened his relationships with key Democratic officials in states like Nevada and New Hampshire, where he’s sent out fundraising emails that have generated a surge of donations in recent months.

Perhaps Newsom’s biggest midterm contribution was backing Proposition 50, California’s response to the Texas Republican mid-decade gerrymander. The proposition, approved by California voters last year, created a new congressional map that may allow Democrats to pick up as many as five additional U.S. House seats in California this fall.

As a presidential candidate, the California governor could argue that he was on the front lines of the redistricting battle. But if Democrats do not win all five seats in his state, Newsom’s message could be muffled.

Vance’s fate is tied to Trump

No potential candidate’s fate is as closely tied to President Donald Trump and Republicans’ performance as Vice President JD Vance.

The 42-year-old has embarked on an aggressive midterm campaign schedule — from the Midwest, to the South, to Alaska — and focused on the administration’s efforts to root out fraud.

A key state will be Ohio, which Vance briefly represented in the Senate. Republican Sen. Jon Husted, who was appointed to fill Vance’s seat in 2025, is facing an aggressive challenge from former Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown. And in the governor’s race, Democrat Amy Acton is in a close contest with Republican Vivek Ramaswamy.

The effectiveness of the conservative group Turning Point Action will also be scrutinized. Erika Kirk, the

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 67 of 69

widow of Turning Point co-founder Charlie Kirk and the organization's new leader, has already endorsed Vance's potential presidential bid and leaders have said they intend to use the group to support his campaign.

Vance has said he is not focused on running for president, but "trying to help elect Republicans."

Shapiro is all about Pennsylvania

Among the Democrats leading the 2028 conversation, none have done less beyond their home state than Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro. He hasn't visited any early primary states or campaigned with any midterm candidates beyond his state.

That's by design for a 53-year-old Democrat whose selling point as a presidential candidate might be his clout in Pennsylvania, which has emerged as perhaps the most important swing state in the nation.

Shapiro is expected to cruise to reelection over his Republican challenger, state Treasurer Stacy Garrity, which has allowed him to spend his political capital elsewhere.

Shapiro has gone all in to ensure Democrats win both chambers of the state legislature in November, and he's devoted significant time and resources to flipping four congressional seats.

If Shapiro can demonstrate strength in swing counties like Beaver, Luzerne or Erie, it could help him make a credible claim to winning back some of the working-class voters that Democrats have lost in the Trump era.

Beshear faces risk and reward

As chairman of the Democratic Governors Association, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear may have done more than any other potential candidate to boost his national profile during the midterms. He'll headline a get-out-the-vote tour through key states, beginning with Nevada on Oct. 22.

He also spent some of the campaign on a national book tour, allowing him to cozy up to influential Democrats in early states.

Still, Beshear's spending decisions as chief of the governors association in 2026 may present the highest risk and reward for him heading into 2028.

He's been active in supporting Democratic candidates in traditional swing states like Wisconsin, Michigan and Arizona while pushing into Republican-leaning states like Ohio and Iowa, places he argues could be critical in the next White House campaign.

But Democrats in other states are clamoring for more resources and warning Beshear of blowback if he doesn't deliver. Under pressure, the governors association sent \$1 million this week to help the candidate for Texas governor, Gina Hinojosa.

Cruz hits the road

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz has long been one of his party's most active campaigners and fundraisers, and he is continuing those efforts this year as he openly weighs another presidential bid.

His Truth and Courage PAC has spent more than \$2.4 million this year on ads supporting midterm candidates, according to AdImpact, mostly to help Senate candidate Ken Paxton in his home state.

Cruz has traveled three times to Iowa, the first state on Republicans' nominating calendar and where he won the caucuses during the 2016 primary. He'll be in Alaska next week, and is also planning trips to South Carolina, North Carolina and most likely Michigan.

Pritzker's money plays

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker is seeking his third term in November, but the Democrat has focused more on helping midterm candidates in other states.

Pritzker's team says the billionaire Democrat has already donated \$38 million to the party's midterm efforts, including personal donations and roughly \$20 million through his Ready for the Fight PAC, which is focused on taking down MAGA candidates, even in long-shot districts.

More than other 2028 prospects, Pritzker has been focused on the Texas governor's race, where he donated \$1 million this week, on top of \$200,000 he gave earlier. He's also been active on the speaker circuit, having participated in more than 75 events across the country, including in Nevada and New Hampshire. He's expected to visit South Carolina before Election Day as well.

AOC's progressive politics face a test

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 68 of 69

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York has been increasingly open about a potential presidential run, where she would be a major player in the Democratic Party's progressive lane.

But first, she's trying to prove that her brand of politics can succeed in a presidential swing state like Michigan, where she has thrown her weight behind Michigan Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed. They appeared together this week at a New York City fundraiser, and she cast his campaign as a broader test for the progressive movement.

"If Abdul can win in Michigan, anybody can win anywhere," Ocasio-Cortez told the audience.

Ocasio-Cortez and other Democrats have acknowledged that she'll face questions about whether she can appeal to voters across the country. Ocasio-Cortez argues an El-Sayed victory in Michigan, which is one of the early states in the next Democratic presidential primary, could challenge some of those assumptions.

Buttigieg keeps a busy schedule

Since leaving his job as transportation secretary under President Joe Biden, Pete Buttigieg has had the luxury of free time. He has used it to aggressively travel across the country, raising money and campaigning for Democrats on the ballot this year.

Buttigieg has endorsed nearly 100 candidates this cycle, from state legislative contests to U.S. Senate races, and has appeared on the campaign trail with roughly half of them, according to his team. He has visited 37 states since leaving office.

The range of those appearances also offers a glimpse at Buttigieg's appeal within the party.

Democrats have welcomed him even in deeply Republican territory, including Nancy Lacore, a U.S. House candidate in South Carolina who campaigned with Buttigieg in August. He also helped bring Democratic candidates together for a Michigan unity event in August after hotly contested primaries.

Today in History: October 10, Vice President Spiro Agnew resigns

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Saturday, Oct. 10, the 283rd day of 2026. There are 82 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 10, 1973, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, accused of accepting bribes, resigned his office and pleaded no contest to one count of federal income tax evasion. President Richard Nixon later tapped congressman Gerald Ford to replace Agnew. Nixon resigned in 1974 amid the Watergate scandal and Ford succeeded him.

Also on this date:

In 1845, the U.S. Naval Academy was established in Annapolis, Maryland, with an inaugural class of 50 students.

In 1911, Chinese revolutionaries launched an uprising that led to the collapse of the Qing (or Manchu) Dynasty and the establishment of the Republic of China.

In 1935, the George Gershwin opera "Porgy and Bess," featuring an all-Black cast, opened on Broadway, beginning a run of 124 performances.

In 1964, the Summer Olympics began in Tokyo, the first Summer Games to be telecast around the world.

In 1966, the Beach Boys' single "Good Vibrations," written by Brian Wilson and Mike Love, was released by Capitol Records.

In 1970, Fiji became independent of the United Kingdom, 96 years after the South Pacific island archipelago had been colonized.

In 2001, a month after the Sept. 11 attacks, U.S. jets stepped up bombing of the Afghan capital of Kabul while President George W. Bush unveiled a list of 22 most-wanted terrorists, including Osama bin Laden.

In 2014, Malala Yousafzai (mah-LAH'-lah YOO'-suhf-zeye), a 17-year-old Pakistani girl, and Kailash Satyarthi (KY'-lash saht-YAHR'-thee), a 60-year-old Indian man, were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for risking their lives for the right of children to receive an education and to live free from abuse.

In 2018, Michael, the first Category 5 hurricane to strike the U.S. mainland in 26 years, barreled onto the Florida Panhandle with 160 mph (257 kph) winds, causing widespread devastation and billions of dol-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 126 ~ 69 of 69

lars in losses.

In 2023, Israel continued to rapidly mass troops and tanks near the Gaza Strip as part of a rapidly expanding counteroffensive against Hamas militants who had stormed into Israel three days earlier, killing 1,200 people and taking more than 250 hostages.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Peter Coyote is 85. Entertainer Ben Vereen is 80. Actor Charles Dance is 80. Author Nora Roberts is 76. Rock singer David Lee Roth is 72. Country singer Tanya Tucker is 68. Actor Julia Sweeney is 67. Actor Bradley Whitford is 67. California Gov. Gavin Newsom is 59. Football Hall of Famer Brett Favre is 57. Actor/TV host Mario Lopez is 53. NASCAR Hall of Famer Dale Earnhardt Jr. is 52. Hockey Hall of Famer Chris Pronger is 52. Singer-songwriter Mýa is 47. Actor Dan Stevens is 44. NBA player Josh Giddey is 24. Actor Thomas Kuc is 24.