

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Wednesday, Oct. 1

Senior Menu: Hot pork sandwich, coleslaw, baked beans, orange sherbet.  
School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.  
School Lunch: Cheese quesadilla, refried beans.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.; League 6:30 p.m.  
St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:30 pm.  
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.  
Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.  
Groton Chamber Meeting, noon City Hall  
School Picture Day.

## Thursday, October 2nd:

Senior Menu: Chicken rice casserole, California blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.  
School Breakfast: Cereal.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.



School Lunch: Lasagna bake, peas.  
- Cross Country @ Sisseton (4pm)  
- JH VB vs. Milbank (7th grade @ 4pm, 8th grade @ 5pm)  
- Girls Soccer @ Watertown (6pm)

## Friday, October 3rd:

Senior Menu: Hamburger cabbage roll hotdish, mixed vegetables, pears, cornmeal muffin.  
School Breakfast: Egg wraps.  
School Lunch: Chicken fajita, santa fe corn.  
- Football @ Roncalli (Dacotah Bank Stadium - 7pm)

## Saturday, October 4th:

- Volleyball @ Redfield Tournament (9am vs. Redfield, 10am vs. North Central, 12pm vs. Madison, 3pm vs. Timber Lake)

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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.**

## Shutdown Begins

The federal government shut down at midnight after Congress failed to approve a short-term funding bill, triggering the furlough of an estimated 750,000 federal employees each day and disrupting operations across multiple agencies.

Republicans had proposed a stopgap funding bill to maintain government funding mostly at 2025 levels through Nov. 21, while Democrats sought to reverse Medicaid cuts and extend Affordable Care Act tax credits set to expire this year. The Senate failed yesterday to pass either of the two competing measures. As a result, essential workers, including military personnel and TSA agents, will continue to work without pay, while nonessential offices such as the Labor Department and national parks are closed or operating at limited capacity. Separately funded programs such as Social Security and the Postal Service continue unaffected or with minor administrative disruptions.

This marks the 15th shutdown since 1980, with the last major one lasting 35 days in 2018-19. Senators are scheduled to return Friday to keep voting on proposals to reopen the government.

## Trump-Pfizer Deal

Pharmaceutical giant Pfizer committed yesterday to lowering US drug prices and investing \$70B in domestic manufacturing. Several of its medications will be sold at an average 50% discount on a forthcoming federal website, dubbed TrumpRX.

The announcements follow the Trump administration's Sept. 29 deadline for drugmakers to peg US prices to the lowest price across developed countries. In a May executive order, President Donald Trump accused drugmakers of leveraging US research funds and then upcharging Americans to subsidize lower prices abroad. US drug prices in 2022 were nearly three times higher than those in peer nations, according to a 2024 report. Pfizer's \$70B pledge also exempts it from 100% tariffs on branded drugs, which took effect today for companies not building US facilities.

Trump said his administration is negotiating deals similar to Pfizer's with other drugmakers and threatened action against those that fail to lower domestic prices. Some industry experts caution that Trump's approach could stifle innovation and raise prices globally.

## New Living Goddess

Nepal has selected its latest Kumari—a living child goddess revered by Hindus and Buddhists. For years, the girl—2-year-old Aryatara Shakya—will reside in a temple palace, rarely leaving except for festivals, during which devotees bring gifts and worship her.

The Kumari tradition dates back to the Malla Dynasty in the 17th century, when a rift between the goddess Taleju Bhawani and King Jayaprakash Malla is said to have spurred the goddess to be reincarnated in a series of young girls. Today, Buddhist families of the Shakya clan can bring their daughters to senior Buddhist priests and the royal astrologer for consideration. After undergoing tests (reportedly including whether the girl is afraid of the dark), one Kumari is selected. She spends almost all of her time in the temple with limited social interaction. Once the Kumari goes through puberty, another girl is selected.

Some Kumari face physical and social difficulties upon their reintegration into society as mortals.

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## Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

"KPop Demon Hunters" becomes first English-language film to make Netflix's Top 10 chart for 15 straight weeks.

"Reading Rainbow" to return to PBS after nearly 20 years; former librarian Mychal Threets is tapped to host.

Prosecutors are seeking an 11-year prison sentence for Sean "Diddy" Combs over prostitution-related charges; Combs' sentencing is set for Friday.

WNBA signs 11-year deal with new media company Versant to broadcast games on USA Network.

Minnesota Wild sign Kirill Kaprizov to an NHL-record eight-year, \$136M contract extension.

## Science & Technology

OpenAI launches social media app for sharing AI-generated videos, positioning the company to compete with TikTok and YouTube Shorts.

OpenAI's revenue reaches \$4.3B in the first half of 2025, 16% more than its total 2024 revenue.

Scientists create early-stage human embryos by fertilizing modified DNA from skin cells with sperm; technique could help people overcome infertility or allow same-sex couples to have genetically related children.

Archaeologists discover life-sized animal carvings etched into Arabian desert rocks between 12,800 and 11,400 years ago, revealing human activity in the arid desert roughly 2,000 years earlier than previously thought.

## Business & Markets

US stock markets close up (S&P 500 +0.4%, Dow +0.2%, Nasdaq +0.3%); S&P 500, Nasdaq cap off their best third quarter since 2020 while Dow hits new record.

Nvidia's market cap tops \$4.5T following string of AI infrastructure deals; chipmaker's stock is up roughly 35% for the year.

CoreWeave shares rise above 11% after signing \$14.2B AI cloud infrastructure deal with Meta.

Spotify founder Daniel Ek steps down as CEO to become executive chairman; chief business officer and chief product and technology officer to become co-CEOs.

## Politics & World Affairs

President Donald Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth speak to gathering of high-ranking generals and admirals; call for higher standards for physical fitness and grooming, crackdown on US cities.

The US deports at least 120 Iranians accused of entering the country illegally in rare coordinated action announced by Iran; the US has not commented as of this writing.

President Donald Trump says he has reached a deal with Harvard University to reinstate \$2.4B in federal funding.

Federal judge rules deportations of pro-Palestinian noncitizen students violated their First Amendment rights.

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

Groton  
Area  
Tigers  
Groton, SD

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For more info: [GDILIVE.COM](http://GDILIVE.COM)



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

Groton  
Area  
Tigers  
Groton, SD

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

Groton  
Area  
Tigers  
Groton, SD

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

Groton  
Area  
Tigers  
Groton, SD

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

Groton  
Area  
Tigers  
Groton, SD

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

Groton  
Area  
Tigers  
Groton, SD

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## Groton Volleyball Rolls Past Great Plains Lutheran



**Jerica Locke gets a serve off as she had one ace serve on the night.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

GROTON – The Groton volleyball team continued its strong start to the season with a commanding 3-0 victory over Great Plains Lutheran on Tuesday night, moving to 9-3 overall.

Groton jumped out to an early 7-0 lead in the first set and never looked back, cruising to a 25-8 win. The Tigers repeated the fast start in the second set, again taking a 7-0 lead and finishing with a 25-17 victory. The third set started more evenly, tied at 2-2, before Groton surged ahead to take the set 25-15 and close out the match.

Individually, Groton's players had a standout night:

Tevin Hansen was 15 of 20 in attacks with seven kills.

Sydney Locke had one kill.

Taryn Traphagen went 9 of 11 in attacks with eight kills and added two assisted blocks.

Chesney Weber finished 6 of 10 in serves with two aces and seven kills, along with 23 assists.

Rylee Dunker was 18 of 19 in attacks with nine kills and one assisted block.

Jaedyn Penning served 20 of 21 with six aces, had four kills, 15 digs, and one assisted block.

Jerica Locke contributed an ace and 11 digs.

McKenna Tietz added 11 digs.

As a team, Groton finished 56 of 67 in serving with nine aces, 67 of 83 in attacks with 37 kills, 31 assists, 47 digs, and three blocks.

Great Plains Lutheran was led by Julia Pahl with two kills and a block, Addison Wilkins and Keturah Schleusener with two kills each, and Loren Hansen with two blocks.

Groton also swept both the junior varsity (25-16, 25-16) and C-team (25-13, 25-8) matches.

Coach Chelsea Hanson reflected on the team's performance and the season ahead:

"It's been a long time since we played here; it feels like a foreign place," Hanson said. "It's nice to be back in our gym for a stretch. We had a balanced night with lots of contributors, and that's always encouraging."

Hanson noted the strength of their competition: "Great Plains Lutheran is missing a couple of key players, so tonight was a bit different than what we'd normally see. But our team played confidently, and that's what we need heading into a busy stretch of games."

She also praised her middles: "Both Taryn and Rylee were trying new things we've been practicing, and seeing that pay off in real games is huge. It gives them confidence and gives us more tools to challenge other teams."



**Taryn Traphagen and Teven Hanson get ready as Talli Wright sets the ball.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Looking ahead, Hanson acknowledged the upcoming challenges: "Saturday is going to be a grind with four guaranteed games, possibly five if we top our pool. We need to stay sharp, manage our energy, and take care of our girls. We're competing against the schedule as much as anyone else."

Groton will return to action on Saturday at Redfield and host Mobridge on Monday, continuing a busy stretch for the Tigers.



**Representatives from T-Mobile were on hand Tuesday evening to present the \$5,000 Friday Night 5G Lights award to the Groton Area School.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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## Successful South Dakota State Fair Celebrates America250

HURON, S.D. – Tens of thousands of visitors from across the state gathered at the 2025 South Dakota State Fair to enjoy six days of family fun, incredible entertainment, and timeless traditions. From exciting live music performances to fair food, the SD State Fair continues to be a cherished destination where friends and families come together to create lifelong memories.

The Fair, which ran from August 27 – September 1, offered family friendly attractions, six stages of entertainment, thrilling carnival rides, world class livestock shows, agricultural education, and endless shopping opportunities.

### Youth Participation and Education

Nearly 1,500 exhibitors entered more than 8,000 exhibits in open class livestock and non-livestock competitions.

The Arts & Education Building hosted more exhibits than last year with more than 8,200 education exhibits being displayed.

9,800 4-H display exhibits, livestock exhibits, and youth in action entries participated in the Fair.

376 FFA exhibitors showcased over 11,015 entries.

Over 1,100 students and teachers representing 45 schools participated in South Dakota's Largest Classroom, making it the most attended Largest Classroom.

Over 55 schools and libraries participated in the Read and Win program sponsored by Ag Performance and Agri-Dynamics, handing out 8,300 youth daily admission gate passes to young readers.

### Attendance and Economic Impact

180,916 visitors passed through the gates, while more than 1,900 campers filled the fairground's campsites, setting the stage for another successful State Fair.

\$3.2 million was spent by fairgoers on goods, services, and concessions.

The Fair generated over \$265,000 in tax revenue.

### Kicking Off the America250 Celebration

The 2025 State Fair kicked off the America250 celebration with fair classics such as a hot dog, corn, and pie eating contests; firework displays; and students of South Dakota's Largest Classroom declaring their independence by signing a copy of the Declaration of Independence with feather pens.

Platte Brewery Company unveiled an America250 commemorative beer: Dakota Liberty.

Another highlight took place during the Salute to Veterans Ceremony when the 114th Fighter Wing of Sioux Falls – the "Fightin' Lobos" – conducted a F-16 fighter jet flyover above the Fairgrounds.

### Improving the Fairgrounds

A ribbon cutting with Governor Rhoden was held for The SHED on Thursday, August 28. The SHED is the new home for Open Class Sheep at the South Dakota State Fairgrounds and serves as a multi-purpose facility including a show arena and educational center. The indoor educational center provides a place for interactive learning about the sheep industry, opportunities in agriculture, and our state's rich agricultural history.

The 141st South Dakota State Fair dates are Wednesday, September 2 – Monday, September 7, 2026. For more information about the South Dakota State Fair, contact the Fair office at 800-529-0900, visit [www.sdstatefair.com](http://www.sdstatefair.com) or find them on Facebook, Instagram, and X.

## The Life of MaryAnn Wehde

The funeral service for MaryAnn Wehde, 90, of Aberdeen, SD, will be 11:00am, Monday, October 6, 2025, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, with Pastor Matt Spoden officiating. Burial at Sunset Memorial Gardens. MaryAnn died Monday, September 29, 2025, at Bethesda Home of Aberdeen.

Visitation will be 4:00-6:00pm, Sunday, followed by a prayer service at 6:00pm at Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home, 1111 South Main Street.

MaryAnn Fjelstad was born February 26, 1935, to Magnus and Eva (Hoybak) Fjelstad, in Aberdeen, SD. She attended grade school at Henry Neill in Aberdeen and graduated from Aberdeen Central High School. She went on to attend Northern Normal School (now Northern State University) and taught in a one room school.

MaryAnn married Lyle Ellingson on February 8, 1955, in El Paso, TX, and they lived on a farm near Stratford, SD. MaryAnn was the bookkeeper for the Sinclair Service Station they owned in Conde, SD. She also worked as bookkeeper for Northwestern Public Service in Conde, then Browns Fertilizer Plant. She later worked for Graham Tire and Aman Collections in Aberdeen.

MaryAnn was a good seamstress and made clothes and suits for her family. She also enjoyed needlework, embroidery and quilting. She was a fanatic with her crossword puzzles. She was a great cook and had a great sense of humor. MaryAnn was a humble woman. MaryAnn married Robert 'Bob' Wehde on December 14, 1991. Together, they spent winters in Arizona. She taught Sunday School at the United Methodist Church in Conde and later she helped with meals and gatherings at the United Methodist Church in Groton. One of her specialties was making lefsa. She loved spending time with close friends. MaryAnn loved and supported her grandchildren, and even at 90 years old, would sit on the floor and play with her great-grandchildren.

Grateful for having shared MaryAnn's life are her children: Terry (Susan) Ellingson, Vicki (Doug) Bierschbach, and Craig (Marilee) Ellingson and grandchildren: Scott Ellingson, Ryan (Becky) Ellingson, Chad (Haley) Ellingson, Sarah (Darin) Lowe, Steven Bierschbach, Shelly (Daan) Engels, Eric (Tava) Ellingson, Shayne (Sabryna) Ellingson, Chayce (Stephanie) Ellingson, and Bryan (Melissa) Collins; twenty-five great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding MaryAnn in death are her parents Magnus & Eva Fjelstad; stepmother Maude (Bates) Fjelstad; husbands: Lyle Ellingson and Robert Wehde; brother Earl Fjelstad; stepsister Darlys (Bates) Murray; and stepson Ronald Wehde.







## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### Federal government shutdown begins, with no easy exit in sight

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT AND ARIANA FIGUEROA-SEPTEMBER 30, 2025 6:54 PM

WASHINGTON — The federal government started shutting down early Wednesday after Congress failed to approve a funding bill before the beginning of the new fiscal year — resulting in widespread ramifications for hundreds of programs and giving the Trump administration an avenue to fire federal workers en masse.

The U.S. Senate was unable to advance two short-term government funding bills Tuesday when Democrats and Republicans deadlocked for the second time this month, with just hours to go before the midnight Tuesday shutdown deadline.

Senators voted 55-45 on Republicans' bill that would fund the government for seven weeks and 47-53 on a Democratic stopgap proposal that would keep the lights on for a month and included several health care provisions that they said were needed for their support. Neither had the 60 votes needed to advance.

Nevada Democratic Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, Pennsylvania Democratic Sen. John Fetterman and Maine independent Sen. Angus King voted with GOP senators on their stopgap bill. Kentucky GOP Sen. Rand Paul voted against it.

White House Office of Management and Budget Director Russ Vought said in a memo to departments and agencies Tuesday night after the Senate vote that "affected agencies should now execute their plans for an orderly shutdown." Vought said federal employees should report for their next regularly scheduled tour of duty to undertake shutdown activities.

The consequences of a shutdown will be sweeping in the nation's capital and across the country, where states are bracing for the impact. About 750,000 federal workers could be furloughed, leading to a \$400 million impact a day, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office reported. All federal employees would go unpaid until the shutdown is over.

Additionally, the Trump administration plans to lay off thousands of federal employees, which would reshape the federal workforce. President Donald Trump again vowed Tuesday to undertake layoffs and a major government employee union filed suit in federal court in advance of such a move.

#### More votes on GOP bill planned

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., said hours before the votes there wouldn't be any talks with Democrats during a shutdown.

"The negotiation happens when the government is open. So let's keep the government open and then we will have the negotiations," Thune said.

"We're happy to sit down and talk about these issues that they're interested in," he said. "But it should not have anything to do with whether or not for a seven-week period we keep the government open, so that this government can continue to do its work and that we can do our work through the regular appropriations process to fund the government."

After the votes failed, Thune expressed his frustration with Democrats during a press conference.

"This is so unnecessary and uncalled for," he said.

Thune said he plans to bring up a vote on the continuing resolution again. He said as soon as Wednesday the federal government can be funded if five Democrats voted with Republicans.

"Democrats may have chosen to shut down the government, but we can reopen it tomorrow," Thune said.

Republican Whip John Barrasso of Wyoming said the "cracks in the Democrats are already showing," noting that three Democrats voted with Republicans Tuesday night.

"There is bipartisan support for keeping the government open," Barrasso said. "We're happy to see that the Democrats are already starting to break from (Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer) and we're

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going to continue to offer a clean (continuing resolution) on the floor of the Senate to open the government for the next seven weeks."

## Health care tax credits at center of standoff

The disagreement isn't entirely about GOP lawmakers writing their short-term funding bill behind closed doors and then expecting Democrats to help advance it in the Senate, where bipartisanship is required for major legislation.

Democratic leaders have raised concerns for weeks about the end-of-year sunset of enhanced tax credits for people who buy their health insurance on the Affordable Care Act Marketplace, arguing a solution is needed now ahead of the open enrollment period starting on Nov. 1.

Democrats have also grown increasingly frustrated with the White House budget office's unilateral actions on spending, arguing Vought is significantly eroding Congress' constitutional power of the purse. Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, the Republican chairwoman of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, said Tuesday the Government Accountability Office should sue the Trump administration over its efforts to freeze or unilaterally cancel spending approved by Congress.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said Democrats need an agreement with Republicans to extend the enhanced tax credits.

Schumer said people will begin getting notices in October telling them how much the cost of their ACA plans will increase during the next year, which he expects will ratchet up pressure on Republican leaders to broker a bipartisan agreement.

"We're going to be right there explaining to them it's because the Republicans wouldn't negotiate with us," Schumer said, referring to consumers. "We're ready to do it anytime. And there will be huge heat on (Republicans) on this issue."

People who buy health insurance on the ACA marketplace and receive subsidies through enhanced ACA tax credits could expect to pay on average more than double for annual premiums in 2026 if the credits expire as scheduled at the end of this year, according to an analysis released Tuesday by the nonprofit health policy research organization KFF.

The analysis found premiums could increase from an average of \$888 this year to \$1,904 in 2026.

## Claims about immigrants

Schumer also rebuffed GOP leaders saying that Democrats want to include people without legal immigration status in federal health care programs.

"They say that undocumented people are going to get these credits. That is absolutely false. That is one of the big lies they tell, so they don't have to discuss the issues," Schumer said. "The federal government by law that we passed does not fund health insurance for undocumented immigrants in Medicaid, nor the ACA nor Medicare. Undocumented immigrants do not get federal health insurance premiums."

Immigrants in the country without legal authorization are not eligible for Medicaid, and neither are most immigrants with legal status, such as those with student visas or enrollment in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA.

Only immigrants with a "qualified status," such as legal permanent residents, asylees and refugees, are able to get Medicaid benefits, and they usually have to wait five years before their coverage can even begin.

## Democrats explain why they voted with GOP

Cortez Masto of Nevada wrote in a statement explaining her vote to advance the GOP stopgap bill that she could not support "a costly shutdown that would hurt Nevada families and hand even more power to this reckless administration."

"We need a bipartisan solution to address this impending health care crisis, but we should not be swapping the pain of one group of Americans for another," she added. "I remain focused on protecting health care for working families, and I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work together to tackle this problem."

Pennsylvania's Fetterman wrote in a statement of his own that his vote on the Republican bill "was for our country over my party."

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"Together, we must find a better way forward."

Collins said during a brief interview before the vote she is worried about the broad authority the White House holds during a shutdown and how the Office of Management and Budget has indicated it will use that power.

"I'm much more concerned about OMB sending signals that there should be mass firings of federal employees who have the misfortune to be designated as non-essential, when in fact they're performing very essential work, they're just not being paid," Collins said.

North Dakota Republican Sen. John Hoeven, chairman of the Agriculture spending subcommittee, said lawmakers will have to sort through how various departments implement their contingency plans as well as the possibility of mass layoffs during a shutdown.

"We'll have to work through those things and figure out how we do keep things going as best we can during this Democrat shutdown," Hoeven said.

West Virginia Sen. Shelley Moore Capito said Republicans are "unified in the belief that this is an easy choice" to fund the government with a stopgap bill that doesn't include any contentious or political provisions.

Capito — who chairs the Appropriations subcommittee that funds the departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Labor — said there are several programs that will be "missed" during a shutdown.

"And that's concerning. So I think the option is to keep the government open so we can avoid this pain," Capito said.

## **'I'm not optimistic that we're going to get a path forward'**

Missouri Republican Sen. Josh Hawley said he is worried about the possible impacts of a shutdown on his home state and that keeping the government open is the only way to avoid that.

"I'm sure the administration will do everything they can," Hawley said. "But the solution is to not shut the government down. I mean, why would you punish working people because you're not getting what you want on any issue, whatever it is."

South Dakota Republican Sen. Mike Rounds said he doesn't expect a shutdown will end until after Democrats have sent a message to their voters.

"I'm not optimistic that we're going to get a path forward until they've had a shutdown," he said.

Rounds, who negotiated a handshake agreement with the White House budget director this summer to preserve some funding for rural tribal radio stations after Congress eliminated funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, said that deal could be affected by a shutdown.

"They're putting the administration in a position where they can pick and choose what they're going to do, and a shutdown is not going to be beneficial to these Native American radio stations," Rounds said.

Democratic Sen. Elissa Slotkin of Michigan said she wants Democrats and Republicans to negotiate on health care provisions.

"I've been making the case constantly, that (it) is literally my obligation to try and fight for health care, and I'm willing to talk to anyone," she said. "I'm willing to accept that I certainly will not get everything I want."

Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin of Illinois said that while Democrats agreed to help advance what's known as a continuing resolution in March, they can't now because of "what President Trump is doing to this country, particularly when it comes to health care costs for families."

The shutdown will significantly affect the operations of the federal government as lawmakers have not passed any of the dozen full-year appropriations bills that finance agency operations. Oct. 1 is the beginning of the new fiscal year for the federal government.

## **Shutdown plan for national parks**

Departments began releasing updated contingency plans this weekend, detailing how many of their employees would work during a government shutdown and how many would be furloughed.

The Interior Department, which includes the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service, posted its updated plans late Tuesday.



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The National Park Service plans to furlough 9,300 of its 14,500 workers.

The Trump administration will allow several activities necessary for the protection of life or property to continue, including fire suppression for active fires, permitting and monitoring First Amendment activities, border and coastal protection and surveillance, and law enforcement and emergency response.

The contingency plan says that roads, lookouts, trails, and open-air memorials will generally remain accessible to visitors," but it adds that if "access becomes a safety, health or resource protection issue ... the area must be closed."

## Union files suit

In anticipation of layoffs by the Trump administration, labor unions representing more than 1 million federal workers filed a lawsuit in the Northern District of California on Tuesday to block the Trump administration from carrying out mass firings. The suit argues that there is no statutory authority to fire federal employees during a government shutdown.

"These actions are contrary to law and arbitrary and capricious, and the cynical use of federal employees as a pawn in Congressional deliberations should be declared unlawful and enjoined by this Court," according to the suit filed by the American Federation of Government Employees and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

*Ashley Murray and Shauneen Miranda contributed to this report.*

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

*Ariana covers the nation's capital for States Newsroom. Her areas of coverage include politics and policy, lobbying, elections and campaign finance.*

## COMMENTARY

### Last-minute prison revelations were shocking only for their timing and source by SETH TUPPER

Less than 24 hours before South Dakota lawmakers met last week to consider building a prison, one of them disseminated "shocking new revelations" in a press release.

"I have confirmed," the press release said, "that the South Dakota Department of Corrections has been using your tax dollars to provide transgender cross-sex hormones to convicted criminals in prison."

The release went on to accuse the department of "hiding" a policy that includes a treatment committee and payments to an "East Coast college professor" for gender dysphoria services.

The last-minute sabotage attempt didn't come from a rogue lawmaker on the fringes of the 105-member Legislature. It came from Dell Rapids Republican Jon Hansen, the speaker of the state House of Representatives.

The late onset of Hansen's sudden interest in prison health care was peculiar, to say the least. He could've dug up his information and shared his claims at any time during the last several years while he was participating in prison debates.

Hansen has been a state representative since before the planning to replace the 144-year-old penitentiary started gaining momentum in 2021, and he was a member of Gov. Larry Rhoden's Project Prison Reset task force that met four times this year from April to July.

Hansen voted "no" during the past couple of years on bills to authorize planning, site preparation and funding for a men's prison at a controversial site in rural Lincoln County. But when the prison task force came up with a new plan and voted in July to recommend a 1,500-bed prison at a maximum cost of \$650 million in Sioux Falls, Hansen voted yes with all other task force members in attendance.

Earlier, between the task force's first and second meetings in April, Hansen announced his 2026 campaign for governor with his running mate, House Speaker Pro Tempore Karla Lems, R-Canton.

Gov. Rhoden, who's made a penitentiary replacement one of his top priorities, hasn't declared himself

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a candidate to keep his job yet. He's expected to run, which would pit him against Hansen and at least two other declared candidates for the Republican nomination: U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson and Aberdeen businessman Toby Doeden. That's why the political stakes were high last week when legislators traveled, at Rhoden's invitation, to the Capitol in Pierre for a special session to consider the prison plan.

The bill's legislative journey began in a committee that approved it by a vote of 13-2. Nobody was surprised when Hansen and Lems cast the two "no" votes, after Hansen's "shocking new revelations" of the prior day. The bill then passed the Senate and House with little mention of those revelations, and Rhoden immediately signed the legislation into law.

Although Hansen's surprise attack failed, some of his claims were true. The state does in fact pay an expert from Baltimore to consult with a committee and evaluate incarcerated people who seek gender dysphoria treatment. The expert's last three annual contracts are viewable in the state's online financial portal, OpenSD, including the current one for up to \$48,353.76 worth of services this year. The state is required to offer those services, because courts have upheld inmates' rights to gender-affirming care.

Those aren't shocking revelations.

The shock is in the revelation that a legislative leader seeking the state's top elected office tried, at the 11th hour, to derail an important public policy debate by drumming up fear about transgender people.

The hope is in the realization that it didn't work.

*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.*

## Meeting between lawmakers, tribal officials points to potential for more cooperation in policing

**State will offer tribal officers priority in one training class each year**

**BY: JOHN HULT-SEPTEMBER 30, 2025 7:00 AM**

MOBRIDGE — South Dakota will offer a 13-week police certification course that gives priority to tribal recruits once every summer, the head of South Dakota's Division of Criminal Investigation recently told the State-Tribal Affairs Committee.

Speaking at the Grand River Resort, just west of Mobridge on the Standing Rock Reservation, Division Director Dan Satterlee told the committee and representatives from three of South Dakota's tribes that the state wants to make it easier to recruit and train police on reservations. The committee met Sept. 19.

Training tribal police in-state helps tribal and local officers, Satterlee said, because the recruits get to know the counterparts they might need to work with during joint investigations.

"When they go to training together, they can build those connections and build those relationships," Satterlee said.

This year's tribal-priority basic law enforcement certification class began in August, Satterlee said, and nine people in the class work for tribal agencies.

The news was one of several nods during the meeting to efforts at improving police coordination between the state and tribal agencies.

### **Local training a recent focus for tribes, state**

Law enforcement officers in South Dakota are required to complete the basic training course within a year of being hired by a local police agency. Tribal officers also need certification, but have traditionally gone to New Mexico for training with the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs. That basic training includes the same requirements as the Pierre-based academy — proficiency in firearms, training in self-defense, arrest protocols and the like — but also covers the unique legalities of working in tribal areas.

Because the New Mexico academy is open to all tribal recruits, the state has traditionally given preference to non-tribal officers when filling slots at its own police academy. Each state course can fit 48 officers, so if slots remain for a particular class in the past, Satterlee said, tribal recruits on a waiting list would get a call.

Last year, though, then-Gov. Kristi Noem moved money from her office's budget to fund an additional

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class that would admit tribal officers first. Nine tribal officers were certified through that first course last year, alongside officers from other agencies. Another four have since been certified.

This year, legislators provided \$175,000 to conduct another tribes-first course each summer. Officers willing to go to New Mexico don't struggle to find slots, Satterlee said, but "unlike coming to our academy, they can't visit their families on the weekends."

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Chairman Ryman LeBeau, who was on hand for the committee meeting, asked Satterlee if the state would admit more than nine tribal recruits.

"We can fill up to 48, and we'd love to have 48," Satterlee said. "For this one, we had nine that applied and made it through the background check, etcetera, so we had nine enrolled."

## **Legislation suggested to formally recognize tribal officers**

U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds, R-South Dakota, has pushed for a federal tribal training academy for the Great Plains, most recently this spring by sending a letter to Interior Secretary Doug Burgum.

Satterlee said he'd like to see it in South Dakota.

The State-Tribal Affairs Committee voted unanimously to urge the state Legislature to pass a resolution supporting a federal tribal academy in the state.

The committee also voted to move forward with drafting a bill for the 2026 legislative session that would recognize tribal officers as law enforcement under state law. Assaulting an officer can draw felony charges in South Dakota, but not if the officer assaulted works for a tribal agency. The committee would like to update the definition, noting that tribal officers often assist their state- or local counterparts for incidents on state land.

## **Surge at Standing Rock**

State Department of Public Safety Secretary Bob Perry told tribal leaders at the committee meeting that the state would be happy to sign agreements for assistance with tribes.

The Highway Patrol has a memorandum of understanding with the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe to patrol during the tribe's annual powwow.

Tribal leaders have sometimes been reluctant to open their borders to state police out of concerns that the visiting force might step beyond assistance and do things like serve state warrants on tribal citizens, Perry said.

Perry said agreements with the state would mean "we'd come when we are requested, and leave when we're asked."

"We don't come in and try to serve state warrants or issue state citations or gather intelligence for state crimes," Perry said.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe partnered with the state Highway Patrol for a temporary surge patrol between July 20 and Aug. 2. That partnership resulted in 13 citations and 47 warnings during 36 total hours of trooper patrols on Standing Rock, Highway Patrol Lt. Caleb Walters said. The patrol did not make any arrests, he said.

Standing Rock police did make arrests in the coordinated event. Derris Waukazoo, Standing Rock's police chief, told the committee the surge came in two phases, the first focusing on the service of warrants and the second on patrols.

Waukazoo's officers logged 817 incidents, which include any contact with people, and 75 arrests for crimes ranging from drunken driving and public intoxication to aggravated assault.

Arrests also included drug possession, which Waukazoo said is a driver of a lot of reservation crime.

## **Callback to cartel controversy**

Janet Alkire, who attended the committee meeting during her last week as chairwoman for that tribe, said Standing Rock's call for help was necessary. She also said there are opportunities for collaboration in the future, though a formal agreement will likely remain a hard sell.

She was pleased to hear Satterlee and Perry talk about the kind of assistance they can offer without such an agreement, such as help with missing persons cases, or during disasters.

"I'm really grateful for that," Alkire said.



She also gave a nod to the controversial remarks from former Gov. Noem that helped spark discussions on an additional training course for tribal recruits.

Noem alleged Mexican drug cartels had infiltrated tribal areas during a speech to lawmakers, and repeated the claim several times in the months that followed. All nine tribes banned her from their lands based on those comments, as well as comments tribal officials viewed as disparaging to Native American children.

Alkire asked Waukazoo if any of the arrests in the summer surge involved cartel members.

"No," he said, an answer that elicited laughter from the room.

"We're kind of joking about it, but it's a serious question, and we really did want to know, because we actually don't know sometimes who comes on our lands," Alkire said.

The tribe is welcoming to outsiders, but last year's comments sparked questions from tribal members, Alkire said.

"When something gets out there like that, that we have the cartels infiltrating, it scares our people," she said.

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

## Fake video of Dem leaders posted by Trump draws fire amid shutdown fight

**BY: SHAUNEEN MIRANDA-SEPTEMBER 30, 2025 3:28 PM**

WASHINGTON — A group of Democratic caucus leaders on Tuesday blasted a vulgar deepfake of Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries posted by President Donald Trump on social media.

The chairs of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Congressional Black Caucus, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, Democratic Women's Caucus, New Democrat Coalition, Congressional Progressive Caucus and Congressional Equality Caucus also refused to back down on their health care demands as the federal government barrels toward a shutdown.

The GOP and Democratic lawmakers are in a deadlock, and funding is set to run out by midnight Tuesday, when the new fiscal year begins.

"We won't vote for anything that doesn't restore the cuts to Medicaid and doesn't protect people that will be paying higher premiums," Congressional Hispanic Caucus Chair Adriano Espaillat said at a press conference outside the U.S. Capitol, referring to Medicaid reductions made in the "big, beautiful" law enacted by Republicans earlier this year.

The New York Democrat said "we won't mess around with Americans' health care — people that are sick that deserve to have a first-quality health care system providing assistance to them in one of the most serious periods of their lives."

While Republicans want a "clean" stopgap funding bill to keep the government open, Democrats are calling for the extension of enhanced Affordable Care Act tax credits set to expire at the end of 2025 and the reversal of sweeping health care changes brought by the GOP's mega tax and spending cuts law, including the massive funding cuts to Medicaid.

### 'Racist meme' by Trump slammed

Trump posted the deepfake on his social media platform Truth Social just hours after his White House meeting with Schumer, Jeffries, Senate Majority Leader John Thune of South Dakota and House Speaker Mike Johnson of Louisiana, which failed to yield any funding deal. The Congressional Budget Office estimated Tuesday that some 750,000 federal employees could be furloughed if the government shuts down.

The 35-second video appears to be AI-generated and uses the setting of Schumer and Jeffries, both New York Democrats, speaking to reporters outside the White House after their meeting with Trump.

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The fake video shows Jeffries with a sombrero and mustache and Schumer ranting that “if we give all these illegal aliens free health care, we might be able to get them on our side so they can vote for us.”

Espallat of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus described the video as “insulting,” saying it shows Trump is “out of touch with the health care challenges of the American people.”

The New York Democrat said “with your health care on the line, all he could do is put out this deepfake racist meme — not funny at all, not for any of us here, particularly for people that are ill and fighting for their lives that need health care.”

Democratic Women’s Caucus Chair Teresa Leger Fernández also blasted the video, saying “that’s not how you get to a deal.” Instead, the New Mexico Democrat said Trump’s decision to post it “looks like a little 6-year-old having a temper tantrum.”

## **‘Bigotry will get you nowhere’**

Congressional Black Caucus Chair Yvette Clarke, a New York Democrat, said “the juvenile behavior coming out of the White House should not be dignified by any American.”

Clarke noted that her caucus “will not support a partisan spending bill that slashes health care, guts federal jobs and raises costs, all while targeting the very communities that keep this country running.”

In a social media post Monday responding to the fabricated video, Schumer said “if you think your shutdown is a joke, it just proves what we all know: You can’t negotiate. You can only throw tantrums.”

Jeffries also responded to Trump on social media Monday, saying “bigotry will get you nowhere” and “we are NOT backing down.”

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

## **About 750,000 federal workers will be furloughed in shutdown, nonpartisan CBO projects**

### **Thune and Schumer engage in rare debate on Senate floor**

**BY: JENNIFER SHUTT-SEPTEMBER 30, 2025 1:11 PM**

WASHINGTON — A government shutdown could have significant economic consequences, though an analysis released Tuesday by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said it’s difficult to pinpoint ramifications without knowing the length of a funding lapse or how exactly the Trump administration will try to reshape the federal workforce.

Director Phillip L. Swagel wrote in a four-page letter the agency projects about 750,000 federal workers would be furloughed, leading to a \$400 million impact per day.

“The number of furloughed employees could vary by the day because some agencies might furlough more employees the longer a shutdown persists and others might recall some initially furloughed employees,” Swagel wrote.

New plans from the Trump administration to lay off federal employees en masse, he wrote, could significantly change those calculations.

The economic impacts and ramifications for business activity are hard to predict, he wrote, because it’s not yet clear how exactly the Trump administration will handle a shutdown or how long it will take congressional leaders to broker a stopgap funding agreement.

The partial government shutdown that began in December 2018 and lasted through January 2019 led to a loss of about \$3 billion in gross domestic product that couldn’t be recovered, according to a prior CBO analysis that was referenced in the letter.

That represented about 0.02% of annual GDP in 2019.

Swagel wrote the “effects of a government shutdown on business activity are uncertain, and their magnitude would depend on the duration of a shutdown and on decisions made by the Administration.

“CBO expects that if a government shutdown persisted for several weeks, some private-sector entities

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would never recover all of the income they lost as a result of the suspension of federal activity."

CBO conducted the analysis after receiving a request from Iowa Republican Sen. Joni Ernst.

## **Thune, Schumer debate shutdown on Senate floor**

A government shutdown will begin Wednesday unless congressional leaders broker a stopgap funding agreement before the new fiscal year starts.

That seemed like a long shot early Tuesday afternoon as Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., engaged in a brief debate on the floor, a rarity.

Thune said Democrats would have the same leverage on health care issues they have now in mid-November, when the stopgap spending bill that passed the House but stalled in the Senate would expire.

"They will have another funding cliff they can take advantage of come November the 21st," Thune said. "This funds the government and protects federal workers and the American people from the hostage-taking that has become, evidently, now the Democratic norm. Even though it's something they decried not that many years ago."

Thune told reporters afterward the chamber would likely be out of session for Yom Kippur, which begins shortly before sunset on Wednesday and continues until Thursday night, but would otherwise hold votes during a shutdown.

"We will observe the Jewish holiday, but I would expect additional votes throughout the week," Thune said. "I mean, we filed last night on a whole new bunch of (nominees) and I would expect additional votes on funding the government."

Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., canceled the House's schedule for this week and doesn't plan for that chamber to go back into session until Oct. 6 at the earliest.

## **Meeting breaks up with no deal**

Congressional leaders, including Schumer and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, met with President Donald Trump at the White House on Monday, but were unable to make progress toward a stopgap funding agreement.

Schumer said on the Senate floor Tuesday that Democrats need a deal with GOP leaders to extend the enhanced tax credits for people who buy their health insurance on the Affordable Care Act Marketplace, which are set to expire at the end of the year.

"In a day or two, millions of Americans — millions — are going to get notices that their insurance premiums will rise an average of \$400 a month, \$5,000 a year," Schumer said. "A middle-class family can't afford that. We want to renew those credits, among other things in health care. But renew those credits so that people won't pay that horrible increase."

Schumer called Republican assertions that Democrats want immigrants without legal status to have access to federal health care programs, like Medicare and Medicaid, "utter bull."

"There is no money, not a penny of federal dollars that are going there. So why do they bring this up? Because they're afraid to talk about the real issue, which is health care for American citizens, health care for people who need the health care and can't afford these premiums," Schumer said.

Without a new funding law before the start of the fiscal year at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, the government will begin shutting down.

The ramifications will be significantly broader than the 35-day shutdown that took place during Trump's first term, when five of the dozen full-year government spending bills had become law.

That isn't the case this time around and a shutdown is expected to affect every department and agency to varying degrees.

## **'They're taking a risk'**

White House Office of Management and Budget Director Russ Vought has also called on Trump administration officials to implement mass layoffs during a prolonged funding lapse.

Trump said during a press conference in the Oval Office on Tuesday that he didn't want a shutdown but that his administration might take sweeping action to restructure the federal government if one does begin.

"We can do things during the shutdown that are irreversible, that are bad for them and irreversible by



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them, like cutting vast numbers of people out, cutting things that they like, cutting programs that they like," Trump said, referring to Democrats. "So they're taking a risk by having a shutdown, because because of the shutdown, we can do things medically and other ways, including benefits."

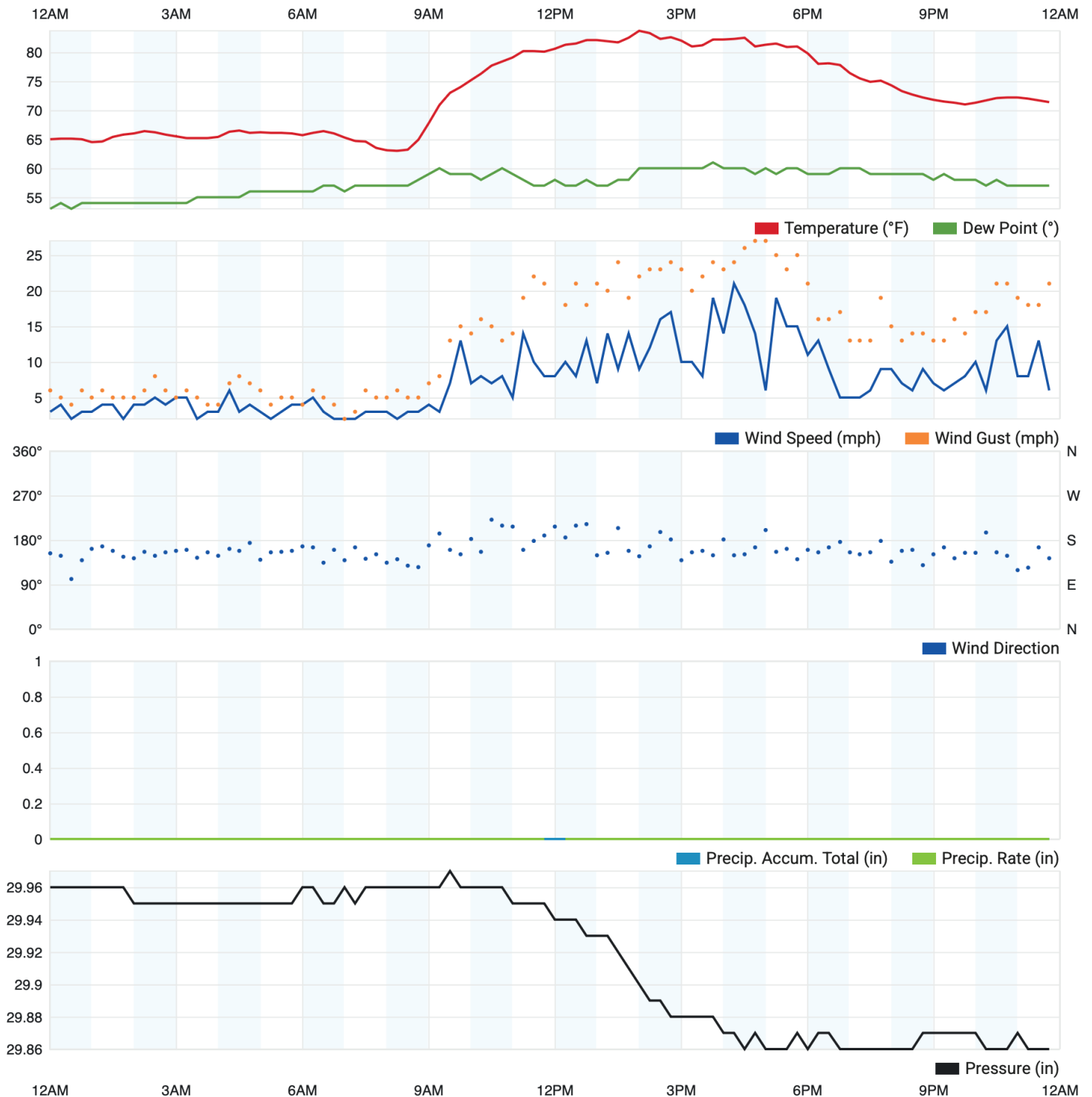
*Jennifer covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include congressional policy, politics and legal challenges with a focus on health care, unemployment, housing and aid to families.*

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

September 30, 2025



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Wednesday



High: 83 °F

Breezy.  
Slight Chance  
T-storms then  
Mostly Sunny

Wednesday  
Night



Low: 56 °F

Mostly Clear

Thursday



High: 85 °F

Sunny

Thursday  
Night



Low: 60 °F

Mostly Clear

Friday



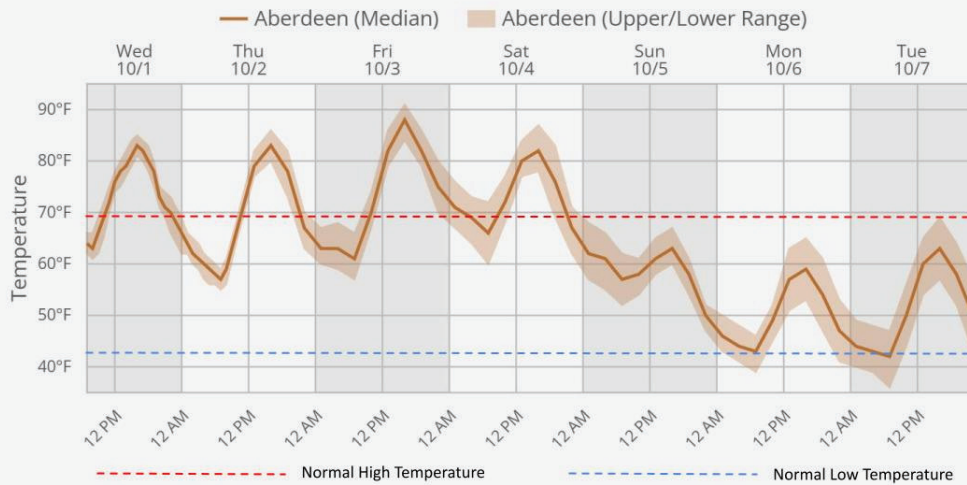
High: 89 °F

Mostly Sunny



## Extended Temperature Forecast

Wednesday Morning, Oct 1 - Tuesday Evening, Oct 7



### Information:

The range line chart shows the lower, median, and upper percentiles of a weather event occurring based on model predictions from the National Blend of Models. A larger shaded area means less certainty.

## Additional Details



Above Normal Temps Continue

- High temperatures in the 80s are expected to continue for the next few days.



Colder Temps Inbound

- A cold front will pass through the area Saturday into Sunday.
- Temperatures behind the front will be normal to below normal for the start of next week.

Valid: Wed 07 am CDT - Tue 10 pm CDT

Issued: Wed, Oct 1, 2025, 2 am CDT



Above normal temperatures are expected through the rest of this week, but a cold front will pass through the area this weekend. Temperatures behind the front will be closer to normal or slightly before normal.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 84 °F at 2:06 PM**

**Low Temp: 63 °F at 8:19 AM**

**Wind: 27 mph at 4:53 PM**

**Precip: : 0.00**

## Today's Info

Record High: 93 in 2023

Record Low: 21 in 1974

Average High: 68

Average Low: 40

Average Precip in Oct.: .08

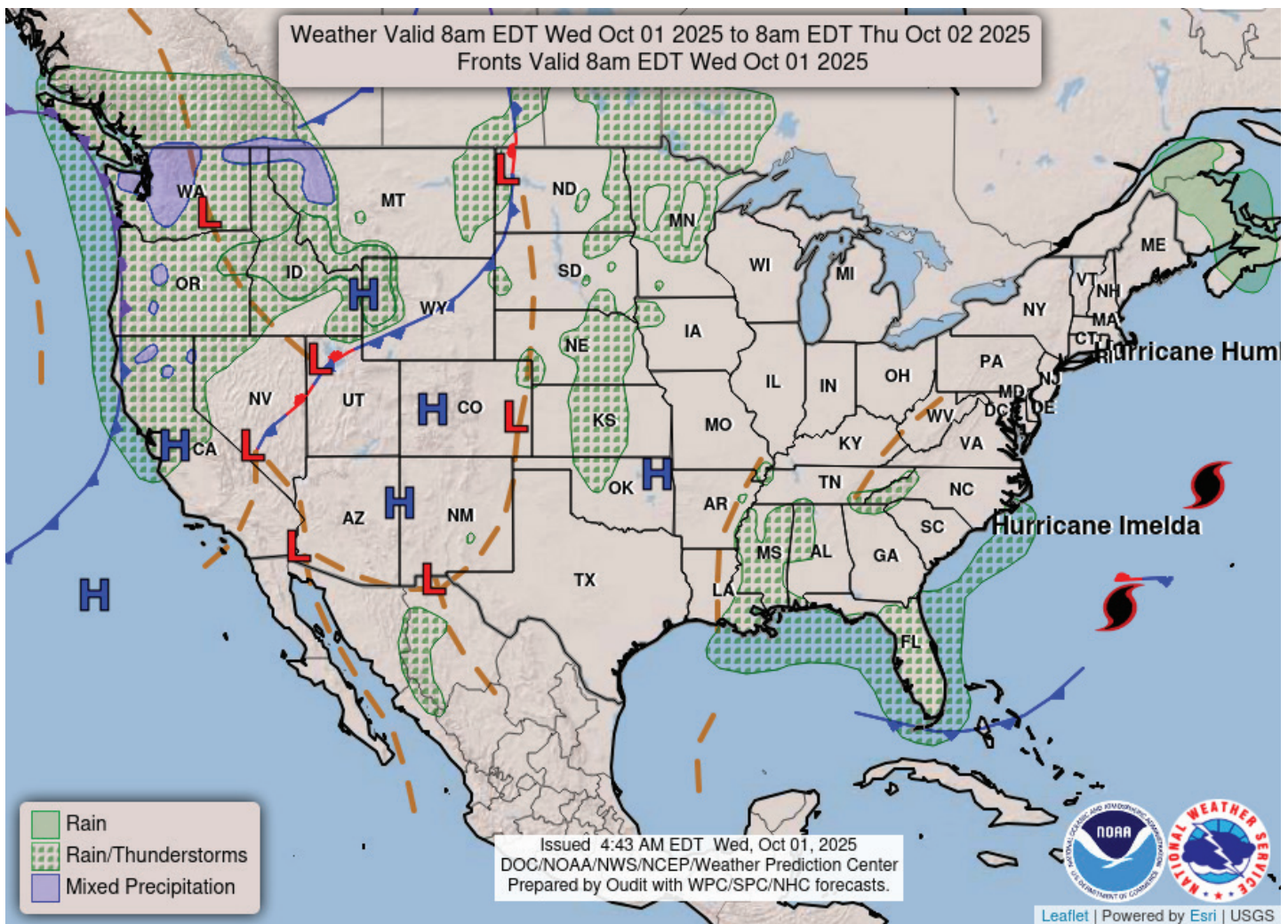
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 18.41

Precip Year to Date: 22.92

Sunset Tonight: 7:12 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:32 am





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## Today in Weather History

October 1, 1971: A rare October tornado developed in Sully County during the evening hours. The brief tornado damaged a ranch home and large barn, 6 miles west-northwest of Onida.

October 1, 1999: A narrow band of heavy snow fell across portions of South Dakota. Snowfall amounts of 4 to 8" were typical in the relatively narrow band, breaking many daily records.

October 1, 2012: Drought continued to intensify and expand across central and northeast South Dakota through October, resulting in severe to exceptional drought conditions. Many locations continued the trend of recording well below-average precipitation totals for the month. The exceptional drought conditions expanded into Stanley, Jones, and southern Lyman counties. Extreme drought conditions spread into southern Dewey, Sully, Hughes, Lyman, Jones, Southwest Hyde, Hamlin, Codington, Grant, and Deuel counties. Severe drought conditions spread into Corson, Dewey, northwest Hyde, Hand, Faulk, Edmunds, McPherson, Brown, eastern Clark, and southern Roberts Counties.

1890: The weather service is first identified as a civilian agency when Congress, at the request of President Benjamin Harrison, passes an act transferring the Signal Service's meteorological responsibilities to the newly-created U.S. Weather Bureau in the Department of Agriculture.

1893: On this day, the village of Caminadaville, Louisiana, was destroyed by a massive hurricane. Caminadaville was a vibrant fishing community in the late 19th century, located on Cheniere Caminada, adjacent to Grand Isle in coastal Jefferson Parish in Louisiana. It took five days for the news of this devastating hurricane to reach New Orleans.

1938: Grannis and Okay, Arkansas set an all-time high-temperature record for October for Arkansas with 105 degrees.

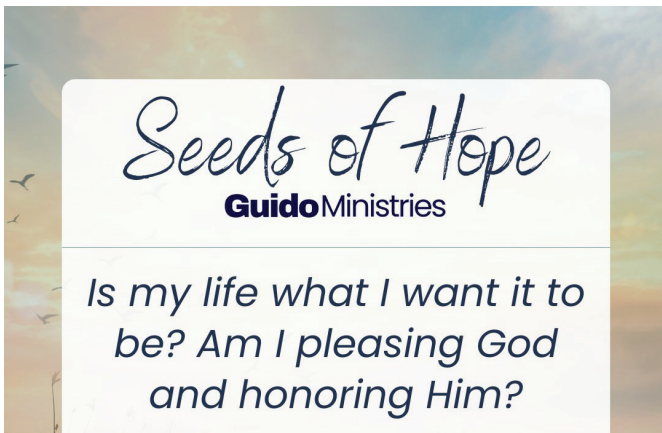
1945: While investigating a Category 1 typhoon over the South China Sea, the typhoon hunter plane was lost. This marks the first of only a few instances of the Hurricane/Typhoon plane was lost during their flight into the storm.

1958: NASA officially begins operations on October 1st, 1958.

1977: While an F3 tornado traveled less than one-mile through Montfort Heights or the greater Cincinnati area, it destroyed 12 homes and damaged 15 others. There were 17 injuries.

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Ladies Bible Study was a weekly event when I was a child. My mother always wanted me to be present but with certain limitations. "Larry," she would remind me, "children are to be seen and not heard." My role, unless called upon to say something, was to sit silently, smile occasionally, and not wiggle. Impossible for a small child!

But the "be seen" always put pressure on me. I had to wear a shirt and tie, shine my shoes, and make sure my pants had a sharp crease. I still follow those rules to this day whenever I attend a meeting or appear in public. So, things worked then and still do!

Solomon wrote, "Even small children are known by their actions—so is their conduct really pure and upright?" The

word "actions" implies patterns of behavior that become second nature and last a lifetime. What is in our behavior is a reflection of our character. Or, what's on the inside will be seen on the outside.

Even in children, we see patterns that reveal what's at the center of the heart. From childhood through adulthood, our behaviors remain consistent because they get us what we want.

When we step back and ask: "Is my life what I want it to be? Am I pleasing God and honoring Him?" If the answer is no—it's time to turn to the Lord and ask for His mercy, grace, and forgiveness. We must never give up on ourselves or others.

Today's Prayer: Lord, help us to focus on how we think and then act. May we be careful in everything we say and do. May we reflect You, Your love, and Your grace in all things. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "Even small children are known by their actions," wrote Solomon, "so is their conduct really pure and upright?" Proverbs 20:11

You never know who's carrying a heavy load. If this brought peace to your heart, take a moment to pass it on to someone who might need a little light and love today.

*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: 09.30.25

4 8 27 37 63 14

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$520,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 17 Hrs 10 Mins 40 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.29.25

5 38 49 51 52 8

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$3,870,000**

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 25 Mins 40 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.30.25

8 15 17 30 39 14

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 40 Mins 40 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.27.25

4 9 11 21 26

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$35,000**

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 40 Mins 41 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.29.25

2 9 12 18 65 26

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 9 Mins 40 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.29.25

1 3 27 60 65 16

Power Play: 5x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$174,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 9 Mins 40 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

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## News from the Associated Press

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Bon Homme def. Gregory, 25-18, 25-22, 25-14  
Brandon Valley def. Dakota Valley, 27-25, 25-16, 25-19  
Bridgewater-Emery def. Ethan, 22-25, 25-18, 25-15, 18-25, 15-9  
Britton-Hecla def. Sisseton, 21-25, 25-12, 25-21, 25-19  
Burke def. Tripp-Delmont-Armour, 25-18, 25-23, 25-22  
Centerville def. Parker/Marion, 25-20, 21-25, 13-25, 25-18, 15-10  
Clark-Willow Lake def. DeSmet, 25-22, 25-20, 25-22  
Corsica/Stickney def. Wessington Springs, 25-18, 25-13, 27-25  
Crow Creek Tribal School def. St. Francis Indian, 25-20, 22-25, 32-30, 19-25, 15-12  
Dell Rapids def. McCook Central-Montrose, 25-12, 25-13, 25-5  
Deubrook def. Chester, 25-21, 25-10, 25-12  
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Flandreau, 25-19, 25-13, 25-20  
Faulkton def. Langford, 25-19, 25-13, 23-25, 25-18  
Garretson def. Alcester-Hudson, 1-0, 0-1, 0-1, 1-0, 1-0  
Gettysburg def. Sully Buttes, 23-25, 22-25, 26-24, 25-20, 15-12  
Groton def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-8, 25-17, 25-15  
Hamlin def. Castlewood, 25-23, 25-14, 25-21  
Harding County def. Dupree, 25-16, 25-17, 17-25, 25-12  
Herreid-Selby def. Timber Lake, 25-4, 25-12, 25-11  
Hill City def. Philip, 25-7, 25-13, 25-13  
Hitchcock-Tulare def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-13, 25-14, 25-8  
Hot Springs def. Sturgis Brown High School, 25-18, 16-25, 26-24, 25-11  
Howard def. Colman-Egan, 0-1, 25-15, 25-16  
Irene-Wakonda def. Menno, 25-21, 27-25, 16-25, 25-14  
James Valley Christian School def. Mitchell Christian, 25-18, 25-12, 25-16  
Jones County def. Wall, 25-20, 25-19, 20-25, 14-25, 18-16  
Lemmon High School def. Grant County, N.D., 25-18, 25-7, 25-22  
Lennox def. Beresford, 25-11, 25-17, 25-21  
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Sioux Falls Washington def. Huron, 26-24, 26-24, 25-22  
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Some high school volleyball scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

## Hegseth's decision on Wounded Knee medals sparks outrage in Native American communities

By GRAHAM LEE BREWER Associated Press

Native American communities that had long wanted the removal of military honors for the soldiers involved in the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre had their hopes dashed by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, in his effort to root out what he calls a "woke culture" in the armed forces.

"The era of politically correct, overly sensitive, 'don't-hurt-anyone's-feelings' leadership ends right now at every level," Hegseth said Tuesday to hundreds of military officials at a ceremony. The defense secretary announced new directives for troops that include "gender-neutral" or "male-level" standards for physical fitness and painted a picture of a military that has been hamstrung by "woke" policies.

Hegseth had announced last week in a video on social media that Wounded Knee soldiers will keep their Medals of Honor, part of a wider Trump administration move that Indigenous leaders and historians on Tuesday called part of a culture war against racial and ethnic minorities and women's rights.

In 1890, an estimated 250 men, women and children were killed by U.S. soldiers on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, many as they fled the violence and well after orders to cease fire. Some estimates put the number of dead over 300, more than half women and children.

"The actions at Wounded Knee were not acts of bravery and valor deserving of the Medal of Honor," Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Chairwoman Janet Alkire said. "There is nothing Hegseth can do to rewrite the truth of that day."

Sen. Elizabeth Warren vowed to keep pushing for the medals to be revoked through legislation.

"We cannot be a country that celebrates and rewards horrifying acts of violence," Warren said. "Secretary Hegseth is valorizing people who committed a massacre."

Massacre left scars over generations

Oglala Lakota Chief American Horse survived the killing and testified to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in 1891 that pregnant women and women holding infants were fatally shot as they fled.

"After most all of them had been killed, a cry was made that all those who were not killed or wounded should come forth and they would be safe," he testified. "Little boys who were not wounded came out of their places of refuge, and as soon as they came in sight a number of soldiers surrounded them and butchered them there," he said, according to a transcript of his testimony that has been published several times in recent decades.

Arriving a few days later, Army Gen. Nelson A. Miles was shocked by the carnage, noting the large number of women and children killed.

"I have never heard of a more brutal, cold-blooded massacre than that at Wounded Knee," he wrote the following year to a fellow officer.

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Several soldiers involved in the massacre later wrote or testified about that day, including some who admitted to firing on women and children after the order to cease fire. One soldier said he “expected a court-martial” for his actions but found himself instead being praised.

As news of the killing spread across the country, there was both horror and a sense that the troops had dealt a final blow to Indigenous resistance, said David Treuer, an Ojibwe professor of English at the University of Southern California and the author of “The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee,” a book that aims to tell American history from an Indigenous perspective.

For Native Americans nationwide, even those not directly connected to the Lakota people caught up in the Wounded Knee killings, the massacre is a deeply traumatic historical event.

“It was the final punctuation mark on the conquest of the West,” Treuer said. “What also died on the plains at that moment were not just women and children but any vestige of American goodness and moral power.”

Decades of advocacy in Congress to rescind medals

In a social media post Thursday, Hegseth referred to the events at Wounded Knee as a “battle,” but most historians disagree.

“Hegseth’s proclamation on this reflects the way that this administration thinks of history — as something that one person can somehow determine through a magical proclamation,” said Philip Deloria, a Harvard history professor and member of the Dakota Nation. “We will always be around to unsettle this celebratory, sanitized version of a dishonorable, bloody massacre,” he said.

In 1990, Congress passed a resolution that called Wounded Knee a massacre and expressed “deep regret to the Sioux people and in particular to the descendants of the victims and survivors for this terrible tragedy.”

In 2024, then-Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered a review of the medals by a panel of two appointees from Interior and three from the Department of Defense. The report was completed last October and, according to Hegseth, it found that the medals should not be rescinded.

Hegseth accused Austin of not making a final decision because he was “more interested in being politically correct than historically correct.”

Austin has not responded to a request for comment.

“This is one of America’s darkest days and the medals must be revoked,” Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Chairman Ryman LeBeau said. “They tarnish America’s Medals of Honor. There is no honor in murder.”

OJ Semans, a Rosebud Sioux organizer, has been working for several years on a bill to preserve the site of the massacre to secure the legislation. He said disappointed but not surprised by Hegseth’s announcement.

“It’s heartbreaking knowing the actual truth out there is being buried again for political gain,” he said.

## Indonesian rescue workers ‘racing against time’ in search for dozens in rubble of collapsed school

By EDNA TARIGAN and TRISNADI Associated Press

SIDOARJO, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesian rescue workers were racing against the clock on Wednesday in the search for survivors from a school collapse in the province of East Java, with at least 91 students still unaccounted for, along with three confirmed dead and about 100 injured.

The Islamic boarding school, which authorities said was undergoing an unauthorized expansion to add two new stories, collapsed during afternoon prayers on Monday, sending slabs of concrete and other heavy debris crashing onto the students below.

Most rescues typically happen within 24 hours after such a disaster, with chances of survival decreasing each day after that, and more than 300 workers continued to work desperately at the scene to try and reach those who have been detected to be still alive and trapped below.

“We hope that we can complete this operation soon,” Mohammad Syafii, head of Indonesia’s National Search and Rescue Agency, told reporters.

“We are currently racing against time because it is possible that we can still save lives of those we have



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detected within the golden hours," he said at the news conference.

Of the approximately 100 injured, 26 are still hospitalized and many are said to have suffered head injuries and broken bones, authorities said.

Syafii's agency said at least six children are alive under the rubble, but the search has been complicated with the slabs of concrete and other parts of the building remaining unstable. Heavy equipment is available but is not currently being used due to concerns it could cause further collapse.

Rescuers in hardhats crawled through tight passages made of concrete blocks, steel bars and rubble, collapsed in the debris, chipping away at it with hammers and hand-held power tools to try and reach those still underneath.

Oxygen, water and food has been sent through narrow gaps to those still trapped under the debris to keep them alive.

Search teams have also used detectors and thermal drones to detect potential survivors who could be rescued.

The structure fell on top of hundreds of people at about 2:30 p.m. on Monday in a prayer hall at the century-old al Khoziny Islamic boarding school in Sidoarjo, on the eastern side of Indonesia's Java island.

The students were mostly boys in grades seven to 12, between ages 12 and 18. Female students were praying in another part of the building and managed to escape, survivors said.

The prayer hall was two stories high but two more were being added without a permit, according to authorities. Police said the old building's foundation was apparently unable to support two floors of concrete and collapsed during the pouring process.

Authorities initially had said only 38 people were missing but revised that upward to 91 late Tuesday after consulting attendance lists and talking with families.

"In the early stages there will inevitably be some confusion about the data," said Suharyanto, the head of the National Disaster Mitigation Agency, who only goes by one name as is common in Indonesia.

## At least 69 people killed in a powerful earthquake that hit the Philippines

By JOEAL CALUPITAN and AARON FAVILA Associated Press

CEBU, Philippines (AP) — Rescuers used backhoes and sniffer dogs to look for survivors in collapsed houses and other damaged buildings in the central Philippines Wednesday, a day after an earthquake killed at least 69 people.

The death toll was expected to rise from the magnitude-6.9 earthquake that hit at about 10 p.m. Tuesday and trapped an unspecified number of residents in the hard-hit city of Cebu and outlying rural towns in Cebu province.

Sporadic rain and damaged bridges and roads have hampered the race to save lives, officials said.

"We're still in the golden hour of our search and rescue," Office of Civil Defense deputy administrator Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro IV said in a news briefing. "There are still many reports of people who were pinned or hit by debris."

The epicenter of the earthquake, which was set off by movement in an undersea fault line at a dangerously shallow depth of 5 kilometers (3 miles), was about 19 kilometers (12 miles) northeast of Cebu, a coastal city of about 90,000 people in Cebu province where about half of the deaths were reported, officials said.

The Philippine government is considering whether to seek help from foreign governments based on an ongoing rapid damage assessment, Alejandro said.

The United States, Japan, Australia and the European Union expressed condolences.

"We stand ready to support the Philippine government's response as friends, partners, allies," MaryKay Carlson, U.S. ambassador to the Philippines, said in a post on social media platform X.

Workers were trying to transport a backhoe to hasten search and rescue efforts in a cluster of shanties in a mountain village hit by a landslide and boulders, Cebu city disaster-mitigation officer Rex Ygot told The Associated Press early Wednesday.

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"It's hard to move in the area because there are hazards," said Glenn Ursal, another disaster-mitigation officer, who added that some survivors were brought to a hospital from the mountain village.

Deaths also were reported from the outlying towns of Medellin and San Remigio, where three coast guard personnel, a firefighter and a child were killed separately by collapsing walls and falling debris while trying to flee to safety from a basketball game in a sports complex that was disrupted by the quake, town officials said.

The earthquake was one of the most powerful to batter the central region in more than a decade and it struck while many people slept or were at home.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology briefly issued a tsunami warning and advised people to stay away from the coastlines of Cebu and the nearby provinces of Leyte and Biliran due to possible waves of up to 1 meter (3 feet).

No such waves were reported and the tsunami warning was lifted more than three hours later, but thousands of traumatized residents refused to return home and chose to stay in open grassy fields and parks overnight despite intermittent rains.

Cebu and other provinces were still recovering from a tropical storm that battered the central region on Friday, leaving at least 27 people dead mostly due to drownings and falling trees, knocking out power in entire cities and towns and forcing the evacuation of tens of thousands of people.

Schools and government offices were closed in the quake-hit cities and towns while the safety of buildings were checked. More than 600 aftershocks have been detected after Tuesday night's temblor, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology director Teresito Bacolcol said.

Rain-soaked mountainsides were more susceptible to land- and mudslides in a major earthquake, he warned.

"This was really traumatic to people. They've been lashed by a storm then jolted by an earthquake," Bacolcol said. "I don't want to experience what they've gone through."

The Philippines, one of the world's most disaster-prone countries, is often hit by earthquakes and volcanic eruptions due to its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of seismic faults around the ocean. The archipelago is also lashed by about 20 typhoons and storms each year.

## Turning Point, moving forward without Charlie Kirk, makes first return to Utah since his killing

By HANNAH SCHOENBAUM and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

LOGAN, Utah (AP) — Thousands of supporters came together to honor Charlie Kirk Tuesday night as Turning Point USA's college tour returned to Utah for the first time since its founder was assassinated on a college campus in the state earlier this month.

The event at Utah State University in Logan was about two hours north of Utah Valley University, where Kirk was killed Sept. 10 by a gunman who fired a single shot through the crowd while Kirk was answering student questions.

Conservative podcast host Alex Clark kicked off the event, which she described as the the group's largest on-campus tour stop.

"I'm not here to eulogize Charlie Kirk," she said, but to "pass the torch on to every single one of you."

Hours before the event, the Logan campus temporarily evacuated a building but later deemed it safe after a "non-explosive" device was found. Authorities are investigating but the university does not believe the package was a threat or related to the Turning Point event, school spokesperson Amanda DeRito told The Associated Press.

Security at the event was tight, with a heavy law enforcement presence surrounding the arena, a no-bag policy, metal detectors and drones overhead.

Campus police at the college where Kirk was killed didn't fly a drone to monitor rooftops or coordinate with local law enforcement to secure the outdoor event, which lacked several key safety measures and

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practices that have become standard in the U.S., an AP review has found.

The assassination of a top ally of President Donald Trump and a significant figure in his Make America Great Again movement has galvanized conservatives, who have vowed to carry on Kirk's mission of encouraging young voters to embrace conservatism and moving American politics further right. Kirk has been celebrated as a "martyr" by many on the right, and Turning Point USA has seen tens of thousands of requests to create new chapters in high schools and colleges.

Tuesday's event, scheduled before Kirk's death, showcased how Turning Point has been pressing forward without its charismatic leader, who headlined many of its events and drew crowds. The national tour includes some of the biggest conservative names, including Tucker Carlson, Megyn Kelly and Glenn Beck.

## Blame game

The event featured a panel with three prominent Republicans, Utah Gov. Spencer Cox, Rep. Andy Biggs of Arizona and former Rep. Jason Chaffetz of Utah, who urged students to turn their anger into action.

Chaffetz spoke with emotion about being there Sept. 10 when Kirk was killed.

"Nobody should have to witness and go through what I went through, what my family and those 3,000 people went through at UVU," he said, choking up. "I will never unsee that. I will always feel it."

Several speakers blamed the left for stoking rhetoric that led to the assassination, with Biggs saying it was "coming from one side."

Cox, who has been criticized in the state as not conservative enough, was repeatedly booed by the crowd at his alma mater, including when he acknowledged that, "There are violent people on the far right."

Still, he criticized the idea that speech equates to violence. That mindset, he said, leads people to believe that "because someone said something that you don't like, that's violence towards me, which justifies me being violent towards this person for speaking."

"That's exactly what happened in this case, and that is a destructive mind virus in our society today," he said.

As Cox encouraged people to engage kindly with those who hold different viewpoints, Biggs countered: "The issue is the other side will not hear our voice."

## Attendees pay tribute

The school's basketball arena was filled with red and white "MAGA" hats, chants of "USA," and blaring country music before the event kicked off Tuesday. Volunteers handed out posters reading, "I am Charlie Kirk" and "In honor of Charlie Kirk, this is the Turning Point."

Attendees said they'd come to pay tribute to Kirk alongside others he'd inspired and to try to heal together.

"I feel like the tension is super high, especially being in the same state where it happened. But I'm super excited for it," said Jada Chilton, from Salt Lake City. "It's kind of just healing my soul, kind of being that I actually get to come to a Turning Point event even though the main spirit of it isn't here."

Chilton said listening to Kirk on TV, in debates and on his podcast had been her "daily regimen." She'd bought tickets to the event 30 minutes before the assassination, which left her shattered.

"I was on the floor sobbing," she said.

She described Tuesday's security as "insane," with police officers "everywhere."

"It makes you feel more comfortable, but it just is sad and disappointing, honestly, that we have to," she said.

Susan Goldsberry, 75, of Cache Valley, Utah, didn't know much about Kirk before the assassination, but loves everything she's found out about him since.

"Everything he says, I just love," she said, breaking down in tears. "It was a horrible thing that happened. I think he could have done so much more, but I hope, I hope people keep his message going."

Kirk's widow says, 'We have our marching orders'

Kirk's widow, Erika Kirk, has pledged to continue the organization's work. She now oversees Turning Point and said she will lead the group as her late husband intended, closely following plans he laid out to her and to staff.

"We're not going anywhere. We have the blueprints. We have our marching orders," she said last week on Kirk's podcast, which she also vowed would continue with rotating hosts and decades of clips of her

husband.

"My husband's voice will live on," she said.

## How the government shutdown will affect student loans, FAFSA and the Education Dept.

By ANNIE MA AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Already diminished by cuts by the Trump administration, the U.S. Education Department will see more of its work come to a halt due to the government shutdown.

The department says many of its core operations will continue in the shutdown kicking off Wednesday. Federal financial aid will keep flowing, and student loan payments will still be due. But investigations into civil rights complaints will stop, and the department will not issue new federal grants. About 87% of its workforce will be furloughed, according to a department contingency plan.

Since he took office, President Donald Trump has called for the dismantling of the Education Department, saying it has been overrun by liberal thinking. Agency leaders have been making plans to parcel out its operations to other departments, and in July the Supreme Court upheld mass layoffs that halved the department's staff.

In a shutdown, the administration has suggested federal agencies could see more positions eliminated entirely. In past shutdowns, furloughed employees were brought back once Congress restored federal funding. This time, the White House's Office of Management and Budget has threatened the mass firing of federal workers.

Appearing before the House Appropriations Committee in May, Education Secretary Linda McMahon suggested this year's layoffs had made her department lean — even too lean in some cases. Some staffers were brought back, she said, after officials found that the cuts went too deep.

"You hope that you're just cutting fat. Sometimes you cut a little muscle, and you realize it as you're continuing your programs, and you can bring people back to do that," McMahon said. The department had about 4,100 employees when Trump took office in January. It now has about 2,500.

Here is what the department does and how a shutdown is expected to affect that work.

### Federal student loans

One of the department's major roles is management of the \$1.6 trillion federal student loan portfolio. Student aid will be largely unaffected in the short term, according to the department's shutdown contingency plan. Pell Grants and federal loans will continue to be disbursed, and student loan borrowers must continue making payments on their debts.

About 9.9 million students receive some form of federal aid, spread across some 5,400 colleges, according to the department. Within the Office of Federal Student Aid, the department plans to furlough 632 of the 747 employees during the shutdown, although it didn't say which ones. For most student loan issues, borrowers work with loan servicers hired by the department rather than directly with FSA staff.

The department will also continue to process the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, which is a key piece of how colleges and universities provide aid packages to incoming students. Certain employees involved with rulemaking around changes to student loans, part of the "One Big Beautiful Bill" passed by Republicans, also will be kept on to meet deadlines set by legislation.

### Money for schools

While American schools are funded primarily by state and local money, the Education Department serves as a conduit for billions of dollars of federal aid going to state and local education agencies. During the shutdown, the department will cease new grantmaking activity and pause its advisory and regulatory role to schools and grant recipients.

But because most federal grants to schools were made over the summer, the department says it would expect minimal disruption to school districts and other grant recipients. Title I money, which goes to schools with high concentrations of students in poverty, plus funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act would continue during a shutdown.



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Not all federal education money arrives ahead of the school year, however. One example is Impact Aid, a program that bolsters school budgets in areas where federal land management or other activities, such as military installations, reduce the amount of taxable land to generate revenue for the district. These schools likely will see disruptions in payments. More than 1,200 districts receive that aid across all 50 states, according to a national association that represents those schools.

If the shutdown lasts longer than a week, the department says it would revise its contingency plan to prevent significant disruptions to school districts.

Civil rights investigations

Under the shutdown, the department will stop its investigations into schools and universities over alleged civil rights violations.

Since the mass layoffs in March, the office has operated under a significantly reduced footprint. The department's civil rights branch lost about half of its staff. The cuts raised questions about whether the office would be able to shrink a backlog of complaints from students who allege they have experienced discrimination on the basis of race, sex or disability status.

The department's own data has shown a decline in resolving civil rights cases, while new complaints from families have increased. During the shutdown, work on the pending cases will stop.

## Tony Blair's long experience in the Middle East is both his strength and his weakness

By JILL LAWLESS and DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LIVERPOOL, England (AP) — Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair has returned to the forefront of Middle East peace efforts after a U.S. peace plan on ending the Israel-Hamas war cast him in a leading role in overseeing the post-war administration and reconstruction of the Gaza Strip.

It's familiar territory for Blair, who spent eight years working to promote peace between Israel and the Palestinians as the international community's envoy to the Middle East.

His decision to step down in 2015 was seen as a reflection of the dire state of Mideast peace efforts that devolved further under the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The U.S. proposal — which President Donald Trump and Netanyahu said they agreed on after talks at the White House on Monday — would put Gaza's territory and its more than 2 million people effectively under international control, deploying an international security force and installing a "Board of Peace" headed by Trump and Blair to oversee the administration and reconstruction.

Hamas said Tuesday it would study the plan, both within the group and with other Palestinian factions before responding.

Legacy of the war in Iraq

Blair has decades of experience in the Middle East. For some that's his great strength — and for others his huge weakness.

As prime minister between 1997 and 2007, he took the United Kingdom into the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 despite strong public opposition. The subsequent conflict killed 179 British troops, some 4,500 American personnel and hundreds of thousands of Iraqis.

A public inquiry concluded in 2016 that Blair took the country to war based on flawed intelligence and "before the peaceful options for disarmament had been exhausted." But it did not say that the war was illegal, which could have opened the way for Blair to be prosecuted for war crimes.

Blair has defended his decision to go to war, saying he did it in good faith, believing that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction.

AMideast diplomatic role

After leaving office in 2007, Blair was appointed Middle East envoy by the "Quartet" of the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations — a post that began with great promise but which struggled to deliver dramatic changes in its quest to promote peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

Blair's experience in British politics and name recognition offered hope that he had the charisma and

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connections that might bring progress.

But his work became mired in skirmishes over issues such as the movement of Palestinian goods and people in the West Bank, and dealing with the difficulties of a Gaza Strip ruled by the militant Hamas group and blockaded by Israel and Egypt.

"Well, he was a colossal failure in the many years that he was the special envoy of the Quartet," said Nomi Bar-Yaacov, a Mideast expert at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy. "They didn't achieve much."

Blair quit in 2015 with little to show in the way of progress toward a Palestinian state. That was long before the Hamas-led Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel ignited the latest war and further poisoned hopes for peace and stability.

Recently Blair has been part of high-level planning talks with the U.S. and others about the future of Gaza.

In a statement, Blair said Trump's "bold and intelligent" plan offers "the best chance" of ending the Gaza war. He did not mention his own potential role.

A contentious politician

U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Trump's announcement of a peace plan was "profoundly welcome" and called "on all sides to come together and to work with the U.S. administration to finalize this agreement and bring it into reality." He didn't mention Blair's potential involvement.

Blair remains a divisive figure in the Labour Party, praised by some for winning three consecutive elections but forever tarnished in the eyes of others because of the war.

Health Secretary Wes Streeting acknowledged that "there'll be some people who look at Tony Blair and his legacy in Iraq and will raise eyebrows to say the least about whether he's the right man to be involved in this."

But he noted that Blair played a key role in ending decades of violence in Northern Ireland with the 1998 Good Friday peace agreement, experience that could prove essential in the Middle East.

Michael Stephens, an international security expert at the Royal United Services Institute think tank, said that Blair being given a role in a transitional Gaza authority "has rings of 2003 about it, so it feels uncomfortable.

"But if it brings ceasefire it may not be the worst option," he said.

War-weary Palestinians from Gaza expressed little enthusiasm for Blair.

"Blair is rejected by the people," said Hussein Dhaher, a displaced man from Gaza's northern town of Beit Hanoun. "This man has the blood of Iraqis on his hands. He only brings ruin and destruction."

Umm Mohammed, a history teacher who shelters with her family in Gaza City, wondered why a Palestinian leader could not have been found instead of Blair.

"This man is hated in the region because of his role in destroying Iraq, and he won't bring anything good to us Palestinians," she said.

## Government shutdown begins as nation faces new period of uncertainty

By LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK and STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Plunged into a government shutdown, the U.S. is confronting a fresh cycle of uncertainty after President Donald Trump and Congress failed to strike an agreement to keep government programs and services running by Wednesday's deadline.

Roughly 750,000 federal workers are expected to be furloughed, some potentially fired by the Trump administration. Many offices will be shuttered, perhaps permanently, as Trump vows to "do things that are irreversible, that are bad" as retribution. His deportation agenda is expected to run full speed ahead, while education, environmental and other services sputter. The economic fallout is expected to ripple nationwide.

"We don't want it to shut down," Trump said at the White House before the midnight deadline.

But the president, who met privately with congressional leadership this week, appeared unable to negotiate any deal between Democrats and Republicans to prevent that outcome.

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This is the third time Trump has presided over a federal funding lapse, the first since his return to the White House this year, in a remarkable record that underscores the polarizing divide over budget priorities and a political climate that rewards hardline positions rather than more traditional compromises.

Plenty of blame being thrown around

The Democrats picked this fight, which was unusual for the party that prefers to keep government running, but their voters are eager to challenge the president's second-term agenda. Democrats are demanding funding for health care subsidies that are expiring for millions of people under the Affordable Care Act, spiking the costs of insurance premiums nationwide.

Republicans have refused to negotiate for now and have encouraged Trump to steer clear of any talks. After the White House meeting, the president posted a cartoonish fake video mocking the Democratic leadership that was widely viewed as unserious and racist.

What neither side has devised is an easy offramp to prevent what could become a protracted closure. The ramifications are certain to spread beyond the political arena, upending the lives of Americans who rely on the government for benefit payments, work contracts and the various services being thrown into turmoil.

"What the government spends money on is a demonstration of our country's priorities," said Rachel Snyderman, a former White House budget official who is the managing director of economic policy at the Bipartisan Policy Center, a think tank in Washington.

Shutdowns, she said, "only inflict economic cost, fear and confusion across the country."

Economic fallout expected to ripple nationwide

An economic jolt could be felt in a matter of days. The government is expected Friday to produce its monthly jobs report, which may or may not be delivered.

While the financial markets have generally "shrugged" during past shutdowns, according to a Goldman Sachs analysis, this one could be different partly because there are no signs of broader negotiations.

"There are also few good analogies to this week's potential shutdown," the analysis said.

Across the government, preparations have been underway. Trump's Office of Management and Budget, headed by Russ Vought, directed agencies to execute plans for not just furloughs, as are typical during a federal funding lapse, but mass firings of federal workers. It's part of the Trump administration's mission, including its Department of Government Efficiency, to shrink the federal government.

What's staying open and shutting down

The Medicare and Medicaid health care programs are expected to continue, though staffing shortages could mean delays for some services. The Pentagon would still function. And most employees will stay on the job at the Department of Homeland Security.

But Trump has warned that the administration could focus on programs that are important to Democrats, "cutting vast numbers of people out, cutting things that they like, cutting programs that they like."

As agencies sort out which workers are essential, or not, Smithsonian museums are expected to stay open at least until Monday. A group of former national park superintendents urged the Trump administration to close the parks to visitors, arguing that poorly staffed parks in a shutdown are a danger to the public and put park resources at risk.

No easy exit as health care costs soar

Ahead of Wednesday's start of the fiscal year, House Republicans had approved a temporary funding bill, over opposition from Democrats, to keep government running into mid-November while broader negotiations continue.

But that bill has failed repeatedly in the Senate, including late Tuesday. It takes a 60-vote threshold for approval, which requires cooperation between the two parties. A Democratic bill also failed. With a 53-47 GOP majority, Democrats are leveraging their votes to demand negotiation.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune has said Republicans are happy to discuss the health care issue with Democrats — but not as part of talks to keep the government open. More votes are expected Wednesday.

The standoff is a political test for Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, who has drawn scorn from a restive base of left-flank voters pushing the party to hold firm in its demands for health care funding.

"Americans are hurting with higher costs," Schumer said after the failed vote Tuesday.

House Speaker Mike Johnson sent lawmakers home nearly two weeks ago after having passed the GOP bill, blaming Democrats for the shutdown.

"They want to fight Trump," Johnson said Tuesday on CNBC. "A lot of good people are going to be hurt because of this."

Trump, during his meeting with the congressional leaders, expressed surprise at the scope of the rising costs of health care, but Democrats left with no path toward talks.

During Trump's first term, the nation endured its longest-ever shutdown, 35 days, over his demands for funds Congress refused to provide to build his promised U.S.-Mexico border wall.

In 2013, the government shut down for 16 days during the Obama presidency over GOP demands to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare. Other closures date back decades.

## **Strong earthquake kills 31 people in a central Philippine region hit by deadly storm just days ago**

By JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — An offshore earthquake of magnitude 6.9 collapsed walls of houses and buildings late Tuesday in a central Philippine province, killing at least 31 people, injuring many others and sending residents scrambling out of homes into darkness as the intense shaking cut off power, officials said.

The epicenter of the earthquake, which was set off by movement in a local fault at a depth of 5 kilometers (3 miles), was about 19 kilometers (12 miles) northeast of Bogó, a coastal city of about 90,000 people in Cebu province where at least 14 residents died, disaster-mitigation officer Rex Ygot told The Associated Press by telephone.

The death toll in Bogó was expected to rise. Workers were trying to transport a backhoe to hasten search and rescue efforts in a cluster of shanties in a mountain village hit by a landslide and boulders, he said.

"It's hard to move in the area because there are hazards," Glenn Ursal, another disaster-mitigation officer told the AP, adding some survivors were brought to a hospital.

At least 12 people died when they were hit by falling ceilings and walls of their houses, some while sleeping, in Medellín town near Bogó, Gemma Villamor, who heads the town's disaster-mitigation office, told the AP.

In San Remigio town, also near Bogó, five people, consisting of three coast guard personnel, a firefighter and a child, were killed separately by collapsing walls while trying to flee to safety from a basketball game that was disrupted by the quake, the town's vice mayor, Alfie Reynes, told the DZMM radio network.

Reynes appealed for food and water, saying San Remigio's water system was damaged by the earthquake.

Aside from houses in Bogó, the quake damaged a fire station and concrete and asphalt roads, firefighter Rey Cañete said.

"We were in our barracks to retire for the day when the ground started to shake and we rushed out but stumbled to the ground because of the intense shaking," Cañete told The AP, adding that he and three other firemen sustained cuts and bruises.

A concrete wall in their fire station collapsed, Cañete said. He and fellow firefighters provided first aid to at least three residents, who were injured by falling debris and collapsed walls.

Hundreds of terrified residents gathered in the darkness in a grassy field near the fire station and refused to return home hours after the earthquake struck in Bogó. Several business establishments visibly sustained damages and the asphalt and concrete roads where they passed had deep cracks, Cañete said, adding that an old Catholic church in Daanbantayan town near Bogó was also damaged.

Cebu Gov. Pamela Baricuatro said the extent of the damage and injuries in Bogó and outlying towns in the northern section of the province would not be known until daytime. "It could be worse than we think," he said in a video message posted on Facebook.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology briefly issued a tsunami warning and advised people to stay away from the coastlines in Cebu and in the nearby provinces of Leyte and Biliran due to



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possible waves of up to 1 meter (3 feet).

Teresito Bacolcol, director of the institute, said the tsunami warning was later lifted with no unusual waves being monitored.

Cebu and other provinces were still recovering from a tropical storm that battered the central region on Friday, leaving at least 27 people dead mostly due to drownings and falling trees, knocking out power in entire cities and towns and forcing the evacuation of tens of thousands of people.

The Philippines, one of the world's most disaster-prone countries, is often hit by earthquakes and volcanic eruptions due to its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of seismic faults around the ocean. The archipelago is also lashed by about 20 typhoons and storms each year.

## Trump pulls nomination of E.J. Antoni to lead Bureau of Labor Statistics, AP source says

By SEUNG MIN KIM and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is withdrawing the nomination of E.J. Antoni to lead the Bureau of Labor Statistics, according to a White House official and an AP source who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the action, which has yet to be publicly announced.

The White House official declined to say the reasons for withdrawing the nomination, only to say that Antoni was a talented economist and that President Donald Trump plans to announce a new nominee soon. The Senate received paperwork formally withdrawing Antoni's nomination on Tuesday.

Antoni's nomination, announced in August, was an attempt by Trump to gain greater control over the federal agency responsible for producing key economic data, including the monthly jobs report and consumer price index, which is used to measure inflation. As the chief economist at The Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, he was a major critic of the BLS. Yet most economists saw him as overtly partisan and warned that his basic misreads on recessions, import prices and other measures made him a risk to lead the federal agency.

Kyle Pomerleau, a tax expert for the conservative American Enterprise Institute, wrote on X after Antoni's nomination in August: "There are a lot of competent conservative economists that could do this job. E.J. is not one of them."

Kevin Roberts, president of The Heritage Foundation and Heritage Action, said in a statement that Antoni "continues to be one of the sharpest economic minds in the country" and that he "was the right man for the job" at the BLS. But the statement said that Antoni would remain at the conservative think tank instead of taking a job in the government.

Other details emerged about Antoni that caused worry about his credibility as an economic scorekeeper. NBC News reported that Antoni was in the crowd outside the U.S. Capitol during the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection. And observers found that the wall art behind Antoni during interviews on TV was of the German battleship Bismarck used by the Nazis in World War II.

Financial disclosures show that Antoni earned in excess of \$495,000 for his work at The Heritage Foundation, in addition to other payments for speeches and consulting.

Trump fired Erika McEntarfer as BLS commissioner on Aug. 1 after the July jobs report showed a rapid slowdown in hiring, with job gains in May and June revised much lower than initially estimated.

The White House has maintained that it wants accurate figures after a series of downward revisions to the jobs report, but Trump has said on his social media site that the numbers were rigged to undermine him politically.

In the four months after Trump initially announced his country-by-country tariffs, job gains have averaged less than 27,000 a month. The slowdown was severe enough for the Federal Reserve in September to cut its benchmark rate in hopes of stabilizing the job market.

The White House also on Tuesday withdrew the nomination of Brian Quintenz to join the Commodity Futures Trading Commission as chairman. A White House official, insisting on anonymity to discuss the decision, called Quintenz a trusted ally and said that a new nominee would be forthcoming.

CNN first reported the withdrawal of Antoni's nomination.

## Government headed to a shutdown after last-ditch vote fails in Senate

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, LISA MASCARO and STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democrats have voted down a Republican bill to keep funding the government, putting it on a near certain path to a shutdown after midnight Wednesday for the first time in nearly seven years.

The Senate rejected the legislation as Democrats are making good on their threat to close the government if President Donald Trump and Republicans won't accede to their health care demands. The 55-45 vote on a bill to extend federal funding for seven weeks fell short of the 60 needed to end a filibuster and pass the legislation.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said Republicans are trying to "bully" Democrats by refusing to negotiate on an extension of expanded Affordable Care Act tax credits that expire at the end of the year.

"We hope they sit down with us and talk," Schumer said after the vote. "Otherwise, it's the Republicans will be driving us straight towards a shutdown tonight at midnight. The American people will blame them for bringing the federal government to a halt."

The failure of Congress to keep the government open means that hundreds of thousands of federal workers could be furloughed or laid off. After the vote, the White House's Office of Management and Budget issued a memo saying "affected agencies should now execute their plans for an orderly shutdown."

Threatening retribution to Democrats, Trump said Tuesday that a shutdown could include "cutting vast numbers of people out, cutting things that they like, cutting programs that they like."

Trump and his fellow Republicans said they won't entertain any changes to the legislation, arguing that it's a stripped-down, "clean" bill that should be noncontroversial. Senate Majority Leader John Thune said "we can reopen it tomorrow" if enough Democrats break party lines.

The last shutdown was in Trump's first term, from December 2018 to January 2019, when he demanded that Congress give him money for his U.S.-Mexico border wall. Trump retreated after 35 days — the longest shutdown ever — amid intensifying airport delays and missed paydays for federal workers.

Democrats take a stand against Trump, with exceptions

While partisan stalemates over government spending are a frequent occurrence in Washington, the current impasse comes as Democrats see a rare opportunity to use their leverage to achieve policy goals and as their base voters are spoiling for a fight with Trump. Republicans who hold a 53-47 majority in the Senate needed at least eight votes from Democrats after Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky opposed the bill.

Democratic Sens. John Fetterman of Pennsylvania and Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada and Independent Sen. Angus King of Maine voted with Republicans to keep the government open — giving Republicans hope that there might be five more who will eventually come around and help end a shutdown.

After the vote, King warned against "permanent damage" as Trump and his administration have threatened mass layoffs.

"Instead of fighting Trump we're actually empowering him, which is what finally drove my decision," King said.

Thune predicted Democratic support for the GOP bill will increase "when they realize that this is playing a losing hand."

Shutdown preparations begin

The stakes are huge for federal workers across the country as the White House told agencies last week that they should consider "a reduction in force" for many federal programs if the government shuts down. That means that workers who are not deemed essential could be fired instead of just furloughed.

Either way, most would not get paid. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated in a letter

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to Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst on Tuesday that around 750,000 federal workers could be furloughed each day once a shutdown begins.

Federal agencies were already preparing. On the home page of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, a large pop up ad reads, "The Radical Left are going to shut down the government and inflict massive pain on the American people."

**Democrats' health care asks**

Democrats want to negotiate an extension of the health subsidies immediately as people are beginning to receive notices of premium increases for the next year. Millions of people who purchase health insurance through the Affordable Care Act could face higher costs as expanded subsidies first put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic expire.

Democrats have also demanded that Republicans reverse the Medicaid cuts that were enacted as a part of Trump's "big, beautiful bill" this summer and for the White House to promise it will not move to rescind spending passed by Congress.

"We are not going to support a partisan Republican spending bill that continues to gut the health care of everyday Americans," House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries said.

Thune pressed Democrats to vote for the funding bill and take up the debate on tax credits later. Some Republicans are open to extending the tax credits, but many are strongly opposed to it.

In rare, pointed back-and-forth with Schumer on the Senate floor Tuesday morning, Thune said Republicans "are happy to fix the ACA issue" and have offered to negotiate with Democrats — if they will vote to keep the government open until Nov. 21.

**A critical, and unusual, vote for Democrats**

Democrats are in an uncomfortable position for a party that has long denounced shutdowns as pointless and destructive, and it's unclear how or when a shutdown will end. But party activists and lawmakers have argued that Democrats need to do something to stand up to Trump.

"The level of appeasement that Trump demands never ends," said Sen. Peter Welch, D-Vt. "We've seen that with universities, with law firms, with prosecutors. So is there a point where you just have to stand up to him? I think there is."

Some groups called for Schumer's resignation in March after he and nine other Democrats voted to break a filibuster and allow a Republican-led funding bill to advance to a final vote.

Schumer said then that he voted to keep the government open because a shutdown would have made things worse as Trump's administration was slashing government jobs. He says things have now changed, including the passage this summer of the massive GOP tax cut bill that reduced Medicaid.

**Trump's role in negotiations**

A bipartisan meeting at the White House on Monday was Trump's first with all four leaders in Congress since retaking the White House for his second term. Schumer said the group "had candid, frank discussions" about health care.

But Trump did not appear to be ready for serious talks. Hours later, he posted a fake video of Schumer and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries taken from footage of their real press conference outside of the White House after the meeting. In the altered video, a voiceover that sounds like Schumer's voice makes fun of Democrats and Jeffries stands beside him with a cartoon sombrero and mustache. Mexican music plays in the background.

At a news conference on the Capitol steps Tuesday morning, Jeffries said it was a "racist and fake AI video."

Schumer said that less than a day before a shutdown, Trump was trolling on the internet "like a 10-year-old."

"It's only the president who can do this," Schumer said. "We know he runs the show here."

## Prosecutors want Sean 'Diddy' Combs sentenced to more than 11 years in prison

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Key witnesses against Sean "Diddy" Combs, including longtime ex-girlfriend Casandra "Cassie" Ventura, are urging a federal judge to reject leniency for the hip-hop mogul at his sentencing Friday, saying they fear for their safety if he is freed.

Prosecutors included letters from R&B singer Cassie, her parents and four others with a written submission Tuesday as they seek to have Combs sentenced to at least 11 years and 3 months in prison for his conviction on two prostitution-related charges.

Notably absent was the voice of an ex-girlfriend who testified under the pseudonym Jane. Like Cassie, she said Combs subjected her over several years to dayslong, drug-fueled sexual performances with male sex workers that Combs watched and often filmed.

Late Tuesday, Judge Arun Subramanian denied Combs' request to have his conviction overturned, rejecting his lawyers' argument that he was an amateur pornographer — not engaging in prostitution — and that the guilty verdict violates his First Amendment rights.

"Illegal activity can't be laundered into constitutionally protected activity," Subramanian wrote. He called Combs' filming "incidental," pointing to trial evidence that showed he didn't typically give notice or ask for consent for filming, as a film producer would.

Some who submitted letters expressed disappointment that a jury exonerated Combs, 55, of racketeering conspiracy and sex trafficking charges that could have put him behind bars for life, leaving him convicted of two lesser Mann Act charges stemming from interstate commerce related to prostitution.

"If there is one thing I have learned from this experience, it is that victims and survivors will never be safe," wrote Cassie, who testified for four days at Combs' trial, describing numerous assaults that left her bruised and traumatized.

She said she was 19 years old when Combs "used violence, threats, substances, and control over my career to trap me in over a decade of abuse."

A former personal assistant who testified under the pseudonym "Mia" that Combs raped her in 2010 asked Subramanian to dispense a sentence "that takes into account the ongoing danger my abuser poses to me, and to others."

"The defendant's wealth, power, and fame should not place him above the law," she said.

Ex-Combs employee Capricorn Clark, who testified that a gun-waving Combs forced her to join him when he broke into Rapper Kid Cudi's home in 2011, suggested he'd benefit from spending time in prison.

"The last ray of light is that you provide justice to us," she told the judge. "I truly believe that serving more time will save Puff's life, as time away from his money, drugs, and power is the only punishment he will recognize."

Stylist Deonte Nash said he doesn't expect Combs to be in jail forever but was "praying for a sentence that allows the victims to heal and encourages Mr. Combs to genuinely change."

Combs' "has left a long trail of victims, many of whom still live in fear," Nash wrote.

Jourdan-Cha'Taun Atkinson, Combs' personal chef from 2007 to 2010, said she was set to testify but prosecutors pulled her at the last minute. She said federal agents served her a subpoena in March 2024 and Combs knew about it within two weeks, offering to cover her legal fees.

"I was extremely terrified," she wrote. "Because how did Sean Combs even know I was contacted?"

Calling for the maximum sentence, she said she knew Combs "to be a very dangerous, and spiteful man. With a long memory, and a panache for payback."

Combs' lawyers have asked for no more than 14 months in prison, which would free him almost immediately. They argue that Combs has suffered enough during his nearly 13 months in a Brooklyn federal lockup.

Combs has become a changed man in jail, they said. He's been under constant suicide watch and has learned to react calmly to threats, even when confronted with a shiv. They said Combs has realized that



his overuse of drugs, some prescribed by doctors, had contributed to his violence.

Cassie wrote that she has daily nightmares and flashbacks and requires psychological care to cope.

"My worries that Sean Combs or his associates will come after me and my family is my reality," Cassie said. "I have in fact moved my family out of the New York area and am keeping as private and quiet as I possibly can because I am so scared that if he walks free, his first actions will be swift retribution towards me and others who spoke up about his abuse at trial."

The Associated Press does not typically name people who say they have been sexually abused unless they come forward publicly, as Cassie has.

## **Friends of the Michigan church shooting suspect say he long carried hatred toward Mormon faith**

By ISABELLA VOLMERT, MARK VANCLEAVE and ED WHITE Associated Press

GRAND BLANC TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — The man who opened fire in a Michigan church and killed four people while setting it ablaze long harbored hatred toward the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, according to longtime friends, and told a stranger who showed up at his door days before that attack that Mormons were the "antichrist."

The suspect, identified as 40-year-old Thomas Jacob Sanford, began making those sentiments known years ago following his return from Utah where he dated but later broke up with a girlfriend who was a member of the Mormon faith, two childhood friends said Tuesday. Sanford had moved to Utah after leaving the Marines and told his friends he had become addicted to methamphetamines.

No longer the happy-go-lucky kid who was voted class clown of their graduating class, Sanford routinely spouted off about his grievances against the church, his friends said. The first time they heard it was at a wedding thirteen years ago.

"We were like, 'come on,' we don't want to hear this," said Bobby Kalush, who grew up down the road from Sanford. "When he came back from Utah, he was a completely different person."

Just six days before Sunday's attack, those grudges were still boiling at the surface, said Kris Johns, a city council candidate who described a bizarre brush with Sanford while door knocking for his campaign.

The two were speaking at Sanford's home in Burton about gun rights when Sanford physically leaned in, Johns said, and asked, "What do you know about Mormons?"

For close to 15 minutes, Sanford spoke in controlled and calm tones about the Mormon faith, saying he was concerned about their beliefs while expressing that he was a Christian. Sanford then said he believed that Mormons are the "antichrist," according to Johns.

"That's something I'll never forget," he said.

Police have released very few details about Sanford, who died after being shot by officers, and have refused to discuss what might have motivated the attack at the church, which was set reduced to rubble in Grand Blanc Township, about 60 miles (96 kilometers) north of Detroit.

On Tuesday, Sanford's family released a statement through a lawyer, expressing condolences. "No words can adequately convey our sorrow for the victims and their families," they said.

Changes started after the Marine Corps

Sanford served four years in the Marine Corps after enlisting in 2004 and deployed once to Iraq for seven months, according to military records. His commander during the deployment, David Hochheimer, said the unit never saw combat or incoming fire. "It was a relatively quiet time," he said on Tuesday.

Sanford moved to Utah shortly after leaving the military. His friends said they noticed a change after he moved back home, thinking his battle with addiction was to blame. Kalush said his friend was no longer the "short, stocky ball of energy" who once bought dozens of flowers to give out to girls before the homecoming dance.

Around bonfires with friends, it wasn't unusual for Sanford to start talking about how Mormons were going to take over, said Frances Tersigni, who along with his twin brother was among Sanford's best friends.

"It was just so random. It was like, 'Why Mormons dude?'" Tersigni said. "It's hard to explain. We didn't

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take it serious.”

But there were no signs that he was a threat to anyone, Tersigni said. An avid hunter, Sanford was married now and raising a child at home.

“He never once, never, said ‘I’ve got to do something,’” he said. “There’s a Jake we all knew, and there was one who was hidden. It wasn’t apparent to us.”

Victims include devoted grandfathers

Federal investigators remained at the church Tuesday as heavy machinery began moving debris from the church.

Authorities have not yet released the names of the four people who died or the eight people — ages 6 to 78 — who were wounded and expected to survive. Among the wounded were a father and his young son, according to a GoFundMe post.

One of those who died was being remembered as a grandfather who adored spending time with his family. John Bond, a Navy veteran, was well-known in the community and loved golfing and trains, according to friends organizing fundraising for the family.

Another victim was identified by family and friends as Pat Howard, 77, of Holly, Michigan. He attended the service with his wife, Kitty, who was not wounded during the attack, family friend Cara Carrubba told The Associated Press.

“Uncle Pat was so many things. ... In my mind I see him mid conversation, his eyebrows raised, his eyes bright and a smile just starting to show,” niece Maureen Seliger said on Facebook.

Michigan community comes together

Jeffrey Schaub, bishop of the Grand Blanc church, said in a video posted Monday that the attack has left the community reeling.

“As you can expect our members are quite shaken in spirit and in body,” he said. “And it hurts.”

There has been an outpouring of support from different faith communities, he said. “It was very humbling to see how much good there is in the world today and that, above all, we are all children of the same Father in heaven,” he said, with a tremor in his voice.

Sanford drove his truck into the church’s brick wall while members were gathered inside Sunday morning. He apparently used gas to start the fire and also had explosive devices, said James Dier of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Flames and smoke poured from the church for hours after the attack.

Jerry Eaton, 78, who lives across the street, sheltered seven people who fled the church, including a mother with her four young children. He was watching television when he heard the shooting.

“I’ve done a lot of hunting, so I know the sound of gunfire,” he said. “As much as I didn’t want to believe it, that’s exactly what it sounded like.”

## Judge finds the Trump administration unconstitutionally targeted noncitizens over Gaza war protests

By MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — The Trump administration violated the Constitution when it targeted non-U.S. citizens for deportation solely for supporting Palestinians and criticizing Israel, a federal judge said Tuesday in a scathing ruling directly and sharply criticizing President Donald Trump and his policies as serious threats to free speech.

U.S. District Judge William Young in Boston agreed with several university associations that the policy they described as ideological deportation violates the First Amendment as well as the Administrative Procedure Act, a law governing how federal agencies develop and issue regulations. Young also found the policy was “arbitrary or capricious because it reverses prior policy without reasoned explanation.”

“This case — perhaps the most important ever to fall within the jurisdiction of this district court — squarely presents the issue whether non-citizens lawfully present here in United States actually have the same free speech rights as the rest of us. The Court answers this Constitutional question unequivocally ‘yes, they

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do," Young, a nominee of Republican President Ronald Reagan, wrote.

Tricia McLaughlin, assistant secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, released a statement that didn't directly address the ruling but said Young was "smearing and demonizing federal law enforcement."

"Our ICE law enforcement should be thanked for risking their lives every day to arrest murderers, pedophiles, rapists, gang members, and terrorists instead of vilified by sanctuary politicians," she said. "It's disheartening that even after the terrorist attack and recent arrests of rioters with guns outside of ICE facilities, this judge decides to stoke the embers of hatred."

Plaintiffs in the case welcomed the ruling.

"The Trump administration's attempt to deport students for their political views is an assault on the Constitution and a betrayal of American values," said Todd Wolfson, president of the American Association of University Professors union. "This trial exposed their true aim: to intimidate and silence anyone who dares oppose them. If we fail to fight back, Trump's thought police won't stop at pro-Palestinian voices—they will come for anyone who speaks out."

The ruling came after a trial during which lawyers for the associations presented witnesses who testified that the Trump administration had launched a coordinated effort to target students and scholars who had criticized Israel or showed sympathy for Palestinians.

"Not since the McCarthy era have immigrants been the target of such intense repression for lawful political speech," Ramya Krishnan, senior staff attorney at the Knight First Amendment Institute, told the court. "The policy creates a cloud of fear over university communities, and it is at war with the First Amendment."

Young will hold a separate hearing on the relief requested by the plaintiffs, which is likely to be a request that the Trump administration stop engaging in ideological deportations.

Lawyers for the Trump administration put up witnesses who testified there was no ideological deportation policy as the plaintiffs contended.

"There is no policy to revoke visas on the basis of protected speech," Victoria Santora told the court. "The evidence presented at this trial will show that plaintiffs are challenging nothing more than government enforcement of immigration laws."

John Armstrong, the senior bureau official in the Bureau of Consular Affairs, testified that visa revocations were based on longstanding immigration law. Armstrong acknowledged he played a role in the visa revocation of several high-profile activists, including Rumeysa Ozturk and Mahmoud Khalil, and was shown memos endorsing their removal.

Armstrong also insisted that visa revocations were not based on protected speech and rejected accusations that there was a policy of targeting someone for their ideology.

One witness testified that the campaign targeted more than 5,000 pro-Palestinian protesters. Out of the 5,000 names reviewed, investigators wrote reports on about 200 who had potentially violated U.S. law, Peter Hatch of ICE's Homeland Security Investigations Unit testified. Until this year, Hatch said, he could not recall a student protester being referred for a visa revocation.

Among the report subjects was Palestinian activist and Columbia University graduate Khalil, who was released last month after 104 days in federal immigration detention. Khalil has become a symbol of Trump's clampdown on the protests.

Another was the Tufts University student Ozturk, who was released in May from six weeks in detention after being arrested on a suburban Boston street. She said she was illegally detained following an op-ed she co-wrote last year criticizing her school's response to the war in Gaza.

Young accused Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and their agents of misusing their powers to target noncitizens who were pro-Palestinian in order to silence them and, in doing so, "intentionally denying such individuals (including the plaintiffs here) the freedom of speech that is their right."

"Moreover, the effect of these targeted deportation proceedings continues unconstitutionally to chill freedom of speech to this day," he added.

Young also criticized Trump in his 161-page ruling, suggesting he supported the policy, even though he may not have authorized its operation. "The facts prove that the President himself approves truly scandal-

ous and unconstitutional suppression of free speech" on the part of two of his senior Cabinet secretaries, he wrote.

He also used his ruling to draw attention to what he sees as Trump's broader effort to stifle dissent and attack anyone whom he disagrees while at the same time urging Americans to stand up to these threats. Referencing Reagan speaking about the fragility of freedom when he was the governor of California, Young said he believes that Trump appreciates and understands those words but fears "he has drawn from it a darker, more cynical message."

"I fear President Trump believes the American people are so divided that today they will not stand up, fight for, and defend our most precious constitutional values so long as they are lulled into thinking their own personal interests are not affected," he wrote.

## Nicole Kidman files for divorce from Keith Urban after 19 years of marriage

By JONATHAN MATTISE and ANDREW DALTON Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Nicole Kidman has filed for divorce from Keith Urban after 19 years of marriage, bringing a surprising end to a long and seemingly successful union that brought together two superstars from the worlds of movies and music.

The 58-year-old Oscar-winning actor petitioned on Tuesday to end her marriage to the 57-year-old Grammy winning country singer in a Nashville court. The documents state the couple has undergone "marital difficulties and irreconcilable differences."

Kidman and Urban, two of the biggest stars to come out of Australia in recent decades, have been red carpet fixtures throughout their two-decade relationship, with Urban joining his wife at the Oscars and Kidman attending music events like the Academy of Country Music Awards.

The filings include a marriage dissolution and childcare plan agreed on by the couple and submitted for a judge's approval.

"The mother and father will behave with each other and each child so as to provide a loving, stable, consistent and nurturing relationship with the child even though they are divorced," says the permanent parenting plan, using language common in the state's divorces. "They will not speak badly of each other or the members of the family of the other parent. They will encourage each child to continue to love the other parent and be comfortable in both families."

The plan asks that Kidman be the primary residential parent to the couple's two daughters, ages 17 and 14, having them for 306 days per year with Urban taking them for the other 59.

The girls have lived in Nashville all their lives, and the documents give no indication that will change.

The filing states that each parent earns more than \$100,000 per month and neither will need childcare or spousal support.

The marriage dissolution plan lays out a roughly equal division of joint assets, with each keeping all the assets that are in their own name, including the copyrights and royalties for their artistic work.

The detailed agreements suggests that the divorce had been in the works for well over a month at the least. Urban signed the parenting plan on Aug. 29, Kidman on Sept. 6.

It will take at least 90 days for the divorce to become final under Tennessee law.

Representatives for Kidman and Urban did not respond to emailed requests for comment on Tuesday.

Both raised in Australia, Kidman and Urban met in 2005 at a Los Angeles event honoring Australians and were married in Sydney the following year.

The marriage was the first for Urban and the second for Kidman, who was married to Tom Cruise from 1990 to 2001. Kidman also has two older children with Cruise.

The couple had publicly but lovingly described some marital difficulties, but there were still few if any signs they were headed for divorce. Media reports of their separation came just a day before the divorce filing.

Last year at the premiere of the Netflix series "The Perfect Couple," Kidman told The Associated Press the term didn't apply to her and Urban.



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"You're heading for trouble if you consider yourselves the perfect couple," she said. "I'm not a believer in perfect."

A few months earlier, Urban paid tribute to Kidman, and brought her to tears, when she received the AFI Life Achievement Award.

Urban said she showed him "what love in action really looks like" when his substance abuse problems emerged almost immediately after they wed in 2006.

"Four months into our marriage, I'm in rehab for three months," Urban said. "Nic pushed through every negative voice, I'm sure even some of her own, and she chose love. And here we are 18 years later."

Kidman's film roles have included "Days of Thunder," "Eyes Wide Shut," "Moulin Rouge" and "The Hours," for which she won an Academy Award for playing author Virginia Woolf. She has more recently worked in television, including the series "Nine Perfect Strangers" and "Big Little Lies," for which she won Emmys as both actor and producer.

Urban has been a major country star since the 1990s, with hits including "Somebody Like You" and "Blue Ain't Your Color." He has won four Grammy Awards and more than a dozen ACM Awards.

Their split was first reported by TMZ.

## Trump says his administration is close to reaching a deal with Harvard University

BY COLLIN BINKLEY AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Tuesday that his administration is close to reaching a deal with Harvard University, which it has targeted with a series of investigations and billions of dollars in funding cuts as it presses for changes to its policies and governance.

A truce with the country's oldest and wealthiest college would end a clash that has tested the independence of America's colleges.

Trump came into office saying he would cut funding for schools that defied his agenda, vowing to eliminate "wokeness." His pressure campaign zeroed in on the Ivy League institution after it rebuffed his demands.

Trump initially said a deal had been reached but then said officials were "close to finalizing" the agreement. "We haven't done it yet," he said at the White House.

Trump said the agreement includes a \$500 million payment from Harvard that would be used to create "a giant trade school, a series of trade schools that would be run by Harvard." Trump described it as an investment to revive trade schools and produce workers for American plants.

"They're going to be teaching people how to do AI and lots of other things," Trump said.

Harvard and the White House did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

A deal would open the door to a resolution of sanctions that have included cuts to more than \$2.6 billion in Harvard's research grants, losses of federal contracts, and efforts to cut off the school's ability to enroll foreign students.

Trump's administration has accused Harvard of tolerating antisemitism, particularly during last year's protests over the Israel-Hamas war. In a letter to Harvard, federal officials said the campus was "overrun by an impermissible, multiweek encampment" that left Jewish and Israeli students fearful and disrupted their studies.

Harvard President Alan Garber has acknowledged problems with antisemitism and anti-Muslim bias on campus, but said Harvard has taken strides to fight prejudice.

Earlier this month, a federal judge in Boston ordered the Trump administration to reverse the cuts to research funding, ruling the cuts amounted to illegal retaliation for Harvard's rejection of the administration's demands. The government had tied the funding freezes to Harvard's handling of antisemitism allegations, but the judge said the university's federally backed research had little connection to discrimination against Jews.

Harvard in April became the first university to openly defy the administration's sweeping demands,

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sparking an escalating fight with mounting sanctions from the administration.

Even as Harvard fought the White House in court, both sides had been meeting to negotiate a resolution to the impasse. Trump has previously signaled that a deal with Harvard was close only to see weeks pass with no resolution to the standoff.

Some faculty have urged against any deal with the White House, saying it would cede independence to a government that has overstepped its bounds.

The administration previously reached settlement agreements with Columbia and Brown universities to resolve civil rights investigations and restore their federal research funding.

## Here are some effects of a government shutdown if Congress, Trump don't reach a deal

Associated Press undefined

The federal government is nearing a partial shutdown, with a range of effects on public services and the broader U.S. economy.

Employee furloughs and potential layoffs would halt some government activities. Other functions — like NASA's space missions, President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown and certain public health work at FDA and the USDA — would continue.

Here is a look at some of what's expected across agencies:

Homeland Security, immigration enforcement would proceed mostly as-is

Most Department of Homeland Security employees would continue to work, because much of the department's workforce is connected to law enforcement or works in areas funded by user fees as opposed to Congressional appropriations.

DHS said in a plan published on its website that about 14,000 of the agency's roughly 271,000 employees would be furloughed in the event of a government shutdown. That would include maintaining the vast majority of officers and employees at Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Transportation and Security Administration, Citizenship and Immigration Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, among other divisions.

Department activities such as providing Secret Service protection for Trump, processing cargo and passengers coming into the country and carrying out the Trump administration's immigration enforcement operations would continue, the plan said.

Medicare and Medicaid payments would continue — with likely delays

Medicare and Medicaid programs and services will also continue uninterrupted, though staffing shortages could mean delays for some services, like the mailing of Medicare cards.

The government has enough money to fund Medicaid for the first quarter of the next fiscal year, according to the Department of Health and Human Services. Also, eligible states will continue receiving payments from the Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP.

No plan yet for national parks

The National Park Service has not said whether it will close its more than 400 sites across the U.S. to visitors.

Park officials said Tuesday afternoon that contingency plans were still being updated and would be posted to the service's website.

Many national parks, including Yellowstone and Yosemite, stayed open during a 35-day shutdown during Trump's first term. Limited staffing led to vandalism, gates being pried open and other problems including an off-roader mowing down one of the namesake trees at Joshua Tree National Park in California.

A group of former national park superintendents last week called for parks to close in case of a shutdown to protect park resources and visitor safety. States including Utah, Colorado and New York donated money to keep some national park sites open during past shutdowns.

FEMA fallout could block some new mortgages

While FEMA's core disaster relief functions would not be affected, at least in the short term, other aspects

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of the agency's work would be impacted. Some grant approvals would be paused, and no new policies could be written under the National Flood Insurance Program, halting new mortgages that require flood insurance.

Still, an extended shutdown could, in a worst-case scenario, exhaust FEMA's existing Disaster Relief Fund, which stands at about \$10 billion. House Speaker Mike Johnson warned Monday at the White House that FEMA "won't be funded" during a shutdown.

**Air traffic controllers will keep working**

Air traffic controllers already certified and on the job would be among the essential workers who would continue during any shutdown but their pay could be affected.

National Air Traffic Controllers Association President Nick Daniels has said that having to work without a paycheck adds stress to controllers who already do a difficult job. He said that in past shutdowns some controllers have even had to get side jobs to help pay bills while the shutdown drags on.

Capt. Jason Ambrosi, president of the Air Line Pilots Association, urged Congress to reach an agreement. "A shutdown threatens the stability of the safest aviation system in the world," Ambrosi said.

Many in aviation were concerned that a shutdown could force the school that aspiring air traffic controllers attend in Oklahoma City to shut down, disrupting efforts to get new controllers ready. But the Transportation Department said Tuesday the school will remain open using money from prior year funds.

A shutdown could set back the multibillion-dollar effort to overhaul and modernize air traffic control equipment.

**CDC plans widespread furloughs**

At the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than half the agency's workers will be furloughed. Those still working include people who deal with infectious disease outbreaks and care for research animals and maintain laboratories. Federal officials said CDC would continue to monitor disease outbreaks.

Activities that will stop include research into health risks and ways to prevent illness, communications with the public, and work to help state and local officials prevent overdose deaths or other health problems, according to a federal planning document.

**NIH research would stall, with patients immediately affected**

Research and patient care at the National Institutes of Health would be upended.

Patients currently enrolled in studies at the research-only hospital nicknamed the "house of hope" will continue to receive care during a government shutdown. Additional sick patients hoping for access to experimental therapies can't enroll except in special circumstances, and no new studies will begin.

Scientists face the prospect of costly laboratory research going to waste because most of the sprawling campus of the nation's premier medical research agency will empty out.

About three-quarters of NIH's employees will be furloughed. Those still working include hospital staff and those needed for security or animal care. There's also a ripple effect because NIH funds basic research and clinical trials at universities and other institutions across the country — and while existing grants aren't affected, the agency can't approve any pending applications.

**Most core FDA missions would continue**

Most of the Food and Drug Administration's core responsibilities would continue, including responding to public health threats and managing product recalls and drug shortages.

Some routine activities, including previously scheduled inspections of company manufacturing plants, will be halted. But the agency will continue to conduct inspections when it has reason to suspect a problem that could endanger consumers.

Government activities that ensure the immediate safety of the food supply will continue, including food recalls, investigations and inspections of imports. But longer-term food safety efforts, including initiatives aimed at reducing foodborne illnesses, would be paused.

About 86% of the agency's staff would remain on the job because their work is deemed essential or they are funded by non-federal sources, according to the administration's shutdown plan. FDA scientists

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who review drugs, medical devices and tobacco products are mostly or entirely funded by company fees, not the federal government.

State Department plans stateside furloughs, while keeping foreign services open

The State Department expects to furlough more than half of its remaining direct-hire personnel in the U.S., although embassies and consulates abroad will remain open and provide services to American citizens. No permanent layoffs are foreseen.

According to a 71-page plan posted to its website on Monday, the department said that only 10,344 of 26,995 domestically employed staffers whose work has been deemed essential will be exempted from the shutdown furloughs. Employees deemed to "excepted" from shutdown plan are those whose jobs are necessary to respond to emergencies and national security.

'Significant' EPA activities would continue

The Environmental Protection Agency says a contingency plan for a possible government shutdown would leave more than 10% of its staff in place to handle "significant agency activities" that are required by law or necessary to protect life and property.

Activities that would continue include protection of EPA land, buildings, equipment and ongoing research, as well as law enforcement and criminal investigations and emergency and disaster assistance, according to a contingency plan. Response work on certain Superfund clean-up sites also would continue, especially in cases where a failure to maintain operations would pose an imminent threat to human life, the memo says.

More than 1,700 employees would be required to go to work if a shutdown begins on Wednesday, the memo said. The agency had about 15,000 employees when Trump began his second term in January but has laid off hundreds of employees and offered voluntary retirement or deferred resignations to thousands more as part of a broader effort by Trump and billionaire Elon Musk to downsize the federal workforce.

Trump's proposed budget for EPA says 12,856 employees are expected in the budget year that starts Wednesday.

## **Pfizer agrees to lower prescription drug costs for Medicaid in a deal with Trump**

By TOM MURPHY and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pfizer has agreed to lower the cost of prescription drugs for Medicaid under a deal struck with the Trump administration, President Donald Trump said Tuesday as he promised similar deals with other drugmakers under the threat of tariffs.

Trump made the announcement at the White House alongside Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla just hours ahead of a possible government shutdown in a partisan standoff over health care and spending.

Pfizer Inc., one of the largest U.S. drugmakers, produces the COVID-19 vaccine Comirnaty and the treatment Paxlovid. Its products also include several cancer drugs, the blood thinner Eliquis and Prevnar pneumonia vaccines.

Under the deal, New York-based Pfizer will charge most-favored-nation pricing to Medicaid and guarantee that pricing on newly launched drugs, Trump said. That involves matching the lowest price offered in other developed nations.

Pfizer also agreed to participate in a new website the administration plans to start called TrumpRx, which will allow people to buy drugs directly from manufacturers. Pfizer said many of its treatments will be offered at discounts that average 50% through that platform.

The agreement builds on an executive order Trump signed in May, setting a deadline for drugmakers to electively lower prices or face new limits on what the government will pay. Trump said deals with other drug companies would be coming over the next week.

"I can't tell you how big this is," the president said Tuesday.

"We are turning the tide and we are reversing an unfair situation," Bourla said.

But prescription drug pricing expert Stacie Dusetzina said it isn't clear yet the extent of the pricing changes that will occur. The Vanderbilt University Medical Center professor noted that Pfizer is keeping



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specific terms of the deal confidential, and it wasn't clear how different any new pricing levels will be from what Medicaid already pays Pfizer.

Consumers are not expected to start seeing lower prices under the Pfizer deal until 2026, according to senior administration officials who were not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Patients in Medicaid, the state and federally funded program for people with low incomes, already pay a nominal co-payment of a few dollars to fill their prescriptions, but lower prices could help state budgets that fund the programs.

Lower drug prices also will help patients who have no insurance coverage and little leverage to negotiate better deals on what they pay. But even steep discounts of 50% found through the administration's website could still leave patients paying hundreds of dollars a month for some prescriptions.

Drugmakers in the past couple of years have started launching websites to connect customers directly with some products, such as obesity treatments or the blood thinner Eliquis.

But Dusetzina said selling drugs like that directly to consumers will help only a small number of people.

"Theoretically there are some who will benefit, but in general this is not a solution for lowering drug prices," she said.

Besides committing to lowering costs, Trump said, Pfizer agreed to spend \$70 billion in domestic manufacturing facilities, becoming the latest in a string of major drugmakers to announce plans to build production in the United States.

The White House did not immediately release details about the investment, but Pfizer said in a statement that the outlay would be dedicated to U.S. research, development and capital projects in the next few years.

Trump has been talking for months about the need to lower drug prices and to boost U.S. drug manufacturing. To persuade companies to strike deals, Trump said he threatened to impose tariffs — a favorite tool of his to use as leverage across all areas of government — but that move could raise drug prices.

Trump said the tariff threat put the government in "a pretty good negotiating position," and said, "This is something that most people said was not doable."

One thing that is not doable, however, was Trump's repeated claim that it would cut drug prices by more than 100%, "14, 15, 1,600% reductions in some cases," he said.

A 100% reduction would make the drugs free. Cuts greater than that would essentially mean people are paid to take the drugs.

Trump sent letters in late July to executives at 17 pharmaceutical companies about changes he would like to see. Copies of the letters posted on social media note that U.S. prices for brand-name drugs can be up to three times higher than averages elsewhere.

The letters called for drugmakers to commit by Monday to offering what Pfizer agreed to: most-favored-nation pricing to Medicaid and new medications.

Trump also asked drugmakers to offer the lower pricing levels for drugs sold directly to consumers and businesses.

Trump has claimed that the U.S., with its higher drug prices, subsidizes care in other countries.

Drug prices for patients in the U.S. can depend on a number of factors, including the competition a treatment faces and insurance coverage. Most people have coverage through work, the individual insurance market or government programs like Medicaid and Medicare, which shield them from much of the cost.

While Trump was focusing on drug costs on Tuesday, Democrats were focused on reversing Medicaid cuts in the sweeping law he signed this summer.

They were pushing for that reversal to be included in a measure to fund the government in the short term, along with an extension of tax cuts that make health insurance premiums more affordable for people who purchase coverage through Affordable Care Act marketplaces.

Republicans have said they won't negotiate.

## Israeli troops kill 31 Palestinians in Gaza as Qatar says discussion needed on Trump peace plan

By SAMY MAGDY and MELANIE LIDMAN Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Qatar said Tuesday that further talks were needed over details of U.S. President Donald Trump's peace plan aimed at ending the nearly two-year war in Gaza, as Hamas weighed its reply. In Gaza, Israeli forces killed at least 36 Palestinians, local hospitals said.

The comments by Qatar, a key mediator, appeared to reflect Arab countries' discontent over the text of the 20-point plan that the White House put out after Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced they had agreed on it Monday.

Three Arab officials told The Associated Press that changes had been made in the original proposal that Arab and Muslim countries had worked out with Trump — changes in favor of Israel. The officials, who came from regional powers involved in the talks, spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the behind-the-scenes diplomacy.

The depth of the Arab countries' discontent was not clear, and they have continued to express broad support for the plan. But Qatar's comments indicated they could seek further negotiation over some of its terms -- even as Trump told reporters Tuesday that Hamas has "three or four days" to respond.

Arab mediators and Turkish officials are to meet with Hamas representatives Tuesday in Doha to discuss the plan, said Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed Al Ansari.

The plan requires Hamas to release hostages, leave power in Gaza and disarm in return for the release of Palestinian prisoners and an end to fighting. The plan guarantees the flow of humanitarian aid and promises reconstruction. But it sets no path to Palestinian statehood. For the foreseeable future, Gaza and its more than 2 million Palestinians would be under international governance through a so-called "Board of Peace," headed by Trump and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

**Qatar says more discussion needed**

Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said the 20 points announced by the U.S. "are principles ... that require detailed discussion and how to work through them."

Speaking to the Qatar-based TV network Al Jazeera, he pointed to the issue of the Israeli troop withdrawal from Gaza, saying it "requires clarification."

The plan's text said Israeli troops would withdraw only as a planned international security force is able to replace them. It also indicated Israel would keep control of a band of territory around Gaza's perimeter.

In a statement Monday night, Qatar, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and other countries backing the plan said they wanted to work out a final version that includes a "full Israeli withdrawal," as well as a clear path to a Palestinian state that integrates the Gaza Strip and West Bank — something Netanyahu's government fiercely opposes.

The Arab officials who spoke to the AP expressed frustration with the White House's 20 points. "This is not what we agreed on," said one. "This is the Netanyahu plan."

**Palestinians are skeptical**

Many Palestinians in the decimated coastal enclave are wary of the proposal. To some, the international governance smacked of the colonial British Mandate that ruled Palestine from 1920 to 1948.

"They want to impose their own peace," Umm Mohammed, a history teacher who sheltered with her family in Gaza City, said. "In fact, this is not a peace plan. It's a surrender plan. It returns us to times of colonialism."

Mahmoud Abu Baker, a displaced Palestinian from Rafah, said the proposal favors Israel and implements all its demands without giving concessions.

"(The proposal) tells that we, as Palestinians, as Arabs, are not qualified to rule ourselves and that they, the white people, will rule us," he said.

**Families of Israeli hostages see hope**

With the peace proposal, families of Israeli hostages still held by Hamas were torn between heightened hopes and a realism that past signs of progress have fallen apart. Hamas is thought to be holding 48

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hostages, 20 of whom are believed by Israel to be alive – and under the plan, they would be freed within 72 hours of both sides' accepting the deal.

"For two years now, I have been waiting for Elkana, my husband, in endless pain," said Rivka Bohbot, wife of hostage Elkana Bohbot, in a statement released by the Hostages and Missing Families Forum.

"Now I demand that these impressive words be turned into even greater and more impressive actions — actions that bring the hostages home," she said.

Israelis visiting a memorial for the music festival where 364 people were killed during the Hamas attack on Oct. 7, 2023, expressed skepticism.

"Everyone pins their hopes on (Trump)," said Amit Zander, whose daughter, Noa Zander, was killed at the festival. "It's up to Hamas. Israel wants it, and beyond that, it's no longer in our hands."

**More than 30 Palestinians killed**

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli troops opened fire, killing 17 Palestinians and wounding 33 others while they were attempting to access humanitarian aid in central Gaza, according to nearby Al-Awda Hospital, where the casualties were taken. The Israeli military said troops fired when individuals approached their position "in a manner that endangered them."

Israeli strikes in central and southern Gaza killed 19 others, according to local hospitals.

One of the strikes hit a tent housing a family that had fled Gaza City earlier this month, killing seven people, including four women and a child. Another killed a man, his 7-months-pregnant wife and their young child, Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis said.

The Israeli military said in a statement that over the past 24 hours, its troops killed several armed militants and struck more than 160 targets of Hamas infrastructure, including weapons storage facilities and observation posts.

**Hospitals overwhelmed as Palestinians flee Gaza City**

Hospitals in southern Gaza are gearing up for a flood of displaced wounded and sick Palestinians fleeing Gaza City in the face of Israel's stepped-up offensive there. Already some 450,000 people have been displaced from the north since mid-August, according to the U.N., and hundreds of thousands are believed to remain in Gaza City, where a famine has been declared.

"We don't have enough material. We don't have enough medications. The number of people, particularly the people coming down from Gaza ... is starting to overwhelm the facilities, which were already too full from before," said Dr. Paul Ransom, an emergency doctor volunteering at UK-Med, a British aid charity which runs one of the main field hospitals in southern Gaza.

He said over the past weeks, thousands of wounded arrived from the north, many with dirty open wounds because of long road journeys. Others showed severe signs of malnutrition, he said.

The UK-Med-operated field hospital is expanding its 90-bed capacity field hospital to include over 110 beds, he said. Nasser Hospital, the main general medical facility in southern Gaza, is already overwhelmed and is trying to expand its 300-bed capacity.

At Nasser, there were often 150 wounded in just one hour over the past three months, he added.

"It is like a conveyor belt of death and injury that we are seeing coming through the bigger hospital here in Nasser," he said.

Israel's campaign in Gaza has killed more than 66,000 Palestinians and wounded nearly 170,000 others, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The ministry does not differentiate between civilians and militants in its toll, but has said women and children make up around half the dead.

Its campaign was triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attack on southern Israel, in which militants killed some 1,200 people and abducted 250 others. Most of the hostages have been freed under previous ceasefire deals.

## Illinois governor says troops could be deployed to Chicago as immigration agents patrol downtown

By SOPHIA TAREEN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The sight of armed, camouflaged and masked Border Patrol agents making arrests near famous downtown Chicago landmarks has amplified concerns about the Trump administration's growing federal intervention across U.S. cities.

As Illinois leaders warned Monday of a National Guard deployment, residents in the nation's third-largest city met a brazen weekend escalation of immigration enforcement tactics with anger, fear and fresh claims of discrimination.

"It looks un-American," said Chicago Alderman Brendan Reilly, who represents downtown on the City Council. He deemed the Sunday display a "photo op" for President Donald Trump, echoing other leaders.

Memphis, Tennessee, and Portland, Oregon, also braced for a federal law enforcement surge. Meanwhile, Louisiana's governor asked for a National Guard deployment to New Orleans and other cities.

Trump has called the expansion of federal immigration agents and National Guard troops into American cities necessary, blasting Democrats for crime and lax immigration policies. Following a crime crackdown in the District of Columbia and immigration enforcement in Los Angeles, he's referred to Portland as "war-ravaged" and threatened apocalyptic force in Chicago.

"Whether it takes place here in the city or the suburbs, it's all the same to us," Border Patrol agent Gregory Bovino said in Chicago.

Attorney General Pam Bondi has issued a memo that also directs component agencies within the Justice Department, including the FBI, to help protect U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities, including in Chicago and Portland.

Here's a snapshot of where things stand with federal law enforcement activity in Chicago, Portland, Memphis and New Orleans.

### Chicago raises alarm about racial profiling

Many Chicagoans were already uneasy after an immigration crackdown began earlier this month. Agents have targeted immigrant-heavy and largely Latino areas.

Trump has waffled on sending the military, but Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker said Monday it appeared the federal government would deploy 100 troops. Pritzker said the Illinois National Guard received word that the Department of Homeland Security sent a memo to the Defense Department requesting troops to protect ICE personnel and facilities.

An immigration processing center outside Chicago has been the site of frequent protests and aggressive tactics by federal agents.

The enforcement recently escalated, with agents using boats on the Chicago River and marching Sunday on Michigan Avenue and in upscale neighborhoods.

Activists and elected leaders are concerned about discriminatory stops, particularly after the U.S. Supreme Court lifted restrictions on roving patrols in LA. The court cleared the way for immigration agents to stop people based on race, language, job or location.

"ICE is running around the Loop, harassing people for not being white," Pritzker said, describing the city's core business district.

Activists said a Latino family of four was led away by federal agents Sunday near the popular "Cloud Gate" sculpture, commonly called "The Bean." Construction workers and bicyclists were also targeted.

"The downtown operation of being racially profiled and kidnapped by immigration in broad daylight represents a major escalation by the Trump administration," said Veronica Castro with Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.

Bovino told The Associated Press that agents will go after "anyone who is here illegally," an approach that fell under immigration authority, known as Title 8. He told the Chicago Sun-Times that a person's appearance goes into the calculation.

"It would be agent experience, intelligence that indicates there's illegal aliens in a particular place or loca-



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tion," he told the newspaper. "Then, obviously, the particular characteristics of an individual, how they look."

DHS did not return messages Monday.

Chicagoans trail Border Patrol

As Border Patrol agents marched near downtown, a few onlookers nodded in approval and shouted praise while a trail of activists and others urged agents to leave.

Shirley Zuniga was celebrating her 24th birthday when she saw agents. Still wearing a pink birthday sash, she left brunch to follow them.

Zuniga, among the first in her family of Honduran immigrants to be born in the United States, said she forgot all about her birthday plans as she yelled at the agents to go home.

"This is much more important to me," she said as she grew emotional. "I'm celebrating my people."

Portland goes to court

In Oregon, Democratic Attorney General Dan Rayfield filed a motion in federal court Monday seeking to temporarily block the Trump administration from deploying the National Guard.

The motion is part of a lawsuit Rayfield filed Sunday, after state leaders received a Defense Department memo that said 200 members of the state's National Guard will be placed under federal control for 60 days to "protect Federal property, at locations where protests against these functions are occurring or are likely to occur."

Portland Mayor Keith Wilson and Democratic Gov. Tina Kotek are among local leaders who object to the deployment.

"Putting our own military on our streets is an abuse of power and a disservice to our communities and our service members," Rayfield said in a statement Monday.

The ICE building outside of Portland's downtown has been the site of nightly protests that peaked in June, with smaller clashes occurring since then.

A larger crowd demonstrated at the building Sunday. Two people were arrested for assault, according to authorities. That followed a peaceful march earlier in the day that drew thousands to the city's downtown and saw no arrests, police said.

Some residents are already frustrated.

The building manager of the affordable housing complex adjacent to the ICE building said "the impacts of violent tactics, including tear gas and late-night altercations, are traumatizing for residents," including the veterans who live there.

"Sending federal troops will only escalate the situation. The last thing we need is an escalation," Reach Community Development said in statement.

Meanwhile, federal agents on Monday searched a home associated with someone who allegedly aimed a laser at a U.S. Customs and Border Protection helicopter as it flew over Portland on Saturday evening, the FBI said. Four people, who were found to be in the country illegally, were detained and placed under the custody of ICE, according to the FBI, which did not specify the charges they face.

Memphis residents worry

Memphis was in wait-and-see mode Monday, the first day of a planned federal law enforcement surge ordered by Trump to fight crime. There were no immediate reports of large-scale federal law enforcement operations.

Still some residents, including Latinos, expressed concerns that immigration agents will detain people regardless of immigration status.

"We know the presence of the National Guard will lead to our neighbors being afraid to seek help when they need medical care, need to report crimes, or require social services, because of this military presence," said Sandra Pita, a community organizer.

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 categories.

Louisiana's governor asks for National Guard

Republican Gov. Jeff Landry on Monday asked for a National Guard deployment to New Orleans and

other cities to help his state fight crime.

In a letter sent to Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, Landry also praised the president's decision to send troops to Washington and Memphis.

Landry said there has been "elevated violent crime rates" in Shreveport, Baton Rouge and New Orleans as well as shortages in local law enforcement.

But crime in some of the state's biggest cities has actually decreased recently, with New Orleans seeing a particularly steep drop in 2025 that has put it on pace to have its lowest number of killings in more than five decades.

## Ukraine begins sharing drone expertise with Denmark deployment, Zelenskyy says

By ILLIA NOVIKOV Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — The Ukrainian military is sharing with European countries its expertise in fighting Russian drones, sending a mission to Denmark for joint exercises, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Tuesday.

"Our military has begun deploying a mission in Denmark to disseminate Ukrainian experience in drone defense," Zelenskyy said.

European defense ministers agreed last week to build what they called a "drone wall" along their borders with Russia and Ukraine to better detect, track and intercept drones violating Europe's airspace.

Europe's readiness and technology are lagging far behind Ukraine and Russia, however, as cutting-edge drone warfare has become a hallmark of their three-year war since Moscow's full-scale invasion of its neighbor.

"Ukrainian (drone) experience is the most relevant in Europe right now, and it is our experience, our specialists, and our technologies that could become a key element of the future European 'drone wall' — a large-scale project that will guarantee safety in the sky," Zelenskyy added in a post on Telegram.

Denmark has in recent days reported drone sightings at military facilities and over Danish airports.

Danish intelligence officials, though careful not to directly accuse a specific country, said they regarded the risk of Russian espionage and sabotage in Denmark as high.

Poland has also turned to Ukraine for expertise after Russian drones entered Polish airspace.

"The results of the (Ukrainian) mission in Denmark will shape the framework for cooperation with other European countries as well," Zelenskyy said.

The NATO military alliance is troubled, too, by European airspace violations by Russia warplanes that are further straining relations with Moscow and fueling fears that the fighting could spill beyond Ukraine's borders.

At the same time, there is uncertainty about peace negotiations that were set in motion by the United States months ago but appear to be making no headway.

Ahead of two summits in the Danish capital Copenhagen this week, NATO is stepping up aerial surveillance in the Baltic Sea, while France, Germany and Sweden are bolstering Denmark's air defenses.

A family of four killed in a Russian strike

A Russian drone strike killed an entire family of four in a village in Ukraine's northeastern Sumy region overnight, authorities said. The family was made up of a young married couple and their two sons, aged 4 and 6, regional administration head Oleh Hryhorov wrote on Telegram.

"This is a terrible and irreparable loss for the entire community and the region," Hryhorov said. "The death of the family ... is a tragedy we will never forget or forgive."

One person was also killed by a Russian drone strike on the city of Dnipro Tuesday afternoon, local Gov. Serhii Lysak said. At least another 20 were injured, he wrote in a post on Telegram.

Commenting on the attack, Zelenskyy said that such strikes showed that "all of us in Europe must build a reliable defense against Russian drones and missiles — so that no country stands alone against this threat."

Reacting to European plans to build a "drone wall" to protect itself from Russia, Kremlin spokesman

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Dmitry Peskov said Tuesday that "history shows that building walls is always bad."

"We are continuing to see such militarist approach instead of thinking how to engage in a dialogue and jointly search for security guarantees," he told reporters.

## Scientists find ancient life-size animal rock carvings in the Saudi Arabian desert

By ADITHI RAMAKRISHNAN AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Researchers have discovered life-size rock carvings of camels, gazelles and other animals in the Saudi Arabian desert.

The carvings date back to around 12,000 years ago and many are over 6 feet (1.8 meters) tall. Scientists say they were created using a wedge-shaped rock to create sharp lines.

Several were etched on narrow ledges so the artists couldn't even step back to survey the final product as they were working.

"To engrave that much detail with just a rock takes real skill," said Maria Guagnin, an archaeologist with the Max Planck Institute of Geoanthropology in Germany who was involved in the discovery.

The animal carvings and engraving tools found at the site show that people were living in the area about 2,000 years earlier than scientists thought. It isn't clear how they survived in such arid conditions — whether they lived off of shallow lakes that pooled for part of the year or drank water that accumulated in deep crevices.

People have been creating rock art in Saudi Arabia for thousands of years, Guagnin said. But older engravings can be tricky to date since they tend not to feature writing and there are few remnants such as charcoal, which can be sent to a lab for analysis.

"We know relatively little about art in the Middle East during this very ancient period of the human past," Michael Harrower, a Johns Hopkins University archaeologist who wasn't involved in the research, said in an email.

In the latest discovery, scientists found a rock pick buried in the landscape directly under the carvings, allowing them to date the tool and the art it was used to create. Their findings were published Tuesday in the journal Nature Communications.

Scientists weren't sure if people lived in the desert during this time period since conditions were dry and water was thought to be scarce. They thought people may have moved in later, when the landscape was marked by greener pastures and lakes.

One of the carvings depicted an auroch, an ancestor of wild cattle that didn't live in the desert and that went extinct. That made Guagnin wonder if the artists had encountered the animals by traveling somewhere else during the dry season.

"They must have been fully established communities that knew the landscape really well," she said.

## US government is phasing out paper checks. Here's what that means for you

By FATIMA HUSSEIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government starts phasing out paper checks for most programs on Tuesday.

The change, which was initiated through an executive order signed by President Donald Trump in March, will affect recipients of benefits including Social Security, Supplemental Security Income and tax refunds.

Trump's Republican administration argues the shift of all payments and collections to electronic methods is designed to protect taxpayers from fraud and stolen checks, speed up processing and cut costs. But advocates fear that the shift will hurt marginalized Americans who lack access to digital services and may not even know this phase-out is coming.

"A lot of claimants move around and don't always get their mail," says Jennifer Burdick, a divisional

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supervising attorney in the SSI Unit at Community Legal Services in Philadelphia. "And the folks that I represent who get paper checks mostly learned from me about this transition."

Roughly 10% of Burdick's clients receive paper checks. She worries that new recipients who need a paper check to open a checking account at a bank will find it difficult or even nearly impossible to get that done after the phase-out.

Nearly 400,000 Social Security and SSI recipients receive their benefits through paper checks. That amounts to less than 1% of the 70.6 million retirees, disabled people and children who receive Social Security benefits.

Instead of paper checks, they will receive a direct deposit or a Direct Express card, which is intended for people without a bank account. However, the Social Security Administration says it will still issue paper checks if no other options are available.

"Where a beneficiary has no other means to receive payment, we will continue to issue paper checks," the SSA says.

Kathleen Romig, the director of Social Security and disability policy at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, notes that the people most affected by this change tend to be the most vulnerable, "often unbanked or unhoused, and lacking in the tools and skills they need to access digital services." There are reasons they haven't made the switch yet — some people's mental health crises make them wary of financial institutions, and others simply don't have enough money to open a bank account.

"This is a population that can't afford to miss a payment, so it's very important that the Trump administration manage the transition without interrupting their benefits," Romig said.

Nancy Altman, president of Social Security Works, an advocacy group for the preservation of Social Security benefits, calls the phase-out of paper checks unnecessary.

"If it's not handled right, it will be devastating" for people who are unaware of the change and have limited incomes, Altman said. "I think anyone should be able to get a paper check. And while less than 1% is getting a check, that's still a lot of people."

## 2 killed in Cuba as Tropical Storm Imelda and Hurricane Humberto threaten Bahamas and Bermuda

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Authorities in the Bahamas closed most schools on Monday as Tropical Storm Imelda dropped heavy rain in the northern Caribbean, including over Cuba where two people died as a result of the storm.

The storm was located about 165 miles (270 kilometers) north of Great Abaco Island of the Bahamas, which is still recovering from Hurricane Dorian after it slammed into parts of the Bahamas as a devastating Category 5 hurricane in 2019.

Imelda had maximum sustained winds of 70 mph (110 kph) and was moving northeast at 7 mph (11 kph). It was forecast to become a hurricane on Tuesday morning and spin out to open ocean, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

A tropical storm warning that had been in effect for parts of the extreme northwestern Bahamas, including Great Abaco, Grand Bahama Island and the surrounding keys, was lifted early Tuesday. Power outages were reported in some areas, with authorities closing government offices on affected islands and issuing mandatory evacuation orders for some islands over the weekend.

2 deaths and evacuations across Cuba

Cuban Prime Minister Manuel Marrero said late Monday that two people died after Imelda impacted eastern Cuba. On his X account, Marrero said the two people died in Santiago de Cuba province, but he didn't give any details.

Earlier, state media reported that 60-year-old Luis Mario Pérez Coiterio had died in Santiago de Cuba following landslides in that area.

In Santiago de Cuba, flooding and landslides cut off 17 communities, according to the official newspaper



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Granma. More than 24,000 people live in those communities.

In Guantánamo, another impacted province, more than 18,000 people have been evacuated, according to reports from the state-run Caribe television channel.

Imelda was expected to drop 4 to 8 inches (10 to 20 centimeters) of rain across the northwest Bahamas through Tuesday, and 2 to 4 inches (5 to 10 centimeters) across eastern Cuba.

Humberto roars in open waters

Meanwhile, Hurricane Humberto, which weakened further to a Category 2 storm on Tuesday, churned in open waters, which forecasters had said would cause Imelda to abruptly turn to the east-northeast, away from the southeastern United States coast.

"This is really what's going to be saving the United States from really seeing catastrophic rainfall," said Alex DaSilva, lead hurricane expert for AccuWeather, a private U.S. weather forecasting company.

DaSilva said the two storms would draw closer and start rotating counterclockwise around each other in what's known as the Fujiwhara effect.

"It's a very rare phenomenon overall in the Atlantic basin," he said.

Humberto had maximum sustained winds of 100 mph (155 kph). It was located about 275 miles (440 kilometers) west of Bermuda, moving north-northwest at 17 mph (28 kph). No coastal watches or warnings were in effect.

"This is going to be no threat to the United States," DaSilva said.

The Carolinas brace for Imelda's rains

Moisture from Imelda was expected to move up the Carolinas, with heavy rain forecast through Tuesday morning. The heaviest rains will be limited to the coastline, from Charleston in South Carolina to Wilmington in North Carolina, while Charlotte and Raleigh might receive only 1 to 2 inches (3 to 5 centimeters) of rain, he said.

The Carolinas might see wind gusts of 40 mph, but only along the coastline, DaSilva said, as he warned of dangerous surf and heavy rip currents all week.

South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster said authorities were prepositioning search and rescue crews over the weekend.

In North Carolina, Gov. Josh Stein declared a state of emergency even before Imelda formed, while authorities on Tybee Island off the coast of Georgia handed out free sandbags to residents.

Even though Imelda was not making landfall in Florida, its impact was still felt.

At the Loggerhead Marinelife Center in Juno Beach, crews found a couple of turtle hatchlings that rough surf had tossed ashore.

"We actually had two washbacks come in over the weekend," said Justin Perrault, the center's vice president of research. "We may get more as the day goes along."

He said typically beachgoers will see a hatchling resting in the seaweed and call the center for help.

Farther south in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Carl Alexandre exercised at the beach on Monday. He said he was grateful the storm was not heading toward South Florida, but that he would pray for those in the Bahamas.

"It's great that we're not having one as of right now," Alexandre said. "And now we get to run in the Florida sun."

'A double whammy for Bermuda'

Authorities in Bermuda hoped neither of the two storms would be a direct hit later in the week, though they were forecast to, at least, come close, with Imelda possibly passing within 15 miles (24 kilometers) as the season's soon-to-be fourth hurricane, Da Silva said.

"It's going to be a double whammy for Bermuda, Humberto first and Imelda following close behind," Da Silva said.

Michael Weeks, Bermuda's national security minister, urged residents to prepare, warning that there have been "some near misses this season regarding severe storms."

"Hurricane Humberto is a dangerous storm, and with another system developing to our south, every

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household in Bermuda should take the necessary steps to be prepared," he said.

Flights to and from the islands in the Bahamas were canceled, with airports expected to reopen after weather conditions improve.

## Today in History: October 1, Las Vegas music festival shooting

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Wednesday, Oct. 1, the 274th day of 2025. There are 91 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 1, 2017, in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history, a gunman opened fire from a room at the high-rise Mandalay Bay casino hotel in Las Vegas on a crowd of 22,000 fans at a country music concert below, causing 60 deaths and more than 850 injuries.

Also on this date:

In 1890, Yosemite National Park was established by the U.S. Congress.

In 1903, the first modern baseball World Series began, with the National League's Pittsburgh Pirates defeating the American League's Boston Americans in Game 1; Boston would ultimately win the series 5-3.

In 1908, Henry Ford introduced his mass-produced Model T automobile to the market. Between 1908 and 1927, Ford would build more than 15 million Model T cars.

In 1910, the offices of the Los Angeles Times were destroyed by a dynamite explosion and fire, killing 21 employees; union activist J.B. McNamara eventually pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison for the bombing.

In 1949, Mao Zedong, leader of the communist People's Liberation Army, proclaimed the People's Republic of China during a ceremony in Beijing.

In 1957, the motto "In God We Trust" began appearing on U.S. paper currency.

In 1962, federal marshals escorted James Meredith as he enrolled as the first Black student at the University of Mississippi; Meredith's presence sparked rioting that left two people dead.

In 1964, the Free Speech Movement began at the University of California, Berkeley, as students surrounded a police car containing an arrested campus activist for more than 30 hours.

In 1971, Walt Disney World opened near Orlando, Florida.

In 1975, Muhammad Ali defeated Joe Frazier in the "Thrilla in Manila," the last of their three boxing bouts for the heavyweight championship.

In 2024, Claudia Sheinbaum, a scientist-turned-politician, was sworn in as the first female president of Mexico.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-singer Julie Andrews is 90. Film director Jean-Jacques Annaud is 82. Baseball Hall of Famer Rod Carew is 80. Actor Randy Quaid is 75. Singer Youssou N'Dour is 66. Actor Esai Morales is 63. Retired MLB All-Star Mark McGwire is 62. Actor Zach Galifianakis is 56. Actor Sarah Drew is 45. Actor-comedian Beck Bennett is 41. Actor Jurnee Smollett is 39. Actor Brie Larson is 36.