

Groton Daily Independent

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Saturday, October 4th:

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

Sunday, Oct. 5

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School 10:15 a.m.; Choir 6 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m., and Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

United Methodist: Worship with communion at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton,



11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.

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

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

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m. 5th Grade GBB, 4 p.m.

2nd Grade GBB Practice, 4 p.m.

Dance Team Practice, 5 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 6

Senior Menu: Sweet and sour pork, steamed rice, carrot and broccoli medley, corn, honey fruit salad.

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.

School Lunch: Oriental chicken, rice.

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

St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid LWML, 1 p.m.

State Golf Tournament in Vermillion

MS Football vs. Roncalli in Groton (7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.; JV at 6 p.m.)

4th Grade GBB, 4 p.m.

Volleyball hosts Mobridge-Pollock (Gym: 7th-4, 8th-5; Arena: C-4, JV-5, V-6:15).

Groton Daily Independent

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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.

First Female Archbishop

The Church of England named Bishop of London Sarah Mullally the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday, making her the first woman to lead the Christian ministry in its over 1,400-year history. She will formally assume the role in early 2026.

Mullally, a former cancer nurse appointed the first female bishop of London in 2018, will succeed Justin Welby, who resigned in November amid accusations he mishandled widespread physical and sexual abuse of boys and men. Experts expect Mullally to address subsequent distrust in the church as well as internal divisions over same-sex marriage and assisted dying. Speaking at Canterbury Cathedral yesterday, the 63-year-old also expressed solidarity with the Jewish community following Thursday's deadly car and stabbing attack at a Manchester synagogue.

Separately, British officials said one of two Jewish men killed in the attack appeared to have been accidentally shot by responding law enforcement. Three people remain hospitalized in serious condition.

Hamas partially agrees to ceasefire deal.

Hamas agreed Friday to some elements of a peace deal proposal President Donald Trump introduced earlier this week alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Namely, the group said it would give up power in the Gaza Strip and release all remaining Israeli hostages. Hamas said it was ready to enter mediated negotiations on the other points. The announcement came hours after Trump warned Hamas to accept the deal by 6 pm ET tomorrow.

Sean 'Diddy' Combs sentenced to over 4 years in prison.

The hip-hop mogul will receive credit for the 12 months he's already spent in prison. Combs is also subject to a \$500K fine—the most allowed by law—and five years of supervised release. The two prostitution-related charges he was convicted of in July carried maximum sentences of 10 years each. Combs was acquitted of more serious racketeering and sex trafficking charges. Prosecutors had sought more than an 11-year prison sentence, while Combs' lawyers advocated for no more than 14 months.

Scientists make strides toward universal donor organs.

Researchers at the University of British Columbia successfully converted a kidney from blood type A to universal blood type O and transplanted it into a brain-dead recipient. The feat could expand access to donor organs by eliminating blood type as a barrier. Current methods for overcoming mismatched blood types require a living donor and the recipient to undergo an intensive immune suppression treatment.

Property management companies settle multimillion-dollar rental-pricing suit.

Real estate giant Greystar and 25 other companies will pay over \$141M to resolve a class action lawsuit accusing landlords of using rent-setting algorithms to inflate housing costs. The implicated companies must also stop sharing nonpublic information with RealPage, the software company behind the algorithms. Plaintiffs are pursuing a separate case against RealPage, which contends high rents are driven by limited housing supply and its tools often encourage landlords to lower rents.

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Supreme Court to hear challenge to Hawaii gun law.

The high court agreed yesterday to decide whether states can bar people from carrying guns on private property, including stores and hotels, without the property owner's explicit permission. Hawaii is one of five Democratic-led states that enacted restrictions on concealed carry after a 2022 Supreme Court ruling made it easier to obtain permits. A decision is expected by next summer.

Trump administration freezes \$2.1B from Chicago transit projects.

Funding was withheld for intercity train line improvements in Chicago amid the administration's threats to cut resources to Democratic-run states and cities during the government shutdown. Earlier this week, the administration froze roughly \$18B earmarked for New York City infrastructure projects and nearly \$8B for clean energy projects in 16 Democratic-leaning states.

Apple and Google pull immigration enforcement reporting app.

The tech giants' app stores no longer carry ICEBlock and similar apps that let users monitor and report Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity. Apple said the decision followed concerns from law enforcement, who noted the gunman who attacked an ICE facility in Dallas last week searched for ICE tracking apps. ICEBlock has been downloaded over 1 million times.

Humankind(ness)

Today, we're sharing a story from reader Nirmalendu B. in West Bengal, India.

"In 2021, when COVID was playing havoc in West Bengal (...), I could not go to the market for days. We were short of rations. One day I got a call from a young man who worked under me in a newspaper house for about a year and did not have any contact for years. He said, 'I am going to your house tomorrow. Please tell me what you want me to bring for you.' I told him to get us vegetables, rice, eggs, and many more items. The next morning, he came with all we needed."



Desiree Yeigh was caught in the action playing the Tuba in the Roncalli band. Yeigh is the former Groton band director and is now the band director at Aberdeen Christian, which coops with Roncalli for football. Also pictured is her daughter, Kyrie Kay, in the green. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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

Groton
Area
Tigers
Groton, SD

GDILIVE
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For more info: GDILIVE.COM



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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October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the Groton Area students were wearing their pink gear at the football game Friday night at Dacotah Stadium, Aberdeen. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Tigers Dominate Cavaliers with Special Teams Spark and Ground Game

ABERDEEN — The Groton Area Tigers made the most of their cross-county rivalry clash with Aberdeen Roncalli on Friday night at Dacotah Bank Stadium, rolling to a 55-6 victory behind explosive special teams and a revitalized ground attack.

It didn't take long for the Tigers to seize momentum. On Roncalli's opening punt, Ryder Johnson fielded it and weaved through Cavaliers for a 40-yard touch-down return less than two minutes into the game. "That set the tone," said Groton head coach Shaun Wanner. "We wanted to pin them deep, force punts, and take our shots. Ryder did exactly what we talked about, and the kids fed off it. I love how our kids play with energy and confidence — it shows they trust



Anthony Tracy gets a first down on this run.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Keegen Tracy intercepts the ball. (Photo by Paul

Kosel)

each other and the plan."

The Tigers weren't done. After a short Roncalli punt set up great field position, Asher Johnson capped the drive with a 5-yard touchdown run. Moments later, Keegen Tracy electrified the sideline with a 42-yard punt return score. By the end of the first quarter, Groton led 21-0 and had scored twice on special teams.

"Special teams were a huge momentum builder," Wanner said. "Whenever we play Roncalli, it always comes down to special teams. We've worked hard the past few weeks, and tonight our kids executed. What I love is how they support each other — the kids on the sideline were just as fired up as the ones

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on the field."

Asher Johnson added his second touchdown run early in the second quarter before Roncalli broke through with a 5-yard run from Will Haskell. But Groton answered before halftime with a 5-yard scoring burst from freshman Anthony Tracy. Keegen Tracy's interception just before the break sealed a 34-6 halftime advantage.

Halftime statistician Tom Woods said the Tigers' success came from sticking to a plan. "All week it was run, run, run, run, run," Woods said. "The coaches knew Roncalli was susceptible to it, and they made it easier up front with new blocking schemes. We hadn't rushed for over 100 yards in a game all season — and we did it in one half tonight. That shows the progress these kids are making."

Groton's dominance continued after halftime. Anthony Tracy added a 12-yard touchdown run, followed by Keegen Tracy's 75-yard punt return for his second special teams score of the night. In the fourth quarter, sophomore Ryder Schelle powered in from a yard out to cap the scoring at 55-6.

Wanner praised his young offensive backfield, which featured two freshmen and a sophomore. "They're growing up fast," he said. "Asher, Anthony, Ryder — they're learning to read holes, trust their line, and use their quickness. That's exciting for the future of this program. What makes me proud is how they focus on the little things — taking care of the football, finishing blocks, and playing smart. That's what builds winners."

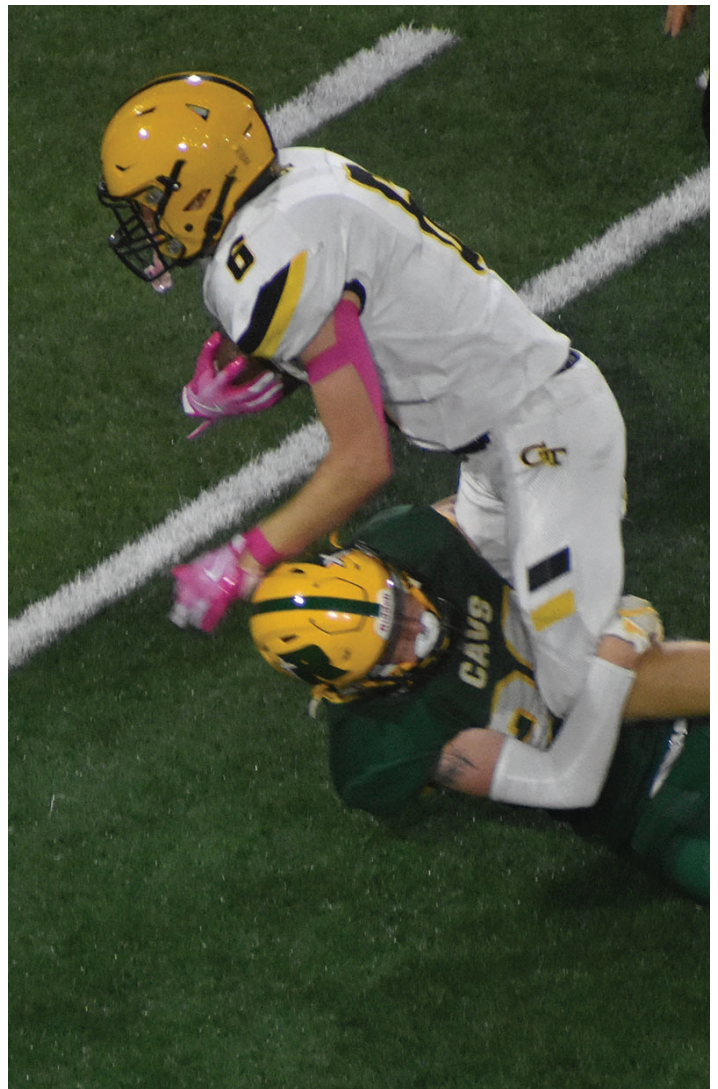
He also credited the offensive line for making the difference. "Our coaches simplified things for the line this week, and it really paid off," Wanner said. "You could see the confidence building with every drive. That was the kind of toughness we've been waiting for. I love seeing these kids embrace challenges — they practice hard, they push each other, and they bring that effort to every game."

With the win, Groton improves to 2-5 heading into a bye week. "This came at a good time," Wanner added. "We've been on the short end of some close ones, but this keeps our playoff hopes alive. Now we get a week to get healthy, polish things up, and get ready for Baltic. We want to build on this, not be satisfied. I keep telling our kids, it's about being consistent, working hard, and being ready for every play — and they're doing it."

Tom Woods' Words of Wisdom:

"Beyond the stats and the touchdowns, tonight is about being thankful," Woods reflected. "Thankful for your teammates, thankful for your coaches, thankful for the chance to play this game. It's easy to get caught up in what's going wrong, but these kids are doing it right — they're working hard, growing together, and that's something to appreciate every single day."

Game Stats



Ryder Schelle had 102 yard rushing on the night. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Groton Area (2-5)
18 first downs
37 carries, 227 yards rushing
Ryder Schelle – 18 carries, 102 yards, 1 TD
Asher Johnson – 8 carries, 75 yards, 2 TDs; 2-of-4 passing, 44 yards
Anthony Tracy – 7 carries, 40 yards, 2 TDs
Keegen Tracy – 1 carry, 10 yards; 2 receptions, 44 yards; 2 punt return TDs; 2 INTs
Team passing – 2-of-4, 44 yards
Defense leaders: Connor Glines 8 tackles, 1 sack; Logan Warrington 5 tackles, 1 sack; Jordan Schwan 2 tackles, 1 sack; Gunner Hardy 2 tackles, 1 sack
Aberdeen Roncalli (1-6)
5 first downs
24 carries, 4 net yards rushing
Will Haskell – 15 carries, 43 yards, 1 TD
Passing – 3-of-13, 33 yards, 2 INTs
Leading receiver: Brock Bowman – 1 catch, 21 yards
Leading tacklers: Ryder Shaving 8 tackles; Brock Bowman 8 tackles; Beau Binder 7 tackles
Roncalli will travel to Milbank next week, while Groton uses its bye week to prepare for Baltic.



The two teams huddle together at midfield after the game for a prayer. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Groton's Events



**Nov. 11: Veteran's Day Program,
2 p.m.**



**Dec. 5: Tour of Trees at Wage
Memorial Library, 3:30-5:30 p.m.**



**Nov. 27:
Community
Thanksgiving
at the
Community
Center,
11:30 a.m.
to 1:30 p.m.**



**Dec. 6: Olive Grove Holiday
Party, 6 p.m.**



**Nov. 30: Groton Snow Queen
Contest, 4 p.m.**



**Jan. 25, 2026:
88th Carnival
of Silver
Skates,
2 p.m. &
6:30 p.m.**



**Nov. 15:
Legion Post
#39 Turkey
Party,
6:30 p.m.**



**Jan. 25, 2026:
Groton Robotics
Pancake Feed at
the Community
Center,
10 am. to 1 p.m.**

GROTON

Chamber of Commerce

120 N Main, Groton, SD 57445

605/397-8422 ~ GrotonChamber.com



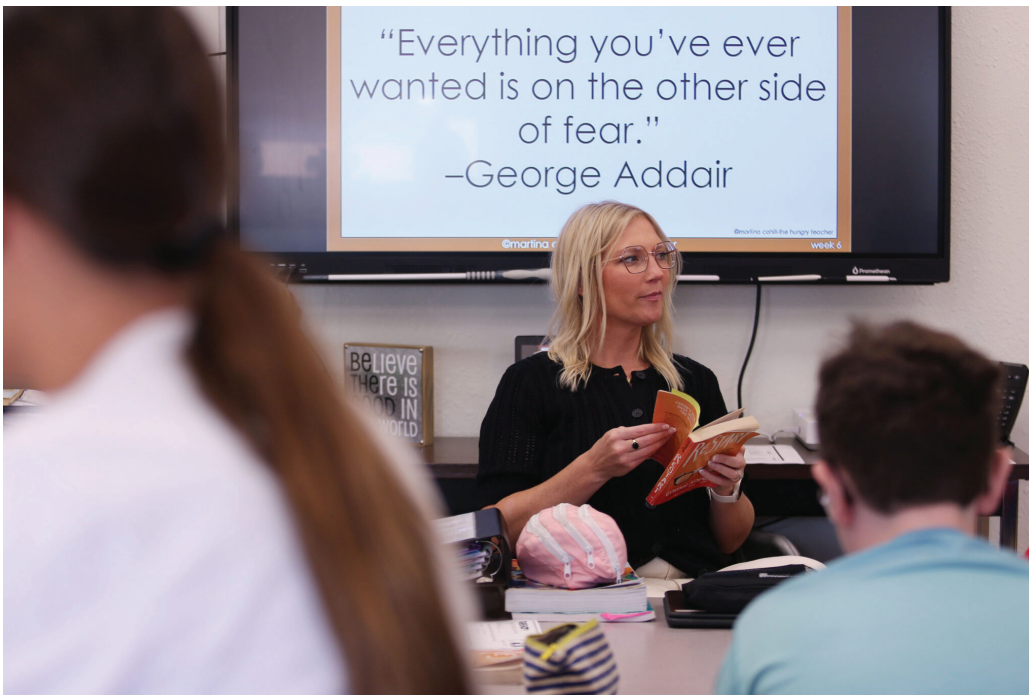
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'Good humans, not just good students': A day in the life of SD's teacher of the year

Avon educator celebrates small, public education in new role

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER-OCTOBER 3, 2025 12:46 PM



Becky Haenfler, Avon Middle School English Language Arts teacher, reads a book with her 7th grade class on Sept. 26, 2025.

(Makenzie Huber/South Dakota Searchlight)

AVON — Becky Haenfler teaches in the same middle school classroom where she was a student years ago.

She's surrounded by some of her former teachers and classmates, who are now her coworkers, and she teaches children she knew for years before they became her students.

She spends her afternoons coaching the same basketball and volleyball teams she played on as a child, and she cheers for the Pirates football team on Friday evenings in the fall.

The best parts of Avon — its people and their closeness — haven't changed. But neither has the school district's struggles.

Avon is surrounded by other small towns that have

consolidated their school districts in rural southeastern South Dakota. While Avon's enrollment has remained steady at around 230 students over the past few years, the district faces funding crunches and challenges in attracting new teachers.

Haenfler was announced as South Dakota's Teacher of the Year last month, recognized by state Secretary of Education Joe Graves for her "engaging teaching style" and her students' "enthusiasm and seriousness of purpose." She'll join a cohort of 55 other teachers of the year from U.S. states and territories on a visit to the White House, and she'll speak to aspiring educators across the state. She was also awarded a \$5,000 grant to spend as she wishes.

The recognition allows her to show students that life "isn't limited in Avon" or small towns, and they can make a difference wherever they are. She hopes to use her platform to encourage future educators to consider small towns like hers and remind South Dakotans about the vital role small public schools play in rural communities.

"Small schools embrace teachers as one of their own," Haenfler said.

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Day in the life

Most days, Haenfler doesn't eat lunch. She's teaching and working on her feet from before 8 a.m. through the end of the school day, capitalizing on her lunch and prep time to avoid taking work home. She coaches volleyball or basketball or track in the afternoon.

"I might not get home until 9 p.m. some days," Haenfler said.

One September morning weeks after her recognition, the 19-year veteran teacher zips through activities for her fifth graders faster than her teachers would have decades ago, to accommodate her students' shortened attention spans. She moves from a warmup activity to settle the kids down, to spelling and vocabulary, to their interactive notebook and finally to a short YouTube clip of "Annie" that connects to the book they're reading.

Throughout her time with the fifth graders, Haenfler ensures every child gets a chance to speak and participate. If they don't volunteer with a raised hand, she calls on them and supports the answers they suggest or she works with them directly, ensuring they understand and aren't left behind.

"The biggest struggle for me," Haenfler said, "is leaving for the day and thinking, 'Did I get to every kid? Did I meet their needs?'"

Her sixth and seventh grade classes are paced more slowly, but not by much. It's tiring, she said, but the fast pace keeps Haenfler engaged, too.

Lindsey Fathke, Avon grade school principal, taught with Haenfler for four years. She said Haenfler is "what we want teachers to be": innovative and searching for ways to enhance her methods.

"Teachers around the state and country can learn from her passion and the emphasis she puts on relationships with her kids," Fathke said.

The extra effort is rewarded when Haenfler asks her fifth graders if they're ready to start reading from their latest book, "Bud, Not Buddy."

"Yay!" they shout. She reads a chapter aloud, then they read a few pages themselves. It's a strategy her own teachers used when she attended school to encourage a love of reading and model good reading behavior, Haenfler explained. It worked for her, and she sees it working for her students.

After graduating from the University of South Dakota, Haenfler taught first grade at Gayville-Volin and middle school English and language arts at Wagner before moving back to Avon four years ago.

When she first explored education, teaching students to read was one of the last things she wanted to do. But then she was rewarded by watching students succeed in reading.

She earned her master's as a reading specialist in 2024. Now, she plans to continue as a reading teacher through the end of her career.

Her work goes well beyond her classroom walls. Like many students in small school districts, she's involved in several extracurricular activities. By coaching sports within the district, she builds relationships with students throughout the school. That foundational relationship connects her to students, she said, and can be more valuable to them than her instruction in some cases.

"We're teaching them to be good humans, not just good students," Haenfler said.

Tackling issues of the day

Avon Superintendent Paul Kuhlman was recognized as South Dakota's 2009 teacher of the year. Haenfler's message today echoes the one he shared then: Value and listen to small school districts. He said it's "concerning" the same message is still needed 17 years later.

The school has steady enrollment, but that can change with economic turns or policy shifts, such as state funding changes due to property tax reforms or the potential implementation of vouchers or educational savings accounts that would send public funds to private schools.

"We are at bare-bones where we're at right now," Kuhlman said, "so to make massive cuts, it's going to be really hard without affecting the student experience."

The district struggled to hire some positions in recent years, which Haenfler said affected her and other teachers. The school couldn't find a band teacher for a while, and cut a science teacher position. Now some science classes are taught online through Northern State University, by a part-time educator or by

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Kuhlman, a former science teacher himself, who leads two science classes on top of his administrative role.

"I think Becky will give a good voice not only to our situation, being a small school in a rural area, but just education and being a teacher in general," Kuhlman said. "She has a positive outlook, and she knows what it takes to make a difference."

Haenfler has done her best to identify students who might be interested in education, and she's looking into starting an Educators Rising chapter to encourage more Avon students to pursue the profession.

As an English teacher, concerns from parents and the public about reading materials and book bans haven't touched her classroom. Some of the books — "Tangerine," "Bud, not Buddy" and "The Watsons Go to Birmingham" — have been challenged or banned in other states or school districts.

"It offers a really good talking point," Haenfler said, adding that she'll skip certain words if they're not allowed in school, or she'll talk with students about problematic character behaviors. "As they get older, they need to be more mature readers. That's a conversation between me and my class: They'll read books they might not agree with, but those are learning opportunities for them."

She added that what works for one classroom might not work for another, and that teacher input on book selections is necessary because students learn and perceive material differently depending on how it's taught.

She'll have the opportunity to discuss issues like that with lawmakers and policymakers throughout the state and nation this year.

"This will be out of my comfort zone, but that's where we learn and grow," Haenfler said. "Hopefully my kids will see this, too, and realize that I'm still learning and growing at this stage in my life and career."

Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan who regularly reports on the intersection of politics and policy with health, education, social services and Indigenous affairs. Her work with South Dakota Searchlight earned her the title of South Dakota's Outstanding Young Journalist in 2024, and she was a 2024 finalist for the national Livingston Awards.

South Dakota university drops effort to fire professor for Charlie Kirk post

BY: SETH TUPPER-OCTOBER 3, 2025 5:17 PM

The University of South Dakota and the state Board of Regents have dropped their effort to fire a professor for his social media post about the killing of Charlie Kirk, according to a letter released by the professor's lawyer.

Professor Michael Hook's attorney Jim Leach released the letter from the university on Friday.

"We have taken into consideration your remorse for the post, your past record of service, and the university's interest in efficient operations," the letter says. "Based upon these factors, the university, in consultation with the Board of Regents, hereby withdraws its intent to terminate your contract."

The letter was signed by USD President



The University of South Dakota campus. (Courtesy of University of South Dakota)

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Sheila Gestring. Neither USD nor the Board of Regents, which oversees the state's public universities, immediately responded to South Dakota Searchlight messages.

Leach also released a written statement from Hook, an art professor.

"I am thrilled that I can continue teaching my students at the University of South Dakota. I love this work and this university as much now as when I came here 19 years ago," the statement said. "I hope the state now understands that the First Amendment prohibits it from punishing anyone for speech about public issues — no matter how much state or national leaders or others disagree with it."

Kirk, a conservative political activist and commentator, was fatally shot on Sept. 10 in Utah. Later that same day, Hook wrote a Facebook post that used a derogatory term to describe Kirk and questioned the veracity of Kirk supporters' concerns about political violence. The Facebook page was Hook's personal account, but noted his status as a USD professor.

Hook deleted the post several hours later and posted an apology, but the original post had already circulated widely. South Dakota political leaders, including Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden and Republican state House Speaker Jon Hansen, criticized Hook and publicly supported his termination.

In response to a Searchlight message Friday, a spokesperson for Rhoden said "our office has no further comment at this time."

Within days of Hook's posts, the Board of Regents notified Hook of its intent to fire him. The board placed him on administrative leave and scheduled a personal conference to discuss the matter.

Hook filed a lawsuit, and a federal judge granted him a temporary restraining order requiring the state to pause its effort to terminate him. A hearing on Hook's motion for a longer-lasting order was scheduled for later this month.

Judge Karen Schreier wrote in her order that Hook had spoken as a citizen on a matter of public concern, which is a form of constitutionally protected speech. She also said the state failed to produce evidence that Hook's speech had an adverse impact on the efficiency of university operations, and that Hook had a fair chance of prevailing in his lawsuit by showing the actions taken against him were a form of retaliation that could chill protected speech.

Hook's case was part of a wave of firings and investigations that swept through academia and government in the wake of Kirk's death, as state agencies, colleges and local school districts took action against employees over comments perceived as offensive or inappropriate. Dozens of workers in higher education alone lost their jobs.

South Dakota Searchlight's Joshua Haiar contributed to this report.

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.

Focus on individual conduct instead of massacre doomed Wounded Knee medals review, panelist says

Group's report not released, but used as justification for preserving medals

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR-OCTOBER 3, 2025 3:29 PM

A man who served on the panel that reviewed medals awarded for the Wounded Knee Massacre said a majority of the members focused on individual soldier conduct at the expense of the broader issue: whether any medals should be awarded for a massacre.

Wizipan Little Elk Garriott, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in South Dakota, told South Dakota Searchlight this week that he served on the review panel. He was the Department of the Interior's principal deputy assistant secretary for Indian affairs at the time, and was one of the department's two panel members.

He said the other three members of the panel represented the Department of Defense.

"They were looking for evidence that individuals committed war crimes, essentially," Garriott said. "The

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broader question — that this was a massacre in which women and children were killed and therefore not deserving of medals — was simply not part of the conversation.”

The Department of Defense created the panel and undertook the review last year during the Biden administration, but the administration never announced or published the panel’s findings or recommendations. President Donald Trump’s Defense secretary, Pete Hegseth, announced last week that Medals of Honor awarded for the massacre will not be rescinded. He called the massacre a “battle” and said the soldiers “deserve those medals.” He cited the panel’s work as justification.

Garriott said the Department of Defense representatives on the review panel prevented consideration of records containing eyewitness accounts from Lakota massacre survivors, ignored the illegality of soldiers trespassing in an area reserved by treaty for Indigenous tribes, and failed to apply the same standards of valor used for Medals of Honor awarded in other engagements.

“The military members just kept saying, ‘Show me evidence that so-and-so killed an innocent person,’” Garriott said.

He thought that approach ignored a larger truth.

“You can be brave while being part of a group committing a heinous act,” he said. “That does not mean you should get a medal for it.”



A monument erected to victims of the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre stands in the middle of the memorial and cemetery on June 30, 2024. (Makenzie Huber/South Dakota Searchlight)

Massacre history

The massacre occurred in 1890, after years of conflict between the Lakota nation and the U.S. government had ended with many Lakota people ordered onto reservations. On Dec. 29 of that year, a large group of Lakota people traveling to the Pine Ridge Agency in southwestern South Dakota made camp near Wounded Knee Creek, where they were surrounded by hundreds of Army soldiers. A shot rang out while the soldiers tried to disarm the camp, and the soldiers opened fire.

Fewer than 40 soldiers were killed (some by friendly fire, according to historians), while estimates of Lakota deaths ran from 200 to 300 or more, depending on the source, including men, women and children. After some of the bodies froze on the ground for several days, a military-led burial party placed them in a mass grave.

One hundred years later in 1990, Congress passed a resolution expressing “deep regret” for the massacre.

The Department of Defense said last year that “approximately 20” soldiers received a Medal of Honor for participating in the massacre. The number is approximate because historical records associated with some of the medals are incomplete or unclear. The department did not immediately respond to a request for comment this week.

Hegseth references unreleased report

The review panel ultimately voted 3-2 against rescinding any medals, Garriott said, with the three majority votes coming from the Defense panelists.

In a social media video last week, Hegseth held a report that he said the review panel produced. The

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department has not published the report and has not fulfilled South Dakota Searchlight's request for a copy. South Dakota state Rep. Peri Pourier, R-Rapid City, who is a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, said Thursday in a news release that she plans to propose a legislative resolution urging the Department of Defense to release the full, unredacted findings of the panel.

Garriott said he does not have a copy of the report. He left the Department of the Interior when the Biden administration ended and now works as president of NDN Collective, a Rapid City-based nonprofit that advocates for Indigenous people.

Garriott said the process felt rushed, lasting only a few months and requiring panelists to squeeze meetings between their full-time jobs. When members visited the Wounded Knee Massacre site in person, only one of the Defense panelists attended, Garriott said, and the panel limited historical testimony to Department of Defense historians.

Garriott said he blames not only the Department of Defense but also former President Joe Biden and his top advisers for the outcome.

"This historical wrong could have been made right, but they chose not to," Garriott said.

Deb Haaland, a member of the Laguna Pueblo tribe, was the secretary of Interior at the time and is now running for governor of New Mexico. She released a statement on social media after Hegseth's announcement.

"Awarding medals for the massacre at Wounded Knee is cruelty, not honor. And reaffirming them today only deepens the injustice," Haaland said. "Standing at the gravesite with descendants of those victims brought home to me how the trauma of that day still lingers in the community."

Congressional legislation pending

Despite Hegseth's declaration that the matter is "final," Garriott said Lakota people will continue to press for rescinding the medals. Multiple efforts to rescind the medals through congressional action have failed, but U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Massachusetts, introduced another bill to do so this year. Members of Congress from South Dakota have not sponsored or cosponsored those bills.

The South Dakota delegation is supporting separate legislation that would add protections for the massacre site. That legislation would place 40 acres of tribally owned land at the site in restricted-fee status, which means it could not be sold, taxed, gifted or leased without congressional and tribal approval.

The Committee on Indian Affairs has advanced the Senate version of the bill, sponsored by Sen. Mike Rounds and cosponsored by Majority Leader John Thune. Rep. Dusty Johnson is the sponsor of an identical bill that passed the House of Representatives in January.

South Dakota Searchlight's Seth Tupper contributed to this report.

Reaction to Hegseth announcement

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's announcement that he would not rescind medals awarded for the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre sparked reactions from many Native American leaders.

The National Congress of American Indians said in a press release that Wounded Knee was not a "battle." The alliance called it the "intentional mass killing" of Lakota men, women and children "seeking safety from invading U.S. soldiers."

"Honoring those involved in the Wounded Knee Massacre with the United States' highest military award is incompatible with the values the Medal of Honor is meant to represent," Executive Director Larry Wright Jr. said in a statement. "Celebrating war crimes is not patriotic."

Frank Star Comes Out, president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, issued a statement saying "Secretary Hegseth's refusal is despicable, untruthful and insulting to the Great Sioux Nation."

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Chairwoman Janet Alkire said the massacre was "an unprovoked attack on men, women, children and elders who had been rounded up by the military."

"The actions at Wounded Knee were not acts of bravery and valor deserving of the Medal of Honor," she said in a statement. "There is nothing Hegseth can do to rewrite the truth of that day."

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Chairman Ryman LeBeau called the massacre "one of the darkest days in U.S. history."

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

Economists say job losses likely, even as shutdown delays report

Midwest, oil states likely to feel brunt of losses; Black unemployment likely to rise

BY: TIM HENDERSON-OCTOBER 3, 2025 5:43 PM

Friday's jobs report is missing in action because of the federal shutdown, but economists are finding other ways of measuring apparent job losses concentrated in Midwestern states and oil country.

Unemployment could continue to rise, especially for Black people, who have borne the brunt of recent job losses.

Friday's jobs report for September was missing because of the federal government shutdown. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics staff responsible for collecting, analyzing and releasing the data have been furloughed since Wednesday.

The jobs report is useful to economists, government agencies such as the Federal Reserve, and investors trying to gauge the state of the economy, said Elise Gould, senior economist for the left-leaning Economic Policy Institute. If the data is missing for an extended time, it could distort such forecasts, she said.

"We still have some information on the economy from other sources, yes. None of the other indicators predict perfectly. There's no replacement for the data," Gould said.

Still, other groups are using their own measuring tools and sharing that information. ADP, a private payroll processing company, showed a decline of 32,000 jobs for the month of September.

The result "further validates what we've been seeing in the labor market, that U.S. employers have been cautious with hiring," ADP's chief economist, Nela Richardson, said in a statement.

Austan Goolsbee, president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, said in an appearance on CNBC Friday morning that the available data shows weakness in both the labor market and in attempts to control inflation, making the Fed's job difficult in deciding whether to stimulate the economy or rein it in.

"You're seeing deterioration on both sides of the mission," Goolsbee said. "The BLS data is the best in the world, and it does create difficulties when you're kind of putting up a screen and you can't see the data."

Indiana, while gaining some new jobs in the Kokomo area for car parts and batteries factories, saw



Oil pumpjacks are seen in a field near a wind turbine in April in Close City, Texas. Weak oil prices have led to recent energy layoffs in Texas and North Dakota. (Photo by Brandon Bell/Getty Images)

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September layoffs of more than 1,600 workers, according to state figures. That includes 248 hospitality workers at a convention center in Evansville, 200 warehouse workers at a Target distribution center in Indianapolis, 123 layoffs at a security guard firm that lost a federal contract, and layoffs at two automotive parts factories totaling 189 workers.

Ohio also saw layoffs of 768 workers starting in September at a Kohl's e-fulfillment in Middletown.

Black unemployment, which has spiked from 4.8% in April 2023 to 7.5% in August, has likely increased again, said Joseph Dean, who monitors it for the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, which encourages more investment in underserved communities.

"If there were a jobs report, I'd expect a rise in the Black unemployment rate," Dean said. "It's likely due to a combination of factors: federal layoffs earlier in the year, anti-DEI efforts, and now primarily, stagnation in industries that employ large numbers of Black workers — like transportation and professional/business services."

Another indicator of labor market trouble, initial claims for unemployment, were up 85% in North Dakota and 44% in Texas from August to September, according to numbers through the week ending Sept. 20 from the U.S. Department of Labor. Weak oil prices have led to recent energy layoffs in those states.

In another private survey that could help gauge the health of the labor market, outsourcing firm Challenger, Gray and Christmas reported Thursday that companies have reported more than 54,000 job cuts in September. That's a slower rate than August but brings the total this year to 946,000 job cuts, the highest since the pandemic in 2020 and up 55% from the first three quarters of 2024.

The leading reason for job cuts has been actions by the Trump administration's Department of Government Efficiency task force, the firm said, including cuts to government jobs and "downstream impacts" of the federal cuts, such as loss of funding to nonprofits.

There were also about 7,000 technology jobs lost to AI disruption in September, making it harder to land entry-level jobs, the firm said.

"Right now, we're dealing with a stagnating labor market, cost increases, and a transformative new technology," said Andy Challenger, a labor expert at the firm, in a statement.

In August, some of the largest increases in the unemployment rate over the previous year were in Texas cities on the border with Mexico: 2 percentage points each in Brownsville-Harlingen (to 7.5% from 5.5% in 2024) and Eagle Pass (to 8.9% from 6.9% last year). Those metro area estimates for August were released Oct. 1.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, saw a 1.8-point increase in unemployment from 3.6% to 5.4%, and there were 1.7-point increases in Blacksburg, Virginia (from 4% to 5.7%), and Grants Pass, Oregon (from 6.1% to 7.8%).

Unemployment fell the most in Kokomo, Indiana, (down nearly 4.5 points from 10.7% to 6.2%) where Stellantis has been adding jobs in its automotive parts and batteries plants.

An earlier Stateline analysis showed New Jersey and Virginia were among the states most impacted by job losses in the second quarter of the year as federal cuts and corporate restructuring took a toll.

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

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

Deportation protections for 300,000 Venezuelans denied again by US Supreme Court

BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA-OCTOBER 3, 2025 5:34 PM



Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem at a Nashville press conference on July 18, 2025, to discuss arrests of immigrants during recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement sweeps. (Photo

by John Partipilo/Tennessee Lookout)

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court Friday again allowed the Trump administration to strip temporary protections for more than 300,000 Venezuelans, opening them up for quick deportations as the president continues with his plans for mass deportations.

The conservative justices granted, 6-3, President Donald Trump's request from last month to pause a federal judge's ruling that found Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem lacked the authority to revoke Temporary Protected Status granted to hundreds of thousands of Venezuelan immigrants under the Biden administration.

All three liberal justices sided with the lower court, with Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson writing a dissent with the conservative Supreme Court majority. She criticized the high court's use of the emergency docket, also known as the shadow docket, which can allow the justices to avoid explaining their reasoning for decisions brought on an emergency basis.

"We once again use our equitable power (but not our opinion-writing capacity) to al-

low this Administration to disrupt as many lives as possible, as quickly as possible," Jackson wrote.

The conservative justices did not explain their reasoning but said the harms faced by the Trump administration remained the same as when the case was first brought to the high court in May.

Jackson said that not only were the lower courts correct in their orders to block the removal of TPS protections to limit harm, but that the Supreme Court should have denied the emergency request from the Trump administration.

"Having opted instead to join the fray, the Court plainly misjudges the irreparable harm and balance-of-the-equities factors by privileging the bald assertion of unconstrained executive power over countless families' pleas for the stability our Government has promised them," Jackson wrote.

"Because, respectfully, I cannot abide our repeated, gratuitous, and harmful interference with cases pending in the lower courts while lives hang in the balance, I dissent," she continued.

The suit in the Northern District of California will continue despite Friday's emergency ruling from the high court.

U.S. Solicitor General D. John Sauer argued that Noem had the authority to revoke extended protections initially granted to Venezuelans under the Biden administration.

Former President Joe Biden granted TPS for Venezuelans who came to the U.S. in 2021 and 2023. Those TPS protections were set to last until October 2026.

TPS is granted when a national's home country is deemed too dangerous to return to due to violence, political instability or extreme natural disasters. It's renewed every 18 months and protects immigrants from deportation and allows them access to work permits.

This is the second time the Trump administration has appealed to the high court to allow it to end TPS protections for Venezuelans. In late May, the Supreme Court paved the way for the Trump administration to temporarily terminate TPS for more than 300,000 Venezuelans while the case continued in lower courts.

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Government shutdown primed to roll into next week after US Senate deadlocks again

BY: ASHLEY MURRAY-OCTOBER 3, 2025 5:29 PM

WASHINGTON — An agreement to reopen the federal government was nowhere in sight Friday after U.S. Senate Democrats and Republicans failed Friday, for the fourth time, to move on a deal and House Speaker Mike Johnson announced he won't bring his members back until the middle of the month.

Two Senate votes to advance funding bills flopped, as expected, as Senate Democrats remained almost unanimous in demanding Republicans extend health care subsidies amid steep insurance premium increases.

Republicans maintain they will not negotiate until the government reopens.

At the center of the argument are two separate government funding bills. One is a 91-page House-passed Republican bill that would keep the government open until Nov. 21.

The other is a 68-page Democrat counterproposal that aims to provide funding through October while restoring and permanently extending certain federal health funding and subsidies.

Republicans once again failed, 54-44, to gain enough Democratic support to reach the 60 votes needed — though Democratic Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada and John Fetterman of Pennsylvania joined the GOP, as did Maine's Sen. Angus King, an independent. Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky voted no.

The Democrats' plan also fell short in a 46-52 vote.

"It's always wrong to shut the government down," Fetterman said outside the Senate chamber after voting yes on both bills. "Why do this s-t?"

Sens. Chris Coons, a Delaware Democrat, and Jerry Moran, a Kansas Republican, did not vote on either bill. The Senate will not return to work until Monday, when two more votes on the same bills are planned.



Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York speaks to reporters at a press conference at the U.S. Capitol during the third day of a federal government shutdown, on Friday, Oct. 3, 2025. (Photo by Ashley Murray/States Newsroom)

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Johnson said after the votes that the House will stay in recess until Oct. 14, which means the government shutdown could last until at least then, if not longer, if Democrats in the Senate continue their resistance to the House bill.

Nonstop messaging

Republican and Democratic leaders spent another day on Capitol Hill hammering their shutdown messages.

At a morning press conference in the middle of the Capitol's grand Statuary Hall, Johnson and Senate Majority Leader John Thune doubled down on their claim that Democrats are blocking government funding over a policy that Republicans say would provide health care to immigrants without legal status.

"We challenge them to tell us why they're not trying to give illegal aliens health care again when they put it in their own bill," Johnson said, pointing to a poster of highlighted language from the Democrats' proposal.

Democrats' plan includes language reversing the GOP's roughly \$1 trillion in Medicaid cuts that President Donald Trump signed into law as part of a tax and spending cuts package on July 4.

Johnson hailed a nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office finding in August that the new law would result in about 1.4 million immigrants losing health coverage.

"That's exactly what we promised, and that's what's gonna be achieved," the Louisiana Republican said.

The populations slated to lose the coverage comprise lawfully present immigrants, including refugees and asylees, according to analysis by the nonprofit health policy research organization KFF.

Longstanding federal policy prohibits immigrants without legal status in the U.S. from receiving government-funded health care.

Health care premium hikes

At their own set of afternoon press conferences, Democratic leaders slammed what they described as a "Republican health care crisis."

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries pointed to a poster showing health care premium increases for 2026 plans in Georgia, Idaho and Virginia.

"The crisis is having real impact on working-class Americans right now," the New York Democrat said.

Jeffries questioned why Republicans extended numerous tax cuts in their July budget reconciliation law, otherwise known as the "one big beautiful bill," but could not "be bothered" to extend the premium enhanced tax credits for people who buy health insurance on the Affordable Care Act marketplace.

"Republicans spent all year focused on their one big, ugly bill so they could permanently extend massive tax breaks for the wealthy," Jeffries said.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer also came armed with a set of posters to his snap briefing after the funding bill failed yet again.

One showed a PolitiFact graphic arrow pointing to "FALSE" under the question of whether Democrats were threatening a government shutdown over health care for immigrants without legal status.

"They thought they could bludgeon us and threaten us and scare us. It ain't working, because my caucus and Democrats are adamant that we must protect the health care of the American people," Schumer said.

Sen. Brian Schatz of Hawaii said of the news of the House members not returning next week: "There is not a clearer illustration of their lack of seriousness in terms of reopening the government and solving the health care crisis."

'It shifts the authority to the executive'

Johnson dismissed the Democrats' fight over health care as "a political talking point."

When asked about the Trump administration's threats to permanently lay off thousands of federal workers and cancel funding for projects in blue states, Johnson said "when Congress decides to turn off the lights, shut the government down, it shifts the authority to the executive."

"The president takes no pleasure in this, but if Chuck Schumer is gonna give Donald Trump the opportunity to determine what the priorities are, he's gonna exercise that opportunity, and that's where we are," Johnson said.

When pressed by a reporter about the memes the White House has posted online in recent days, Johnson responded, "what they're trying to have fun with, trying to make light of, is the absurdity of the Democrats' position."

On Tuesday the White House posted an AI deepfake video that depicted Jeffries in a sombrero and mustache as mariachi music played while Schumer talks in a fake voice about duping people who do not speak English.

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

Trump cancels blue-state projects, trolls Dems on social media as shutdown drags on

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT-OCTOBER 3, 2025 4:55 PM

WASHINGTON — Trump administration officials on Friday defended the decision to cancel federal projects in regions of the country that have voted for Democrats, saying the move isn't political but an effort to reduce the size and scope of government during the shutdown.

Republican leaders in Congress also backed the White House's decision to punish Democratic voters by unilaterally canceling funding that lawmakers approved on a bipartisan basis. Democrats, however, said it's an unacceptable escalation that further erodes Congress' constitutional authority over spending.

"The president and (White House budget director) Russ Vought were not given any additional authority under a shutdown, and they shouldn't pretend they have

it and they shouldn't act like it and they certainly should not be threatening people," Senate Appropriations Committee ranking member Patty Murray, D-Wash., said on a call with reporters.

Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., gave a bit of a mixed message during a morning press conference, saying that while decisions about which projects to cancel are "tough," President Donald Trump and other officials "are having fun with" the shutdown on social media.

"Are they taking great pleasure in that? No," Johnson said, referring to the actual governing. "Is he trolling the Democrats? Yes, because that's what President Trump does and people are having fun with this."



White House budget director Russ Vought, who is depicted as the Grim Reaper in a video posted by President Donald Trump during the shutdown in October 2025, speaks with reporters inside the U.S. Capitol building on July 15, 2025. (Photo by Jennifer Shutt/States Newsroom)

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Later in the day, Johnson opted to further delay bringing the House back into session, canceling a second week of floor votes, which means the earliest that chamber will return to Capitol Hill is Oct. 14.

Shutdown 'is not a joke'

Trump has posted frequently on social media during the shutdown, including a video that depicted House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries wearing a sombrero and a video that appeared to be created by artificial intelligence depicting Vought as the Grim Reaper.

Murray said on the call with reporters that Republicans posting the videos show they are treating the shutdown "as a joke."

"This is not a joke. This is real," Murray said. "They need to stop the taunting. They need to stop the childish behavior. They need to stop hurting people and they need to come and work with us to solve a serious problem in front of our country."

Jeffries, asked about the social media videos during a press conference, said it shows Republicans are on "defense" over their policies on health care and other issues.

"Donald Trump has behaved in a deeply unserious and deeply unhinged manner and it's evidence of the fact that Republicans have a weak argument, so they've resorted to deepfake videos and to lying about the nature of the policy decisions," Jeffries said.

Projects axed in Chicago, New York, blue states

Johnson said he spoke earlier this week with Vought — one of the authors of Project 2025 who said previously he wanted "bureaucrats to be traumatically affected" — and that Vought "takes no pleasure in this."

"Russ wants to see a smaller, more efficient, more lean, effective federal government, as we do. But he doesn't want people to lose jobs. He doesn't want to do that," Johnson said. "But that's his responsibility. So he's very carefully, methodically, very deliberately looking through that to see which decisions can be made in the best interest of the American people. That's his obligation and that's his real desire."

Typically during a government shutdown, federal employees are categorized as exempt, meaning they keep working without pay, or are placed on furlough. Both categories receive back pay once Congress votes to approve a stopgap spending bill.

But Vought has indicated he wants to use the shutdown as an excuse to lay off federal workers en masse, a step not taken during past funding lapses. He's also taken to social media several times to announce canceled or halted projects in areas of the country that don't regularly vote for Republicans.

Vought wrote in a post on Wednesday, shortly after the shutdown began, that \$18 billion in Transportation Department funding for the Hudson Tunnel Project and the Second Ave Subway in New York City was put "on hold." Both are in Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer and Jeffries' home state.

Vought then said the Energy Department would cancel \$8 billion in climate funding that was slated to go to projects in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Vermont and Washington.

The Washington State Standard reported some of the funding would have gone toward the Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Hub and Source New Mexico posted an article detailing a few impacted projects, including funds to the "New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology for the third phase of a project ... to develop a storage hub at a commercial scale within (the) San Juan basin."

Additionally, Vought on Friday froze \$2.1 billion in Transportation Department funding for the "Red Line Extension and the Red and Purple Modernization Project" in Chicago, writing it was "put on hold to ensure funding is not flowing via race-based contracting."

Senate Democratic Whip Dick Durbin represents Illinois, and the state's governor, JB Pritzker, has been in a public back-and-forth with Trump over immigration enforcement, which the administration has heightened in Chicago. Pritzker has repeatedly rebuffed Trump's requests to bring in the National Guard.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., said during the press conference with Speaker Johnson that it makes sense the Trump administration would implement the shutdown through a political lens.

"I think they're going to make decisions that are consistent with their priorities," Thune said. "And yes, they're going to have a different political view of the world than the Democrats might have."

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Hatch Act questions

The actions of Trump administration officials have raised questions about whether they could be in violation of the Hatch Act, a 1939 law that "limits certain political activities of federal employees."

The Office of Special Counsel writes on its website the law is meant to "ensure that federal programs are administered in a nonpartisan fashion, to protect federal employees from political coercion in the workplace, and to ensure that federal employees are advanced based on merit and not based on political affiliation."

Any federal employee found to have violated the law can face removal from service or a fine of up to \$1,000, among other possible repercussions.

Public Citizen has filed numerous complaints against the Trump administration, alleging that banners and messages posted on government websites about the shutdown violate the Hatch Act.

"Even for an administration that flouts ethics guidelines regularly, these messages are a particularly egregious and clear-cut sign that Trump and his cabinet see themselves as above the law," Craig Holman, a government ethics expert with Public Citizen, wrote in a statement.

As with many of the Trump administration's actions, any new precedent set by the Republican administration could be used by a future Democratic president in a way that would very likely be harmful to Republican voters and regions of the country that consistently support GOP policies.

Layoffs still threatened

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said during an afternoon briefing that administration officials are trying to determine where to make additional spending cuts and layoffs during the shutdown.

"The Office of Management and Budget is in constant communication and contact right now with our Cabinet secretaries and agencies across the board to identify, unfortunately, where layoffs have to be made and where cuts have to happen," Leavitt said. "But again, the Democrats have an opportunity to prevent this if they vote to reopen the government."

Leavitt declined to say whether the administration would back away from plans to lay off federal workers by the thousands or cancel funding for projects in Democratic areas if Republicans and Democrats in Congress strike a deal to reopen government.

Leavitt said the "blueprint" for shrinking the size and scope of the federal government is whatever the president and administration officials come up with, after being asked by a Fox News reporter about Trump writing in a social media post earlier this week that Vought was "of PROJECT 2025 Fame," after the president repeatedly distanced himself from the document on the campaign trail.

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.

'Paint the Town Red': Solemn event puts spotlight on MMIP

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe gathers to acknowledge missing and murdered relatives

BY: MARY ANNETTE PEMBER-OCTOBER 3, 2025 9:34 AM

CHEYENNE RIVER RESERVATION — It was what photographers call the "magic hour," that period before dusk when the setting sun bathes the world in warm glowing light. The long row of red dresses and T-shirts, suspended from hangers, were illuminated at that time of day.

They flapped brilliantly along the main street in Eagle Butte, the hub of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in South Dakota. Several people gathered in a nearby park, sharing food while children jumped in an inflatable bounce house.

But the festival-like atmosphere of the event, "Paint the Town Red," belied a dark, tragic reality. It was organized to call attention to the high rates of missing and murdered relatives in the community.

"She was murdered," Jolee Two Dogs Clark said simply, after ICT asked her what happened.

Clark stood along the row of red dresses and shirts, clutching a large photograph of her daughter, Ahmyli Clark, 20, who was killed in June 2025 in what police have described as a murder-suicide. The case, according to Jolee Clark, is still under investigation.

Horribly, the line of red included another of Clark's children. Her son, Miles Phillips, 23, was shot and

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Jolee Clark, a citizen of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, has lost two children to violence: son Miles Phillips and daughter Ahmyli Clark. She joined a "Paint the Town Red" event in September 2025 in Eagle Butte to call attention to missing and murdered Indigenous people. (Mary Annette Pember/ICT)

killed in July 2022 along with his friend, 18-year-old Jalen Wells, after attending a festival in Eagle Butte.

As in much of Indian Country, the rates of missing and murdered relatives are high here on Cheyenne River.

"We didn't have enough materials to hang shirts and dresses for all those affected," said Jessica Grazier, domestic violence advocate for the Sacred Heart Center, a nonprofit service organization on Cheyenne River. Grazier is a citizen of the tribe.

There are well over two dozen missing and murdered relatives whose names were included on a poster board at the event coordinated by the center.

"There's a lot of violence that goes on in the community along with murder," she said. "This event was really needed here."

In May and June, four young people were killed within weeks of each other, according to the West River Eagle. In addition to Ahmyli Clark, they include Andre Eberhard, Thomas Three Legs Jr. and Micah Bear Charger.

In response, the community has come together in an "upwelling of support to pray, mourn and gather mental health and spiritual resources," in recent weeks, reported the West River Eagle.

"Paint the Town Red" included a commemorative walk as well as several speakers who shared stories of lost loved ones. It is the latest in such grassroots events across Indian Country as communities come together to offer residents a measure of healing and support.

Among those highlighted at the event included:

- Ahmyli, who was raised alongside her many, many cousins, and nieces and nephews, that she considered her own siblings. Ahmyli was involved in many activities such as Sparkling Stars, C-EB Spirit Squad, and Lakota Club as an elementary student. She also loved to dance fancy shawl and had beautiful outfits made by her mother.
- Her brother, Miles Phillips, a basketball enthusiast who "went to any event that involved basketball." He worked the Summer Youth Program and held many jobs in his life, of which he was proud.
- Andre' Eberhard, also a sports enthusiast. He attended Haskell Indian Nations University and spent many summers with his grandparents on the river swimming, fishing, boating, or just playing. Eberhard died in June 2025 at age 23.
- Thomas Three Legs Jr. died in June 2025 at age 23. He loved horses and was a singer on the family drum, the Lake Side Singers.
- Micah Black Bear Charger died in May at age 15. "From the moment Michah was born he was full of love."

Mary Annette Pember, a citizen of the Red Cliff Ojibwe tribe, is a national correspondent for ICT.

Renewal of health subsidies backed by big majorities in poll, including Trump voters

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT-OCTOBER 3, 2025 9:11 AM

WASHINGTON — The vast majority of Americans, including Republicans and those who identify as strong supporters of President Donald Trump, want Congress to renew the enhanced tax credits for people who buy their health insurance from the Affordable Care Act Marketplace, according to a poll released Friday.

More than 78% of people surveyed by the nonpartisan health organization KFF in late September said they want lawmakers to keep the enhanced credits. Their extension has become a major linchpin in debate about the government shutdown.

When broken down by political party, 92% of Democrats, 82% of independents and 59% of Republicans supported renewing the credits.

Within the Republican Party, 57% of people who identified as supporting Trump's Make America Great Again policies and 70% of GOP voters who identified as non-MAGA supporters want to see the tax credits extended, according to the poll.



The U.S. Capitol on the evening of Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025, just hours before a federal government shutdown. (Photo by Ashley

Murray/States Newsroom)

Spending bill held up over tax credit debate

The ACA tax credit expansion was created by Democrats in a coronavirus relief bill approved during the Biden administration and set to expire at the end of the year.

Democrats have repeatedly called on Republicans to negotiate an extension of the enhanced tax credits and have held up a stopgap spending bill to force those talks to happen now, rather than later in the year.

Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., said Thursday the discussion should happen during the next few months and that GOP lawmakers will press for "major reform."

"That's not a simple issue. That's going to take weeks to deliberate and discuss and debate, but that's the beauty of the process. We have three months to do that. That is not an issue for today," Johnson said. "Today the only issue is whether they're going to vote to keep the government operating for the people."

Democrats strongly disagree, saying a bipartisan accord must be struck before the open enrollment period for ACA plans begins on Nov. 1, when consumers will see large cost increases for next year.

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"We can't accept an empty promise, which is, 'Oh, we'll deal with this later,'" Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., said on a call with reporters Thursday. "The fact is that this crisis is in front of us now. People are getting this month their premium increases if the Senate does not act."

Murray said she finds it "ironic" that Republican leaders are saying they'll negotiate with Democrats on health care once the government reopens after they "refused to negotiate with us during that entire time when government was open."

The House voted mostly along party lines in mid-September to approve a seven-week stopgap spending bill that has since stalled in the Senate, leading to the shutdown.

The upper chamber, where major legislation needs at least 60 votes to advance, is set to vote again Friday to try to advance Republicans' short-term government funding bill, though it's unlikely to move forward amid the stalemate.

Many of those polled knew little about shutdown debate

The KFF poll looked at public knowledge and understanding about the enhanced tax credits for ACA Marketplace health insurance plans, finding 61% of respondents knew nothing or only a little about the issue.

Another 32% of those surveyed said they know some about the policy debate and 7% said they know a lot.

The poll of 1,334 adults took place Sept. 23 to Sept. 29 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points for a full survey. Each political affiliation question has a margin of error of plus or minus 6 percentage points.

The government shutdown began on Oct. 1, just after the poll wrapped.

Concern about the ramifications of letting the enhanced tax credits expire fluctuated when KFF asked the question in different ways, though those who said they were "very concerned" never dipped below a majority.

Fifty-six percent were very concerned and 30% were somewhat concerned when told "health insurance would be unaffordable for many people who buy their own coverage" if the enhanced tax credits weren't extended.

The number of people who would be very or somewhat concerned was high among Republicans, 78%, and MAGA supporters, 76%.

Respondents who were very concerned rose to 60% when told "about 4 million people will lose their health insurance coverage" if they do not keep receiving the enhanced credits. An additional 26% said they were somewhat concerned and 10% said they were not too concerned, with the rest of those polled saying they were not concerned at all.

When broken down by political party, the number of people very or somewhat concerned remained high, with 76% of Republicans and 73% of MAGA supporters citing worry.

Small business staff, self-employed people

Fifty-one percent of those polled said they were very concerned when told "millions of people who work at small businesses or who are self-employed would be directly impacted as many of them rely on the ACA marketplace."

Another 33% said they were somewhat concerned, 11% said they were not too concerned and the remainder said they were not concerned at all.

Seventy-five percent of Republicans and 72% of MAGA supporters responded they would be very or somewhat concerned when asked that question.

The poll showed that Congress extending the enhanced tax credits as they exist now comes with some trepidation about the price tag.

When asked how concerned people would be if they heard "it would require significant federal spending that would be largely paid for by taxpayers," 27% said they would be very concerned, 36% somewhat concerned, 28% not too concerned and 8% not at all concerned.

Forty-one percent of Republicans said they would be very concerned, with another 41% responding they would be somewhat concerned. An additional 15% said they would be not too concerned with the

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rest saying they were not concerned at all.

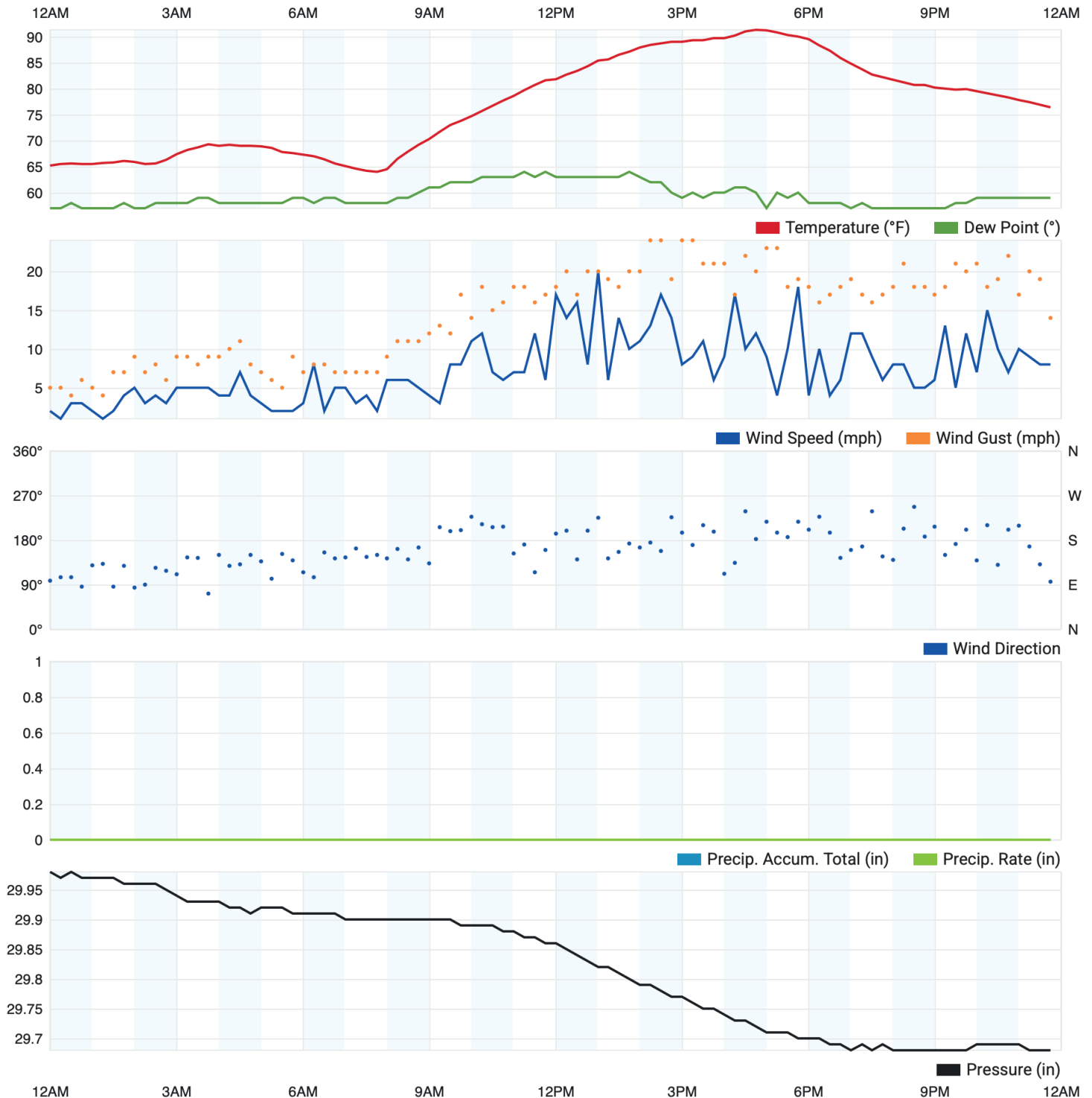
Jennifer covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include congressional policy, politics and legal challenges with a focus on health care, unemployment, housing and aid to families.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

October 3, 2025



Broton Daily Independent

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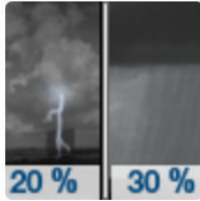
Today



High: 88 °F

Mostly Sunny

Tonight



Low: 57 °F

Slight Chance
T-storms then
Chance
Showers

Sunday



High: 67 °F↓

Slight Chance
Showers and
Breezy

Sunday Night



Low: 40 °F

Partly Cloudy

Monday



High: 61 °F

Mostly Sunny

THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

1

WHAT THIS MEANS:
Isolated Severe Storms
Possible

TIMING

**Saturday Evening and
Overnight**

PRIMARY THREATS



DAMAGING
WIND GUSTS IN
EXCESS OF 60+
MPH



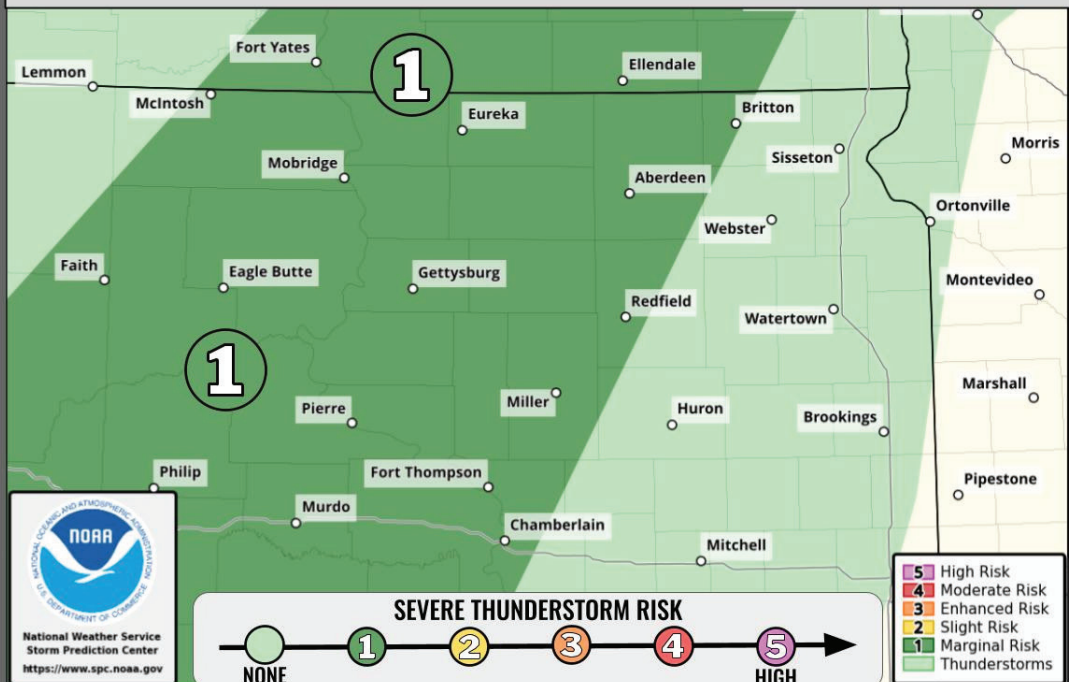
LARGE HAIL

SECONDARY THREATS



HEAVY
RAIN

Marginal Risk For Severe Storms Saturday



Storms this evening and overnight will come with the risk for damaging wind gusts, and possibly hail and heavy rainfall. Severe storm coverage will be fairly isolated in nature however.

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Precipitation Potential This Afternoon - Sunday

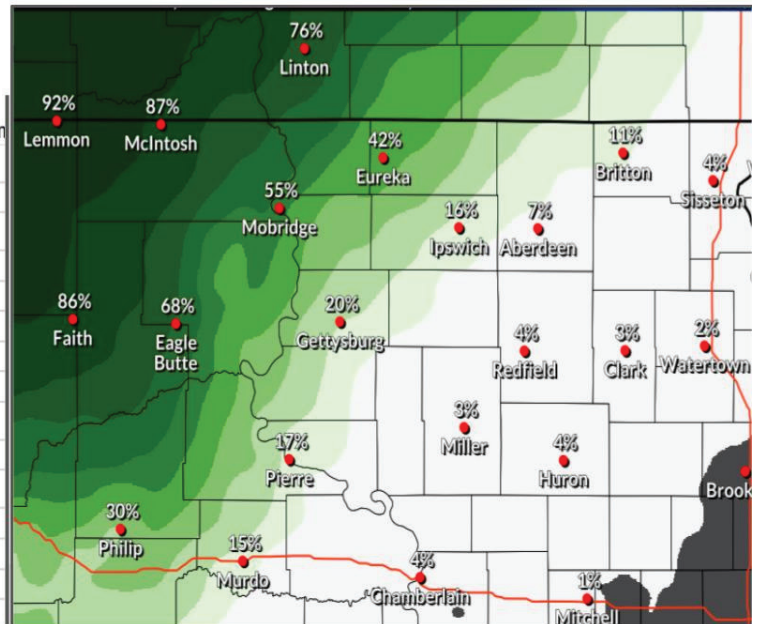
October 4, 2025
4:20 AM

Key Messages

- Most rainfall expected west-river
- Probability of Rainfall timing chart

Probability of Rainfall Exceeding 1/2"

	Sat					Sun							
	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm
Aberdeen	0	0	5	15	15	15	25	20	20	20	5	5	0
Britton	0	0	5	15	15	15	20	20	20	20	10	10	0
Chamberlain	0	0	5	5	20	35	25	5	5	5	0	0	0
Eagle Butte	5	15	15	45	90	90	95	50	50	50	15	15	5
Eureka	0	5	15	20	45	70	70	65	55	55	10	10	5
Gettysburg	0	5	10	15	35	60	55	50	30	30	5	5	0
McIntosh	15	25	40	60	95	90	100	85	80	80	25	25	5
Miller	0	0	5	5	10	25	20	10	5	5	0	0	0
Mobridge	0	10	20	30	70	75	85	80	55	55	10	10	5
Murdo	0	5	5	20	60	45	25	10	10	10	0	0	0
Pierre	0	5	5	15	55	55	45	10	10	10	0	0	0
Redfield	0	0	5	5	10	20	20	10	10	10	5	5	0
Sisseton	5	5	5	10	10	10	15	15	15	15	5	5	0
Webster	0	0	5	5	5	5	15	10	10	10	5	5	0
Wheaton	5	0	5	10	15	10	10	15	10	10	5	5	0



Timing of precipitation (chart) and the probability for exceeding 1/2 inch of moisture. As you can see, best chances for moisture are west river into north central South Dakota



Elevated Fire Danger Due To Strong Winds

October 4, 2025
3:47 AM

Strongest winds Across Eastern/Northeastern SD/Western MN (See Chart)



- Gusts between 30-40 mph Today
- Above normal temperature (near records)
- Increasingly dry conditions
 - Erratic Fire Behavior Possible Today!
 - Avoid outdoor burning, have water handy for farm equipment
 - Report any fires to local authorities

	10/4 Sat					10/5 Sun							
	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm
Aberdeen	24↑	25↑	23↓	20↓	24↑	30↑	30↑	33↑	37↑	36↑	32↓	26↓	16↓
Britton	31↑	28↓	26↓	22↓	35↑	39↑	37↑	39↑	43↑	41↑	38↑	30↑	18↓
Chamberlain	26↑	35↑	37↑	36↑	32↑	31↑	28↑	24↑	33↑	36↑	36↑	31↑	22↓
Clark	35↑	37↑	40↑	38↑	39↑	41↑	38↑	36↑	38↑	37↑	36↑	31↑	21↓
Eagle Butte	23↓	26↓	26↓	25↓	24↓	23↓	26↓	32↓	40↓	40↓	32↓	24↓	16↓
Eureka	16↓	18↓	21↓	21↓	22↓	25↓	32↓	35↓	40↓	40↓	32↓	25↓	16↓
Gettysburg	17↓	17↓	16↓	17↓	20↓	22↓	22↓	29↓	36↓	36↓	31↓	26↓	17↓
McIntosh	26↓	30↓	30↓	28↓	28↓	32↓	37↓	40↓	39↓	38↓	31↓	23↓	15↓
Milbank	35↑	35↑	37↑	36↑	41↑	43↑	40↑	38↑	37↑	36↑	33↑	31↑	21↓
Miller	29↑	31↑	35↑	31↑	30↑	31↑	28↑	30↑	36↑	35↑	32↑	29↑	18↓
Mobridge	17↓	20↓	22↓	22↓	23↓	23↓	26↓	36↓	38↓	37↓	31↓	24↓	16↓
Murdo	16↓	17↓	18↓	18↓	20↓	18↓	21↓	24↓	32↓	33↓	31↓	24↓	18↓
Pierre	15↓	16↓	16↓	17↓	18↓	18↓	20↓	28↓	33↓	33↓	33↓	28↓	17↓
Redfield	30↑	32↑	35↑	30↑	30↑	32↑	29↑	32↑	37↑	36↑	35↑	30↑	18↓
Sisseton	31↑	29↑	29↑	26↑	37↑	43↑	41↑	39↑	41↑	39↑	35↑	30↑	20↓
Watertown	36↑	38↑	41↑	39↑	40↑	41↑	41↑	39↑	40↑	38↑	36↑	30↑	21↓
Webster	35↑	35↑	35↑	31↑	37↑	40↑	39↑	39↑	41↑	39↑	37↑	31↑	21↓
Wheaton	25↓	25↓	26↓	26↓	33↓	38↓	37↓	36↓	36↓	36↓	32↓	29↓	21↓



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 91 °F at 4:49 PM

Low Temp: 64 °F at 7:49 AM

Wind: 26 mph at 4:50 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 93 in 1975

Record Low: 13 in 1894

Average High: 66

Average Low: 39

Average Precip in Oct.: .32

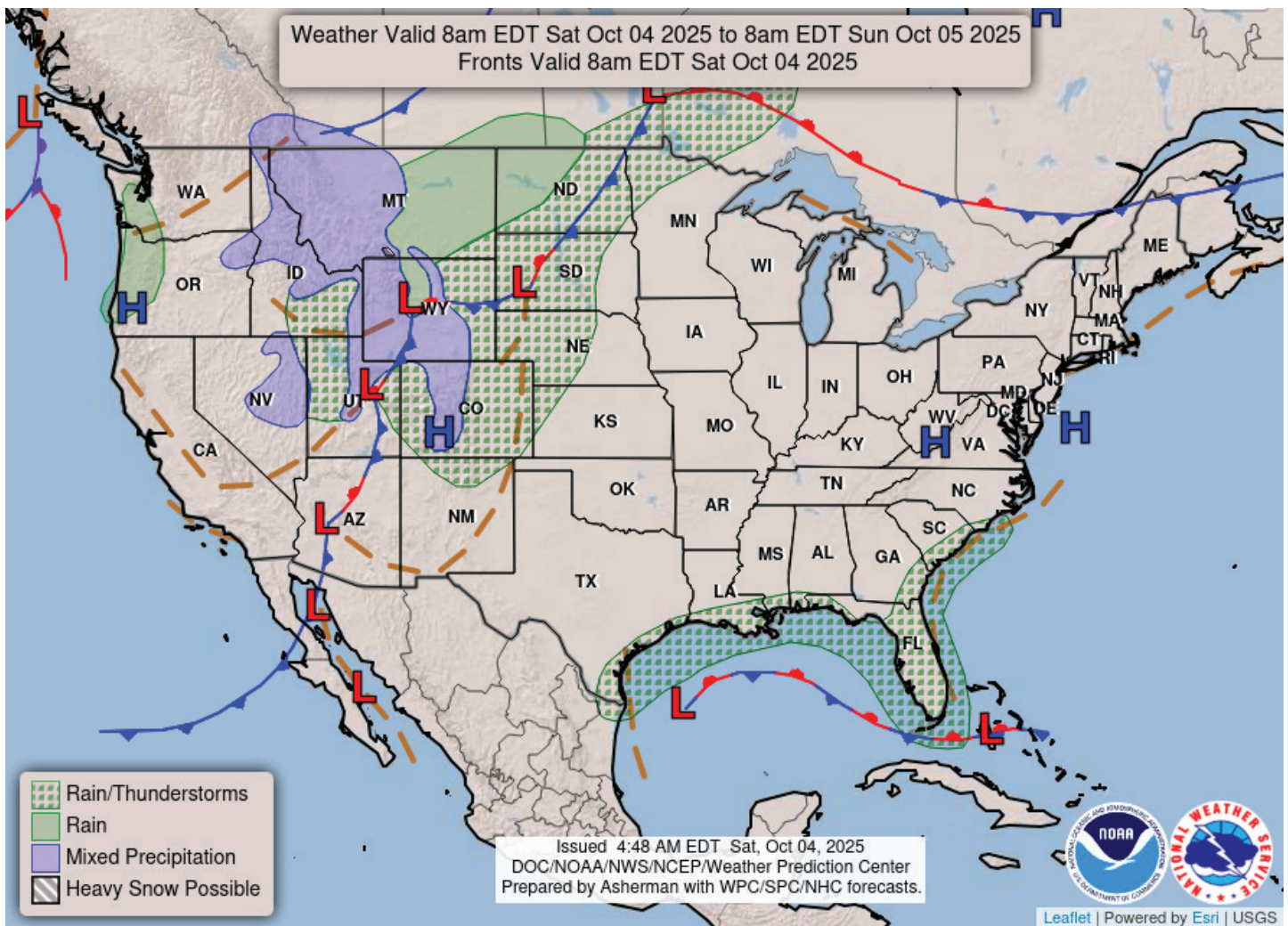
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 18.65

Precip Year to Date: 22.92

Sunset Tonight: 7:07 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:35 am



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Today in Weather History

October 4, 2005: An intense low-pressure system developed over the Central Rockies and moved through the Northern Plains, bringing heavy snow to much of the northern Black Hills and far northwest South Dakota. Precipitation started as rain during the day and changed over to snow during the late afternoon and early evening, mixed with freezing rain and sleet. Heavy snow fell during the night and ended in the morning. Snowfall amounts were generally in the 6 to 12-inch range, with locally more substantial amounts across northern and western Harding County. The heavy, wet snow resulted in many downed trees, large branches, and power lines, which caused numerous power outages and some minor property damage. A few locations had some of the highest daily snowfall amounts ever recorded in October. Camp Crook received 12 inches of snow, which tied the daily record for snow in October. Redig also tied its record for most snowfall in one day in October with 9 inches. Lemmon had its second-highest daily total snowfall for October (6.5 inches). Bison received 6 inches, which was tied for the 3rd highest daily total in October. Spearfish tied for the 8th highest daily snow total for October with 7 inches.

1777: The Battle of Germantown was fought in a morning fog that grew denser with the smoke of battle, causing great confusion. Americans firing at each other contributed to the battle's loss.

1869 - A great storm struck New England. The storm reportedly was predicted twelve months in advance by a British officer named Saxby. Heavy rains and high floods plagued all of New England, with strong winds and high tides over New Hampshire and Maine. Canton CT was deluged with 12.35 inches of rain. (David Ludlum)

1957: The world's first artificial satellite, Sputnik, was launched on October 4th, 1957 by the Soviet Union. Sputnik was about the size of a beach ball and weighed 183.9 pounds. It took about 98 minutes to orbit Earth on an elliptical path.

1969 - Denver, CO, received 9.6 inches of snow. October of that year proved to be the coldest and snowiest of record for Denver, with a total snowfall for the month of 31.2 inches. (Weather Channel)

1986 - Excessive flooding was reported along the Mississippi River and all over the Midwest, from Ohio to the Milk River in Montana. In some places it was the worst flooding of record. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987: A storm brought record snows to the northeastern U.S. Snowfall totals ranged up to 21 inches at North Springfield, VT. It was the earliest snow of record for some locations. The storm claimed 17 lives in central New York State, injured 332 persons, and in Vermont caused seventeen million dollars damage. The six-inch snow at Albany, NY, was their earliest measurable snow in 117 years of records.

1988 - Temperatures dipped below freezing in the north central U.S. Five cities in North Dakota and Nebraska reported record low temperatures for the date, including Bismarck ND with a reading of 17 degrees above zero. Low pressure brought snow and sleet to parts of Upper Michigan. (The National Weather Summary)

2005: Hurricane Stan, a minimal Category 1 Hurricane with 75 mph maximum sustained surface winds, made landfall near Punta Roca Partida, Mexico, at 4 AM EDT on this day. While not a particularly strong hurricane, the torrential rains caused flooding and landslides, which resulted in 1,513 deaths in Guatemala.

2013: While western South Dakota was dealing with a crippling blizzard, the tri-state region of Nebraska, South Dakota, and Iowa saw several tornadoes, including an EF-4. This violent tornado started 2 miles southwest of Climbing Hill, Iowa, flattening corn crops and snapping tree trunks. As the tornado moved northeast, it intensified and struck a farmstead approximately 5 miles west-northwest of Correctionville, Iowa. Sheds and other buildings were severely damaged or destroyed, with the residence being severely damaged. The tornado continued to increase in both size and magnitude as it continued on its trek northeast. The tornado reached its maximum intensity 2.5 miles south of Pierson, Iowa, when this mile-wide tornado struck two farmsteads. Numerous outbuildings and barns were destroyed, with farm equipment being tossed over 400 yards. It was here that the tornado was rated EF-4. The tornado stayed southeast of Pierson, Iowa, and to the west of Washta, Iowa. Before lifting, the tornado produced more tree damage and downed power poles and lines 2 miles west of Washta, Iowa.



Seeds of Hope Guido Ministries

*Often we attempt to hide
some of our deeds from God,
thinking there may be a place
where He cannot find us...*

It's always a time of joy filled with delightful experiences when our grandchildren come to visit. Their youthful exuberance and innocent behavior fill our home with laughter and many unexpected surprises.

One of their favorite games is one most of us enjoyed when we were children: hide and seek. They find nooks and crannies, closets and furniture as "obvious" places to hide, and then count from one to ten out loud. Then: "Ready or not, here I come!" is the usual cry before the search begins.

It only takes a few minutes before the one hiding is found by the one seeking. There is no space in our home that remains to be discovered. They know every place

there is to hide.

Often we attempt to hide some of our deeds from God, thinking there may be a place where He cannot find us. We break His laws and turn our backs on His teachings and try to rationalize or even generalize our behavior:

"You know God, everyone does it so it's not all that bad."

Or, "Well, God, the devil made me do it because You didn't stop Him."

Unfortunately, those excuses will not change the facts of Scripture:

"The human spirit is the lamp of the Lord that sheds light on one's inmost being."

This "spirit" points back to Creation when "God breathed the breath of life into man," making him different and distinct from animals.

Obviously, if God created us He certainly must know us, understand us and have access to our most intimate thoughts and desires. We cannot hide anything from our Creator.

When God ignites His lamp and searches our innermost being, it's game over. He Himself conducts the investigation and knows exactly where to look. While we may attempt to hide our thoughts and desires from God, He knows exactly where to look! Guard against sinning!

Today's Prayer: Father, we cannot hide our thoughts or actions from Your eye. May we earnestly work to live a life worthy of You, our Savior and Lord. Keep us close to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "The human spirit is the lamp of the Lord that sheds light on one's inmost being." Proverbs 20:27

If this message spoke to you today, don't keep it to yourself. Send it to a friend or loved one—God often uses simple moments like this to lift someone's spirit right when they need it most.

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: 10.03.25

18 19 38 54 57 19

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$547,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.01.25

12 28 42 44 48 3

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$4,070,000

NEXT 14 Hrs 56 Mins 41
DRAW: Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.03.25

1 22 23 25 38 12

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT 15 Hrs 11 Mins 41
DRAW: Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.01.25

5 8 23 24 26

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$38,000

NEXT 15 Hrs 11 Mins 41
DRAW: Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.01.25

3 29 38 56 65 7

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT 15 Hrs 40 Mins 40
DRAW: Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 10.01.25

8 17 22 28 55 14

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$195,000,000

NEXT 15 Hrs 40 Mins 40
DRAW: 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 **AP** Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

Avon 60, TDAACDC 6
Brandon Valley 35, Sioux Falls Lincoln 30
Corsica/Stickney 52, Sunshine Bible Academy 0
Faulkton 34, North Central 0
Groton 55, Aberdeen Roncalli 6
Harrisburg 45, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 0
Herreid-Selby 38, Gettysburg 12
Howard 12, Hanson 7
Huron 47, Douglas 0
Ipswich 53, Hitchcock-Tulare 14
Milbank 22, Webster 8
Omaha Nation, Neb. 44, Crow Creek Tribal School 0
Scotland/Menno 56, Colome 0
Winnebago, Neb. 64, Little Wound 14

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

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Lakota Nations Invitational=
Pool A=
Custer def. Lodge Grass, Mont., 25-11, 25-18
Custer def. McLaughlin, 25-13, 25-7
Custer def. Oelrichs, 25-10, 25-8
Custer def. Takini, 25-6, 25-5
Lodge Grass, Mont. def. Oelrichs, 25-9, 25-18
McLaughlin def. Lodge Grass, Mont., 25-18, 25-18
McLaughlin def. Santee, Neb., 25-21, 25-23
McLaughlin def. Takini, 25-5, 25-15
Oelrichs def. Takini, 25-22, 25-11
Santee, Neb. def. Oelrichs, 25-14, 25-17
Santee, Neb. def. Takini, 25-11, 23-25, 25-11
Pool B=
Bennett County def. Crow Creek Tribal School, 25-6, 25-22
Bennett County def. St. Francis Indian, 25-7, 25-8
Bennett County def. Wakpala, 25-6, 25-11
Bennett County def. Wyoming Indian, Wyo., 25-9, 25-15
Crow Creek Tribal School def. Wyoming Indian, Wyo., 21-25, 25-23, 25-20
Little Wound def. Crow Creek Tribal School, 25-18, 25-12
Little Wound def. St. Francis Indian, 25-10, 25-7
Little Wound def. Wakpala, 24-26, 25-20, 25-13
St. Francis Indian def. Crow Creek Tribal School, 25-19, 18-25, 25-18
St. Francis Indian def. Wakpala, 25-10, 25-13
Wakpala def. Wyoming Indian, Wyo., 25-16, 25-6
Wyoming Indian, Wyo. def. Little Wound, 25-10, 25-15
Pool C=

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Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. Tiospa Zina, 25-18, 22-25, 25-23
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. Tiospaye Topa, 25-15, 23-25, 25-11
Mahpiya Luta Red Cloud def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-20, 25-17
Mahpiya Luta Red Cloud def. St. Stephens, Wyo., 25-4, 25-13
Mahpiya Luta Red Cloud def. Tiospaye Topa, 25-10, 25-9
Pine Ridge def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-11, 25-12
Pine Ridge def. Mahpiya Luta Red Cloud, 25-18, 25-19
Pine Ridge def. St. Stephens, Wyo., 25-10, 25-14
Pine Ridge def. Tiospa Zina, 25-10, 25-18
Tiospa Zina def. St. Stephens, Wyo., 25-16, 25-16
Tiospa Zina def. Tiospaye Topa, 25-18, 25-18
Tiospaye Topa def. St. Stephens, Wyo., 25-23, 25-16
Pool D=
Lakota Tech def. Crazy Horse, 25-15, 25-6
Lakota Tech def. Lower Brule, 25-13, 25-10
Lakota Tech def. Marty, 25-9, 25-12
Lakota Tech def. Todd County, 26-24, 25-19
Lower Brule def. Crazy Horse, 25-17, 25-18
Lower Brule def. Marty, 25-18, 20-25, 25-19
Todd County def. Crazy Horse, 25-6, 27-25
Todd County def. Marty, 25-12, 25-18
White River def. Crazy Horse, 25-11, 25-11
White River def. Lower Brule, 25-10, 25-10
White River def. Marty, 25-13, 25-11
White River def. Todd County, 25-23, 18-25, 25-15
Twin City Invitational=
Gold Pool=
Rapid City Stevens def. Alliance, Neb., 25-16, 25-23
Rapid City Stevens def. Grand Island Northwest, Neb., 25-12, 25-16
Rapid City Stevens def. Sidney, Neb., 26-24, 25-11
Monument Pool=
Kearney, Neb. def. Rapid City Christian, 25-20, 25-19
Rapid City Christian def. Mitchell, Neb., 25-15, 25-15

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

Government funding vote fails again in Senate as hopes fade for quick end to shutdown

By STEPHEN GROVES, MARY CLARE JALONICK and MATT BROWN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hopes for a quick end to the government shutdown faded Friday as Democrats refused to budge in a Senate vote and President Donald Trump readied plans to unleash layoffs and cuts across the federal government.

On the third day of the shutdown, another Senate vote to advance a Republican bill that would reopen the government failed on a 54-44 tally — well short of the 60 needed to end a filibuster and pass the legislation. Meanwhile, House Speaker Mike Johnson announced that the chamber would close for legislative business next week, a move meant to force the Senate to work with the government funding bill that has been passed by House Republicans.

Following the failed vote, senators quickly headed for the exits of the Capitol, expecting no more votes over the weekend and showing few signs of any real progress towards ending the congressional standoff.

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Instead, both sides dug in for a prolonged shutdown fight that thrusts federal workers into more uncertainty, threatens to ripple into the broader economy and gives the Trump administration an opportunity to reshape the federal government.

"I don't know how many times you're going to give them a chance to vote no," Senate Majority Leader John Thune said at a news conference Friday. After the vote, he said he was flying home to South Dakota for the weekend, adding, "I'll be available."

The vote showed hardening lines in the Senate. The same three members of the Democratic Caucus — Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto, John Fetterman and Angus King — who voted for the funding bill previously did so again, and Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky was once again the only Republican opposed.

"They thought they could bludgeon us and threaten us and scare us. It ain't working," said Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer.

Democrats are demanding that Congress extend healthcare benefits, while Republicans are refusing to commit to anything until the government is reopened. They are trying to wear Democrats down to vote for a House-passed bill that would reopen the government temporarily, mostly at current spending levels.

Although Republicans control the White House and both chambers of Congress, the Senate's filibuster rules make it necessary for the government funding legislation to gain support from at least 60 of the 100 senators. That's given Democrats a rare opportunity to use their 47 Senate seats to hold out in exchange for policy concessions. The party has chosen to rally on the issue of health care, believing it could be key to their path back to power in Washington.

Their primary demand is that Congress extend tax credits that were boosted during the COVID-19 pandemic for health care plans offered under marketplaces set up under the Affordable Care Act, former President Barack Obama's signature health care law.

"Everyone is about to experience dramatically increased premiums, co-pays and deductibles because of the Republican health care crisis. Everyone," warned House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries during a news conference Friday.

The shutdown gamble

Democrats are running the high-risk strategy of effectively voting for a government shutdown to make their stand. Trump has vowed to make it as painful as possible for them.

The Republican president has called the government funding lapse an "unprecedented opportunity" to make vast cuts to federal agencies and potentially lay off federal workers, rather than the typical practice of furloughing them. Trump shared a social media video Thursday night that depicted White House budget director Russ Vought as a grim reaper.

Vought has already announced that he is withholding billions of dollars for infrastructure projects in states with Democratic senators, and on Friday morning, he said he would withhold another \$2.1 billion for Chicago infrastructure projects to extend its train system to the city's South Side.

Democratic leaders have displayed no signs of budging under those threats.

"The cruelty that they might unleash on everyday Americans using the pretense of a shutdown is only going to backfire against them," Jeffries said during an interview with The Associated Press and other outlets at the Capitol Thursday evening.

Still, the shutdown, no matter how long it lasts, could have far-reaching effects on the economy. Roughly 750,000 federal employees could be furloughed, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, and they could lose out on \$400 million in daily wages. That loss in wages until after the government reopens could drive down wider demand for goods and services.

"All around the country right now, real pain is being endured by real people because the Democrats have decided to play politics," said House Speaker Mike Johnson on Friday.

The White House also began its press briefing on Friday by rattling off the various consequences of the shutdown that were already hitting Americans. Press secretary Karoline Leavitt discussed a report that said military families are already seeking food aid as troops go without a paycheck.

"This madness must end," she said.

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Talks in the Senate

A bipartisan group of senators, including moderate Democrats who have said they want to find a quick resolution, has been discussing possible health care compromises through one-on-one talks over the last two days. One option floated by South Dakota Sen. Mike Rounds, a Republican, would extend the higher subsidies for one year and then phase them out to pre-pandemic levels.

Thune acknowledged those conversations on Friday, telling reporters, "Honestly, I think the more productive conversations are happening outside of the leader's office at the moment."

Thune and Schumer later spoke briefly on the Senate floor. The Republican leader expressed some openness to talks on the ACA subsidies, but insisted "we can't get to that conversation until we get the government back into place."

A number of Republicans have voiced support for extending the subsidies. Their expiration would cause significant increases in health care premiums for plenty of people in states with GOP senators — especially in rural areas where farmers, ranchers and small business owners purchase their own health insurance.

Still, it was unclear if they would be able to find a solution that could appease the White House and Republican leaders, who want to see cuts to the subsidies. Thune also said he wasn't sure if a compromise would have the votes to pass.

Johnson, a Louisiana Republican, said Friday that "more reforms are coming" to the ACA subsidies and argued that they "are not working."

Schumer also said that he's supportive of the informal talks, but "unfortunately, last night," Democrats returned from the discussions and said Republicans didn't offer them anything.

"You need Trump to get it done," he said.

The WNBA Finals begin on Friday. Here are some things to know

By DOUG FEINBERG AP Basketball Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — They'll be on opposing teams when the WNBA Finals begin on Friday but coaches Becky Hammon of the Las Vegas Aces and Nate Tibbetts of the Phoenix Mercury have one thing in common: childhoods in South Dakota.

"We're a very small state, so one thing I think people sleep on is the basketball in South Dakota," Hammon said. "Mike Miller is another South Dakota guy. Eric Piatkowski. ... Mark Ellis played Major League Baseball. We were in the same graduating class. That's crazy to have two professional athletes in a school that size in a state that size. So that's what we do. We do outdoors and sports."

Hammon played against a team coached by Tibbetts' father, Fred, when she was in high school. Fred Tibbetts was one of the most successful high school coaches in the state's history, winning 111 games in a row at one point.

Although they are the same age, the two didn't really know each other until both got jobs in the NBA as assistant coaches. Hammon was with the Spurs, and Tibbetts with the Cavaliers, Trail Blazers and Magic.

In the COVID year that was played in a bubble in Florida, the South Dakota pair got friendly as their teams were staying in the same hotel. They frequently had pickleball games.

"When I came to this league, we shared an agent and so I reached out to her, and she's been absolutely awesome ever since I took the job," Tibbetts said. "South Dakota is one of those places. There's not a lot of us, right? I've never met anyone from South Dakota who didn't like her. To me, South Dakota is a special place in that people support each other."

Here are some other things to know heading into the Finals.

History at stake

The Aces have a chance to win a third title in four years, which would make them the second team to accomplish that feat. The Houston Comets won the league's first four championships from 1997-2000.

Hammon isn't focused on that just yet, though did think they had one thing in common.

"First-ballot Hall of Famers. That's where we have something in common, you know, just elite dominance," she said.

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A'ja Wilson is the league's first four-time MVP and Chelsea Gray is also on her way to a potential Hall of Fame career. The Comets had Cynthia Cooper, Sheryl Swoopes and Tina Thompson, who were all inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Finals rematch for Thomas and Wilson

Alyssa Thomas and DeWanna Bonner have faced the Aces before in the WNBA Finals when they were members of the Connecticut Sun. Las Vegas needed four games to win that best-of-five series in 2022.

"It's always fun competing against (Thomas)," Wilson said. "It helps me elevate myself, whether it's defensive schemes, (managing) personnel, or just taking everything to another level every game. We're going to play our best basketball."

Thomas had to guard Wilson a bit in that series a few years ago. She has respect for the MVP.

"She's doing a lot of things that a lot of players could never do. Her résumé speaks for itself. I think when you have players like that, it constantly makes you want to evolve and make your game better," Thomas said. "It elevates my game in a way. Each and every year, I try to come back and bring more."

Expanded playoff format

This will be the first time that the WNBA has a best-of-seven championship round. Most players didn't seem to care much about the potential of adding two more games to an already long season. They were most happy that Phoenix and Las Vegas were short flights from each other. The Mercury played New York in the opening round and with that series going the all three games, Phoenix made two cross-country flights in a short span.

"It's great that these two teams are so close," Mercury guard Kahleah Copper said. "Cuts down on a lot of travel for us."

A key moment for the WNBA

As the championship series kicks off, much of the drama has been off the court. Minnesota Lynx star Napheesa Collier issued a blistering assessment that the league has "the worst leadership in the world" with a commissioner who lacks accountability.

Other players, including Wilson, Caitlin Clark and Sophie Cunningham, have backed Collier's critique of Commissioner Cathy Engelbert. The mounting tensions come at a critical time as the league and players face an Oct. 31 deadline to reach a new collective bargaining agreement.

Israel's army says it will advance preparations for the first phase of Trump's plan

By SAM MEDNICK and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israel's army said Saturday that it would advance preparations for the first phase of U.S. President Donald Trump's plan to end the war in Gaza and return all the remaining hostages.

The army said it was instructed by Israel's leaders to "advance readiness" for the implementation of the plan. An official who was not authorized to speak to the media on the record said that Israel has moved to a defensive-only position in Gaza and will not actively strike. The official said no forces have been removed from the strip.

This announcement came hours after Trump ordered Israel to stop bombing Gaza once Hamas said it had accepted some elements of his plan. Trump welcomed the Hamas statement, saying: "I believe they are ready for a lasting PEACE."

Trump appears keen to deliver on pledges to end the war and return dozens of hostages ahead of the second anniversary of the attack on Tuesday. His proposal unveiled earlier this week has widespread international support and was also endorsed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

On Friday, Netanyahu's office said Israel was committed to ending the war that began when Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, without addressing potential gaps with the militant group. Netanyahu has come under increasing pressure from the international community and Trump to end the conflict. The official told the AP that Netanyahu put out the rare late-night statement on the sabbath saying that Israel

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has started to prepare for Trump's plan due to pressure from the U.S. administration.

The official also said that a negotiating team was getting ready to travel, but there was no date specified.

A senior Egyptian official says talks are underway for the release of hostages, as well as hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli detention. The official, who is involved in the ceasefire negotiations, also said Arab mediators are preparing for a comprehensive dialogue among Palestinians. The talks are aimed at unifying the Palestinian position toward Gaza's future.

On Saturday, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the second most powerful militant group in Gaza, said it accepted Hamas' response to the Trump plan. The group had previously rejected the proposal days earlier.

Also on Saturday, Gaza's Health Ministry said that the death toll in the nearly two-year Israel-Hamas war has topped 67,000 Palestinians. The death toll jumped after the ministry said it added more than 700 names to the list whose data had been verified.

Gaza's Health Ministry does not say how many were civilians or combatants. It says women and children make up around half the dead. The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government, and the U.N. and many independent experts consider its figures to be the most reliable estimate of wartime casualties.

Progress, but uncertainty ahead

Yet, despite the momentum, a lot of questions remain.

Under the plan, Hamas would release the remaining 48 hostages — around 20 of them believed to be alive — within three days. It would also give up power and disarm.

In return, Israel would halt its offensive and withdraw from much of the territory, release hundreds of Palestinian prisoners and allow an influx of humanitarian aid and eventual reconstruction.

Hamas said it was willing to release the hostages and hand over power to other Palestinians, but that other aspects of the plan require further consultations among Palestinians. Its official statement also didn't address the issue of Hamas demilitarizing, a key part of the deal.

Amir Avivi, a retired Israeli general and chairman of Israel's Defense and Security Forum, said while Israel can afford to stop firing for a few days in Gaza so the hostages can be released, it will resume its offensive if Hamas doesn't lay down its arms.

Others say that while Hamas suggests a willingness to negotiate, its position fundamentally remains unchanged.

This "yes, but" rhetoric "simply repackages old demands in softer language," said Oded Ailam, a researcher at the Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs. The gap between appearance and action is as wide as ever and the rhetorical shift serves more as a smoke screen than a signal of true movement toward resolution, he said.

Unclear what it means for Palestinians suffering in Gaza

The next steps are also unclear for Palestinians in Gaza who are trying to piece together what it means in real terms.

"What we want is practical implementation. ... We want a truce on the ground," said Samir Abdel-Hady, in Gaza's Khan Younis. He worried that talks will break down like they've done in the past.

Israeli troops are still laying siege to Gaza City, which is the focus of its latest offensive. On Saturday Israel's army warned Palestinians against trying to return to the city calling it a "dangerous combat zone".

Experts determined that Gaza City had slid into famine shortly before Israel launched its major offensive there aimed at occupying it. An estimated 400,000 people have fled the city in recent weeks, but hundreds of thousands more have stayed behind.

Families of the hostages are also cautious about being hopeful.

There are concerns from all sides, said Yehuda Cohen, whose son Nimrod is held in Gaza. Hamas and Netanyahu could sabotage the deal or Trump could lose interest, he said. Still, he says, if it's going to happen it will be because of Trump.

"We're putting our trust in Trump, because he's the only one who's doing it. ... And we want to see him with us until the last step," he said.

Japan's ruling party elects Sanae Takaichi as new leader, likely to become first female PM

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's governing party on Saturday elected former Economic Security Minister Sanae Takaichi, a hard-line ultra-conservative and China hawk, as its new leader, making her likely to become the country's first female prime minister.

In a country that ranks poorly internationally for gender equality, the 64-year-old Takaichi makes history as the first female leader of Japan's long-governing conservative Liberal Democratic Party. Takaichi is one of the most conservative members of the male-dominated party.

An admirer of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Takaichi is a protege of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ultra-conservative vision and a regular at the Yasukuni Shrine, seen as a symbol of Japan's wartime militarism, which could complicate Tokyo's relations with its Asian neighbors.

Takaichi beat Agriculture Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, the son of popular former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, in a runoff in a vote by the LDP on Saturday.

Takaichi replaces Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba as the party hopes to regain public support and stay in power after major election losses.

She is likely to be Japan's next prime minister because the party remains by far the largest in the lower house, which determines the national leader, and because opposition groups are highly splintered.

Takaichi vows to strengthen Japan-US alliance

Takaichi later said she will immediately work on stemming rising prices, while also focusing on diplomatic and security challenges.

A parliamentary vote is expected in mid-October. The LDP, which has been criticized by opposition leaders for creating a prolonged political vacuum, said Takaichi needs to hurry because the winner will soon face a diplomatic test: a possible summit with U.S. President Donald Trump, who could demand that Japan increase its defense spending.

A meeting is reportedly being planned for late October. Trump will travel to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in South Korea starting Oct. 31.

Takaichi said ensuring the Japan-U.S. alliance is her top diplomatic priority.

"It is essential to ... confirm the reinforcement of the Japan-U.S. alliance," she said. Takaichi stressed the importance of their cooperation through three-way frameworks that also include regional partners such as South Korea, Australia and the Philippines, pledging Japan's greater role in achieving a free and open Indo-Pacific.

She said she respects all tariffs and investment agreements struck between Tokyo and Washington under the Ishiba government.

Takaichi faces major domestic challenges

The LDP, whose consecutive losses in parliamentary elections in the past year have left it in the minority in both houses, needs its new leader to quickly bring back voter confidence and stability and to address challenges in and outside Japan. Takaichi will also need cooperation from key opposition groups to implement her party's policies.

Ishiba, who achieved a 15% tariff deal with Washington and put Japan's ties with South Korea and other Asian countries on track during his one-year stint, said "I hope the LDP will band together under new (party) president Takaichi to serve for the country and the people, as well as the world and for the new era."

Ishiba, a centrist known as archrival of Abe, was virtually forced into resigning by ultra-conservative wings in the party.

There were five candidates for the job

Five candidates — two currently serving and three former ministers — vied for the LDP presidency.

Saturday's vote only involved 295 LDP parliamentarians and about 1 million dues-paying members. It only reflected 1% of the Japanese public.

The LDP's choice of Takaichi, instead of the more centrist-to-liberal Koizumi, apparently underscores the

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party's hope to win back conservative voters who supported emerging far-right groups such as Sanseito in the July parliamentary election.

But the LDP also needs help from the opposition, which it has long neglected. The party will likely look to expand its current coalition with the moderate centrist Komeito with at least one of the key opposition parties, which are more centrist.

Takaichi shied away from her conservative and anti-China views during campaigning

Takaichi like other candidates called herself a "moderate conservative" during the run-up to the election to show their willingness to work with the opposition and stayed away from stressing her opposition to liberal social issues or anti-China policies.

Takaichi on Saturday said the Yasukuni issue should not be a diplomatic issue and that she will think about how she can "pay respect to the war dead and pray for peace."

She supports bigger fiscal spending for growth, a stronger military and cybersecurity, as well as tougher regulations on increasing foreign tourists and laborers. She was criticized for citing unconfirmed reports to slam foreigners for kicking deer in Nara, her hometown, and saying many foreign law offenders escaped indictments due to a shortage of translators.

Experts say candidates avoided discussing their usual political views on historical issues, same-sex marriage and other contentious topics, including the party's political funds scandal, which was the biggest reason for their election losses, and anti-corruption measures. Their avoidance of these subjects raised doubts over the party's ability to regain public trust, analysts said.

Police question 6 suspects over deadly Manchester synagogue attack

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Police on Saturday were questioning six people arrested on suspicion of terror offenses after an attack on a synagogue in northwest England that left two men dead and Britain's Jewish community shocked and grieving.

Jihad Al-Shamie, 35, was shot dead by police on Thursday outside the Heaton Park Congregation Synagogue in Manchester after he rammed a car into pedestrians, attacked them with a knife and tried to force his way into the building.

Congregation members Melvin Cravitz, 66, and Adrian Daulby, 53, died in the attack on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish year. Police say Daulby was accidentally shot by an armed officer as he and other congregants barricaded the synagogue to block Al-Shamie from entering. Three other men are hospitalized with serious injuries.

Detectives say Al-Shamie, a British citizen of Syrian origin who lived in Manchester, may have been influenced by "extreme Islamist ideology." He wore what appeared to be an explosives belt, which was found to be fake.

Police said Al-Shamie was on bail over an alleged rape at the time of the attack but had not been charged.

Three men and three women, aged between 18 and their 60s, were arrested in the greater Manchester area on suspicion of the "commission, preparation and instigation of acts of terrorism," as police work to determine whether the attacker acted alone.

The attack has devastated Britain's Jewish community and intensified debate about the line between criticism of Israel and antisemitism.

Recorded antisemitic incidents in the U.K. have risen sharply since Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel and Israel's ensuing war against Hamas in Gaza, according to Community Security Trust, a charity that provides advice and protection for British Jews.

Some politicians and religious leaders claimed pro-Palestinian demonstrations, which have been held regularly since the war in Gaza began, had played a role in spreading hatred of Jews. The protests have been overwhelmingly peaceful but some say chants such as "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" incite anti-Jewish hatred.

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Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his supporters have frequently accused critics of Israel or its conduct of the war of antisemitism. Critics see it as an attempt to stifle even legitimate criticism.

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, the head of Orthodox Judaism in Britain, said the attack was the result of "an unrelenting wave of Jew hatred" on the streets and online.

Some also say the U.K.'s recognition of a Palestinian state last month has emboldened antisemitism — a claim the government rejects. Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy was interrupted by boos and shouts of "Shame on you" on Friday as he addressed a vigil for victims of the attack in Manchester.

Police in London urged organizers to call off a protest planned for Saturday to oppose the banning of the group Palestine Action, which has been labeled a terrorist organization by the government.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer said protest organizers should "recognize and respect the grief of British Jews this week" and postpone the demonstration.

The group Defend Our Juries said it would not cancel the protest, where hundreds of people are expected to risk arrest by holding signs supporting the banned group.

Member Jonathon Porritt said protesters would "demonstrate huge respect and real grief for those affected by the absolute atrocity at Heaton Park.

"But I don't think that means that we should be asked to give up on our right to stand up for those who are being devastated by an ongoing, real-time genocide in Gaza," he told the BBC.

Many Syrians are unaware of the first parliamentary election since Assad's fall

By ABBY SEWELL Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — The streets of Damascus barely showed sign Saturday a parliamentary election was set to take place the next day.

There were no candidate posters on the main streets and squares, no rallies, or public debates. In the days leading up to the polling, some residents of the Syrian capital had no idea a vote was hours away, the first since Islamic insurgents ousted former President Bashar Assad in a lightning offensive in December.

"I didn't know — now by chance I found out that there are elections of the People's Assembly," said Elias al-Qudsi, a shopkeeper in Damascus' old city, after being asked for his views about the upcoming election. "But I don't know if we are supposed to vote or who is voting."

His neighborhood, known as the Jewish Quarter, although nearly all of its former Jewish residents have left, is one of the few that has a smattering of campaign fliers posted on walls in its narrow streets.

The posters announce the candidacy of Henry Hamra, a Jewish former resident of the neighborhood who emigrated to the United States with his family when he was a teenager and returned to visit Damascus for the first time after Assad's fall. Hamra's campaign announcement made a splash on social media but failed to make an impression on al-Qudsi.

'Not perfect' but 'realistic'

Under Assad's autocratic rule, al-Qudsi said he never voted. The outcome was a given: Assad would be president and his Ba'ath party would dominate the parliament.

The shopkeeper won't vote on Sunday either, but for a different reason — there will be no popular vote. Instead, two-thirds of the People's Assembly seats will be voted on by electoral colleges in each district, while one-third of the seats will be directly appointed by interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa.

"The usual process is, of course, parliamentary elections through the direct vote of citizens, but this ideal is almost impossible now for several reasons," Nawar Nejme, spokesperson for the committee overseeing the elections, told The Associated Press. Chief among them is the fact that large numbers of Syrians were displaced or lost their personal documentation during the country's civil war, he said.

The interim authorities dissolved the former parliament and political parties after Assad's fall. To end the "legislative vacuum," Nejme said, the government settled on the current process.

"It is not perfect, but it is the most realistic at the current stage," he said.

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Concerns about credibility

Some Syrian activists who opposed Assad have lambasted the new authorities and the political transition process.

Among them is Mutasem Syoufi, executive director of The Day After, an organization working to support a democratic transition in Syria that trained electoral college members in three provinces, at the government's request, on the provisional elections law and their role in the process.

Syoufi said the elections commission turned down his organization's proposal to provide independent observers on polling day. Nejme, the election committee spokesperson, said lawyers from the Syrian bar association will monitor the vote instead.

The process has also suffered other issues, Syoufi said, including a compressed timeline that gave only a few days for candidates to present their platforms and unexplained last-minute changes in the rosters of electoral college members.

Nejme said that in some cases, electors had been "dropped because they have been challenged as a result of their support for the former regime" or because they did not complete the required documentation. But in other cases, "there are people whose names were removed despite their patriotic affiliation and competence" to include more women and religious minorities.

Earlier this year, a national dialogue conference to help Syrians chart their political future was heavily criticized as hastily convened and not truly inclusive. In addition, outbreaks of sectarian violence have left religious minorities increasingly skeptical of the new leadership.

"Are we going through a credible transition, an inclusive transition that represents all of Syria?" Syoufi said. "I think we're not there, and I think we have to take serious and brave steps to correct all the mistakes that we've committed over the last nine months" since Assad's fall.

Waiting for the final result

Many Syrians are taking a wait-and-see attitude toward the election process — if they are following it at all.

Al Qudsi said he is not much bothered about not having a vote this time.

"We have no problem with how (the parliament members) are elected," he said. "What is important is that they work for the people and the country."

On the next street over, his neighbor, Shadi Shams, said he had heard there was an election but was fuzzy on the details. Like many Syrians, the father of six is more preoccupied with day-to-day concerns like the country's moribund economy, lengthy daily electricity cuts, and struggling education system.

In Assad's day, he would vote, but it felt performative.

"Everyone knew that whoever was sitting in the People's Assembly didn't really have a say about anything," Shams said.

As for the new system, he said: "We can't judge until after the elections, when we see the results and the final shape of things."

Couples should never go to bed angry, right? It might be time to rethink that

By ALBERT STUMM Associated Press

It's late at night, and you have been stewing all day about something your partner did to annoy you. The time to resolve it is now because, as everyone knows, you should never go to bed angry, right?

Though it's conventional wisdom, many relationship experts say sticking to such a rule is counterproductive. It may even harm the relationship.

"It's completely wrong," said Samantha Whiten, a clinical psychologist in Maryland. "All it does is make sure that people are fighting when they're tired."

Instead, couples can learn habits that help them get rest while boosting the relationship long term.

No one wants to go to bed angry

It's understandable to want to discuss a problem before letting it fester, Whiten said, but it's unrealistic to expect conflicts to be wrapped up quickly and lovingly before drifting off to sleep.

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"That sounds nice," she said. "That's like a fairy tale, though."

Some sources attribute the origin of the phrase to the New Testament book of Ephesians. Translations vary, but it's some version of: "Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun set on your anger."

The trouble is, couples shouldn't fight when they are "emotionally dysregulated," Whiten said. She referred to the acronym HALT, a common reminder in therapy that people should avoid serious discussions when hungry, angry, lonely or tired. Many people also drink alcohol at night, which doesn't help create a calm environment.

"They are more likely to say and do things impulsively that they may regret," she said.

What should you do instead?

Discussing problems at night might seem easiest because it's when your partner is most available, said Sabrina Romanoff, a clinical psychologist in New York City.

But it's better to acknowledge that something needs to be discussed, take a pause, and set a time to come back to it, she said. That could mean having lunch or coffee together the next day, or any time you're not rushing out the door.

The key is to follow through.

"It speaks to a skill, to trust that your partner is really going to return to this thing that's really important to you," Romanoff said, adding that most couples have to practice that.

It's also about understanding your partner and being empathetic to what each of you needs. When one partner needs space, it's incumbent on the other person not to interpret that space as rejection, Romanoff said.

What's the difference between a pause and avoiding?

Whiten said many couples in her practice have at least one person who feels they won't be able to sleep until they resolve a fight. That's often a sign of anxiety and a discomfort with uncertainty.

"People need to individually learn how they can regulate themselves and tell themselves it's OK," she said. "The idea of being able to self-soothe is really key."

The reverse — avoidance — is no better. Many people might need space to process an argument, but they're obliged to come back later to their partner to address the topic.

The goal is that both people feel secure enough to acknowledge the disagreement, remember their relationship is more important than one argument, and agree to talk about it later, Whiten said. "When people can learn to do that, it's really transformative."

Stop arguments before they start

Romanoff suggested that couples establish regular check-ins. They don't have to talk about the worst problems in their lives at a given point, but they should make a habit of small gestures of communication.

Even regularly asking how your partner's day went creates a kind of scaffolding of emotional safety, she said. It creates the space to address problems.

When there is an issue, use "I" statements, be clear about what you need, and try to create a plan for how the other person can deliver, she said. A request posed at an appropriate time will often be better received.

"Timing is everything when it comes to communication," she said.

The GOP says it's winning the shutdown. Some fear Trump's cuts may change that

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has embraced the federal shutdown as an "unprecedented opportunity" to slash spending and shrink government, but new rounds of targeted spending cuts from the White House aimed at Democratic states and priorities are raising concerns among Republicans that they may be at risk of ceding their political advantage.

Republicans in Congress believe they hold the upper hand in four-day-old stalemate, as Democrats voted

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against measures to keep the government open because they want to attach additional policy measures. But the sweeping cuts to home-state projects — and the threat of mass federal firings — have some in the GOP worried the White House may be going too far and potentially give Democrats a way out of their tight spot.

"This is certainly the most moral high ground Republicans have had in a moment like this that I can recall, and I just don't like squandering that political capital when you have that kind of high ground," GOP Sen. Kevin Cramer of North Dakota told reporters this week.

As hopes faded Friday for a quick end to the shutdown — with Democrats holding firm in a key Senate vote — the White House signaled more layoffs and agency cuts could follow. Trump shared a video Thursday night portraying budget director Russ Vought as the grim reaper. The cuts are raising fresh questions about whether voters want a government that uses discretionary power to punish political opponents — and whether Republicans may face electoral consequences for the White House's actions.

"There's the political ramifications that could cause backlash," Cramer said in another interview. "It makes everything going forward more difficult for us."

Since the shutdown began, Trump has moved to cancel \$7.6 billion in clean energy grants across 16 states, all of which voted for Democrat Kamala Harris in last year's presidential election. On Friday, the administration announced an additional \$2 billion cut, this time to a major public transit project in Chicago. Press secretary Karoline Leavitt said the administration is also reviewing funding to Portland, Oregon.

"He's just literally took out the map and pointed to all the blue states," Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, a Democrat, told The Associated Press.

Democrats have seized on the shutdown and cuts as evidence of Trump's overreach. There could be near-term fallout, including in next month's governor's races in New Jersey and Virginia. Democratic candidates in both states have linked their GOP opponents to Trump's policies and criticized them for not standing up to his latest moves.

In New Jersey, Democratic Rep. Mikie Sherrill blasted Republican Jack Ciattarelli over Trump's move to block funding for a long-delayed rail tunnel between New York and New Jersey, saying it will hurt commuters and put thousands of good-paying union jobs at risk.

"What's wrong with this guy?" Sherrill said Friday.

In Virginia, Democrat Abigail Spanberger noted the state already has been hit hard by job cuts made by Trump's Department of Government Efficiency. She said Republican Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears is "refusing to stand up for our workforce and our economy."

Earle-Sears said Democrats are to blame for the shutdown, and said Spanberger did nothing to encourage the state's Democratic senators to stop it.

The administration's targeting of blue states has already begun to ripple through states like California, where \$1.2 billion in funding for the state's hydrogen hub was scrapped. Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom said it threatens more than 200,000 jobs.

Though Harris won California handily in 2024, the state includes several competitive House districts that could decide control of the chamber in 2026. Similar districts exist in other states affected by the cuts, including New York and New Hampshire, which also has key gubernatorial and Senate races.

Democratic groups have moved quickly to tie local Republicans to the fallout. American Bridge 21st Century, a Democratic group, has highlighted swing-district Republicans in states where cuts have occurred, accusing them of having "sat by and let it happen."

"The cruelty that they might unleash on everyday Americans using the pretense of a shutdown is only going to backfire against them," House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries said in an interview with The Associated Press and other outlets at the Capitol.

The cuts are also complicating Senate negotiations, prolonging a shutdown that could leave thousands of federal workers without pay and halt key programs. Sen. Gary Peters, a Michigan Democrat whom Republicans have tried to sway, said "there's no question" the cuts have damaged talks.

"If you're trying to get people to come together and try to find common ground, that's the absolute wrong way to do it," said Peters.

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Sen. Angus King, a Maine independent, broke from Democrats earlier this week to support the GOP funding bill. He called the cuts "so utterly partisan as to be almost laughable."

"If they overreach, which is entirely possible, I think they're going to be in trouble with Republicans as well," said King.

Many Senate Republicans have not endorsed Vought's approach directly, instead blaming Democrats for rejecting funding bills and opening the door to the White House's more aggressive moves.

"It's the reason why Republicans have continued to support a continuation," said GOP Sen. Mike Rounds of South Dakota. "If you've noticed, Republicans have solidly supported this short-term continuing resolution because we do not want to see this."

"It's not like we promoted it," said Rounds. "We've done everything we can right now to try to avoid it."

The Oval Office meeting didn't stop a shutdown, but the Trump 2028 hats and a sombrero set a tone

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Halfway through Donald Trump's inaugural White House meeting with congressional leadership days before a government shutdown, the red hats appeared on the president's desk.

"Trump 2028," they said, situated across from the seated lawmakers, Vice President JD Vance and several untouched Diet Cokes.

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries leaned over to Vance, himself a potential 2028 contender, and quipped, "Hey, bro, you got a problem with this?"

The room chuckled in response.

"It was the random-most thing in the world, because we're sitting there, we're having a serious conversation, and all of a sudden these two red hats appear," Jeffries recalled later at the Capitol.

"It was all so unserious," Jeffries said, describing a roving cameraman capturing the moment. "We were there for serious reasons that it wasn't really a big part of, you know, the discussion. It was theatrics."

The moment was vintage Trump — grabbing the attention and seeking to throw negotiators off their game — but it also underscored the president's regard for Congress, a coequal branch of the government, and in particular his opponents across the political aisle.

From historic first meeting to viral trolling

What was once considered a historic occasion — the president of the United States convening his first "big four" meeting of congressional leaders from the House and Senate — was reduced to another viral souvenir of Trump trolling his opponent.

And after the more than hourlong session, Trump failed to strike a deal with the leaders to prevent a federal government closure.

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

This wasn't just a routine meeting of the president and congressional leadership. It was the first time Trump had gathered the leaders of Congress, more than eight months into his presidency — and the first time he and Jeffries had officially met.

But more surprising was how little came from it.

Health care funds up for debate as president listens

During the White House meeting, Jeffries and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer laid out their arguments for saving health care funding as part of the shutdown talks.

Trump said very little, doing more listening than talking, the leaders said.

"He didn't seem to know about the health care premiums going up so much," Schumer said.

With the Republican leadership, House Speaker Mike Johnson and Senate Majority Leader John Thune, the conversation ranged across their views of the health care situation.

"Lively," as Thune said later.

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The discussion included the Democrats' demands to ensure subsidies to help people buy private insurance on the exchanges run by the Affordable Care Act are made permanent. The subsidies were put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic and are set to expire at year's end, spiking premiums as much as double, in some estimates.

The conversation also touched on the new rural hospital fund that is important to Republicans, set up under Trump's big bill as a way to compensate for its cuts to Medicaid health care providers.

Johnson said Trump showed "strong, solid leadership. He listened to the arguments."

Trying to catch the president's attention

This is the best the Democrats could have hoped for — to have an airing before the president that began to turn the dial toward their demands. And it is what the GOP leaders had tried to avoid as each party tries to blame the shutdown on the other.

Johnson had suggested Trump back out of an initial meeting with the Democrats — after the president had agreed to one — arguing it would be a "waste of time."

But Trump relented, and granted them Monday's closed-door Oval Office session.

The Democrats have been here before. During Trump's first term, the president repeatedly negotiated deals with the Democrats — "Chuck and Nancy," as he called Schumer and Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi — to fund the government, raise the debt limit and achieve other goals.

Those bargains Trump frustrated his own Republican Party.

Republicans, aware of that history, are trying to steer the conversation in a different direction, leaving the door open to discuss the health care issue with Democrats later — once the government has reopened. They also took issue with the characterization of Trump as unaware of the depth or magnitude of the health care situation.

"I'm highly skeptical the president was hearing about it for the first time," Vance said afterward.

One Republican unauthorized to publicly discuss the private meeting and granted anonymity to do so said Schumer's suggestion that Trump didn't know about the subsidy problem was overblown.

So far in his second term, the president has been able to accomplish his priorities either on his own, with executive actions and the Elon Musk-led cuts that tore through federal offices, or with a compliant Congress passing his signature tax breaks and spending cuts bill, commonly called the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, that is also fueling his mass deportation agenda.

But Washington doesn't run on the White House alone, and Congress is not a majority-takes-all institution. Turning most bills into laws requires the give-and-take of bipartisan compromise, particularly in the Senate, and particularly when it comes to the annual appropriations needed to keep government running.

Then came the sombrero taunts

Hours after the lawmakers left the meeting, Trump's team posted a fake video that showed Jeffries adorned in a sombrero with a faux moustache standing beside Schumer outside the White House. It was widely seen as racist.

"When I was practicing law, there was a Latin phrase that was always one of my favorites," Jeffries said back at his office at the Capitol. "Res ipsa loquitur. It means: The thing speaks for itself."

"We had a full airing of our positions on Monday, which should have set the baseline for a follow-up conversation from the administration to try to reignite a meaningful bipartisan path toward funding the government," he said.

"Unfortunately, the president's behavior subsequent to the White House meeting deteriorated into unhinged and unserious action."

In Tennessee, a US House primary special election draws a crowd

By JONATHAN MATTISE Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A Tennessee special election to replace a Republican congressman who stepped aside this summer has resulted in crowded primaries for both major parties, a new test for one of three districts that GOP lawmakers drew as safely red in 2022 by dividing left-leaning Nashville.

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The race to fill the seat vacated by former U.S. Rep. Mark Green could gauge the popularity of President Donald Trump's aggressive second-term agenda, especially with suburban Republican voters.

There had been 11 Republican candidates in the primary Tuesday, including state Reps. Jody Barrett, Gino Bulso and Lee Reeves, and a one-time appointee of Republican Gov. Bill Lee, Matt Van Epps, all of whom have pledged loyalty to Trump and disdain for anything perceived as liberal.

But Van Epps landed a late endorsement from Trump on Friday, prompting Reeves to announce he was suspending his campaign and backing Van Epps.

Four Democrats from Nashville, including state Reps. Vincent Dixie, Aftyn Behn and Bo Mitchell, and businessman Darden Copeland, have entered their party's primary and are hoping the massive spending and tax cut bill Trump signed earlier this year will prove unpopular enough to win the Dec. 2 general election.

The unusually large field may be a product of an off-year election, which allows state House members to run for Congress without forfeiting their seats or running simultaneous races.

A Republican tussle

The 7th Congressional District spans 14 counties, bordering both Kentucky and Alabama. Its voters elected Green by 21 percentage points in 2024 and by nearly 22 points in 2022. Along with parts of Nashville, it includes rural areas, wealthy suburbs and part of the military installation Fort Campbell.

On the GOP side, the attention is largely centered on Bulso, Barrett and Van Epps, who got the late boost from Trump the day after in-person early voting ended.

But other Republicans have significant campaign cash, too.

Bulso, an attorney from Brentwood, has often sponsored socially conservative legislation aimed at the LGBTQ community, such as a failed 2024 bill that would have largely banned displaying pride flags in public school classrooms.

Barrett is an attorney from Dickson whose website describes him as the "most conservative state rep. in Tennessee history." His vote against Gov. Lee's statewide school voucher expansion has drawn the ire of well-heeled school choice interest groups, who have spent heavily attacking him. He said he has fought "the left" and pushed back against the "elites in my own party." He has praised a school choice tax credit initiative touted by Trump.

Van Epps, until recently, was Lee's commissioner for general services, responsible for providing goods and services to state government. He has focused on his military experience, including as a Tennessee Army National Guard lieutenant colonel and an Army Special Operations helicopter pilot.

Van Epps has raised \$358,700 through mid-September and Barrett raised \$241,900. Bulso raised \$56,000 and loaned about \$494,000. Candidate cash is still coming in, including Bulso adding \$200,000 more of his money.

Mason Foley, a health care businessman and former staffer for Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell, has raised \$71,300 and loaned his campaign \$325,000. Stewart Parks, who was pardoned by Trump after entering the Capitol during the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection, raised \$35,500 and contributed roughly \$300,000 to his campaign through contributions and loans.

Outside groups have spent more than \$2.5 million, almost all on the GOP side, with about \$1 million opposing Barrett.

Also vying for the GOP nomination are Montgomery County Commissioner Jason Knight; Stuart Cooper, a Franklin businessman; Adolph Agbéko Dagan, a Clarksville businessman; former state legislative staffer Tres Wittum; and Joe Leurs, a retired Nashville Police undercover detective.

Van Epps has landed endorsements from Lee and former Rep. Green; Barrett, from the House Freedom Fund and country musician John Rich; and Bulso, former NASCAR driver Darrell Waltrip.

Democrats test their message

The four Democratic candidates are all taking swings at Trump's "Big, Beautiful Bill" on the campaign trail, in addition to his tariffs.

Behn is a social worker and community organizer who has focused on women's reproductive health rights, including as a plaintiff in a lawsuit against a Tennessee law banning adults from helping minors get an abortion without parental permission. A judge halted the provision's enforcement.

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Dixie, a businessman in the bail bond industry, has touted himself as the first Black leader of a legislative caucus in state history. He said in a campaign video from a garbage truck that "Washington has been piling up garbage for working families."

Mitchell, who works in employee benefits, has focused on access to health care and his roots in Dickson County, a rural part of the district.

Copeland founded the public affairs firm named Calvert Street Group and has worked as a consultant on Democratic campaigns. He has seized on being in the private sector amidst a field of elected officials.

Copeland led the mid-September fundraising race, with \$334,900 raised and a \$100,000 loan. Mitchell raised \$202,800, Behn brought in \$149,000 and Dixie totaled \$138,200.

Trump orders Israel to stop bombing Gaza after Hamas partially accepts his peace plan

By WAFAA SHURAFU, BASSEM MROUE and JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday ordered Israel to stop bombing the Gaza Strip after Hamas said it had accepted some elements of his plan to end the nearly two-year war and return all the remaining hostages taken in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack.

Hamas said it was willing to release the hostages and hand over power to other Palestinians, but that other aspects of the plan require further consultations among Palestinians. Senior Hamas officials suggested there were still major disagreements that required further negotiations.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel was prepared for the implementation of the "first stage" of Trump's plan, apparently referring to the release of hostages. But his office said in a statement that Israel was committed to ending the war based on principles it has set out before, without addressing potential gaps with Hamas.

Trump welcomed the Hamas statement, saying: "I believe they are ready for a lasting PEACE."

"Israel must immediately stop the bombing of Gaza, so that we can get the Hostages out safely and quickly! Right now, it's far too dangerous to do that. We are already in discussions on details to be worked out," he wrote on social media.

Hamas said aspects of the proposal touching on the future of the Gaza Strip and Palestinian rights should be decided on the basis of a "unanimous Palestinian stance" reached with other factions and based on international law.

The statement also made no mention of Hamas disarming, a key Israeli demand included in Trump's proposal.

Latest ceasefire effort is widely welcomed

Trump appears keen to deliver on pledges to end the war and return dozens of hostages ahead of the second anniversary of the attack on Tuesday.

Key mediators Egypt and Qatar welcomed the latest developments, and Majed Al Ansari, a spokesman for Qatar's Foreign Ministry, said they would "continue discussions on the plan."

A spokesman for U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres said he "urges all parties to seize the opportunity to bring the tragic conflict in Gaza to an end." French President Emmanuel Macron wrote on social media that "the release of all hostages and a ceasefire in Gaza are within reach!"

The main organization representing the families of Israeli hostages said Trump's demand to halt the fighting "is essential to prevent serious and irreversible harm to the hostages." It called on Netanyahu "to immediately begin efficient and swift negotiations to bring all our hostages home."

Trump's plan would end the fighting and return hostages

Earlier, Trump had warned that Hamas must agree to the deal by Sunday evening, threatening an even greater military onslaught.

"If this LAST CHANCE agreement is not reached, all HELL, like no one has ever seen before, will break out against Hamas," Trump wrote Friday on social media. "THERE WILL BE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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ONE WAY OR THE OTHER."

Under the plan, which Trump unveiled earlier this week alongside Netanyahu, Hamas would release the remaining 48 hostages — around 20 of them believed to be alive — within three days. It would also give up power and disarm.

In return, Israel would halt its offensive and withdraw from much of the territory, release hundreds of Palestinian prisoners and allow an influx of humanitarian aid and eventual reconstruction. Plans to relocate much of Gaza's population to other countries would be shelved.

The territory of some 2 million Palestinians would be placed under international governance, with Trump himself and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair overseeing it. The plan provides no path for eventual reunification with the Israeli-occupied West Bank in a future Palestinian state.

Palestinians long for an end to the war, but many view this and previous U.S. proposals as strongly favoring Israel.

Hamas officials air objections in TV interviews

Trump's proposal "cannot be implemented without negotiations," Mousa Abu Marzouk, a senior Hamas official based outside of Gaza, told the Al Jazeera network on Friday.

The Hamas statement said it was willing to return all remaining hostages according to the plan's "formula," apparently referring to an exchange for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners. It also reiterated its longstanding openness to handing power over to a politically independent Palestinian body.

But Abu Marzouk said it might be difficult for Hamas to release all the hostages within 72 hours, because it could take days or weeks to locate the remains of some of the captives.

He said Hamas was willing to hand over its weapons to a future Palestinian body that runs Gaza, but there was no mention of that in the official statement.

Another Hamas official, Osama Hamdan, told Al Arabiya television that Hamas would refuse foreign administration of the Gaza Strip and that the entry of foreign forces would be "unacceptable."

US and Israel seek to pressure Hamas

Israel has sought to ramp up pressure on Hamas since ending an earlier ceasefire in March. It sealed the territory off from food, medicine and other goods for 2 1/2 months and has seized, flattened and largely depopulated large areas.

Experts determined that Gaza City had slid into famine shortly before Israel launched a major offensive aimed at occupying it. An estimated 400,000 people have fled the city in recent weeks, but hundreds of thousands more have stayed behind.

Olga Cherevko, a spokesperson for the U.N. humanitarian office, said she saw several displaced families staying in the parking lot of Shifa Hospital during a visit on Thursday.

"They are not able to move south because they just cannot afford it," Cherevko told The Associated Press. "One of the families had three children and the woman was pregnant with her fourth. And there were many other vulnerable cases there, including elderly people and people with disabilities."

Most of Hamas' top leaders in Gaza and thousands of its fighters have already been killed, but it still has influence in areas not controlled by the Israeli military and launches sporadic attacks.

Hamas has long insisted it will only release the remaining hostages — its sole bargaining chip and potential human shields — in exchange for a lasting ceasefire and an Israeli withdrawal. Netanyahu has rejected those terms, saying Hamas must surrender and disarm.

Second anniversary approaches

Thousands of Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, attacking army bases, farming communities and an outdoor music festival, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians. They abducted 251 others, most of them since released in ceasefires or other deals.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed more than 66,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many were civilians or combatants. It says women and children make up around half the dead.

The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government, and the U.N. and many independent experts consider

its figures to be the most reliable estimate of wartime casualties.

The offensive has displaced around 90% of Gaza's population, often multiple times, and left much of the territory uninhabitable.

Both the Biden and Trump administrations have tried to end the fighting and bring back the hostages while providing extensive military and diplomatic support to Israel.

From tequila cocktails to themed pop-ups, Taylor Swift fans celebrate 'The Life of a Showgirl'

By The Associated Press undefined

From Mexico City to Manila, the United Kingdom to the United States, Taylor Swift fans hooted, sobbed happy tears and danced their way through the pop star's latest album release, "The Life of a Showgirl."

Swift's 12th studio offering dropped Friday, and her Swifties were more than ready for it. Many were dripping in the color orange to usher in her latest era at gatherings around the world. Some closed their eyes to take in the fresh dozen tracks amid the chaotic crowds around them.

José María Bastida, a writer, rocked an orange sequin tuxedo jacket at a watch party in a Mexico City restaurant serving Swift-themed cocktails, including a tequila heavy "Ophelia's Juice" and a liquored up "Showgirl Slushy."

"I feel like it's super experimental," he said of the album, "because it's supposed to bring a lot of new stuff and we haven't seen that more sexy side of Taylor Swift."

Fans snatch up "Showgirl" in all its variants

In Los Angeles, the fervent lined up at midnight at a Target to snap up the new music on vinyl and CD. Maria-Elena Garcia rented a hotel room and drove in from Santa Barbara. "I like a lot of her values and like we have a lot similar values. For example, cats," she said.

In theaters, Swift is schooling AMC on how to treat her fans. The theater chain has granted special permission for moviegoers to sing and dance their way through screenings of "The Official Release Party of a Showgirl," in select theaters for the weekend only. The film is screening around the world. Added bonus: No trailers beforehand.

Fiona Cela, 11, in London woke up at 4:30 a.m. to listen to the album. She then headed out with her mother to the studios of Global's Capital radio, hoping for a glimpse of Swift as she gave an interview there. On her agenda after that: school.

"Taylor as a person is just super kind and loving," she said, her wrists stacked with Swift-themed friendship bracelets. "Her music is so inspiring."

Swifties celebrate at a special pub

At the Black Dog pub in London, thought to be the location for Swift's song "Black Dog" from her last album, vacationing American Natalie Richmond, 43, showed up to mark the occasion. Her two Swiftie daughters woke her up extra early to listen to the album.

"We actually lived in Nashville early on so we've been following her ever since she began," Richmond said. "She's relatable. She's the person that everybody wants to be friends with. We all listen to her music and think I'd love to go out and hang out with her."

Longtime Swiftie Helen Brabant-Bleakley showed up at the Black Dog to mark her 30th birthday, wearing a teal sash with gold lettering that read: "The Life of a Birthday Girl."

"My good friend Taylor Swift gave me the best present ever by dropping a new album," she said, noting she's already picked a couple of favorite cuts from the album: "Father Figure" and "Elizabeth Taylor."

Drag queens lip-sync Swift as hundreds cheer

A Manila mall went full Swift with a drag show, games, raffles and performers. Hundreds of screaming fans dressed in showgirl gear braved rain to celebrate at an outdoor amphitheater.

Among them was Cyril Aviguetero, 18. With a red showgirl head piece complementing his outfit, he was most excited about Track 7, "Actually Romantic." Asked why, he mused: "I'm not sure, but I'm also trying to find what's actually romantic in my life," he said.

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Other Swift events were held around the Philippines.

Kansas City's Union Station was lit up in orange and teal in celebration. Musician Chloe Rose entertained Swift fans with four hours of covers at a spot there ahead of the release as the crowd made friendship bracelets and sipped on themed cocktails.

Number balloons for "12" floated around as Rose sang and played guitar and keyboards. Fan Tara Pickarell showed up but chose solitude to later take in the new work. "I have to be in my own space to listen to it. I need my own little bubble."

Pickarell is happy the album is pop heavy.

"I do like her slower songs, but I'm excited to get back to like 1989 'Reputation' vibes," she said.

Showgirl pop-up draws lines for photos with props

In New York, hundreds of fans lined up to walk through a three-day Spotify pop-up offering five showgirl-themed rooms. They took photos with feathery boas and other props.

"I feel like there's so few moments like this where you actually get to connect with other fans," said Ali Meehan. "Like we all kind of listen in our rooms, alone in our houses."

This time around, Swift includes abundant nods to fiancé Travis Kelce amid the glitz, glamour and Las Vegas lechery of it all. This Swift isn't waiting in the wings, and she's definitely not holed up alone.

"This is so different from the last album, but in a really good way," said Hannah Zuckerbraun, a fan in a Swift T-shirt among Target-goers in Los Angeles. "Like, it's a lot happier sounding. I feel like it's perfect and upbeat."

The Latest: Hamas accepts some elements of Trump's peace plan for Gaza, others require negotiation

By The Associated Press undefined

Hamas responded Friday to President Donald Trump's proposed plan to end the war in the Gaza Strip, agreeing to give up power and release all remaining hostages, but the group said that other elements require further consultations among Palestinians.

Trump's peace plan has been accepted by Israel and was welcomed internationally after it was unveiled alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu earlier this week.

Hamas reiterated its longstanding openness to handing power over to a politically independent Palestinian body. But it said aspects of the proposal touching on the future of the Gaza Strip and Palestinian rights should be decided on the basis of a "unanimous Palestinian stance" reached with other factions and based on international law.

The statement also made no mention of Hamas disarming, a key Israeli demand included in Trump's proposal.

The latest:

Federal shutdown hurts services for Native Americans, and they worry worse is coming

Native Americans are bracing for damage to their health care, education, infrastructure and other services funded by Washington under treaties struck more than a century ago.

Tribal nations with casinos, oil and gas leases and other independent revenue sources expect to sustain operations for several months. But tribes more dependent on government money are already furloughing workers.

Many tribal leaders say they fear the administration could use the shutdown to lay off federal workers responsible for ensuring that trust and treaty responsibilities are honored.

The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe in Nevada furloughed at least 25 employees starting Oct. 1 and closed its museum and cultural center; higher education department; and services for Native children in public schools.

It said the closures would be temporary but more could come if the shutdown endures.

Chairman Steven Wadsworth said the furloughs were necessary to ensure operation of critical operations such as police, EMS and the food bank.

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☐ Read more about tribes and the shutdown

Lawsuit seeks to stop Trump's \$100,000 fee for H-1B visas

In what appeared to be the first major challenge to the new \$100,000 fee required for H-1B visa applications, a coalition of health care providers, religious groups, university professors and others filed suit Friday, saying the plan has "thrown employers, workers and federal agencies into chaos."

Trump signed a proclamation Sept. 19 requiring the new fee, saying the H-1B visa program "has been deliberately exploited to replace, rather than supplement, American workers with lower-paid, lower-skilled labor."

The lawsuit says the H-1B program is a critical pathway to hiring health care workers and educators; drives innovation and economic growth; and allows employers to fill jobs in specialized fields.

Messages seeking comment were left with the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which are named as defendants along with Trump and the State Department.

☐ Read more about the lawsuit

Israel says it is preparing to implement the 'first stage' of Trump's plan to end the war in Gaza

The announcement came in a statement from the office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

It also said Israel would work "in full cooperation" with the U.S. president to end the war in accordance with its principles.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney to meet Trump at the White House next week

Mark Carney's visit comes ahead of a review of a free trade agreement, and as the U.S. president is engaging in 51st-state talk again and Canada asks to be included in his future Golden Dome missile defense program.

Carney's office said in a statement that he will travel to Washington on Monday and meet with Trump in the Oval Office on Tuesday.

Carney won Canada's election earlier this year fueled by Trump's annexation threats and trade war, but he has tried to improve relations ahead of a review of a free trade deal next year.

Trump administration sued for using Department of Education employee emails to broadcast political message

After out-of-office email messages for the department were reset Wednesday with language blaming Democrats for the government shutdown, the largest U.S. federal worker union sued Friday.

The American Federation of Government Employees' lawsuit, filed Friday in a federal court in Washington, D.C., says the Trump administration violated workers' First Amendment rights "by replacing their out-of-office email messages with partisan political language without the employees' consent," union president Everett Kelley said in a statement

Appeals court rules that Trump administration can't end birthright citizenship

The federal appeals court in Boston held that the administration cannot withhold citizenship from children born to people in the country illegally or temporarily.

A three-judge panel of the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday became the fifth federal court since June to either issue or uphold orders blocking the president's order, which would end automatic citizenship such children.

The court concluded that plaintiffs are likely to succeed on their claims that the children described in the order are entitled to birthright citizenship under the Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment.

The issue is expected to move quickly back to the Supreme Court, which restricted the power of lower-court judges to issue nationwide injunctions in a ruling in June.

A second appeals court ruling on Friday also found in favor of several organizations that challenged the birthright citizenship order.

☐ Read more about the cases

Trump says Gaza hostage plan is a "big deal" but still trying to get 'final word'

The president released a video Friday evening from the Oval Office in which he credited allies for working

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to achieve a deal between Israel and Hamas for the return of hostages taken in the attacks of Oct. 7, 2023. "This is a big day," Trump said. "We'll see how it all turns out. We have to get the final word down in concrete."

Trump said he looked forward to having the hostages, including those who were killed, be returned to their families. He thanked Qatar, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and "so many others."

The president said "we're very close to achieving" peace in the Middle East.

He ended the video by saying, "Everybody will be treated fairly." It was unclear what Trump meant by that. FBI cutting ties with Southern Poverty Law Center and Anti-Defamation League after conservative complaints

The two organizations for decades have tracked domestic extremism and racial and religious bias. The decision to cut ties follows complaints about the groups from some conservatives and prominent Trump allies.

FBI Director Kash Patel alleged that the Southern Poverty Law Center has been turned into a "partisan smear machine" and criticized it for its "hate map" documenting alleged anti-government and hate groups. A statement earlier in the week from Patel said the FBI would end ties with the Anti-Defamation League, a prominent Jewish advocacy organization that fights antisemitism.

The announcements amount to a dramatic rethinking of longstanding FBI partnerships with prominent civil rights groups at a time when Patel is moving rapidly to reshape the bureau. The organizations have long provided research on hate crime and domestic extremism, law enforcement training and other services, but have also been criticized by some conservatives for what they say is an unfair maligning of their viewpoints.

□ Read more about the FBI, the SPLC and the ADL, including what those two groups have to say
Trump to celebrate Navy's 250th anniversary Sunday

The president isn't letting the government shutdown get in the way of a trip to Norfolk, Virginia, to salute the Navy as it celebrates 250 years.

"I believe, 'THE SHOW MUST GO ON!'" Trump posted on his social media site, Truth Social. "This will be the largest Celebration in the History of the Navy. Thousands of our brave Active Duty Servicemembers and Military Families will be in attendance, and I look forward to this special day with all of them."

In the post the president again blamed Democratic leaders for the shutdown and said by doing so they were trying "to destroy this wonderful celebration of the U.S. Navy's Birthday."

Trump said he would be joined at the event by his wife, Melania, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Secretary of the Navy John Phelan.

Navy's No. 2 civilian official sworn in

Hung Cao is tasked with tackling "the issues that affect the daily lives of Sailors and Marines," Navy Secretary John Phelan said in a statement to The Associated Press.

Cao, a retired Navy captain and former Republican congressional candidate, will handle quality-of-service issues, recruiting, suicide prevention and other aspects of personnel policy. Not included are some of the biggest topics facing the service, such as a shipbuilding crisis and developing policy around drone warfare.

Cao briefly rose to national prominence when he challenged Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine for his Senate seat last year.

While debating Kaine, Cao said the Navy needed "alpha males and alpha females who are going to rip out their own guts, eat them and ask for seconds. Those are young men and women that are going to win wars."

Trump administration offers migrant children \$2,500 to voluntarily return to home countries

The offers are a new incentive in the administration's efforts to persuade people to self-deport.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement did not say how much migrants would get or when the offer would take effect, but The Associated Press obtained an email to migrant shelters saying children 14 years of age and older would get \$2,500 each. Children were given 24 hours to respond.

The notice to shelters from the U.S. Health and Human Services Department's Administration for Families

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and Children did not indicate any consequences for declining the offer.

ICE said in a statement that it would initially be for 17-year-olds.

"Any payment to support a return home would be provided after an immigration judge grants the request and the individual arrives in their country of origin," ICE said. "Access to financial support when returning home would assist should they choose that option."

Trump orders Israel to stop bombing Gaza after Hamas partially accepts his peace plan

The president gave that directive after Hamas said it had accepted some elements of his plan to end the nearly two-year war and return all remaining hostages taken in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack.

"I believe they are ready for a lasting PEACE," Trump said via social media. "Israel must immediately stop the bombing of Gaza, so that we can get the Hostages out safely and quickly! Right now, it's far too dangerous to do that. We are already in discussions on details to be worked out."

Hamas said Friday that it accepts elements of Trump's plan including giving up power and releasing all remaining hostages, but that others require further consultations among Palestinians.

The statement came hours after Trump said Hamas must agree to the deal by Sunday evening, threatening an even greater military onslaught. There was no immediate response from Israel, which was largely shut down for the Jewish Sabbath.

Football Friday nights paused at high schools based at Army posts

Shutdown disruptions have reached the gridiron, as some high school football teams on Army posts have had to postpone games.

Two schools in Kentucky, at Fort Knox and Fort Campbell, rescheduled games meant to be played Friday night. In fact all extracurricular activities have been paused, though classes remain in session.

Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell attempted to intervene, writing to Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to ask that athletics and extracurriculars at the schools be designated as activities allowed to proceed despite the shutdown.

Shutdown is hurting construction, industry leader says

Sean McGarvey, president of North America's Building Trades Unions, said the shutdown is causing severe pain in the sector across dozens of states.

"Over 300 Department of Energy project awards have been canceled, and major transportation projects are now also threatened in major hubs like New York and Illinois," he said in a statement. "These are not headlines or talking points; these targeted actions attack the jobs of blue-collar workers and create deeper construction industry market instability in both red and blue states."

"Real jobs and real paychecks are in jeopardy from these devastating blows to American workers and their families."

McGarvey highlighted two projects in particular, the Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Hub and California's ARCHES Hub, which he said would have created more than 135,000 construction jobs.

Schumer says GOP "wasted a week" after more failed votes to reopen government

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said that Republicans have "wasted a week" after the Senate rejected for the fourth time on Friday two bills that would open up the government.

"Republicans thought they could scare us," Schumer said. "It ain't working."

The government shut down at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday after the Senate was not able to pass legislation to keep it open. Democrats are demanding an extension in health care subsidies, among other asks, in exchange for their votes for a House-passed bill that would keep the government open until Nov. 21.

Republicans say they will not negotiate on the "clean" bill, which they argue should be non-controversial.

The Senate has also repeatedly rejected a Democratic bill that would extend the Affordable Care Act subsidies that expire at the end of the year and reverse Republican cuts to Medicaid.

Schumer, D-N.Y., has blamed Republicans for the shutdown. "Republicans hold the House, the Senate and the White House," he said. "They're in charge."

Supreme Court lets Trump strip protections from more than 300,000 Venezuelan migrants

The Supreme Court on Friday allowed President Donald Trump's administration to strip legal protections

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from more than 300,000 Venezuelan migrants.

The justices issued an emergency order, which will last as long as the court case continues, putting on hold a lower-court ruling by U.S. District Judge Edward Chen in San Francisco that found the administration had wrongly ended temporary protected status for the Venezuelans.

Trump's Republican administration has moved to withdraw various protections that have allowed immigrants to remain in the United States and work legally, including ending TPS for a total of 600,000 Venezuelans and 500,000 Haitians who were granted protection under President Joe Biden, a Democrat. TPS is granted in 18-month increments.

Military strikes raise stark war powers issues that split GOP

The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Sen. Jim Risch said he was meeting with the president at the White House before the strikes on the boat in the Caribbean was announced.

The Republican from Idaho said Trump had authority to go after the cartels without further authorization from Congress under his powers as the commander in chief.

Risch said, "What could be a bigger defense of this country than keeping out this poison that's killing thousands of Americans every year?"

But GOP Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who has consistently criticized the strikes, said only Congress, not the president, has the authority to wage war.

"Blowing them up without knowing who's on the boat is a terrible policy, and it should end," he told AP.

"If they want to declare war, come to Congress and say they want to declare war," he said. "But you can't just say it yourself and say, Oh, well, we sent them on note and now we're at war with unnamed people who we won't even identify before we kill."

Hamas' response says negotiations are needed over future of Palestinian rights

Hamas said it was willing to release hostages according to the plan's "formula," likely referring to the release of Palestinian prisoners. It also reiterated its longstanding openness to handing power over to a politically independent Palestinian body.

But it said aspects of the proposal touching on the future of the Gaza Strip and Palestinian rights should be decided on the basis of a "unanimous Palestinian stance" reached with other factions and based on international law.

The statement also made no mention of Hamas disarming, a key Israeli demand included in Trump's proposal.

Hamas says it accepts some elements of Gaza peace plan after Trump issues ultimatum

Hamas said Friday that it has accepted some elements of U.S. President Trump's plan to end the war in the Gaza Strip, including giving up power and releasing all remaining hostages, but that others require further consultations among Palestinians.

The statement came hours after Trump said that Hamas must agree to the deal by Sunday evening, threatening an even greater military onslaught nearly two years into the war sparked by the Oct. 7 attack into Israel. It was unclear how the U.S. and Israel would respond to partial acceptance.

Trump appears keen to deliver on pledges to end the war and return dozens of hostages ahead of the second anniversary of the attack on Tuesday. His peace plan has been accepted by Israel and welcomed internationally, but key mediators Egypt and Qatar have said some elements need further negotiation, without elaborating.

North Carolina governor signs criminal justice bill into law after Ukrainian refugee's death

By GARY D. ROBERTSON Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — North Carolina's Democratic governor signed into law on Friday a criminal justice measure that the state's Republican-controlled legislature approved in response to the stabbing death of a Ukrainian refugee on a Charlotte commuter train, even while opposing provisions within or wishing for others left out.

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Gov. Josh Stein said he signed the bill because it “alerts the judiciary to take a special look at people who may pose unusual risks of violence before determining their bail. That’s a good thing.”

The new law bars cashless bail for certain violent crimes and for many repeat offenders. It also limits the discretion magistrates and judges have in making pretrial release decisions, gives the state chief justice the ability to suspend magistrates and seeks to ensure more defendants undergo mental health evaluations.

But Stein criticized parts and said lawmakers had failed in the legislation to approve his public-safety proposals, which included increased pay for law enforcement. He said the measure failed to focus properly “on the threat that people pose instead of their ability to post bail.”

“I’m troubled by its lack of ambition or vision,” Stein said during a short video statement. “It simply does not do enough to keep you safe.”

He also blasted a portion of a section that seeks to restart executions in North Carolina, where capital punishment was last carried out in 2006.

Still, the action by Stein, a former state attorney general, affirms in law reforms demanded by GOP politicians and their allies. Stein had until late Friday to act on the bill, which could have also included vetoing it or letting it become law without his signature.

Stein accepted the measure even as Republican lawmakers, including President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance, have blamed Democratic leaders in Charlotte and statewide for soft-on-crime policies they allege allowed the suspect in Iryna Zarutskya’s Aug. 22 death to stay out of custody. The outrage intensified with the release of security video showing the attack.

Democrats have called the accusations politically motivated, with several arguing during debate last week that the legislation not only wouldn’t address the root causes of crime but also lacked funding for more mental health services. While Republicans are one House seat shy of a veto-proof majority at the General Assembly, the bill received bipartisan support in the chamber, making it more likely that any Stein veto could have been overridden.

“Finally, we are getting dangerous criminals off our streets so we can make sure no one else suffers the heartbreak that Iryna Zarutskya’s family endured,” Charlotte-area Republican state Rep. Tricia Cotham, who helped shepherd the legislation, said in a news release.

Decarlos Brown Jr., the man accused in Zarutskya’s death, has been arrested more than a dozen other times and previously served more than five years on a violent robbery count, according to court records.

A magistrate allowed Brown to be released on a misdemeanor charge in January on a written promise to appear, without any bond. Brown was arrested at that time after repeatedly calling 911 from a hospital, complaining that someone was trying to control him with a foreign substance. He is now charged with both first-degree murder in state court and a federal count in connection with Zarutskya’s death. Both crimes can be punishable by the death penalty.

The new law requires certain appeals for death-row inmates to be heard and reviewed by courts by the end of 2027 and opens the door to using other capital punishment methods — perhaps firing squads — should a court declare lethal injection unconstitutional or if it’s “not available,” because the drugs can’t be accessed.

The law doesn’t specifically name firing squads. Still, Stein said Friday “there will be no firing squads in North Carolina during my time as governor,” calling the idea “barbaric.” Stein has previously said he supports the death penalty for “truly heinous crimes,” but had reiterated that the current legal process holding up executions needs to be completed.

The state NAACP chapter condemned Stein’s bill-signing, saying that he “chose cruelty over justice, and the legislators from both parties who pushed it forward are equally responsible for this shameful failure of leadership.”

Stein also mentioned last weekend’s shooting at a waterfront bar in southeastern North Carolina that left three patrons dead and several injured while calling for more mental health services and efforts to keep guns out of the hands of “dangerous people.”

“It’s time to get real about the causes of violence and to take meaningful action to address them,” he

said. The legislature is next scheduled in Raleigh on Oct. 20.

Noem visits Chicago area ICE facility as agents arrest 13, raid city neighborhoods

By CHRISTINE FERNANDO and JOHN O'CONNOR Associated Press

BROADVIEW, Ill. (AP) — Federal officials reported the arrests of 13 people Friday protesting near an immigration facility outside Chicago that has been frequently targeted during President Donald Trump's administration's surge of immigration enforcement this fall.

As Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem met with employees inside the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement processing facility in Broadview, a crowd grew over several hours, some riled by newly installed barricades to separate them from law enforcement officers stationed outside.

Noem also accompanied agents Friday on a raid near a local Walmart store and later engaged in a tit-for-tat over unannounced visits — and even bathroom use — with the Broadview mayor.

Immigrants' rights advocates and residents separately reported that federal agents had used tear gas near grocery or hardware stores they had targeted for enforcement elsewhere in Chicago on Friday and detained a city council member as she questioned the attempted arrest of a man. The federal government has restricted airspace over Broadview, officials said Friday, and Gov. JB Pritzker called for an investigation into an immigration raid on the city's South Side early Tuesday morning.

Objections to barricades, local police step up

At the ICE facility, some protesters have aimed to block vehicles from going in or out of the area in recent weeks, part of growing pushback to a surge of immigration enforcement that began in early September. Called "Midway Blitz," the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced Friday that it has resulted in more than 1,000 immigration arrests.

Federal agents have repeatedly fired tear gas, pepper balls and other projectiles toward crowds in response and at least five people have faced federal charges after being arrested in those clashes.

While Friday's demonstration was quieter at Broadview, about 12 miles (19 kilometers) west of Chicago, Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin reported 13 protesters were arrested. Charges were not released but McLaughlin said they included alleged assaults on federal officers.

The Illinois State Police, whose officers patrolled the grounds wearing riot helmets and holding batons, set up concrete barriers Thursday night to segregate protesters and designate spaces to demonstrate, with several adjacent streets being closed. Many demonstrators ignored the zones to protest on the other side of the building, saying the corrals prevented free speech rights.

Others were angered by local and state officers standing shoulder-to-shoulder with federal agents, including Homeland Security Investigations, ICE, the Bureau of Prisons and others. At one point, Illinois State Police joined Border Patrol in pushing back a crowd.

Jonny Bishop, a 28-year-old former teacher from Palatine, Illinois, and from a Mexican immigrant family, said the cooperation concerned him.

"ICE acts with impunity," said Bishop, who's previously encountered tear gas and pepper balls. "They know that they can shoot at us. They can tear gas us. And Broadview Police Department is not going to do anything."

The Federal Aviation Administration confirmed it has restricted Chicago airspace, with Border Patrol citing "a credible threat" against law enforcement amid ongoing clashes with protesters at the Broadview site. The restriction, which is in effect from Oct. 1-12 and targets drones, extends in a radius of 15 nautical miles (28 kilometers) and includes Broadview. Critics question the length of time and the geographic breadth of the prohibition, worried about oversight of ICE operations.

Tear gas used on quiet street; city council member handcuffed at hospital

In a Chicago neighborhood, Andrew Denton, 39, stopped at a grocery store for lunch and heard honking from an SUV stopped behind a motorcycle parked in the middle of the street. He realized ICE agents were in the SUV and started shooting video just before the agents threw canisters of gas near passersby.

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"There was no reason to use tear gas on the crowd," he said. "No one was threatening them in any way." Denton said he immediately began tearing up. His nose began running, and he felt like he was choking. He said the 20 or so people in the area included seniors, families with children and children outside at recess at an adjacent elementary school.

In a near West Side neighborhood a few miles away, Chicago Alderperson Jessie Fuentes shared video appearing to show her being handcuffed as she confronted federal agents at a hospital. She said a resident had fallen and broken his leg while chased by ICE agents who then transported him to the emergency room.

Fuentes arrived after an emergency room staff member called to say there were ICE agents in the room with him. In the video, none of them answers when she asks if they have a signed warrant. One agent then says, "You need to leave," and handcuffs her from behind as she repeats her question about a warrant and then says, "You're hurting me." Fuentes said agents escorted her outside and released her.

Noem participates in raid, engages in restroom dispute

Noem, alongside Gregory Bovino, chief patrol agent of the U.S. Border Patrol's El Centro Sector, appeared on the Broadview building's roof, surrounded by armed agents and a camera crew while standing beside a sniper's post, according to footage shared online by conservative media personality Benny Johnson.

Johnson also posted video outside a Walmart store where he said agents, accompanied by Noem, had conducted a raid. Another video showed detainees in a parking lot where Noem noted "consequences for breaking the law and jeopardizing our law enforcement."

Noem attempted to visit Broadview Mayor Katrina Thompson at the village hall, but she was not there, and Noem was turned away when she asked to use the facilities.

"The city police wouldn't even let us use the restroom," she said in a video.

Broadview village spokesperson David Ormsby said Thompson later "returned her visit" at the ICE facility, where she too was refused access.

"We are distressed to hear that the bathrooms are unavailable at the ICE facility," Ormsby said in a statement.

Governor decries anonymous, 'inhumane' tactics

Pritzker, the governor, lashed out at the Trump administration for the way federal agents, many of them masked to hide their faces, have treated protesters over the past month. He castigated officers' "inhumane" tactics including slamming protesters to the ground, arresting a reporter and firing chemical agents into the crowds.

"It is clear federal agents cannot be trusted to act to protect the safety and constitutional rights of the public," the Democrat said.

Pritzker also ordered state agencies to coordinate possible action to "hold federal agents accountable" for a raid on an apartment building in the city's South Shore neighborhood early this week in which residents, regardless of status and including children, were detained for hours, some handcuffed. Children were separated from their parents, while officers smashed windows and tore through apartments, leaving piles of debris in the hallways.

Homeland Security officials said 37 undocumented immigrants were arrested, some with criminal histories and two allegedly members of a criminal Venezuelan gang.

Sean 'Diddy' Combs gets 4 years in prison for case involving sex workers, violence and 'freak-offs'

By MICHAEL R. SISAK, LARRY NEUMEISTER and JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Sean "Diddy" Combs was sentenced Friday to four years and two months in prison for transporting people across state lines for sexual encounters, capping a sordid federal case that featured harrowing testimony and ended in a forceful reckoning for one of the most influential figures in hip-hop.

Since Combs has already served a year in jail, the sentence means that the 55-year-old could get out in about three years. While prosecutors sought a sentence of more than 11 years, his lawyers wanted him freed immediately and said the time behind bars has already forced his remorse and sobriety.

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Combs was convicted in July of flying his girlfriends and male sex workers around the country to engage in drug-fueled sexual encounters in multiple places and over many years. However, he was acquitted of sex trafficking and racketeering charges that could have put him behind bars for life.

"Why did it happen so long?" U.S. District Judge Arun Subramanian asked as he handed down the sentence. "Because you had the power and the resources to keep it going, and because you weren't caught."

Subramanian, who also fined Combs \$500,000, the maximum allowed, praised the accusers who testified at trial. They effectively spoke for countless others who experienced abuse, the judge said: "You gave them a voice. You stood up to power."

Combs, sitting at the defense table, looked straight ahead as the judge spoke. He remained subdued afterward and appeared dejected, with none of the enthusiasm and smiles he displayed while interacting with his lawyers and family earlier in the day.

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry," he said to his family right before leaving the courtroom.

Combs' lawyers said they'll appeal.

"What we feel today is that the judge acted as a 13th juror, one we did not choose, and that he second guessed the jury's verdict," defense lawyer Marc Agnifilo told reporters after leaving court.

Before sentencing, Combs wept as his defense lawyers played a video portraying his family life, career and philanthropy, and he went on to make a plea for leniency.

"I ask your honor for a chance to be a father again," Combs said, "a son again ... a leader in my community again ... for a chance to get the help that I desperately need to be a better person." He apologized to the people he hurt physically and mentally with his "disgusting, shameful" actions, and said the domestic violence was a burden he would carry for the rest of his life.

His nearly two-month trial in a federal court in Manhattan featured testimony from women who said Combs beat, threatened, sexually assaulted and blackmailed them. Prosecutor Christy Slavik told the judge Friday that sparing Combs serious prison time would excuse years of violence.

"It's a case about a man who did horrible things to real people to satisfy his own sexual gratification," she said. "His currency was control. And he weaponized that currency to devastating effects on the victims."

Combs was convicted under the Mann Act, which bans transporting people across state lines for any sexual crime. Defense attorney Jason Driscoll argued Friday the law was misapplied.

During testimony at the trial, former girlfriend Casandra "Cassie" Ventura told jurors that Combs ordered her to have "disgusting" sex with strangers hundreds of times during their decade-long relationship. Jurors saw video of him dragging and beating her in a Los Angeles hotel hallway after one such multiday "freak-off."

"While nothing can undo the trauma caused by Combs," Cassie's attorneys, Douglas Wigdor and Meredith Firetog, said in a statement, "the sentence imposed today recognizes the impact of the serious offenses he committed."

Another woman, identified as "Jane," testified she was pressured into sex with male workers during drug-fueled "hotel nights" while Combs watched and sometimes filmed.

Combs' lawyers argued at trial that the government was trying to criminalize consensual, if unconventional, sexual tastes.

The only accuser scheduled to speak Friday, a former assistant known as "Mia," withdrew after defense objections; Slavik accused Combs' attorneys of "bullying" the woman. She has accused Combs of raping her in 2010 and asked the judge in a letter for a sentence that reflects "the ongoing danger my abuser poses."

Six of Combs' seven children addressed the judge, pleading for mercy for their father. One daughter, D'Lila Combs, said she feared losing her father after the death of her mother, Kim Porter, in 2018.

"Please, your honor, please," D'Lila said through tears, "give our family the chance to heal together, to rebuild, to change, to move forward, not as a headline, but as human beings."

Outside the courthouse, journalists and onlookers swarmed, echoing scenes from Combs' trial.

Sade Bess, a Combs fan from Brooklyn, left the court's overflow observation room looking both sad and relieved.

"It's devastating to see a pioneer of the Black community's legacy nearly diminished," she said. "But the

judge showed mercy by giving him a second chance, while still honoring the victims."

Hegseth announces latest strike on boat near Venezuela he says was trafficking drugs

By KONSTANTIN TOROPIN and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Friday that he ordered another strike on a small boat he accused of carrying drugs in the waters off Venezuela, expanding what the Trump administration has declared is an "armed conflict" with cartels.

In a post on social media, Hegseth asserted that the "vessel was trafficking narcotics" and those aboard were "narco-terrorists." He said the strike killed four men but offered no details on who they were or what group they belonged to, following the U.S. designation of several Latin American cartels as foreign terrorist organizations.

President Donald Trump said in his own social media post that the boat was "loaded with enough drugs to kill 25 TO 50 THOUSAND PEOPLE" and implied it was "entering American Territory" while off the coast of Venezuela.

It is the fourth deadly strike in the Caribbean and the latest since revelations that Trump told lawmakers he was treating drug traffickers as unlawful combatants and military force was required to combat them. That assertion of presidential war powers sets the stage for expanded action and raises questions about how far the administration will go without sign-off from Congress.

"Blowing them up without knowing who's on the boat is a terrible policy, and it should end," said Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, a consistent and harsh critic of the U.S. strikes.

The Trump administration laid out its justification for the strikes in a memo obtained by The Associated Press this week.

"The President determined that the United States is in a non-international armed conflict with these designated terrorist organizations," according to the memo sent to Congress. Trump directed the Pentagon to "conduct operations against them pursuant to the law of armed conflict," the document says.

Sen. Jim Risch, Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the president had the authority to go after the cartels without further authorization from Congress under "his general powers under the Constitution as the commander in chief."

"What could be a bigger defense of this country than keeping out this poison that's killing thousands of Americans every year?" Risch said Friday.

Paul said only Congress has the authority to declare war and characterized the memo as "a way to pretend like" the administration is notifying lawmakers with a justification for the strikes.

"If they want to declare war, come to Congress and say they want to declare war," he told the AP. "But you can't just say it yourself and say, Oh, well, we sent them a note and now we're at war with unnamed people who we won't even identify before we kill."

Hours after Hegseth announced the latest strike, Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodríguez said the "warlike aggression" by the U.S. affects the greater Caribbean, not just Venezuela.

"We see it and feel it, as they murder our countries' citizens in summary extrajudicial executions," she said during a conference in Venezuela's capital, Caracas, focused on colonialism in the West.

Meanwhile, President Nicolás Maduro did not explicitly mention the strikes, but he told conference attendees that his country is ready to defend itself.

"Venezuela has the right to peace, to sovereignty, to existence, and no empire in this world can take it away," he said. "And if it is necessary to move from an unarmed struggle to an armed struggle, this people will do so. ... Colonialism no more."

Colombian President Gustavo Petro, a leftist leader who has clashed with the Trump administration, accused the U.S. of committing "murder" and urged the victims' families to "join forces."

"There are no narco-terrorists on the boats," he posted on X after the strike was announced. "Drug traffickers live in the U.S., Europe and Dubai. On that boat are poor Caribbean youth."

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Video of Friday's strike posted online showed a small boat moving in open water when it suddenly explodes, with water splashing all around it. As the smoke from the explosion clears, the boat is visible, consumed with flames, floating motionless on the water.

With it, at least three of the strikes have now been carried out on vessels that U.S. officials said had originated from Venezuela. The strikes followed a buildup of U.S. maritime forces in the Caribbean unlike any seen in recent times.

The Navy's presence in the region — eight warships with over 5,000 sailors and Marines — has been pretty stable for weeks, according to two defense officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss ongoing operations.

In a post about the first strike last month, Trump claimed the vessel was carrying members of the Tren de Aragua gang. Posts about all the subsequent strikes, including Friday's, have not provided any details about what organizations have been targeted. The four strikes have killed 21 people, the administration says.

Pentagon officials who briefed senators on the strikes this week could not provide a list of the designated terrorist organizations at the center of the conflict.

Officials in the Pentagon, when asked for more details about the strike, referred The Associated Press back to Hegseth's post.

Trump administration offers migrant children \$2,500 to voluntarily return to home countries

By VALERIE GONZALEZ Associated Press

McALLEN, Texas (AP) — The Trump administration said Friday that it would pay migrant children \$2,500 to voluntarily return to their home countries, dangling a new incentive in efforts to persuade people to self-deport.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement didn't say how much migrants would get or when the offer would take effect, but The Associated Press obtained an email to migrant shelters saying children 14 years of age and older would get \$2,500 each. Children were given 24 hours to respond.

The notice to shelters from the U.S. Health and Human Services Department's Administration for Families and Children did not indicate any consequences for children who decline the offer. It asked shelter directors to acknowledge the offer within four hours.

ICE said in a statement that the offer would initially be for 17-year-olds.

"Any payment to support a return home would be provided after an immigration judge grants the request and the individual arrives in their country of origin," ICE said. "Access to financial support when returning home would assist should they choose that option."

ICE, the Department of Homeland Security and the Health and Human Services Department did not immediately respond to questions about the amount of the payment and age eligibility.

ICE dismissed widespread reports among immigration lawyers and advocates that it was launching a much broader crackdown Friday to deport migrant children who entered the country without their parents, called "Freaky Friday."

The administration has also offered \$1,000 to adults who voluntarily leave the country. Advocates said \$2,500 may prevent children from making informed decisions.

"For a child, \$2,500 might be the most money they've ever seen in their life, and that may make it very, very difficult for them to accurately weigh the long-term risks of taking voluntary departure versus trying to stay in the United States and going through the immigration court process to get relief that they may be legally entitled to," said Melissa Adamson, senior attorney at the National Center for Youth Law.

Murad Awawdeh, president of the New York Immigration Coalition, echoed concerns about the offer, saying it "pressures children to abandon their legal claims and return to a life of fear and danger without ever receiving a fair hearing."

U.S. border authorities have arrested children crossing the border without parents more than 400,000

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times since October 2021. A 2008 law requires them to appear before an immigration judge before being returned to their countries.

Children have been spending more time in government-run shelters since the Trump administration put them under closer scrutiny before releasing them to family in the United States to pursue their immigration cases.

The additional scrutiny includes fingerprinting, DNA testing and home visits by immigration officers. Over the summer, immigration officers started showing up and arresting parents.

The average length of stay at government-run shelters for those released in the U.S. was 171 days in July, down from a peak of 217 days in April but well above 37 days in January, when Trump took office.

One of 2 victims in Manchester synagogue attack apparently shot accidentally by police

By DANICA KIRKA, KWIYEON HA and JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — One of the two Jewish men killed in a car and knife attack on a synagogue in the English city of Manchester appears to have been accidentally shot by a police officer, according to detectives who said Friday that the attacker may have been motivated by Islamic extremism.

Police said congregant Adrian Daulby, 53, and security guard Melvin Cravitz, 66, died trying to prevent Thursday's attack on the Heaton Park Congregation Synagogue on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. Three other people are hospitalized in serious condition.

Police shot and killed a suspect seven minutes after he rammed a car into pedestrians outside the synagogue and then attacked them with a knife in what the police force called an act of terrorism. He wore what appeared to be an explosives belt, which was found to be fake.

Police identified the attacker as a British citizen of Syrian descent who was on bail over an alleged rape. They said it's not clear whether he acted alone, though they've said they believe there is no further danger to the public. Officers have arrested six other people on suspicion of being linked to the attack, though they haven't identified them or elaborated on what role they're suspected of playing.

A pathologist provisionally determined Daulby had a gunshot wound. Since the attacker did not have a gun, the injury may have been "a tragic and unforeseen consequence" of police actions, Greater Manchester Police Chief Stephen Watson said.

Daulby and another man, who was hospitalized with a gunshot wound, were among worshippers being hailed as heroes for barricading the door to stop the attacker from entering, Watson said.

Daulby's family said his "final act was one of profound courage." Cravitz's family said it was trying to cope with the shocking loss of a man who "would do anything to help anyone."

The attack came amid high tensions over Israel's war on Hamas in Gaza.

Dozens of people gathered in pouring rain near the synagogue Friday for a vigil, where Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy was heckled by members of the crowd who accused the government of allowing antisemitism to spread.

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, the head of Orthodox Judaism in Britain, said the attack was the result of "an unrelenting wave of Jew hatred" on the streets and online.

"This is the day we hoped we would never see, but which deep down, we knew would come," he wrote on social media.

Attacker was not known to counterterrorism police

Police identified the attacker as 35-year-old Jihad Al-Shamie, who moved to the United Kingdom as a young child and became a citizen in 2006.

Police said the crime is being investigated as a terrorist attack and Al-Shamie "may have been influenced by extreme Islamist ideology."

The killer, wielding a large knife, shouted, "This is what you get for killing our children" as he tried to break the door in, Alan Levy, chairman of the synagogue's trustees, told ITV News.

Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood said the attacker was not previously known to counterterrorism

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police or the security services. Police said Al-Shamie was on bail over an alleged rape at the time of the attack but had not been charged.

Mahmood said "it's too early to say" whether the attacker acted alone or was part of a cell. Officers arrested two men in their 30s and a woman in her 60s Thursday on suspicion of the preparation or commission of acts of terrorism in connection with the attack. Three more people were arrested Friday: a man and two women, aged between 18 and mid-40s.

Neighbors of the attacker in the Manchester suburb of Prestwich, a couple of miles (about 3 kilometers) from the synagogue, said Al-Shamie's family had lived in the house for years. Several described seeing Al-Shamie lifting weights and working out in the backyard.

A statement on Facebook from the attacker's family condemned the "heinous act, which targeted peaceful, innocent civilians.

"Our hearts and thoughts are with the victims and their families, and we pray for their strength and comfort," the statement said.

Leaders condemn the attack

Religious and political leaders condemned the attack and pledged to reassure Britain's Jewish community, which numbers about 300,000.

Police said extra officers would be on the streets of Manchester through the weekend.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who visited the scene of the attack on Friday with his wife Victoria, said "this was a dreadful attack, a terrorist attack to inflict fear. Attacking Jews because they are Jews.

"It's really important today that the whole country comes together, people of all faiths and no faith, stand in support and solidarity with our Jewish community," he said.

Anglican bishop Sarah Mullally, who was named Friday as the next leader of the Church of England, said that "hatred and racism of any kind cannot be allowed to tear us apart."

Recorded antisemitic incidents in the U.K. have risen sharply since Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel and Israel's ensuing war against Hamas according to Community Security Trust, a charity that provides advice and protection for British Jews. More than 1,500 incidents were reported in the first half of the year, the second-highest six-month total reported since the record set over the same period a year earlier.

Calls for pro-Palestinian protests to be canceled

Some politicians and religious leaders claimed pro-Palestinian demonstrations, which have been held regularly since the war in Gaza began, had played a role in spreading hatred of Jews. The protests have been overwhelmingly peaceful but some say chants such as "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" incite violence. Others, including Jews who support the protests, say they want a ceasefire, an end to the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza and the release of Israeli hostages held by Hamas.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his supporters have frequently accused critics of Israel or its conduct of the war in Gaza of antisemitism. Critics see it as an attempt to stifle even legitimate criticism

Mirvis, the chief rabbi, urged authorities to "get a grip on these demonstrations. They are dangerous."

Some also say the U.K.'s recognition of a Palestinian state this month has emboldened antisemitism — a claim the government rejects. Lammy was interrupted by boos and shouts of "Shame on you" as he addressed the vigil in Manchester.

Lammy told the crowd that "we stand with you against terrorism," and urged organizers of planned pro-Palestinian demonstrations over the weekend "to stop and to stand back."

Police in London urged organizers to call off a protest planned for Saturday to oppose the banning of the group Palestine Action, which has been labeled a terrorist organization by the government.

Organizers said they would not cancel the demonstration, where hundreds of people are expected to hold signs supporting the banned group.

"Canceling peaceful protests lets terror win," the group said in a statement.

Federal shutdown hurts services for Native Americans and they worry worse is coming

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By GRAHAM LEE BREWER Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Native Americans watched the shuttered government on Friday and braced for damage to health care, education, infrastructure and other services funded by Washington under treaties struck more than a century ago.

Tribal nations with casinos, oil and gas leases and other independent revenue sources said they expect to sustain operations for several months. Tribes more dependent on government money were already furloughing workers.

Many tribal leaders said they feared that the Trump administration would use the shutdown to lay off federal workers responsible for ensuring that trust and treaty responsibilities are honored. The U.S. agreed many decades ago to protect the security, health and education of tribal citizens in return for ceding their lands.

Shuttered museums and children's services

The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe just outside Reno, Nevada furloughed at least 25 employees starting on Oct. 1 and closed its museum and cultural center, higher education department, and services for Native children in the public school system.

It said the closures would be temporary but that more closures could still come if the shutdown endures.

"As the government shutdown continues other departments may become limited in operation," Chairman Steven Wadsworth wrote in a letter to tribal members. "These furloughs are necessary to ensure the continued operation of public safety, such as the police, EMS, and the food bank."

Layoffs coming?

People across Indian Country worried that the Trump administration would use the shutdown to lay off federal workers who uphold their treaty rights.

"I'm extremely nervous about that," said Liz Carr, vice president for intergovernmental relations for the Cedar Rock Alliance, which helps tribes develop health care, self-governance and land management policies.

President Donald Trump and his now-former adviser Elon Musk this year called on the General Services Administration to start terminating leases held by the nation's 7,500-odd federal offices, including 25 regional offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

During the Biden administration, Carr was appointed as the first tribal adviser to the Office of Management and Budget. Carr said she was instructed to resign by the new administration and that position remains unfilled. There is a lack of understanding about trust and treaty responsibilities in the agency and at the White House, she said.

"I can see some of those programs being considered either DEI or some kind of waste. Then they come back to dismantle those programs and people aren't able to come back and deliver those services," she said. "And the tribes have nowhere to turn."

Tribes go through BIA regional offices to approve things like road projects and law enforcement funding and 15 BIA offices across 38 states have closed, according to the agency. Federal employees that protect life and property are exempt from the shutdown, but BIA law enforcement officers in the department will likely be working without pay because of the way funds are appropriated.

Damaged trust

The Indian Health Service, a department within Health and Human Services, provides health care to Native Americans and Alaska Natives and will remain funded and operational, HHS contingency plan says.

However, hundreds of health care centers and clinics across that country that are owned and managed by tribal nations but federally funded are a different matter.

Agencies that assist tribes have already closed, including the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which operates the Indian Housing Block Grant, and the Federal Highway Administration, which operates the Tribal Transportation Program.

The National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers — a national organization of tribal workers dedicated to safeguarding Native traditions and cultures — is asking the federal government to halt projects like oil and gas development that require consultation with tribal nations.

The government is legally required to consult with tribes on projects could affect them, and that cannot happen without the necessary federal employees on the job, said the association's executive director, Dr. Valerie Grussing.

"Projects should only resume when agencies are fully staffed and tribes have someone to consult with," she said.

Trump pauses \$2.1B for Chicago infrastructure projects, leveraging shutdown to pressure Democrats

By JEFF McMURRAY and CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — President Donald Trump's administration will withhold \$2.1 billion for Chicago infrastructure projects, the White House budget director said Friday, expanding funding fights that have targeted Democratic areas during the government shutdown.

The administration is pausing a planned extension of the Red Line L train to "ensure funding is not flowing via race-based contracting," budget director Russ Vought wrote on social media. The move throws immediate uncertainty into a project that had promised to connect some of the region's most disadvantaged and predominantly Black neighborhoods.

Vought made a similar announcement earlier this week involving New York, where he said \$18 billion for infrastructure would be paused, including funding for a new rail tunnel under the Hudson River.

Trump, a Republican, has embraced Vought's tactics. On Thursday night, he posted a video depicting him as the reaper, wearing a hood and holding a scythe.

New delays for a long-awaited project

Losing the money would be a significant setback for Chicago's transportation plans. The Red Line extension is slated to add four train stops on the city's South Side that would bring the famous elevated train to some of the poorest and most isolated neighborhoods in the metropolitan area.

Rogers Jones, the director of a violence prevention youth center next to the planned Roseland Red Line station, called the delay a severe blow to some of the region's most disadvantaged areas.

Officials have demolished houses, widened streets, cut grass and put up signs throughout the area in preparation for the new station, he said.

"If you talk to any neighbors today, they want to curse, because they've been anticipating that," Jones said. "I just don't understand the Trump administration, bringing harm like that. It's devastating when people are expecting something good coming and it does not come."

Antonio Thomas, a lifelong resident of the Roseland community, has been helping unemployed neighbors get trained and certified to apply for construction jobs the project was expected to bring.

"In our community, we really don't have job uplift like that or opportunities," Thomas said. "It's going to be a big blow if it doesn't go forward. People are already economically stressed."

In addition, a broader modernization project for the Red and Purple lines, which Vought said was also being targeted, is intended to upgrade stations and remove a bottleneck where different lines intersect.

The Chicago Transit Authority said in an email that it was reviewing letters from the Trump administration about the projects.

Local leaders push back

Illinois Rep. Mike Quigley, a Chicago Democrat, criticized the White House's announcement, calling it "a very bad day for public transit in the country when it becomes weaponized."

"This was our prized baby and they know it," Quigley said in a phone interview with The Associated Press. "This was the most important new transit project in Chicago in 50 years."

Illinois Democratic Rep. Robin Kelly also slammed the move, calling Trump a "bully who does not negotiate in good faith and holds an axe over South Siders' Red Line."

"He is targeting Black people during a government shutdown," Kelly said in a statement.

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson pledged to "use every tool at our disposal to restore this funding."

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"Argentina gets \$20 billion and the South Side gets nothing," Johnson said in a statement. "What happened to America First?"

In New York's case, Trump's Transportation Department said it had been reviewing whether any "unconstitutional practices" were occurring in the two massive infrastructure projects but that the government shutdown, which began Wednesday, had forced it to furlough the staffers conducting the review.

The suspension of funds for the Hudson River tunnel project and a Second Avenue subway line extension is likely meant to target Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, whom the White House is blaming for the impasse. The New York senator said the funding freeze would harm commuters.

"Obstructing these projects is stupid and counterproductive because they create tens of thousands of great jobs and are essential for a strong regional and national economy," Schumer said on X.

A lawsuit could come next

Yonah Freemark, a researcher at the Urban Institute who specializes in transit, said he expects Chicago and New York will now be forced to sue to argue they were simply following federal law in pursuing the projects they won through a competitive grant process.

Even if the cities ultimately prevail, the projects will take much longer and be far more expensive because of the delays, Freemark said. Competitive grant programs such as the ones under the infrastructure law are in place in part to avoid partisan decisions about how governments should divvy up the money, he said.

"I guess what we're seeing in the Trump administration is that the federal government can renege on their commitments with these grants," Freemark said.

First female Archbishop of Canterbury still an outlier among world's top religious leaders

By DAVID CRARY, HOLLY MEYER, DEEPA BHARATH and MARIAM FAM Associated Press

For the first time, a woman will serve as the Archbishop of Canterbury, following the 105 men who have held the role since St. Augustine took the position in the year 597.

This means Bishop of London Sarah Mullally has broken through the Church of England's highest stained-glass ceiling. But for many of the world's religions, that barrier to women in top leadership remains firmly intact.

Here is a look at how high women in ministry have been able to climb in some of the major faith traditions.

Anglican Communion

As the Archbishop of Canterbury, Mullally will also lead the Anglican Communion in her new role, which the communion describes as the first among equals. It has more than 85 million members spread across 165 countries and many still believe the Bible requires male-only leadership.

One exception is the Episcopal Church in the United States. Katharine Jefferts Schori was elected to serve as the presiding bishop of that Anglican province in 2006.

Other Protestant churches

In addition to the Episcopal Church, other mainline Protestant denominations in the U.S. have had female leaders.

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton recently finished 12 years as the first woman to be presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the largest U.S. Lutheran body. The United Methodist Church has had women serve as president of its powerful Council of Bishops, including the current president — Tracy Smith Malone. In 2023, the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson became the first woman to lead the United Church of Christ as its general minister and president.

Among evangelical churches, there are some female pastors. But the largest evangelical denomination, the Southern Baptist Convention, has maintained an all-male leadership and bars women from serving as pastors at SBC-affiliated churches.

In the U.S., most major Black Christian denominations have no doctrinal bar to ordained women leaders in the way that some denominations do, and women have preached and been ordained in historically Black churches since at least the 19th century.

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Yet denominational leadership remained all-male until the 21st century, and women are still the exception in the top rungs. One example is Vashti Murphy McKenzie, who in 2000 was elected the first woman bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Catholic Church

The Catholic Church makes a distinction between ministry and management when it comes to women's leadership roles.

The church bars women from ordained ministry, meaning they cannot be priests or deacons, on the grounds that Christ's apostles were all men. Women have however reached high levels of church management, especially under Pope Francis.

The late pope promoted several nuns to senior Vatican positions, including the first-ever female prefect of a Holy See department, and gave women the right to vote at major Vatican gatherings known as synods.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Commonly known as the Mormon church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is currently going through a leadership transition following the death of its president, Russell M. Nelson.

Every church president since its founding in 1830 has been a man — and the next person to lead the more than 17 million-member, global church will be too. That is in keeping with the faith's all-male priesthood.

The highest-ranking women in the church oversee organizations that run programs for women and girls. These sit below several layers of leadership groups reserved for only men.

Judaism

The gender situation within Judaism is markedly different in Israel and the United States, which together account for more than 80% of the world's Jewish population.

The largest U.S. branches, Reform and Conservative, allow women to be rabbis, while the Orthodox branch does not. In Israel, the Conservative and Reform movements are small, and Orthodox authorities hold a near monopoly on all matters regarding Judaism.

Islam

Unlike the Church of England, not all faith traditions, including Islam, have a centralized hierarchical structure, and therefore do not have an equivalent role to that of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Among Islam's some 2 billion adherents around the world, women don't lead mixed-gender congregational prayers in traditional Muslim settings and the top formal ranks of Islamic authorities have been largely filled with men.

Still, many Muslim women have been occupying other leadership roles in Islamic spaces in their communities, including as religious scholars, preachers, and, in some cases, religious courts judges.

Different cultural norms or theological and scholarly interpretations can lead to varying views and debates on the permissibility, scope or boundaries of certain roles. Some Muslims have been pushing to expand women's roles in Islamic spaces and pointing to historic examples from the Islamic heritage.

Women leaders in other decentralized faiths

Instead of a single, centralized figure or body, authority in Hinduism is derived from sacred texts, tradition and the teachings of spiritual teachers and monastic leaders.

Structured similarly, authority in Buddhism stems from the Buddha's teachings, those acknowledged as enlightened individuals and community consensus, with scripture serving as guidance rather than a definitive source of all rules.

Both religions have numerous sects and orders with their own leaders and a small number of them are women.

In Hinduism, some examples include Mata Amritanandamayi, a 72-year-old Indian spiritual leader, who hails from a marginalized fishing community and now oversees her own spiritual and charitable organization. Examples can also be found in the Ramakrishna Order, which has a separate branch for female monks who establish and lead their own monasteries around the world.

In Buddhism, more women are pushing for ordination and for elevation to higher titles. Some schools, such as Soto Zen, the largest in Japan and with large numbers of Western practitioners, are more open

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to female leaders and have several abbesses in their ranks.

Sikhism

Sikhism, which by some counts is the fifth largest religion in the world, is also male-dominated.

None of the 10 Gurus, the human spiritual teachers of the faith, were female. Women are also significantly underrepresented in the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, the body that oversees many gurdwaras in India. Bibi Jagir Kaur was the first woman to be elected president of the committee in 1999 and again in 2004.

In many gurdwaras, certain rituals like carrying the palanquin containing the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy scripture, or performing spiritual music (kirtan) at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the holiest Sikh shrine, have remained largely male-dominated.

Those norms are slowly changing in other parts of the world including North America where several women have formed kirtan groups.

Lack of jobs data due to government shutdown muddies view of hiring and the US economy

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — From Wall Street trading floors to the Federal Reserve to economists sipping coffee in their home offices, the first Friday morning of the month typically brings a quiet hush around 8:30 a.m. eastern as everyone awaits the Labor Department's crucial monthly jobs report.

But with the government shut down, no information was released Friday about hiring in September.

The interruption in the data has occurred at a particularly uncertain time, when policymakers at the Federal Reserve and Wall Street investors would need more data on the economy, rather than less. Hiring has ground nearly to a halt, threatening to drag down the broader economy. Yet at the same time, consumers — particularly higher-income earners — are still spending and some businesses are ramping up investments in data centers developing artificial intelligence models. Whether that is enough to revive hiring remains to be seen.

It's the first time since a government shutdown in 2013 that the jobs report has been delayed. During the 2018-2019 partial government closure, the Labor Department was one of several agencies that remained open because Congress had agreed to fund them. September's jobs figures will be released eventually, once the shutdown ends.

If the shutdown continues for another week or more, it could also postpone the release of other high-profile data, including the next inflation report, set for Oct. 15.

The Trump administration has blamed Senate Democrats for the shutdown, while Democrats levy similar charges against the White House.

"Businesses, families, policymakers, markets, and even the Federal Reserve are flying blind at a key juncture in America's economic resurgence because the Democrats' government shutdown has halted the release of key economic data," said White House spokesman Kush Desai.

Yet President Donald Trump himself has often trashed government jobs data when it has painted an unflattering picture of the economy. In August, he fired the then-head of the Bureau of Labor Statistics after the agency reported that job gains in May and June had been sharply lower than previously reported.

For now, economists are turning to alternative measures of the job market provided by nonprofits and private-sector companies. Those measures mostly show a job market with little hiring, but not many layoffs, either. Those who have jobs appear to be mostly secure, while those looking for work are having a tougher time.

Payroll processor ADP, for example, said Wednesday that its estimate showed the economy had lost a surprising 32,000 private-sector jobs last month. Companies in the construction, manufacturing, and financial services industries all cut jobs, ADP found. Restaurants and hotels, and professional services such as accounting and engineering, also shed workers.

Businesses in health care, private education, and information technology were the only sectors to add

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workers, ADP said.

"We've seen a significant decline in hiring momentum throughout the year," said Nela Richardson, ADP's chief economist. "This is consistent with a low hire -- even a no-hire -- and low fire economy."

Austan Goolsbee, before becoming president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago in January 2023, was one of those busy economists on the first Friday morning of the month, often dissecting the data for the financial news network CNBC. Now he still checks the data Friday mornings and has a team of research economists that analyze the report.

"It's still the best data -- the BLS numbers are the best labor market numbers in the world," Goolsbee said in an interview with The Associated Press. "And when we don't have them, we suffer."

Just last month, however, the Chicago Fed began issuing its own estimates of the unemployment rate and other job-market indicators, using a combination of public and private-sector data, which it updates every two weeks. On Thursday, its latest figures put the unemployment rate in September at 4.3%, the same as in August and still low historically.

Goolsbee said the Chicago Fed prefers to focus more on rates, such as the unemployment figure, and layoff and hiring rates, as an indicator of recession risk, because they are less affected by changes in immigration patterns and the aging of the U.S. workforce than the changes in total jobs.

Still, while there are alternative measures of hiring and unemployment, there are fewer sources of information on inflation, which the Fed is charged with keeping stable and low. Prices have picked up in recent months for many imported goods, mostly because of tariffs, but Goolsbee said that he is closely watching inflation in services, which have perked up in the past two months. Higher services prices are a potential sign that inflation is spreading beyond just imported products.

Goolsbee is eager to see the next inflation report to see if the trend continues. "That makes the government shut down, lack of BLS data that much more concerning," Goolsbee said.

On Friday, the Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers, released its monthly report on economic activity in the services sector, which includes everything from banking to restaurants to retail stores to warehousing and covers about 90% of the economy. Its index dropped to 50, from 52, with 50 the dividing line between shrinking and expanding. That means services sector activity was unchanged last month.

But services companies did cut back on hiring for the fourth straight month, the ISM's survey found, suggesting that job gains remained weak last month.

Feds approve Florida for a \$608 million 'Alligator Alcatraz' reimbursement

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

Federal officials on Friday confirmed Florida has been approved for a \$608 million reimbursement for the costs of building and running an immigration detention center in the Florida Everglades, exposing "Alligator Alcatraz" to the potential risk of being ordered to close for a second time.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security said in an email that the state of Florida was awarded its full reimbursement this week.

While the funds have been approved, they haven't yet been released since the Federal Emergency Management Agency's process requires that it review expenses for which reimbursement requests are made, Stephanie Hartman, director of communications for the Florida Division of Emergency Management, said in an email to The Associated Press.

The reimbursement process potentially exposes the state of Florida to being forced to unwind operations at the remote facility for a second time because of a federal judge's injunction in August. The Miami judge agreed with environmental groups who had sued that the site wasn't given a proper environmental review before it was converted into an immigration detention center and gave Florida two months to wind down operations.

The judge's injunction, however, was put on hold for the time being by an appellate court panel in Atlanta

that said the state-run facility didn't need to undergo a federally required environmental impact study because Florida had yet to receive federal money for the project.

"If the federal defendants ultimately decide to approve that request and reimburse Florida for its expenditures related to the facility, they may need to first conduct an EIS (environmental impact statement)," the three-judge appellate court panel wrote last month.

The appellate panel decision allowed the detention center to stay open and put a stop to wind-down efforts.

President Donald Trump toured the facility in July and suggested it could be a model for future lockups nationwide as his administration pushes to expand the infrastructure needed to increase deportations.

Environmental groups that had sued the federal and state governments said the confirmation of the reimbursement showed that the Florida-built facility was a federal project "from the jump."

"This is a federal project being built with federal funds that's required by federal law to go through a complete environmental review," Elise Bennett, Florida and Caribbean director at the Center for Biological Diversity, said in a statement. "We'll do everything we can to stop this lawless, destructive and wasteful debacle."

Supreme Court will consider overturning Hawaii's strict ban on guns on private property

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court said on Friday that it will take up its latest gun rights case and consider striking down a strict regulation on where people can carry firearms in Hawaii.

President Donald Trump's Republican administration had urged the justices to take the case, arguing the law violates the court's landmark 2022 ruling that found the Second Amendment generally gives people the right to carry firearms.

The court will consider Hawaii's law that bans guns on private property, including businesses like stores and hotels, unless the owner has specifically allowed them verbally or with a sign.

"Because most property owners do not post signs either allowing or forbidding guns, Hawaii's default rule functions as a near-complete ban on public carry," Solicitor General D. John Sauer wrote in court documents.

The case isn't aimed at Hawaii's restrictions on guns in other places, like beaches, parks and restaurants that serve alcohol. If the challengers win, businesses would still be able to take steps to restrict guns on their property, said attorney Alan Alexander Beck, who represents the plaintiffs. "Historically, businesses have a right to put up a sign that says guns are not allowed and we want to go back to that historical standard," he said.

Hawaii argues that it has already loosened its concealed-carry permit regulations to align with the high court's 2022 ruling. They say its new law strikes a reasonable balance between gun rights and public safety.

A judge blocked the law after it was challenged in court by a gun rights group and three people from Maui. But the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals largely reversed that decision and allowed Hawaii to enforce the law.

The gun-safety group Everytown urged the Supreme Court to uphold the measure. "The Ninth Circuit was absolutely right to say it's constitutional to prohibit guns on private property unless the owner says they want guns there," said Janet Carter, managing director of Second Amendment litigation.

Four other states have laws banning guns in areas often referred to as sensitive locations, though similar presumptive restrictions for guns on private property have been blocked elsewhere, including in New York.

The Supreme Court had previously declined a push from gun-rights groups to fully strike down the New York law.

The conservative-majority court's 2022 ruling expanding gun rights also found modern gun regulations must fit within historical traditions, a major shift in the country's gun law landscape.

Since then, the justices have struck down a ban on bump stocks from Trump's first term but upheld

another on ghost guns imposed under then-President Joe Biden. The court has also upheld a law intended to protect domestic violence victims.

Trump no longer distancing himself from Project 2025 as he uses shutdown to further pursue its goals

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump is openly embracing the conservative blueprint he desperately tried to distance himself from during the 2024 campaign, as one of its architects works to use the government shutdown to accelerate his goals of slashing the size of the federal workforce and punishing Democratic states.

In a post on his Truth Social site Thursday morning, Trump announced he would be meeting with his budget chief, “Russ Vought, he of PROJECT 2025 Fame, to determine which of the many Democrat Agencies, most of which are a political SCAM, he recommends to be cut, and whether or not those cuts will be temporary or permanent.”

The comments represented a dramatic about-face for Trump, who spent much of last year denouncing Project 2025, The Heritage Foundation’s massive proposed overhaul of the federal government, which was drafted by many of his longtime allies and current and former administration officials.

Both of Trump’s Democratic rivals, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, made the far-right wish list a centerpiece of their campaigns, and a giant replica of the book featured prominently onstage at the Democratic National Convention.

“Donald Trump and his stooges lied through their teeth about Project 2025, and now he’s running the country straight into it,” said Ammar Moussa, a former spokesperson for both campaigns. “There’s no comfort in being right — just anger that we’re stuck with the consequences of his lies.”

Shalanda Young, director of the Office of Management and Budget under Biden, said the administration had clearly been following the project’s blueprint all along.

“I guess Democrats were right, but that doesn’t make me feel better,” she said. “I’m angry that this is happening after being told that this document was not going to be the centerpiece of this administration.”

Asked about Trump’s reversal, White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson said, “Democrats are desperate to talk about anything aside from their decision to hurt the American people by shutting down the government.”

Project what?

Top Trump campaign leaders spent much of 2024 livid at The Heritage Foundation for publishing a book full of unpopular proposals that Democrats tried to pin on the campaign to warn a second Trump term would be too extreme.

While many of the policies outlined in its 900-plus pages aligned closely with the agenda that Trump was proposing — particularly on curbing immigration and dismantling certain federal agencies — others called for action Trump had never discussed, like banning pornography, or Trump’s team was actively trying to avoid, like withdrawing approval for abortion medication.

Trump repeatedly insisted he knew nothing about the group or who was behind it, despite his close ties with many of its authors. They included John McEntee, his former director of the White House Presidential Personnel Office, and Paul Dans, former chief of staff at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

“I know nothing about Project 2025,” Trump insisted in July 2024. “I have no idea who is behind it. I disagree with some of the things they’re saying and some of the things they’re saying are absolutely ridiculous and abysmal. Anything they do, I wish them luck, but I have nothing to do with them.”

Trump’s campaign chiefs were equally critical.

“President Trump’s campaign has been very clear for over a year that Project 2025 had nothing to do with the campaign, did not speak for the campaign, and should not be associated with the campaign or the President in any way,” wrote Susie Wiles and Chris LaCivita in a campaign memo. They added, “Reports of Project 2025’s demise would be greatly welcomed and should serve as notice to anyone or any group

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trying to misrepresent their influence with President Trump and his campaign — it will not end well for you.”

Trump has since gone on to stock his second administration with its authors, including Vought, “border czar” Tom Homan, CIA Director John Ratcliffe, immigration hard-liner Stephen Miller and Brendan Carr, who wrote Project 2025’s chapter on the Federal Communications Commission and now chairs the panel.

Heritage did not respond to a request for comment Thursday. But Dans, the project’s former director, said it’s been “exciting” to see so much of what was laid out in the book put into action.

“It’s gratifying. We’re very proud of the work that was done for this express purpose: to have a doer like President Trump ready to roll on Day One,” said Dans, who is currently running for Senate against Lindsey Graham in South Carolina.

Trump administration uses the shutdown to further its goals

Since his swearing in, Trump has been pursuing plans laid out in Project 2025 to dramatically expand presidential power and reduce the size of the federal workforce. They include efforts like the Department of Government Efficiency and budget rescission packages, which have led to billions of dollars being stalled, scrapped or withheld by the administration so far this year.

They are now using the shutdown to accelerate their progress.

Ahead of the funding deadline, OMB directed agencies to prepare for additional mass firings of federal workers, rather than simply furloughing those who are not deemed essential, as has been the usual practice during past shutdowns. Vought told House GOP lawmakers in a private conference call Wednesday that layoffs would begin in the next day or two.

They have also used the shutdown to target projects championed by Democrats, including canceling \$8 billion in green energy projects in states with Democratic senators and withholding \$18 billion for transportation projects in New York City that have been championed by Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer and House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries in their home state.

Dreaming of this moment

The moves are part of a broader effort to concentrate federal authority in the presidency, which permeated Project 2025.

In his chapter in the blueprint, Vought made clear he wanted the president and OMB to wield more direct power.

“The Director must view his job as the best, most comprehensive approximation of the President’s mind,” he wrote. Vought described OMB as “a President’s air-traffic control system,” which should be “involved in all aspects of the White House policy process,” becoming “powerful enough to override implementing agencies’ bureaucracies.”

Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, said on Fox News Channel that Vought “has a plan, and that plan is going to succeed in further empowering Trump. This is going to be the Democrats’ worst nightmare.”

House Speaker Mike Johnson echoed that message, insisting the government shutdown gives Trump and his budget director vast power over the federal government and the unilateral power to determine which personnel and policies are essential and which are not.

Schumer has handed “the keys of the kingdom to the president,” Johnson said Thursday. “Because they have decided to vote to shut the government down, they have now effectively turned off the legislative branch ... and they’ve turned it over to the executive.”

Young said the Constitution gives the White House no such power and chastised Republicans in Congress for abandoning their duty to serve as a check on the president.

“I don’t want to hear a lecture about handing the keys over,” she said. “The keys are gone. They’re lost. They’re down a drain. This shutdown is not what lost the keys.”

Today in History: October 4, Soviets launch Sputnik, spark the Space Age

By The Associated Press undefined

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Today is Saturday, Oct. 4, the 277th day of 2025. There are 88 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 4, 1957, the Space Age began as the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite, into orbit.

Also on this date:

In 1777, Gen. George Washington's troops launched an assault on the British at Germantown, Pennsylvania, resulting in heavy American casualties and the retreat of Washington's Continental Army.

In 1927, sculptor Gutzon Borglum began construction on what is now Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

In 1965, Pope Paul VI became the first pope to visit the Western Hemisphere as he addressed the U.N. General Assembly.

In 1970, rock singer Janis Joplin was found dead in her Hollywood hotel room at age 27.

In 2001, a Russian airliner flying from Israel to Siberia was accidentally downed by a Ukrainian anti-aircraft missile over the Black Sea, killing all 78 people aboard.

In 2002, "American Taliban" John Walker Lindh received a 20-year sentence after a sobbing plea for forgiveness before a federal judge in Alexandria, Virginia. (He was released from prison in May, 2019.)

In 2004, the SpaceShipOne rocket plane broke through Earth's atmosphere to the edge of space for the second time in five days, capturing the \$10 million Ansari X prize aimed at opening the final frontier to tourists.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Fame manager Tony La Russa is 81. Actor Susan Sarandon is 79. Actor Armand Assante is 76. Actor Christoph Waltz is 69. Singer Jon Secada is 64. Actor Liev Schreiber is 58. Actor Abraham Benrubi is 56. Actor Alicia Silverstone is 49. Actor Caitríona Balfe is 46. Actor Rachael Leigh Cook is 46. Actor Melissa Benoist is 37. NBA All-Star Derrick Rose is 37. Actor Dakota Johnson is 36.