

Groton Daily Independent

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Monday, Sept. 29

School Breakfast: Eggs.

School Lunch: Beef stroganoff, rice.

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

Region 1A Boys Golf at Madison, 10 a.m.

JH/JV Football at Clark (JH at 4 p.m., JV at 5 p.m.)

3rd-6th GBB Skills, 6-8 p.m.

A few changes to the sports schedule for Monday, September 29th:

Cross Country at Groton (Olive Grove) begins at 3:00pm (rolling schedule - times are approximate):

- 3pm Girls Varsity
- 3:30pm Boys Varsity
- around 4pm Munchkin Fun Run
- 4pm Girls/Boys JV
- 4:30pm Girls/Boys MS

Soccer vs Dakota Valley begins at 3:30pm

- 3:30pm Boys Varsity
- around 5:00pm Girls Varsity

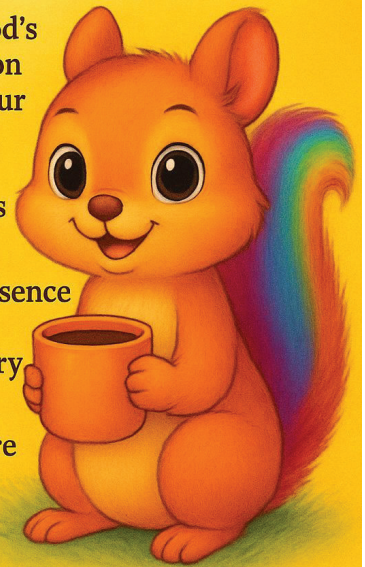
Good Monday Morning Blessings

Rise and shine! ☀️

This Monday, may God's hand of favor rest upon you. May He guide your steps, open doors of opportunity, and surround you with His perfect peace.

I pray you feel His presence in every task, every conversation, and every moment of your day.

Be encouraged, you are loved, chosen, and equipped to make it through this week with victory.



God's Spoken Word Ministries

Tuesday Sept. 30

School Breakfast: Scones.

School Lunch: Chicken breast, baby bakers.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

5th Grade Girls Basketball, 4:15 p.m.

Volleyball hosts Great Plains Lutheran: ((C at 5, JV at 6, V-7:15))

Groton Daily Independent
PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445
Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460

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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.

Michigan Church Shooting

An assailant targeted The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Grand Blanc, Michigan, yesterday, killing at least four people and wounding at least eight others. Police identified the suspect as 40-year-old Iraq War veteran Thomas Jacob Sanford; they did not publicly disclose a motive as of this writing.

The attack began just before 10:30 am, when the suspect drove a pickup truck adorned with American flags into the church, where services were underway. He then opened fire on congregants and is believed to have set the building on fire. An unknown number of victims were believed to be trapped inside the church. After roughly 10 minutes, the assailant was killed in an exchange of gunfire with responding police officers.

The attack came after a mass shooting in Southport, North Carolina, Saturday evening, where a separate combat veteran killed at least three people and wounded eight others.

Federal Troops to Portland

President Donald Trump on Saturday directed the Pentagon to send US troops to Portland, Oregon. It is not yet clear which branch of the military will be deployed or when.

The decision comes as dozens of protesters meet regularly outside an Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in the city. Demonstrations have at times turned violent, with protesters charged with assault and federal agents releasing tear gas. Trump says the deployment against "Antifa and other domestic terrorists" is designed to protect ICE facilities, where—as a sanctuary city—local police have limited cooperation with federal immigration authorities and only intervene during protests in the event of vandalism and violence. Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek (D) has rejected White House allegations that Portland is in need of federal assistance and does not plan to request the National Guard.

Trump has deployed more than 6,000 National Guard troops across Los Angeles and Washington, DC. An estimated 150 National Guard troops will be deployed this week to Memphis, Tennessee, though the number is still in flux.

MLB Playoffs Set

Major League Baseball's postseason picture is now set, following a thrilling conclusion that saw two division titles and the remaining playoff berth decided on the final day. The Cleveland Guardians and Toronto Blue Jays both won their divisions, while the Cincinnati Reds clinched the final wild-card spot over the New York Mets.

The National League-leading Milwaukee Brewers enter with the league's best record (97-65) and will enjoy home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. The defending champion Los Angeles Dodgers, whose star pitcher Clayton Kershaw is set to retire, will face the Cincinnati Reds in the wild-card round. Games begin tomorrow.

Yesterday's games also capped a favorable season for sluggers. For just the third time in history, four players hit at least 50 home runs. That includes Seattle's Cal Raleigh, who became the seventh player to knock 60 or more home runs in a single season.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Europe tops the US to win golf's Ryder Cup for the ninth time in the last 12 matches.

Four Top 10 teams upset in college football's Week 5.

Assata Shakur, Black liberation activist who was convicted of killing a New Jersey state trooper, dies at age 78 after living in Cuba in exile for 40 years.

"Jimmy Kimmel Live!" fully back on the air after network TV giants Nexstar and Sinclair reinstate Kimmel more than a week after suspending his show.

Dolly Parton postpones upcoming December shows in Las Vegas, citing health issues.

Science & Technology

Amazon expected to unveil new models of its Kindle reader and Echo speakers, among other products, at its annual fall hardware event tomorrow.

Dual-drug inhaler cuts asthma attacks in children aged 5 to 15 by 45% in clinical trials; approach would replace the commonly used salbutamol inhaler.

Engineers demonstrate micro-robots made from lung cells; devices may enable targeted drug delivery in hard-to-reach areas of the body.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close up Friday (S&P 500 +0.6%, Dow +0.7%, Nasdaq +0.4%) following report core inflation held steady in August, as expected.

Video game company Electronic Arts is reportedly set to go private this week via a \$50B acquisition by investment group, including President Donald Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner.

IT consulting firm Accenture warns it will fire workers who cannot be retrained to use AI; firm has laid off 11,000 staff in the past three months.

Politics & World Affairs

New York City Mayor Eric Adams ends his bid for reelection; Adams was running as an independent after winning his first term as a Democrat.

Crowd surge at a rally in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu kills at least 40 people.

State Department revokes Colombian President Gustavo Petro's visa after he joins pro-Palestinian rally in New York.

Tropical Storm Imelda forms in the Atlantic, is expected to bring heavy rains to the Southeast US this week.

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GT on Soccer at Groton
Dakota Valley Panthers
Mon., Sept. 29
Boys at 3:30, Girls at 5:00

Groton
Area
Tigers
Groton, SD

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Anyone interested in sponsoring the
C and/or JV match with
Great Plains Lutheran's volleyball
match on GDILIVE.COM?
Text Paul at 605-397-7460
\$25 per match



GT on Football
Dacotah Stadium
Vs. Roncalli Cavaliers
Fri., Oct. 3, 7 p.m.

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GT on Redfield Volleyball
Tournament
vs. Redfield
Sat., Oct. 4, 9 a.m.

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GT on Redfield Volleyball
Tournament
vs. North Central
Sat., Oct. 4, 10 a.m.

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GT on Redfield Volleyball
Tournament
vs. Madison
Sat., Oct. 4, Noon

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Groton, SD

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GT on Redfield Volleyball
Tournament
vs. Timber Lake
Sat., Oct. 4, 3 p.m.

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Groton, SD

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GT on Redfield Volleyball
Tournament
Finals
Sat., Oct. 4, 4 p.m.

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The Minnesota Vikings' trip to Ireland ended in disappointment, as they fell to the Pittsburgh Steelers 24-21. This game was decided before the two teams ever took the field, thanks to every media outlet confidently proclaiming that the Vikings would easily win this game. As any true Vikings fan knows, the Vikings are almost guaranteed to lose any game where they are big favorites.

The Steelers got the ball to start the game, went backwards, then punted. The Vikings went 51 yards in 11 plays on their opening drive but had to settle for a field goal. Pittsburgh responded with a touchdown drive to make the score 3-7 at the end of the first quarter.

Things started going off the rails in the second quarter, which started with a Vikings punt. One play later, Aaron Rodgers hit D.K. Metcalf for an 80-yard touchdown, extending Pittsburgh's lead to 3-14. Minnesota actually had a decent drive on their next possession, but a Carson Wentz interception brought it to an abrupt end. The best play for the Vikings in the first half happened on the next Steelers' drive, when Isaiah Rodgers blocked a field goal attempt, which the Vikings turned into a field goal of their own to make the score 6-14 heading into halftime.

Both teams traded three-and-outs to begin the second half. On their second possession of the third quarter, Carson Wentz threw another interception, which led to a Pittsburgh touchdown, extending their lead to 6-21. The Vikings responded by going backwards nine yards then punting, and suddenly we were into the fourth quarter.

PIT kicked a field goal to begin the fourth quarter, making it a three-score game. The Vikings finally started to show some signs of life in the fourth quarter, putting together two touchdown drives – one for 70 yards, the other for 99 yards – making the score 21-24. A Steelers three-and-out on their next possession gave the Vikings the ball at their 20-yard line with a minute left on the clock. Minnesota couldn't make magic happen, and an incomplete pass on fourth down put the final nail in the coffin.

Carson Wentz completed 30 of 46 passes for 350 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions. He also took six sacks and had a drive-altering intentional grounding penalty on the Vikings' final possession.

Jordan Mason could only muster 57 yards on 16 carries. Justin Jefferson led the team with 10 catches for 126 yards. Jordan Addison, reinstated after his three-game suspension, caught four passes for 114 yards, highlighted by an 81-yard reception in the fourth quarter, though he was surprisingly caught from behind at the one-yard line by a linebacker.

There is plenty of blame to go around, but in my opinion, the biggest reason for the loss was the Vikings' defense. They failed to force a single turnover, allowed Aaron Rodgers to complete 18 of 22 passes, and gave up 4.5 yards per carry on the ground.

I thought about not including a player of the game, but I'd be remiss to not mention Jalen Redmond, who was the only Vikings defender who did anything productive Sunday. The Vikings had two sacks (both by Redmond), four tackles for a loss (two by Redmond), and three QB hits (two by Redmond).

J.J. McCarthy might be the biggest benefactor from Sunday's game, because it's clear that Wentz is not going to keep McCarthy out of the lineup once he returns from injury.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will remain overseas and prepare to face the Cleveland Browns in London. The game will be another 8:30 am kickoff.

Beyond the Baseline: Understanding Tennis Elbow

A few years ago, I was helping with my son's baseball team. One day, for a routine practice, my role was to hit fly balls for the boys to catch. While I was confident at hitting fly balls, to make things easier for me, I was handed a racquet that, with a fairly easy swing, would launch the baseballs out to the boys. However, after 20 minutes, my elbow was getting sore. More groups of boys needed to rotate through and catch fly balls, so I kept at it. I swung the racquet and the baseballs flew to the outfield over and over. In the end, after less than an hour, my elbow was shot.

I was experiencing lateral epicondylitis, or tennis elbow. It hurt on the lateral, or outside, part of my elbow, and while it did not hurt that bad, it was almost debilitating for certain movements. I took some ibuprofen, avoided certain activities, and needed to give it time to heal.

Lateral epicondylitis, which now could also be called "pickleball elbow" with the big increase in pickleball players, is an over-use injury of the tendons at the elbow. Caused by any repetitive use of the forearm muscles, microscopic tears can form which cause pain at the insertion where the tendons attach to the bone at the elbow, known as the lateral epicondyle. The cause is not just limited to sporting activities. Manual laborers, painters, gardeners pulling weeds, musicians, and anyone doing an activity repetitively and more than their body is used to doing, can be susceptible to this injury. Golfers can experience a similar injury, but one that affects the inside part of the elbow, causing medial epicondylitis.

One of the keys to recovery is paying attention to your body and avoiding activities that cause the pain. Pushing through may make it worse and make recovery last longer. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatories such as ibuprofen may help with the pain, as well as icing, stretches, and physical therapy. Some people may find benefit from using a brace wrapped around the forearm muscles, taking pressure off of the tendons. Rarely, steroid injections or an injection of plasma-rich protein may be used, although these are not without some risk. Other treatments can also include ultrasound and shock wave therapy.

Thankfully, most cases will subside on their own with time. However, it can take a lot of time, oftentimes several months and possibly up to two years. In very rare cases, surgery to remove damaged tissue may be an option.

In my case, the pesky elbow pain lingered for at least six months. This was all because of less than an hour of using a racquet that I refuse to ever use again. I am happy to hit fly balls and I still do, but give me the baseball bat, please.

Dr. Andrew Ellsworth is a Family Medicine Physician at Avera Medical Group Brookings in Brookings, SD. He serves as one of the Prairie Doc Volunteer Hosts during its 24th Season providing Health Education Based on Science, Built on Trust. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB, YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).



Andrew Ellsworth, MD

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EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Why do eco-advocates consider backyard gardens so crucial to conservation?

-- Paul Murphy, Butte, MT

Backyard gardens might seem like just a hobby or a way to make a home look nice, but they actually play a much bigger role in conservation. As cities expand and natural habitats shrink, small green spaces like home gardens can provide essential food and shelter for wildlife. This idea falls under garden ecology. This is a field that looks at how gardens function as ecosystems. Homeowners can make a real difference in supporting biodiversity by choosing the right plants and maintaining these spaces with care.



Backyard gardens are increasingly important in supporting wildlife and promoting biodiversity through careful plant selection. Credit: Pexels.com.

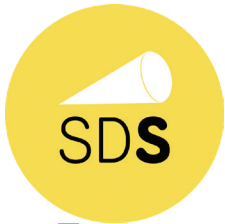
Backyard gardens help is by supporting pollinators like bees, butterflies and birds, all which rely on plants for food. In return, they help plants reproduce. "Urban gardens can act as mini-refuges for pollinators, especially in places where natural habitat is disappearing," says Dr. Susannah Lerman, research ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service. First of all, without enough green spaces, pollinator populations decline. This then affects everything from wild plant growth to food production. Gardens also create small patches of habitat that connect larger green spaces. This makes it easier for wildlife to move around safely.

Not all plants offer the same benefits. Native plants that naturally grow in a specific area are the best choice for conservation gardening. They require less water and maintenance since they're adapted to local conditions, and they provide the right food and shelter for local wildlife. On the other hand, non-native or ornamental plants look nice but can do more harm than good, aggressively taking over native habitats.

Garden ecology research also shows that diverse gardens help improve soil health and support a wider variety of species. A mix of trees, shrubs, and flowers at different heights can create a more balanced ecosystem. The more plant diversity a garden has... the more kinds of insects, birds, and small mammals it can support. Some homeowners even participate in citizen science projects e.g. they can track the species that visit their yards to contribute to conservation research.

Making a garden more wildlife-friendly doesn't require a complete overhaul. One can start by planting a few native species, reducing pesticide use, and letting part of their yard grow more naturally. Even small changes can make a difference. For example, leaving fallen leaves for insects to hide in or providing a water source for birds. Backyard gardens may not seem like much, but when enough people take the right steps they become an important part of conservation efforts.

• EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Former national chair tells South Dakota Democrats success is possible 'no matter where you start'

BY: SETH TUPPER-SEPTEMBER 28, 2025 11:12 AM

RAPID CITY — After South Dakota Democrats heard appeals to organize, recruit and raise money, the keynote speaker at their Saturday night fundraiser urged them to do something else: hope.

Jaime Harrison, former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, told a story from his earlier job as floor director for the U.S. House Democratic Caucus. He recalled how a woman who was cleaning his Capitol office picked up a picture frame, recognized his mother in the photo, and said she went to high school with his mom and remembered when she dropped out of high school to give birth.

Harrison said the encounter brought them both to tears.

"And she came over and she hugged me and she said, 'I would have never guessed that Patricia Harrison's son would be right here. You give me hope.'"

Harrison said the story is a reminder that success is possible "no matter where you start."

South Dakota Democrats are starting the 2026 campaign season with nobody in a statewide elected office. They had nine of the Legislature's 105 members until earlier this month, when one of their members defected to the Republican Party and left them with eight.

One of those eight, Rapid City Rep. Nicole Uhre-Balk, told the crowd Saturday night that "I cannot begin to tell you how good it feels to be in a room of more than seven Democrats."

There were actually about 200 Democrats gathered in the DoubleTree hotel ballroom for the party's annual western South Dakota fundraiser, which featured socializing, speeches and auctions benefitting the state party.

Harrison was the headliner. He chaired the Democratic National Committee from 2021 until earlier this year. Previously, he served as the first Black chairperson of the South Carolina Democratic Party and worked as an aide to U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn. Harrison also founded the Dirt Road Democrats political action committee, which works to engage rural voters, and he hosts a podcast called "At Our Table" that features conversations with guests about the nation's challenges and hopes.

In his Saturday night speech, Harrison highlighted Uhre-Balk's success. Last year, she became the first Democrat in 18 years to win a seat in her legislative district. According to her, if she wins again, she'll be the first Democrat in 30 years to win two consecutive races in the district.

Harrison said the party needs more candidates to follow her lead and ignore the naysayers.

"She didn't listen to them," Harrison said. "She listened to all of you, and she stood up and she spoke out and she won."

The prescription for more results like that, according to Harrison, includes a focus on recruitment.

"Do not leave any seat in South Dakota uncontested in 2026," he said. "Not one."

Democrats have a start toward that goal with declared candidates for offices including U.S. Senate, U.S. House and secretary of state. But their only declared candidate for governor so far is a 20-year-old college student, and they face a challenge recruiting candidates in legislative districts that lacked Democrats on the ballot last year.

Fundraising, meanwhile, has been a bright spot. The state party's reports to the Federal Election Commission showed \$341,000 of income from January through August. A July fundraiser in eastern South Dakota featuring Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz drew a crowd of about 1,000 people.

The same period's reports from the South Dakota Republican Party, which has undergone staff turnover including a new chairman in February, showed \$41,000 of income.

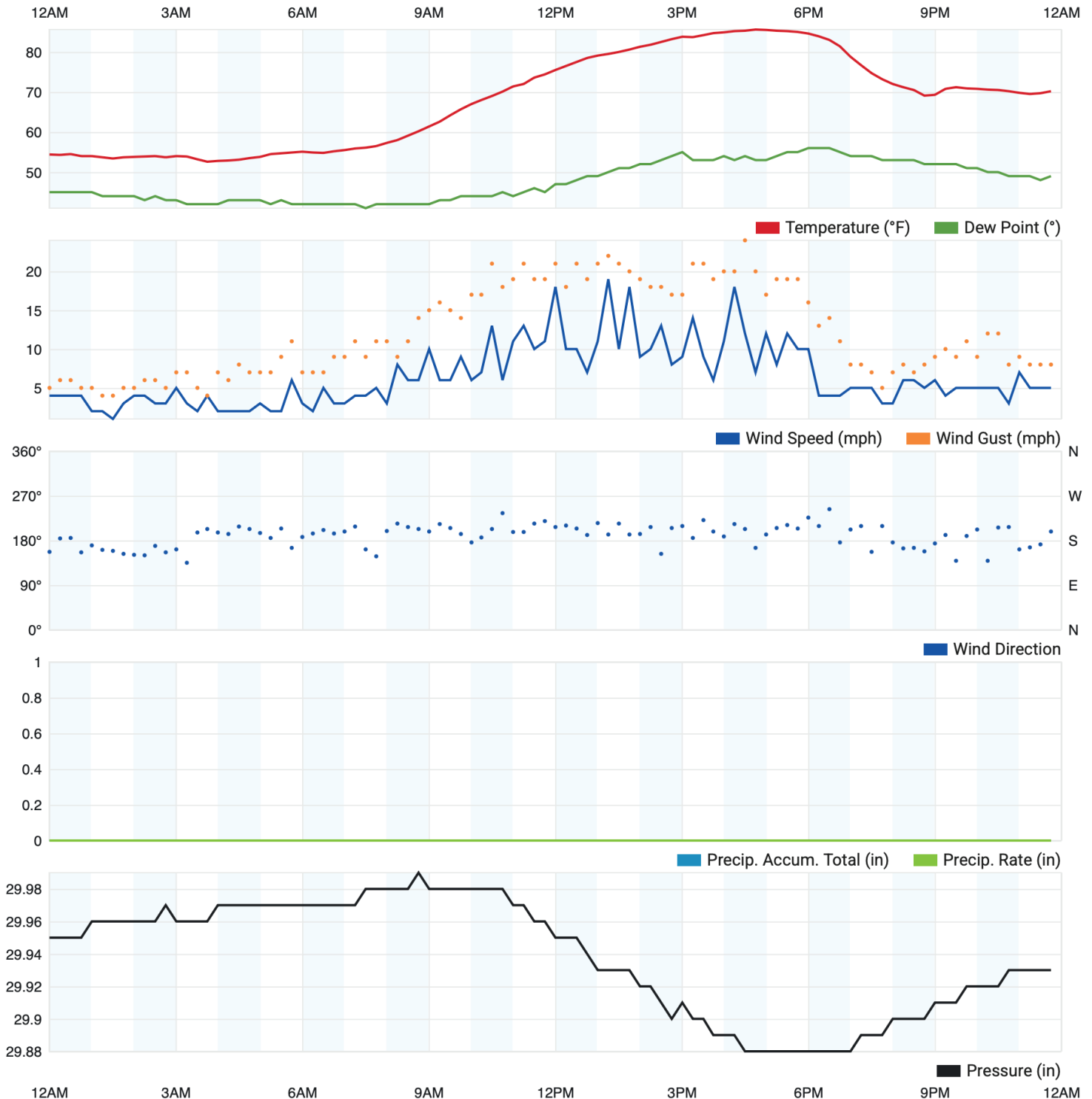
Seth is editor-in-chief of South Dakota Searchlight. He was previously a supervising senior producer for South Dakota Public Broadcasting and a newspaper journalist in Rapid City and Mitchell.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

September 28, 2025



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Today



High: 87 °F

Slight Chance
Showers then
Sunny

Tonight



Low: 62 °F

Partly Cloudy

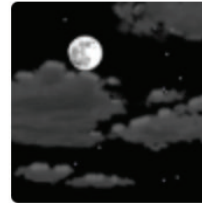
Tuesday



High: 83 °F

Mostly Sunny
then Mostly
Sunny and
Breezy

Tuesday Night



Low: 64 °F

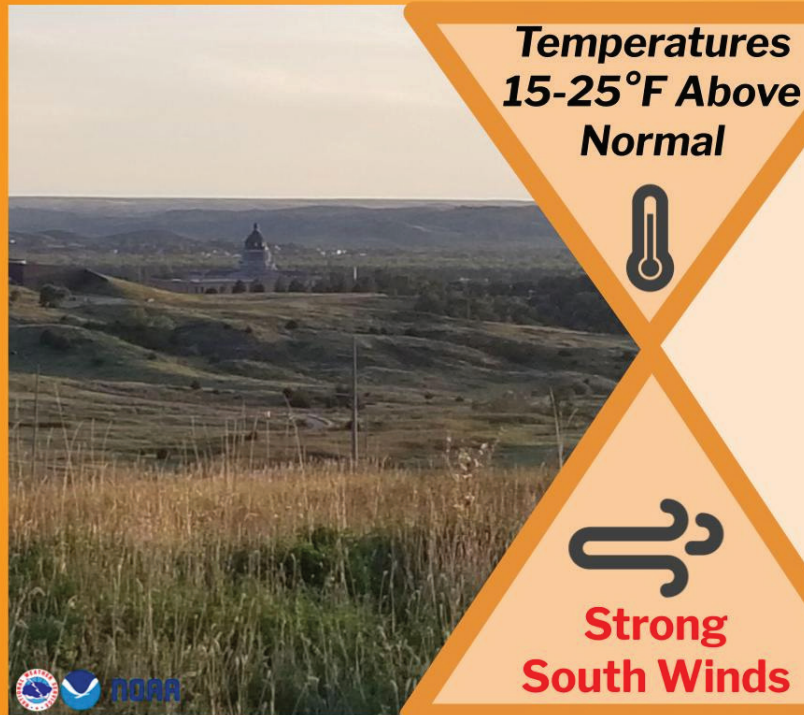
Partly Cloudy

Wednesday



High: 84 °F

Sunny and
Breezy



Today

Isolated Morning Showers
Highs: 84 - 90°F
Winds 20 - 35 mph

Tuesday

Partly Cloudy
Highs: 81 - 86°F
Winds 25 - 40 mph

Wednesday

Clear
Highs: 81 - 88°F
Winds 20 - 35 mph

September 29, 2025 3:13 AM

Aside from a few isolated/passing light showers and sprinkles this morning the forecast is to remain dry, with above normal temperatures and windy conditions.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 86 °F at 4:41 PM

Low Temp: 53 °F at 3:44 AM

Wind: 24 mph at 4:26 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 95 in 1897

Record Low: 11 in 1939

Average High: 69

Average Low: 41

Average Precip in Sept.: 191

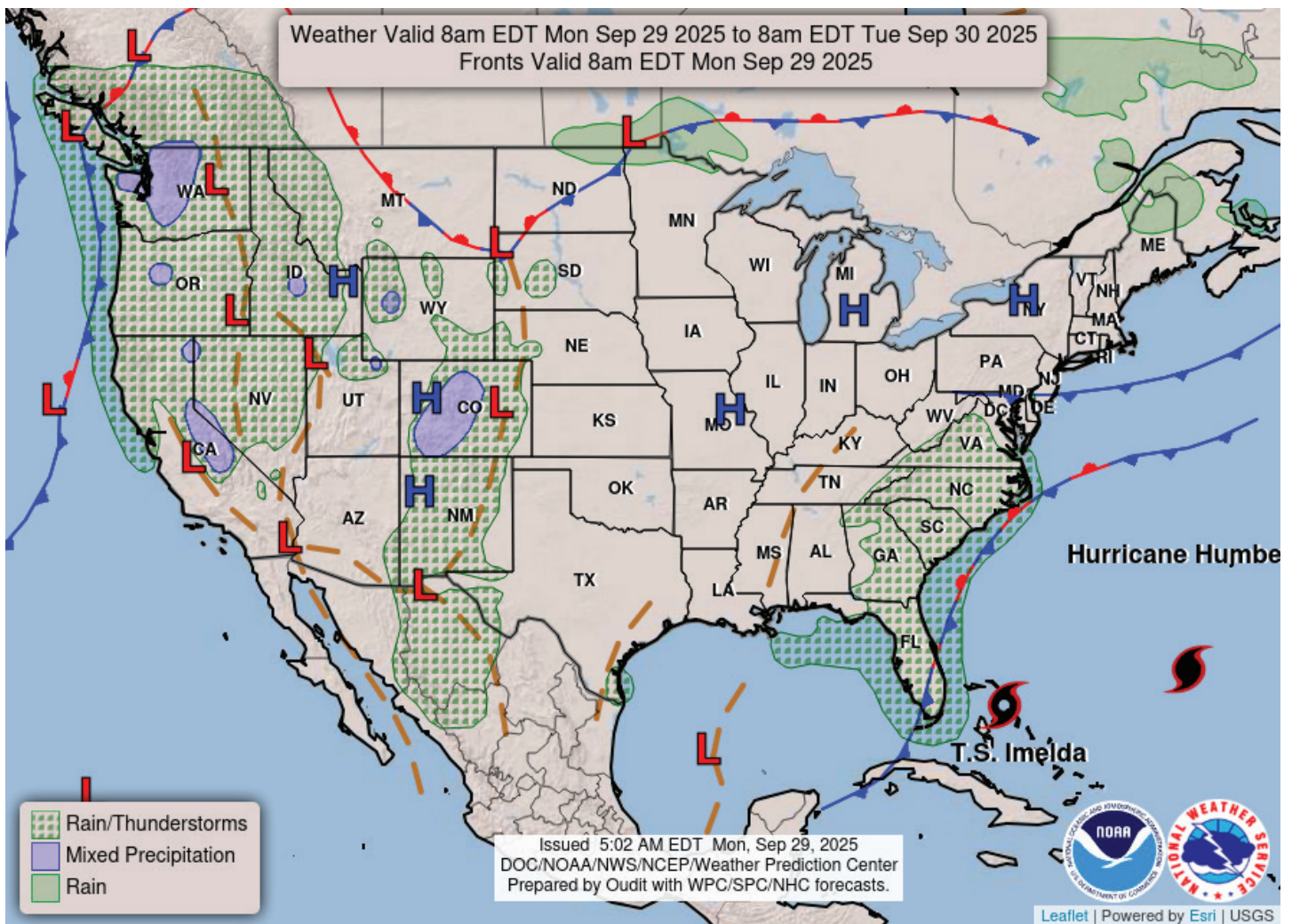
Precip to date in Sept.: 2.62

Average Precip to date: 18.26

Precip Year to Date: 22.92

Sunset Tonight: 7:18 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:28 am



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Today in Weather History

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**GOD IS OUR SAVIOR
AND REDEEMER AND HE
WILL DO WHAT IS
RIGHT IN HIS EYES —
NOT OUR EYES.**

Resentments fill hearts and control minds. They are easy to collect and store in dark crevices deep inside while we wait for the right moment to settle a score. It is amazing how much more room we seem to have for resentments than we do for love. Perhaps it is because we want to be like God and set standards and pass judgment on what others do to us. It seems like we want to be the prosecutor, then the jury, become the judge, and finally the executioner.

If we could ever look at this "getting even" objectively, it might amaze us. Unless there is an accepted way to measure a wrong, it is impossible to know the appropriate method to apply to "get even." It might be too little, or too much, and rarely just right.

For example: What are we to do if someone treats us or a loved one unfairly? Or speak a lie or half-truth about us? Maybe exaggerating our faults? Refuses to pay back the money we loaned them? Tries to ruin our reputation? Ridicules us for an honest mistake? Sells us an inferior product, then refuses to honor their service contract?

Most of our getting even is subjective and devised to achieve what we think and feel is appropriate. However, in God's Word we are warned not to do that!

"Do not say, 'I'll pay you back for this wrong!' Wait for the Lord, and He will avenge you." One translator inserts the word expectantly after the word wait. In other words, "You know that this is up to God, and He, in His impeccable timing, will come to your aid." God is our Savior and Redeemer and He will do what is right in His eyes — not our eyes.

There is a warning in Genesis that demands our attention: "Far be it from you to do the work of God! Will not the Judge of all the earth do what is right?" We must never assume God's responsibilities. Never!

Today's Prayer: Father, 'getting even' is a natural, normal thing to want to do. But it is never the right thing to do. Help us to turn vengeance over to You for You are the Judge! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "Do not say, 'I'll pay you back for this wrong!' Wait for the Lord, and He will avenge you." Proverbs 20:22

God's Word is meant to be shared. If this reflection brought you closer to Him today, consider sharing it with someone who could use a fresh reminder of His presence, peace, and promises.

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

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.26.25

4 21 27 33 49 21

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$497,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 29 Mins 31 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.27.25

2 12 20 34 43 7

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$3,730,000

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 44 Mins 31 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.28.25

8 9 27 31 36 6

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 59 Mins 31 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.27.25

4 9 11 21 26

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$35,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 14 Hrs 59 Mins 31 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.27.25

5 21 22 49 68 25

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 28 Mins 31 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.27.25

10 16 32 61 66 4

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$160,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 28 Mins 31 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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Upcoming Groton Events

08/09/2025 Groton Legion 30th Anniversary Celebration
08/07/2025 Groton Firemen Summer Splash in the GHS Parking Lot 7:30-8:30pm
08/11/2025 Vitalant Blood Drive at the Community Center 3:30-6pm
08/23/2025 Glacial Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
09/05/2025 Homecoming Parade 1pm
09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
09/06-07/25 Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport
09/07/2025 Couples Sunflower Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10am
09/07/2025 9th Annual Doggie Day at the Swimming Pool 3-5pm
10/10/2025 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am
10/11/2025 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
10/31/2025 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
11/15/2025 Legion Post #39 Turkey Party 6:30pm
11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving 11:30am-1:30pm Community Center (Thanksgiving)
11/30/2025 Snow Queen Contest, 4 p.m.
12/06/2025 Olive Grove Holiday Party and Silent Live Auction Fundraiser

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Suspect in Charlie Kirk assassination case faces court hearing

By HANNAH SCHOENBAUM Associated Press

PROVO, Utah (AP) — The 22-year-old man charged with killing Charlie Kirk will have a court hearing Monday where he and his newly appointed legal counsel will decide whether they want a preliminary hearing where the judge will determine if there is enough evidence against him to go forward with a trial.

Prosecutors have charged Tyler Robinson with aggravated murder and plan to seek the death penalty.

The Utah state court system gives people accused of crimes an option to waive their legal right to a preliminary hearing and instead schedule an arraignment where they can enter a plea.

Kathryn Nester, the lead attorney appointed to represent Robinson, declined to comment on the case ahead of Monday's hearing. Prosecutors at the Utah County Attorney's Office did not respond to email and phone messages seeking comment.

The hearing in Provo is open to the public, just a few miles from the Utah Valley University campus in Orem where many students are still processing trauma from the Sept. 10 shooting and the day-and-a-half search for the suspect.

Authorities arrested Robinson when he showed up with his parents at his hometown sheriff's office in southwest Utah, more than a three-hour drive from the site of the shooting, to turn himself in. Prosecutors have since revealed incriminating text messages and DNA evidence that they say connect Robinson to the killing.

A note that Robinson had left for his romantic partner before the shooting said he had the opportunity to kill one of the nation's leading conservative voices, "and I'm going to take it," Utah County Attorney Jeff Gray told reporters before the first hearing. Gray also said that Robinson wrote in a text about Kirk to his partner: "I had enough of his hatred."

The assassination of Kirk, a close ally of President Donald Trump who worked to steer young voters toward conservatism, has galvanized Republicans who have vowed to carry on Kirk's mission of moving American politics further to the right.

Trump has declared Kirk a "martyr" for freedom and threatened to crack down on what he called the "radical left."

Workers across the country have been punished or fired for speaking out about Kirk after his death, including teachers, public and private employees and media personalities — most notably Jimmy Kimmel, who had his late-night show suspended then quickly reinstated by ABC.

Kirk's political organization, Arizona-based Turning Point USA, brought young, evangelical Christians into politics through his podcast, social media and campus events. Many prominent Republicans are filling in at the upcoming campus events Kirk was meant to attend, including Utah Gov. Spencer Cox and Sen. Mike Lee at Utah State University on Tuesday.

Iran hangs a man accused of spying for Israel in a wave of executions

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran said Monday it hanged a man accused of spying for Israel, the latest in the largest wave of executions by Tehran in decades.

Iran identified the executed man as Bahman Choobiasl. His case wasn't immediately known in Iranian media reports or to activists monitoring the death penalty in the Islamic Republic.

The execution came as Iran vowed to confront its enemies after the United Nations reimposed sanctions on Tehran over its nuclear program this weekend. The European Union followed suit Monday, imposing similar sanctions on Iran.

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Iran accused Choobiasl of meeting with officials from the Israeli spy agency Mossad, calling him the agency's "most trusted" spy. Iran's Mizan news agency, which is the judiciary's official mouthpiece, said Choobiasl worked on "sensitive telecommunications projects" and reported about the "paths of importing electronic devices."

Iran is known to have hanged nine people for espionage since its June war with Israel. Israel waged an air war with Iran, killing some 1,100 people, including many military commanders. Iran launched missile barrages targeting Israel in response.

Earlier this month, Iran executed Babak Shahbazi, who it alleged spied for Israel. Activists disputed that, saying Shahbazi was tortured into a false confession after writing a letter to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy offering to fight for Kyiv.

Iran routinely conducts closed-door trials of those accused of espionage, with the suspects often unable to access the evidence against them.

Iran has faced multiple nationwide protests in recent years, fueled by anger over the economy, demands for women's rights and calls for the country's theocracy to change.

In response to those protests and the June war, Iran has been putting prisoners to death at a pace unseen since 1988, when it executed thousands at the end of the Iran-Iraq war.

The Oslo-based group Iran Human Rights and the Washington-based Abdorrahman Boroumand Center for Human Rights in Iran put the number of people executed in 2025 at over 1,000, noting the number could be higher as Iran does not report on each execution.

Independent human rights experts at the United Nations also criticized Iran's executions Monday.

"The sheer scale of executions in Iran is staggering and represents a grave violation of the right to life," the experts said. "With an average of more than nine hangings per day in recent weeks, Iran appears to be conducting executions at an industrial scale that defies all accepted standards of human rights protection."

Gunman opens fire at Michigan church and sets it ablaze, killing at least 4 and wounding 8

By ISABELLA VOLMERT and COREY WILLIAMS Associated Press

GRAND BLANC TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — An ex-Marine smashed a pickup into a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints church in Michigan, opened fire and set the building ablaze during a crowded Sunday service and then was fatally shot by police. At least four people were killed and eight wounded, and authorities were searching the building ruins for more victims.

The attack occurred about 10:25 a.m. while hundreds of people were in the building in Grand Blanc Township, outside Flint.

The man got out of the pickup with two American flags raised in the truck bed and started shooting, Police Chief William Renye told reporters. The attacker apparently used gas to start the fire and also had explosive devices but it wasn't clear if he used them, said James Dier of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Authorities identified the shooter as Thomas Jacob Sanford, 40, of the neighboring small town of Burton. The FBI is leading the investigation and considered it an "act of targeted violence," said Ruben Coleman, a special agent in charge for the bureau.

Officers responding to a 911 call were at the church within 30 seconds, Renye said. After the suspect left the church, two officers pursued him and "engaged in gunfire," killing him about eight minutes later, the chief said.

People inside the church shielded children and moved them to safety during the attack, Renye said.

Flames and smoke poured from the large church for hours before the blaze was extinguished.

Two bodies were found during a search of the debris, and Renye said more victims could be found as searchers made their way through the entire church. One of the wounded people was in critical condition Sunday evening and the seven others were stable.

Renye said "some" people were unaccounted for, but he didn't have an exact number.

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Michigan State Police Lt. Kim Vetter said bomb threats were made at other churches in the area after officers shot and killed Sanford. No bombs were found and police were investigating the threats.

The motive not yet clear

Investigators were searching Sanford's residence but authorities did not say what they found or provide any additional details about him, including whether he was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, widely known as the Mormon church.

Sanford served in the Marines from June 2004 through June 2008, working as an automotive mechanic and vehicle recovery operator, according to military records obtained by The Detroit News. He was deployed to Iraq from August 2007 through March 2008 and had the rank of sergeant.

It was the latest of many shooting attacks on houses of worship in the U.S. over the past 20 years, including one in August that killed two children during Mass at the Church of the Annunciation in Minneapolis.

It also was the second mass shooting in the U.S. in less than 24 hours. On Saturday night, a man in a boat opened fire on a crowd in Southport, North Carolina, killing three and injuring five,

President Donald Trump applauded the FBI for its response to the Michigan shooting in a social media post. Local authorities said the FBI was sending 100 agents to Grand Blanc Township, a community of roughly 40,000 people.

"PRAY for the victims, and their families. THIS EPIDEMIC OF VIOLENCE IN OUR COUNTRY MUST END, IMMEDIATELY!" Trump wrote.

The church building, circled by a parking lot and a large lawn, is near residential areas and a Jehovah's Witness church.

Brad Schneemann, whose home is about 400 yards (365 meters) from the church, told The Associated Press that he and his daughter heard "two rounds of four to five shots" around 10:30 a.m. "Then, we really didn't hear anything for a while" before they left their home to see what was happening.

Tight-knit church community

Timothy Jones, 48, said his family is part of another Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints congregation, or ward, about 15 minutes away, but that his children were at the Grand Blanc Township ward Saturday night for a youth fall festival. He and his family moved to Flint two years ago in large part because of how strong the faith's community is in the area, he said.

As people in his congregation got word of the shooting from texts and phone calls during their Sunday service, his ward went into lockdown and police came as a precaution, he said. His children were "frantically, just trying to get word that people were OK."

Sundays are "supposed to be a time of peace and a time of reflection and worship," Jones said. Yet in the wake of violence at other houses of worship, a shooting "feels inevitable, and all the more tragic because of that," he added.

The shooting occurred the morning after Russell M. Nelson, the oldest-ever president of the Utah-based faith, died at 101. The next president is expected to be Dallin H. Oaks, per church protocol.

"The church is in communication with local law enforcement as the investigation continues and as we receive updates on the condition of those affected," spokesperson Doug Anderson said.

"Places of worship are meant to be sanctuaries of peacemaking, prayer and connection. We pray for peace and healing for all involved."

The impact of the shooting spread throughout the area

When striking nurses at nearby Henry Ford Genesys Hospital heard about the shooting, some left the picket line and ran the short distance to the church to help first responders, Teamsters Local 332 President Dan Glass said.

"Human lives matter more than our labor dispute," Glass said.

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said in a statement that her heart was breaking for the community. "Violence anywhere, especially in a place of worship, is unacceptable," she said.

The impact spread quickly to neighboring communities, including the small city that shares a name with the township.

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"Although we are two separate governmental units, we are a very cohesive community," said city of Grand Blanc Mayor John Creasey. "This sort of thing is painful for our entire community."

About 100 people gathered for a prayer service Sunday evening at The River Church in Grand Blanc, a nondenominational Christian church about 5 miles (8 kilometers) from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Many bowed their heads, some cried softly. A few spoke their prayers aloud, asking for healing for the victims, the victims' families and first responders.

"We live in days that are difficult and troubled, days that are weary and tiring," said Pastor Chuck Lindsey, leading the congregation in prayer. "We're exhausted by the evil, we're exhausted by these things. But Lord, you are our refuge."

Netanyahu and Trump are set to meet as pressure mounts to end war in Gaza

By ADAM GELLER and SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

Days after his defiant speech at the United Nations rejecting demands to end the war in Gaza, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is set to confer with his most important supporter.

But Monday's meeting with President Donald Trump in Washington comes at a tenuous moment. Israel is increasingly isolated, losing support from many countries that were long its steadfast allies. At home, Netanyahu's governing coalition appears more fragile than ever. And the White House is showing signs of impatience.

The question now is whether Trump, who has offered steadfast backing to Netanyahu throughout the war, will change his tone and turn up the pressure on Israel to finally wind down the conflict.

In a post Sunday on social media, the president said: "We have a real chance for GREATNESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. ALL ARE ON BOARD FOR SOMETHING SPECIAL, FIRST TIME EVER. WE WILL GET IT DONE!!!"

Trump and Netanyahu are scheduled to meet in the Oval Office, and a joint press conference is expected later.

The uncertainty surrounding the meeting casts it as "one of the most critical" in the yearslong relationship between the two leaders, said professor Eytan Gilboa, an expert on US-Israeli relations at Bar-Ilan and Reichman universities.

"Netanyahu might have to choose between Trump and his coalition members," a number of whom want the war to continue, Gilboa said. A move by Netanyahu to end the war would leave him on shaky political ground at home a year before elections.

Oded Ailam, a researcher at the Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs, agreed that Trump is likely to demand a permanent ceasefire, leaving Netanyahu with few options. Netanyahu has repeatedly vowed to continue the offensive until Hamas is destroyed.

Israel could seek to include 'red lines'

If Trump puts the pressure on, the Israeli leader would probably seek to include "red lines" in any deal, Ailam said. He might demand that Hamas be dismantled, Ailam said. Netanyahu might also set a condition that if the militant group resumes fighting or returns to power, the Israeli military would have the right to operate freely in Gaza, he said.

Trump joined forces with Netanyahu during Israel's brief war with Iran in June, ordering U.S. stealth bombers to strike three nuclear sites, and he's supported the Israeli leader during his corruption trial, describing the case as a "witch hunt."

But the relationship has become more tense lately. Trump was frustrated by Israel's failed strike this month on Hamas officials in Qatar, a U.S. ally in the region that had been hosting negotiations to end the war in Gaza.

Recent comments have hinted at growing impatience from Washington. Last week, Trump vowed to prevent Israel from annexing the West Bank — an idea promoted by some of Netanyahu's hard-line governing partners. The international community opposes annexation, saying it would destroy hopes for a

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two-state solution.

Michael Doran, senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, dismissed the idea that Trump's comments about the West Bank were a sign of friction. He said the remarks allowed Netanyahu to resist pressure from right-wing members of his government.

"That was a clever move by Trump," Doran said. "It simultaneously showed responsiveness to Arab and Muslim allies while actually helping out Netanyahu."

On Friday, Trump raised expectations for the meeting with Netanyahu, telling reporters on the White House lawn that the U.S. was "very close to a deal on Gaza."

Trump has made similar pronouncements in the past with nothing to show for it, and it's unclear if this time will be different.

Proposal does not include expulsion of Palestinians

Trump's proposal to stop the war in Gaza calls for an immediate ceasefire, the release of all hostages within 48 hours and a gradual withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Palestinian enclave, according to three Arab officials briefed on the plan. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the plan has not been formally unveiled.

Hamas is believed to be holding 48 hostages, 20 of whom are believed by Israel to still be alive. The militant group has demanded that Israel agree to end the war altogether and withdraw from all of Gaza as part of any permanent ceasefire.

Trump discussed the plan with Arab and Islamic leaders in New York on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly. It doesn't include the expulsion of Palestinians from Gaza, which Trump appeared to endorse earlier this year.

The 21-point proposal also calls for an end to Hamas rule of Gaza as well as the disarmament of the militant group, the officials who were briefed on the plan, said. Hundreds of Palestinians, including many serving life sentences, will be released by Israel, according to the proposal.

The plan also includes the establishment of an international security force to take over law enforcement in post-war Gaza, they said.

A Palestinian committee of technocrats would oversee the civilian affairs of the strip, with power handed over later to a reformed Palestinian Authority, they said. Netanyahu has rejected any role for the authority, the internationally recognized representative of the Palestinians, in postwar Gaza.

A Hamas official said the group was briefed on the plan but has yet to receive an official offer from Egyptian and Qatari mediators. The group has repeatedly rejected laying down arms and has linked its weapons to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Netanyahu acknowledged the U.S. plan Sunday in an interview with Fox News, saying Israeli officials were "working with President Trump's team ... and I hope we can make it a go."

In his speech Friday at the U.N., Netanyahu praised Trump multiple times, calling him an essential partner who "understands better than any other leader that Israel and America face a common threat."

Israel has lost much of the world's goodwill

But apart from the U.S. leadership, Israel has lost much of the international goodwill it once could count on.

At a special session of the U.N. Security Council last week, nation after nation expressed horror at the 2023 attack by Hamas militants that killed about 1,200 people in Israel, saw 251 taken hostage and triggered the war. Then many of the representatives went on to criticize the response by Israel and call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and influx of aid.

Israel's sweeping offensive has killed more than 66,000 Palestinians in Gaza, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which is part of the Hamas-run administration. Its figures are seen as a reliable estimate by the U.N. and many independent experts. The fighting has displaced 90% of the Gaza population, with an increasing number now starving.

In recent weeks, 28 Western-aligned countries that circled behind Israel two years ago have called on it to end the offensive in Gaza. They also criticized Israel's restrictions on humanitarian aid, which have

contributed to famine in parts of Gaza.

Ten countries — including Britain, France, Canada and Australia — recognized Palestinian statehood last week, hoping to revive the long-moribund peace process. Several Arab states, including some with long-standing relations with Israel, have accused it of committing genocide in Gaza, as have leading genocide scholars, U.N. experts and some Israeli and international rights groups. The U.N.'s highest court is weighing genocide allegations raised by South Africa that Israel vehemently denies.

Aaron David Miller, who served as an adviser on Middle East issues to Democratic and Republican administrations, said there were too many unresolved issues to believe that an end to the conflict is near.

"The more crowing that is done about how we're in the final stages, the more skeptical I become," he said.

Government shutdown draws closer as congressional leaders head to the White House

By STEPHEN GROVES and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic and Republican congressional leaders are heading to the White House for a meeting with President Donald Trump on Monday in a late effort to avoid a government shutdown, but both sides have shown hardly any willingness to budge from their entrenched positions.

If government funding legislation is not passed by Congress and signed by Trump on Tuesday night, many government offices across the nation will be temporarily shuttered and non-exempt federal employees will be furloughed, adding to the strain on workers and the nation's economy.

Republicans are daring Democrats to vote against legislation that would keep government funding mostly at current levels, but Democrats so far have held firm. They are using one of their few points of leverage to demand that Congress take up legislation to extend health care benefits.

"The meeting is a first step, but only a first step. We need a serious negotiation," Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said in an interview Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Trump has shown little interest in entertaining Democrats' demands on health care, even as he agreed to hold a sit-down meeting Monday afternoon with Schumer, along with Senate Majority Leader John Thune, House Speaker Mike Johnson and House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries. The Republican president has said repeatedly that he fully expects the government to enter a shutdown this week.

"If it has to shut down, it'll have to shut down," Trump said Friday. "But they're the ones that are shutting down government."

The Trump administration has tried to pressure Democratic lawmakers into backing away from their demands, warning that federal employees could be permanently laid off in the midst of a funding lapse.

"Chuck Schumer said a few months ago that a government shutdown would be chaotic, harmful and painful. He's right, and that's why we shouldn't do it," Thune, a South Dakota Republican, said Sunday on "Meet the Press."

Still, Democrats argued that Trump's agreement to hold a meeting shows that he is feeling the pressure to negotiate. They say that because Republicans control the White House and Congress, Americans will mostly blame them for any shutdown.

But to hold on to their negotiating leverage, Senate Democrats will likely have to vote against a bill to temporarily extend government funding on Tuesday, just hours before a shutdown — an uncomfortable position for a party that has long denounced shutdowns as pointless and destructive.

The bill has already passed the Republican-controlled House and would keep the government funded for seven more weeks while Congress works on annual spending legislation.

Any legislation to fund the government will need support from at least 60 senators. That means that at least eight Democrats would have to vote for the short-term funding bill, because Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky is expected to vote against it.

During the last potential government shutdown in March, Schumer and nine other Democrats voted to break a filibuster and allow a Republican-led funding bill to advance to a final vote. The New York Democrat faced fierce backlash from many in his own party for that decision, with some even calling for him to

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step down as Democratic leader.

This time, Schumer appears resolute.

"We're hearing from the American people that they need help on health care and as for these massive layoffs, guess what? Simple one-sentence answer: They're doing it anyway," he said.

Democrats are pushing for an extension to Affordable Care Act tax credits that have subsidized health insurance for millions of people since the COVID-19 pandemic. The credits, which are designed to expand coverage for low- and middle-income people, are set to expire at the end of the year.

Some Republicans are open to extending the tax credits, but want changes. Thune said Sunday that the program is "desperately in need of reform" and Republicans want to address "waste, fraud and abuse." He has pressed Democrats to vote for the funding bill and take up the debate on tax credits at a later date.

It remains to be seen whether the White House meeting will help or hurt the chances for a resolution. Negotiations between Trump and Democratic congressional leaders have rarely gone well, and Trump has had little contact with the opposing party during his second term.

The most recent negotiation in August between Schumer and the president to speed the pace of Senate confirmation votes for administration officials ended with Trump telling Schumer to "go to hell" in a social media post.

Trump also abruptly canceled a meeting that was planned with congressional leaders last week, calling Democrats' demands "unserious and ridiculous."

Schumer argued that the White House coming back to reschedule a meeting for Monday showed that "they felt the heat."

Europe wins the Ryder Cup and reasserts its dominance over the Americans

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Staked to the largest lead in history, Europe fully expected to win the Ryder Cup on Sunday. The surprise was how much emotion poured out of the team on a final day that produced a furious American charge and, ultimately, another Irish hero.

What looked to be only a matter of time before the European celebration was on turned into nervous glances at the scorecard as the unruly crowd at Bethpage Black finally had a U.S. team to cheer for instead of against.

It went from looking impossible to improbable to just maybe.

And then Shane Lowry, who endured so much abuse from a hostile and vulgar New York crowd, had the last word. He holed a 6-foot birdie putt against Russell Henley to earn the half-point Europe needed to make sure it kept that 17-inch gold chalice.

He couldn't contain himself, pumping his fists and spinning around the green and squeezing every teammate he could find. He recalled telling his caddie as they walked up the 18th fairway, "I have a chance to do the coolest thing in my life here."

"The Ryder Cup means everything to me," Lowry said.

Ditto for all of Europe. Even a closer call than imagined did not take away from a reminder who dominates these matches. Europe has won 11 times in the last 14 Ryder Cups, and this was its fifth time winning on U.S. soil in the last 10 tries.

"They'll be talking about this team for a long time," Luke Donald said after joining Tony Jacklin (1985 and 1987) as the only European captains to win back to back.

Tyrrell Hatton, unbeaten in four matches, earned a halve against Collin Morikawa that made Europe an outright winner.

The final score — Europe 15, United States 13 — was the only real surprise.

"Shoutout to the Americans," Donald said, his players draped in flags of their home countries. "We knew they'd be tough. I didn't think they would be this tough on Sunday. They fought so hard, and all the respect to them."

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"This means a lot, obviously, to me and the team. We came here knowing that the task was going to be very difficult. Couldn't be more proud of these guys — what they've gone through, how they come together, how they're playing for history, how they're playing for the people that came before them and now they'll be talked (about) for generations to come."

The Americans at least showed a pulse and made their opponents sweat more than anyone imagined, storming back from a seven-point deficit. No team ever won from more than four points behind going into the 12 singles matches.

There was a moment where a comeback actually looked possible.

Cameron Young and Justin Thomas won matches on the 18th hole. Bryson DeChambeau charged from 5 down to earn a halve. Scottie Scheffler avoided getting blanked by winning his heavyweight match against Rory McIlroy.

"Obviously this is an extreme long shot," Thomas said. "I'm glad Cam and I could finish like that to at least give us a little hope."

Another point came from Xander Schauffele in the shortest match of the day, 4 and 3, over Jon Rahm. U.S. Open champion J.J. Spaun won his match. Except for Ludvig Åberg taking down Patrick Cantlay, there was no European blue anywhere to be found. All they needed was a half-point.

That's when Lowry came through. He was 2 down with four holes to play when he birdied three of the last four, none more memorable than the last one.

His final putt will put him alongside other Irishmen who have produced Ryder Cup heroics — Graeme McDowell at Celtic Manor in 2010, Darren Clarke and his emotional week at The K Club, Paul McGinley at The Belfry in 2002.

"We gave it a good fight, that's for sure," U.S. captain Keegan Bradley said.

The Americans tied a Ryder Cup record by winning 8 1/2 points from the 12 singles matches. They needed 10 points.

The Americans still have a 27-16-2 lead in the series that date to 1927, but the modern Ryder Cup didn't start until 1979 when continental Europe was invited to the party. Since then, Europe has captured the cup 13 out of 19 times.

McIlroy had said winning a road Ryder Cup was among the biggest accomplishments in golf. It's just not all that unusual. Europe has won five of the last 10 away from home.

Europe's best players starred at Bethpage Black even as New York fans hurled abuse, building a record seven-point lead going into the 12 singles matches.

Europe put a half-point on the board before a shot was hit. Viktor Hovland, who had a summer neck injury flare up on Saturday, was forced to withdraw. Harris English, whose name had been put in the secret envelope, also sat out and the match was declared halved.

That meant the Americans had to win nine of the 11 matches and halve another and they put up an astonishing fight, finally hearing cheers for the U.S. instead of only vitriol toward Europe.

"The Europeans won one match today. You think about the odds of something like that happening," Bradley said.

The damage was done long before, when Scheffler and DeChambeau combined to produce one point between them over four matches. Bradley said his one regret might be the way he set up the course. Bethpage Black has a reputation of being a beast, but the rough was trimmed back and then heavy rain during the week made the greens soft.

"We tried to set the course up to help our team. Obviously it wasn't the right decision," Bradley said. "I definitely made a mistake on the course setup. I should have listened a little bit more to my intuition."

There were birdies galore, a rarity at the Black Course. There was hostility from the crowd, typical of this region and this public golf course.

And there was a European celebration, which is becoming all too familiar.

Netanyahu says Israel working on ceasefire plan on eve of Trump

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meeting. Gaza death toll tops 66,000

By SAMY MAGDY, MELANIE LIDMAN and GIOVANNA DELL'ORTO Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — On the eve of meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that Israel is working on a new ceasefire plan with the White House, but details are still being sorted out.

Netanyahu has come under heavy international pressure to end the war, especially during the ongoing offensive in Gaza City. The death toll in the Israel-Hamas war has topped 66,000 Palestinians, Gaza's Health Ministry said Sunday.

In Monday's White House meeting, Trump is expected to share a new proposal for ending the conflict.

"We're working on it," Netanyahu told Fox News Sunday's "The Sunday Briefing." "It's not been finalized yet, but we're working with President Trump's team, actually as we speak, and I hope we can -- we can make it a go."

Arab officials briefed on the plan say the 21-point proposal calls for an immediate ceasefire, the release of all hostages held by Hamas within 48 hours and a gradual withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the proposal has not been formally announced.

Netanyahu has vowed to continue fighting until Hamas, whose Oct. 7, 2023, attack triggered the war, is destroyed. But he repeated an offer to allow Hamas operatives to leave Gaza as part of a deal ending the conflict.

"If they finish the war, release all the hostages, we let them out," he said.

Growing international pressure on Israel

Trump has so far stood behind Israel. But the U.S. leader has shown signs of impatience lately, particularly after Israel struck the headquarters of Hamas' political leadership in Doha, Qatar, earlier this month. Ceasefire talks have stalled since, despite growing international and domestic protests.

Key Western allies have joined a list of countries recognizing a Palestinian state over Israeli objections. The European Union is considering sanctions and there are growing moves for a sports and cultural boycott against Israel.

A defiant Netanyahu told fellow world leaders Friday at the U.N. General Assembly that his nation "must finish the job" against Hamas in Gaza, where 48 hostages are still held captive, around 20 of them believed by Israel to be alive.

Trump's 21-point ceasefire plan

Trump's ceasefire proposal would include the release of all hostages within 48 hours and a gradual withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Palestinian enclave, according to three Arab officials briefed on the plan. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing talks, said the proposal is not final and changes are highly likely.

Trump discussed the proposal with Arab leaders in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

A Hamas official said the group was briefed on the plan but has yet to receive an official offer from Egyptian and Qatari mediators. Hamas has said it is ready to "study any proposals positively and responsibly."

The official said the group had previously said it was willing to release all hostages in return for an end to the war and a complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from the strip.

Nonstop explosions reported in Gaza

Local hospitals in central Gaza said at least 10 people were killed when at least two strikes hit homes in the Nuseirat refugee camp.

Gaza's Health Ministry said in its daily report the death toll has climbed to 66,005, with a further 168,162 wounded since the war started.

The ministry, part of the Hamas-run administration, does not differentiate between civilians and militants in its toll, but has said women and children make up around half the dead. Its figures are seen as a reliable estimate by the U.N. and many independent experts.

Residents reported hearing sounds of explosions overnight across the city, likely coming from the de-

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molition of buildings through the detonation of explosive-laden vehicles and robots. "They were nonstop," Sayed Baker, a Palestinian who shelters close to a Shifa hospital, said of the explosions.

The Israeli military did not immediately comment on the strikes, but said it struck 140 Hamas military targets over the past 24 hours, including militants, observation equipment and infrastructure.

On Sunday, the military said it had struck a high-rise building in Gaza City after warning residents to evacuate. The strike leveled the 16-story Macca tower. No casualties were reported.

The Israeli military said the building housed "military infrastructure belonging to Hamas." It is the latest in a series of demolitions in recent weeks as Israel expands its offensive.

Israel's offensive has destroyed vast areas of Gaza, displacing around 90% of the population amid a catastrophic humanitarian crisis, with experts saying Gaza City is experiencing famine.

On Sunday, a 20-year-old Israeli soldier died of wounds sustained in an attack at a road junction near Nablus in the West Bank, and security forces shot dead the alleged attacker, the army said. The attack was praised by Hamas. Violence has surged in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, which alongside Gaza and east Jerusalem was captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war and the Palestinians want for a future state. ____ Magdy reported from Cairo and Dell'Orto reported from Jerusalem. Associated Press writer Sam Mednick in Tel Aviv contributed to this report.

Things to know about federal law enforcement activity in Chicago, Portland, Memphis

By ADRIAN SAINZ and SOPHIA TAREEN Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Armed federal agents patrolled Chicago's downtown streets on Sunday and President Donald Trump called up 200 National Guard troops for deployment in Portland, Oregon, a move strongly opposed by the governor that immediately prompted a lawsuit saying Trump overstepped his authority.

The latest examples of creeping federal law enforcement and military presence in U.S. cities occurred as Memphis prepares for the arrival of additional federal authorities, including immigration and drug enforcement agents, that Republican Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee says he expects will happen this week.

In Chicago on Sunday, dozens of armed federal agents, in full tactical gear, walked the streets of some of the city's most prominent tourist and shopping areas. That comes amid a surge of immigration enforcement that began early this month, including repeated conflict at an ICE building in Broadview, west of Chicago, where federal authorities on Friday and Saturday fired pepper balls and tear gas at protesters.

Trump's troop order came a day after he said on social media that he was directing the Department of Defense to "provide all necessary Troops to protect War ravaged Portland." Trump said the decision was necessary to protect U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities. Gov. Tina Kotek said Trump's description was a false narrative meant to spur conflict.

The moves follow Trump's crime crackdown in the District of Columbia and actions in Los Angeles in response to immigration protests that turned violent with the arrival of troops.

Here's a rundown of potential and current federal law enforcement activity in Chicago, Portland and Memphis.

Chicago

On Sunday, federal agents marched along Michigan Avenue, the Chicago River and upscale neighborhoods, attracting attention from shoppers and families dining at sidewalk cafes. Many used phones to record. Activists also trailed the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents, blowing whistles and shouting.

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson and Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker blasted the sudden physical show of force. "While Chicagoans and visitors are enjoying another gorgeous Sunday, they are being intimidated by masked federal agents flaunting automatic weapons for no apparent reason," Johnson said in a statement. Pritzker echoed the sentiment.

"This is not making anybody safer — it's a show of intimidation, instilling fear in our communities and hurting our businesses," Pritzker said in a statement.

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Gregory Bovino, a Border Patrol agent central to the Los Angeles immigration crackdown, was among the agents who walked several miles near downtown.

Federal officials have said the Chicago surge was intended to arrest "the worst of the worst" people in the country illegally and with criminal records. Bovino told The Associated Press that agents had made "several arrests" but declined to give specifics on whether the patrols downtown were aimed at specific people.

"We've always got a target that's anyone who is here illegally," Bovino said.

Over the weekend, tension rose outside an ICE building in suburban Broadview about 12 miles (19 kilometers) west of Chicago. On Friday, agents repeatedly fired chemical agents toward a crowd of over 100 protesters after some of the group attempted to block a car from driving down a street toward the ICE building. Pepper bullets and tear gas canisters went into the crowd, most of them standing away from the fence and not blocking traffic.

Protesters and reporters described similar scenes on Saturday.

Broadview's mayor criticized ICE for actions she said have endangered local police, firefighters, residents and protesters. Broadview police also launched a criminal investigation of an "unprovoked attack" on the vehicle of a WBBM-TV Chicago reporter, alleging a chemical munition was fired by immigration agents.

In previous weeks, protesters had also tried to block agents' vehicles from moving in or out of a yard next to the building.

Activists and family members of detainees have raised concerns in recent days that the facility meant to process arrestees is a de facto detention center plagued by inhumane conditions.

Trump previously threatened to send the National Guard into Chicago but has yet to follow through.

Portland

Trump said he ordered the 60-day deployment of Oregon National Guard troops to deal with "violent protests" that threaten the security of immigration detention facilities and other federal property.

He said the protests "constitute a form of rebellion against the authority of the Government of the United States."

Protesters at recent demonstrations have numbered in the dozens and focused on the area around a single ICE building. Some federal agents have been injured and several protesters have been charged with assault. Some demonstrators also say they have been injured.

Kotek talked to Trump on Saturday and said the deployment was unnecessary. She refused to call up any Oregon National Guard troops and so Trump did so himself in an order to Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth.

"Putting our own military on our streets is an abuse of power and a disservice to our communities and our service members," Kotek said. "And it is unlawful. And it will make Oregonians less safe."

Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield said he filed a lawsuit in Oregon U.S. District Court against Trump, Hegseth and others on behalf of the state and the city of Portland. It seeks an injunction blocking any deployment on the grounds that Trump doesn't have authority because the situation doesn't constitute an invasion or rebellion or a situation where federal laws can't otherwise be executed.

"Oregon communities are stable, and our local officials have been clear: we have the capacity to manage public safety without federal interference," Rayfield said. "Sending in 200 National Guard troops to guard a single building is not normal. If you had a concern about safety at your own home, you'd make a few calls and fill the gaps — not call in an army."

Memphis

Trump said earlier this month that he was creating a task force of federal law enforcement agencies to combat crime in Memphis. The city has experienced high numbers of violent crimes such as carjackings and homicides in recent years, but both Democratic and Republican officials have noted that the majority-Black city is seeing decreases this year in some crime categories.

Lee, the governor, has publicly said he would not expect more than 150 National Guard members to be sent to Memphis, though he's said the numbers aren't solidified. The city said Friday there won't be tanks. The Guard troops won't be making arrests and won't be armed unless local authorities request that, Lee said Friday.

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It's unclear when Guard members will arrive. Lee also said 300 Tennessee Highway Patrol troopers will be in the region.

Latinos in Memphis have expressed concern that ICE agents will increase their presence in Memphis and detain people who are in the country legally.

On Saturday, dozens of people marched to a plaza in front of City Hall to protest the law enforcement surge. Speakers at a news conference said that, instead of federal troops and agents, Memphis needs more funding for education, crime prevention, youth services and hospitals.

Oregon officials have made similar comments.

Missouri governor signs Trump-backed plan aimed at helping Republicans win another US House seat

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Missouri Gov. Mike Kehoe signed a new U.S. House map into law Sunday as part of President Donald Trump's plan to try to hold on to a narrow Republican majority in next year's congressional election.

Kehoe's signature puts the revised districts into state law with a goal of helping Republicans win one additional seat. But it may not be the final action. Opponents are pursuing a referendum petition that, if successful, would force a statewide vote on the new map. They also have brought several lawsuits against it.

U.S. House districts were redrawn across the country after the 2020 census to account for population changes. But Missouri is the third state this year to try to redraw its districts for partisan advantage, a process known as gerrymandering.

Republican lawmakers in Texas passed a new U.S. House map last month aimed at helping their party win five additional seats. Democratic lawmakers in California countered with their own redistricting plan aimed at winning five more seats, though it still needs voter approval. Other states also are considering redistricting.

Each seat could be critical, because Democrats need to gain just three seats to win control of the House, which would allow them to obstruct Trump's agenda and launch investigations into him. Trump is trying to stave off a historic trend in which the president's party typically loses seats in midterm elections.

Republicans currently hold six of Missouri's eight U.S. House seats. The new map targets a seat held by Democratic U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver by shaving off portions of his Kansas City district and stretching the rest of it into Republican-heavy rural areas. It reduces the number of Black and minority residents in Cleaver's district, which he has represented for two decades after serving as Kansas City's first Black mayor.

Cleaver has denounced the redistricting plan for using Kansas City's Troost Avenue — a street that has long segregated Black and white residents — as one of the dividing lines for the new districts.

Kehoe has defended the new map as a means of boosting Missouri's "conservative, common-sense values" in the nation's capital.

"Missourians are more alike than we are different, and our values, across both sides of the aisle, are closer to each other than those of the congressional representation of states like New York, California, and Illinois. We believe this map best represents Missourians, and I appreciate the support and efforts of state legislators, our congressional delegation, and President Trump in getting this map to my desk," Kehoe said in a statement.

Kehoe signed the new law during an event that was closed to the public.

Opponents are gathering petition signatures seeking to force a statewide referendum on the new map. They have until Dec. 11 to submit around 110,000 valid signatures, which would put the map on hold until a public vote can occur sometime next year.

Meanwhile, opponents also are pursuing a variety of legal challenges. Several lawsuits by voters, including a new one announced Sunday by a Democratic-affiliated group, contend mid-decade redistricting isn't allowed under Missouri's constitution.

"It was not prompted by the law or a court order; it was the result of Republican lawmakers in Missouri

following partisan directives from politicians in Washington, D.C.," said Marina Jenkins, executive director of the National Redistricting Foundation, a nonprofit affiliate of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee.

A previously filed lawsuit by the NAACP contends no "extraordinary occasion" existed for Kehoe to call lawmakers into session for redistricting.

A lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union also asserts that the new Kansas City area districts violate state constitutional requirements to be compact and contain equal populations. It notes that the redistricting legislation lists a "KC 811" voting precinct in both the fourth and fifth congressional districts, which it asserts is grounds to invalidate the new map.

But Kehoe's office said there is no error. It said other government agencies had assigned the same name to two distinct voting locations.

Moldova's pro-EU party takes decisive lead in election fraught with Russian interference claims

By STEPHEN McGRATH Associated Press

CHISINAU, Moldova (AP) — Moldova's pro-Western ruling party has taken a decisive lead in a critical parliamentary election that was overshadowed by Russian interference claims. The race was widely viewed as a geopolitical choice between a path to the European Union or a drift back into Moscow's fold.

The tense ballot pitted the governing pro-Western Party of Action and Solidarity, which has held a strong parliamentary majority since 2021, against several Russia-friendly opponents but no viable pro-European partners. But the party now looks on track to secure a majority of legislative seats.

With about 95% of polling station reports counted, official electoral data showed the pro-EU Party of Action and Solidarity leading with 48% of the vote, while the pro-Russian Patriotic Electoral Bloc has 25.6%. The Russia-friendly Alternativa Bloc stood at 8.3% and the populist Our Party — which wants "balanced foreign policy" between East and West — has 6.3%. The right-wing Democracy at Home party has 5.7%.

The election day was marked by a string of incidents, ranging from bomb threats at multiple polling stations abroad to cyberattacks on electoral and government infrastructure, voters photographing their ballots and some being illegally transported to polling stations. Police also detained three people suspected of plotting to cause unrest after the vote.

The pivotal vote will elect a new 101-seat parliament, after which Moldova's president nominates a prime minister, generally from the leading party or bloc, which can then try to form a new government. A proposed government needs parliamentary approval.

When polls closed locally at 9 p.m. on Sunday, the Central Electoral Commission reported that more than 1.59 million, or about 51.9% of eligible voters had cast ballots. Some 276,000 Moldovans have voted in polling stations set up abroad, which will remain open until 7 p.m. in their respective countries.

Moldova's large diaspora will likely play a decisive role in the final outcome. In last year's presidential runoff — which was also viewed as a choice between East and West — a record number of 327,000 voters cast ballots abroad, more than 82% of whom favored Moldova's pro-Western President Maia Sandu.

Claims Russia attempted to 'hijack' the vote

Sunday's high-stakes ballot was to some extent a litmus test for the Moldovan authorities in countering what they have long alleged is a massive "hybrid war" conducted by Russia, which they accused of spending "hundreds of millions" of euros to try to seize power in Moldova and ultimately derail the country's EU path.

Igor Grosu, the leader of Party of Action and Solidarity, said after polls closed that "Russia's attempts to hijack the electoral process have been huge" and that state institutions made efforts to ensure the security and integrity of the voting.

"The consequences of this intervention are hard to estimate at this hour," he said. "We are waiting for the election results. We pray for patience and calm."

Moldova is landlocked between Ukraine and EU member Romania. The country of about 2.5 million

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people has spent recent years on a westward path and gained candidate status to the EU in 2022, shortly after Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Tensions between Russia and Moldova, a Soviet republic until 1991, skyrocketed.

After casting her ballot on Sunday, Sandu reiterated long-held claims that Russia "massively interfered" in the election, saying she voted "to keep the peace" and insisted her country's future lies within the EU. Long-alleged Russian interference fears

The alleged Russian strategies include a large-scale vote-buying operation, cyberattacks, a plan to incite mass riots around the election and a sprawling disinformation campaign online to diminish support for the pro-European ruling party and sway voters toward Moscow-friendly ones.

Just before the vote, police carried out hundreds of raids, detaining scores of people allegedly trained in Serbia to cause "mass riots" and destabilize the country around the critical election.

Russia has repeatedly denied meddling in Moldova and dismissed the allegations last week as "anti-Russian" and "unsubstantiated."

But on Sunday, Moldovan police said they have information about "groups of people" planning to cause unrest from around midnight and on Monday during a protest in Chisinau, to create "disorder and destabilization."

Igor Dodon, a former president and a member of the pro-Russian Patriotic Electoral Bloc, called for a protest in front of the Parliament building on Monday, and later alleged after polls closed that the pro-Western ruling party "is now in panic and is considering various pretexts, excuses and scenarios that go beyond the law and democratic norms."

Shortly before polls closed, police detained three people suspected of being from the security services in Moldova's pro-Russian breakaway region of Transnistria, who were allegedly planning to cause "mass destabilizations and disorder" after the election.

"They are alleged leaders responsible for coordinating, monitoring and logistically supplying the groups," police said, adding that they found pyrotechnics and flammable materials the suspects intended on using to cause panic and chaos.

Multiple incidents on election day

But there were many more allegations of irregularities as Moldovans cast their ballots.

Moldova's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said bomb threats had targeted polling stations set up in several cities abroad, which stopped people from voting for up to two hours in some cases. Moldova's Information Technology and Cyber Security Service said that cyberattacks had targeted electoral infrastructure and government cloud services, but were swiftly dealt with.

Sandu said in a Facebook address as the vote was underway that the authorities also had multiple reports of voters being illegally transported to polling stations abroad, "obviously in exchange for money," and cases of blank ballots being removed from polling stations so they could later "be reintroduced already stamped."

Promo-Lex, a nongovernmental organization monitoring the vote, reported scores of incidents ranging from unauthorized persons at polling stations to scores of people photographing or filming their ballots.

Voter concerns may have diminished pro-EU camp

As the country has lurched from crisis to crisis, Moldovans have faced rampant inflation, instability from the war next door, increasing costs of living and high poverty rates, all which may have diminished support for the pro-European ruling party that Sandu founded in 2016.

Economist Cristian Iftodi, who was born after Moldova's independence, said the election was the "most important" in the country's history.

"I truly believe that Moldova, although it's a very small country, plays a really important role for the EU," Iftodi said. "Because I think the EU can be more united if they win this battle against Russia."

For Igor Mihailov, a 26-year-old student from Chisinau, the main priority "is for our government to be for us, not for their own interests, to be for the people."

Trump will speak at a hastily called meeting of top military leaders, AP source says

By CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump will speak at a hastily called meeting of top military leaders on Tuesday, according to a White House official.

Hundreds of generals and admirals — senior commanders of the one-star rank or higher and their top advisers — have been summoned by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth from all over the world to the Marine Corps base in Quantico, Virginia, with little notice.

The White House official was not authorized to discuss the president's plans before a public announcement about his attendance and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump told NBC News in an interview Sunday that they would be "talking about how well we're doing militarily, talking about being in great shape, talking about a lot of good, positive things."

News about the meeting broke Thursday, and no reason was initially provided for the unusual gathering. Trump didn't seem to know about it when first asked by reporters during an Oval Office appearance.

"I'll be there if they want me, but why is it such a big deal?" Trump said.

The official said the president's participation was not part of the original plan for the meeting but that he decided that he wanted to go.

Trump's participation in the meeting raises the likelihood of a politicized event in front of a nonpartisan audience of military leaders. For example, he delivered campaign-style remarks to uniformed personnel at Fort Bragg in North Carolina in June, attacking his Democratic predecessor, Joe Biden.

The Republican president is also expanding his use of the military in American cities, arguing that it's necessary to fight crime in places where Democratic leaders are failing to ensure public safety.

The National Guard continues to patrol in the District of Columbia, and a smaller deployment is expected in Memphis, Tennessee. On Saturday, Trump said he would also send troops to Portland, Oregon, to protect against "domestic terrorists."

Over the objections of local and state officials, Trump previously sent the National Guard and active-duty Marines to Los Angeles, where there were protests against immigration raids.

The Pentagon's top spokesman has previously confirmed that Hegseth "will be addressing his senior military leaders early next week."

Across the military, there are 800 generals and admirals of all ranks. Many command thousands of service members and are stationed across the world in more than a dozen countries and time zones.

The Washington Post first reported on Trump's plans to attend the upcoming meeting.

Police: Deadly shooting in North Carolina was 'highly premeditated' and location was 'targeted'

SOUTHPORT, N.C. (AP) — A mass shooting that shattered the evening tranquility of a picturesque, seaside town in North Carolina was a "highly premeditated" attack that left three people dead and five injured, police said Sunday. The suspect who allegedly carried out the attack on a waterfront bar was in custody.

Nigel Edge, 40, of Oak Island is accused of opening fire Saturday night from a boat into a crowd gathered at the American Fish Company in Southport, a historic port town about 30 miles (48 kilometers) south of Wilmington, Police Chief Todd Coring said.

At a press conference Sunday, Coring said the location was "targeted," but he did not elaborate.

Authorities said Edge piloted a small boat close to shore, which was lined with bars and restaurants, stopped briefly and fired. He then sped away.

Roughly half an hour after the shooting, a U.S. Coast Guard crew spotted a person matching the suspect's description pulling a boat from the water at a public ramp on Oak Island. The person was detained and turned over to Southport police for questioning, officials said.

Edge is charged with three counts of first-degree murder, five counts of attempted first-degree murder

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and five counts of assault with a deadly weapon. He could face additional charges, Coring said.

The weapon used was an assault rifle, although Coring didn't specify what kind.

"We understand this suspect identifies as a combat veteran. He self-identifies. Injured in the line of duty is what he's saying, he suffers from PTSD," Coring said, referring to post-traumatic stress disorder.

Edge is scheduled to make his first court appearance on Monday, District Attorney Jon David said. He is being held without bond.

Among the five people hospitalized with injuries, at least one "is now clinging for their life," David said. Some of the victims were vacationers from out of town.

Oak Island Police Chief Charlie Morris said the suspect was known to police as someone "who frequently hung out on our pier," and that he had filed lawsuits against the town and police department over the last few years. He did not elaborate.

The district attorney said Edge had had "minor contacts" with police in the past "but nothing significant in his past which would give us any indication that he was capable of such horror."

It was not immediately known whether Edge has an attorney to speak on his behalf. No attorney was listed on court documents. A call to Legal Aid services in Brunswick County went unanswered Sunday.

Investigators from multiple agencies — including the State Bureau of Investigation and the Coast Guard — remained on the water and at the scene Sunday collecting evidence and interviewing witnesses.

Officials did not immediately release the names of the victims.

The Taliban release a US citizen from Afghan prison

By RIAZAT BUTT Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The Taliban on Sunday freed a U.S. citizen from an Afghan prison, weeks after they said they had reached an agreement with U.S. envoys on a prisoner exchange as part of an effort to normalize relations.

The deputy spokesperson for the Taliban Foreign Ministry, Zia Ahmad Takal, identified the man as Amir Amiri. He did not say when Amiri was detained, why, or where.

An official with knowledge of the release said Amiri had been detained in Afghanistan since December 2024 and was on his way back to the U.S. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the details with the media.

Qatar facilitated Amiri's release in the latest diplomatic achievement resulting from its security partnership with the U.S. that has secured the freedom of four other Americans from Taliban detention this year. The energy-rich nation on the Arabian Peninsula also helped in releasing a British couple who were imprisoned for months.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio welcomed Amiri's release, saying it marked the administration's determination, reinforced by U.S. President Donald Trump's recent executive order, to protect American nationals from wrongful detention abroad.

"While this marks an important step forward, additional Americans remain unjustly detained in Afghanistan. President Trump will not rest until all our captive citizens are back home."

Ahmad Habibi, the brother of Mahmood Habibi, a U.S. citizen held by the Taliban for more than three years, said he and his family were grateful to hear the news about Amiri, and they remained hopeful that Mahmood would also return home.

Mahmood Habibi, an Afghan-American business owner, worked as a contractor for a Kabul-based telecommunications company and vanished in 2022. The FBI and his family have said they believe he was taken by the Taliban, who have denied holding him.

"We are grateful that senior officials at the State Department and National Security Council have repeatedly assured us that any deal they do with the Taliban will be 'all or nothing' and they have explicitly assured us that they will not leave my brother behind," Ahmad Habibi said.

It remains unclear what the Taliban receive in exchange for freeing U.S. nationals. But Afghanistan's needs are many.

The international aid money that flowed into the country after the 2001 U.S.-led invasion is drying up even as economic and humanitarian crises mount, particularly after a magnitude-6 earthquake on Aug. 31.

But Afghanistan remains a focus for Trump, who has said he wants to retake Bagram Air Base, a massive former U.S. military facility, a demand rejected by senior Taliban officials.

Trump's comments on autism evoke anger and hope among autistic people and their families

By LAURA UNGAR AP Science Writer

An Indiana woman with an autistic son says President Donald Trump was blaming moms when he made unfounded claims that taking Tylenol while pregnant causes autism.

A Kentucky woman diagnosed with the condition as an adult thought Trump was villainizing autism by describing it as a "horrible, horrible crisis."

A Massachusetts man whose twin boys have profound autism found the Republican president's words hopeful because it was the first time the father had seen autism discussed at the highest levels of government.

Recent comments about autism by the Republican president and others in his administration are rippling through the United States, stirring up a wide range of views and feelings among autistic people and their families. Some welcome the renewed focus and pledges of research money for the complex developmental condition. Others are outraged by what they consider the blaming, shaming and spreading claims not grounded in science.

On Monday, Trump repeatedly warned pregnant women not to take Tylenol, known by the generic name acetaminophen, and he fueled discredited claims about autism and vaccines. Some studies have raised the possibility that taking acetaminophen in pregnancy might be associated with a risk of autism. Many others, however, have not found a connection and no causal link has been proved.

Meantime, scientists stress that concerns that vaccines could be linked to autism have been long debunked. A fraudulent study claiming a link between the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine was later retracted by the journal that published it. Science has shown autism is mostly rooted in genetics.

Pushback on blaming mothers, villainizing autism

Dr. Noa Sterling, an OB-GYN, said Trump's comments, particularly about Tylenol, touched a nerve for many parents of young autistic children.

"There's this kind of narrative that you have to be careful of absolutely everything you do in pregnancy, and if you eat the wrong thing or do the wrong thing, you're going to irreparably harm your baby," she said. "So the Tylenol just plays directly into this fear that, 'I've taken something that has caused this condition in my child.'"

Dani Derner, who has a 4-year-old autistic son, said it is "really disappointing" that women are being blamed.

"I personally did not take Tylenol during my pregnancy," said Derner, of Dripping Springs, Texas. But, she said, "some women might not have a choice."

Some women said the blaming was reminiscent of the disproven mid-20th century theory that emotionally cold "refrigerator mothers" caused autism.

"When I heard that he said acetaminophen was the cause, I was a little scared and a little sad because as a mom of a child with autism, I felt like maybe I was being blamed for that," said Rachel Deaton of Fishers, Indiana, who has a 22-year-old autistic son. "We really don't know what causes autism."

Kelly Sue Milano of Fullerton, California, who has an autistic son, added: "A lot of responsibility and at times criticism is placed on mothers, I think, in a really unbalanced and unfair way."

Some autistic people recoiled at the notion that autism is something to cure.

"It is part of who we are," said Dani Bowman, CEO of DaniMation Entertainment and a cast member of "Love on the Spectrum." "My mom never took Tylenol while she was pregnant with me or my sister. My dad has autism. My sister has autism. I have autism."

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Katy Thurman, a legal assistant in Lexington, Kentucky, who was diagnosed with autism as an adult, grew angry at the concept of eradicating autism.

"There are actual crises going on in this country. People being autistic is not one of them," Thurman said.

Addressing profound autism

Others were encouraged by the attention on the developmental disorder.

"We need a voice at the table and we have to do something," said Matt Murphy of Ayer, Massachusetts, who has twin 8-year-old boys with profound autism. "That's the hopeful thing I take out of this — finally, the top level of government is talking about this."

He said people with profound autism will need lifetime support, and federal and state governments will need to take action in many areas, including education and housing. Murphy is glad to see federal money going toward research into autism's causes.

"Even if you find the cause ... we still have the current population that we need to support and address and help," he said.

Deaton, who has an adult autistic son, agrees, but worries about federal cuts affecting things such as Medicaid and special education. Those help autistic people contribute to society, get jobs and be taxpayers, she said.

Judith Ursitti leads the Profound Autism Alliance and was among a group of people who met with the director of the National Institutes of Health in June. She said hearing the term "profound autism" in a White House event was validating and she was pleased with the list of research being funded.

But Ursitti, mother of a 22-year-old son with autism, realizes that people on other parts of the autism spectrum found some of the language hurtful and that others in her community were outraged because they believe moms were being blamed.

Ursitti also said some of the discussion was confusing, including the failure to tease out profound autism from other parts of the spectrum when mentioning the statistic that 1 in about 31 children is affected by autism spectrum disorder in the U.S.

"The vast majority of people with autism don't fall into that profound category," she said.

She said reactions to comments made at the White House were in some ways as diverse as the autism community itself.

"There's a divide that's quite similar to what we're seeing in our country, honestly," she said.

Oregon moves to No. 2 behind Buckeyes in AP poll; Rebels, Sooners join top 5; Alabama back in top 10

By ERIC OLSON AP College Football Writer

Oregon moved up to No. 2 in The Associated Press college football poll on Sunday, Mississippi earned its highest ranking since 2015, Alabama jumped back into the top 10 and Virginia was in the Top 25 for the first time in six years in the wake of a volatile weekend in which four top-10 teams lost.

Ohio State won at Washington and remains No. 1 for the fifth straight week. The Buckeyes received 46 first-place votes, six fewer than a week ago, and their 37-point lead over Oregon is the closest margin between the top two teams since the preseason poll in mid-August.

Oregon's two-overtime win at Penn State earned the Ducks 16 first-place votes, 15 more than last week, and gave them their highest ranking since they were No. 1 for two months last year.

Miami, which had an open date, slipped one spot to No. 3 and was followed by Mississippi and idle Oklahoma. The No. 4 Rebels got a nine-rung promotion for beating LSU and have their highest ranking since they were No. 3 in late September 2015. LSU fell to No. 13, swapping places with Mississippi.

Texas A&M, Penn State, Indiana, Texas and Alabama round out the top 10.

Alabama, which had been out of the top 10 since losing its opener against Florida State by two touchdowns, has won three straight after beating Georgia for the 10th time in 11 meetings and ending the Bulldogs' 33-game home win streak. No. 12 Georgia has its lowest ranking since it was No. 12 on Dec. 6, 2020. It's just the second poll the Bulldogs have been out of the top 10 since 2021.

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The losses by Penn State, LSU and Georgia marked the first time since 2016 that three top-five teams lost the same week in the regular season.

Florida State's loss at Virginia was the latest development in an up-and-down season for the Seminoles. They went from unranked to No. 14 for beating 'Bama, were in the top 10 for three weeks and plunged 10 spots to No. 18 this week.

In and out

No. 24 Virginia, not listed on any ballots in the previous poll, was rewarded for beating its highest-ranked opponent since then-No. 4 Florida State in 2005. The Cavaliers are 4-1 for a second straight season for the first time since 2003-04.

No. 25 Arizona State's come-from-behind victory over TCU returned the Sun Devils to the Top 25 after a three-week absence.

Southern California (21) and TCU (24) dropped out.

Poll points

— Week 5 marked the second time this season that four top-10 teams lost. It also happened in Week 1, but three of the four top-10 teams had to lose that week because there were three top-10 matchups.

— Mississippi's nine-spot rise into the top five was the biggest by any team since the Rebels jumped 12 spots to No. 3 for beating Alabama in 2015.

— Indiana has been the fastest riser over the past month, moving up 15 rungs since Week 1. Over that span, Oklahoma and Texas A&M have each risen 13 spots.

Conference call

SEC (10) — Nos. 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 19.

Big Ten (6) — Nos. 1, 2, 7, 8, 20, 22.

Big 12 (4) — Nos. 11, 14, 23, 25.

ACC (4) — Nos. 3, 17, 18, 24.

Independent (1) — No. 21.

Ranked vs. ranked

Miami at Florida State: It will be the 27th time the Hurricanes and Seminoles face off as ranked teams. Miami is 15-11 in those games but Florida State has won the last five such contests, the last of which came in 2016.

Vanderbilt at Alabama: Crimson Tide will be looking for payback. Vanderbilt's 40-35 win as a 23-point underdog last season marked the Commodores' first over a No. 1 team and was widely regarded as the 2024 upset of the year.

Shutdown standoff deepens ahead of crucial meeting at the White House

By FATIMA HUSSEIN and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer and Republican Majority Leader John Thune are digging in ahead of this week's deadline to keep the government open, showing little evidence of budging even as both sides have agreed to meet with President Donald Trump at the White House on Monday.

Republicans say Democrats need to help them pass a simple extension of government funding by Tuesday night to avoid a shutdown and they will not agree to negotiate until after it's approved. Democrats say they want immediate talks on health care, and they are willing to shut down the government if they don't get concessions.

A shutdown is "totally up to the Democrats," Thune, R-S.D., said in an interview that aired Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"The ball is in their court," Thune said. "There is a bill sitting at the desk in the Senate right now, we could pick it up today and pass it, that has been passed by the House that will be signed into law by the president to keep the government open."

Schumer, D-N.Y., said on the same program that "it's up to them" whether Republicans will negotiate

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when the two sides meet at the White House on Monday.

"God forbid the Republicans shut the government down," Schumer said. "The American people will know it's on their back."

The Senate standoff is just the latest in annual disagreements over funding, but hopes are dimming for a quick resolution. Democrats have suggested they are more willing than ever to allow a shutdown as they face demands from their base voters to fight harder against Trump and the Republican-led Congress. Some even argue that a shutdown might not make much difference because Trump has slashed so many government jobs already.

"We're hearing from the American people that they need help on health care," Schumer said. "And as for these massive layoffs, guess what? Simple, one-sentence answer: they're doing it anyway."

The Senate is expected to vote on the House-passed bill to extend government funding on Tuesday, ahead of the 12:01 a.m. Wednesday deadline to avert a shutdown. The bill would keep the government open for another seven weeks while Congress finishes its annual spending bills.

Republicans will likely need at least eight Democrats to approve a short-term fix, as Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky is expected to vote against it. Majority Republicans hold 53 seats and they need 60 votes to end a filibuster and pass the legislation.

Schumer said Democrats need "a serious negotiation" at the White House meeting with Trump and the four top congressional leaders, including House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., and House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La.

Trump last week abruptly canceled a planned meeting with Democrats after "reviewing the details of the unserious and ridiculous demands" of Democrats, Trump said on social media.

Schumer said the rescheduled White House meeting is "a good first step."

"Now if the President at this meeting is going to rant and just yell at Democrats and talk about all his alleged grievances and say this, that and the other thing, we won't get anything done. But my hope is it will be a serious negotiation," Schumer said.

Ahead of the last potential government shutdown in March, many Democrats called on Schumer to resign after he provided support for Republicans to keep the government open.

Democrats now fear, among other things, that Republicans will allow Affordable Care Act tax credits expire that have made health insurance more affordable for millions of people since the COVID-19 pandemic. Informally known as Obamacare, tax credits for the expanded health coverage program which go to low- and middle-income people, are set to expire at the end of the year and open enrollment starts in November.

Some Republicans are open to extending the tax credits, but not without changes. Thune said Sunday that the program is "desperately in need of reform" and "is fraught with waste, fraud, and abuse. There are so many people who don't even know they have coverage, because the payments are made directly to the insurance company."

The White House has raised the possibility of mass firings across the federal government if there is a shutdown. Trump's White House told agencies to prepare large-scale layoffs of federal workers if the government shuts down.

Johnson told CNN's State of the Union that Trump "wants to bring in the leaders to come in and act like leaders and do the right thing for the American people." Johnson said "the only thing we are trying to do is buy a little time" with a short-term extension to finish the appropriations process.

"It's fine to have partisan debates and squabbles but you don't hold the people hostage for their services to allow yourself political cover and that's what Chuck Schumer and Hakeem Jeffries are doing right now."

Johnson said Schumer "is doing this for one reason: He is trying to get cover from the far left base of his party because they've been hammering for not fighting Trump. So he's going to try to show that he's fighting Trump."

Jeffries told ABC's "This Week" that "we are always of the view that we need to fund the government," later adding he is "hopeful" a deal can be reached.

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Jeffries said the White House did not explain why the meeting was initially canceled and that his party would work to blunt the health care cuts Republicans approved earlier this year. Jeffries said time is of the essence because higher healthcare costs would go out "in a matter of days."

"We want to find a bipartisan path forward and reach a spending agreement with our Republican colleagues that actually meets the needs of the American people but that also addresses the Republican healthcare crisis that's harming everyday Americans."

US looks for a sports miracle Sunday at the Ryder Cup. Keegan Bradley says he's seen them before

By EDDIE PELLIS AP National Writer

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. (AP) — One of the more original outfits spotted among the red, white and blue at the Ryder Cup this week has been a replica of the hockey sweater goaltender Jim Craig wore while playing for the 1980 U.S. Olympic team.

Do you believe in miracles?

The U.S. golf team will need one Sunday to avoid its first Ryder Cup loss at home since 2012.

Captain Keegan Bradley will send Cameron Young out first for the singles matches, hoping the New Yorker can ignite a historic comeback against a European team firing on all cylinders.

The U.S. trailed 11 1/2- 4 1/2 heading into the final day, then both teams got an extra half point when Europe's Viktor Hovland withdrew with an injury, which turned his scheduled match against Harris English into a draw.

The 12-5 deficit is still the largest heading into Day 3 under the format in place since 1979.

In that time, no team has captured more than 8 1/2 points out of the 12 singles matches.

"We obviously have a big lead," European captain Luke Donald said when asked about considerations in setting his lineup. "So we have to think about that, and we imagine that the U.S. are going to come out pretty strong. We're trying to kind of match them with some strength."

Assuming Europe wraps things up early, the Americans could be in the position of trying to avoid the biggest loss in the modern history of the Cup. The U.S. 19-9 victory four years ago at Whistling Straits is the mark.

Bradley said he was thinking more football than hockey in trying to deliver a message to his team, which has been overwhelmed by great putting and general all-around better play by the Europeans. The captain, a New Englander, was at the Super Bowl following the 2016 season when the Patriots rallied from a 28-3 deficit to beat the Falcons in overtime.

"Of course I want to go out there and make history tomorrow. They all do," Bradley said. "But I think you've got to relish in the opportunity to get out on the course tomorrow and play for your country at a course like this, at a venue like this. I think it's something that you've got to look forward to."

The lineup for Sunday

1. Young vs. Justin Rose. (Rose made 93 feet worth of putts on holes he won and tied in his fourballs match Saturday.)
2. Justin Thomas vs. Tommy Fleetwood. (Fleetwood is trying to become the first European to go 5-0 on the road.)
3. Bryson DeChambeau vs. Matt Fitzpatrick. (Fitzpatrick goes for his first win in four singles tries.)
4. Scottie Scheffler vs. Rory McIlroy. (It's a matchup between the two players who have combined for the most wins this year.)
5. Patrick Cantlay vs. Ludvig Aberg. (Cantlay is 2-0 lifetime in singles.)
6. Xander Schauffele vs. Jon Rahm. (Schauffele was part of two of America's four wins this week.)
7. J.J. Spaun vs. Sepp Straka. (Spaun is trying to become the first reigning U.S. Open champion to win Ryder Cup singles since Dustin Johnson in 2016.)
8. Russell Henley vs. Shane Lowry. (Henley, a rookie, is playing his third career Ryder Cup match; Lowry is playing his ninth.)

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9. Ben Griffin vs. Rasmus Hojgaard. (It's a matchup of players who sat all day Saturday.)
10. Collin Morikawa vs. Tyrrell Hatton. (Hatton is unbeaten in his last seven Ryder Cup matches.)
11. Sam Burns vs. Robert MacIntyre. (It's a showdown between two players who came close on a rainy Sunday at the U.S. Open.)

Mideast nations confront chaos in their region, which Egypt warns 'is at a point of implosion'

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Oman — all nations in the thick of the unrest that has pervaded the Middle East — confronted the crisis in the region at the annual U.N. gathering of world leaders, with Egypt's top diplomat warning that the Mideast "is at a point of implosion."

All four countries on Saturday decried Israel's ongoing pursuit of war in Gaza and the horrific impact on Palestinian civilians — and they bemoaned the failure of the United Nations and the broader international community to achieve a ceasefire and end the bloodshed.

The four ministers spoke a day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — facing protesters, critics and growing global isolation over his Gaza policies — told the General Assembly his country "must finish the job" against Hamas for its Oct. 7, 2023, surprise attack in southern Israel that killed about 1,200 people. Hamas also took 250 hostages. Israeli forces recently launched an offensive to take control of Gaza City.

Here's a country-by-country look at those four leaders' takes from the U.N. podium on the overall Mideast situation and Gaza in particular.

Egypt

Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty, whose country has been a key mediator in Gaza along with the United States and Qatar, sharply criticized the international community "standing idly by as a spectator" while international law is systematically violated in Gaza and elsewhere in the Middle East.

Israel's "wanton, unjust war waged against defenseless civilians for a sin they did not commit" is "transpiring without accountability, and it has affected one country after another," he said.

Abdelatty recalled former president Anwar Sadat's historic visit to Israel in 1977, and Egypt becoming "one of the first to anchor the pillar of peace in the region." But surveying the turmoil in the Mideast today, he accused Israel of committing genocide in Gaza — which it vehemently denies — and blocking the Palestinians' from establishing an independent state.

Abdelatty said Israel can't be secure unless other countries in the region are secure, and "the region cannot see stability without an independent state of Palestine."

In the region, he pointed to civil war in Sudan, the need for elections in divided Libya, resolving Yemen's crisis between the internationally recognized government and Houthi rebels who control the capital and most of the north, and ending repeated Israeli violations of Lebanese and Syrian territory.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, Prince Faisal bin Farhan, whose country hosts Russia-Ukraine-U.S. peace talks, said the suffering of Palestinians and unprecedented humanitarian crisis in Gaza make it imperative for the international community to end the war in Gaza and achieve peace through a two-state solution.

A two-state solution to the nearly 80-year Israeli-Palestinian conflict is "the only path that would guarantee the security of all countries in the region," he said. "The failure of the international community to take firm actions to end the Israeli aggression and violation will only cause further instability and insecurity regionally and globally" and "will have grave consequences and will escalate war crimes and acts of genocide."

Farhan said Saudi Arabia, along with Norway and the European Union, launched an international coalition to implement the two-state solution, and it co-sponsored Monday's high-level meeting with France that saw at least 10 countries officially recognize the state of Palestine, bringing the total to near 160 recognitions.

"Such recognition is an important step towards achieving the two-state solution and bolstering the path

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towards a just and lasting peace," he said.

Farhan condemned Israel's recent attack on Qatar. He also called for "international measures" to stop Israel's actions, "and to deter it from such criminal behavior that threatens regional security and stability."

Oman

Omani Foreign Minister Badr bin Hamad al-Busaidi, whose country has mediated U.S.-Iran talks, called on the international community "to apply effective pressure to bring Israel to the negotiating table" — and to adopt measures limiting its ability to continue its killings, destruction, occupation and policies "of starvation and blockade against the Palestinian people."

He condemned Israeli aggression against Iran, Yemen, Syria and Lebanon and called for sanctions against Israel in response to its violation of international law and "unlawful encroachment" on the sovereignty of states.

"We call for a global peaceful campaign to lift the blockade and undo the injustice imposed on the Palestinian people and to secure their freedom through the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state," al-Busaidi said.

United Arab Emirates

Calling it "a pivotal moment" in a world engulfed in turmoil and conflict, the United Arab Emirates' deputy foreign minister Lana Nusseibeh said there is no justification for Hamas taking hostages or for Israel targeting "tens of thousands of civilians or besieging them or starving them and forcibly displacing them."

Israel's "unacceptable, expansionist ambitions including the threat of annexing the West Bank" are also inexcusable, she said.

Nusseibeh urged all countries to recognize the state of Palestine "as an investment in a better future for the region."

The UAE has tried to bridge divides elsewhere in the conflict-torn world, she said, pointing to its role in the exchange of thousands of prisoners between Russia and Ukraine, hosting peace talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and helping to de-escalate tensions in south Asia and beyond.

"Our aim is not simply to manage conflicts, but to resolve them sustainably," Nusseibeh told the assembly. "The urgent need for this approach is clear around the world, whether in the Gaza Strip, Ukraine, Sudan, Yemen, Libya or the Sahel."

Many crises have been exacerbated by extremist ideologies, hate speech and incitement, which is why the UAE is promoting an agenda of tolerance, peace and security, she said. The UAE is also the largest donor of aid to Gaza, she said.

How Walmart plans to prepare America's largest private workforce for an AI-driven future

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Retail Writer

BENTONVILLE, Ark (AP) — As artificial intelligence and demographic changes reshape the U.S. job market, the nation's largest private employer is trying to identify the skills its workers and the broader labor force might need for the future.

Walmart on Thursday hosted more than 300 workplace experts and representatives from other companies participating in the Skills-First Workforce Initiative, a project to develop and fill stable jobs based on what people know how to do instead of whether they attended college.

The retailer already has launched its own employee training and certification programs to meet Walmart's need for truck drivers and maintenance technicians, two roles for which U.S. companies say they can't recruit fast enough as experienced tradespeople retire.

Walmart says it plans to offer a similar AI skills program next year through a new collaboration with OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT.

The Associated Press sat down with Walmart CEO Doug McMillon at the company's sprawling headquarters in Bentonville, Arkansas, to talk about AI and the American workforce. The interview has been edited for clarity and length.

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AP: What's your view of the overall health of the job market, given the uncertainty about tariffs and the economy?

MCMILLON: I would say pretty much a steady state. Turnover numbers are coming down. I'm remembering what happened during the pandemic and relative to that experience, things feel much more stable now. I think the pace of change in the employment market is just smaller and easier to manage.

AP: What are the biggest factors affecting Walmart workers? Fear of AI, or their paychecks not keeping pace with inflation?

MCMILLON: We continue to invest in wages. So I think that's helping some, and that process will continue. As it relates to AI and the future of employment, I think for the most part, our folks are enthusiastic about it because they've seen new tools that they're receiving that are making their jobs better. That's helping them take fewer steps.

And our sales are growing so much. I think people are optimistic about the future of what their life can look like.

AP: Which jobs might be eliminated or added because of AI?

MCMILLON: I think no one knows how this is going to play out exactly. And the way it feels to me is that basically every job gets changed. And I think the best way to think about it is getting "plussed up." So how can I lean in the role that I have, regardless what that role is, to adopt new tools, leverage them and make things better than they would've otherwise been?

As I look across our company, we have everything from store associates to supply chain associates. Of the 2.1 million people (globally), something less than 75,000 of them are home office jobs. All the other ones are working in a store, a club, a distribution center. And I think those jobs change more gradually. We are still going to want to serve customers and members with people. The change as it relates to the home office jobs probably happens faster.

AP: When will you have a clearer idea?

MCMILLON: I don't know there'll be a moment where we all have clarity. I think the way for all of us to approach it, especially here at Walmart, is just in a very transparent, honest, human, straightforward way, talking to people real time about what we're learning and what we're doing and why we're doing it. That's the way that we plan to lead through this.

AP: Do you think AI will result in fewer workers at Walmart?

MCMILLON: One of the biggest areas of change in the last decade is related to associates that work in our stores, picking orders for delivery and pickup for our customers. And we have something north of 200,000 people doing that job, and yet we have about the same (total) number of people working in Walmart U.S.

How did we do that? Other tasks and other jobs changed, which enabled us to create new jobs that paid more and have fewer of the older jobs that went away. I hope what happens as we lead through this is that there will be pluses and minuses, but the net ends up being even more people because we have more ideas of how to grow.

AP: What do you think are the most coveted skills?

MCMILLON: The first thing that comes to mind is store managers. Being a store manager is such a great job and such a challenging job. And it's a job that pays well, and it pays well for a reason. You're interacting with the community with large numbers of people. You have a large number of associates. You have big sales numbers to deliver. And those skills that the store manager has are both human and technical. I think the skills that we have as human beings are valuable. They always have been, and that'll be even more true in the future.

AP: Why are there shortages in roles like maintenance technicians?

MCMILLON: To some degree, it's a lack of awareness. I think most Americans probably don't know what a tech makes that helps take care of our stores and clubs and that we can help them learn how to be a tech. The same thing's true for our drivers. So we have a need to get the word out so that people know there are some great jobs.

AP: Do you think Walmart will be able to fill such gaps as the immigrant pool shrinks?

MCMILLON: We've been able to do that so far, and I expect that we'll continue to find great people that want to join the company and our turnover rates are down, which is helpful.

AP: How critical is this initiative focused on skills-based hiring?

MCMILLON: I think as we all work to learn and navigate the future towards a world where AI fulfills its promise, the best way to do that is to work together and to share information and learn together. It'll speed up our ability to get ahead of this so that we can do a better job of setting our associates up for success. And that's ultimately what we're trying to do. The change that's happening in the world is going to happen. Our choice is to lean in, learn (and) help lead so there are better outcomes for everybody involved.

Officials place Des Moines schools leader on leave after his arrest by immigration agents

By SCOTT McFETRIDGE Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Officials put the leader of Iowa's largest school district on administrative leave Saturday, a day after federal immigration agents arrested him because they said he was in the country illegally.

The Des Moines school board voted unanimously to place Superintendent Ian Roberts on paid leave during a three-minute-long special meeting. The board said Roberts was not available to carry out his duties for the 30,000-student district and stated that officials would reassess his status after getting more information.

After the meeting, school board president Jackie Norris read a statement, saying word of Roberts' arrest Friday made for a "jarring day" but noting that board members still didn't have all the facts.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said agents detained Roberts because he was in the country illegally, didn't have authorization to work and was subject to a final removal order issued in 2024. ICE agents stopped Roberts while he was driving a school-issued vehicle, and the agency said he then fled into a wooded area before being apprehended with help from Iowa State Patrol officers.

He was held in the Woodbury County Jail in Sioux City, in northwest Iowa, about 150 miles from Des Moines.

"I want to be clear, no one here was aware of any citizenship or immigration issues that Dr. Roberts may have been facing," Norris said. "The accusations ICE had made against Dr. Roberts are very serious, and we are taking them very seriously."

Norris said Roberts has retained a Des Moines law firm to represent him. Lawyer Alfredo Parrish confirmed his firm was representing Roberts but declined to comment on his case.

Norris also repeated that the district had done a background check on Roberts before he was hired that didn't indicate any problems and that he signed a form affirming he was a U.S. citizen. A company that aided in the search for a superintendent in 2023 also hired another firm to conduct "comprehensive criminal, credit and background checks" on Roberts that didn't indicate any citizenship issues, Norris said.

Also Saturday, the Iowa Department of Education released a statement saying Roberts stated he was a U.S. citizen when he applied for an administrator license. The department said the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners conducted a criminal history check with state and federal authorities before issuing a license.

The department said it is reviewing the Des Moines district's hiring procedures for ensuring people are authorized to work in the U.S.

Roberts had previously said he was born to immigrant parents from Guyana and spent much of his childhood in Brooklyn, New York. He competed in the 2000 Olympics in track and field for Guyana.

ICE said he entered the U.S. on a student visa in 1999.

A former senior Guyanese police official on Saturday remembered Roberts as a middle-distance runner who could have risen through the ranks of the South American country's police force had he not emigrated to the U.S. decades ago. Retired assistant Guyana Police Force commissioner Paul Slowe said Roberts entered the Police Force after graduating from the country's standard military officers' course.

"He served for a few years and then left. He was not dismissed or dishonorably discharged at all; he just

moved on," Slowe told The Associated Press. "He was a good, promising and disciplined man."

Trump's shutdown blame game: Why he says Democrats are at fault

By SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has had one refrain in recent days when asked about the looming government shutdown.

Will there be a shutdown? Yes, Trump says, "because the Democrats are crazed." Why is the White House pursuing mass firings, not just furloughs, of federal workers? Trump responds, "Well, this is all caused by the Democrats."

Is he concerned about the impact of a shutdown? "The radical left Democrats want to shut it down," he retorts.

"If it has to shut down, it'll have to shut down," Trump said Friday. "But they're the ones that are shutting down government."

In his public rhetoric, the Republican president has been singularly focused on laying pressure on Democrats in hopes they will yield before Wednesday, when the shutdown could begin, or shoulder the political blame if they don't. That has aligned Trump with House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., and Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., who have refused to accede to Democrats' calls to include health care provisions on a bill that will keep the government operating for seven more weeks.

Those dynamics could change Monday, when the president has agreed to host Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., Johnson and Thune. Democrats believe the high-stakes meeting means the GOP is feeling pressure to compromise with them.

Still, Republicans say they are confident Democrats would be faulted if the closure comes. For Trump, the impact would go far beyond politics. His administration is sketching plans to implement mass layoffs of federal workers rather than simply furloughing them, furthering their goal of building a far smaller government that lines up with Trump's vision and policy priorities.

This time, it's the Democrats making policy demands

The GOP's stance — a short-term extension of funding, with no strings attached — is unusual for a political party that has often tried to extract policy demands using the threat of a government shutdown as leverage.

In 2013, Republicans refused to keep the government running unless the Affordable Care Act was defunded, a stand that led to a 16-day shutdown for which the GOP was widely blamed. During his first term, Trump insisted on adding funding for a border wall that Congress would not approve, prompting a shutdown that the president, in an extraordinary Oval Office meeting that played out before cameras, said he would "take the mantle" for.

"I will be the one to shut it down," Trump declared at the time.

This time, it's the Democrats making the policy demands.

They want an extension of subsidies that help low- and middle-income earners who buy insurance coverage through the Obama-era health care law. They also want to reverse cuts to Medicaid enacted in the GOP's tax and border spending bill this year. Republican leaders say what Democrats are pushing for is too costly and too complicated to negotiate with the threat of a government shutdown hanging over lawmakers.

Watching all this is Trump. He has not ruled out a potential deal on continuing the expiring subsidies, which some Republicans also want to extend.

"My assumption is, he's going to be willing to sit down and talk about at least one of these issues that they're interested in and pursuing a solution for after the government stays open," Thune said in an Associated Press interview last week. "Frankly, I just don't know what you negotiate at this point."

Back and forth on a White House sit-down

At this point, Trump has shown no public indication he plans to compromise with Democrats on a shutdown, even as he acknowledges he needs help from at least a handful of them to keep the government

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open and is willing to meet with them at the White House.

Last week, Trump appeared to agree to sit down with Schumer and Jeffries and a meeting went on the books for Thursday. Once word got out about that, Johnson and Thune intervened, privately making the case to Trump that it was not the time during the funding fight to negotiate with Democrats over health care, according to a person familiar with the conversation who was not authorized to discuss it publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Not long after hearing from the GOP leaders, Trump took to social media and said he would no longer meet with the two Democrats "after reviewing the details of the unserious and ridiculous demands being made by the Minority Radical Left Democrats." Republicans privately acknowledge Trump's decision to agree to a meeting was a misstep because it gave Democrats fodder to paint Trump as the one refusing to negotiate.

"Trump is literally boycotting meeting with Democrats to find a solution," Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., wrote on the social media site X before Trump reversed course again and agreed to meet with the leadership. "There is no one to blame but him. He wants a shut down."

It was not immediately clear what led Trump over the weekend to take a meeting he had once refused. Schumer spoke privately with Thune on Friday, pushing the majority leader to get a meeting with the president scheduled because of the approaching funding deadline, according to a Schumer aide. A Thune spokesman said in response that Schumer was "clearly getting nervous."

Another reason why Democrats suspect Trump would be fine with a shutdown is how his budget office would approach a closure should one happen.

The administration's strategy was laid out in an Office of Management and Budget memo last week that said agencies should consider a reduction in force for federal programs whose funding would lapse, are not otherwise funded and are "not consistent" with the president's priorities. A reduction in force would not only lay off employees but also eliminate their positions, triggering yet another massive upheaval in the federal workforce.

Jeffries argued that Trump and his top aides were using the "smoke screen of a government shutdown caused by them to do more damage."

Today in History: September 29, Willie Mays makes "The Catch"

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, Sept. 29, the 272nd day of 2025. There are 93 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 29, 1954, Willie Mays of the New York Giants made a running, over-the-shoulder catch of a ball hit by Vic Wertz of the Cleveland Indians in Game 1 of the 1954 World Series; "The Catch" would become one of the most famous plays in baseball history.

Also on this date:

In 1789, Congress officially established a regular army under the U.S. Constitution.

In 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders concluded the Munich Agreement, which was aimed at appeasing Adolf Hitler by allowing Nazi annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland.

In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed an act creating the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts.

In 1982, Extra-Strength Tylenol capsules laced with deadly cyanide claimed the first of seven victims in the Chicago area; the case, which led to legislation and packaging improvements to deter product tampering, remains unsolved.

In 1988, the U.S. space shuttle program resumed after a 32-month suspension following the 1986 Challenger disaster with the launch of Discovery, carrying a crew of five astronauts, from the John F. Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Discovery's crew deployed a satellite and conducted science experiments before returning to Earth with a landing on Oct. 3 at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

In 1990, the construction of Washington National Cathedral concluded, 83 years to the day after its

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foundation stone was laid in a ceremony attended by President Theodore Roosevelt.

In 2005, John G. Roberts Jr. was sworn in as the nation's 17th chief justice after winning Senate confirmation.

In 2017, Tom Price resigned as President Donald Trump's secretary of Health and Human Services amid investigations into his use of costly charter flights for official travel at taxpayer expense.

In 2018, Tesla and its CEO, Elon Musk, agreed to pay a total of \$40 million to settle a government lawsuit alleging that Musk had duped investors with misleading statements about a proposed buyout of the company.

In 2021, a judge in Los Angeles suspended Britney Spears' father from the conservatorship that had controlled her life and money for 13 years, saying the arrangement reflected a "toxic environment."

In 2022, rescue crews piloted boats and waded through flooded streets to save thousands of Floridians trapped after Hurricane Ian destroyed homes and businesses and left millions in the dark.

Today's Birthdays: Former NASA administrator and ex-Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Florida, is 83. Actor Ian McShane is 83. Jazz musician Jean-Luc Ponty is 83. Nobel Peace Prize laureate Lech Walesa, former president of Poland, is 82. Retired TV journalist and sportscaster Bryant Gumbel is 77. Olympic gold medal runner Sebastian Coe is 69. Rock musician Les Claypool is 62. Actor Zachary Levi is 45. Actor Chrissy Metz (TV: "This Is Us") is 45. Actor Kelly McCreary (TV: "Grey's Anatomy") is 44. Football Hall of Famer Calvin Johnson is 40. NBA All-Star Kevin Durant is 37. Pop singer Halsey is 31.